

719

21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The Germans are reported to be using Patrol-Boats disguised as fishing-vessels with the Norwegian fishing fleets, and these craft are believed to carry guns, depth-charges and, in some cases, torpedo-tubes.

3 German Tankers were photographed at Antwerp yesterday, of which one was last seen at Hoboken on 15th October; and the Tankers SPICHERN and MAX ALBRECHT were photographed yesterday at Ferrol as well as the NORD ATLANTIC at Vigo.

QUEEN ELIZABETH with personnel for the U.S.A left the Clyde at 0454A this morning.

"Torch" Area.

N.C.X.F. makes certain suggestions for the use of French cable ships ALSACE and ARAGO.

North Atlantic.

SS. CLUNEPARK arrived at Fayal at 1830 G.M.T. towing SS. CEFALU, which had been anchored off San Jorge, Azores, following serious damage on the 12th.

South Atlantic.

SS. CAPE BRETON landed at Pernambuco today survivors from British SS. CITY OF BOMBAY

/(Trinidad...

720

War Diary.

21.12.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

(Trinidad to Capetown), which was torpedoed and shelled in approx 03.46 S. 28.49 W. on 13th December and from British EMPIRE HAWK (New York for Table Bay and Alexandria) torpedoed on 12th December in approx. 05.56 N. 39.50 W. 81 are missing, including repatriated survivors ex CITY OF MANILA and CITY OF MELBOURNE.

Mediterranean.

SS. STRATHALLAN, 23722 tons, in Convoy K.M.F.5, Algiers portion, was torpedoed at 0231A in 36.52 N 00.34 W. (Oran). Capt.(D) 19 in LAFOREY took her in tow, with LIGHTNING and FOLKESTONE circling, leaving WESTON in charge of the convoy At 1430A, however, she had to be abandoned and at 1500A, Capt.(D) 19 reported that she was on fire fore and aft. By 1700A, the tugs KING SALVOR and RESTIVE had arrived and it was hoped to salvage the ship, which was then 40 miles N. of Oran, but she sank in tow p.m./22nd Dec. The troops had been transferred to DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.

Convoy K.M.F.5 arrived at Algiers and Oran this afternoon.

Force K.

Capt.D.14 (JERVIS) in company with NUBIAN reports that an enemy merchant vessel of 2000 tons was sunk at 0110A in 33.40 N, 11.05 E. Air co-operation by a special Wellington 8 from Malta was excellent, the A/C locating the ship at 2217/20, 180° Cape Farguenes 8 miles and leading the destroyers to the target, which was illuminated for the attack.

MALINES.

Convoy escort vessel MALINES beached after attack by an A/C torpedo at Port Said in July, was refloated today.

Operation
"Quadrangle
C"

Convoy M.W.17 consisting of 2 M/Vs escorted by ORION, cruiser and DULVERTON, PAKENHAM, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, and PINDOS, destroyers, arrived at Malta at 1505A.

/Air....

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21.12.1942.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air
Operations.

Several North African Aerodromes were unserviceable today owing to weather.

8 Wellingtons bombed Tunis and La Goulette docks from 2113 to 2322/20 in bad weather, and started fires. Cloud obscured actual results.

5 Beauforts mined Misurata and Khoms last night.

Of 18 enemy aircraft which attempted to attack Bone, 5 leaders came in and were all shot down, the remainder returned homeward.

East Indies.

Air Attack on
Sabang.

2 Catalinas bombed Sabang Harbour last night and obtained bursts on harbour buildings. (page 765)

According to an Admiralty announcement issued to the Press on 23rd December, "a naval force operating in the Bay of Bengal carried out a heavy air attack on Sunday night on military targets at Sabang, which lies at the northern end of the island of Sumatra. Large explosions, followed by fires, were observed. All our A/C returned safely". (The Times 24.12.1942).

No signals referring to this were received in W.D. According to Eastern Fleet disposition signal (C. in C.E.F. 1501Z/22) 2 battleships, carrier and available cruisers are "carrying out training exercises 21st to 24th December."

Hurricanes damaged a steamer, wireless hut, and gun boats at Akyab today.

Slight damage (none military) was caused by a raid by 9 enemy A/C last night on the Calcutta Area.

C.S.A.Lourenco Marques reports that SARONIKOS, Greek, was sunk by torpedo from a German S/M in approx. 24° S. 35.30 E. at 1800/7th December, no distress signal was made. Diversion signal was apparently not received.

Convoy M.J.1 (Madagascar - India) arrived at Bombay today, escorted by CARTHAGE.

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War Diary.

21.12.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Attacks on
O.N.153.

At 2030Z, SUNFLOWER, escorting convoy O.N.153, reported 2 explosions, but no ships torpedoed nor any sign of U/Boats. Under the circumstances she was unable to send assistance to OTINA, straggler since 17th December, which was torpedoed on the 20th.

SS.MARTIN BAKKE, Norwegian, 5484 tons made an "S" report at 0220 G.M.T. in 41.15 N. 7149 W.

SS. MONTREAL CITY, British 3066 tons, in Convoy O.N.152, was torpedoed at 0310 in 50.23 N. 38.00 W.

SKEENA, Canadian destroyer, reports having sustained heavy weather damage to her hull and deck fittings, and her asdic oscillator is lost. She is due at St. Johns at 1830Z/22.

CALDWELL, destroyer, in distress from weather damage on the 18th, was found by WANDERER through the excellent co-operation of A/C at 2247Z in 48.48 N. 48.07 W.(She was towed into St.Johns N.F, by TENACITY on 24th December).

A ship described as EMPIRE MAVIS (N.T. in Lloyd's) reported at 2124 G.M.T. she was completely disabled in 49.53 N, 28.18 W., and required assistance.

Australia.

Three Fortress A/C attacked 2 500 ton vessels this afternoon at Finschaffan, scoring a direct hit amidships on one which was left burning, and a direct hit which demolished the stern of the other.

723

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Available
Landing
Craft.Your 1631A/19th. Total number of operationally-fitted craft available now is 139, dispersed as follows. Details.
(S.O.A.S.C. 1136A/21 to C.C.O).Conversion
of A and B
Class.
Destroyers.Your 1923A/20. The endurance of A, and B class destroyers is so small that they are of little value as escort vessels. It is most urgent that there should be as little delay as possible in preparing drawings and, in view of the seriousness of the whole long-distance escort situation, it is strongly urged that the matter be reconsidered so that ships in hand now for long periods should be converted.
(C. in C.W.A. 1805A/21 to Admty).Defence of United Kingdom.Control of
A/A
gun-fire.Our 1050/14/10. Regret proposed machinery for control of fire by ships and sites in estuaries in question cannot be accepted, therefore, your concurrence requested to withdrawal of our AX.657 14th October.
(Air Ministry 1726A/21 to Admty).Movements.

OAKLEY.

OAKLEY will proceed to Faeroes p.m./tomorrow to convey Chief of the Staff and R.A.F. Liaison Officer. Anticipate ship will leave Faeroes

p.m./24th.
(A.C.O.S. 1047A/21).

PORPOISE.

On surfacing tonight report your P.C. and S.
(F.O.S. 1109A/21 to PORPOISE).

Intend to sail LA NANTAISE 0845/22nd to R/V with PORPOISE in 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 1200/22nd, thence ?Portsmouth.

(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1444A/21).

My 1151/20. Para.(F). These S/MS have been delayed and will not now depart Round Island until about 0900/22. R/V as ordered in Capt.S.5 2301/20.

(F.O.S. 1742/21 to PORPOISE).

Your 1109/21st. My P.C. and S. at 2330/21st, 049.48, 008.
29. 094° 12.

(PORPOISE 2332A/21 to F.O.S.).

DOLFIJN.
GURNARD.

Intend to sail DOLFIJN escorted by ST ELSTAN from Clyde at 1300A/22nd via searched Channel and Standard route to 000° Round 7 miles, E.T.A.

1500A/24, speed 9 knots.

(2) Thence DOLFIJN to westward, ST ELSTAN, R/V with GURNARD in position above at 1500A/24th and escort her by reverse route to Clyde, E.T.A. 1100A/26, speed 10 knots.
(Capt.S.3. 1113A/21).

/DOLFIJN....

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

DOLFIJN. DOLFIJN DS. leaving Scilly Isles at 1500A/24th
 GURNARD. and passing 043.02, 013.50 W. at 0600A/29.
 Contd. Thence as routed by you.
 (Capt.S.3. 1219A/21 to V.A.Gib).
 Leave 000° Round Island 7 miles at 1500A/24.
 Proceed diving by day through 050° 10', 009° 01' and by route
 Blue. Estimated speed of advance 140 miles a day.
 (Capt.S.3. 1415A/21 to DOLFIJN)
 My 1547/19, para one (g). Amend to read 000° Round Island
 Scilly Isles 7 miles at 1500/24, with ST.ELSTAN for escort
 to Clyde.
 (F.O.S. 1441A/21 to GURNARD). *See p.725A*

AJAX. Scapa departure AJAX.
 (A.C.O.S. 1230/21).
 Comply with Admiralty 1232/19th December.
 (2) Route (a) 270° Oversay 6 miles.
 (b) 055° 33' N. 011° 01' W.
 (c) 50° 02' N, 15° 30' W.
 (d) 43° 01' N, 15° 30' W.
 thence as routed by V.A.Gib.
 (C. in C.W.A. 1304A/21 to N.O.I.C.Greenock).

P.312. Sailed LORD AUSTIN, P.312. GRAPH, and NORTHERN
 GRAPH. PRIDE, P.216, SEALION, O.14. in accordance
 P.216. with Capt.(S) 3. 1109A/19
 SEALION. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1306A/21 to A.I.G.219).
 O.14. My 1109/19. NORTHERN PRIDE being delayed.
See p.725A LORD AUSTIN is escorting all submarines.
 (Capt.S.3. 1451A/21).
 My 1551/20 paras.(D) and (E). These 5 S/Ms left Clyde
 in company escorted by LORD AUSTIN.
 (F.O.S. 1502A/21 to Admty).
 NORTHERN PRIDE will not now join you and no other escort
 is available, you are therefore to act as escort to all 5
 S/Ms.
 (Capt.S.3. 1547A/21 to LORD AUSTIN).
 Cancel my 1306/21. Sailed at 1305A/21. LORD AUSTIN, P.312,
 GRAPH, P.216, SEALION, O.14, Capt.(S) 3's 1109/19 refers.
 (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1618A/21).
 SEALION is to be detached when off Vatersay Bay 056° 55'
 N. 007° 32' W. where she is to anchor and await escort back to
 Clyde. Escort NORTHERN PRIDE will probably arrive about
 1900/22.
 (Capt.S.3. 2315A/21 to SEALION).

W.A. Situation at 1955A/21. Details.
 Command. (C. in C.W.A. 1357A/21)
 See Lion Copy.

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.) 1357A/21 December.

From. C. in C. W.A.

MESSAGE

IN.

SITUATION AT 1955A/21/12/42

SECRET CODE

Section N.E.

NORTHERN SUN
CAPE PALLISER
1 Tug

Searching vicinity
58 45 09 10

BULLDOG
ACHATES

Vicinity Skerry
Vore

To Seidisfiord 13

SITUATION AT 1955A/21/12/42

Section S.E.

BULLDOG
ACHATES

Vicinity Skerry
Vore

To Seidisfiord 13

AJAX

57 16 07 05

To Clyde 18

H.44

Z.5

55 40 05 02

To Londonderry 8

P.312
GRAPH

LORD AUSTIN

55 31 06 20

To Lerwick 11

P.216
SEALION
O.14

NORTHERN
PRIDE

55 26 06 10

To Lerwick 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

BLACK SWAN

53 56 04 52

To Loch Foyle 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

CONVOY

ORACLE
HELLIER II

52 12 05 18

Northbound 8

KX.7.A

WENSLEYDALE
SLAZAK

52 38 05 10

180° Fastnet 7
Rock 20 miles thence
50 32 13 01

MKS.3.Y.

KRANOWIAK
PALMOSES
4 Destroyers
1 Corvette

51 20 08 46

To Irish Sea 7

SD.35

LANCASTER
WELLS

55 23 06 20

To Clyde 16

2 M/Vs.

Unescorted

54 08 05 00

To Clyde 10

W.S.25.W.

Unescorted

Sails Clyde
0500A/22

To 270° Oversay 6' 22

BB.47

ROSEMARY
KINGSTON BEPYL
FOXTROT
SOUTHERN BREEZE
FLARAY

52 57 05 03

To Bristol Channel 6

Situation at 1955A/21/12/42.. /

724^B-

SITUATION AT 1955A/21/12/42

Section N.W.

SCL.112	U.S.S. LEARY	62 51 22 31	To Reykjavik	9
C.T.U.	U.S.S. RABBIT			
24.6.4	CELANDINE			
	BRANDON			
	AMHERST			
TA. 31	UNESCORTED	57 46 16 55	To 59 30 21 00	26
			thence	
			59 30 35 00	

SITUATION at 1955A/21/12/42

Section S.W.

FLEET UNIT	RACEHORSE	53 08 14 43	To 49 58 29 01	14
	REDOUBT		thence	
	QUICKMATCH		45 59 29 58	
U.S.S. INGHAM		Leave SC.112	To Reykjavik	15
U.S.S. SCHEENCK		about 2000A/21		
SC.112	CHURCHILL	56 12 17 39	To 56 26 08 28	7
C.T.U.	RESTIGOUCHE			
24.1.14	SHERBROOKE			
	COLLINGWOOD			
	SEMITAR			
	SHIKARI			
ON.155	FAME	55 56 13 05	To 55 43 15 30	7
C.T.U.	BURZA		thence	
24.1.4	EGLANTINE		56 59 21 25	
	VERVAIN			
	ACANTHUS			
	KINGCUP			
ONS.154	ST. LAURENT	54 12 14 05	To 52 28 19 58	5
(E)	BATTLEFORD			
C.T.U.	CHILLIWACK			
24.1.11	SHELLAC			
	KENOGAMI			
	NAPLINEE			
WS.25	QUILLIAM	45 51 23 28	To 45 00 24 00	12
	GARRIVON CASLE		thence	
	CHESHIRE		35 00 24 00	
	ROCKWOOD			
	BADSWORTH			
	WOLVERINE			
	HAYDON			
MKF.4Y	SPEY	51 22 13 56	To 55 00 10 45	12
(E)	ROTHER			

1357A/21/12/42

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

725

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.DRANGEY,
HAARLEM.*See p. 736.
(K.M.S.G.)*Admiralty 1459/18. Route via Q.Z.L. 18, thence to
(B) 180° Fastnet Rock, 10 miles.
(C) 50.18 N. 14.03 W.
(D) 46.08 N. 17.24 W.
(E) 41.50.N. 21.35 W, thence to Ponta Delgada.
(C. in C.W.A. 1450A/21 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

OBDURATE.

Sailed OBDURATE to comply with your 1341/20.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 1715A/21 to R. A.D.H.F.).BLACKFISH.
SHAD.*See next page.* Estimate you will depart 000° Round Island (?) 7
miles at 0900/22nd. Proceed thence diving by day
on routes ordered endeavouring to cross longitude
011° 20' W. at 0800/23rd. Bombing restrictions in
my 1601/19th December, have been extended as follows.
(F.O.(S) 1748A/21 to SHAD, BLACKFISH).My 1551/20 para.(F). SHAD and BLACKFISH delayed. They will
now arrive 000° Round Island Seillies, 7 miles at 0900/22nd,
proceeding thence dived by day by routes as follows:-

1. SHAD 49.10 N. 09.00 W. and 49.10 N. 12.26 W.
2. BLACKFISH 49.30 N. 09.01 W. and 49.30 N.12.26 W.

Estimated speed 200 miles for 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 1939A/21 to Admty).

BLACKFISH and SHAD have lost contact with *STARWORT. Estimated
position 051.38, 005.11. Proceeding in company on prescribed course
at 10 knots.

(BLACKFISH 2310A/21 to Admty).

*See next page 9
pp. 728 & 729*

H.44.

*See next page*My 1629/18. Add 12 hours all times.
(Capt.S.7. 1750A/21 to Cdre.Londonderry).In view of delay of 12 hours in sailing Z5
and H.44. request Fighter Protection be now arranged for this
passage. Communications, route, and speeds as in my 1629/18.
Commodore Londonderry is requested to arrange for Fighter
Protection for Z5 and H.33 to Rothesay should weather cause delay
which would result in daylight passage.

(Capt.S.7. 1855A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

S/M
Positions.At 0800/22. Details.
(F.O.S. 1751A/21)
See Lion Copy.

FORESTER.

*See p. 730*Hvalfjord arrival FORESTER.
(A.C.I.C.1820A/21)

P.49.

My 1751/21. Add new para (M). P.49 escorted by
CAPE BARRACOUTA leaves Scapa 1700/22 for Lerwick,
E.T.A. first light 23rd.
(F.O.S. 1921A/21 and 1226A/22 to Admty)

MOST SECRET

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~~SECRET~~

From F.O.(S)

Date 21.12.42.
Time 1805

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

366. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/22nd December and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) P339, P223, SOKOL, TORBAY, in North Norwegian waters.
- (B) GRAPH, P312, Q14, SEALION, P216, escorted by LORD AUSTIN. 56 degs. 40' N. 07 degs. 10' W. proceeding to Lerwick speed 9½ knots expected time of arrival 1600 23rd. *See p. 724.*
- (C) PORPOISE, approaching R/V in 180 degs. Lizard Head 12 miles from westward. Thence escorted by LA NANTAISE to Portsmouth. *See p. 723*
- (D) P615, 48 degs. 50' N. 13 degs. 50' W. dived by day due 43 degs. 01' N. 13 degs. 51' W. at 0200/25th.
- (E) U.S.S. GURNARD, 47 degs. 05' N. 13 degs. 22' W. dived by day through 49 degs. 10' N. 13 degs. 22' W. 49 degs. 50' N. 12 degs. 34' W. and 49 degs. 50' N. 09 degs. 01' W. *See pp 723 & 724.*
- (F) U.S.S. HERRING, in zone K505.
- (G) U.S.S. BARE, off Vigo. *See p. 734 A.*
- (H) DOLFIJN, escorted by ST. ELSTAN, leaves Clyde 1300/22nd due 000 degs. Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1500 24th speed 9 knots. *See pp 723 & 724*
- (J) H44, escorted by Z5, due Lough Foyle 0900/22nd from Rothesay. *See previous page*
- (K) H33, escorted by Z5, leaves Lough Foyle 0900/22nd due Rothesay 2300/22nd.
- (L) U.S.S. SHAD, and BLACKFISH, escorted by STARWORT, arriving vicinity 000 degs. Round Island Scillies 7 miles from northeastward thence SHAD and BLACKFISH dived by day routed as in my 1551/20th. *See previous page*

1751A/21, ~~1414A/21~~ 1921A/21, 1414A/22

Advance copies sent Duty Capt., D.O.D.(H)

Distribution over/.....

72513

2.

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

EO

726

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Patrols. Motor Gunboats returned by 55A Buoy to Yarmouth.
(C. in C.Nore 0205A/21 to S.E.E.C.C.D.).
No patrol tonight.
(C. in C.Nore 0942A/21)

Tonight, ALBRIGHTON to be at Cowes at immediate notice.
2. CHASSEURS 10 (SC) and 14 patrolling off E.A.5. Buoy if
weather permits.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1301A/21).

Exercises.

Trials at ~~Liverpool Holyhead~~ → C. in C.W.A. 1315/21. Intend sailing AYRSHIRE,
H.43. H.43 singly Holyhead December 23rd and to
Liverpool on completion.
2. A/S yacht GLEN STRATHALLAN detailed to attend
H.43 during trial from Holyhead.
(N.O.I.C.Liverpool 1014/21).
F.O.C.S. 2259/20. AYRSHIRE detailed as escort to Holyhead
Request you will detail trawler or A/S yacht to attend H.43 during
trials.
(C. in C.W.A. 1315A/21 to N.O.I.C.Liverpool).

Allied Air Activity.

Haslar Your 2305/20. A total of 200 Haslars including
A/C. 50 from Clyde are shortly being withdrawn from
Liverpool, Clyde, and Barry areas with approval
of Chiefs of Staff for urgent requirement in

North Africa

2. There will subsequently be a re-deployment of all Haslars
throughout U.K. to fill these gaps having regard to likely scale
of air attack on this country.
3. Importance of Clyde area is fully realised.
(A.C.N.S.H.1344A/21 to F.O.I.C.Glasgow, and 1347A/21 to F.O.I.C.
Liverpool, Cardiff).

Mining.

Iceland. My 1501/13, and 1812/17. Position L to M. has
been swept, negative result. S.O.M/S 15
returning to Hvalfjord 21st, sweeping southern
portion of line to position K on passage.
(A.C.I.C. 0025A/21 to C. in C.H.F.).

Enemy Intelligence.

SPICHERN. P.R.U. Ferrol and Vigo 20th December shows
MAX SPICHERN and MAX ALBRECHT still present at Ferrol,
ALBRECHT. NORD ATLANTIK still present at Vigo.
NORD (D.D.I.C. 0012A/21).
ATLANTIK.

Disguised
Patrol
Boats.

S.M.Z. No.12. Germans are reported to be operating
patrol boats disguised as fishing vessels, with
Norwegian fishing fleets. These ships carry
depth-charges, guns, and in some cases torpedo
tubes.
(F.O.S. 1134A/21 to S/Ms).

Tankers...

727

21.12.1942.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Tankers
at Antwerp
On 20th
December.

P.R.U. sortie C/723 Antwerp further investigation shows disposition of tankers to be as follows:- Arrival of tanker 490' probably T71 alongside in Basin Albert, last seen Hoboken 15/10/1942. T.31 in dry dock No.7. off Katendijk Basin. T.511 N. dry dock off Lefebure Basin.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 1630A/21 to Admty).

U/Boats.

U/Boats
reported.

Unknown SSSS bearing by D/F 198° approx.
(Gallon Head Radio 0140/21 to A.C.O.S.).
Received at 0147 G.M.T. DE GNE begins:-

At 0140 unknown station QSA 2/2 SSSS position remainder unread.

(Wick Radio 0247/21).

Inconclusive D/F bearings at 0351Z/21 and 0428 suggest U/Bs in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C. 0619A/21 to Escorts O.N.152).

D/F bearings at 0241Z/21 indicate U/B anywhere within 75 miles of 41° N. 14° W.

(D.D.I.C. 0621A/21 to Escorts K.M.S.5)

Indefinite bearings at 1709Z/21 indicate U/B in your vicinity may have reported you.

(D.D.I.C. 1854A/21 to Escorts O.N.152).

Casualties & Defects.

Unknown
Ship.

Intercepted 0205 G.M.T. from unknown D.R.(?)
YADEW (?) engine room flooded post (?) (unread)
abandoning ends.
(Niton Radio 0305/21 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

VARDEFJELL.

Your 0956A/19. Arrived CAPE PORTLAND.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 1025A/21 to C. in C.W.A.).

~~N.T. N.W.S.~~ Cancel my 1559A/21. CAPE PALLISER
escort, MARAUDER to Stornoway. NORTHERN SUN return to base.
(C. in C.W.A. 1833A/21).

Your 1833A/21. MARAUDER in company.

(CAPE PALLISER 1951A/21 to C. in C.W.A.).

Proceed to position of derelict located by A/C in 060° 25'
N. 009.27 W. at 1508A/21, drifting 045°, 2 knots.

(C. in C.W.A. 1559A/21 to NORTHERN SUN, CAPE PALLISER).

Derelict tanker VARDEFJELL with 30 survivors on board
reported by A/C in 60° 20' N. 09.05 W. at 1505A/21, making
about 2 to 3 knots in North Easterly direction. 2. Ship is
apparently working engines but cannot steer and unable to
communicate by V/S or W/T.

3. Can you arrange vessel to stand by to intercept her to
Eastward of QZX 760.

4. 15 Group R.A.F. will provide air co-operation at first light
tomorrow.

5. Am diverting MARAUDER and CAPE PALLISER to Stornoway.
NORTHERN SUN to Belfast.

(C. in C.W.A. 1845A/21 to A.C.O.S.).

/Stern..

728

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

VARDEFJELL Stern half of VARDEFJELL in 060.25 N. 009.27 W. Contd. at 1508A/21, drifting 045.2 to 3 knots. A/C reports 30 men on board. Sail BRESSAY and HAMLET to 060.55 N. 008.52 W. and report E.T.A. of ships to approach from North-West. Object to rescue survivors. A/C will renew search daylight tomorrow and any sightings will be passed to you. Vessels not to enter minefield. (A.C.O.S. 1952A/21 to N.O.I.C.Faroes).

Amend my 1952A/21 as follows begins:-

- (a) for 060.25 N. 009.27 W. read; 060.20 N. 009.05 W. (b) for 060.55 N. 008.52 W. read 060.55 N. 007.56 W.
(c) Cancel "Vessels to approach from North West."
(d) Add attention is called to Q.Z.X. 816.
(A.C.O.S. 2357A/21 to N.O.I.C.Faroes).

STARWORT. Sailing with defective.

Type 271. See Shipping. *next page 6/30 pp 725 725^A*

Landing A.M.1556A/16/11. Arrived today COOMBEHILL with Craft L.C.M.(3) 598 in damaged condition. from (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1726/21). Operation "Torch".

BRETWALDA E.T.A. 1200A/22 with BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, survivors. LAUDERDALE. Request arrangements be made to receive 55 survivors from BRETWALDA aboard KRAKOWIAK (KRAKOWIAK 1845A/21 to N.O.I.C.Milford Haven).

P.555. P.555 in collision with tug EMPIRE PIXIE. Damage to S/M slight bending of rubber tip. Ship able to carry out duties satisfactorily. Damage to tug if any unknown. (WESTERN ISLES. 2240A/21 to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

EMPIRE Sailed at 0045A/21. E.T.A. Cumbraes 0830A/21 for MARVELL. Clyde for completion of A.N.D.gear. (A.N.D. Ship.) (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0100A/21).

S.C.112. Ships for Mersey Ports capable of reaching 004.degs West by 1330A/24, are to be detached at daylight 22nd escorted by COLLINGWOOD whose destination is Liverpool. Names of both ships detached to be reported. SHIKARI is to escort Loch Ewe Section to 057° N, thence independently. (C. in C.W.A.0102Z/22).

Agree with your 1903Z/20. It is hoped that ^{SAMUEL D.} INGHAM and SCHENCK may be detached before noon/22nd.

(C.T.G.24.6. 0505Z/21 to C. in C.W.A.).

My 1903/20. Remain with S.C. 112 till relieved by SCIMITAR and SHIKARI.

(C. in C.W.A. 0621Z/21 to SCHENCK, ^{SAMUEL D.} INGHAM).

/K.X.7.A.

729

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - con/d.

- K.X.7.A. My 1124A/20. For BROCKLESBY read SLAZAK, in address and text.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 0206A/21).
Your 1305/21. Despite defective type 271 you should proceed with K.X.7.A. My 1842/20, para.2, S.O. Escort is SLAZAK.
(C. in C.W.A. 1534A/21 to STARWORT). *See pp 725, 725A, 1728*
My 1842/20th. STARWORT is sailing with defective type 271. Para.6, she is required for a North Russian convoy on her return.
(C. in C.W.A. 1618A/21 to N.C.X.F.).
A.M. 1753A/19 and 1927A/19. Sailed SLAZAK and WENSLEYDALE (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1631A/21 to V.A.Gib.)
Unless you have to pass homeward bound convoy M.K.S.3.Y do not enter Q.Z.L.18 until daylight 22nd December. Estimated position M.K.S.3 Y. 0800A/22nd. 51.50 N. 06.55 W, speed 7 knots.
(C.in C.W.A. 1645A/21 to SLAZAK).
C. in C.W.A. 1842/20th. Route to position D.049.10 N. 014.45 W. through 050.20 N. 009.01 W, 050.19 N. 012. 40 W. +P.615 is routed 10 miles south of you on parallel course and should be ahead unless hove to through bad weather.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1713A/21 to STARWORD, SLAZAK).
- T.A.31. My 1034A/20. Sailed. Codeword "Damson."
(QUEEN ELIZABETH) (N.O.I.C.Greenock 0454A/21).
- M.K.S.3.Y. → SARDONYX, AZALEA are to escort Liverpool portion and proceed to Liverpool. Remainder of convoy is to proceed independently from vicinity of Holyhead.
(C. in C.W.A. 1013A/21 to Escorts M.K.S.3.Y)
- K.M.F.6. A.M. 1502/20, 1600/20.
(1) A/S escort.
(a) from Liverpool. SARDONYX to proceed to Londonderry from Oversay R/V.
(b) from Clyde, EGRET S.O, LOYAL.
(c) from Londonderry to join at Oversay R/V, BANFF, CLARE, EYE, FISHGUARD, TEST, SWALE.
(2) EGRET is to arrive Greenock before dark/24th December.
(C. in C.W.A. 1045A/21).
Admiralty 1600A/20. Sails Bar Light Vessel 1230Z/25th.
Commodore's R/V Noon G.M.T./26th. 055.36 N. 007.43 W, Noon G.M.T. 27th, 053.32 N. 014.09 W.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1258A/21).
- K.M.S.6. Admiralty 1507/20. 1549/20.
See p. 736
1. A/S escort (A) From Liverpool AUBRETIA.(B) From Clyde, BLACK SWAN, S.O.BALSAM, PETUNIA, CARNATIC.(C) From Londonderry to join at Oversay R/V FOWEY, CARNATION, LA MALOUINE MYOSOTIS, CAMPION, VIOLET, CAMELLIA.
2. If CAMELLIA from Barry cannot R/V with convoy in position (L) 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900Z/25th with or without fuelling at Londonderry orders will be given for her to sail southabout to join convoy.
3. CARNATIC is to proceed with Freetown portion for onward routing to Bombay.
(C. in C.W.A. 1128A/21).

/W.S.25.W....

730

21.12.1942.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

W.S. 25 W.
(QUEEN
MARY).

Intend sailing passing Clyde Boom 0400Z/22 to pass through position (L) at 0900Z/22nd December, thence in accordance with A.M.1752A/19th December, Speed of Advance to (L) 23 knots, thence 24 knots. "Chop" date 26th December. E.T.A. Freetown 1000Z/28th December. Codeword "Donkey". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1148A/21 to A.I.G.183). My 1016A and 1148A/21. Sailing delayed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1608A/21).

J.W. 51 B.

C. in C. H.F., 1147A/18. Intend to :-

1. Sail in ANSON with CUMBERLAND, FORESTER, ^{see A. 715} IMPULSIVE and ICARUS passing boom 0930N/23rd, and arriving Akureyri a.m./24th.

2. Sail with above Force from Akureyri a.m./26th to cover J.W. 51 B. CELEROL to remain at Akureyri until operation is completed.

(V.A. 2., 1901A/21 to A.C.I.C.)

731

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

Aircraft No. 2692 dated 1904Z/21 Dec.
Dispositions. Interior Addressees: Signed: Eisenhower.
To: Marshall. Ref: Your 299 dated Dec. 19th
2054Z*. To: Agwar Washington. From: Freedom
Algiers.

From 5 bases in Bay of Biscay area 85% of enemy submarines preying on our Atlantic shipping are launched, these bases much nearer to aircraft based in U.K. These special planes will be most effective for purpose intended based in U.K., also they can be most effectively operated from U.K. due to facilities of British including intelligence services and special ground equipment. Here is paraphrase of message (ø) to me from British Chiefs of Staff dated Dec. 14th. Paraphrase (begins):-
To combat heavy losses in Mid Atlantic from U-Boats all available Liberators have been concentrated this area. "Torch" convoys in Bay of Biscay area where they are most vulnerable are insufficiently covered. To request from Prime Minister to the President for allocation 30 A.S.V. equipped Liberators for this area reply received from Mr. Hopkins that 21 United States Liberators were being sent to Europe and these all available. Suggestion made by him that "these be used to further our common interests in best suited manner".

Recommendation strongly made considering threat to "Torch" convoys from present U-Boat disposition that we operate from U.K. bases over Bay of Biscay all A.S.V. equipped B.24. U-Boat situation should be carefully watched and after discussion with you we will settle subsequent disposition of Liberators. (End of Paraphrase).

In reply to this cable we agreed (No. 2097 of 2007Z/15th Dec.) to leave A.S.V. equipped B.24 in U.K.

2 of our B.24 bombing squadrons recently diverted to anti-submarine work because of shortage suitable British aircraft. We cannot afford to lose the use of these planes. Their operating base will be shifted to Africa as soon as the U-Boat concentration in the Biscay area ceases to be the immediate and vital threat to our transports while it exists, from U.K. bases the planes operate most effectively in our support.
(Algiers, 1904Z/21 to Agwar Washington.)

*No trace. ø No. 558 of 1635Z/14th Dec.

French
Cable
Ships.

Tentative suggestions have been made for an agreement with French over mutual use of Cable Ships. French have ALSACE now on passage to Gibraltar and ARAGO an older ship at Dakar.

Former is lacking certain technical personnel and French state they can only find sufficient technical personnel for one ship. Obviously desirable to make use of these ships and it is considered necessary that some cable ship should be based at Algiers for quick repair work in this area and later for work to eastward. Not satisfactory to have to bring MIRROR up every time. Possible alternatives are for French to deal with all cable work on west coast Africa thus releasing British Cable Ship for Mediterranean or French to provide one Cable Ship for Algiers and one for Casablanca or Dakar. In either case it might be necessary to provide one or two technicians for French Ships. Request your

/early ...

732

21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

French
Cable
Ships.
(Contd.)

early remarks as General Eisenhower anxious for repair facilities to Algiers cable to be immediately available and it is desirable to ensure getting some value from ALSACE and ARAGO as soon as possible.
(N.C.X.F., 1915A/21 to Admty.)

U.S.
Amphibious
Force.

Personal for First Sea Lord. Following message has been received from Washington. I have asked the Allied C. in C. to request General Marshall to suspend action pending enquiries which Admiral Stark is making on your behalf. (Begins). To Eisenhower from Marshall. Ref. No.232 date 19th Dec. Your views are requested Amphibious Force, Mediterranean, U.S. Atlantic Fleet established by Navy on Dec. 8th, Admiral Bennet Commander of Force called Comamformed under your command as C. in C. Allied Force with Unity Command principle. (? Your) 1203 December 4th. Bennet is to confer with you. Navy believes operations will require L.S.Ts, L.C.I.(L)s and L.C.Ts first group furnished from U.S. vessels in convoy to leave mid-January, refer our 237 Dec. 17th, balance to be trained and organised in U.S. (Message ends).
(N.C.X.F., 1930A/21 to Admty.)
See also N.C.X.F., 2155/22.

733

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

PINK. Report to V.A. Gibraltar repeated Addressees your
See p. 751 E.T.A. Ponta Delgada and amount of fuel required.
 (C. in C. W.A., 0157A/21 to PINK (R) Admty. C. in
 C. U.S. Fleet C. & R., V.A. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta).
 Following is repetition of my 2002/21. (begins) Addressed B.C.
 Ponta Delgada (R) PINK, V.A. Gibraltar, B.N.A. Lisbon from C. in
 C. W.A. PINK E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1800Z/22 requests 210 tons
 fuel oil. (Ends).
 (C. in C. W.A., 2019A/21 to B.C. Ponta Delgada, N.A. Lisbon).
 Amend E.T.A. 1000 G.M.T. 23rd. Request you pass to B.C. Ponta
 Delgada.
 (PINK, 2255Z/21 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) LOOSETRIFE, Admty. Cdre.
 Londonderry).

*ROCHESTER. Cancel my 2016/15 convoy codeword "Wasting" R/V
 G.U.S.2. with G.U.S.2 in 33° 56' N., 07° 53' W., at 2600Z
** See p. 734 A* 22 thence in accordance with Admty. 191204. V.A.
 Gibraltar pass to ROCHESTER. End.
 (S.N.O.C.A., 0314Z/21 to Admty. C.A. Gibraltar, ROCHESTER, (R)
 N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran, R.C.T.U. 26.7.1., C.T.F. 37 Convoy Cdre).
 G.U.S.2. Your 0314Z/21 escort Cdre. and ships have route only
 to 33° 50' N., 07° 45' W. No ocean route (?given).
 (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1040A/21 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty).

Gibraltar Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 20th Dec.
 Air Report. U-boat sightings and attacks B.17 19121 in
 transit U.K. at 1101/20 in XTTQ 4838 sighted a
 U/B no further details refence sighting by
 Liberator A.M. 922 0830/19 reported in our A.1244/19 U/B not
 attacked.
 (H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 0910Z/21 to Air Min).

A/S Air A.M. 0146/20 substance being passed to S.N.O.C.A.
 Escort. suggest your C.S.O. and A.O.C. Gibraltar visit
 S.N.O.C.A. and report arrangements which can be
 made.

2. Detachment of Catalinas or P.B.Y.5s to operate from Agadir
 Area in conjunction with W. African flying boats at Port Etienne
 should enable gap in A/S air escort to be closed provided convoys
 were routed inside Canaries.

3. It is noted from S.N.O.C.A.'s 1815/7 that French Douglas B.7
 from Agadir are already providing air escort for Dakar convoys.
 Endeavour to arrange additional escort from this source for all
 Allied convoys.
 (N.C.X.F., 0947A/21 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.W.A., S.N.O.C.A.,
 H.Q., E.A.C., A.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

Movements. Arrival 0845, R.F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, Tug
 HUDSON, escorting SS. LAFONIA.
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1005A/21 to Admty).

Cable ship MIRROR arrived 1000 G.M.T/21st.
 (R.O. Fayal, 1009/21 to V.A. Gib., (R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Ponta
 Delgada).

/DERWENTDALE...

734

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. -Contd.DERWENTDALE,
M.K.S.4.DERWENTDALE is to be able to sail to U.K. in
M.K.S.4.
(N.C.X.F. 1106A/19 to V.A. Gib., (R) Admty.
D.N.C.X.F., C.O.C.) *p. 665*A/C report
of U/B.Am over enemy submarine in 40° 34' N. 17° 11' W.
When first sighted S/M was on course 020°.
(A/C C/S T.R. I.Q 1217Z/21 to Gib. M/F, D/F.)CEFALU
assistance.EMINENT arrived Ponta Delgada 1106 G.M.T. 21st.
Despatching EMINENT 2200 to assist CEFALU to Horta.
Advising CLUNEPARK to return Ponta Delgada on being
relieved. Have arranged for EMINENT to transfer
53 members of crew HORORATA from Flores to Horta, SATELLITE
(has?) means available. Request further orders for EMINENT on
completion.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1240/21 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.
R.O. Fayal.)
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1000A/22 to Admty.)
Your 1603/19 CLUNEPARK arrived 1830 G.M.T. 21st. towing
CEFALU. Former expected to leave for Ponta Delgada noon G.M.T.
22nd.
(R.O. Fayal, 1844C/21 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty. S.O.I.
Gibraltar.)

ADVENTURE.

See p. 734 B
Intend to sail ADVENTURE at 1830A/22 through
positions (a) 36° 01' N. 06° 01' W. (b) 36° 42' N
09° 45' W. (c) 44° 01' N. 16° 20' W. S. of A.
18 knots. (2) Admty. is requested to signal destination and
onward route.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1251A/21 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.
Plymouth, R.A. (M), ADVENTURE.) Amended 2304A/21.A/C report
of U/B.Am over enemy S/M in 40° 34' N. 17° 11' W. S/M
previously reported was on course 180° speed 6
knots.
(A/C C/S T.R. I.Q 1317/21 to R.A.F. Gibraltar.)

VEGA.

Swedish VEGA 1094 G.T. national colours, Red cross
and C international painted on side, speed 8½
knots, sailed 1345/21 routed coastwise to Cape San
Sebastian thence direct Marseilles. Not to be interfered with
this voyage. 2. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta. Cdre.
Algiers pass to E.A.C.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1351/21 to Area G. etc.)

BALUCHISTAN.

See next page
E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1400Z/22. Require (corrupt
group) tons oil fuel. Please inform B.C. Ponta
Delgada.
(BALUCHISTAN, 1401Z/21 to V.A. Gib. (R) B.N.A.
Lisbon.)

/U-boats...

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.) 1313A/21 December.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
From V.A. Gibraltar. Date 21.12.42.
Received 1725.
Naval CypherS by T/P

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT

Situation at 2001/21st. Situation report for Area X.

- (1) U.S. Submarine BARB, 42 41 10 01 dived by day to patrol off Vigo. *See p. 725A*
- (2) SOUTHERN GEM, CRYFEVALE, 53 48 08 26 through (735) 53 06 01 to Gibraltar 6.
- (3) ST. NECTAN, KINGSTONE, CHRYSOLITE, and one merchant ship, off Cape St. Vincent direct to Tagus 9 thence escort to R/V one merchant ship off Tagus 1900A 22nd and escort coastwise to Huelva 8.
- (4) H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, and 1 merchant ship, 29 40 12 01 33 12½
- (5) K M S 5, H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, 4 sloops, 6 corvettes, H.M.I.S.*BALUCHISTAN, 40 23 14 19 144 7. * *See previous page*
- (6) G U S 2 (O), H.M.S.* ROCHESTER, H.M.S. LEITH, H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH, H.M.S.* VANOC, H.M.S.* ANTELOPE, off Cape Spartel through 35 51 06 02 and 34 22 06 48 to 33 50 07 46 thence Casablanca 9. * *See p. 733* * *See p. 735*
- (7) ARCTIC RANGER, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, 35 55 05 49 repairing cable.
- (8) Portuguese destroyer DOURO leaving Ponta Delgada 21st for Lisbon.
- (9) H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, 37 48 10 48 through 36 30 10 01 to Gibraltar 12½

/(10).....

734^B

-2-

(10) U G F 3 33 50 21 11 90 12.6

(11) H.M.S. ADVENTURE sails 1830A 22nd to 36 01 06 01
16.

(12) H.M.S. WOODRUFF H.M.S. CROCUS sail 0800A/22nd
through 35 50 06 01 thence 266 11.

1313A/21.

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
A.C.N.S.(U.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.M.S.
D.D.O.D.(M).
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Ramsey.

7348C

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 2105A/21st December

IN

Date 21. 12. 42.
Recd. 2222

From V.A. Gibraltar

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities North Atlantic Station, Area X.

IMMEDIATE.

My 1313A 21st Amend para. 5 to (A) 038 degrees 45' 013 degrees 08'
through 35 40 10 01 thence through Straits of Gib. 8 knots.

2105A/21

^ Situation at 2007/21

Advance copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

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

735

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

U-boats D/F at 1056 G.M.T. indicate German U-boats within
K.M.S.5. 90 miles 039° 30' N. 014° 30' W.
(V.A. Gib., 1511A/21 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.5
(R) Admty.)

Captured Shipping, Your 1858/19. List being sent you. Service air
N. Africa. route.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1553A/21 to S.O.I. Med. (R)
Admty. for D.N.I.)

M.K.S.4. M.K.S.4. Gibraltar Section. (list) Request
pendant numbers Admty. is requested to signal
destinations.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1615A/21 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C.
Oran, Admty.)
M.K.S.4. My 1615A/21. Following carrying iron ore,*General.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1900A/21 to Admty.) *iron-pyrites.

French Tankers. S.N.O. Afloat Casablanca area's 1315/19. Request
French Naval tankers in G.U.S.2 and later convoys
be loaded with oil and returned.
(N.C.X.F., 1759A/21 to Cominch, (R) S.N.O.
Casablanca Area, N.A.E.B.)

G.U.S.2. (O) *See p. 734A* G.U.S.2. (O). Following ships sailed to join
FERNCOURT, DAVILA, G.C. BROVIG, SAN ADOLFO, (all
tankers) T.J. JACKSON, WILLIAM B. TRAVIS, THOMAS
MACDONOUGH, PHILIP SCHUYLER. Also sailed VIRGINIA, SINCLAIR to
rejoin.
(V.A. Gib., 1800A/21 to S.N.O.C.A. Escorts G.U.S.2. (O), for
Cdre. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F, Connav.)

POLRUAN. POLRUAN will R/V in 037° 00' N. 003° 04' E. at
P.222. 0800A/22.
(Capt. (S) 8, 1824A/21 to P.222.)

HORORATA. Your 1938/18. If HORORATA be made ready by 24th
Dec. escort ex W.25 could be used.
2. Otherwise escort can only be provided at
expense of ARIGUANI or Cable Ship.
(V.A. Gib., 1845A/21 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta
Delgada.)

VANOC, Sailed 1750 VANOC, ANTELOPE in accordance with
ANTELOPE. para. (J) of N.C.X.F. 2245/15.
See p. 734A
(G.U.S. 2 (O)) (F.O.C. Gib. 1920/21 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Admty.
N.C.X.F.)

/P.R.U. ...

736

21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

P.R.U. Gibraltar. P.R.U./Gib./W.1/21/12. Gib./G.3/21/12. Sortie G.265 21/12 1130 hours shows (?Cadiz) (?) Shipping Naval. Since 17th Dec. one "Jupiter" minelayer has left the Town Quays and one has arrived at La Carraca. Two others which on 17/12 were moving in Cadiz (? now moored) at former berths but LA CARRAN eighth survey vessel MALASPINA alongside. Sail training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO also arrived at La Carraca. (? Movements) at Cadiz six M/Vs 250/400 have departed and one M/V 350 (from dry dock at La Carraca) and two M/Vs 200/300 have arrived. At Matagorda two M/Vs 300/400 have arrived (one dry docked) and cargo liner CIUDAD DE ALICANTE has left. At La Carraca one M/V 350/400 R.T.A. arrived replacing the M/V 350/400 moved to Cadiz. At Pultales Channel moorings one M/V 400/450 and one 300/350 have arrived. No change in laid up shipping in channel and Matagorda. Total merchant shipping present at Cadiz, Matagorda and La Carraca comprises nine M/Vs 200/450 besides laid up vessels. Shipping at sea. Cargo liner Domine type last seen in Cadiz on 16th Nov. photographed eastbound at position estimated 3 miles west of Cadiz. Part of the Valley of the Guadalete east of Puerto de Santa Maria and Cape Roche and Cape Trafalgar also photographed.
(P.R.U. Gibraltar, 2015Z/21.)

K.M.S. 6. *See p. 729* My 1549/20 convoy K.M.S.6. Route for ships proceeding to Freetown from position P through TT 36° 02' N. 21° 05' W. UU 25° 04' N. 20° 01' W. VV 15° 03' N. 19° 00' W. WW 09° 08' N. 17° 58' W. thence to Freetown.

2. SS. BASIL is to proceed to Ponta Delgada in company PETUNIA who should rejoin Freetown ships after fuelling.
3. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange for Corvette referred to in my 1507/20 para. 9 and also trawlers*DRANGEY and*HAARLEM to R/V as requisite to provide escort to Freetown from position P. (D.O.D.(H), 2056A/21 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.C.S.O. Clyde, (R) F.O.C.W.Af., N.C.X.F., PETUNIA, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
**See p. 725*

PENN, CALPE. Sailed PENN, CALPE for Mers-el-Kebir E.T.A. 0800/22. PENN carries mail for F.O.H. and Oran. (V.A. Gibraltar, 2125/12 to F.O.H., N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran.)

P.212. *next page* My 2220/21 part one Capt. (S) 10's 1847 and 1915 *See pp. 743 & 745* neither to all addressees. (1) P.212 passes 038° 12' 003° 58' E. at 0030/24 thence on the surface at C.O.'s discretion to position X 036° 59' N. 003° 01' E. (Capt. S.8, 2206A/21 to P.228, , P.247, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. S.10, Subs. on Patrol, Cdre. Algiers, S.O. Force Q.)

/P.228 ...

War Diary.

21.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- P.228, *sup p.745* Capt. (S) 10s 1847 and 1915. *NT. 2. 7. 3*
P.247. *sup p.737* (1) P.228 passes 038° 12' 003° 58' E. at 0030/24
thence on the surface at C.Os discretion to
position X 036° 59' N. 003° 01' E.
(2) P.247 passes 038° 10' N. 007° 58' E. at 2300/22, 038° 01' N.
003° 59' E. at 0100/24 thence on surface at C.Os discretion to
position X.
(3) Escort will R/V both S/ms. in position X at 0800/24 and escort
them to Algiers.
(4) STURGEON will also be at X at 0800/24.
(Capt. (S) 8. 2220A/21 to P.228, P.247, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 10,
Subs. on patrol, Cmdre. Algiers, S.O. Force Q.)

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

HENRY STANLEY. HENRY STANLEY ex O.N.149 due Freetown 18th December has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0925Z/21 to Admty).

PIERRE LOTI aground. SS. PIERRE LOTI reports aground on sandy bottom S.W. Corisco Is. Gulf of Guinea afternoon 12th December. Hull tight. Tugs EMPIRE SAM and EMPIRE PAT were despatched from Pointe Noire p.m./12th Dec. PIERRE LOTI still aground on 20th but efforts to refloat continue. Passengers are being taken to Libreville. (F.O.W.A., 0953Z/21 to Admty).

BRITISH LOYALTY. Your 0738/20 approved.
(2) Request confirmation that delivery of the ship has been accepted by you in terms of clause one (E) of contract with Watson.
(3) Report in due course
(a) Date ship will be ready to sail for a port where permanent repairs can be undertaken.
(b) Rough indication of permanent repairs required.
(c) Your proposals and requirements for steaming party.
(C. in C. S.A., 1011C/21 to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez (R) Admty. F.O.E.A. C. in C. E.F., Com. i/c Durban).

M.C.2, escort. Request you will sail INCONSTANT and FOXHOUND to comply with C. in C. E.F.'s*0835/20 para. 4. (C. in C. S.A., 1053C/21 to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty). *N.T.m.v.D.

Movements Simonstown arrival 21st GLENROY, JANUS. (C. in C. S.A., 1102C/21 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Durban).
Departure from Congo River a.m./21st (?BELLWORT) escorting SS. (?HAI LEE) routed through (L) equator 006° East E.T.A. Takoradi p.m./25th. (B.N.L.O.W.Af. 1145C/21 to (?F.O.C. W.Af) (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
Arrivals 21st Dec. CAPETOWN, CESSNOCK, BLACKMOSE. (F.O.E.A., 1341Z/21 to Admty).
PHOEBE, BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA arrived a.m./21st. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1438Z/21 to Admty).
Departures 21st, H.M. M.L. 261, Bathurst. (R.O. Bissao, 1500/21 to Freetown, for Admty. and N.O.I.C. Bathurst).
Arrived ATHENE.
(Cdre. i/c Durban, 1601Z/21 to Admty).
Arrival 1700Z/21, H.M. Trawler PORTSDOWN, and Motor Launches 1044, 1066. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1745/21 to F.O.I.C. W. Af. (R) Admty).
Departure 19th, U.S. Destroyer MILWAUKEE. Departure 20th, U.S.*Destroyer GREENE. Arrival 21st, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1946Z/21 to Admty).

*Seaplane Tender.

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
1058C/21 December

From C.in C. South Atlantic Date 21.12.42.

Recd. 1317
NAVAL CYPHER M BY W/T and T/P

Addressed Ships in Area Q, Admiralty, Com. Durban,
N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London.

IMPORTANT

(Corrupt group) about 026 deg 30' South 014 deg 30' East to Capetown 11

ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, COVENTRY CITY, MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE, with TUZLA, 027 deg 30' South 015 deg East to Capetown 9.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, with C F 10, 023 deg South 013 deg 40' East to Freetown 12

H.M.S. FORTUNE, 028 deg 30' South 015 deg 30' East to Simonstown 19.

H.M.S. NORTHERN DUKE, (corrupt group), DUNEDIN STAR, vicinity 018 deg 12' South 011 deg 42' East 2.

H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, H.M.S. SPHENE, BOLD (Tug) tow^{ing} COLUMBINE 020 deg 15' South 010 deg 20' East to Walvis Bay 6½.

KHYBER, INTEGRITY, EMPIRE WARLOCK, CRANE LIGHTER Number 3, 017 deg 50' South 010 deg East to Walvis Bay 5½.

1058C/21
Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

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

IH.

739

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- CERAMIC. Has (GLST) CERAMIC arrived.
(C. in C. S.A., 1121C/21 to General St. Helena,
(R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.Force).
Your 1121C/21st. No.
(General St. Helena 1140Z/21 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.
F.O.W.Af. Force).
Your 1121/24 (1121/21 intended) CERAMIC was claimed as
U-boat casualty on enemy broadcast and has not replied to
signals. Another ship will be sent for survivors.
(D.T.D., 1821A/21 to C. in C. S.A., Governor St. Helena).
- U/B Your 1343Z/20 Dec. Bearing on transmission at
disposition. 2358Z/19 plotted at Freetown placed U-boat
within 100 miles of 14° 30' N., 22° 30' W. Admty.
disposition stated U-boat within 100 miles of 7°
3' N., 25° 4' W. In view of widely different
position request comment. Bearings were received from Freetown,
Milnerton, Simonstown, Bermuda, Georgetown, American and Home
stations.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 1135Z/21 to Admty).
- Minefields My 1103/13 and Com Supt. Simonstown's 1032/18
Saldanha. neither to Admty. If MANCHESTER CITY has
embarked mines she is to be sailed for Saldanha
forthwith to proceed with laying outer guard
loops.
(2) If MANCHESTER CITY has not yet embarked mines she is to await
arrival OCEAN VERITY at Durban and endeavour to identify
underwater fittings. If fittings are in OCEAN VERITY these
are to be embarked, and MANCHESTER CITY sailed Saldanha without
delay.
(3) If MANCHESTER CITY has sailed before arrival of OCEAN VERITY
and underwater fittings are found to be in latter vessel they
are to be despatched by R.A.T.E. to Saldanha.
(C. in C. S.A., 1148A/21 to Com. Durban (R) Admty. for D.T.M.
(C.M.) MANCHESTER CITY, C.S. Simonstown Capt. Supt. Durban).
- Bathurst. Request for information re policy regarding use
of Port of Bathurst and construction of jetty.
(G.O.C. in C. W.A., 1630Z/21 to W.O.) See Lion
Copy.
- Air Cover, Your AX. 260 Dec. 19 (second last para.) (1745/19)
Freetown - 1. Saldanha Bay suitable for flying boats
Cape Convoys. alternatively Aerodromes available suitable
Venturas and capable of being developed and
prepared for Liberators.
2. Walvis Bay. Owing to absence permanently
protected water flying boat operations not recommended.
Aerodrome available suitable Venturas. Development of an
Aerodrome to operate Liberators can be investigated and believed
possible.
3. War Cabinet Paper D.I.O. (42) 54 March 3 gives details Chiefs
of Staffs recommendations South African Coastal Air Force
and this includes 5 T.B.R., and G.R. Squadrons, Capetown to
Durban. Union Government Authority however covers also 1

/additional...

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Air Cover additional Coastal T.B.G.R. Squadron and 1
Freetown - General Purpose B.R. Squadron total 1 B.R. and
Cape Convoys. 6 T.B.G.R. Appears however Air Min. has only
Contd. allotted aircraft so far for 4 T.B.G.R.
Squadrons which already operating and full
committed escort and G.R. duties Saldanha to
Lourenco Marques area. Remaining two T.B.G.R.
Squadrons however can be readily developed as soon as aircraft
allotted for this or any other S.A.A.F. service.
(Dechief, 1710C/21 to Air Min. (R) A.H.Q., W.Af. (for A.O.C.)
Admiralty).

CAPE WARWICK, Sailed 1700Z/21 CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR (not
INDIAN STAR. escorting) E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1400Z/29th through
A. 001° 33' S., 001° 48' E. B. 011° 41', 007°
33'. C. 018° 50', 011° 40' S. of A. 10.3 knots
shifting (P) to (Q) W/T organization 0700Z
27th December.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1803Z/21 to F.O.C.W.Af.
B.N.L.O.W. Af. C. in C. S.A., NO.I.C Lagos,
N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)

MONTE My 1741/19th. Identity confirmed as MONTE NURIA
NURIA by HOLCOMBE, estimated speed 8 knots.
(Spanish). (F.O.W.A., 2053Z/21 to Admty. (R) ASTURIAS,
N.O.I.C. Bathurst S.O.(I) Gibraltar. Comsolant).

CITY OF (1) CAPE BRETON landed here today 21st 79
BOMBAY survivors ex CITY OF BOMBAY and 31 EMPIRE HAWK.
(British) 81 missing ex former including repatriated
torpedoed survivors ex CITY OF MANILA and CITY OF MELBOURNE
13 Dec. and 20 missing ex EMPIRE HAWK.
EMPIRE HAWK, (2) Both ships bound from Trinidad to Capetown.
(British) CITY OF BOMBAY torpedoed and shelled 13th 0700
torpedoed ship's apparent time in approx. 003° 46' S. 028°
12 Dec. 49' W. EMPIRE HAWK torpedoed 12th 0005 G.M.T.
survivors. in approx. 005° 56' N., 039° 50' W.
(3) Further details will follow.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 2127Z/21 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I)
Freetown, S.O.(I) Montevideo, S.O.(I) Rio de
Janeiro).

S.L.Convoys. S.L. Convoys. To facilitate planning of re-
establishment of these convoys, request that in
respect of ships sailed for Trinidad or U.S.A.
which, but for cessation of S.L. Convoys would
have been sailed for Freetown for convoy, the word
"Resumption" in brackets may be added to item (vi) of Section
A of Route signals.
(D.T.D., 2210A/21 to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C.W.Af. Connav).

SECRET

740A Sa.

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1630ZA/21st December.

FROM: G.O.C. in C. West Africa.

Date: 22.12.42.
Recd: 0245.

CYPHER.

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

TN/56348 cipher 21. December. 090114.

1st. Would be grateful for earliest possible information as to future policy regarding use of Port of Bathurst with special reference deep water pontoon jetty and P.C. and R. unit.

2nd. No stores yet on site. Greenheart piles on order from British Guiana but no firm delivery date. About 100 tons docking and similar timber on order from Gold Coast and partly cut but none yet shipped.

3rd. P.C. and R. Section already at Bathurst but cannot be suitably or usefully employed whilst awaiting materials.

4th. Requisitioning of ground and clearance of buildings for transit area not yet implemented. Foreshore clearance ready to begin.

5th. Would appreciate early reply as to policy as shipping could be saved timber ordered could be cancelled and skilled technical unit might be released for useful employment elsewhere.

6th. If construction Bathurst jetty is cancelled or postponed could employ P.C. and R. unit in Freetown on Farrer Point extension and similar duty providing its services not required in another theatre of operations.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

D.F.S.L.

Contr.

V. Contr.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (UT)

Civil Lord.

Sec.

Nav. Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

P.A.S. (O)

D. of L.

Ops. (3)

O.D. (5)

M. (2)

D.S.D. (2)

D. of S. (3)

D. of P. (Q)

D.T.D. (4)

D. of S.T. (2)

N.A. to A.C.N.S. (UT)

D. 57. C. B. I.

D. of P. (3)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

1630ZA/21
Recd by Hand from War Office.

War Office circulation:

D.Q.M.G., Q. (Ops). D.Tn. D.D.Tn. (O) (D)

Tn. 1.2. M.O. 4. S.D. 2. M.W.T. (Mr.

Secretan) (2) Admiralty (M. Branch)

(Capt. Bowen).

Dep. Contr. (3))

C.E. in C.) Bath by

S.W.R.) Courier.

D. (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:

~~MOST SECRET~~ "O.T.P." MESSAGE accepted from 15 51/21st December IN

From A.H.Q. West Africa.

Date 22.12.42.
Recd. 1015.

CYPHER

Addressed A.O.C. Flying Boats Air Ministry Kingsway
De Chief Pretoria F.O.C. West Africa.

IMMEDIATE

KS.8891.

A.357. 21st December.

Part 1.

Your AX 260 19th December. Coastal route.
Despatching one Catalina with W/Cdr. Thewles to report on practicability and requirements of operating detachments at Lagos Libreville and mouth of Congo also at Pointe Noire. From brief experience with Sunderlands and Hudsons on detachment these places (A) Lagos entirely suitable to operate detachment of flying boats, moorings and accommodation are available and boats could be serviced at Freetown but accommodation particularly technical must be constructed to service complete squadron operating detachments further South. We are already investigating this in detail for fourth boat squadron West Africa. (B) Libreville provides sheltered anchorage but shore accommodation almost completely lacking and other difficulties such as drifting timber in river need careful study. Information regarding mouth of Congo is scanty but considered suitable base could probably be found possibly near Boma or Banana but again accommodation likely to be lacking at first. Pointe Noire facilities are much better also probably easier to arrange construction of accommodation for detachment but size of harbour is such that heavily laden Catalina might have take-off difficulties with swell at entrance.

Part 2.

Propose the best immediate and temporary plan would be to transfer No. 270 Squadron to Lagos and operate detachments of this Squadron at Pointe Noire and at Libreville as necessary. Eventually provision of second Catalina Squadron with depot ship at mouth of Congo when this can be arranged. Provision of small depot ship of about 2000 tons would be valuable at Libreville. Negotiations with Americans over construction of accommodation at Fisherman's Lake have lagged badly and Weselo still not obtained full co-operation of USAAC Accra in this respect. Therefore move of 270 Squadron to Lagos would be suitable now. We require your authorisation to commence necessary works at

Lagos/.....

Lagos immediately. Also to request Belgian and Free French Authorities for permission make preliminary surveys and aircraft coastal route. Since availability of Hudsons would materially assist in reducing time spent on inshore patrols and escorts most strongly recommend formation as soon as possible of one Hudson Squadron at Lagos in addition to half Squadron at Takoradi. This would operate detachment at Libreville Pointe Noire and possibly at Port Gentil according to escort requirements and would assist Free French Acesons. It will be noted that we already operate without establishment half Hudson Squadron providing slender cover from Takoradi Lagos and Pointe Noire.

Ocean route. We have no repetition no information regarding suitability of ground at St. Helena for airfield construction. We received telegram from Governor recently asking for visit of R.A.F. Liaison Officer from Ascension who however is unsuitable to make survey required. See our A251/10th December. Type of ground and off loading facilities summarised in North Africa Pilot Handbook suggest similar problem to Ascension provided suitable strip can be obtained with road access to James Town. Heavy construction equipment likely be required labour imported from West or South Africa and several months work. Nevertheless consider use of Ascension and St. Helena of great practical value operational viewpoint particularly if provided with aircraft of Liberator type. We could send Officer and Engineer by ship via Ascension to advise if you wish but owing to lack of equipment and staff I recommend that task be undertaken by South Africa. Request you note our A 507 13th September or 17th September also on subject air cover West African Coast.

1534/21

Not to Admiralty.

1745/19.

Received from Air Ministry 1010/22.

Air Ministry circulation:-

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.(UT).
Civil Lord
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P.(2).
D.T.D.(3).
D.T.D.(M).

D.T.D.(C).
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
Head of M.
D.O.D.(H) (2).
D.O.D.(F) (2).

Duty Capt.(2).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D.N.I.(4).
I.P.(2).
W.D.
D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
C.C.L.S.

C.A.S., V.C.A.S., A.C.A.S.(P),
A.C.A.S.(O), D.W.O. D.O.Ops.,
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Admiralty (War Reg.)(2 copies),
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H.Com. for S. Africa, S.A.L.O.

741

War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

RORQUAL, Establish patrol forthwith, RORQUAL 038° 00'
P. 44. *See p. 743* 011° 25'. P.44 038° 20' 011° 53'. Orders
follow.
(Capt. S.10, 0004A/21 to RORQUAL, P.44, (R) P.42.)

Enemy Following has been read from call sign CXKC Nr. 3:
Unit. 1 enemy, type unknown, position 33.45 N. 11.05 E.
course 225° speed 15 knots.
(Alexandria W/T, 0010A/21 to Whitehall W/T.)

Enemy M/V 2000 tons merchant ship sunk in position 33.40 N.
sunk. 11.05 E. Air co-operation excellent.* E.T.A.
Boom 0920.
(Capt. D.14, 0145A/21 to V.A. Malta, (R)

VANSITTART.)
* See also Malta Air Report, 2034/21, and V.A. Malta's 0912A/21.

Enemy M/Vs. Following read by Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. of
4 illuminated merchant vessels 38.32 N. 11.45 E.
270°, speed unknown.
(A/C using call sign CXKG, 0200A/21.)

STRATHALLAN Send tugs for STRATHALLAN in position 36.52 N.
torpedoed 00.34 W.
(K.M.F.5) (Capt. (D) 19, 0210A/21 to N.O.I.C. Oran.)
See next page
4 p. 744 STRATHALLAN torpedoed at 0231A/21 in 36.52 N.
00.34 W. cannot steam. LAFOREY and LIGHTNING
standing by. WESTON in charge of (? convoy).
(Capt. (D) 19, 0246A/21 to N.C.X.F.)
Following has been read. Rejoin me forthwith in 36.52 N.
00.34 W.

(Capt. D.19, 0310A/21 to VERIFY.)
LAFOREY taking STRATHALLAN in tow. LIGHTNING and
FOLKESTONE circling. Number of boats already in water.
(Capt. D.19, 0345A/21 to N.C.X.F.)
Proceed forthwith to STRATHALLAN torpedoed 036° 52' N.
000° 34' W., acknowledge, repeat back position.
(S.O. Force H, 0512/21 to PANTHER, (R) V.A. Gibraltar,
Oran, FORMIDABLE, N.C.X.F., Capt. (D) 19, Capt. (D) 3.)
STRATHALLAN in tow at 2 knots. Escorts FOLKESTONE and
LIGHTNING. Large number boats require picking up.
(Capt. D.19, 0527A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar,
N.O.I.C. Oran, VERIFY, WESTON, Admty.)
My position 036° 51' N. 000° 32' W.
(Capt. D.19, 0600A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) Escorts of K.M.F.
(O) 5.)
My P.C. and S. 036° 50' N. 000° 31' W., 180°, four knots.
(Capt. D.19, 0640A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar,
N.O.I.C. Oran.)
My 1430/21st (N.T. in W.D.) Ship on fire fore and aft, and
feared total loss. Will await for opinion of Salvage Tug KING
SALVOR not yet arrived. RESTIVE considers hopeless. If
confirmed intend to sink with torpedo. Position 036° 23' N.
000° 36' W.
(Capt. D.19, 1500A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gib., Admty.,
S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

/Situation ...

742

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.

STRATHALLAN Situation 1600A. STRATHALLAN burning fiercely torpedoes and ammunition exploding. QUIBERON returning (K.M.F. 5) with PATHFINDER, LIGHTNING, FOLKESTONE to Oran. (Contd.) Tug RESTIVE waiting to attempt to deal with fire. Tug KING SALVOR not yet arrived. 3 corvettes, 2 motor M/S forming circular patrol. Intend to remain in vicinity to see if any hope of salvage. Loss of life very small.

(Capt. D.19, 1600A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Situation 1700A. Tug KING SALVOR arrived. Agree ship can be salvaged. RESTIVE picking up LAFOREY before leaving. Intend escorting to Oran with ships present. About 40 miles to go.

(Capt. D.19, 1700A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., V.A. Gib., S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

P. 54. Your 1800/20th acknowledged. Proceed direct to R/V with escort for Algiers in 037° 01' N. 003° 02' E. at 0830/23rd. Proceed on surface at discretion on 23rd.
(Capt. S.8, 0256A/21 to P.54, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers.)

K.M.F. 5. N.C.X.F.'s 0409A (N.T. in W.R.) Estimated position K.M.F.5 at 0600 is 036° 49' N. 000° 19' E.
See p 746
(Capt. D.19, 0615A/21 to LAMERTON, Capt. (D) 6, (R) N.C.X.F., WESTON.)

K.M.F.5, E.T.A. Algiers 1515A, ESKIMO, LAMERTON, HUSSAR, NASTURTIUM and GORLESTON in company.
(WESTON, 1120A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Capt. (D) 19, S.O. Force H, Cdre. Algiers.)

LAMERTON, One aeroplane bearing 270° one mile, course 270° -
A/C. 275°. C A X 45.
(LAMERTON, 0750/21 to Algiers W/T.)

Air R/C. Visual Dec. 21st 0720, Messina, 3 cruisers 2 destroyers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0902A/21 to N.C.X.F., ORION, F.O.I.S., S.O. Force Q, C. in C. Med., PAKENHAM, (R) Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H.)

M/V sunk ^(GERVIS) D.14 with NUBIAN in company assisted by R.A.F. aircraft in locating target sank a merchant ship reported as 2000 tons proceeding towards Tripoli in position 033° 40' N. 011° 05' E. at 0110A this morning.
by D.14. (V.A. Malta, 0912A/21 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., Cdre. (D), N.C.X.F.)

/Movements ...

21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. Arrival 20th Dec., M.Ls 1028, 1032, PETARD, SOUTHERN SEA, HYACINTH, PRIMULA, G.D.* BASILISSA OLGA, Yugo Slavian T.B. DURMITOR, Yugo Slavian T.B. KAJMAKALAN. Departure 20th Dec. ST. MONANCE, M.L.350, SOUTHERN ISLES. (S.O.(I), Alexandria, 0913B/21 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
20th Dec. arrivals M.L.1046, F.F. M.L. Departures WOLBOROUGH. (S.O.(I), Beirut, 0914B/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

ALBA JULIA. My 1238C/15. Ship ?loading rapidly and expected to complete Dec. 21st. No indication yet when she will sail. (S.O.(I), Istanbul, 0925C/21 to S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

Cositrep No. 631. Air. 3. Night 18th/19th Dec. Wellingtons mined approaches to Tripoli Harbour. 4. 19th Dec. Beaufighters on offensive R/C damaged three F-Boats off Tripoli, one Beaufighter missing. 5. Night 19th/20th Dec. Wellingtons bombed dispersed M.T. targets Buerat Area. Bursts among vehicles and on building. 6. Marauders mined La Goulette Harbour. One Marauder missing. 7. Agedabia West landing ground bombed. Damage slight. 8. Bad weather prevented night bomber operations from Malta. (C. in C. M.E., 1205B/21.)

P.212, P.42, P. 44. Move to establish patrol in position and by time given. After attack or at given time leave patrol or proceed in execution previous orders. Times zone minus 1.

S/M	Time to arrive	Position	Time to leave
P.212	1402/22nd	038° 14' 012° 31'	2359/22nd
P. 44	1758/22nd	038° 10' 011° 50'	0300/23rd
P. 42	2256/22nd	037° 54' 011° 17'	0642/23rd

Homeward routes for P.212, P.44 follow. (Capt. S.10, 1225A/21 to P.212, P.42, P.44, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, S/Ms on Patrol.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 5 torpedo boats 32.55 N. 12.50 E. 270°, 12 knots. (A/C call sign CYCL, 1244A/21.)

Albacores. Cancel my 0011/19th in reply to Admty. 1812/14th not to C.O.N.A. which was drafted from a corrupt message.

A maximum of 15 Albacores can be made available in 4 weeks from now. (C. in C. Med., 1445B/21 to (? R.N.A.S. Gibraltar), Admty., (R) C.O.N.A., PHOENIX (Fayid).)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Convoys. Departures: T.E.10, ESNEH, FINTRA, EMPIRE DACE.
Arrivals: K.M.F.5. EMPRESS OF CANADA, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, DUCHESS OF YORK, PARDO, SILVERCLAUREL, EXIRIA, ~~E. BAKKE~~.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1500A/21 to Admty. (pass to M.W.T.), (R) N.C.X.F., Connav.)
- M.K.S.4. Intend to sail to join M.K.S.4 R/V (? at) 0500A/23rd (11st).
(N.C.S.O. Bougie, 1500A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Algiers, N.C.S.O. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie.)
- M.W.17. Arrival convoy M.W.17, DULVERTON, PAKENHAM, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, ORION, PINDOS.
See next page
(V.A. Malta, 1505A/21 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., R.A.D. Med.)
- Situation Report No. 37. 1. K.M.F.5. STRATHALLAN torpedoed in 36.52 N. 00.34 W. at 0231/21/12 and was taken in tow by LAFOREY until 1430 when ship was abandoned, on account of fire. Large number of boats were lowered initially, VERITY has landed 1167 persons from these at Oran. 200 women known to be safe. Military personnel disembarked to escorting destroyers. *See pp 741 & 742*
2 Personnel ships are to go forward to Bone with escort augmented by AURORA and SCYLLA. Remaining troops for Bone will be ferried in L.C.Is from Algiers.
2. Bone L.C.M. transport ferry in operation to Tabarka. L.C.Ts transporting to La Calle.
(N.C.X.F., 1516A/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D., A.F.H.Q. London.)
- P. 51. Sailing.
See p. 746
(V.A. Malta, 1526A/21 to Admty., etc.)
- Movements. 21st Dec. Port Said arrival SOUTHERN ISLES, M.L. 350. Departure CROOME, ALDENHAM, HURWORTH, BELVOIR, M.L.1051, L.C.T.18.
See previous page
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1646A/21 to Admty., C. in C. (R) F.O.C. Red Sea Force, R.A. Alex.)
Arrived and left 21st Dec. WOLBOROUGH.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 1703B/21 to Admty., etc.)
Arrival and departure DELPHINIUM, Greek Dr. IERAX, F.S.
- LA MOQUEUSE.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 1846B/21 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- Force H. NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE and destroyer leave
*M.E.K. 24th Dec. to make room for convoy in the harbour. Force H will arrive Algiers a.m. 25th and spend the day there sailing p.m. 25th for Balearic Islands area thence to arrive Gibraltar or M.E.K. 27th. It is considered visit here of Force H will have a beneficial effect.
(N.C.X.F., 1750A/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

** That is - Kuba*
/CROMER ...

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- CROMER
(sunk) A board of enquiry is not being held on loss of CROMER as it is considered facts are clear and no useful purpose will be served. Written report of senior surviving officer is being forwarded. (C. in C. Med., 1801B/21 to Admty., (R) S.O. Minesweeping Flot. 14, Cdre. (D).)
- Enemy M/V. Sighted small merchant vessel 1500 tons position 35.00 N. 11.50 E. 150°, speed unknown. Local weather prevented recontact. (BUGK (indecypherable), 1815B/21 to 201 Group.)
- P.228. *see p-737* Leave patrol as necessary to keep outside 100 fathom line and pass 038° 36' 007° 59' at 2130A/22nd thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. (Capt. S.10, 1847A/21 to P.228, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. S.8, Subs on Patrol.)
- P.212. *see pp. 736 & 743* Leave patrol as ordered direct to pass 038° 35' 008° 02' at 0631A/24 thence as ordered by Capt. S.8. (Capt. S.10, 1857A/21 to P.212, (R) Subs on Patrol, N.C.X.F., Capt. S.8.)
- Jibuti
French for
M.E.F. 300521. O/87074 cipher 21st Dec. Fighting French H.Q. here have asked London to send all rallies from Jibuti to M.E.F. They have been told that they must remain there until the question of Jibuti settled. Details. French have asked Middle East to press for all the personnel from Jibuti to be sent to M.E.F. Request you do all possible to arrange this for reasons given above. (C. in C. M.E., 1900B/21 to W.O., G.O.C. in C. E.Africa.)
Reply: 1120/24.
- Malta
Intelligence
Summary. 2000A/20 to 2000A/21. *(M.W.17)*
Naval. (i) "Quadrangle C" escorted by ORION and 5 destroyers arrived safely from Eastern Med. *See p. 744*
(ii) Two D/Rs of Force K with air co-operation sank a 2000 ton M/V by gunfire off Cape Tourgueness last night.
- Air. (i) R/C 21st Dec. No photos owing to weather. Visuals Messina, no change Naval units. (ii) No enemy air activity. (iii) Strikes. Night 20th/21st Dec. Wellingtons bombed Tunis and La Goulette docks from 2113 to 2322 hours. Large fires started in marshalling yards at Tunis and near barracks on La Goulette Island. Other hits in docks areas but cloud obscured results.
(Govr. Malta, 1900Z/21.)

/P.247 ...

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War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.247.

See p.737

Leave patrol after dark 22nd through 038° 01' 009° 03' to 038° 10' 007° 58' whence Capt. S.8 will route you.
(Capt. S.10, 1915A/21 to P.247, (R) N.C.X.F., Submarines on Patrol, Capt. S.8, S.O. Force Q.)

GRETE.

GRETE will sail tonight 21st, 2100, Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 1921/21 to Admty.)

139 Bde.

Personnel and M.T. of 139th Brigade Group are entirely contained in the following ships:
SS. DERBYSHIRE, SS. STAFFORDSHIRE, U.S. JOHN DAVENPORT, SS. CITY OF WORCESTER, U.S. TRISTRAM DALTON, SS. TIBA, and will be routed to Oran.
(D.O.D.(H), 1945A/21 to N.C.X.F., A.F.H.Q., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

P. 51.

See p.744

Sailing at 1300A/21. P.51 for patrol in approaches Bizerta and Tunis.
(Capt. S.10, 1955A/21 to N.C.X.F., Capt. S.8th, (R) Sub. on Patrol.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals, SCOTTISH returned from E.T.6. H.D.M.L.1123 from Bone. WESTON, LAMERTON, ESKIMO, HUSSAR, NASTURTIUM, GORLESTON. *See p.742*
Departures LAMERTON, ESKIMO, to R/V K.M.F.5
CLACTON, RHYL, BUDE, STORNOWAY to Philippeville with T.E.10; to Bougie, BORDE, LAPAGERIA; to Philippeville, FELIXSTOWE, TRANVAAL; to Bone, POZARICA, CORIOLANUS, TRITON, L.C.T.160, ACHROITE, GREGORY, ARNOLD BENNETT, TERVANI.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2013/21 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

Malta Air
Report.

A.I.191, 21st Dec. C.S.R. Night 20th/21st Dec. No enemy air activity locally. Beaufighter intruder patrol over Trapani aerodrome was abandoned owing to very bad weather over Sicily.
Day 21st Dec. to protect convoy approaching Malta from east 2 Baltimores made dawn R/C patrols of Messina area to watch movements of Italian Fleet. 1 Beaufighter made A/S patrol ahead of convoy and 35 Spitfire sorties were made in fighter escort over the convoy from dawn when convoy was found 40 miles south of Malta until its safe arrival in harbour at 1215 hours. No attacks were made on convoy while under our protection. A further 15 Spitfire sorties were made in protective patrols over the convoy in harbour. In addition a total of 14 Beaufighters and 2 Spitfire sorties have been flown on offensive sweeps south-east and south-west of Malta. At 1305 hours 3 Beaufighters intercepted one Ju.88 flying south 91 miles east of Malta and destroyed it.

/Night ...

746A
Med

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.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

2007A/21st Dec. IN

Date. 22.12.42.
Recd. 0359.

From: M.W.T.R. Algiers.

Naval Cypher (K) by W/T.

Addressed: D. of S.T.

(1) In agreeing release of all Allied vessels in French African ports French request permission to charter OKSYWIE and GABON from owners. OKSYWIE is now employed on river traffic Saloum to Casamance to which she is suited GABON is in local palm oil trade in which she was chartered before the war.

(2) Owing to difficulty in immediate provision of crews and in absence of representative to take over these vessels in Dakar there may be advantage in agreeing this for a limited period on a similar basis to vessels given to Dosco and others. Please consult owner and advise us.

(3) We have reserved entirely your position with local authorities regarding claims and counter claims on ground that to claim against them recognises them as legal successors to Vichy.

(4) French have ~~not repeat not~~ agreed yet to release of Danes but we are working on this and will report later

(5) French require declaration that we will release French vessels from requisition where the owners company is legally situated in North or West Africa and will settle compensation for period of requisition. We intend to promise to deal with individual cases on their merits preserving the requisition if possible and agreeing to charter from owners under French Flag. This might involve Gross terms. Do you agree. Only vessels in this class so far known are DJURDJURA and HULCAN.

(6) All Prize cases will be referred to London. Only known vessel in this Class is ROSE SCHIAFFINO but as Owner is largest individual Shipowner in North Africa the problem will probably have to be faced similarly to Clause 5 if possible.

2007A/21

A.C.N.S. (U,T)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st. S.L.
O.D. (5)
Ops (3)
D.N.I. (5)
O.E.C. (3)
D. of S.T. (2) for action
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
M (2)
D.E.W.D. (3)
N.L.
W.D.

747

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - cont'd.

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) Night 20th/21st Dec. 2 special Wellingtons 8 on shipping R/C patrolled from Cavoli to Marittimo and over Straits of Messina. Wellington sighted 0043 hours 020° Marittimo 30 miles one M/V 3/5000 tons, 3 M/Vs 10,000 tons all brightly illuminated course 270° speed slow. One special Wellington 8 co-operated with friendly D/Rs attacking shipping off East Tunisian Coast and at 2217 hours 180° Cape Turgueunes 8 miles found one M/V 1000/1500 tons. Wellington led D/Rs to target and illuminated for attack at 0001 hours. M/V was shelled by D/Rs for 10 minutes and left on beam ends and blazing from stem to stern. 8 Wellingtons carried out bombing attack on Tunis and La Goulette docks from 2113 to 2322 hours in bad weather dropping 16 500 lb. and twenty 250 lb. bombs on Tunis and one 4000 lb. twelve 5000 (or 500 ?) lb. and 21 250 lb. bombs on La Goulette. Large red fires were started in marshalling yards at Tunis and near barracks on La Goulette Island. Other hits were scored in docks areas but results were not observed owing to cloud. Very accurate heavy flak and accurate light flak from Tunis. Slight light flak and one heavy gun at La Goulette. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2034/21.)

UNA. After dark 22nd leave patrol through 035° 17' 012° 35' to make normal R/V on Dec. 24th. (Capt. S.10, 2100A/21 to UNA, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1, Subs on Patrol, F.O.C. 15th C.S., Capt. (D) 14th D.F.)

E.A.C. Report. Op. Summ. No. 40 covering period 1800 hours 19th Dec. to 1800 hours 20th Dec. A.8. Blida. Algiers B.A.P. patrolled by 2 Walrus dawn to 1230 hours and by two Swordfish 1230 hours to dusk. 10 Hudsons A/S swept area 02° W. 05° E. and North 239° between 0816 hours and 1608 hours. 1 Hudson sighted fully surfaced U-Boat position 39.46 N. 5.13 E. 1340 hours from 32,000 feet. U-Boat crash dived 26 seconds before 3 D/C were dropped 300 feet ahead of swirl, one D/C hung up, no results observed. One Swordfish on A/S escort to E.T.6 from 1440 hours to 1725 hours. 4 Hudsons on night A/S sweeps East of Minorca between 2256 hours and 0602 hours, no sightings. (E.A.C., 2130/21.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one medium M/V 2 destroyers and 4 small unknowns 38.20 N. 12.18 E. 280° 10 knots. (A/C call sign FAQ Duty 'G', 2145A/21 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Enemy has altered course to approx. 260°. (A/C C/S FAY Duty 'G', 2210A/21 to Air H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. of medium M/V two destroyers four small craft 38.19 N. 12.00 E. 260°, 10 knots. (A/C call sign FAY Duty 'G', 2315A/21 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

/TURBULENT

748

21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TURBULENT.
P.44.

On crossing 019° 00' W. proceed to 035° 22' 014°
05' thence to arrive end of swept channel at
0800A/25th. P.44 arrive on the surface from
westward to R/V with sweeper at same time.
(Capt. S.10, 2255/21 to TURBULENT, (R) Capt. S.1.)

Enemy
Units.

One merchant ship 2 destroyers 4 barges 038° 21'
N. 012° 18' E. course 260° speed 8.
(Capt. S.10, 2307A/21 to P. 42.)

748A
mes
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.)

SECRET

MESSAGE

2335A/21 December IN

From:- P.R.U. Benson

DATE. 22.12.42

RECD. 0051

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty, Air Ministry Whitehall, Bomber,
Coastal, Fighter Int. Army Co-operation
Commands, MEDMENHAM, 8th U.S.B.C. ADI (BF)
AM 2

EMERGENCY Form White NOTWT

G 24 21 Dec.

PRU Sortie/738 dated 21 Dec. time 1300 hrs shows:-

Toulon:- All Naval units previously seen to be damaged and partially submerged now settled even lower than on 7 Dec. Only activity noted in connection with these vessels is arrival of six small vessels alongside bows of 8 inch Suffren class cruiser in Darse De Castigneau. Small amount of smoke still issuing from all four of the other damaged cruisers. Dry dock occupied by battle cruiser DUNERQUE partially flooded on 7 Dec. now dry. One small vessel 120 ft mine sweeping with diamond sweep in Petite Rade. No other change of note in shipping.

Marseilles:- Since 12 Dec. 11 M/V's 210/370 ft. departed and 6 arrived while the usual internal movements continue. Tankers T.502 T.507 and T.508 and larger liners still present.

Etang De Berre:- Anchorage not completely photographed but since 30 Nov. 1 tanker 500 ft and 7 M/V's departed from former anchorages while 1 Tanker 540 ft arrived. Shipping photographed comprises 4 tankers 400/540 ft and 3 M/V's 330/370 ft. Observer confident that this represents total shipping present. Therefore probable decrease of two tankers and 12 M/V's since 30 Nov.

Canal Maritime:- 3 M/V's 350/450 1 of which if proceeding west now present compared with 1 M/V on 30 Nov.

Port Le Bouc:- Since 8 July 2 Elan class sloops launched and now fitting out while 1 sloop and 1 probable T/B still building. Merchant shipping present comprises 1 liner 370 ftn. and 3 M/V's 200/300 ft.

Savona:- 1 T/B 235 ft. and 10 M/V's 250/340 ft now present compared with no shipping of any importance on 16 Nov. In addition 1 M/V 390 ft seen entering port.

Genoa:- /...

748¹³

Genoa:- Since 11 Dec. 1 U boat 130 ft arrived at the Molo Giano where 2 U-boats 210 and 260 ft. still present. No other active Naval units in Port. Progress in conversion of Liners ROMA and AUGUSTA into A/C carrier continues and now evident that hull of Regolo class cruiser is also in process of conversion. Merchant shipping shows arrival of 1 tanker 490 ft. and 8 M/V's 250/420 ft. while 5 M/V's 250/450 ft. departed. Shipping at Coaling Quays of Vittorio Emanuele Basin again shows greatest change.

Mariano A/D:- 1 JU.52 4 medium and 24 FW.190 visible. At seaplane base one very large 190 ft. 6 engined A/C 1 large and six medium A/C visible.

Istres A/D:- Only 1 JU.52 and 4 JU.88 visible on main A/D and no A/C visible on the two smaller A/D's.

Hyers A/D:- No. A/C visible.

Villonova/Albonga A/D:- 10 medium and 12 small A/C visible.

Genoa/Port A/D:- 5 small A/C Visible.

Romilly-Sur-Seine A/D:- 9 large and 9 medium A/C visible. Many direct hits on landing field and A/D buildings. And at least 1 large A/C damaged.

Chateaux/La Martinerie A/D:- No A/C visible.

2335A/21

1st Lord

1st S.L. (2)

- V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

A.C.N.S. (UP)

A.C.N.S. (W)

C.N.A.S.

A.C.N.A.S.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Cps. (3)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (3)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (3)

D. of P. (Q)

D.A./S.W.

D.M.S.

D.M.S. Citadel

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

M. (2)

Adml. Usborne

Adml. Blake

Adml. Ramsay (4)

D.N.A.D.

D.A.C.D.

C.C.L.S.

D.P.D.

W.D.

I.P. (3)

749

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Air attack on Sabang. See Situation Report.
(No signal received in W.D., understood to be "Hush".)

Movements. Departure 0335Z/21st Dec. MARYBOROUGH escorting ZUIDERKRUIS.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0338Z/21 to Admty.)
Departure SAMSON for Colombo at 0530Z/21st.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0636Z/21 to Admty.)

Boats and rafts from sunk ships. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Masters have been informed that should they have to abandon ship the following points are of the greatest importance in assisting to find survivors and in effecting rescue:-
1. Boats and rafts must keep together.
2. Rafts particularly those without transmitters ? must be looked after by boats and rafts with supplies.
3. Rafts must be secured together in large ? groups.
(C. in C. E.F., 0751Z/21 to A.I.G. 90.)

SARONIKOS (sunk 7th December) SARONIKOS Greek sunk by torpedo from German submarine in approx. 024° (corrupt group) S. 035° 30' E. at 1800/7th Dec. 1 torpedo. Sank in 2 minutes. No distress signal. Crew 32 survivors.
2. Diversion signal apparently not received but survivors not competent to know this.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 0956B/21 to Admty., etc.)

LÉOPARD. Your 0735Z/20 and my 0554Z/20. Arriving Kilindini before early a.m. 25th unless ship refuels Diego Suarez. S. of A. 16 knots. Will search to area group V at 0400Z/22.
(LÉOPARD, 1031Z/21 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.I.C. E.A., Admty.)

Air Report. Intelligence Summary, 21st December.
(A) Night 20th to 21st Dec. 9 E/A raided Calcutta area, 18 to 20,000 feet. Moonlight but hazy visibility which prevented contact by 12 Hurricanes, scramble. Bombs Dum Dum, Calcutta Docks, Budge Budge. Damage slight. Military nil, few fires put out locally. Heavy A.A. controlled for fighters.
(A.H.Q. India, 1217Z/21.)

Convoy M.J.1. Arrival CARTHAGE with M.J.1.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1312Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

/EMPIRE ...

War Diary.

21.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

EMPIRE
DEFIANCE,
U/B attack.

SS. EMPIRE DEFIANCE. Master's report dayed 14th November of attack by U-Boat indicates that A.M.S.I.80, and reference A.M. 1719/19th are not fully understood in respect to action to be taken when U-Boat has been put astern.

- (2) Too wide a zig-zag was employed.
- (3) Request you will have Master interviewed.
- (C. in C. E.F., 1502Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Calcutta, (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

M.N.B.D.O.1. Ref. C.O.S.(M.E.) 329 of 25th Nov. and your CC/147 of 1st Dec.

Units of M.N.B.D.O.1 now in Mideast are not likely to be required in India before March 1943. C. in C. E.F. concurs. General Weston will bring full details when he returns to Mideast shortly.
(Armindia, T.O.O. 1900FG/21 to Mideast, (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., Troopers.)

Shipping,
Bay of
Bengal.

Your 1046/19. The decision to lift coal from Calcutta is a temporary expedient to overcome the delays in roundabout routeing to and from Lourenco Marques. In the circumstances it is considered that 50 mile spacing of ships in Bay of Bengal lanes must be relaxed some reduction is probable in the general loading programme apart from coal during January.
(D.T.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(T), 1913A/21 to F.O. Ceylon, (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Air Raid
Calcutta.

Following has been read from Calcutta W/T B.A.M.S.7. Air raid signal red T.O.R. 2055Z/21. (Colombo W/T, No T.O.O. to Admty.)

Enemy
Unit.

My 2015 (N.T. in W.D.) Possibly enemy unit close proximity.
(C.S.4, 2057/21 to V.A. 3.)

751

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

CALDWELL (weather damage 18 Dec). Please inform ship coming to my assistance that I will make P one on 375 k/cs every half hour for homing purposes. My position 49.35 N., 44.30 W., course 300° 9 knots. (CALDWELL, 0100Z/21 to F.O.N.F.)
What is P.C. and S. (WANDERER, 0120Z/21 to CALDWELL)
My estimated P.C. and S. 049° 18' N., 046° 00' W. 050° 12 knots. (WASAGA, 0123Z/21 to CALDWELL, N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., WANDERER).
My position 0130Z 049° 38' N., 044° 32' W. altered course 255° 11 knots, weather moderated considerably. (CALDWELL, 0202Z/21 to F.O.N.F. (R) WASAGA, WANDERER, SARNIA).
Rescue tugs TENACITY and FRISKY departed St. Johns 2357/19 and 0006/21, to assist CALDWELL short of fuel in approx. 50.10 N., 45.20 W. (F.O.N.F., 1503Z/21 to Admty. for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
My P.C. and S. are 1830Z/21 049° 28' N., 047° 08' W. 250° 7 knots. Visibility fair with (two groups missing) weather not improved. Sighted aircraft who has nil report. (WASAGA, 1835Z/21 to F.O.N.F., CALDWELL, WANDERER, SARNIA)
CALDWELL reported in 049° 00' N., 046° 50' W., at 1000/21 out of fuel. If your endurance permits render assistance possible. WANDERER, WASAGA, TENACITY, FRISKY searching. (F.O.N.F., 2058Z/21 to SKEENA, GALT, AGASSIZ, SACKVILLE)
CALDWELL found through excellent co-operation of aircraft. Amendment P.C. and S. 2100Z, 048° 48', 048° 07', 248° 4 knots. Intend to remain until WASAGA or SARNIA join. Have 40% oil fuel remaining. Weather report 53809773. (WANDERER, 2247Z/21 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. (R) WASAGA, SARNIA).

*PINK, (survivors) (O.N.153). P.C. and S. 047° 05' 032° 16' 152° 13. Left O.N.153 at 1900 G.M.T./20th with 70 tons clean oil and 15 tons dirty.
* See p. 733 Am proceeding Ponta Delgada for 210 tons fuel and thence rejoin if possible.
* My E.T.A. 1800Z Tuesday 22nd. Request you make signal ref. C.A.F.O.1924/42. * See p. 733
Have on board following survivors: from EMILE FRANQUI 20 men. (details). From BELLO 7 (details). Request instructions for landing survivors.
(PINK, 0101Z/21 to C. in C. W.A. (R) SUNFLOWER, F.O.N.F., Cdre. Londonderry, C.T.F.24).
Your 0101Z/21. Unless you can arrange to transfer survivors to a British warship at Ponta Delgada for passage to U.K. or Gibraltar they must be retained on board BADSWORTH and WOLVERINE should arrive a.m./23 returning to U.K. Fuel ordered. (C. in C. W.A., 1945A/21 to PINK (R) SUNFLOWER, F.O.N.F., Cdre. Londonderry, V.A.C.N.A., Admty).
PINK E.T.A. Ponta Delgada*1800Z/22nd requests 210 tons fuel oil.
(C. in C. W.A., 2002A/21 to B.C. Ponta Delgada (R) PINK, F.O.C. Gibraltar B.N.A. Lisbon). * See p. 733

/MARTIN...

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.	OUT.
		1111A/21st December.
Addressed C. in C. U.S. Fleet.		Date, 21.12.42.
Repeated OPNAV,		
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.		
B.A.D. Washington 691.		

TYPE X U.S. SETTINGS.

From Admiralty.
IMPORTANT

Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic.

Operating in Northern Waters: KING GEORGE V
BERWICK
JAMAICA
SHEFFIELD
10 destroyers.

Area Iceland (C): ANSON
CUMBERLAND
NORFOLK
4 destroyers.

Area Soapa: HOWE
MALAYA
BERMUDA
KENT
3 destroyers.

Passage to South Atlantic: 1 destroyer.

Passage to Bermuda: VICTORIOUS
3 destroyers.

Area Gibraltar: NELSON
RENOWN
RODNEY
ARGUS
FURIOUS
FORMIDABLE
AURORA
DELHI
SCYLLA
SIRIUS
ADVENTURE
8 destroyers.

2. COMINCH pass to Cinclant.
1111A/21.

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

21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

MARTIN
BAKKE
"S" report.

Following has been received: Intercept de WSL Amagansett Radio. (begins) MARTIN BAKKE SSSS at 0220 position 41.15 N., 71.49 W. (ends). (Valentia Radio, 0236/21 to Admty. Adm. Devonport). (Plymouth C.C.O.0341/21 to Admty).

MONTREAL
CITY
torpedoed.

Following has been read from Valentia Radio. SSSS MONTREAL CITY 50.23 N., 38.00 W. torpedoed 0310/21 Dec. (Liverpool W/T No T.O.O. /21 to Admty). (C.C.O. Plymouth, 1414/21 to Admty). W.R. Note. Above has been passed to Halifax by Admiralty.

U.S. Movements) Arrivals 20th U.S. Army transport FRANKLIN LEISINGER escorted by P.C.621. (R.N.O. Nassau, 0932/21 to Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Arrival 21st Dec. U.S. Submarine chaser S.C.503. (Harbour Master Barbados, 1030/21 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).

U.S. Submarine chaser S.C.677 arrived 19th left 21st. (Cartagena Col. 1111/21 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Movements.

20th Dec. departures BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER for Bermuda. Arrivals VANSITTART from Argentinia. 21st Dec. arrival Q.055 from Mulgrave. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1301Z/21 to Admty etc).

Departure 21st U.S. Army Transport FRANKLIN LEISINGER escorted by P.C.621, Miami 22nd.

(R.N.O. Nassau, 1304/21 to Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica).

U.S. armed yacht S.C.(7665) arrived and left same day 20th. (R.O. Barranquilla, 1449/21 to Admty for D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).

U.S. Sub. chaser 655 arrived and left Dec.21 on patrol. (R.O. Santa Marta, 1355/21 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Army transport FRANKLIN S. LEVINSBERG (sic) (U.S.) arrived Miami December 17.

(N.S.H.Q., 2028Z/21 to Admty).

Bermuda arrival 21st December 1942 U.S.S. OVERTON.

(S.B.N.O.W.A., 2219Q/21 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Movement
Summary.

1800 G.M.T./21st Dec.

Ship	Position	course	Speed
Convoy F.T.T.5	11½° N. 26° W.	278°	8
BURDOCK	58½° N. 37½° W.	228	19
T.A.31 A.			
(D.O.D. (F) 1015Z/21 to Opanav (R) Comnavu).			

/Tankers...

753

21.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Tankers for "Torch" area.

Your 1548/20th and your 1841/19th. G.A.T.31 due Trinidad Dec. 28th but may be 24 hours late depending on weather. Propose sailing MILFORD, TAMARISK and YESTOR to escort Curacao Section of A.M.2222/15 to Trinidad in order to maintain Dec. 28th as departure date for HAVE-

LOCK's convoy.

(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1202Q/21 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A. F.O.W.A., S.B.N.O. Curacao, B.R.L.O. Aurba. N.O.B. Trinidad. Reply Admty. 2045A/22.

Route and sailing special tanker convoy from Trinidad to Gibraltar when ready for clearance 28th Dec. escorted by HAVELOCK group.

(Connav, 1613/21 to U.S.N.O.B., Trinidad (R) Cinclant, C.C.S.F., N.C.X.F., Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.)

NIAGARA.

Port engine broke down. My P.C. and S. at 2030Z 45.46 N., 58.02 W., 249° 12 knots on (?one) engine.

(NIAGARA, 1251Z/21 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

T.U.
24.18.5

Request relief escort as soon as possible. (?D)EWSBURY short of fuel and BONAIRE having difficulty in steering by hand.

(Western local escort 24.18.5, 1320Z/21 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., C.E.S.F., Connav, Admty).

O.N.153

Anticipate you will be reinforced by 2 U.S. destroyers about daylight Dec. 23. 3 corvettes will join in 45° W. Air coverage will be provided as soon as practicable. Am making every

effort to assist you in your difficult situation which believe you are handling well. Please inform Cmdre.

(C.T.24., 1355Z/21 to C. Mid Ocean Escort. T.U.24.1.5., (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Cominch C. and R).

O.N.153. My 2018Z/20th. Two explosions reported but no ships torpedoed or any sign of U-boats. Under circumstances unable to send assistance to SS. OTINA, straggler since 17th, torpedoed in 047° 40' N., 033° 06' W.

29 ships still present. P.C. and S. 045° 40' N., 035° 35' W. (A) 255° 6½ knots. W/R 5478 0666.

(SUNFLOWER, 2030Z/21 to Connav (R) C.T.24., Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7).

Attacks on U/Bs.

Your 2147/19. Confirmed that Admty. will assess "Torch" attacks on U-boats made by U.S. ships and planes. No reports at present received. (D.A/S.W., 1516A/21 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

/DESTINY...

SECRET

753A

SECRET. MESSAGE. 1825Z/21st.Dec. O U T

To: Britman Washington DATE: 21/12/42.

CYPHER

From: Air Ministry
OZ. 2277

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(7)399.
Reference C.O.S. (7) 373.4

We cannot let question of air field development in North Africa remain in doubt. This is a vitally important matter which brooks no delay and upon which the success of future operations in the Mediterranean will largely depend.

2. If everything is going ahead as it should, and special equipment and expert advice on the spot are adequate, Eisenhower can at least be asked to say so and set our minds at rest.

3. It seems as much in American as in our interests to have an assurance on this matter, and you are requested to raise it with the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

1825Z/21.

4 Most Secret Circulation
T.O.O. 1900/30th.Nov.

Received in War Reg. 2252.

1st.Lord.	D.of P.(3)	Circulation by A.M.
1st.S.L.(2)	O.I.C.(2)	special signals office to:-
D.F.S.L.	D.of P.(2)	
C.N.A.S.	M.(2)	Brig.Jacob.
A.C.N.A.S.	I.P.(3)	Foreign Secretary.
V.C.N.S.	V.D.	War Reg.Admiralty.
A.C.H.S.(F)(2)	Ad.Blake.	C.6.Tels. War Office.
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.A.C.D.	A.H.C.S.(C)
P.A.S.(8)	D.N.A.D.	C.C.O.
N.A.1st.S.L.	C.C.L.S.	
Ops.(3)	Air Br.	
O.D.(5)	Ad.Bellairs.	
D.N.I.(5)	D.A.H.	

SECRET

War Diary.

21.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

DESTINY,
LARIAT. Your 1905/18th to Connav not to V.A. Gibraltar. Should DESTINY be detached to proceed Gibraltar at the same time as LARIAT? Para. 3 of my 1555/17th not to N.C.X.F. refers. (B.A.D., 1525Z/21 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W. Atlantic. V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.A.F., N.C.X.F.) Reply: Admty. 1532/22.

U/B Positions. S/M estimate Dec. 21st and U.S. Submarine notice. (Cominch, 1610/21, 1958/21, 2235/21, 0535/22).

H.X. 218, Report. Preliminary report of H.X. 218 escorted by D.B. 3. S.O. in HARVESTER. U-boat in touch 1325Z/13 and evasive turn made by convoy. At 2030Z/13 one U-boat surfaced inside screen and was attacked by LOBELIA. 0220Z/14 GARLAND searching sighted and nearly rammed U-boat. U-boats changed to new frequency "Series 8" during morning of 14th and HARVESTER was not aware of convoy being shadowed until reports were received from aircraft that two U-boats had been attacked 20 miles astern. To shake off shadowers and make better progress in weather, convoy made drastic alteration for the night which put convoy about 90 miles off track. This appeared successful as there was no further evidence of U-boats being in touch during night 14th/15th. U-boats again in touch with convoy p.m./15th and seemed to leave early 16th possibly for O.N.152. Searches by escort on H/F D/F bearings and attacks and reconnaissances by aircraft from Iceland contributed largely to safe passage of convoy. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1642A/21 to Admty. D.A/S.W. (R) Capt. D. Liverpool C.T.F.24., C.T.G.24.7., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. Londonderry).

F.H. Convoys. My 0022/20 (F.H. 23 returned owing to excessive icing of escort) sailing F.H.23 now cancelled. Will be included in F.H.24. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns (N.B.) 1932Z/21 to Admty).

SKEENA, weather damage. E.T.A. St. Johns 1830Z/22nd. Boiler Hours. Sustained heavy weather damage to hull and deck fittings. Asdic oscillator lost through bottom dome. Fire and bilge pumps useless for last 2 trips and (corrupt group) beyond repair. Weather report 4577 9865. (SKEENA, 2007Z/21 to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns N.F.)

Sub. and sighting summary. A. OTINA torpedoed 47.40 N., 33.06 W. 2017Z/20. RIPLEY torpedoed sunk area 025.35 W. 12th Dec. B. MONTREAL CITY torpedoed area 50.35 N., 38.10 W. 21st Dec. Unidentified torpedoed 1911Z/16 my 2135/17 believed TORTUGERO. C. CHICKASAW CITY, Neptune Insignia port side C/T. U.157 (?painted on) starboard bow. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2107/21, to Admty. for O.I.C.)

754A

2117/21st December.

CONFIDENTIAL

M E S S A G E

IN

From Cominch (C and R)

Date. 29.12.42.

Recd. 2030

Addressed N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic Admiralty. S.O.(I) Jamaica

212117 MFCRI Amendment three section one paragraph two sub-paragraph D(V) add note quote does not apply to vessels destined for Santa Barbara Channel Ports. Such vessels will be routed as for Sampedro turning north at A point to pass eastward of Anacapa Island to destination. Vessels so routed whose terminal point is Sampedro may proceed direct to that port through Santabarbara Channel provided passage is made during daylight. MFCRI amendment 5 section 2 para 4 add Sub-para B quote united nations vessels sailed independently from Pugetsound and Columbia River Ports to the South Pacific area will be routed coastwise to latitude 33 degs 30 mins north thence in accordance with Merchantile Pacific Routing Instructions. Should the fuel situation in the Pacific Northwest so indicate such vessels may be routed to Sampedro for bunkers withdrawing only sufficient fuel at ports of departure for the coastwise voyage.

2117/21

- A.C.N.S.(U.T.)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- Capt.Pim,Admiralty Hse
- Ops.(3)
- O.D.(5)
- O.I.C.
- D. of P.(3)
- D.A/S.W.
- M.(2)
- D.N.I.(5)
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- I.P.(3)
- D. of S.(3)
- W.D.
- Admiral Blake

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War Diary.21.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Service Personnel in "Castles". D. of S.T's 0339/19. If the 3 "Castles" mentioned in para. 2 are sailed independently from New York they would normally be limited to 250 personnel all told. See para. (F) of my 1519/15 August.

2. U.S. authorities have agreed that these ships may sail under British rules if they sail from Halifax.

3. B.A.M.S. propose therefore that these 3 ships embark 250 U.S. Army at New York and then proceed to Halifax to embark British and Dominion services up to Admty. limits for unescorted sailing.

(B.A.D., 2201Z/21 to Admty. D. of S.T. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
Reply: N.S.H.Q., 1955/23.

(?)
RAMSES.

Your 0055/28 Nov. (N.T. in W.D.)

1. No evidence ship ever escorted.
2. Believed Kobe, movements afterwards unknown. (Paras 3 and 4 circulated to D.N.I. only).
5. Last voyage ex Japan via Cape Horn.

Indications this voyage via Cape of Good Hope.

6. Allegedly no, but ship carried extra provisions, fuel oil and refuelling hoses for possible emergency.

7. ANIH.

8. No information.

9. 5,000 - 6,000 tons crude rubber brought from Kobe to Bordeaux on last cruise, present cargo dye-stuffs, cement, fire-clay, forms of iron castings, cases of bicycle parts, two heavy cases of machinery. About half a full cargo in all.

10. Allegedly crude rubber.

11. Not known.

(B.A.D., 2221Z/21 to Admty).

EMPIRE
MAVIS.

(N.T. in Log B.)

Following received via Lands End Radio.

Received at 2124 G.M.T. on 462 k/cs from EMPIRE MAVIS (begins):- Position 049° 53' N., 28° 18' W., engine completely disabled, require assistance. 2000 G.M.T./21 (ends).
(Plymouth, 2252/21 to Admty).

ANDES.

Convoy T.A.31, A. comprising ANDES, sailed from U.K. 19th Dec. for Halifax.

2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by War Office to N.D.H.Q. Ottawa, and Milstaf Washington.

(D.S.T., 2300A/21 to N.S.H.Q.)

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21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 333 Dec. 20th. Allied forces continue advance from Cape Endaiadere Area and now occupy the whole area between Strip Point (one mile West Cape Endaiadere) and Simemi Creek. Whole New Air strip in our hands. Crossing now being constructed across Simemi Creek.

2. Our patrol operating West of Buna encountered enemy troops apparently in poor condition. Casualties inflicted on enemy.
3. Our troops now disposed around main area enemy resistance Soputa Sanananda Track. Isolated enemy pickets being cleared.
4. Approx. 200 enemy troops reported by air R/C West bank Amboea River mouth Dec. 19th moving Westward and apparently carrying boxes.
5. Air R/C 29th reported one destroyer 4° 10' S., 149° 30' E. afternoon, course 80°. Vessel proceeding at slow speed with several large crates on deck fore and aft. One 500 ton vessel observed 6° 20' S., 148° 45' E., near midnight same day. Course 270°.
6. Three Fortresses attacked wharf area Madang evening 19th scoring hits on buildings. Nine B.25s bombed enemy positions Buna Government Station area morning 19th. Three B.25s bombed Gorolia point area morning 20th.
7. R/C Madang Finschhafen and Wewak areas 29th revealed no signs of shipping landing barges or aircraft. Evidence buildings destroyed Madang by previous day's bombing. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0600Z/21 to Admty).

Movements Departures 20th Dec. Darwin, Neth. destroyer TJERK HIDDES for Fremantle, Sydney N.S.W., F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT for Melbourne. Cairns, SWAN for escort duty.

Arrivals 20th Dec. Sydney (N.S.W.), U.S.S. HOPKINS from Brisbane. Melbourne, Neth. Cruiser TROMP.

(N.B. Melbourne, 0651Z/21 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B. C.O.I.S. E.F.)

U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA arrived Townsville 19th Dec.

U.S. transport ANHUI arrived Sydney (N.S.W.), 21st. U.S. transport BONTEKOE arrived Port Erlma, 20th, and departed 21st, due Gladstone 21st (corrupt group) ASIS YUNNAN departed Townsville 20th for Dunk Island.

(A.C.N.B., 1116Z/21 to Admty. Connav).

MAURETANIA. Your 1405/19 (re E.T.A. at San Francisco of MAURETANIA) p.m./6th January local time. (N.Z.N.B., 1120/21 to N.S.H.Q. (R) D.S.T. etc).

DEVONSHIRE, AQUITANIA. DEVONSHIRE escorting AQUITANIA departed Fremantle 1100Z/21st for Aden E.T.A. 0600Z/2nd Jan. My sailing telegram 1515/21st not to all addressees refers.

2. Shifting from (corrupt group) to group N.U. at 2000Z/23rd.
3. (Latest Q.C. message).
4. Local A/S escort VANGALEN until 1200Z/22nd. (Cdre. W. Australia 1258Z/21 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, Cmdre. S.W. Pacific Admty. N.O.I.C. Aden, DEVONSHIRE). Sailing telegram (1515Z/21 to Admty).

/Convoy...

757

21.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Convoy
G.T. 1.

(A) G.T. 1 (B) from (?Gladstone) 1930 (?22nd).
HEUTS, Townsville, SS. BONTEKOE Townsville, M.V.
CREMER, Townsville, SS. TASMAN, Townsville.
(D.N.O. Queensland, 1934Z/21 to Admty. (R)
Connav).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1255A/21 1338A/21).

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22nd July.

1. TIGRIS reports that she torpedoed an Italian U-boat on Dec. 6th, 90 miles N.W. of Bizerta, and took 3 prisoners. (PORFIDO. See 16/12. p. 571.)
2. Searchlight Wellington aircraft on 12th Dec. 100 miles East of Gibraltar attacked a U-boat and reported a large explosion.
3. ENCHANTRESS on 13th Dec. North of Bougie overhauled and ramm'd a U-boat and subsequently dropped 4 patterns on bubbles which ceased after 45 minutes. (LORALHO Summary. See 13/12. p. 456 & 4)
4. PETARD and Greek QUEEN OLGA sank the Italian U-boat UARSCIEK on Dec. 15th about 50 miles south of Malta. (See 15/12. p. 534)
(D.A/S.W., 1418A/21 to Cominch etc).
9536.

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

It is estimated that the North Russian Convoy J.W.51 A will be about 200 miles E.S.E. of Bear Island at 0800 tomorrow and will arrive in position 20 miles North of Cape Teribersky at 0945A on Christmas Day.

Convoy J.W.51 B. consisting of 14 ships sailed from Loch Ewe at 1710 today.

The Admty. has issued instructions today that, when cased petrol is loaded in ships whose D.G. equipment is not specially designed or adapted for such cargo, the ships should be sailed with their D.G. switched off except in the North Sea south of Flamborough Head, in the English Channel, and in any other areas where mine-risk is known to exist.

North Atlantic.

Air Officer C. in C. Coastal Command reports that with the operation of 2 G/R squadrons from Algiers, the second stage of Operation "Torch" is complete, and he considers therefore that the control of the R.A.F. Gibraltar should revert to his command. Subject to Air Ministry approval he proposes to take over forthwith.

South Atlantic.

R.O. Pernambuco reports that RIPLEY, British 4997 tons, from Takoradi to Liverpool via Trinidad, was torpedoed by a U-boat at 1125 12th December in 00.35 S., 32.17 W., and sank in 15 minutes.

759

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

CAMERONIA
damaged.

SS. CAMERONIA, British, 16297 tons, was hit by an aircraft torpedo when in Convoy K.M.F.5 (Bone portion) at 0630A in 37.03 N., 5.24 E. An hour later it was reported she was proceeding at 6 knots for Bougie, all well. Tugs HENGIST, MULL, RYSA, and INCHCOLM, with other small craft, were sent from Bougie to her assistance, and she arrived there safely at noon, escorted by SCYLLA and VERONICA. WHEATLAND. (Med: War Diary)

Air
Operations.

Malta Albacores last night attacked 1 M/V and 2 escort vessels with torpedoes in 38.12 N., 11.40 E. (West of Sicily). The M/V was hit and 1 escort vessel sunk.

7 Wellingtons attacked Tunis and La Goulette docks from 2310 to 0016 last night. At least 2 direct hits were scored on 2 vessels in Tunis main basin and vessels appeared to break up.

Enemy Air
Activity.

C. in C. Med. reports that the enemy is more active in the air, several attacks on coastal convoys have been reported.

About 12 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi Harbour last night. 4 were destroyed, and no service damage or casualties were caused.

Libya
Harbours.

A survey of Benghazi, Tobruk and Derna Harbours has been completed. There are 100 wrecks in Tobruk and 86 in Benghazi, varying from lighters to merchant vessels and warships. Derna closed down as a supply port today, but a Resident Naval Officer remains.

P.211

S/M P.211 intercepted at 2052, 5 miles south of Hammamet the D/G fitted schooner ROSINA. 12 prisoners were taken including the C.O. and the vessel was finally sunk by a torpedo.

East Indies.

Blenheims and Hurricanes attacked a 175 ft. ship at Akyab jetty. Bursts were seen near the target and the ship was gunned on the hull and superstructure.

5 American Liberators bombed the docks at Rangoon today.

760

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Survivors from the Swedish ETNA 2619 tons who arrived at Barbados and Port Castries, St. Lucia, today reported that their ship was torpedoed about 850 miles East of Barbados 17.50 N., 46.20 W. on 14th Dec. ETNA had navigation lights burning. S/M signalled by lamp and asked name, nationality cargo and destination. After replies had been given ETNA was given 30 minutes to abandon ship, which was then sunk by torpedo.

Weather damage is reported by various ships. CHESTERFIELD, which arrived St. Johns today, will require docking, and F.O.N.F. considers it unlikely she can be ready for her next convoy assignment.

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Portsmouth
Command
Destroyers.

It is anticipated FERNIE will be operationally available on 24th December. In view of loss of PENYLAN and BLEAN it would be appreciated if FERNIE could be retained until a week after return of BLEASDALE as this would maintain 3 destroyers available in the command.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1142A/22 to Admty).

GUNNEL
and
*GURNARD re-
placement.
** See p. 762 C.*

Have received instructions from Cominch to return GUNNEL and GURNARD to United States for correction of engine defects. It is the intention that these submarines will be replaced by Winton or Fairbank Morse types at a date to be communicated later.
(Comnaveu, 1156/22 to Admty).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Control
of A/A gun-
fire.

Your 1726A/21. Concur pending agreement on Admty. letter M/L.D. 003988/42 dated 7th Dec. 1942.
(A.C.N.S. (H),, 1317A/22 to Air Ministry).

Movements.

BLACKFISH,
SHAD.
See p. 762 C.

Your 0748A/21. Do not have your 1601/19. Request information. Position 0300A/22 051° 20' N., 004° 30' W. Proceeding in company SHAD on prescribed course unescorted at 8 knots.
(BLACKFISH, 0320A/22 to F.O.S.)

My 0205A/22. BLACKFISH and SHAD contracted off Hartland Point at 0430A/22. Am proceeding in company speed 10 knots.
*(STARWORT, 0440A/22 to Admty). * *See p. 766*
My 1601/19 my 1748/21, and my 1743/21. Amend time of expiry of these restrictions to read until further directions.
(F.O.S., 1021A/22 to H.Q.C.C.)

H.44
Z.5.

My 1750/21. Sailed.
(Capt. S.7., 0701A/22).

PORPOISE
See p. 762 C.

My 1444/21. Sailed (LA NANTAISE).
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0836A/22).
PORPOISE and escort P.C.S. 180° Lizard Head 7 miles, (7305°) 8 knots. E.T.A. Needles 0815/23.
(PORPOISE, 1245A/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

AJAX.
See p. 774

Clyde arrival AJAX.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1056A/22).
Sailed AJAX routed as in C. in C. W.A., 1304A/21
Estimated S.O.A., 20 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2138A/22).

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- H.43
See p. 762³
Intend sailing H.43 escorted by AYRSHIRE from Rothesay at 1600A/23 via searched channels and normal route Holyhead. E.T.A. 1600A/24. (Capt. S.7., 1147A/22).
- ADVENTURE
*See p/p 772^B
774*
V.A. Gibraltar 1251/21. Onward route from position (C) through (D) 50° 10' N., 15° 01' W. (E) Fastnet 180° 10 miles thence by Q.Z.L. 18 to Milford Haven. (D.O.D.(H), 1257A/22 to ADVENTURE).
- W.A.
Command.
Situation at 2000A/22. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1356A/22) See Lion Copy.
- V.A.2
Hvalfjord arrival 1409/20, F.O. 2nd i/c H.F. (A.C.I.C., 1418A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)
- ST. MARYS
See p. 768
Intend to sail ST. MARYS 1800/22 for Balta Sound E.T.A. 1000/23 then to Scapa. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1515A/22). My 1515/22. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1925/22 to A.C.O.S.)
- DOLFIJN.
Sailed DOLFIJN escorted by ST. ELSTAN in accordance with S.3's 1113A/21. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1526A/22). *See p. 762^c*
- GOATHLAND.
Proceed passing Switha 1900A/22 to Plymouth routed via Minches, North Channel and Q.Z.L. 15. (Cdre. D. H.F., 1605A/22 to GOATHLAND).
- ORWELL
Hvalfjord departure ORWELL at 1505 for Seidisfjord. E.T.A. 1155 tomorrow. (A.C.I.C., 1618A/22).
- S/M
Positions.
At 0800A/23. Details. (F.O.S., 1734A/22 1014A/23) See Lion Copy.
- P.49
See p. 762^c
Scapa departure 1708 P.49 escorted by CAPE BARRACOUTA. (A.C.O.S., 1746/22 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).
- H.33
Z.5.
See previous page
Sailed Z.5 and H.33. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1901A/22). *See p. 762^c 763*
- CIRCE
See p. 762^c
Was in position (a) at 1800. Have steered to southward since, no sign of Convoy. Visibility very good. Request instructions. (CIRCE, 2015A/22 to C.S.1).

/Your...

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

13564/22nd December IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

SITUATION at 2000A/22/12

Section N.E.

P. 312 GRAPH 014 P. 216 014	LORD AUSTIN	58 19 05 38	To Lerwick	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
J.W. 51.B.	BRAMBLE BLANKNEY LEDBURY CHILDINGFOLD MILKODDERON HONEYSUCKLE NORTHERN GEM VIZALMA	58 28 05 32	To 59 01 05 20 thence 61 02 04 40	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
WN 75	MINUET WOLVES	58 02 05 40	To Methil	7 $\frac{1}{2}$

SITUATION at 2000A/22/12

Section S.W.

SEALION	NORTHERN PRIDE	56 47 07 22	To Clyde	10.
DOLFIN	ST. ELSPAN	54 58 05 35	To OOOdeg Round Island Y	9
H. 44	Z. 5	Arriving Londonderry 2100A/22 8		
H. 33	Z. 5	Sails Londonderry 2100A/22	To Rothsay	8
KX. 7.A	SLAZAK WENSLEDALE	51 20 08 58	180deg Fastnet 20' thence 50 32 13 01	8
CONVOY	LEEDS UNITED	52 12 05 18	Northbound	8
H.M. 35	ORACLE	52 46 05 05	Southbound	38
W.S. 25.W	Unescorted	Sails Clyde 0500A/23	270deg Oversay 6 miles thence 55 15 12 16 thence 51 10 20 01	26

....MKS. 3.Y

Section S.E. (Contd.) SITUATION AT 2000A/22/12. SECRET CODE

MKS.3.Y SARDONYX Off Skerries Liverpool 7
 AZALEA

13 M/Vs. Unescorted detaching to Clyde, Loch Ewe
 and Belfast.

MKF.4.Y SPEY 55 15 09 26 North Channel 12
 ROTHER

HARVESTER 55 33 05 03 To Liverpool 15

Section N.W.

INGHAM 61 45 22 25 To Reykjavik 15
 SCHENCK

LEAMINGTON 61 43 15 40. To Hvalfjord 15

Section S.W.

FLEET UNIT RACEHORSE 50 38 22 28 To 49 58 29 01 14
 REDOUBT
 QUICKMATCH

W.S.25 QUILLIAM 41 05 24 00 To 35 00 25 00 12
 CARNARVON CASTLE
 CHESHIRE
 ROCKWOOD
 BADSWORTH
 WOLVERINE
 HAYDON

O.N.S.154 ST. LAURENT 53 17 17 03 To 47 00 29 02 5
 C.T.U. BATTLEFORD
 24.1.11. CHILLIWACK
 SHEDIAC
 KENOGAMI
 NAPANEE

S.C.112 CHURCHILL 56 20 13 24 To 56 26 08 28 7
 C.T.U. RESTIGOUCHE
 24.1.14. SHERBROOKE
 SCIMITAR
 SHIKARI

O.N.155 FAME 56 42 19 58 To 56 59 21 25 8½
 C.T.U. BURZA thence
 24.1.4. EPLANTINE 56 48 32 0.
 VERVAIN
 ACANTHUS
 KINGCUP

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

1356A/22.

W.D.
 D.T.D.(3)
 D.T.D.(C)
 D. of P.(2)
 D.D.O.D.(M)
 D.M.S.
 Ad. Blake.(2)

Ad. Ramsey (4)
 D.N.I.(4)
 D. of P.(Q).

MOST SECRET

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M E S S A G E

1734A/22nd December.
IN.

MOST SECRET.

From F.O.S.

Date 22.12.42.
Time 1754

P/L BY T/P.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

381. Positions of S/MS at 0800A/23rd December and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) P.339, P.223, SOKOL, TORBAY, in Norwegian waters east of 15 degs. east.
- (B) P.49, escorted by CAPE BARRACOUTA, arriving Lerwick from Scapa. *See p.762, 763*
- (C) P.312, O.14, P.216, GRAPH, escorted by LORD AUSTIN, vicinity Westray for Lerwick. *See p.763*
- (D) H.33 escorted by Z.5 arriving Rothesay from Londonderry. *See p.762*
- (E) DOLFIN, escorted by ST. ELSTAN, 53 degs. 05' North 05 degs. 22' West due 000 degs. Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1500/24th speed 9 knots. *See p.762*
- (F) SEALION, escorted by NORTHERN PRIDE, vicinity Mull of Kintyre for Rothesay.
- (G) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, 49 degs. 30' North 10 degs. 32' West dived by day through 49 degs. 30' North 12 degs. 26' West 49 degs. 10' North 12 degs. 54' West thence to southward. *See p.761*
- (H) U.S.S. SHAD, 49 degs. 10' North 10 degs. 28' West dived by day through 49 degs. 10' North 12 degs. 26' West thence to southward. *See p.761*
- (J) U.S.S. GURNARD, 49 degs. 50' North 11 degs. 55' West dived by day through 49 degs. 50' North 09 degs. 00' West to R/V in 000 degs. Round Island 7 miles at 1500/24th. *See p.761*
- (K) P.615, 46 degs. 40' North 13 degs. 50' West dived by day due 43 degs. 01' North 13 degs. 50' West at 0200/25th. *See p.773*

(L)/.....

762²

2.

- (L) HERRING in Zone K 505.
- (M) BARB on patrol off Vigo. See p. 772¹³
- (N) PORPOISE escorted by LA NANPAISE arriving Needles from westward thence to Portsmouth.
- (O) H.43 escorted by AYRSHIRE leaves Rothesay 1600/23rd for Holyhead expected time of arrival 1600/24th.

1734/22

Advance copies 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)
D.N.I. (4)
U.S.N. (3)

EO

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

CIRCE. Your 2015A/22. If not met proceed passing 10
Contd. miles south of Sulisker and through Reykjanes
passage to Reykjavik.
(C.S.l. 2229A/22 to CIRCE).

Operations.

Patrols. No patrol tonight.
(C. in C. Nore, 0944A/22).
1. Intend M.L. 123 (S.O.) and R.M.L.497 to
patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N., between
longitude 01° 40' W., and 02° 10' W.
2. Leave Portland at 2000 via Q.Z.S. 382, thence to Western
end of patrol-line. Leave patrol-line at dawn and return to
base. Codeword "Device".
3. Object: Anti-E-boat patrol.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1944A/22).
My 1944/22. Sailed "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2045A/22).

N.W. Norway Following submarines are to leave Lerwick so
S/M Patrol. as to arrive on patrol a.m./28th Dec.

Submarine	Patrol Position.
P. 216	R 1
P. 312	R 2
P. 49	R 3
GRAPH	R 4
O.14.	R 5

(2) Submarines except D.S.O.14 are to proceed waiting position
and thence proceed into patrol position after 1600/28th.

(3) Submarines at present on patrol are to leave patrol for
Lerwick at 1200/28th.

(4) All submarines are to be warned that submarines are not
to be attacked during 28th Dec.

(5) Capt. (S) 9 is to arrange route and bombing restrictions,
My 1512/11th December refers.

(6) Maximum speed of GRAPH is limited to 12 knots.
(F.O.S., 1516A/22 to Capt. S.9).

F.O.S.1516/22. Lerwick S.O. (Subs) is requested to sail
submarines as follows.

(1) P. 216 at 1600/23 through position (a) 090° Out Skerries 5
miles (b) 090° Muckle Flugga Light 10 miles route Black to 071°
43' N., 017° 55' E., thence waiting-position 071° 43' N., 023°
40' E.

(2) P.49 at 1605/23 through position (a) Route Orange to 071°
25' N., 018° 15' E., thence wait-position 071° 25' N., 022° 00'E.

(3) P.312 at 1900/23 through position (a) and (b) route Pink
to 071° 43' N., 016° 40' E., and to waiting-position 071°
43' N., 022° 55' E.

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - con 171.

N.W. Norway (4) GRAPH at 0100/24 as for P.312 to wait position
S/M Patrol 071° 43' N., 022° 05' E, escort O.14 at 1200/24
Contd. through (a) thence route Orange to 070° 22' N.,
015° 01' E., thence direct patrol-position 070°
32' N., 020° 02' E.
(b) Submarines proceed on the surface at C.O.'s
discretion until East of 017° E., thence diving by day.
(VII) Submarines are leaving waiting-positions as follows.
P.216 and P.312 at 1200/28 for R.1 and R.2 respectively.
P.49 at 1800/28 for R.3. GRAPH at 2000/29 for R.4.
(VIII) Speed of advance P.312 and GRAPH 11 knots. P.216
10 knots. O.14 9 knots. P.49 8 knots.
(Capt. S.9., 2359/22 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Allied Air Activity.

Cover Whitley and Swordfish aircraft will carry out two
for Convoys anti E-boat cross-over patrols from 1930 today
W.P.267, till dawn 23rd to cover passage of convoy.
P.W.267. (Aircraft?) object is to report, attack, and
shadow E-boats.
(2) Eastern patrol by Swordfish between position
(A) 220 Portland Bill 22 (B) 331 Cap de la Hague
14 (C) 160 Start Point 36 (D) 148 Start Point 12. Western
Patrol by Whitley between position (E) 140 Start Point 18
(F) 156 Start Point 47 (G) 182 Eddystone 46 (H) 190 Eddystone 16.
(3) In order to prevent risk of contact between aircraft and
our own forces, convoy escorts are not repeat not to leave
vicinity of convoy unless ordered or unless requested by
aircraft to attack damaged enemy.
(4) Subject to above conditions, aircraft have orders? to
attack all contacts south of line joining positions (L) (E)
(D) (A) and (J) 160° Portland Bill 18.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1703A/22 to Escorts W.P.267, P.W.267).

Mining.

Sweep off My 1715/22. Add. 6 Minesweepers sail Plymouth
Plymouth on 0530/23 bound Dart Buoy 14 knots thence sweeping
23rd Dec. to eastwards.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2035/22 to A.I.G.31).

Enemy Intelligence.

Blockade Already considerable and likely to increase.
running Approximate routes and names of ships probably
between engaged.
Far East (A.C.N.S. (F)., 2030A/22: A. Message 948A)
and Biscay See Lion Copy.
Ports.

U-Boats

U-boat Am over enemy S/M in 45° 15' N., 15° 49' W.
attacked. (A/C 1553/22).
My 1553. Have attacked enemy with depth-charges
Course and speed of enemy 045° 10 knots.
(A/C 3 C P F., 1625A/22).

764A

SECRET

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MESSAGE

OUT

2030A/22 December
Date 22.12.42

TO "A" Message Home and Abroad
948A

COMINCH
COMNAVEU
H.Q.C.C.

BASEGRAM NAVAL CODE J

FROM Admiralty

DEFERRED

948A Blockade running by Axis M/Vs between the Far East and Biscay ports in both directions is already considerable, and likely to increase. There are also indications that tankers will be employed to fetch vegetable oils from the Far East. Previous evidence indicates that inward and outward bound enemy ships proceed approximately along parallel 44 degs north between Biscay coast and about 35 degs west thence keeping in general at least 500 miles from British and Allied Air Bases. Following vessels may be engaged in this trade.

All ships German or Italian except where stated.

1. At present in Biscay ports. Merchant vessels.

ELSA ESSBERGE	MUNSTERLAND
PORTLAND	TANNENFELS
KUIMERLAND	DRESDEN
HIMALAYA	OSORNO
FUSIJAMA	KERTOSONO (ex Dutch)

Tankers as detailed in Raider Supplement to W.I.R. Number 100 of 6th February, 1942 also ANTARKTIS, NORD ATLANTIC, MAX ALBRECHT, NORDMEER.

2. At present in Far East or on passage. Merchant vessels.

RHAKOTIS	REGENSBURG
RIC GRANDE	ERMLAND
URSULA RICKMERS	BURGENLAND
HAVELLAND	PIETRO ORSOLO
RAMB 2	SPEYBANK (ex British)
PIERRE L.D. (French)	SILVA PLANA (ex Norwegian)
KOTA NOPAN (ex Dutch)	

Tankers BRAKE and CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN.

3. Following Allied Vessels may have been recently captured and are suitable. Merchant Vessels.

NANKIN (British)
 INDUS (British)
 KATTEGAT (Norwegian)
 STEEL AGE (American)
 ARABISTAN (British)
 EMPIRE DAWN (British)
 AMERICAN LEADER (American)
 WICHITA (American)

Tankers MADRONO (Norwegian)
 PATELLA (British)
 HERBORG (Norwegian)
 CONNECTICUT (American)

20301/22

D.D.I.C. (1293)
 Approved A.C.N.S. (F)

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D.N.I. (5)
 O.I.C. (3)
 Ops. (3)
 W.D.
 D.T.D. (2)
 D.T.D. (M)
 D.T.D. (C)
 D.E.W.D. (3)
 M (6)
 D.S.O. (2)
 A.L.O.
 F.O. (S)
 R.A.C.F.

U.S.N. (3)
 C.C.O. (2)
 I.P. (3)
 C.C.L.S.

EL

785

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- JAN VAN GOYEN.
(Ex convoy O.N.153).
Sail Tug PROSPEROUS at daylight 22nd to Moville. She will be required to proceed thence escorted by LAGAN to assist vessel completely disabled in 49.53 N., 28.18 W.
(C. in C. W.A., 0020A/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Sailed PROSPEROUS in accordance with my 0223A/22. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 0914A/22).
Request you will sail LAGAN and PROSPEROUS in company when ready to assist JAN VAN GOYEN disabled in 49.53 N., 28.18 W. at 2000Z/21.
(C. in C. W.A., 1012A/22 to Cdre. Londonderry).
LAGAN and PROSPEROUS sailing to your assistance. Report your condition and position.
(C. in C. W.A., 1136A/22 to JAN VAN GOYEN).
C. in C. W.A., 1021A/22. Sailed LAGAN and PROSPEROUS. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1758A/22).
Following from JAN VAN GOYEN. Position 151° N., (sic) 027° 11' W., sea rough, moderating. No immediate danger. (Lands End Radio, 2000A/22 to C. in C. Plymouth).
- RESTIGOUCHE. My 2200Z/16. Request destination of RESTIGOUCHE observing ship's extensive A/S defects probably requiring docking.
(C.T.U.24.7.14 1107Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1107/22. Destination RESTIGOUCHE Belfast. She should arrive there p.m./23rd.
(C. in C. W.A., 1506Z/22)
RESTIGOUCHE reports asdic oscillator broke and some probably lost. She will arrive Belfast p.m./23rd. Request you will dock her and carry necessary repairs. Type 271 R.D.F. also out of action. Ship required at Londonderry not later than January 3rd.
(C. in C. W.A., 1719A/22 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).
- VARDEFJELL. Located tanker 20 survivors at 1252. My position is 60° 26' N., 8° 58' W.
(A/C J A P G 1310A/22 to 15 Group.)
Arrivals CAPE PALLISER and MARAUDER.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1337A/22).
- EMPIRE TOILER (Convoy F.N. 898). My 1129A/22. EMPIRE TOILER returned with engine defects.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1353A/22).
- VILLE DE TAMATAVE. S.C.112. My 1933A/19. C. in C. W.A.'s 1834A/11. VILLE DE TAMATAVE has defective D.G.
(D.T.D., 2100A/22 to F.O.I.C., N.I.)

/DUKE OF YORK...

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22.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

DUKE OF YORK. A.S. Rosyth's 1040/17. Additional men are being sent to Rosyth Yard for DUKE OF YORK. Ship can be brought reasonably up to date as regards water-tight sub-division, damage control and other A's and A's by 20th February.

2. Oil fuel stowage cannot be completed without considerable delay but will be advanced.

3. If you concur request you will inform A.S. Rosyth that ship is to be completed by 20th February, A's and A's being advanced as far as possible with special attention being given to water-tight sub-division.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 2110A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

K.X.7 A. E.T.A. position 000° Round Island 7 miles is 1030A/22.
*(STARWORT 0010A/22 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Your 2210Z/21. Do not enter Q.Z.L.18 during dark hours. Act in accordance with my 1645/21. * *See p 761*
(C. in C. W.A., 0033A/22 to SLAZAK).
My position 352° Hartland Point 6.5 miles at 0200A.
Intend to remain with 5 miles of this position along prescribed course for 3 hours. Navigation lights will be shown.
Visibility 4 to 6 miles.
(STARWORT, 0205A/22 to Admty).
My 1842/20. Estimate convoy will not reach position D until daylight 24th. Time of R/V will be signalled later.
(C. in C. W.A., 1122A/22 to STARWORT).

K.M.F.3 Torpedoed starboard side.
(Ship No. 41, 0525/22 to Admty).

K.M.S.6 Intend sailing AUBRETIA escorting JOHN DAVENPORT, TRISTRAM - DALTON, TIBA, EMPIRE TOWER, and CITY OF WORCESTER 1030Z/24 for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles in accordance with A.M. 1507A/20 and C. in C. W.A., 1128A/21. E.T.A. R/V 0900Z/25.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1016A/22 and 1532A/22).

M.K.S.37 Detach forthwith to proceed independently KROMAN to Mumbles for orders and PRINCE DE LIEGE to Swansea.
(C. in C. W.A., 1022A/22 to Escort M.K.S.37).
** Not 13.D.V.*

BATAVIER Detach ship BATAVIER missing from morning muster. Visibility 7 miles. VEGA is searching astern.
(WHADDON, 1025A/22 to C. in C. Nore).

S.C.113 SCANDTON SCANDTON straggled yesterday defective steering gear believed not rejoined. Remainder rather scattered.
(C.T.U.24.1.12., 1100Z/22 to Connav).

/K.M.F.4 I....

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

K.M.F.4 I. A complaint has been received by Admiralty from Naval Cmdr. X.F. that route instructions given in U.K. led to following errors in destination of ships in K.M.F.4 I (1) MONARCH OF BERMUDA and DERBYSHIRE went to Gibraltar instead of Oran.
(2) OTRANTO who stopped at Gibraltar with defects had route orders for Algiers instead of Oran.
(3) All ships sailing from Liverpool. Ends.
II. N.C.S.O. Mersey reports these ships received their correct destinations in sealed envelopes from Liverpool.
III. Request you will investigate and report.
(C. in C. W.A., 1201A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

M.K.F.5 and Request you will sail WELLINGTON and REGINA in
*M.K.S.4 company p.m./23rd WELLINGTON toward 40° 00' N.,
* *see p. 772* 16° 15' W., to join M.K.F.5 S.O. WESTON, and
REGINA toward 39° 58' N., 15° 10' W. to join
M.K.S.4 S.O. LONDONDERRY.
(C. in C. W.A., 1219A/22 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Cased Your 1238A/20. When cased petrol is loaded
Petrol in ships whose D.G. equipment is not specially
D.G. designed or adapted for such cargo, ships should
precautions. be sailed with D.G. switched off except -
(a) in North Sea south of Flamborough Head and in
the English Channel and
(b) in other localities where minelaying is
suspected and mine risk known to exist.
2. N.C.S.Os. should instruct Masters accordingly.
3. Instructions are being issued by letter to all Naval
Authorities on shore.
(Head of M., 1238A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

J.W.51 A. Reference KIGM part 1 para. 3 F. E.T.A. J.W.51 A
in position MZ 0945A/25.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1325A/22).
When Russian destroyers meet convoy between M Z
and K they will (?take station) on port quarter of convoy
until White Sea section is seen to part company and will then
proceed to escort section.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1416A/22 to A.I.G.47).

M.K.F.4 Y. Ships are to proceed independently from 007° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 1405A/22 to Escorts M.K.F.4 Y).
M.K.F.4 (Y). E.T.A. 55° 35' N., 07° 00' W. 0800A/
23.
(SPEY, 1700A/22).
Expected time of arrival Harbour 0900/23 ROTHER
in company.
(SPEY, 1715A/22 to Cdre, Londonderry).

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- S.C.112 C. in C. W.A. 0102Z/22. MERSEYSIDE, EXPRESS detached 1300Z/22 in 056° 18' N., 014° 29' W. speed 9½ knots, escorted throughout by COLLINGWOOD. CAPE HAWKE, Cdre., BOHEMIAN CLUB, NAIRNBANK, DEFENDER, GULFWING, HARPEFJELL, CUSTODIAN. (C.T.U. 24.1.14, 1430Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1259/18. Altered final destinations PRINS WILLEM III to Glasgow. NORWEGIAN to Hull.
(D.T.D., 1703A/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
If INGERTOFT's defects can be repaired without shore assistance she is to proceed to Loch Ewe.
(C. in C. W.A., 1732Z/22 to Escorts S.C.112).
- K.X.8 It is necessary to provide escort for a special convoy to be known as K.X.8 leaving Milford Haven for Gibraltar on 30th Dec.
2. A.C.O.S. and R.A.(M) are required to provide LANCASTER, WELLS,*ST. MARYS, and NEWARK for this duty and to confirm that they will be available at Milford Haven on this date.
*comp. 762
3. C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. Plymouth are each requested to detail one Hunt class destroyer in addition and to signal names of destroyers selected.
(D.O.D. (H), 1653A/22).
- Troopships It is proposed in future unless circumstances between Ireland and U.K. are exceptional to sail ships carrying troops between Northern Ireland and Ports in U.K. North of Holyhead unescorted and as far as possible during darkness. Request concurrence.
(C. in C. W.A., 1927A/22 to Admty).

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22.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

A/C Control Gibraltar. With operation of 2 G.R. Squadrons from Algiers second stage of operation "Torch" is complete and I consider therefore that control of R.A.F. Gibraltar should revert to my command. With your approval I propose to take over forthwith. (A.O.C. in C. C.C., 1045A/22 to Air Min., (D.O.N.C.), (R) Admty.) W.D. Note:- For Admty. remarks on this proposal, see 0025A/25.

Danish Vessels intercepted. M.W.T.R. Algiers' 1821/17 para. 2 not to N.C.X.F. Danish vessels which come into our hands are normally placed in prize and immediately requisitioned for use of M.W.T. Unless there is likelihood of trouble with the French the same course will probably be taken with MEONIA and GEIR when they reach Gibraltar. 2. N.C.X.F. is requested to confirm that the ships are now in undisputed possession of R.N. and to give all available information concerning the two ships. (M. Branch, 1623A/22 to V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., (R) M.W.T.R. Algiers.)

Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 1012A/16 not to C. in C. W.A.
1. No further reliable reports of German or Japanese raider activity.
2. British ship reports observing heavy exchange of gunfire and one ship burning fiercely in 27° 48' S. 53° 58' E. at 1700Z/7. A ship whose description could fit that of Raiders "H" and "J" was observed in area 2 hours previously but this may have been EUGENIE LIVANOS also in the area. SAWOKLA overdue at Capetown since 8.12.42 from Colombo but unlikely to have been near above position and was possibly U-Boat casualty further north. No other ships yet overdue from this area.
3. Further examination of prisoners reports and photographs provides strong indications that Raider "H" is Raider 28 and Raider "J" is Raider 23. Appears very probable that Raider "J" is CAIRO (German Atlas Levante) and that Raider "H" is a sister ship believed to have been completing in 1939. For original appearance see ANKARA in C.A.F.O. 143/41. Raider Supplement to W.I.R. Number 138 of 30th October 1942 should be amended accordingly.
4. A.M. 1507A/8th Sept., 1704A/8th and 1012A/16th Dec. none to all addressees. DELFSHAVEN, NURMAHAL and BEN LOMOND now known to be U-Boat casualties.
5. Blockade runners. Following reports received Graded B.1.

/REGENSBURG ...

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War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. REGENSBURG was at Singapore in November having
(Contd.) been torpedoed.
Comment: This was probably southbound German
ship reported sunk by U.S. Submarine in Sunda
Strait on 12th October.
RHAKOTIS after loading cargo ex REGENSBURG was expected Batavia
23rd Nov. to load rubber before sailing for Bordeaux.
DOGGER BANK expected to leave Far East mid-January for Europe.
yes. Comment: Ship is probably ex SPEYBANK.
Captured tankers MADRONO and HERBORG expected to leave Far East
soon for Europe with vegetable oils and may already have sailed.
6. KOTA NOPAN could by now be approaching Sunda Strait or
Japanese area in Pacific. SPICHERN and MAX ALBRECHT at Ferrol,
NORD ATLANTIC at Vigo on 20th December.
(D.D.I.C., 2015A/22 to A.I.G.13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

PINK, Your 1945A/21st (Survivors from BELLO and EMPIRE
survivors. FRANCQUI.) Intend transferring survivors to
WOLVERINE and/or to BADSWORTH in Ponta Delgada.
Do not anticipate being able to rejoin O.N.153.
Should I be required to proceed to American waters. Suggest
I retain Norwegian survivors from BELLO who operate from New
York. Request further instructions.
(PINK, 0031Z/22 to C. in C. W.A., (R) V.A. Gib., etc.)
PINK amended E.T.A. 1000Z/23.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0801A/22 to Consul Ponta Delgada (R)
Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.A. Lisbon.)
My 2002/21. Amend E.T.A. to read 1000 G.M.T./23.
(C. in C. W.A., 0949A/22 to B.C. Ponta Delgada, (R) PINK,
V.A. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon.)
(1) After fuelling proceed to St. Johns N.F.
(2) Survivors from BELLO should return to U.K.
(C. in C. W.A., 1105A/22 to PINK, (R) Admty., Cdre.
Londonderry, WOLVERINE, F.O.N.F., F.O. Gibraltar, BADSWORTH)

Gibraltar Operational summary for 24 hours ended midnight
Air Report. 21st December. U-Boat sightings and attacks.
At 1317 hours 21 in WNTV 0048 Catalina Q/210 on
A/S patrol west located U/B by S.E. 8 miles ahead.
Only visual sighting 2 black objects and white breaker, believed
conning tower and gun forward. No certain estimate of type but
considered normal? 500 ton type. Not attacked as submergence
was complete at 3 miles, swirl not visible till immediately
below. No E/A sightings. No casualties.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0740Z/22 to Air Min.)

/LISBOA ...

771

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.LISBOA,
SULLBERG,
ELIZABETH
HENDRIK
FISSER.

Following is repetition of my 1652/21 (no trace). (Begins). Reported that the German ships LISBOA, SULLBERG and ELIZABETH HENDRIK FISSER previously trading between Spanish East Coast Ports and Italy are now to go to Greece. This information comes from 27 Spanish members of crews of these vessels who have arrived Valencia on repatriation from Genoa. 1652/21. (Ends). (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 0805/22 to S.O.I. N.C.X.F., S.O.I. Med., S.O.I. Malta, (R) Admty. for D.N.I.)

A/C sighting
of U/B.

Following has been read:-

Am over enemy S/M in 36.06 N. 01.13 W. S/M was sighted on surface and seen to submerge. When first sighted was on course 140° speed 8 knots. (A/C C/S TR1H via Gibraltar W/T, 0840A/22.)

Following has been read: S/M has dived in position 36.07 N. 01.13 W. (A/C C/S TR1H, No T.O.O. Recd. 0935/22.)

TRIBUNE.

Intend to sail TRIBUNE p.m. 23rd for patrol in accordance with W.M.P. 35 of 8th Dec. through
See next page.
(a) 180 Cape Calbuerras 5 miles.
(b) 180 Cape de Gata 5 miles. (c) 135 Cape Palos 5 miles thence as ordered by Capt. S.8.
2. Communication with Gibraltar broadcast shifting to read M.S. routines.
3. S. of A. 155 miles per day.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1016A/22 to Capt. S.8, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, Capt S.10, 8th S/M Flotilla, TRIBUNE.)

Movements.

Arrival VERITY.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1042A/22 to N.C.X.F., etc.)

Arrival H.M.T.*LORD HOTHAM escorting SS. FORT

LAC LA RONGE.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1119A/22 to Admty.)

BALUCHISTAN arrived Ponta Delgada 1530 G.M.T. 22nd.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1415C/22 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Arrival BOREAS, BRILLIANT.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1643A/22 to Admty., etc.)

SAN AMADO.

Your 1000A/15 (? 2000/15 intended) para. 3 concur.

(N.C.X.F., 1114A/22 to C.S. Gibraltar, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

A/S Air
cover for
Convoys.

N.C.X.F.'s 0947/21. A.O.C. Gibraltar and my C.S.O. would like to visit and discuss as soon as possible. 2. A.O.C. hopes it would be possible for him to meet both Gen. Patton and Gen. Cannon. 3. Request information as to earliest date convenient.

(F.O.S. Gibraltar, 1120A/22 to S.N.O.C.A., (R) H.Q. E.A.C., N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af.)

/M.K.S.4 ...

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

M.K.S.4.

See p. 767

M.K.S.4. My 1615A/21. For HAVEN read EMPIRE HAVEN. BENEDICT is not tanker. Add SHETLAND and CASTILLIAN joining from Lisbon. MIRIAM carries Wolfram.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1201A/22 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty.)

Cable operation.

See p. 772B

Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY escort ARCTIC RANGER sailed 1200/21 to repair Lisbon/Gibraltar cable No.3 in 35° 55' N. 05° 49' W.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1255A/22 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

HORORATA escort.

Your 1845/21. Escort ex W.S.25 should not be used. 2. As tug for ARIGUANI is not yet available, the trawlers earmarked for her should be used to escort HORORATA when ready to Lisbon.
(D.O.D.(F), 1327A/22 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

U.G.F.3.

(? 22nd) referring to C.10 Casablanca 1430Z/21 position U.G.F.3 at 1200Z/22 is 33° 48' N. 15° 41' W. Will R/V with escort for Oran portion in 34° 05' N. 08° 04' W. at 0900A/24 (?). V.A. Gibraltar pass to S.O. of escort Oran portion.
(C.T.F.25, 1500/22 to V.A. Gibraltar, C.T.U. 26.7.1, C.T.U. 16.7.2, C.T.U. 26.7.3., S.B.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty., F.O. Oran.)

Transfers of S/MS.

S.C.M.801.

/ See next page
(1) Propose STURGEON, P.54 be transferred to 8th S/M Flot. as from dates of leaving U.K. 27th Oct. and 11th Oct. respectively. No pay

documents at present carried.

(2)*TRIBUNE,*URSULA were transferred to 8th S/M Flot. on 31st Oct. and 9th Oct. respectively. * *See previous page 772B*
(Capt. S.8, 1500A/22 to Capt. S.3rd, Capt. S.9th, (R) F.O.S., N.C.X.F., Admty.)

Reply: Capt. S.9, 1821A/23.

Request you report by signal in due course intended date of transfer of P.211,*P.212, P.247 from 10th S/M Flotilla to 8th S/M Flotilla. (2) P.51 was transferred to 10th S/M Flotilla 24th Nov. but continued to be victualled in MAIDSTONE until 4th Dec.

** See pp. 780 & 781*
(Capt. S.8, 1502/22 to Capt. S.10, (R) F.O.S., N.C.X.F., Admty.)

A/C sighting of U/B.

Following has been read from A/C using call sign 96JC via Gib W/T.

Am over enemy S/M in position 37.05 N. 1.40 E. enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface

and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 279° estimated speed 8.

(Gibraltar W/T, 1505/22 to Whitehall W/T.)

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

1300A/22 Dec

IN

From. V.A. Gibraltar.

Date. 23.12.42.
Time. 0013.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed. A.I.G. 410.

IMPORTANT.

(1) ~~H.M.S.~~ STURGEON, 37° 43' 00" 09' West to 38° 29' 02" 15' East at 2000/23rd. Dived by day 2½ knots surfaced by night 8 knots. *See previous page*

(2) ~~H.M.S.~~ TRIBUNE, sail Gibraltar 1700 23rd through 36 23 04 48 West at 2000 23rd. *See pp. 771 & 772*

(3) H.M.S. WISHART, left Algiers about 0800 22nd for Gibraltar at best speed. *See p. 784*

(4) 5 L C I (L) S, 36 38 00 57 East through 100 to Algiers 11.

(5) E T 6, H.M.S. SCOTTISH, BRAMIAN, H.M.S. PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, H.M.S. LUNENBURG, WEYBURN, H.M.S. SUMMERSIDE, 35 50 04 26 West to Gibraltar 7.

(6) 1 (one) destroyer exercising East Strait (? for) harbour about 2030 22nd.

1300A/22

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D. (H) & 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)
- D.C. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D. A/S W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.S.
- F.O.S. by courier.
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- Adm. Ramsey (4)

D. of P. (Q)
D.M.S.

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1331A/22 December

From V.A. Gib.

Date 22.12.42.

Recd. 2309

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT

- (1) U.S.S. BARB, on patrol off Vigo *See p. 762^B*
 (2) SOUTHERN GEM, GRYFEVALE, 35 32 06 26 through
 35 53 06 01 to Gib. 6.
 (3) ST. NECTAN, patrolling off Lisbon. Expected
 R/V one merchant ship off Tagus 22nd and escort to Gib. *See p. 774*
 (4) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, one merchant, ship 38 31 09 19
 coastwise to Huelva 8. *See p. 774*
 (5) H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, 1 (one) merchant ship,
 33 52 08 52 through
 35 01 (?08) 01 to *See p. 774*
 35 50 06 01 thence Gib. 12½.
 → (6) K M S 5, H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, 4 Sloops, 6 Corvettes,
 (A) 36 15 10 32 through
 35 40 10 00 thence Gibraltar 8.
 (7) G U S 2 34 01 08 25 through
 34 10 10 01 thence 237 9.
 (8) H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER, H.M.S. MARIE LOUISE MACKAY,
 35 55 05 49 repairing cables. *See p. 772*
 (9) Port. Post. DOURO, left Ponta Delgada 21st for Lisbon *See map p. 77*
 (10) U.G.F. estimated 033 deg 50' 015 deg 43' through
 033 deg 50' 014 deg 01' thence
 073 deg 11.4
 (11) H.M.S. ADVENTURE, sail 1830/22nd through 036 deg
 01' 006 deg 01' to 036 deg 40' 009 deg 45' thence
 326 deg 18. *See pp. 762, 774*
 → (12) H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, sailed 0800 A/22nd to
 rendezvous K M S 5 in position 35 47 07 58 at 0900 A/
 23rd thence escorting 1 merchant ship 231 10½.
 (13) *LORD HOPHAM, 1 merchant ship, sail 1700 A/23rd to
 Guadalquiver 8. **See p. 771*

1331/22 (*See 1846A/22 also*)

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

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

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1332A/22nd December IN

Date 22.12.42.

Time 1915

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T and T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 64

IMPORTANT.

Situation 2002A 22nd

(1) WS 25, QUILLIAM, H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE, and H.M.S. WOLVERINE, ROCKWOOD, H.M.S. ~~CHICHESTER~~ HAYDON, 041 deg 08' 024 deg 00' 180 deg 12. 2 Destroyers part company as necessary to arrive Ponta Delgada 23rd remaining destroyers part company to arrive 24th. **CHESHIRE 21/12/42.*

(2) Portuguese Destroyer DOURO left Ponta Delgada 21st for Lisbon. *See previous page.*

(3) Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMCERAZ 031 deg 18' 026 deg 30' 062 deg 11

(4) PINK expected time of arrival Ponta Delgada 1100A 23rd from North Westwards.

1332A/22.

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

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

773

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

G.U.S.2. G.U.S.2 consisting of 43 vessels (list).
Escorted by Task Force 37 sailed Casablanca
1700Z/22nd Dec., S. of A. 9 knots. 1st "Chop" 10°
W. 0530Z/23rd Dec. 2nd "Chop" 40° W. 1300Z/30th Dec., point J
1100Z Jan. 6th. Hummer Gibraltar Fox until 1800Z Dec. 25th
20 West thence after N.S.S. Fox.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1525Z/22 to Cominch, N.C.X.F., etc.)

P. 615. After crossing 042° 59' N. at 0200/25 proceed
See p. 762 on the surface at discretion through
(A) 031° 01' N. 019° 59' W. at 2100/28.
(B) 019° 59' N. 019° 59' W. at 0200/1 Jan., S. of A. 8½ knots
thence Freetown as ordered by V.A. Gibraltar.
(2) Shift wireless watch in accordance with F.O.S. 1009/12th.
(3) Total bombing restrictions arranged 10 miles each side
of route 35 miles ahead and astern of your estimated position.
Report if unable to keep within bombing restrictions.
(4) Upon crossing 019° 59' N. shift W/T watch in accordance
with C. in C. S.A. 1514C/21 as amended by C. in C. S.A.
1734C/31 October.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1631A/22 to P.615, (R) F.O.S., 3rd S.F.,
C. in C. S.A., 8th S.F., F.O.I.C. W.Af.)

→ EMINENT, CLUNEPARK, CEFALU. Your 1240/21st. EMINENT arrived noon G.M.T./
22nd will leave for Flores 2100.
CLUNEPARK left for Ponta Delgada 1300 G.M.T.
CEFALU now at anchor outside as no berth will be
available in harbour, 2 or 3 days.
(R.O. Fayal, 1723C/?22 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada,
(R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)

SCHARLACH- 22nd German 55 (SCHARLACHBERGER) and 61 (BALDUR)
BERGER, arrived 21st to load iron ore.
BALDUR. (Bilbao, 1755/22 to Admty., (R) M.E.W.192,
(German). B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)

S.N.O.C.A. Your 1625/18 to Gibraltar C.C.O. C.S.F.W.T.F.
U.S. was used in error to indicate Commander Sea
designation. Frontier Forces Western A.S.F. Force, which is
U.S. designation of S.N.O.C.A.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1811Z/22 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gib.)
W.R. Note: A message (T.O.O. 2031/21) was
originated by W.R. requesting amplification of
originator of 1725/18.

→ EMINENT. Your 1000/22. Request you will sail EMINENT
See p. 774 for the U.K. at first opportunity.
(D.O.D.(F), 1816A/22 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

/AJAX ...

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

1818A/22nd December
MESSAGE

IN

Date 22.12.42.
Recd. 1935.

From F.O.C. Gibraltar

Naval Code K(1) by W/P

Addressed I.G. No.63.

IMPORTANT

T O A O 11 Dec 23rd A K M S 5 K? I C. Dawn to
dusk C 057 degs - 045 degs North to 020 degs West.
6 C. 0700 to 2100.

1818A/22

Advance copy Ops, O.D, Trade

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (U.T.)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops (5)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (2)

D.A/S.W. D.T.D. (3) Ad. Blake (2)
I.P. (3) D.T.D. (M)
W.D. D.T.D. (C)
C.C.L.S. Admiral Ramsey (4)

FG


774

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- AJAX. *See p. 761*
C. in C. W.A. 1304/21st (sailing of AJAX for Gibraltar). Onward route from position (d) to (e) 038° 01' 014° 01'. (f) 036° 01' 010° 01' (g) 035° 52' 006° 01' thence to Gibraltar. (V.A. Gib., 1847A/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, AJAX.)
- EMINENT. *See p. 773.*
Your 1002/22. Unless you require EMINENT for towage to U.K. request you will arrange for her to complete with fuel in Azores and R/V with an M.K.S. convoy. (D.T.D., 1950A/22 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) C.S.A. Ponta Delgada.)
- ADVENTURE. *See pp. 762 & 772-73.*
My 1251 and my 2304/21st. Sailed ADVENTURE. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1844/22 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A., F.O. Minelayers, C. in C. Plymouth)
- ROBERTS.
Intend to sail ROBERTS for U.K. in M.K.S.4. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1905A/22 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., Cdre. Algiers, ROBERTS.)
- BLAIRESK,
VAL DE LA
HAYE.
Your 0004A/19 (N.T. in W.R.) BLAIRESK not met by KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE in company reports only current 2 Recoding Table carried.
Your 2035A/21 (not received) VAL DE LA HAYE not yet met. Request description.
(ST. NECTAN, 2000A/22 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
My 2000A. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE now in company with BLAIRESK. 57.
NECTAN in company with VAL DE LA HAYE. Armed guard aboard.
(ST. NECTAN, 2210A/22 to V.A. Gibraltar.) *See p. 772-73*
- ERNE,
SANDWICH,
ORDUNA.
ERNE, SANDWICH, ORDUNA E.T.A. 1300/23. ERNE has following defects. Request dockyard assistance, expected time required? 48 hours.
(ERNE, 2102A/22 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Cdre. Supt., Capt. (D) Gibraltar.)
- U.S.
Amphibious
Force..
My 1930/21st. I have discussed question of amphibious training with General Clark who is to command 5th Army and under whom will be the troops employed. His wish is merely to set up small organisations at minor ports such as Nemours and Port Lyautey to allow training of units in amphibious work. He does not visualise the setting up of a large force together with its landing craft ready to take part at short notice in operations. Clark's conception is in line with my own view and is I think to be encouraged. It is very different from large scale organisation which the U.S. Navy appears to have in mind and which would form a naval force of some size.
(N.C.X.F., 2155A/22 to Admty.)

775

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- U/B. By D/F at 2136Z/21 U/Boat within 150' of 07° 00'S 28° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0441A/22 to F.O.C.W.A.F. C. in C. S.A.)
- NORTHERN CHIEF. Arrival 1700/21st NORTHERN CHIEF escorting S.S. BANFF PARK and BRITISH UNITY. NORTHERN CHIEF requires engine repair 2 to 3 days.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 0907C/22 to C. in C. S.A., Admty, (R) F.O.C. W.A., B.N.L.O. W.A.)
- NORWICH CITY. Departure 1930/21 NORWICH CITY escorting S.S. BANFF PARK and BRITISH UNITY. NORWICH CITY reported boiler trouble 0125Z/22 returning to Walvis Bay with merchant ships.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 0919C/22 to Admty, C. in C. S.A.)
- Ships for Dakar to R/V with French Escorts. Arrangements have been made with the French Admiral at Dakar for ships routed to Dakar be instructed to R/V with French Escorts in 14° 26'N, 17° 33'W during daylight. If Escort not met to continue to within sight of Isle of Gore where instructions will be passed by V/S. Q.L.A. Message is being issued accordingly.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1027Z/22 to Admty.)
- W.S.25. To facilitate escorts from Freetown joining convoy the last escort calling at Ponta Delgada for fuel is to report to R.A. W.A. the E.T.A. of the convoy at 20° N.
(C. in C. W.A. 1032 to Escorts of W.S.25 (R) Admty, R.A. W.Af.)
- RIPLEY torpedoed and sunk 12/12. My 1940Z/17th following are particulars received from Vice Consul Natal. Ship was ss RIPLEY bound from Takoradi to Liverpool via Trinidad, torpedoed 1125/12 Dec. in 000° 35' S. 032° 17'W, sank in 15 mins. after hits by two torpedoes. Submarine described as follows - at least 200 feet long, cut away stem with upright stanchion with what appeared to be a light, large wires from stem to conning tower and conning tower to stern, conning tower similar to U.27. Boar's head painted thereon and heraldic device resembling Viking long boat, one gun forward probably three inch and one of small calibre aft of conning tower, vessel painted very light grey with green markings. No number visible.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1201Z/22 to Admty, (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro.)
- Movements Simonstown arrival 22nd FORTUNE.
(C. in C.S.A. 1213C/22 to Admty.)
Arrival 22nd Dec. SMEATON, WELLARD.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1649Z/22 to Admty)
- Arrival 1800Z/22. Free French  COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting SS CAP PADARAN.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 2045Z/22 to N.O.I.C. N.Af. (R) Admty.)
- PANORAMA paying off. Your 1840/14 Nov. para 3 approved.
(Head of M. Br. 1236 A/22 to R.A. W. Af. (R) Combrax Portsmouth, ELAND.

/D.N.8...

MOST SECRET

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

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

0925Z/22nd December.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN

From. F.O.C.W. Africa. Date. 22.12.42.

Recd. 1446.

Naval Cypher (M) By W/T

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

IMPORTANT.

240.
COMMANDANT DESTIEMIE DORVES, 3 motor launches, with S.T. 49, off Freetown to South East 9. ~~1.1.1.1~~ P-777

TURCOMAN, from Freetown to Marshall 8½.

Two motor launches, escorting, 05 25 35 302 8 at (?04) 01Z 22nd.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, 003 degs. 20' 019 degs. 30' 050 degs. 12½.

BREDON, escorting from Marshall to (?Cape) Palmas 9.

CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR, 00 50 00 35 East 150 10.3.

BELWORT, escorting, 01 05 South 07 05 East to Equator 06 01 East (?thence) 302 12½.

VIVIANA, 09 30 South 06 10 East 150 10.

0925Z/22.

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

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

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War, Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.-contd.

- D.N.8 D.N.8 consisting of 19 ships sailed 1300Z/22 escorted by U.S. Destroyer COLE, CATTERICK, NIGELLA to dispersal position 030° 24' S 038° 34' E Speed 7 knots. Details. (N.C.S.O. Durban 1306Z/22 to Admty etc.)
- D.C.2 Expect to sail D.C.2 1400Z/23rd escorted by EXPRESS and GENISTA to Capetown speed 7½ knots. Consisting of 6 ships: AGULHAS, FORDSDALE, AYMERIC, LODESTONE, GLENBEG, to Capetown. EMPIRE FORREST to Pernambuco. (N.C.S.O. Durban 1352Z/22 to Admty etc.)
- Minefields Saldanha Your 1148/21 and my 1621/20, owing to OCEAN VERITY expected Durban a.m. 25th intend that MANCHESTER CITY waits to embark any CM stores found in her. Time being saved thereby for following reasons.
(a) My staff not conversant with these stores and presence of MANCHESTER CITY would ensure speedy delivery. (b) Carriage by rail would be obviated. (c) Assembly of underwater fittings would be accelerated on passage.
(Com. I./C Durban 1433C/22 to C. in C. S.A. (R) MANCHESTER CITY, C.S. Durban, Com. Supt. Simonstown, Admty.)
- U/B Your 1135Z/21 not to S.B.N.O. W.A. Bearings dispositions. of transmission at 2359Z/19 from Bermuda and Georgetown not received by Admty until 1106/22. Amend my 1343Z/20 position at 2358Z/19 within 150 miles of 12°N 23°W. (D.D.I.C.1531A/22 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A.)
- Sub division My 1704/12th Dec. It is intended to transmit of Area P. messages to ships including Auxiliary Vessels in area 'P'1, 'P'2, 'P'3 and 'P'4. Request allocation and promulgation of call signs. (.F.O.C.W.A.1556Z/22 to Admty.)
- JOHAN VAN A.M. 1916 19th not to ALCANTARA. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDT is to proceed to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1606C/22 to ALCANTARA, (R) F.O.F. W. Af., Admty.)
- F.T.T.5 Convoy F.T.T.5. (1) Disperse DEIDQ, TOMBOCTON and *MEMPHIS CITY at dusk 22nd Dec. in approx. 011° 58' N. 029° 05' W. (2) Disperse remaining ships A.M. 23rd Dec. in approx. 012° 13' N. 030° 39' W. (3) After dispersal (a) BURDOCK proceed to Kingston to fuel arriving P.M. 28th Dec. Further orders will be passed by V.A. Gibraltar in accordance with A.M.1507A/20 not to all addressees. (b) ARRAN escorts SHEAFHOLME until dusk 23rd then proceeds St. Vincent. Orders following for ARRAN. (c) INKPEN escort BARSHE escorted until dusk 23rd Dec. then returns to Freetown. (F.O.C.W.Af.1615Z/22 to BURDOCK, (R) Connav, S.O.(I) Kingston, N.S.H.Q., Admty, V.A.Gibraltar.
Amended by 0209/23 q.v. * *see next page.*
13.808

/ARRAN ...

777

War Diary.

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - cont'd.

ARRAN

Intend Trawler ARRAN To arrive St. Vincent with mail a.m. 26th Dec. Estimated requirements 100 tons of coal 30 tons water. Request Portuguese authorities be notified.
(F.O.C.W.A.1715Z/22 to N.C.S.O. St Vincent (R) Admty, N.A. Lisbon, BURDOCK for ARRAN.)

S.T. 49
L.S.
Convoy

in p. 775 Sailed 1745Z/22nd Dec. ^{COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, M.L.s 290, 296, 271 escorting S.T.49 by (?orange) route to Lagos. S. OF A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Lagos a.m. 29th Dec. 2. ^{COMMANDANT} OREBY escorting KANA from

Marshall
MARSHALL joins convoy a.m. 24th Dec.

3. M.L.s escorting CATRINE will be detached at position C for Takoradi. E.T.A. a.m. 27th Dec. 4. L.S. convoy to be formed early Jan. Escorting ^{COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES and OREBY from Lagos, TURCOMAN, BREDON and available M.L. joining from Takoradi. All shipping for Freetown after p.m. 26th Dec. to be included in this convoy.

(F.O.W.A. 1841Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty)

TEESBANK
SUNK
5/12

Survivors from TEESBANK landed here to-day from WEST MAXIMUS, U.S. which picked them up on 14th Dec. in 001° 57' S 037° 38' W. Senior survivor is Chief Officer who reports that a U-Boat attacked and sank his ship with 2 torpedoes at 0452Z 5th Dec. in 003° 33' N 029° 35' W. Crew abandoned ship in 3 boats 1 of which contained 19 crew, fell behind on 1st day and fate not known here. Boats interrogated by U-boats officers which appeared German and Master taken prisoner. U-boat last seen steering West on surface, had no distinguishing marks. C.Bs thrown overboard ship on voyage, Port Elizabeth to Demerara in ballast. Was unable to broadcast distress message.
(B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1902Z/22 to Admty.)

OMBILIN
torpedoed
and sunk
12/12.

(1) Lifeboat with 30 survivors ex Dutch SS OMBILIN picked up by Argentine Tanker SANTA CRUZ 18th and landed here 22nd. (2) OMBILIN bound from Montreal to Capetown via Trinidad was torpedoed 1610 ship's apparent time 12th by Italian submarine in 007° 28' N 039° 10' W sinking within 15 minutes of hit by one torpedo. Entire crew took to 3 life boats. Unconfirmed report says 1 boat reached Areia Branca but this may be confused with RIPLEY survivors (see my 1940Z/17 and my 1201Z/22 not to S.O.(I) Freetown) (3) Submarine came alongside life boat and took Captain and Chief Engineer on board as prisoners. Only description available of submarine which remained partly submerged is that it flew Italian flag, had not badge or markings visible on conning tower, carried 2 guns of 4 or 4.7 inches calibre one forward and one aft.
(R.O. Pernambuco 2042Z/22 to Admty, (R) S.O.(I) Freetown, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro.

MEMPHIS
CITY

*in previous
page (F.T.T.5)*

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 2117 G.M.T. DE KWBX (MEMPHIS CITY) to GRD 6 HR torpedo across by bow from North 2110 G.M.T./22. Message repeated to GRD L at 2119 G.M.T.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2220 /22 to Admty.)

778

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

*URSULA
P.219.
** see p. 772 & 780*
Departure URSULA and P.219 on patrols. Last Messages Q.B.87, Q.B.A.15, Q.B.B.307 missing 250.
(Cdre. Algiers 0011A/22 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., Capt.S.10).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. one M/V two destroyers 4 small craft
38.16 N. 11.50 E. 240° 19 knots.
(A/C L/S FAY Duty G., 0035A/22, to A.H.Q.Malta).

TURBULENT.
see p. 780
I think you were sighted by Italian T/Bs about 0004.
(V.A.Malta 0142A/22, to TURBULENT).
Capt.S.1's 1724B/18th. My position dawn 22nd 034.13, 016. 10 thence through 035.22. 014. 05 to arrive end searched channel 0800A/23rd. Your 2255/21st not understood. (TURBULENT 0216B/22 to Capt.S.10 (R) Capt.S.1).
Your 0216/22nd. Capt.S.1's 1724/18th, not received thus unaware you were making passage on surface. Arrive end searched channel 0800A/23rd as arranged, no traffic east from or to Malta before your arrival. Cancel my 0142/22nd.
(Capt.S.10. 0339A/22 to TURBULENT (R) Capt.S.1.).

P.R.U. 21/2. Toulon. No important change.
Marseilles. Decrease of 5 merchant vessels since 12th December.

Etang de Berre. Decrease of 2 tankers and 12 merchant vessels since 30th October.

Genoa. 3 U/Bs are only naval units present. Increase of 1 tanker and 3 merchant vessels since 11th December, Details follow.

(D.D.I.C. 0332A/22 to N.C.X.F. etc).

A.M. 0332A/22. P.R.U. 21st December.

Toulon. Partially submerged Units have settled lower. Six small vessels alongside bows of SUFFREN Class cruiser in Darse de Castigneau - Slight smoke still issuing from all other four damaged cruisers - Dry dock containing DUNKERQUE now dry - one minesweeper sweeping in Petite Rade.

Marseilles - Since 12th December 11 merchant ships between 210 and 370 feet left and six arrived. Larger liners and three tankers still present.

Etang de Berre. Total present believed to be four tankers between 400 and 540 feet and three merchant ships between 330 and 370 feet, probable decrease of two tankers and 12 merchant ships since 30th November.

Canal Maritime. Three merchant ships between 350 and 450 feet present, one of which is proceeding West, compared with one merchant ship on 30th November.

Port de Bouc. Two ELAN class sloops have been launched since 8th July and are now fitting out 1 Sloop and 1 T.B. still building. One liner 370 feet and three merchant ships between 200 and 300 feet present.

Savona. One torpedo boat and ten merchant ships 250 to 340 feet now present compared with no important ships on 16th November One ship 390 feet entering port.

/Genoa.....

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War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.R.U. 21/12. Genoa. One U/B 130 feet has arrived and is lying at Mole Giano with two others who were present 11th December. Work continuing on conversion liners ROMA and AUGUSTA - New evident that hull of REGOLO Class cruiser is also in process of conversion. Merchant shipping shows arrival of one tanker 490 feet and 8 ships 250 to 420 feet while 5 ships 250 to 450 feet left since 11th December. Greatest change of shipping is at coaling quays of Vittorio Emanuele Basin. (D.D.I.C. 1219A/22 to N.C.X.F., etc).

P.44.
P. 48. Make normal R/V 25th December. Keep to your starboard of J. to K. where P.48 will be North-bound daylight 24th. (Capt.S.10. 0509A/22 to P.44). *See next page.*

FALMOUTH. Arrival.
(Cdre Aden 0532Z/22 to Admty etc).

CAMERONIA hit by A/C torpedo in 37.03 N. 5.24 E. torpedoed. (C.S.12. 0630A/22 to Algiers W/T).
My 0630, request tug.
(C.S.12. 0643A/22 to Algiers W/T and call IKW)
Following received. CAMERONIA will shortly proceed at 6 knots for Bougie. All is well. Request immediate A/S and fighter protection. WHEATLAND in company. My position now is 37.03 N. 5.24.E.
(Gibraltar 0733A/22, to Admty).
Proceeding to Bougie ~~VERONICA~~ and CAMERONIA in company.
E.T.A. Bougie breakwater 1200A/22nd. On arrival intend to proceed with WHEATLAND to Bone with all despatch.
(SCYLLA 0817A/22 to N.C.X.F.).
Following have been sent to assistance of CAMERONIA at 0740. Tugs. HENGIST, MULL, RYSA, INCHCOLM, M.M.S.s 133, 17, 134, 92 H.D.M.L. 11,52.
(N.O.I.C.Bougie 0855A/22 to N.C.X.F.(R) Cmdre.Algiers)
Jijelli unable to fly off. Request immediate fighter protection for CAMERONIA.
(N.O.I.C.Bougie 0930A/22 to N.C.X.F.).
CAMERONIA hole in No.7 starboard by aerial torpedo. No.7 hold and between deck and both tunnels flooded. Aft peak No 6 hold are clear of water all double (corrupt group) tanks are sound. Vessel is in safe condition at present but temporary repairs necessary before sailing. Divers taken off GLENFINLAS to ascertain damage, further report will follow. Maximum draft aft 32 feet.
(M.W.T. Rep.S.T.O. Bougie. 1520A/22 to M.W.T.).
** War Diary.*

GRETE. German controlled GRETE sailed from Valencia for Marseilles 2100/21st.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0740/22 to S.O.(I) Malta, S.O.(I) X.F.)

Movements Arrival 21st December, WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY,
Alexandria. BOSTON, Departure 21st December, PRIMULA,

/HYACINTH....

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War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements
Alexandria
Contd. HYACINTH, PROTEA, SOUTHERN SEA, CUMBRAE, BEVER,
Greek destroyers QUEEN OLGA, SPETSAL.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0907/22 to Admty, C. in C.
Med). *See p. 782*

Air R/C. My 1730/21st (N.T. in W.R.). Intend R/C today
December 22nd, Tunis and Bizerta, Naples will
not be covered. Unless signal is made to the
contrary Cavoli Marittimo dusk to dawn patrols will be carried
out nightly.
(V.A.Malta, 0953A/22 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.I.S.,
Cdre. Algiers, S.O. Force Q.).

M/V hit
E/V sunk. Albacores attacked with torpedoes one M/S
two escort vessels at 0200A/22nd in 038.12 N.
011.40 E. One escort vessel sunk, one hit on
M/S. *[See also page 811, Corbridge No. 633]*
(V.A.Malta 1001A/22 to N.C.X.F., C. in C.Med.
(R) F.O.I.S., S.O. Force Q. Admty).

SCYLLA. E.T.A. Bone 1630A/22. WHEATLAND in company.
WHEATLAND. (SCYLLA 1125A/22 to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) C.S.12.
N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.). *See previous page - (CAMERONIA)*

Orders to
S/Ms. Submarines are to move as follows:-
P.42 forthwith through 038.42, 012.44 to patrol off
Naples. *See p. 783*
P.44 forthwith through G and normal route to arrive
R/V Malta 0800A/24th. *See previous page*
P.212 forthwith direct to cross 8 East in latitude 038. 35 at
2323A/23 thence as ordered by Capt.(S) 8. *See p. 772 next page*
URSULA from 038. 20, 008.00 at 1800A/23rd direct to patrol within
10 miles of 038. 12 011.50 by 0300A/25th. *See p. 778*
P.51 to establish patrol within 10 miles of 037. 32 010.40 by
0300A/23rd. *See p. 783*
P.44 and P.51 may meet near H tonight.
RORQUAL and *TURBULENT will be approaching Malta simultaneously
morning/23rd as will UNA and P.44 morning/24th. **See p. 778 x see p. 779*
All movement signals affecting above mentioned S/Ms are cancelled.
(Capt.S.10. 1153A/22 to S/Ms on Patrol (R) N.C.X.F., Capt.(S) 8).

Movements,
Beirut. 21st December arrival F.S.LA MOQUEUSE, WOLBOROUGH,
departure M.L.349 M.L.354. *See p. 782*
(S.O.(I) Beirut 1215/22 to Admty (R) C. in C.Med).

Situation Survey of Benghazi, Tobruk, and Derna harbours
Report No.309. completed.
Western Desert. There are now 100 (corrupt) wrecks
in Tobruk and 86 in Benghazi varying from lighters to merchant
vessels and warship(s).
2. Over 200 tons petrol and ammunition unloaded at Ras El Ali
21st from L.C.Ts. More on the way and with weather improving
prospects appear good.
3. Benghazi raided p.m./20th December by about 10 A/C. Minesweeping
whalers SEKSERN and HAILSTORM near missed.

781

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No.309 Contd. 4. My 2158/20 December para.2. SNAPDRAGON left Benghazi with a convoy at 1900/19th December. Several aircraft attacked convoy. SEAHAM was near missed. SNAPDRAGON was hit by one bomb amidships and sank in 3 minutes. Commanding Officer has since died at Benghazi.

5. Enemy air more active, several attacks on coastal convoys reported.

6. Bulk Oil installation at Tobruk now in working order with capacity about 8000 tons.

7. Derna closed down as a supply port 22nd December but a R.N.O. remains

8. Malta. Small M/V sunk by JERVIS and NUBIAN 0210/21st December in vicinity of Ras Turgeuness.

9. My 1957/22nd July para.2. MALINES refloated 21st December. (C. in C.Med. 1222B/22 to Admty).

Cositrep No. 632. 300394. O/87490 cypher 22nd December. Air. Night 19th/20th December, 10 enemy A/C bombed Benghazi and shipping outside harbour. Corvette sunk. (W.D. Note - No confirmation from

a naval source) *Unless this refers to SNAPDRAGON*
 Night 20th/21st December Beauforts mined. Misurata and Khoms harbours. About 7 enemy A/C operated against Marble Arch, Benina and shipping off Tolmetano, damage reported. Malta Wellingtons bombing Tunis and La Goulette docks started large fire in marshalling yard at Tunis and near barracks, on La Goulette island. Observation of damage hampered by cloud. An, A.S.V. Wellington from Malta co-operating with destroyers located small M/V of Djerba Island. Wellington homed destroyers on target and dropped flares. Vessel set ablaze by shell fire and left on beam ends.
 Night 21/22nd December. Malta torpedo A/C attacked southbound M/V escorted by Naval Units west of Sicily. Probable hits claimed. Full details not yet available. (See 11450/23)
 (C. in C.M.E. 1245B/22).

P.45. Sailed.
 (V.A.Malta 1435A/22 to Admty etc).

P.212. *See pp 772
9760*
 Onward route passing 038.07 004. 33 E. at 2330A/24th and R/V escort Algiers in 037.02 003.13 E. at 0800/25th. Proceed on surface at discretion on 25th.
 (Capt.S.8. 1522A/22, to P.212 (R) N.C.X.F.S/Ms on patrol, Capt.(S) 10, Ddre. Algiers).

M.K.S.4. TACT. My 1500A/21st. (re sailings to join M.K.S.4) destination of M.V. MOANDA now Gib. for onward routing to Melilla to load ballast.
 (N.C.S.O.Bougie 1530A/22 to N.C.X.F.)

/Movements...

782

22.12.1942.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements
Port Said.

22nd Dec. Port Said arrival Greek Destroyer SPETSAI, Greek Dest. BASILISSA, OLGA, DELPHINIUM, FALK, Greek Destroyer IERAX. Departure SOUTHERN ISLES.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1602B/22 to Admty etc).

* QUEEN OLGA. See p. 780.

U/Bs.

Gun position at Jijelli report 2 S/Ms, 6 miles East of Jijelli Harbour at 1515 today Tuesday.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1605A/22 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S. C.S.12. V.A. Malta.)

K.M.S.5.

A.M. 1531/18. K.M.S.5. Para.2., add NORELG, ~~WARD~~
(D.O.D.(H) 1626A/22 to N.C.X.F., (R) A.F.H.Q. Algiers, V.A. Gib.).

Situation
Report No.38.

1. Bone. Oropesa trawler exploded 7 mines in sweep a.m, 21st. Of 18 enemy A/C which set out to attack Bone 5 leaders came in and were all shot down remainder returned homeward.

2. Oran. Troops ex STRATHALLAN transferred to DUCHESS OF BEDFORD now en route Algiers. STRATHALLAN sank in tow p.m./the 22nd.
3. K.M.F.5 to Bone attacked by torpedo A/C 2215 to 2350/21st and from 0600 to day 22nd. CAMERONIA torpedoed by A/C 0600/22nd 30 miles N.E. Bougie, now arrived Bougie.
(N.C.X.F. 1722A/22 to Admty).

Movements.

Arrival M.Ls.349 and 354. Departure WELSHMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports. 1747B/22 to Admty, C. in C.Med).

Air R/C.

Visuals, 1400/22nd December. Palermo, 5 M Ships (4,000 tons) in harbour 1 M.Ship (3,000 tons) outside harbour apparently at anchor.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1753A/22 to N.C.X.F. etc).

Cavoli- Marittimo Blenheim patrol cancelled tonight 22nd because of weather.
(V.A. Malta 1802A/22 to N.C.X.F. etc).

Orders to
S/Ms.

Clear out of area within 50 miles of Marittimo with all dispatch.
(Capt.S.10. 1810A/22 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Malta Air Ops.

All air operations tonight 22nd cancelled because of weather.
(V.A. Malta 1818A/22).

Malta Air
Report.

AI.195. 22nd Dec. C.S.R. Malta.
Night 21/22nd Dec, no enemy air activity locally. Day 22nd December. 8 Spitfires made offensive sweeps over Southern Sicily but no enemy A/C were seen. A further 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which

/turned....

783

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. Contd. turned back before nearing Malta. Bad weather curtailed offensive operations. (A.H.Q. Malta 1825Z/22).

Part.2. Night 21/22 December. 2 special Wellington 8s on shipping R/C patrolled the Palermo Marittimo Cavoli area. Wellington sighted and reported at 2037 hours 020° Marittimo 28 miles 1 M/V 2 D/Rs. 4 small craft course 260° speed 10 knots. In consequence 1 special Albacore and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores of R.N.Air Squadron were despatched to attack this convoy and found at 0035 hrs 319° Marittimo 22 miles 1 M/V about 4000 tons 3 escort vessels and numerous Siebel Ferries and E/Bs. Albacores attacked M/V with 3 torpedoes contact only depth setting 9 feet. First torpedo dropped from 50 ft range 550 yards ahead of M/V. Second shot from 50 feet 900 yards hit escort vessel 1200 tons which crossed path of torpedo and produced large volume of white smoke. No further trace of vessel but 2 other escort vessels were later seen orbiting large patch of oil. 3rd torpedo dropped from 50 feet range 600 yards scored hit on M/V aft of funnel and was followed by large mushroom of smoke and steam which reached to height of 70 ft. and enveloped whole ship. 0146 hrs R/C Wellington saw fire still burning in position of strike. Intense accurate A/A from escort vessels slightly damaged 1 Albacore. 2 JU 81 night fighters pursued our A/C for 60 miles after strike but all returned safely. 7 Wellington attacked Tunis and La Goulette Docks from 2310 to 0016 hrs. dropping 2 4000 lb. 22 500 lb and 50 250 lb. bombs from average height of 9000 ft. At least 2 direct hits scored on 2 vessels in Tunis main basin causing crimson secondary explosions vessels appeared to break up. 1 4000 lb. bomb burst among buildings in Tunis marshalling yards and the other on edge of ship canal. Fire started in oil storage depot at La Goulette. Considerable accurate heavy A/A and some light A/A encountered and one S/L exposed. (A.H.Q. Malta 1932Z/22).

Enemy Units } At 1730A/22nd. 1 M/S 2 destroyers position 040.23
P.42. }
P.51. } *imp. 780* 014.03 course 222° 13 knots. In anticipation of enemy preliminary sweeps P.51 should remain east of position H until necessary to gain patrol position by 0700A. (Capt.S.10. 1902A/22 to P.42,P.51, (R) S/Ms on patrol).

A/C Report of U/B. Am proceeding to investigate in direction 126° 36° N. 00° 37 miles. (A/C C/S CMXQ. 2010A/22 to FORMIDABLE). Ref. enemy S/M previously reported, periscope only sighted. Have lost touch with enemy S/M Last seen in position 016° 36° N. 00° 37 miles course 330° speed 6 knots. ((?) A/C C/S CMXB. 2130/22nd to FORMIDABLE.)

/Movements...

MOST SECRET

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

M E S S A G E No. T. O. O.
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: IN.
MOST SECRET. "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From Gov. & C. in C. Malta. Date 22.12.42.
Time 2250

CIPHER

Addressed C. in C. Middle East. Repeated War Office.

090238 G.5945/R cipher 22 Dec.

Situation report week ending 19 December 42.

1. Enemy. 6 daylight alerts for enemy a/c. Two raids crossed coast. One recce. one high fighter sweep. 40 plus Ju.88's attacked Luqa aerodrome night 18/19. 7 Wellingtons destroyed (?1) Baltimore 3 Wellingtons damaged on ground. Beaufighter destroyed 1 Ju.88. A.A. engaged but no claims.

2. Own Air. Beaufighters and Spitfires on offensive patrols east and west of Malta destroyed 7 Ju.52s. 3 Ju.88s, 2 He.111s, 1 Do.24 1 twin engined a/c probably destroyed 3 Ju.52s. 1 Me.109 damaged 4 Ju.52s, 1 Ju.88, 1 twin engined a/c. Also destroyed 2 Ju.88s area Lampedusa Spitfire bomber and Spitfires attacked Lampedusa aerodrome. Bombs dispersal areas. 1 SM 79 destroyed, 4 probably destroyed, 1 Me.110 damaged on ground by cannon fire. Beaufighters covering outgoing convoy destroyed 1 SM 82 and damaged 3. Beaufighters offensive patrol area Kerkennah shot up ship 800 tons, trawler and schooner. By night over 100 Wellington sorties in successful attacks docks Tunis and Lagoulette. Many fires incl. 2 large, 1 small m/v two thirds canal entrance blocked sand and debris. 2 successful Wellington sorties Comiso. Beaufighter intruder patrols Tunisia bombed Soussse el (?Oued) railway and shot up trains. Over Sicily 2 Ju.52s. destroyed taking off from Castel Etrano and approx. 20 seaplanes shot up Marsala. Albacores torpedoed and set on fire m/v 576,000 tons. Also torpedoed m/v 5,000 tons beached north of Soussse. One Albacore bombed Soussse others claimed near misses m/v 500 tons and on E/boat.

3. Convoy 'Quadrangle A.' One ship unloaded civil labour 6 days 1 ship military labour 4 days total tonnage

10,450. /.....

10,450. Unloading hampered by bad weather and stowage. One m/v and one tanker 'Quadrangle B' arrived 14 Dec. Unloaded civil labour by 18 Dec. Total tonnage 5,158. 4 m/vs left for east 17 Dec. Working parties on convo duties now reduced to 2,300 plus 1,800 on aerodrome plus 500 men building for R.A.F.

4. Military damage and casualties. 1 officer 2 O.Rs. injured.

No T.O.C.

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

Received from W.O. 1610/24.

W.O. Circulation:

S. of S.	R.A.I.
C.I.G.S.	D. Air.
V.C.I.G.S.	Air Co-ord.
D.C.I.G.S.	Air l.
D.M.O.	D.Q.M.G.
D. Plans (2)	Q (Ops)
D.D.M.O. (O)(H)	D. Mov.
M.O. 1.4.5.7.	D.D. Mov. (S)
D.M.I.	Q (M) 3.
D.D.M.I. (I)	C.A.S. Air Ministry.
M.I. 3.9.14.17a.	A.M.C.S. Air Ministry.
D.R.A.	C.N.S. Admiralty.
D.D.R.A. (R)	H.W.R. Admiralty.
	Col. Rolleston Col. Office.

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

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 0714Z/22nd December. IN
From. C.in C. Eastern Fleet. Date. 22.12.42.
Naval Cypher M By W/T. Recd. 1426.

Addressed. Eastern Fleet 171Y. Admiralty. C.in C. South Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Durban. F.O.R.S.C.A.

IMPORTANT.

204.

Movement summary number 30 December 22nd.

- (1) H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE, left Fremantle 21st December escorting one transport due Aden 2nd January. *See p. 785^B*
- (2) H.M.S. GAMBIA, leaves vicinity of Kilindini 23rd December due Diego Suarez 24th December. *See p. 785^B*
- (3) French Light Cruiser LÉOPARD, left Mauritius 21st December due Kilindini 25th December. *See next page.*
- (4) H.M.S. DURBAN, left Kilindini 20th December due Bombay 30th December calling Seychelles 23rd December and Cochin 28th December. *See p. 785^B*
- (5) H.M.S. FRITILLARY, left Kilindini 21st December due Diego Suarez 24th December.
- (6) The following Y message is cancelled number 167Y of 13th December.

0714Z/22.

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

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

785

War Diary.22.12.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- M.J.1 Convoy M.J.1 consisting of KARAGOLA arrived 21st.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0316Z/22 to Admty., S.O.I Colombo,
S.O.(I), Bombay, C. in C. E.F.)
- M.L. Flotillas. Your 1304A 3rd Nov. Para. 2. Number of Flotilla
numbers required: (A) 'BRB Type Fairmiles,
5 Flotillas.
(B) H.D.ML'/S, 5 Flotillas.
(2) Although under this numbering some Flotillas will only
consist of four craft, the additional Flotilla numbers have been
asked for in order to avoid having composite Flotillas and to
simplify communication and maintenance problems by keeping
separate Flotillas at each port.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0415Z/22 to Admty.)
- SEPIA Your 1307 10th Dec. (SEPIA to be sailed for Abadan)
SEPIA has cracked cylinder head and speed 8 instead
of 11 knots. Essential repairs will be completed
23rd Dec. Dry dock available 25th and intend
drydocking and completing all repairs with completion date 7th
January.
(Com. R.I.N. 0458Z/22 to C. in C. E.F.)
- LÉOPARD Your 1031 21st Dec. approved to arrive Kilindini
a.m. 25th Dec.
See previous page
(C. in C. E.F. 0535Z/22 to F.S. LEOPARD, repeated
F.O. E.A. and Z., V.A. 3., Admty.)
- M.C.3. My 0928/9th. Route for convoy M.C.3.
J. (?011°) 43'N. 045° 59'E. K. 012° 36'N 051°
(?17')E. L. 011° 01'N. 052° 28'E. M. 000° 45'S.
050° 15'E. N. 011° 02'S. 049° 50'E. O. 015°
(?08'S. (?051°) 56' E. P. 025° 33'S. 048° 20'E. Q. 028° 38'S.
(?041°) 17' E. thence as required by C. in C. S.A.
(C. in C. E.F. 0635Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Aden).
- B.P.64 B.P. 64 sailed from Bombay 22nd Dec. for Basra.
(Details).
(P.S.T.O. India 0825Z/22 to D.S.T.D., P.G.)
- Mombasa Harbour Congestion. Construction proposals.
(G.O. C. in C. E.A. 1115C/22 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.
- Air Report. INT. 250 22 Dec.
(D) Not for publication. "Night 20/21 Dec. 2 Catal-
inas bombed Sabang Harbour 1930Z, 1500 feet and
low level. Bursts on harbour buildings seen, 2 large explosions.
1 aircraft damaged by intense A.A. and M.G. fire. Third
Catalina bombed Kuta Raja 2010Z results unobserved".
(A.H.Q. India, 1218Z/22)
- Movements. Departure H.N.M.S. SOEMBA at 1230Z/22nd.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 1248Z/22 to Admty.)
BRITISH ENERGY escorted by TOOWOOMBA 22nd left for
Kilindini.
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 1510Z/22 to S.O.(I)s. Colombo, Bombay, Aden)

/EKMA...

7848
785A

SECRET

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MESSAGE

1115C/22nd December IN

FROM: G.O.C. in C. East Africa

DATE: 22.12.42.
RECD: 2250

CIPHER

ADDRESSED: War Office Repeated C. in C. Middle East.

090294 A/Q 72432 cipher 22 December.

Mombasa congestion.

You are aware of congestion in Mombasa harbour during past six months. Cargo ships now may have to wait for a period of weeks before they can berth to discharge or may be sent to discharge at other ports where cargo is not required. Situation will be alleviated by construction two new deep water berths but these not due for completion until next Autumn. Even then alleviation will only be obtained provided traffic through port shows no increase on present figures. Scheme has been prepared by Mov/Tn, Directorate this H.Q. for construction of lighterage wharf on mainland near railway point. Capacity 1000 tons a day. Wharf to have rail access with exchange station at Kwa Jomvu. Estimated cost 75000 pounds. Estimated time of construction four months. We should require loan of two dock construction socs, and a rly. construction soc, from Mideast or Union. Permanent way can be obtained from remains of Semalia railway. Should have to ask your help over cranes and ramped cargo lighters which we understand are in production. If this proposal approved and executed Army would operate this wharf for discharge of cargoes consigned fighting services thus freeing berths for ships waiting to load. Most attractive feature of proposal is speed with which it could be carried out. Proposal is being brought forward for discussion at meeting of port co-ordinating committee first week January. Meanwhile have ascertained first that attitude of S.T.O. is likely to be favourable. Second that High Commissioner for Transport probably opposed on grounds that improvement of present congestion now in hand and that no reason to suppose completion of new deep water berths will not produce result required. This telegram sent to obtain your immediate reaction. Q.M.G. may be personally interested in view of his remarks when visiting here.

1115C/22

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
Controller
Vice Contr.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT)
Civil Lord
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (3)
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (UT)
M. (2)
C.E. in C.

Recd: from War Off. P.M./25th Dec.
War Office circ:- D.Q.M.G., D.Tn.
Q. (Ops.) (O' seas), D.D.Tn. (O), Tn. 1, 2, 5,
M.O. 5., S.D. 2., D.D. Mov. (S), Q(M) 9a,
Admy. (Capt. Bowen), Admy. (M. Branch),
Air Min. (Air Commodore Sims),
M.W.T. (Mr. Secretan) (2), Col. Office
(Mr. Watherstone), Col. Office
(Lieut. Col. Rolleston).

C.D. (5) W.D.
D.T.D. (4) I.P. (3)
D. of L.D. (2) Dep. Con. (3) Bath by T/P
(BA. 3266)

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET.

1501Z/22nd Dec.
IN.
Date 22.12.42.
Time 2258

From C. in C. E.F.

NAVAL CYPHER D BY W/T.

Addressed C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Mediterranean.
A.C.N.B. F.O.C. R.S. F.O. Ceylon. F.O.
2nd E.F. Repeated., Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

217. Eastern Fleet week's disposition signal,
No. 1.

Last summary (?No.) 14 was issued on 11th Oct.
T.O.O. 0821.

(a) Battleships. H.M.S. WARSPITE, H.M.S. VALIANT,
H.M.S. RESOLUTION, and H.M.S. REVENGE, at Kilindini.

(b) Aircraft Carrier. H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS at
Kilindini.

(c) 8-inch cruisers. H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE escorting
AQUITANIA from Freemantle to Aden. *p.784c*

(d) 7.5-inch and 6-inch cruisers. H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM,
and H.M.S. CAPETOWN, at Kilindini. H.M.S.*GAMBIA
H.M.S. FROBISHER, and H.M.S. CERES, escorting convoys off
east coast Africa. H.M.S. MAURITIUS, at Bombay. H.M.S.
HAWKINS, docking at Durban, completes 23rd December, thence
Kilindini. H.M.S.*DURBAN, to Bombay. H.M.S. CARADOC, in
Persian Gulf. H.M.S. DAUNTLESS, refitting at Simonstown.

(e) 2 battleships, carrier and available cruisers
carrying out training exercises 21st to 24th December.]

1501Z/22

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

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

C.N.A.S.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.

D.T.S.D.

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

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

D.T.D. (M)

D.C. (2)

U.S.N.

D. A/S W.

Hd. of M.

D.T.D. (3)

Ad. Blake.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

A.C.N.A.S.

D.N.A.D.

D.A.C.D.

Hd. of Air.

D. of P. (2)

786

22.12.1942
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EKMA Your 1337/19 (re use of EKMA for transport).
 Agree but request EKMA be expedited as much as
 possible as it is most important to include her in
C.M. 37 from Durban. Request report of her anticipated date of
arrival Durban.
(D.S.T. 2146A/22 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini).

786^B

-2-

swimming or on rafts toward 6 Japanese auxiliary craft between them and (? island). Some shot at while in water. Few picked up by Japanese auxiliaries who made no real effort to rescue P.O.W. Many drowned. About 200 (? repeat) 200 landed Annual Island in CHU(?S)AN Archipelago off Chekiang Province but were taken off next day by Japanese destroyer. 3 escapees persuaded Chinese hide them. Now en route to Calcutta with orders report to Embarkation Commandant. I am issuing statement to Press.

034^{5/02}.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2).

2nd S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (UT).

P.A.S. (S).

N.A. 1st S.L.

Ops. (3).

O.D. (5).

O.I.C. (3).

D.N.I. (4).

M. (2).

D.P.D.

D.T.D. (4).

D.T.D. (M).

D.T.D. (C).

M.D.G.

N.L.

D.P.S. (2).

N.

C.W. (2).

I.P. (2).

W.D.

Circulation by W.O.

D.D.M.I. (P/W)

D.D.P.W.

P.W. 2. 2 (a)

M.I. 2. 2 (e) 9 17

M.O. 2. 12.

I.P. 3.

Cas.

Cas. P.W.

Foreign Office (P.W. Dept.)

Colonial Office (Lt. Col. Cole)

P.I.D. F.O. (Col. Johnston).

B. 11.

B. 11.

787

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- O.N. 153. Indefinite bearings on 4540 k/cs at 2237Z/21 indicate one or more U-Boats still in vicinity O.N.153.
(D.D.I.C., 0030A/22 to Escorts O.N.153.)
- CAPETOWN
CASTLE,
BANFORA. Your 2050/19. Sailing date of CAPETOWN CASTLE should be about 4 days after her arrival.
2. BANFORA will sail in first possible H.X. convoy after her arrival, probably H.X.221.
3. CAPETOWN CASTLE is not a similar case to ANDES, for which ship and EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND special arrangements have been made to allow them to proceed independently and fully loaded.
4. See my 2201Z/21 to Admiralty.
(B.A.D., 0141Z/22 to N.S.H.Q., (R) D. of S.T., Admty.)
- U/B. Following received from Lands End Radio.
Intercept 0126 G.M.T. de NAA CQ DE NAU HR RDH
Trinidad CK 10 Govt. Navy urgent 21, 2052? G.M.T.
Warwarning sub sighted 12.13 N. 59.54 W. 1835Z/21.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0228/22 to Admty.)
- Tankers for "Torch" Area. Your 1953/13th. Following is intention regarding special fast tanker convoy from Dutch West Indies to Gibraltar.
2. 5 and possible a 6th tanker are assembling at Curacao ready to sail on 8th Jan.
3. Escort consisting of *RACEHORSE, *QUICKMATCH and *REDOUBT leave Norfolk (Virginia) 3rd Jan. for Curacao arriving 7th Jan.
4. Convoy will be sailed to Gibraltar as routed by Connav.
(B.A.D., 0341Z/22 to Admty., (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.A.F.A.C., Commandant 5th U.S. Naval District Hampton Roads, VICTORIOUS, S.B.N.O.W.A., N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, V.A. Gibraltar, C.E.S.F., C.C.S.F.)
See also B.A.D. 2247/22 and 1601/24. ** See next page.*
- LINCOLN,
CHELSEA,
*HARTSBRIDGE. Every effort should be made to fuel LINCOLN from convoy. CHELSEA departing today to join.
F.O.N.F. requested to sail any tug or salvage equipment available to assist HARTSBRIDGE.
(C.T.24, 0539Z/22 to F.O.N.F., C.T.U. 24.12.1,
(R) C. in C. W.A., Connav, Admty., N.S.H.Q.)
** See next page*
- O.N. 152. Indefinite bearings on 4600 k/cs at 0733Z/22 indicate U-Boat still in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 0925A/22 to Escorts O.N.152.)
- Lake Tanker Escort. My 1420QR/17th (re escort for 6 Lake tankers). Convoy will not sail as oil company have received instructions from London that (tanker message) Ocean tankers are expected to be allocated for this trip in near future.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1030QR/22 to Admty.)

/ETNA ...

War Diary.

22.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

→ ETNA Sixteen survivors including Master from ETNA, Swedish, arrived Port Castries today. Ship torpedoed about 850 miles east of Barbados 14th Dec. 11 men in another boat still adrift. (B.S.N.O. R.O. St. Lucia, 1043Q/22 to B.S.N.O. Trinidad, S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
11 survivors ex ETNA Swedish landed Barbados 22nd Dec. 1 lifeboat with 16 survivors still missing. Vessel torpedoed 0430 G.M.T. 017° 50' N. 046° 20' W. Vessel had nav. light burning, submarine signalled by lamp asking name nationality cargo and destination, vessel replied and was given 30 minutes to abandon ship which was then sunk by 1 torpedo. No description of submarine available. Lifeboats became separated night of 14th request air search. (Harbour Master Barbados, 1912/22 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.S.N.O. Trinidad.)

Movements	1800 G.M.T. 22nd Dec.			
Summary.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
	Convoy			
	F.T.T. 5	} 12° N. 29° W.	278°	8
	BURDOCK			
	T.A. 31A	52½° N. 47° W.	208°	19
	T.A. 31	59½° N. 31° W.	270°	26
	(D.O.D.(F), 1105Z/22 to Opanav, (R) Connaveu.)			

SAGUENAY. Tugs SECURITY (U.S.) and ST. ANNE sailed with tow SAGUENAY for St. John N.B. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1122Z/22 to Admty.)

Swedish Lifeboat. At 1045Q/21st in approx. 28 miles West of North Point, St. Lucia, British COLISTER (? met) with lifeboat with Swedish flag containing about 25 men who refused embarkation for St. Lucia requesting tow to Martinique. Boat left sailing towards St. Lucia. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1141R/22 to C.C.S.F., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Port of Spain, Connav, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

→ W.D. Note - Was from Swedish ETNA, see 1101R/25.

VICTORIOUS, *RACEHORSE, *QUICKMATCH, *REDOUBT. On account of general U/B situation alter course from (C) to new (G) 42.58 N. 31.02 W. thence to (F) omitting (D) and (E). (D.O.D.(H), 1207A/22 to VICTORIOUS, (R) RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT, Connav, C. in C. H.F. etc.)

* See previous page (Tombah country)

CALDWELL, HARTSBRIDGE. Your 0539/22nd (N.T. in W.D.) If Tug TENACITY is able to handle CALDWELL unassisted will divert Tug FRISKY which is now proceeding towards CALDWELL to HARTSBRIDGE. No escort available since FRISKY's present escort SARNIA has insufficient endurance. (C.C.N.F., 1301Z/22 to C.T.24, (R) Connav, C. in C. W.A., C.T.U. 24.12.1, Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

MANSFIELD. MANSFIELD departs Boston 1700Q Dec. 22nd en route for St. Johns N.F. Speed 15. E.T.A. daylight Dec. 25th. Route 43.05 N. 69° W. 43.05 N. 65.32 W. thence to Sambro light vessel, to 45.05 N. 61.02 W. 45.55 N. 59.32 W. thence to Cape Race. To MANSFIELD by hand. (Comdr. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston, 1410Z/22 to C.E.S.F., (R) C.O.A.C., C.T.24, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., Admty., F.O.N.F.)

U.S. Mission J.S.M. 600 22nd Dec. 1942.
for Dakar. Following signal has been received from Admiral Glassford addressed Combined Chiefs of Staff (R) British Chiefs of Staff.
(Begins). Refer last sentence para. 4 your letter of instructions 9th Dec. One British Naval and one British Air representative should be attached to the American Mission immediately. This request is made with full concurrence of Governor General Boisson. Please acknowledge. (Ends).
(J.S.M., 1529Z/22 to War Cabinet Offices.)

U/B S/M situation Dec. 22nd and U.S. S/M Notice.
Positions. (Cominch, 1531/22, 1532/22, 1602/22, 1603/22.)

DESTINY. Your 1525/21st Dec.
DESTINY should continue to U.K. with L.C.I.(L)s.
(D.O.D.(F), 1532A/22 to B.A.D.)

ATTACKER. Arrived Balboa 0800, ATTACKER.
(B.R.L.O. Balboa, 1610R/22 to Admty.)

U.S. Departure 22nd Dec. U.S. Army Transport EL
Movements. LIBERTADOR, U.S.S. YEATON, U.S. Submarine Chaser
S.C. No.503. All Trinidad 23rd Dec.
(Harbour Master, Barbados, 1644/22 to Admty.,
(R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Arrival 21st Dec. U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1850Z/22 to Admty.)
San Francisco Dec. 20th LURLINE (U.S.A.T.) for Honolulu.
(N.S.H.Q., 2332Z/22 to Admty.)

Attacks Cominch 2002/22.
on U/Bs. See U-Boat Campaign.

MILFORD,
TAMARISK,
YESTOR. Your 1202/21st Dec. (re sailing MILFORD and
TAMARISK and YESTOR) approved.
Further signal is being made on future employment
of these ships.
(D.O.D.(F), 2045A/22 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

/L.C.I.(L)s ...

789A

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.)

MESSAGE. 1645Z/22nd December. IN.

From : C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date. 23. 12. 42.

Time. 0150.

Naval Cypher S by W/T.

Addressed : Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Section North West
RED DEER escorting 6 new vessels Fairmile
045 degs. 33' 060 degs. 14' en route for Halifax.

Tug FELICIA en route for Mul(grave?) from Souris
Prince Edward Is.

CAMPOBELLO, BURLINGTON, MEDICINE HAT, vicinity
Chandorr thence proceed to Sydney C.B.

* Tug PREVENTOR and barge vicinity 046 degs. 45' 061 degs
00' coastwise to Canso.

**M/v. 317 tons - Not given as being in Lloyd's.*

1645Z/22.

Advance copy Ops., Trade.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

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.D.O.D. (C)(2)

D.M.S.

D.M.S. Cit.

C.C.R.T. (2)

MLC U.S.N. (3)

790

War Diary.22.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.L.C.I.(L)s
LARIAT.

Bermuda arrivals L.C.I.(L)s 164, 98, 100, 166, 167, 168, 239 and H.M. Tug LARIAT.
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 2049Z/22 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., V.A. Gibraltar, S.O.I. Jamaica, C. in C. W.A.)

SEAWOLF.

When ready about Dec. 27th route SEAWOLF to Halifax for onward routeing via St. Johns Newfoundland to Holy Loch. Report time of departure, route, S. of A.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2101/22 to Comdr. S/M Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), (R) C.E.S.F., Comdt. 3, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.T. 24, C.O.A.C., C.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Shipping
Casualties.

→Connav Serial 22. OMBILIN reported torpedoed 12th Dec. 07° 25' N. 39° 19' W. MONTREAL CITY torpedoed 21st Dec. 50° 28' N. 38° 00' W. Convoy O.N.152.
(Connav, 2125/22 to Comnav.)

B.5 Group.

My thanks and appreciation for the efficient services of the British B.5 Group departing from my command and best wishes for continued success in their new assignment.
(Connav, 2134/22 to Admty., (R) C.E.S.F.)

Sub attack
and sighting
summary.

→Para. A. OMBILIN torpedoed presumed sunk 07.25 N. 39.19 W. 1845Z/12.
Para. B. Sub sighted on surface 00.20 S. 29.34 W. about 1615Z/22.
Para. C. TREVALGAN 609 on conning tower. P.B.Y. sights sub. on surface 12.13 N. 59.54 W. 1835Z/21.
(Cominch, 2145/22 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

BULKOIL.

Request present whereabouts of BULKOIL and E.T.A. at her next destination.
2. Is destination Curacao?
3. This is urgently required as it may be necessary to arrange another tanker fitted for oiling at sea should BULKOIL not be available for convoy mentioned in my 0341/22.
(B.A.D., 2247Z/22 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)

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22.12.1942.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S.
Movements.

Arrival Wellington U.S. destroyer GRAYSON escorting U.S. Ships CRESCENT CITY, PRESIDENT ADAMS, PRESIDENT HAYES, PRESIDENT JACKSON. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0228Z/22 to Admty., (R) N.B. Melbourne.)

Situation.

Digest Serial No.334 Dec. 21st.
Two unidentified medium bombers dropped bombs vicinity airfield Moresby night 21st/22nd without effect, nil interception owing clouds.
2. Photo R/C Rabaul 21st reveals 1 heavy cruiser, 20 destroyers, 2 patrol craft, 1 torpedo boat, 2 submarines, 1 minelayer, 2 seaplane tenders (1 Chiyoda class), 3 tankers, 44 merchant vessels including 8 10,000 tons, 21 5-7000 tons, 13 1-4000 tons totalling approx. 242,000 tons, also numerous harbour craft, 4 flying boats, 5 float planes. 3 medium bombers 20 fighters Lakunai aerodrome where new dispersal Bays, Lanes and Buildings observed intense activity apparent. 25 medium bombers COUNALANAU where new dispersal under construction runway being developed.
3. Confirmation received enemy landed GADANG night 18th/19th and has occupied three positions within radius ten miles of Madang. 2 small sailing vessels observed there morning 21st.
4. Three BOSTONS attacked Giroia Point (Buna area) afternoon 20th. 4 B.L.25s attacked Buna Government Station area morning 21st.
5. Allied troops continue pressure from west against Buna Government Station area and from east against positions west of Simemi Creek. 186 Rabaul natives captured Amboga area Dec. 20th.
6. One possible destroyer reported sighted 7° 38' S. 148° 4' E. night 21st course 30°. R/C aircraft claims two near misses.
7. Two 500 ton vessels at Finschaffien attacked by 3 Fortresses afternoon 21st scoring direct hit amidships one vessel left burning direct hit demolishing stern other vessel.
8. One small vessel arrived and departed Buka Passage 21st leaving one transport in passage.
9. Enemy reported living on launches hidden Mouth Mambare during day and moving north-west at night.
10. Considerable patrol activity continues central Timor. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0655Z/22 to Admty., etc.)

SOUTH SEA~~s~~
sunk.

On 19th Dec. H.M.N.Z.S. SOUTH SEA~~s~~, *A/S M/S Trawler, was in collision with an Inter-Island Ferry in Wellington Harbour and subsequently sank. One rating slightly injured. No other casualties. Main channel clear. (N.Z.N.B., 1701M/22 to Admty., (R) H.C.N.Z.)

* *aux: m/s.*

Movements.

Arrivals 21st Dec., Gladstone, U.S. transports SWARTENHONDT, BONTEKOE. 22nd, Townsville, A.S.I.S. YUNNAN, V.S.I.S. MERKUR. H.T. DUNTROON, R.A.A.F. store ship WANAKA, depart Townsville 20th, due Port

/Moresby ...

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22.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - con. 18.

Movements. Moresby 24th. H.T. TAROONA depart Townsville
(Contd.) 20th due Fall River 23rd. U.S. Fleet Oiler
VICTORIA depart Townsville 21st, due Brisbane
24th. Hospital ship MANUNDA arrived Fall River
18th depart (? 23rd) due Brisbane 22nd. H.T. KATOOMBA depart
Sydney (N.S.W.) 22nd due Townsville 26th.
(A.C.N.B., 1849Z/22 to Admty., Connav.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Positions at 1200Z/22.
(D.D.I.C., 1358A/22, 1359A/22.)

Submarines Attacked.

U.S. Your 1059B/22 July. Dec. 14th patrol squadron
Weekly 83 bombed S/M off Natal Brazil. Resurfaced for
Summary. 20 seconds stopped slowly submerged. Another
attack same locality Dec. 18th by plane. S/M
blown out of water by first bomb and covered by
explosions of second and third bombs. Four patches of bubbles
appeared then bow came out of water at steep angle. Disappeared
with no forward motion. Oil afterwards. 43 attacks reported
in week ending 2400Z/20.
(Cominch, 2002/22 to Admty.)

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

~~Reef~~ Admiral Sir Dudley North has today succeeded Vice-Admiral A.J.L. Murray as F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth.

V.A.2 in ANSON with CUMBERLAND and 3 destroyers left Hvalfjord at 1230 today for Akureyri.

The estimated position of Convoy J.W.51A at 0800 today is 180 miles N.N.E. of Kola Inlet, and of Convoy J.W.51B some 70 miles N.E. of the Faroes.

QUEEN MARY left the Clyde at 0448 this morning bound for Suez.

It is intended in future that, in ordinary circumstances, ships carrying troops between Northern Ireland and U.K. ports North of Holyhead shall sail unescorted and as far as possible during darkness.

A serious fire which broke out in the hold of the M.T. Ship ST. ESSYLT in the Clyde yesterday morning is suspected to have been caused by sabotage; and malicious damage to the Receiver gear in PELICAN at Belfast is believed to have been caused by a member of her crew.

The ports of Tees and Hartlepool, which have been closed on account of suspected minelaying, were re-opened at 0955 today; and Peterhead Harbour was closed at 1310 owing to the weather.

North Atlantic.

The French SS. VAL DE LA HAYE, 385 G.T. previously engaged in traffic between North Spanish ports and Bayonne, made her way to Lisbon, arriving on 21st Dec., as her crew wished to join the Allied Nations. She has a German cargo of 250 tons of zinc. Having obtained clearance from Lisbon she left there at 1800/22 and is now under escort of ST. NECTAN for Gibraltar.

/S.N.O. ...

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic - Contd.

S.N.O. Casablanca Area, reports today on the state of the sunk and damaged ships there.

South Atlantic.

Adm. Darlan today expressed to Gen. Eisenhower his hope that RICHELIEU at Dakar could be permitted to go to the U.S.A. for completion. He is also eager to see the balance of the French naval units requiring additional equipment follow the same course.

Mediterranean.

P.222
Lost.

S/M P.222 is 48 hours overdue and must be considered lost. She was patrolling off Naples, and TIGRIS, about 20 miles away, heard heavy depth charge attacks between 1815 and 1900 on 12th December.

P.219.

S/M P.219 at 2052 sighted a U-Boat in 37.17 N. 8.27 E. dived and rammed at 50 feet.

Sinking not confirmed by Lt. Howard - botham or Cmd. 6843.

Air
Operations.

Adverse weather prevented any offensive operations from Malta last night.

Today, 2 Spitfires and 3 Beaufighters, one of which carried bombs, attacked a 1000 ton M/V escorted by a destroyer and 6 Ju.88s, 090° Sousse 10 miles, scoring a direct bomb hit amidships on the M/V and raking it with cannon and M/G fire.

6 Liberators and 8 American B.24s were sent to attack shipping at Sousse and Tunia last night, but owing to bad weather only 2 Liberators located their objective and bombed through cloud Sousse Harbour and Mahdia railway yards.

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23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.N.B.D.O.2.

The Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, are concerned at the large shipping commitment involved in the despatch of R.M. Group of M.N.B.D.O.2. They cannot anticipate amphibious operations on a scale large enough to require M.N.B.D.O. before North Africa has been cleared and the Mediterranean at least partially opened, and therefore recommend that M.N.B.D.O.2 should not be sent out from U.K. until the Mediterranean is at last partially open. The Chiefs of Staff, however, decided on 28th December that the reasons for sending this organisation in the near future still hold good, and the personnel will be shipped in W.S.26.

East Indies.

Calcutta was raided at 0045/23 for the third night in succession by 3 aircraft at 15,000 feet.

America and West Indies.

Without consulting S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Brigadier Commanding British Troops, Trinidad, has proposed, with approval of local U.S. Commanding General, that U.S. troops take over the examination battery at Gaspar Grande from British Artillery. As British naval authorities are still responsible for the examination service at Trinidad, S.B.N.O. considers this proposal most undesirable, and suggests an objection be raised by the Admiralty with the War Office.

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23.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Nore
Command
Destroyers. Your 1142/22. In view of C. in C. Nore's
1718/22 request you will sail FERNIE to join
Nore Command on arrival of BLEASDALE.
(D.O.D.(H), 1310A/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

F.O.I.C. Great ~~Yarm~~ Admiral Sir Dudley North has this day
Yarmouth. assumed duty as F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth in
succession to Vice Admiral A.J.L. Murray.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2053A/23.)

Movements.

H.33. Your 1901/22. Arrived.
(Capt. S.7, 0630A/23 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

P.49. Your 1746/22. Arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0850A/23 to A.C.O.S.)
*See pp 796A,
797.*

P.229. Intend to sail P.229 escorted by CEDAR for
Portsmouth on 25th December.
(C. in C. Nore, 1124A/23.)

CLYDE. (1) Capt. S.5 is requested to sail CLYDE from
Portsmouth 31st Dec. for Philadelphia.
(3) CLYDE will proceed diving by day when east
of 020° W., estimated S. of A. 170 miles per
24 hours. Speed of advance on surface 12 knots.
(F.O.S., 1128A/23 to Capt. S.5.)

LEEDS. Sail at 1500/26th by standard route to Liverpool
for refit. Adjust speeds A to pass Duncansby
Head at 0900/27 and B to arrive Liverpool at
1200/28.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1145A/23 to LEEDS.)

P.312, GRAPH, F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1618/21. Arrived.
P.216, SEALION, (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1234A/23.)
O.14, LORD Arrived NORTHERN PRIDE and SEALION. *(See other page - See p. 762 C.)*
AUSTIN. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1726A/23.)

See next page
ANSON, Hvalfjord departures V.A.2 in ANSON, CUMBERLAND,
CUMBERLAND. FORESTER, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE in company at
1230 in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1147/18.
E.T.A. Akureyri a.m. tomorrow.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1302A/23 to C. in C. H.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.

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

1721A/23rd December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN 4

From F.O.(S).

Date 23.12.42.

Reed. 1800.

T/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

390.

Position of submarines at 0800A 24th December and movements for following 24 hours

- (A) P.339, SOKOL, TORBAY, P.216, in Norwegian waters east of 15 degs. East. ** See (C) below & previous page*
- (B) P.49, 62 degs. 15' North 01 degs. 12' East routed through 69 degs. 01' North 11 degs. 00' East and 71 degs. 25' North 18 degs. 15' East. *See P. 797 & previous page*
- (C) P.216, 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles routed through 62 degs. 00' North 00 degs. 11' East and 69 degs. 01' North 09 degs. 56' East. *See (B) above & previous page*
- (D) O.14, leaves Lerwick 1200/24th routed through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles 62 degs. 02' North 01 degs. 01' East and 69 degs. 00' North 10 degs. 59' East. *See previous page & P. 797*
- (E) P.312, leaves Lerwick 1600/24th routed through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles 61 degs. 59' North 00 degs. 38' West and 69 degs. 01' North 08 degs. 52' East. *See previous page*
- (F) GRAPH, leaves Lerwick 2200/24th by same route as P.312 submarines in (B) to (F) are proceeding probably on the surface. *See previous page*
- (G) H.43, escorted by AYRSHIRE, vicinity Calf of Man due Holyhead 1600/24th. *See P. 797*
- (H) DOIFLJN, escorted by ST. ELSTAN, vicinity Trevoise Head due 000 degs. Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1500/24th thence unescorted dived by day through 50 degs. 10' North 09 degs. 00' West and 50 degs. 10' North 12 degs. 40' West.
- (J) U.S.S. GURNARD, vicinity 50 degs. North 07 degs. West dived by day to R/V in 000 degs. Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1500/24th with ST. ELSTAN for escort to Clyde.
- (K) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, 47 degs. 32' North 12 degs. 54' West dived by day through 44 degs. 30' North 12 degs. 54' West thence to Zone K.501.
- (L) U.S.S. SHAD, 47 degs. 10' North 12 degs. 26' West dived by day through 44 degs. 50' North 12 degs. 26' West thence to Zone K.502.

(M)/.....

796^B

- 2 -

(M) P. 615 ⁴⁴ degs. 30' North ⁰¹ 13 degs. ⁵² 50' West dived by day due 43 degs. ⁵¹ 01' North ⁰¹ 13 degs. 50' West at 0200/25th December thence to Freetown as ordered by V.A. Gibraltar and R.A. West Africa.

(N) U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K. 505. *See opp page*

(O) U.S.S. BARB on patrol off Vigo. *See p. 808A*

1721A/23

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.D.O.D. (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).

abd

797

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- H. 43. *AYRSHIRE. See p. 796A*
My 1147/22. Sailed.
(Capt. S.7, 1605A/23 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.)
- P. 49. *See p. 796*
P.49 left Lerwick 1610A/23 unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion till 017° E., thence diving by day by route Orange to 071° 25' N. 018° 15' E. thence to waiting position 071° 25' N. 022° 00' E. leaving waiting position 1800A/28 to patrol in R.3.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1615A/23.)
- O. 14.
O.14 arrived Lerwick.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 1617A/23.) *See pp 796 & 796A*
- THALASSA.
Your 1710/22.
Destination of A.B.V. THALASSA is Gibraltar.
Request that she be sailed as escort with the next suitable convoy.
(D.O.D.(H), 1622A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S/M Positions.
At 0800A/24. Details.
(F.O.S., 1721A/23, 2302A/23.)
See Lion Copy.
- Landing Craft State.
Your 2035/22. State of Craft at Inverary is as follows.
Craft position at Toward is as follows. Details.
(S.N.O.C.O.N., 1730A/23 to C.C.O.)
- HAARLEM, DRANGY.
A.M. 1459/18. Sailed HAARLEM and DRANGY, speed 10 knots. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 29th December. Routed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1450A/21st.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1845A/23 to V.A. Gib.)
- ADVENTURE. *See pp 804 & 804A*
Amend my 1257/22 to read:-
(D) 50° 10' N. 15° 01' W. (E) 50° 50' N. 11° 10' W. (F) 180° Bishop Rock Light 10 miles, thence to Plymouth.
(D.O.D.(H), 1949A/23 to ADVENTURE.)
- P. 615. *See opposite.*
My position 048° 00' N. 013° 52' W. Owing to weather estimated time of arrival position O 0900/26th. Request bombing restrictions be amended.
(P.615, 2002A/23 to F.O.S.)

/LEAMINGTON ...

798

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

LEAMINGTON. Intend sailing LEAMINGTON at 1000/24th routed through (A) 060° 00' N. 034° 30' W. (B) 035° 00' N. 043° 50' W., thence direct to St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 1200/28.
(A.C.I.C., 2351A/23 to F.O.N.F.)

Operations.

Patrols. My 1944/22. "Device" returned to harbour at 0957.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1020A/23.)
M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.), 615, 611, 608 are to carry out patrol tonight between positions:- (A) 10 miles South of E.A5 Buoy and (B) 50° 31' N. 0° 35' E.
Patrol is to be in position (A) by 1800/23 and is to keep 10 miles to Southward of convoy C.E.141 during its passage through the command. Afterward returning to patrol near E.A5 Buoy until daylight when it is to enter Portsmouth. Codeword "Advent".
No chasseur patrol off E.A5 Buoy.
Forces at immediate notice: **CHASSEUR** 13 at St. Helens.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1114A/23, 1315A/23.)
N.O.M. 48 is to be brought into force on 25th December but is not to be used for operations on the night 24th/25th.
(C. in C. Nore, 1759/23.)

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland. All tasks now cancelled.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 1145A/23 to H.Q.C.C., 15 Group.)

Communication Your 1731/19 being passed to Admiralty and H.Q.C.C. with Iceland-based A/C. Consider it is of the first importance that A/C employed on convoy escort duty should carry out our standard procedure. This is particularly so regarding Iceland aircraft that operate on the same convoys and in the same areas as 15 Group aircraft.
2. Far from restricting the initiative of Captains of aircraft, it is considered that the new procedure gives A/C far greater scope for using initiative, because the S.O. Escort will allocate a patrol based on information that is not available normally to the A/C. The procedure is considered simple and straight forward and has been welcomed by 15 Group and approved by Coastal Command.
3. With regard to your para. 2 W.A.S.O. appendix 11, short title W.A.E.C. is being issued to A.C.I.C. 24 copies were despatched to A.O.C. Iceland (C) on 8th December. 15 Group A/C carry W.A.E.C. which is a small pamphlet measuring 7 inches by 4½ inches and find it adequate.
4. Request you will give this matter your further consideration.
(C. in C. W.A., 1823/23 to A.C.I.C.)

799

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Tees, My 0615/12, 1145/12, 1231/14. Ports of Tees
Hartlepool. and Hartlepool opened. Normal procedure resumed.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 0955/23.)

KNUT 15 survivors landed from Danish SS. KNUT
believed complement 23. Landed from ship's lifeboat at
mined. Porth Dinlleyn at 1000A/23. 8 more still adrift
on a raft position at 1100A/23, 9 miles S.E.
by E. from Bardsey Island. Area now being
searched. Ship was independently routed from Belfast.
Survivors state explosion by mine or torpedo. Consider
probably a mine as there are a large number now adrift in Irish
Sea.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1221A/23.)
N.O.I.C. Holyhead's 1221A/23. Remaining 8 survivors have
arrived at Liverpool.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1916A/23.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Russian aircraft report 2 unknown vessels in 073°
Vessels. 30' N. 034° 30' E., course 350°, speed 12 knots
at 1028A/23rd.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1133A/23 to H.F.)

Operational.)
Your 1133A/23 to OPPORTUNE and MATCHLESS. Acknowledged.
(OPPORTUNE, 1220A/23 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Your 1220A/23rd acknowledged.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1310A/23 to OPPORTUNE.)

Sandnessjoen My R.S.1530. Harbour Master of Christiansund
and Leir announces as from Dec. 11th:
Fjord. (1) Harbour of Sandnessjoen closed to all traffic
except Rutebater between 1600 and 0900. All
other vessels and boats must anchor over night
in outer roads.
(2) All vessels and boats must advise intention to navigate
Leir Fjord (whether by day or night) to Harbour Master of
Sandnessjoen.
(3) Vessels disobeying these orders will be fired on.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1517/23 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat Am over enemy S/M in 46° 50' N. 09° 20' W.
attacked. (A/C DO8P, 0320/23 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and
estimate 1 hit.
(A/C DO8P, 0320/23 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats A.M. 0011A/24. Additional bearings show this
reported. U-Boat is not in your area.
(D.D.I.C., 0501A/24 to Escorts U.G.S.3.)

An aircraft of Bomber Command reports sighting a S/M at 1700/23
in 050° 41' N. 005° 55' W. steering 025°. Graded C.3.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2201A/23 to Escorts W.P. and P.W. Convoys.)

800

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Peterhead. Peterhead Harbour closed owing to weather. Peterhead Bay remains open. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1310/23.)

Casualties and Defects.

WELLS, Your 1653A/22. WELLS has 2 main steam joints
LANCASTER. to be re-made. This work is being undertaken alongside *SANDHURST commencing 28th. LANCASTER has sustained severe weather damage which is under examination at Greenock.

(R.A.M., 1014A/23 to Admty.) * *Destiny in Depot Ship, Clyde.*

LANCASTER is required for convoy duty leaving Milford Haven 30th December. Request early information whether she can be made seaworthy in time to comply.

(R.A.M., 1028A/23 to Capt. D. Greenock.)

Tanker. Passed abandoned Tanker in 050° 51' N. 018° 26' W. at 1430Z/20. Tanker laden and holed in 10 starboard quarter. Not likely to sink. Boarding impossible in gale. Tanker resembles illustration 2036 in Talbot Booth 2, 1942. (QUILLIAM, 1021Z/23 to Admty.)

JAN VAN GOYEN. JAN VAN GOYEN reported her position 051° 00' N. 027° 11' W. at 2000A/22nd. (C. in C. W.A., 1024A/23 to LAGAN.) My 2127/22. JAN VAN GOYEN reports completely disabled in 051° 00' N. 027° 11' W. at 2000A/22nd. LAGAN and Tug PROSPEROUS have been sailed to her assistance and should arrive shortly. Proceed to position indicated and endeavour to locate. Ship is at present drifting N.N.E. 2½ knots. (C. in C. W.A., 1133A/23 to BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE.)

PETUNIA. PETUNIA. Ship completed and proceeded down river to Tail of Bank p.m. 22nd. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1052/23 to Admty.)

Unknown Ship. S O S at latitude 46.20 longitude 08.16. (A/C C7GX, 1138Z/23 to Gibraltar.)

CARNATIC. K.M.S.6. Completion of repairs to leaking seams on waterline in CARNATIC cannot be effected without docking which has been arranged for 26th. Estimated date of completion 29th. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1232A/23.)

RESTIGOUCHE. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1536A/23.)

/ST. ESSYLT ...

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

ST. ESSYLT. SAINT ESSYLT arrived in Clyde 23rd November, proceeding up river to King George V dock 30th November and came down river 21st December in readiness for convoy K.M.S.6. A serious fire occurred a.m. 22nd December which appears to have originated among smoke floats stowed in ship's hold and which gave off heavy thick fumes similar to those of turpentine. Fire was extinguished by local fire services and help of troops on board. There is a strong suspicion of sabotage. Request enquiry.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1604A/23 to D.N.I.)

BULLDOG, Hove to in 180° Stokksnes Light 8 miles.
ACHATES. ACHATES in company. Southerly gale force 12.
(BULLDOG, 1628A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 1602A/23. Extensive structural damage due to weather. Ship unfit for extended operations. Intend returning U.K. ACHATES reports mast sprung is acting independently.
(BULLDOG, 2045A/23 to C. in C. H.F., WISTARIA, A.C.I.C.)

NUTFIELD. My 0950/5/12. NUTFIELD refloated p.m. today and entered Tyne in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1645/23.)
NUTFIELD floated, towed into Tyne, now berthed Albert Edward Dock.
(Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2118/23 to Admty.)

PELICAN. On 18th and 22nd December damage was caused to the Range and Deflection Receiver, Elevating and Training Receivers and Fuse Settings Receiver on A and B Guns in PELICAN while alongside at Belfast. All evidence points to malicious damage (probably by member of crew) and not to organised sabotage. Court of Inquiry is being held.
(S.O.(I) Belfast, 1721/23 to D.N.I.)

IRISH ASH. Intercept at 1729 G.M.T. from Valencia Radio begins:- Wexford 1.33 23 1755 Master IRISH ASH Valencia Radio - Message received no Tug available. If you consider serious risk to vessel we suggest you accept such assistance as offers understand KENMARE in vicinity. Advise regularly. Wexford Steamships. End..
(Wick Radio, 1835 B.S.T./23.)
Intercept at 1737 G.M.T. KENMARE standing by IRISH ASH 1½ miles (remainder unread). End.
(Wick Radio, 1840 B.S.T./23.)

PAUL RYKENS. My 1030A/23. O.N.S.UJ.156. H.M.T PAUL RYKENS returning Belfast with boiler defects. Regret no relief trawler available for O.N.S.UJ.156.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 2040A/23 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

802

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

W.S. 25W. My 1148/21. Sailed. Codeword "Donkey". Add
(QUEEN MARY) 24 hours to all times.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0448A/23.)
Derelict tanker reported in 50.51 N. 18.26 W.

at 1430Z/20.

2. You should overtake south-westbound convoy on your starboard
hand about 0600Z/24.

(D.O.D.H., 1826A/23 to W.S.25W.)

M.K.F. 4Y.

Arrived SPEY, ROTHER.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0810A/23.)
Arrived Clyde portion of M.K.F. 4Y.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1626A/23.)

J.W. 51B,

J.W. 52.

Your Mast 294. Feel certain that Russians will
insist on use of Ekonomia as well as Molotovsk
if you agree to send five dry cargo ships ex
J.W. 51B to White Sea. Port of Krassin has

bilateral Symsina Bars. Do not consider there is much greater
risk attached to use of Ekonomia. Would you agree ships should
proceed there rather than wait for berths at Molotovsk. Owing
to draft considerations it will involve different ships being
sent to White Sea.

2. While it is reasonable hope turn-round ships of J.W.51 in
Murmansk will be satisfactory there is considerable uncertainty
about turn-round ships of J.W.52. Strongly recommend you main-
tain your policy of ballasting all ships of J.W.52.

3. Cannot see much export cargo being stored in Murmansk Port
area. We cannot get storage space for 400 tons stores there.
Dispersal policy being followed.

4. (? Do) not recommend we should justify any forward calculations
on using White Sea Ports after J.W. 51B.

5. How many ships are you prepared to risk at one time in White
Sea where they may be frozen in.

6. What difference does this make to another policy concerning
EMPIRE BARD. Have insisted she must meet coal-burning vessels
J.W.52 for replenishment of bunkers.

7. Hope your hint in Mast 275 will remain unchanged. Am
relying on this coal.

8. Can you give me a general idea of proposed westbound convoy
cycle.

(Dalgleish, 0817A/23 to Admty.)

K.M.S. 6.

Intend to sail Clyde portion passing Clyde Boom
1600A/24 to R/V with Liverpool portion and escort
from Londonderry in position (L) at 1000A/25.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0946A/23.)

S.C. 112.

Request KIRKELLA be sailed to position O°
Altacarry 3 miles to meet S.C.112. E.T.A.
position "A" 0300Z/24.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0948Z/23 to N.O.I.C.
Londonderry.) *See over.*

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - 4/2/51.

- S.C.112. (Contd.) (1) KIRKELLA will meet B portion. SCIMITAR is then proceed Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A., 1118A/23 to SCIMITAR.) Cdre. reports S.C.112 hove in 056° 30' N. 010° 00' W. approx. at 1100. Weather 3934 0349. (SCIMITAR, 1425Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.112 scattered by gale and low visibility. Am remaining hove to in the vicinity. SHIKARI in company. Intend collecting ships when weather moderates. (SCIMITAR, 1750A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.X. 8. Ready to leave Milford Haven 30th December. Ships and destinations. (D.O.D.(H), 1300A/23.) See Lion Copy. *next page.*
- Admiralty 1653/22. TANATSIDE detailed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1401A/23.)
- Admiralty 1653/22. LAUDERDALE detailed. (C. in C. W.A., 1749A/23 to Admt.)
- Troopships between Ireland and U.K. Your 1927/22. Concur. (D.O.D.(H), 1317A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
- M.K.S. 3Y. Arrivals: HARVESTER at 1150 and SARDONYX and AZALEA with convoy M.K.S. 3Y at 1417. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1430A/23.) Arrived Clyde portion M.K.S. 3Y. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2104A/23.)
- ^F
K.M.S. 6. Intend sailing ORMONDE, ORONTE^s, DERBYSHIRE, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and STAFFORDSHIRE escorted by SARDONYX 1330A/25, speed 12 knots, to R/V with Clyde section at 1000A/26 in 270° Oversay 6 miles. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1540A/23.)
- K.M.F. 4I. Your 1201A/22. It is regretted that in A.M. 1334A/22nd November, "Paragraph 1(B) destination Oran" was decyphered as "Paragraph 1(B) destination Gibraltar". These ships were therefore included in Gibraltar section of convoy. (2) Attention was drawn to the dangerous Juxta position of groups for Oran and Gibraltar in my 1609A/15th December. (3) If, as stated by N.C.S. Officer Mersey, these ships had their correct destinations in sealed envelopes, it is difficult to understand who gave OTRANTO route orders for Algiers instead of Oran. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1548A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
- U.R. 55. Sailing postponed 15 hours owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1640A/23.)

/K.X.7A ...

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 1300A/23 Dec. OUT

Date 23.12.42

Addressed - C. in C.W.A. 77.
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven
N.C.S.O. Milford Haven
Repeated N.C.S.O. Greenock
N.C.S.O. Liverpool
F.O.I.C. Greenock
F.O.I.C. Liverpool
F.O.I.C. Cardiff
C. in C. Plymouth 611
F.O.C.N.A. 834
N.C.X.F.47
A.F.H.Q.
COMINCH
C. in C.H.F. 474 Basegram.
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.

Naval Cypher C.

From - Admiralty.

Convoy KX8 will be ready to leave Milford Haven for destinations as stated on 30th December.

(a) For Huelva	S.S. PENOLVER " EMPIRE TRENT
(b) For Seville	S.S. OPORTO " EMPIRE KESTREL
(c) For Lisbon	S.S. KINGSLAND " EMPIRE USK " ALGERIAN
(d) For Gibraltar	S.S. EMPIRE MOON " SPERO " EMPIRE LORENZO " GRODNO " YEARBY " ATLANTIC COAST " CARSLÖGIE " ALRESFORD " SALTWICK " INGERFIRE " MARSA " PLM 14 " WELSH TRADE " SOUTHGATE Salvage Ship SALVENTURE
(e) For Oran	S.S. UTAHAN " LWCW " LOCHIE " BLENHEIM

803^B

(2)

- (f) For Algiers S.S. KINGSBOROUGH
" FORT CONFIDENCE
- (g) For Bougie S.S. EMPIRE NIGHTINGALE
- (h) For Bone S.S. ASHANTIAN
2. EMPIRE MOON is a C.A.M. ship.
3. WELSH TRADER carries H.D.M.Ls for Gibraltar, remainder of cargo for Bone.
4. EMPIRE LORENZO is a Crane ship for discharge at Gibraltar thence as ordered by N.C.X.F.
5. INGERFIRE and MARSA carry aeroplanes for Gibraltar.
6. LWOW after discharging meat at Oran is to proceed to Gibraltar.
7. SOUTHGATE carries aircraft for Gibraltar. Remainder of cargo for Oran.
8. Speed of slowest ship $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
9. Admiralty will promulgate route south of Ireland.
10. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue instructions as regards ships for Spain and Portugal arranging escort as requisite.
11. Escorts will be provided by 6 destroyers. A.M.1653/22 not to all addressees refers. *See 803.*
12. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to arrange convoy conference on 29th December and to sail all ships as requisite.

1300A/23

for 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)
D. of S.T.
I.F. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt. (2)
Ad. Blake
C.C.O (2)
U.S.N. (3)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

DAT.

804

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.X. 7A.

My 1122/22. Convoy estimated to be in position
(D) at 0600A/24.
(C. in C. W.A., 1830A/23 to STARWORT.)
Your 1830A/23. My position 2100/23 050° 31' N.
012° 38' W., speed 6 knots.
(SLAZAK, 2125A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

805

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.Tankers
for "Torch"
area.Your 1230/21st para. 2. (re HAVELOCK convoy)
This will be arranged.
(N.C.X.F., 1100A/23 to Admty).
Your 0145/18. This will be arranged.
(N.C.X.F., 1111A/23 to B.A.D.)IRENÉE DU
PONT.My 0425/15th. K.97 IRENÉE DU PONT missed K.M.F.5
and will now sail in K.M.S.6 leaving 25th Dec.
(D.S.T., 2153A/23 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)North Atlantic.

U/Bs* P.247.

2 U-boats patrolling vicinity 028° 05' N.,
(?008° intended) 46' E.
* See pp 813 & 816 (P.247 0132A/23 to N.C.X.F.)

U/B

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 36° 16' N., 02°
13' W., probably a submarine.
(A/C UM9W., 0140/23).ST. NECTAN
1 M/V.My 1331A/22nd. Para. 3. Amend to read ST. NECTAN
1 M/V left Tagus 2200A/22nd for Gibraltar 7.
See next page (V.A. Gib., 0346A/23 to N.A. Stn).
(VAL DELA HAYE) 4/20 p.508B

Movements

Arrivals SOUTHERN GEM escorting GRYFEVALE.
(V.A. Gib., 0530A/23 to F.O.C. W.Af. N.O.I.C.
Bathurst (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca
Area).

Arrival ERNE, SANDWICH with SS. ORDUNA.

(V.A. Gib. 1415/23 to Admty. N.C.X.F. (R) R.A., W.A.,
S.N.O. Casablanca Area).See A.808 BALUCHISTAN left Ponta Delgada 1515 G.M.T./23. QUILLIAM
arrived 1700.(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1520C/23 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar,
(R) Admty).

→ ROCKWOOD arrived Ponta Delgada 1930 G.M.T. 23rd.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1735/23 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar,
(R) Admty). → See next page (A.808)Sailed LORD HOTHAM escorting SS. JADE and RONAN to
Guadalquiver thence to R/V SS. EMPIRE FRANKLIN and META of
Lisbon for escort to Gibraltar. See A.808A
(V.A. Gib., 1756A/23 to Admty).

/Air...

War Diary.

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Air Report. AI 255 23rd Dec. Opsum to Midnight 22nd Dec. U-boat strafings and attacks. Catalina HOW/202 0831/22 when in position LBXP1005 sighted U-boat 243/12 - 15 miles course 140 8 knots approx. U-boat dived when A/C was 8 miles distant, on reaching position captain saw oil streak heading 140° also some wood and packing material line straw A/S was on escort to 5 L.C.Is. (A.H.Q., Gibraltar, 0735Z/23).

BLYSKAWICA. My 1855/22nd not to Admty. Sailed 0723 O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA to join Force H. (V.A. Gib., 0931/23 to S.O. Force H., N.O.I.C. Oran (R) N.C.X.F. Admty).

W.S.25 P.C. and S. at 1200Z/23 040° 12' N., 023° 50' W. A. 180° 11½ knots. Escorts arrive Ponta Delgada, QUILLIAM and ROCKWOOD p.m./23 HAYDON, WOLVERINE and BADSWORTH on first (sic). Weather report. 1955 2047. My position 039° 35' N., 024° 47' W. (QUILLIAM, 1001Z/23 to Admty, V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Western Approaches, (R) F.O.C.W.Af). *See previous page (Resumate)* W.S.25BQ. Alter course forthwith to pass through new position X. 34° N., 25° W., thence to U. omitting T. (D.O.D. (F) 1228A/23 to Escorts of W.S.25 (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W. Af., C. in C. S.A.)

VAL DE LA HAYE. Lisbon successful in obtaining clearance for French SS. VAL DE LA HAYE. Ship sailed from there 1800/22 and is now being escorted to Gibraltar. *See previous page* (V.A. Gib., 1014A/23 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty). *4 p. 508B*

French SS. VAL DE LA HAYE, 385 G.T. previously engaged in traffic between North Spanish Ports and Bayonne, made her way to Lisbon as crew wish to join Allied Nations arriving there December 21st. 2. Ship has a German cargo of 250 tons zinc and is now en route Gibraltar under escort ST. NECTAN having obtained clearance from Lisbon.

3. Armed Guard was placed on board by escort off Lisbon merely as precautionary measure.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1132A/23 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).

Ref. 1847/23 from V.A. Gib. (N.T. in W.R.) Suggest you advise R/V our position 36.56 N., 7.22 W., speed 5 knots.

(KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, 2340/23 to ST. NECTAN).

Your 1847A/23rd. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE independent. My S. of A. only 6 knots. Suggest motor launches take over VAL DE LA HAYE at time and place indicated. Alternatively could R/V KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE 270° San Sebastian 6 miles at 0800A/24th My position 036° 41' N., 007° 25' W., course 103°. (ST. NECTAN, 2345A/23 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE).

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War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

PINK

*See p. 808^c*PINK arrived Ponta Delgada 1200 G.M.T./23rd.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1027/23 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar (R) Admty).Casablanca,
wrecks.

Your 2020A/16 (2030/16 intended) Report ships on Casablanca area as follows. At Lyautey TOUSS-IKA sunk by charges in hold, salvage not warranted nor required to clear channel. SALMO sunk same manner, salvage difficult but must be accomplished to clear channel properly, total loss for use. CYRIL and HEBE II scuttled and raised will be ready for Gibraltar in ten days, EXPORT ready. HILDE sunk not yet raised, salvage feasible time indefinite. NYHORN floated, ready for Gibraltar in about five weeks. BELGIEN sunk by mines in hold, survey not completed, ship should be removed to clear channel. STORAA, salvage proceeding slowly, time indefinite. BATAVIA, impracticable salvage, total loss. Ships at Casablanca earlier will sail to Gibraltar with cargo phosphates end December. PENGREEP requires extensive repairs for trip to Gibraltar. No information here on location of ASTORID possibly Danish ESTRID, believed in Marseilles. Ship ETTY believed to be ELSE now named ST. BLAISE, sunk. Survey indicates difficult salvage work must be performed to clear Casablanca Harbour. Statement that NYHORN and EXPORT already dealt with not understood. Request clarification.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1044Z/23 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty etc).

U/B

Am over enemy submarine in position CZTY 54 47
(38.54 N., longitude indecipherable) periscope only sighted when first sighted was on course 140° 3 knots.
(Gibraltar A/C (TVS) Duty M., 1050A/23 to Gib. M/F, D/F).

ADVENTURE

See p. 797 808^A

Several U-boats estimated in your vicinity today
Wednesday.
(D.D.I.C., 1130A/23 to ADVENTURE (R) N.C.X.F.,
V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

HORORATA

See next page

A.M. 1327/22nd. Lloyds Surveyor is of opinion that HORORATA could be docked but repair work could not be carried out due to her beam which gives small clearance between Dock Wall and ship beam.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1159/23 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.
N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

E.T.6

Arrival BRAMHAM, SAYONARA, PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE,
LUNENBURG, WEYBURN, SUMMERSIDE, with convoy
E.T.6.
(V.A. Gib., 1226A/23 1131A/24 to Admty).

/BALUCHISTAN...

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

BALUCHISTAN
See p. 805.
(Procediments)
Proceed through following positions (A) 030° 01' N., 025° 01' W., (B) 020° 01' N., 023° 01' W. thence as routed by F.O.C.W.A., S. of A. 12 knots.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1710A/23 to BALUCHISTAN (R)Admty)

U/B
Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in position 39.35 N., 14.39 W. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 270° speed 4.
(Gib. A/C using call sign TV5 1723A/23)
Position corrected by 0950/24 q.v.

Transfer of S/Ms.
Your 1500/22nd Dec. (Re transfer of STURGEON, P.54, TRIBUNE and URSULA to 8th S/M Flotilla). Agree as to P.54.
(Capt. S.9., 1821A/23 to Capt. (S) 8).

Repairs for HORORATA.
See previous page
Ref. Admty. 1938/18th and your 1725/19th request early information anticipated date of completion to enable escorts to be sailed.
(Gibraltar, 1825A/23 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) Admty. N.A., Lisbon, V.A. Gibraltar).

TRIBUNE
See p. 812
My 1016/22. S/M sailed 2015.
(V.A. Gib. 2126/23 to Capt. (S) 8 (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, 8th S.F.)

South Atlantic.

F.T.T.5
Cancel para. (2) of my 1615/22nd. BURDOCK proceed Ponta Delgada at daylight. ARRAN and INKPEN continue to escort ANGLO-INDIAN, BARON RAMSAY, SHEAFHOLME, and GATHLEMET who are to remain in convoy until dusk 23rd. BURDOCK pass to *ARRAN and *INKPEN.
(F.O.C.W.A., 0209Z/23 to BURDOCK (R) Admty. Connav).

Intend *BURDOCK to arrive Ponta Delgada p.m./28th Dec. to fuel. Estimated requirements 220 tons. Request Portuguese authorities be notified.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1201Z/23 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon, Admty). * *See p. 809B*

W.S.25
List and fuel requirements.
(D.S.T., 0312A/23 to F.O.C.W.A. etc)
See Lion Copy.

/Your...

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 1333A/23rd December. IN
From. V.A. Gibraltar Date. 24.12.42.
Naval Cypher 3(S) By W/T Recd. 0100

Addressed Situation report for Area X of N.A. Station
IMPORTANT.

Situation at 2004A/23rd.

U.S. S/M BARB on patrol off Vigo. *S. p. 796 B.*

K.M.S.5 H.M.S. LONDONERRY, 4 sloops, 6 corvettes,
H.M.S. FLEETWOOD, H.M.S. VELOX, H.M.S. PENTSTEMON, H.M.S.
VENOMOUS, H.M.S. CONVULVULUS, H.M.S. WIVERN, SAMPHIRE,
VETCH, 35 50 06 14 through Straits of Gibraltar 8.

H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, one merchant ship
34 35 09 51 through 33 01 12 10 thence 206 10½.

H.M.S. ADVENTURE 40 08 12 44 through 44 01 16 20
18. *p. 797 75.07*

Portuguese naval tanker SAMBRAZ 33 22 21 53 62
11.

Portuguese destroyer DOURO left Ponta Delgada
21st (?for) Lisbon.

ARCTIC RANGER, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, 35 55 05 49
repairing (corrupt group).

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, one merchant ship 37 03 07
35 to rendezvous one merchant ship off Huelva at 0300A/24
thence Gibraltar 8. *BLAIRSK*

H.M.S. LORD HOTHAM, 2 merchant ships, 36 02 05 46
8 knots to Chipiona, where merchant ships part company
thence H.M.S. LORD HOTHAM direct to St. Vincent 10. *p. 805*

G.U.S.2, OREGON, 05 12 02 through 31 30 15 01
thence (corrupt group) (corrupt group), U.G.F. 3 34 50
09 55 through 35 02 09 10 to rendezvous British escort
in position 34 05 08 04 at 0900A 24th. Thence Oran
section to Gibraltar remainder to Casablanca 9½.

H.M.S. VANOC, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. ROCHESTER,

/H.M.S. LEITH,.....

808^B

-2-

H.M.S. LEITH, H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH leaving Casablanca
a.m. 24th to rendezvous U.G.F.3 at 0900A 24th in
position 34 05 08 04 and escort Oran section to
Gibraltar.

H.M.S. ST. NECTAN, one merchant ship 36 54
08 01 coastwise to Gibraltar 7.

VAL DE LA HAYE

See pp. 805 & 806

1333A/23.

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(UT)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(3)
D.D.O.D.(M)
F.O.S.(by courier)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
Ad. Blake (2)
D.N.I.(5)
D.M.S.
U.S.N.(3)

AJA.

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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SECRET MESSAGE 1337A/23rd Dec. IN

From:- V.A. Gibraltar. Date. 23.12.42.
Recd. 1615

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed:- North Atlantic Station.

Situation 2002A/23

- (1) PINK leaves Ponta Dolgada P.M. 23rd proceeding Newfoundland. *Imp 807*
- (2) *Fleet Units, RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT, 045° 54' 027° 03' through 042° 58' 031° 02' thence 244° 14. *VICTORIOUS. *Imp. 819, 820 & 824*

1337A/23
Advance copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| N.A. 1st S.L. | M.(2) |
| Capt. Pim, | Mails |
| Ops (3) | Movts. |
| O.D.(5) | I.P.(3) |
| O.D.S. | O.I.C. |
| D.P.S. | W.D. |
| D.A./S.W. | D.T.D.(M) |

MOST SECRET

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

(*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 0312A/23rd December.
OUT.

MOST SECRET.

Addressed F.O.C.W.Af. Date 25.12.42.
C. in C. South Atlantic.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
Repeated N.O.I.C. Durban.

NAVAL CYPHER D. One T.F.

From D. of S.T.

Convoy W S 25.

Ship	Daily Fuel Consumption at Convoy speed	Type of Fuel	Bunkers on leaving U.K.	Water reqd. at Freetown	Fuel reqd. at Freetown	Fuel reqd. in Sth. Africa.
BRITANNIC	63	Diesel	1420	650	1400	500
ESPERANCE BAY	90	Furnace	1875	250	2500	1200
HIGHLAND BRIGADE	50	Diesel	1000	Nil	1400	Nil
HIGHLAND PRINCESS	48	Diesel	1050	150	1300	500
MAJAROA	76	Furnace	1455	600	3300	Nil
ORION	85	Furnace	2000	650	1800	1000
RANGITIKI	40	Diesel	1230	600	1700	Nil
CITY OF LINCOLN	68	Furnace	1040	Nil	1400	600

2. Quantities of fuel required have been reserved from commercial stocks. Commercial reference is D.G.

3. ESPERANCE BAY should bunker to capacity in South Africa and HIGHLAND PRINCESS should sail Durban with 1500 tons.

4. Water requirements have been calculated on basis of 36 days' margin on consumption of 5 gallons per head per day.

5./.....

2.

5. Addressees pass to S.S.T.Os. concerned.

0312A/23

D. of S.T. (M.W.T. 2177)

- 4th S.L.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (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.
- D. of S. (3)

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- W.S.25
Contd. *See p. 209*
Your 1400/23 (N.T. in W.D.) Sailing ILEX as necessary to R/V with convoy W.S.25 in 026° 21' N., 021° 09' W., at 1600Z/27th Dec. and join escort. Convoy consists of 9 ships escorted by *CHESHIRE, QUILLIAM, ROCKWOOD, *CARNARVON CASTLE S.O. routed through (U) 028° N., 022° W., and (V) 020° N., 018° W., speed of advance 11.5.
F.S.COMMANDANT DROGOU is to escort CAP PADARAN to Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A., 1810Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) ILEX, CARNARVON CASTLE, Admty. Ships escorting convoy W.S.25). ** See below*
- HAWKINS. *See next page*
Sailed HAWKINS routed as in my 1234/19 Nov.
(2) S. of A. 18½ knots, E.T.A. Kilindini 1300Z/27 Boom 1400Z/27.
(3) Shifts to group 3 (V) at 0245/26.
(Com. Durban, 0823Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., S.N.O.(A) Kilindini, F.O.E.A. and Z.)
- C.D.3 *See next page*
Simons town departure 1400C/22 FOXHOUND (?) THYME escort C.D.3 to Durban (?).
(C. in C. S.A., 0928C/23 to Admty. Cdre. Durban, C. in C. E.F., (R) N.L.O. Port Elizabeth N.L.O. East London).
- German Mines.
Further to my 1211/14 (German mine type V. star washed ashore at Morgan's Bay) German V Star. modified for Antenna. Badly battered and rusty approx. 2 months out of water, Antenna horns and mooring shackle broken off.
(C. in C. S.A., 1106C/23 to Admty).
- Movements.
Arrival Walvis Bay 1100C/22 KHYBER, SPHENE, Tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter and SS. EMPIRE WARLOCK. SPHENE and INTEGRITY require minor engine repairs.
2. NORWICH CITY arrived 1500C/22nd.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1213C/23 to C. in C. S.A., Admty).
- *ALCANTARA
A.F.D. 24. *See next page*
(1) Intend to use ALCANTARA for ocean escort of A.F.D. XXIV.
(2) Propose *CARNARVON CASTLE to relieve ASTURIAS at Freetown and *CHESHIRE to proceed to Cape, A.M.1811A/20 Nov. refers.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1235Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
** See W.S.25 above*
- O.19 *See next page*
Admty. pass to B.D.Z. Dutch Submarine O.19 has sailed for Freetown on passage to U.K.
(S.S.O. Simonstown, 1302/23 to Admty).

8099

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.)

1053C/23rd December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 23.12.42.

Recd. 1930.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed Ships in Area "Q" of South Atlantic Station, Admiralty,
Repeated Cdre. i/c Durban, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East
London, F.O.C. West Africa.

IMPORTANT

Situation Report E.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, with C F (?10), 013 degs. 30' South 008 degs. 00' East to Freetown 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. *See previous page.*

VIVIANA, 013 degs. 00' South 008 degs. 10' East to Walvis Bay 10.

NORTHERN DUKE, standing by DUNEDIN STAR, in vicinity of 018 degs. 12' South 011 degs. 42' East.

(?H.M.S. FOXHOUND), THYME, with C D (?3) 034 degs. 20' South 023 degs. 40' East to Durban 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See previous page.*

CATTERICK, H.M.S. JASMINE, H.M.S. NIGELLA, with D.N. 8, 030 degs. 15' South 036 degs. 10' East to 030 degs. 24' South 038 degs. 34' East 7 knots.

H.M.S. ARCTIC EXPLORER, H.M.S. LE TIGER, 017 degs. 20' South 010 degs. 10' East to Walvis Bay 10.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE escorting O.19 leaves Simonstown p.m. 23rd for Freetown. *Sailed - see previous page.*

H.M.S. EXPRESS, GENISTA, with D.C. 2, 030 degs. 30' South 030 degs. 50' East to Capetown 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 810.*

H.M.S. HAWKINS (?020 degs.) 20' South 034 degs. 35' East to Kilindini 18. *See previous page.*

1053C/23

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1st S.L.(2). | D.T.D.(3). | |
| V.C.N.S. | D.T.D.(M). | |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2). | Head of M(10). | |
| A.C.N.S.(UT). | D.D.I.C.(2). | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D. of P.(2). | |
| D.O.D.(H)(2). | W.D. | Duty Captain (2). |
| D.O.D.(F)(2). | I.P.(2). | Admiral Blake |

809^B

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.)

SECRET MESSAGE 1111Z/23 December IN

From: F.O.C. W.Af.

Date: 23.12.42.
Time: 1432

NAVAL CYPHER 'M' BY W/T

Addressed: Ships in area P of S.A. Station North of 8°
North. Admiralty. C. in C. S.A. N.O.i/c
Bathurst.

IMPORTANT.

p. 809

H.M.S. ILEX, from Bathurst to Freetown escorting
9½ H.M.S. *BURDOCK, 14 40 30 10 10 12½ *ARRAN, 12 06 32 15
57 8½ at 2003Z 23rd. *INKPEN, 12 23 32 12 102 10. PORTSDOWN,
off Bathurst to 12 50 17 38.

**See p. 808 (F.T.T.S) - 2819*

111Z/23

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade

A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st. S.L.
Capt. Pim Admty. 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)

810

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Repatriations. Arrival 23rd Italian VULCANIA and SATURNIA.
Estimate date of sailing 25th.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1420/23 to Admty. (R)
R.A.W.Af).

D.C. 2 D.C.2 consists of 5 ships sailed southward
See p. 809A 00Z/23rd (as received) escorted by EXPRESS and
 GENISTA, speed 7½ knots, due Capetown p.m./28th
 December. Coastal route. AGULHAS, FORDSDALE,
AYMERIC, LODESTON, Capetown.
EMPIRE FOREST to Pernambuco, routed in accordance with my
serial number 768.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1503Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O.
Capetown, N.O.I.C. East London, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth).

RIPLEY ROYAL STAR arrived Buenos Aires Dec. 23rd having
(sunk 12 rescued on Dec. 13th Chief Officer and 11 other
Dec). survivors all well from SS. RIPLEY. Names in my
 immediately following telegram to Admty. only.
 RIPLEY en route Takoradi to Trinidad was torpedoed
by German Submarine believed to be 740 tons class mounting 2
guns at 1115 A.T.S. on Dec. 12 in 000° 33' S., 033° 04' W.
Ship hit by 2 torpedoes and sank in 15 minutes. All crew
uninjured escaped in 2 boats. All C.Bs. destroyed.
(B.R.L.O. Buenos Aires, 1600/23 1802Z/23 to Admty. Connav,
S.B.N.O.W.A., S.O.(I) Montevideo).

SOUTHERN F.O.C.W.Af. 0959/18 approved.
PRIDE. 2. A/S Whaler SOUTHERN PRIDE can be taken in
 hand for refit in the Rosyth area.
 3. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to sail her as an
A/S Escort to the U.K. as soon as practicable.
(D.A/S.W. 1749A/23 to F.O.C.W.Af. V.A. Gib. (R)
C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F., C. in C. Rosyth, A.S.
Rosyth).

BREDON Your 1501Z/19th received and TURCOMAN^{*} arrived.
ELBRIDGE GERRY should complete here 1st Jan.
estimate one week at Cape Palmas. I have 70%
coal remaining and adequate water.
(BREDON, 2016Z/23 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt. (D)
Freetown).
**: Marshall*

J.T.1 Serial No. 13. Following sailed from Rio de
Janeiro in convoy J.T. 1400Z/23. For Bahia
ARARANGUA Brazilian, for Georgetown MORMACREY
U.S., for Trinidad BRITISH TENACITY, British,
BERA, Sweden, PANAMOCO. U.S. REAPER, U.S., MEVANIA, U.S.
ESSO BAYTOWN, U.S. GULF STATE, U.S. SINCLAIR, H.C., U.S.
VOJVODA PUTNIK, Yugo-Slavian.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2054Z/23 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica,
F.O.I.C. W.A., N.S. Ottawa).

811

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.W.17 Total unloaded to 1700/22nd 2276 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 0045A/23 to C. in C. Med).
M.W.17. Total unloaded to 1700/23rd 4228 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 2351A/23 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Stores. Ref. Troopers 87019 (Q.Ops) of 16.12.1942 repeated Mideast.
First. Have arranged storage on seven months basis and two months working stocks for all commodities in conjunction with other services

Civil Govt. Second. Consider this would hold additional three mouths (?preserved meat). Biscuits, tea and sugar.
(Govr. Malta, No. T.O.O. Recd. 0200/23).

M.K.S.4 M.K.S.4 atmosphere (as received) 2 ships only sailed a.m. investigating delay, further signal will be made.
(Bougie, 0405/23 to N.C.X.F.)

Movements Port Said. My 1602/22nd Dec. Add to arrivals R.F.A. BADAPUR. Add to departures H.M.H.S. DORSETSHIRE.
(N.C.I.C. Port Said, 0827B/23 to Admty etc).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 22nd Dec. EXMOOR, HURSLEY, HURWORTH, CROOME, ALDENHAM, BELVOIR, ANTWERP, BRIGAND.
M.L. No. 1051 T.L.C. Nos. 18, 116.
Departures 22nd. M.L. No. 1032. *See p. 816.*
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0914B/23 0908B/24 to Admty.
C. in C. Med). *(Amended 1st Dec)*

Movements, Algiers. My 2038A/22. Add to Algiers arrivals 21st SPEEDWELL returned from T.E.10. Departures 21st *ALAUNIA to join T.E.10 and AURORA, SCYLLA, QUALITY WHEATLAND, LAMERTON escorting K.M.F.5 to Bone.
(Com Algiers 0924A/23 to Admty).
**ALARM - ALAUNIA in E. 1/2 T.M. - See also p 816*

P.48 *See p. 814* P.48 leaves swept channel at 1500A/23 direct to position K.
(Capt. S.10., 1123A/23 to UNA, P.44).

Cositrep No. 633. 3. Air. Ref. Cositrep No. 632 para. 7. Naval Albacores from Malta located 4,000 ton M/V with three escort vessels and several Siebel ferries and E-boats off western coast of Sicily night 21/22 Dec. Torpedo hit enveloped M/V in smoke and steam, another hit on small escort vessel which crossed path of torpedo, followed by large volume of white smoke. No further trace of latter vessel. Two other escorts seen circling large patch of oil.
R/C Wellington reported fire burning at scene of attack an hour later.

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Con. 18.

Cositrep No. 633. Contd. 4. Night 21/22 Dec. B.24's despatched to attack shipping at Sousse found target area covered by 10/10 cloud. Sousse and Monastir bombed with unobserved results. About 12 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi. Beaufighters and Hurricanes shot down two Ju.88s and one He.111 probably destroyed one Ju.88. Another enemy bomber shot down by A.A. 5. Malta Wellingtons bombing Tunis and La Goulette claimed direct hits on two vessels in Tunis main basin, followed by series of small crimson explosions. Both vessels appeared to break up. Other bombs burst among buildings in marshalling yards and on edge of ship canal at Tunis and started fire at La Goulette oil storage depot. (C. in C. M.E., 1145B/23).

P.222 lost. Regret to report that P.222 is now 48 hours overdue and must be considered lost. 2. Capt. (S) 8 is requested to signal casualty list to authorities concerned. 3. P.222 was patrolling off Naples. TIGRIS on patrol about 20 miles away from her heard heavy depth charge attack between 1815 and 1900/12th Dec. 4. P.222 did not reply to signal made to her on 20th and 21st December. (N.C.X.F., 1252A/23 to Admty (R) Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10, V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., F.O.(S)).

TRIBUNE Onward route. From position 135° part company 5 miles at 0200/25th proceed direct diving by day to pass 042° 58' 005° 28' E., at 0001/28th. Thence patrol area. *See p. 808*

2. Bombing restriction arranged within 30 miles of coast between longitude 005° E., and 009° 10' E. 3. You will remain under operational control Capt. S.8. (Capt. S.8., 1358A/23 to TRIBUNE (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. S/M Gibraltar, Capt. S.10).

Cancel my 1358. From position 135° Cape Palos 5 miles proceed through 038° 09' 002° 13' E., at 0100A/26th thence on the surface at your discretion to R/V with escort for Algiers in 037° 00' 003° 00' E., at 0815A/26th.

(Capt. S.8., 2224A/23 to TRIBUNE, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib. S.O. Subs. Gib. Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10).

TAKU. You may have been sighted at 0920B/23rd. (Capt. S.1., 1425B/23 to TAKU).

P.51 Keep south east of your present position until it is necessary to move to position 037° 35' 010° 43' by daylight 24th. (Capt. S.10, 1501A/23 to P.51).

/RICHELIEU...

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23.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.RICHELIEU,
French
Units.Ref. No. 2878. Interior addresses: To Agwar
and Usfor From Fredom Algiers.Repeat Usfor for British Chiefs of Staff.
For Marshall. Signed Eisenhower.

1. This morning again Admiral Darlan stated his hope that an early decision can be taken permitting the French warship RICHELIEU now in Dakar to proceed to the United States as early as possible for completion in an American Shipyard.

2. He is also eager to see the balance of the French Naval Units requiring additional equipment to follow the same course. I informed him that I presumed that the Naval Mission now in Dakar would formulate certain recommendations in this respect. Comment please.

(Algiers, 1532Z/23 to Usfor, London).

P.228,
*P.247,
STURGEON.ROTHESAY will be in position (X) 036° 59' 003°
01' E., at 0730A/24th.** See p.p. 8057816*

2. Submarines on arrival at R/V are to identify themselves to ROTHESAY and first two arrivals will then be ordered by ROTHESAY to proceed independently to Algiers.

3. The last submarine to arrive will be escorted into harbour.

4. Fast westbound convoy and slow westbound convoy leaving Algiers at 0900A and 0930A/24th respectively.

5. Algiers swept channel is 4 cables either side of a line joining (a) 036° 49' 43" N., 003° 05' 18" E. and (b) 036° 45' 50" N., 003° 06' 08" E.

6. Keep a good look out for U-boats in vicinity of Algiers. (Capt. S.8., 1548A/23 to P.228, P.247, STURGEON (R) N.C.X.F., 8th Sub. Flotilla, Cdre. Algiers).

My position (7038°) 08' N., 007° 17' E., expect (?me) 24 hours late.

(P.247, 1737A/23 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) N.C.X.F., Subs. on Patrol).

M.K.F.O.5

Intend sailing M.K.F.O.5 at 2359A/24 and M.K.S.O. 4 at 1200A/25. (lists).
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1650A/23 to N.C.X.F.)

M.N.B.D.O.2

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Cs in C. Troopers 86457 of 13th Dec. (1450/13).

1. We are concerned at large shipping commitment involved in despatch of R.M. Group of M.N.B.D.O.2

2. We cannot anticipate amphibious operations on scale large enough to require M.N.B.D.O. before North Africa has been cleared and Mediterranean at least partially opened. Moreover such large scale operations will demand special ships and craft in excess of those allotted in your C.O.S.327 and these if (?) not supplied from Western Med. will presumably be routed thereby.

3. We recommend therefore that M.N.B.D.O. 2 should not be sent out until the Mediterranean is at least partially open but should be held in U.K. for use in the Mediterranean when required.

(Mideast, 1740X/23 to Air Min).

/S/Ms...

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- S/Ms. Arrival RORQUAL, TURBULENT, P.211, departure P.48, P.211.
(V.A. Malta, 1816A/23 to Admty. C. in C. Med., Capt. S.l., (R) N.C.X.F.)

- P.211 P.211 sails at 1730A/23rd and on leaving sanctuary steers 120° for 20 miles thence Jerba.
(Capt. S.10., 1820A/23 to UNA, (R) P.44).

- Toulon A.292 23 Dec. Part 4.
R/C. P.R.U. Report No. 4 P.R.U. photograph taken Toulon 21st Dec. show DUNKERQUE in dry dock damaged starboard side forward. STRASBOURG very low in water may be aground. Of 8 cruisers visible 4 are sunk and 4 very low in water and severely damaged. 27 minor naval (?units) have decks awash or are capsized.
(E.A.C., Algiers, 2355/23).

- * P.48, P.48 sailed 1300A/23 for patrol in Gulf of Tunis.
→ P.211. At 1700A/23rd P.211 sails again for patrol in Turgueness area.
* See p. 811 (Capt. S.10., 1832A/23 to N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med., S/Ms on patrol).

- Malta Air MS 5819. A.I 97/23rd Dec. C.S.R. Night 22/23.
Report. No enemy activity locally. Adverse weather prevented offensive operations. Day 23 Dec. 1300 4 Me. 109s approached Malta on R/C at great height and were intercepted north of Island by 4 Spitfires which forced the raiders to turn back and seriously damaged 1 of them. 2 Spitfires and 3 Beaufighters 1 of which carried bombs attacked 1443 1 M/V 1000 escorted by 1 D/R and 6 Ju.88s 090° Sousse 10 miles course 270°. Spitfires attacked the escorting Ju.88s destroying one of them and damaging another without loss to themselves. Beaufighter raked M/V with cannon and machine gun fire and dropped 2,500 lb. bombs 1 of which scored direct hit amidships of M/V causing clouds of steam and black smoke and numerous explosions. Intense accurate flak was encountered from D/R but all aircraft returned safely.
22nd of Dec. 1 Spitfire photo recco. Palermo total shipping present 1 "Regolo" cruiser fitting out 13 D/Rs 1 submarine 1 possible 2 Garigliano landing craft 17 Freddie boats 20 E-boats 1 water carrier 1 liner 8700 tons with deck cargo 1 damaged tanker 5/6000 tons 1 M/V 6/7000 tons 4 M/Vs 5000 tons 1 M/V 4/5000 tons 2 M/Vs 2/3000 tons 9 M/Vs under 2000 tons.
Night 22nd/23rd Dec. no offensive operations owing to bad weather.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1950Z/23).

/Aircraft...

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

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2035Z/23rd December

IN

Date 23.12.42.

Time 2345

From Governor Malta,

CYPHER

To Air Ministry (Gen. Eisenhower) repeated Mideast (For Chiefs of Staff) Command Post First Army.

IMMEDIATE.

IZ.2775 HE/5990 23rd December 1942

BIGOT ALIDI

Malta intelligence summary 2000A/22 to 2000A/23.

Naval. One of our submarines returned from patrol in the Gulf of Hammamet having sunk one auxiliary schooner laden with fuel, one 400 ton tanker and one minesweeper from which 12 prisoners were taken. Another submarine has sunk one 2500 ton north bound laden M/V off Naples.

Air. 1. Recce. Date 23/12 No photos owing to bad weather.

2. Enemy activity confined to one small day fighter sweep. Spitfires damaged one ME.109.

3. Night 22/23/12. Nil owing to bad weather. Day 23/12. Four Spitfires bombed Lampedusa drone. Beaufighters and Spitfires on offensive sweeps east and west of Malta. Beaufighters scored hit with 500lb bomb on one M/V 1000 tons escorted by one D/R and six JU 88s 1443 hours 090 degs Sousse 10 miles course 270 degs. Escorting Spitfires destroyed one JU 88 and damaged another.

Army Unloading of convoy proceeding satisfactorily.

Civil Nil

2035Z/23

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.
Received in War Registry 0305/24

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. (UT)
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)
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (2)
D.P.D.
W.D.
Ad. Blake.
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
D.T.D. (3)
D. of L.D.
C.C.L.S.
Ad. Ramsey (4)
Hd of M.

Circulation.
Brig. Jacob.
For. Sec.
First Sea Lord. Admy.
C. G. Tels. War Office
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.
* Passed to EFOUSA for onward transmission.

maf.

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Aircraft Dispositions. AX. 570. 23rd Dec. (1731/19). Your O.421 19th Dec. Realise arrivals of Beauforts have been below quota for last few months and will be inadequate until deliveries by air which are being restarted in January reach you. Position has been aggravated by sinkings. Agree deliveries in India may be reduced to 4 each month December and January repeat 4 each month December and January when situation will again be reviewed. Hope you can make these reduced deliveries without fail. (Air Min. 2003Z/23 to H.Q.R.A.F., Middle East, (R) A.H.Q. India)

AQUITANIA. Your 1758/21st Dec. to P.S.T.O. Egypt only. AQUITANIA is due Aden 4th Jan. and should be ready to sail ex Suez about 10th Jan. Request disposal instructions in view of Admty. 1537/19 Dec. (P.S.T.O. Port Said, 2013/23 to Admty for D.S.T.) Reply: D.S.T. 2049/25.

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 84. My Opsum 83. Remaining 8 P.24's all bombed Sousse Harbour night 18/19 Dec. bombs burst on commercial and phosphate quays and in harbour area. 6 Liberators arriving over target later scored further hits on commercial quay. Other bombs bursting in town area threw up quantities of debris. Smoking vessel seen at commercial quay but no fire visible. Night 18/19 Dec. 4 Wellingtons mined Approaches to Tripoli Harbour. Hurricanes made dusk and dawn patrols over Benghazi. 2 enemy formations bombed Tobruk. 2 fires started but extent of damage not known. Dive bombing attack on El Adem caused no damage.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 2031Z/23)

4 Marauders mined approaches to La Goulette Harbour. Further Marauder missing. 2 Hurricanes patrolled Benghazi at dusk without incident. 10 Ju.88s and He. 111s bombed Benghazi and shipping outside Harbour sinking a Corvette*. Casualties at Benghazi were 1 person killed 6 injured. End part 2 Part 3 follows.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1536Z/23) *W.D. Note - Not confirmed by signal from any naval source.

Part 3 of Bi-weekly Opsum No. 84.

Night 20/21 Dec. 5 Beauforts mined approaches to Misurata and Khoms harbours. 3 A.S.V. Wellingtons despatched to locate enemy shipping west of Tripoli and home striking force of 4 torpedo Wellingtons, no sightings.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1546Z/23).

Part 4. About seven enemy aircraft operated against Marble Arch, Benina, and shipping off Tolmeta. No damage reported.

Night 21/22 Dec. Nine B.24's despatched to attack shipping at Sousse found target obscured by 10/10 cloud. Two B.24s bombed Sousse four bombed Monastir, three returned with bombs. Results of Bombing unobserved.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1556A/23).

Part 5. 2 torpedo Beauforts despatched to attack southbound M/V of 1,000 tons previously sighted by R/C Marauder 60 miles N.E. of Sousse. Beauforts encountered bad weather and could

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23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. *cont'd.*

Bi-weekly
Opsum No. 84
Contd.

not relocate. About 12 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi harbour. No details received. 2 Beaufighters 1 Hurricane shot down 2 Ju.88s 1 He. 111 probably destroyed 1 Ju.88. Another enemy bomber shot down by A.A. fire. 17 B.24s despatched to attack shipping at Sousse encountered bad weather en route and turned back. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1606Z/23).

Shipping
ex-North
Africa.

Following from M.W.T. Ref. 1821/17th Dec. from M.W.T.R. Algiers. Para. 1. If practicable Allied vessels formerly detained by French returning to U.K. should be loaded before leaving North Africa. They should at least take on cargo in lieu of solid ballast sufficient to enable them to make voyage to U.K. They must not be sent to Spain or Portugal. (D.S.T., 2024A/23 to Comdre. Algiers for M.W.T.R. (R) V.A.Gib., S.N.O. Casablanca).

Movements
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals. From Oran - QUIBERON, PATHFINDER, from Gibraltar-L.C.I. (L)s 6,161, 162, 163, 210, from Bougie.ESKIMO. With M.K.S.4, ACUTE, *ALARM, WILTON, RHYL, STORNOWAY, CLACTON, BUDE, Departures QUIBERON, PATHFINDER, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING. (Cdre. Algiers, 2106A/23 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S.) * *see p 811*

QUEEN OLGA
(sinking of
U/B) *UARSCLIK 15/12.*

Your 2120/16. Signal name and rank of C.O. of QUEEN OLGA. (Hd. of H. and A. 2107A/23 to C. in C. Med). Reply: Lt. Com. George Blessas, Royal Hellenic Navy. (C. in C. Med., 1231B/26).

* P.247,
P.212.

* *see pp. 805-7*
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P.247 is to adjust speed to pass 038° 01' 003° 00' E., at 0001A/25 and R/V with escort for Algiers. in 037° 02' 003° 13' E., at 0800A/25th (ii) Bombing restrictions for P.247 arranged accordingly. (iii) P.212 arrives same R/V at same time. (Capt. (S) 8., 2142A/23 to 8 S.F. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Movements
Port Said

23rd Dec. Port Said arrival H.M.*M.L. 1032 Departure Gr. Destroyer SPETSAL, Gr. Destroyer IERAX, H.M.S. FALK, M.Ls. 350, and 358. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2245/23 to Admty. etc). * *see p. 611*

Albacore
Strike

Albacore intends to strike in approx. 038° 15' 012° 30' about 0200A/24th. (V.A. Malta, 2257A/23 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S. S.O. Force Q., C. in C. Med).

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23.12.1942
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Defence of Shipping. F.O.C.R.I.N's 0622/19th being passed to C. in C. E. Fleet.
I do not agree to this proposal. Consider risk of attack by single aircraft on East Coast is such that no restrictions must be put on merchant ships' power of self defence.
(2) Nor can I see the reason for proposal as likelihood of enemy merchant vessels operating within the area of coastal lanes is negligible. If close investigation is merely to obtain ships name consider system advocated in your 0033/20th Nov. would appear a better solution.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0621Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.L.O. Delhi).

M.E.I.R.I. Instructions for routeing of shipping on E.I. Station are promulgated by general Station "C" Messages. In order to facilitate reference, all such instructions are to be sub-titled "Mercantile E.I. Routeing Instructions" short title M.E.I.R.I.
(2) M.E.I.R.I. will be divided into numbered Sections. Sections will consist of lettered paragraphs, each of which correspond with the original "C" Message, and retaining these numbered sub-paragraphs. The whole can be conveniently kept in a spring back, each lettered paragraph as separate page or pages to facilitate correction, which letter will be made by "C" Messages, sub-titled M.E.I.R.I. with a serial amendment number.
(3) M.E.I.R.I. also contains instructions for entering adjacent stations from East India Stations.
(4) Authorities routeing shipping on to East Indies Station through adjacent stations must conform to instructions laid down by those stations, as they are not complete in M.E.I.R.I.
(5) The following section numbers are allocated:- Section 1, general. (2) homeward and South African trade to and from East Africa, Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf, India and Ceylon. (3) East Africa and Madagascar, Coastal. (4) Gulf of Aden. (5) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. (6) Persian Gulf to and from Gulf of Aden. (7) Persian Gulf to and from India. (8) India to and from Gulf of Aden. (9) India and Quito, Coastal. (10) Australia to and from Persian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, India and Ceylon. (11) South Africa to and from Australia. (12) Australia, Coastal.
Amendment 6. The following (C) Messages still in force and affecting merchant shipping are to be sectioned and treated as follows:- (details)
(C. in C. E.F., 0809Z/23 to E.I. Stn. etc).

BRITISH LOYALTY. Your 1011C/21st. Delivery of ship will not be accepted until cargo has been discharged by Watson's into EASEDALE replaced by water ballast and ship is ready for docking. Watson agrees.
(2) Your 1220C/25th Oct. paras. (2) and (3) request valuers may now be appointed.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0852Z/23 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A. and Z. Com.1/c Durban).

/DURBAN...

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23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

DURBAN

Arrived p.m.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0910Z/23 to Admty. etc).

BURNIE,
TAKLIWA.

Sailed BURNIE escorting TAKLIWA. E.T.A.
Tamatave 0500Z Dec. 25th.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1301Z/23 to C. in C.
E.F.)

Air Report.

Int. 253 23rd Dec.
(A) Third successive night raid Calcutta 0045/23
Dec. Three aircraft, 15,000 ft. bombed
Howrah bursting water main, injuring some

civilians.

Three attacks by intercepting Hurricanes, two E/A damaged.
(B) 22nd Dec. two Blenheims attacked 175 ft. ship Akyab Jetty.
Bursts near target seen by escort same ship gunned by three
Hurricanes, hits on superstructure and hull.
(C) Night 22/23 two Wellingtons bombed Akyab, no results seen.
(D) December 21st. Eleven Hurricanes damaged steamer
wireless hut gunposts Akyab. Accurate Flak aerodrome and
town. Two Hurricanes missing three damaged.
(A.H.Q., India, 1304Z/23).

Loops.

Towage loops M.1. 2 and 3 have been lifted
and area is clear for laying boom.
(F.O. Ceylon, 2227Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
E.F., N.O.I.C. Trincomalee).

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2.

10. H.M.I.S. CLIVE, left Karachi 19th December to rendezvous P.B.17, and relieve H.M.I.S.*SUTHER. * See previous page.

11. HASHEMI arrived Colombo from Cochin 22nd December and sailed 23rd December escorting two M/S to Vizagapatam.

1038Z/23

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. (UT)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.C.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. of S.T.
D.N.L.O.
P.N.L.O.
D.M.S.
N.L.O. Australia House
Admiral Blake.

LAM

SECRET

8184c

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.

OUT.

1525A/23rd December.

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

Repeated 12(a) Division

Date. 23.12.42.

C. in C. Middle East (for Deputy Minstate)
Governor Aden.

CYPHER.

From The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

88822. M.O.11/B.M./255.

Cipher (M.O.11) dated 23 December.

Reference paragraph 2 of W.O. 88504 December 22.

The following is text of Armistice terms. Begins.

1. The civil, naval, military and air force authorities in C.E.S.F. hereinafter called the Colony, will order the immediate cessation of hostilities against all British and Allied forces hereinafter called the British forces.

2. The French, land, sea and air forces will place their arms, ships and aircraft, undamaged, at the disposal of the G.O.C. in C. East Africa hereinafter called the G.O.C., and will be accorded the honours of war. They will proceed to and remain in barracks or camp pending the decision of the G.O.C. as to their disposal.

3. All buildings, installations, radio location and other technical observing stations, establishments, arms, ammunition, equipment, stores, supplies, animals, documents and records of the French land, sea and air forces will be placed undamaged, at the disposal of the G.O.C. forthwith.

4. All land and coastal fortifications, together with arms, ammunition and equipment therein will be placed, undamaged, at the disposal of the G.O.C. as he may require. The situation of minefields, mine-barrages and mine positions both on land and sea will be disclosed forthwith.

5. All plans, charts, maps, documents, sketches of all naval, military and air force fortifications,

/defence.....

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Page 2.

defence buildings, arms and equipment will be handed over to the G.O.C. forthwith.

6. All naval equipment fuel and stores, all port and harbour buildings, installations and equipment connected therewith will be placed undamaged at the disposal of the G.O.C. All ships, which are the property of the Colony or of the French State shall be placed undamaged at the disposal of the G.O.C. The French authorities will ensure that all other shipping and cargoes shall not be damaged in any way and that such shipping and cargoes shall not be moved without the consent of the G.O.C.

7. All aerodromes, together with buildings thereon, aircraft, aircraft spares, fuel and maintenance equipment will be kept intact and placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. No aircraft of any nationality will leave the ground without the permission of the G.O.C.

8. The French authorities in the Colony will take steps to ensure that all ports, port facilities, light-houses and aids to navigation and public and industrial installations remain intact and in full working order. Similarly all means of transportation including roads, bridges, railways, locomotives, rolling stock, public utility services and motor conveyances will be maintained intact and in full working order, and any necessary repairs will be effected by the French authorities. All the above will be placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. as he may require.

9. All telecommunication services, internal and external civil, military naval and air, will be closed down and maintained in good order. The resumption of any telecommunication service will be subject to the consent of the G.O.C. and any services resumed will be operated under such supervision as he may direct.

10. The French authorities will order the continuation of public and administrative services in the Colony and will take such measures as the G.O.C. may require with a view to assisting in all respects in the maintenance of the security of the British forces, and of law, order and government throughout the territory.

11. The French authorities will take such measures as the

/G.O.C.....

SECRET

818E

Page 3.

G.O.C. may require with regard to the control of foreign property and of the persons and property of foreign nationals and of such other persons as the G.O.C. may direct. No persons will enter or leave the Colony without the permission of the G.O.C.

12. Subject to the approval of the G.O.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 actions or opinions shall be liberated forthwith and if necessary their cases shall be re-examined.

13. British forces under the command of the G.O.C. and the civilian employees attached to those forces shall enjoy extra-territorial privileges and be exempt from the jurisdiction and immune from the process of the Courts, civil and criminal, of the Colony.

14. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 15, if the internal situation at any time such as in his opinion to require it the G.O.C. may demand and the French authorities will undertake such administrative and other measures as may be necessary for the protection of the military interests of the British forces.

15. The G.O.C. reserves the right in case of military necessity to take any measures necessary for the protection of the military interests of the British forces.

16. 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 come into force immediately upon signature. Ends.

1525A/23.

Received from War Office.0707/24th December.
War Office circulation.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
Deputy 1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller.
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. (UT)
Sec.
Naval Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
P.A.S. (O)
D.N.I. (5)
O.D. (5)
Ops (3)
M. (6)

S. of S. A.M.C.S.
P.U.S. (Air Min)
P.U.S. (F) Brig. Jacob.
C.I.G.S. Major Norton
V.C.I.G.S. 10. Downing St.
D.M.O. 20 M.M. (Lt. Col
D.D.M.O. (C) Archdale) (2)
M.O. 1.5.11. (6) 20 M.M. (Mr. K.
D.M.I. Rooker) (2)
D.D.M.I. (E) Colonial Office
M.I. 3. 17a. (Lt. Col. Rolleston)
D.F. (a)
F. 5. (3)
Foreign Sec. (2)
Foreign Office
(Mr. Stirling) (2)
Hd. of War Reg.
(Admiralty)
D. of P. (3)
O.I.C. (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
Adml. Blako.
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
Air Br.
Ad. Bellairs.
D. of L.D. (2)
D.T.D. (4)

UCA

War Diary.

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S.56. A.M. 1841/11 and your 2106/16. *A.T. 2106*
U.S.S.R. S/M S.56 is now required to proceed to U.K. instead of to Iceland. Request you will re-route her accordingly.
Groups are therefore now constituted as follows:- Group A. *L.15 and S.51. Group B. S.54, S.55 and S.56. (D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H) 0005A/23 to C.O.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q C.T.24. B.A.D. Cominch). * *See p. 821/822*

MANSFIELD defects. *See p. 821* Both main feed pumps defective with fractured valve red. Returning to Boston for repair. E.T.A. 1300Z/23rd. My position 042.42 N. 069.55 W. (MANSFIELD 0100Z/23 to Cmdre. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston. (R) C.O.A.C. etc).

MILFORD TAMARISK. Sailing MILFORD, TAMARISK to Curacao in accordance with my 1202/21st E.T.A. Willemstad 2100Z/24th December.
2. Essential Convoy arrives Trinidad A.M. on December 27th at the latest.
3. Communication Washington broadcast G.M. and G.B. Series 4295 K/Cs and guard on 500 K/Cs. (B.S.N.O. Trinidad 0652Q/23 to B.S.N.O. Curacao (R) Admty, S.B.N.O.W.A. B.R.O. Aruba N.O.B. Trinidad).

ETNA. My 1912/22nd. Date of attack 14th Dec. (Sunk (Harbour Master, Barbados 0831/23 to Admty). 14th Dec).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T/23rd December.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
<i>See p. 808 + see p. 809 + p. 824</i>	3 Destroyers.	VICTORIOUS	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N.	225°	14.
			26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.		
	BURDOCK.		15 $\frac{5}{8}$ ° N.)	011°	12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
			36° W.)		
	T.A.31.A.		46° N.)	208°	19.
			52° W.)		
T.A.31.		53 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N.)	208°	26.	
		43 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.)			

(D.O.D.(F)*1017Z/23, to Opnav (R) Comnav)
*As amended 1207Z/23.

BUTTERMERE WASTWATER. BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER arrived. Intend to sail both ships when ready to Trinidad for onward passage to Capetown via Pernambuco and Freetown. Request Comnav issue route. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1119Q/23 to B.A.D.(R) Com.I/C Bermuda U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, N.S.H.Q., Admty, C.O.A. C. BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, S.B.N.O. Trinidad) *See over*

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War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, Contd. When ready sail BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER via (D) 18.35 63.37.(E) 11.50, 62.15. for Trinidad for onward routing to Freetown via Recife. (Connav, 1959/23 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.) Comsolant, Admty, N.S.H.Q. C.C.S. F., F.O.C.W.A., N.O.B.Trinidad).

Trinidad U.S. Troops. Without consulting me Brigadier Commanding British Troops Trinidad has forwarded a proposal to W.O, his No.2009G/21st December, that U.S. troops take over examination battery at Gaspar Grande from British Artillery. 2. As British Naval Authorities are still responsible for examination service at Trinidad with the effect that Battery was to take orders from British Navy it is considered that proposal most undesirable. Further as it appears this proposal has been discussed and agreed to by local U.S.Commanding General it is considered preferable that objection be raised by Admiralty with W.O. rather than by me locally. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1200Q/23 to Admty).

RIO NEUQUEN Argentine RIO NEUQUEN overdue Barranquilla. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1213R/23 to Admty etc)

VICTORIOUS. All 18 inch torpedoes, tools and spare gear at present in VICTORIOUS are to be landed as ordered by B.A.D. for transfer to R.A.F. Patricia Bay B.C.⁷²⁴.
2. B.A.D. pass to VICTORIOUS on arrival. (D.T.S.D. 1349A/23 to B, A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q., Air Min.VICTORIOUS)

DALLAS. U.S.S.DALLAS depart Argentinia at 1330Z/23rd to join escort O.N.153 to arrive in vicinity daylight December 25th. (C.T.24. 1425Z/23 to C. T.24.1.5., (R) F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C., U.S.S. COLE).

Tunis economic situation. J.S.M. 605 23rd December. Following is text of Algiers telegram No.2742 from Murphy for Hull. Begins*-"Information from Tunisia shows that an alarming economic situation will face the Allies on entry into

Tunis. Axis forces are distributing to Arabs all remaining stocks in Tunis and Bizerta of clothing edible oils and wheat which they are unable to ship to Europe. The olive oil crop will apparently be lost due to requisitioning, lack of fuel and effects of bombardment. If general unrest is to be avoided throughout the country stocks of supplies both food and textiles must accompany Allied Forces or arrive immediately after them."(Ends.)

(J.S.M. 1459Z/23 to War Cabinet, London).
*Following from Consul Doolittle at Constantine.

/HARTSBRIDGE..

821

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

HARTSBRIDGE O.N.152. My 1301Z/22nd. SS. HARTSBRIDGE
SARNIA, reports assistance of tug not required. In
FRISKY. view of this have ordered SARNIA and FRISKY to
return to St. Johns N.F.
(F.O.N.F. 1515Z/23 to C.T.24., (R) Connav etc).
FRISKY reports being instructed to return to St. Johns N.F.
Am escorting her, our position course and speed at 1645 048.41
N. 045.25 W. 260⁰ about 7 knots. S.W.gale snow.
(SARNIA 1655Z/23 to F.O.N.F.)

MANSFIELD. Boston sailed 2101Z/22 for St. Johns N.F.
MANSFIELD.
See p 819.
(N.S.H.Q. 1526Z/23 to Admty (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C.
F.O.N.F.).

U/B Positions. S/M estimate 23rd December and U.S,S/M Notice.
(Cominch, 1532/23, 1533/23, 1614/23, 1615/23,
1616/23).

North African Ref.No.R.4560(FAN 45) 23rd December. For
Airfields. Eisenhower, From Combined Chiefs of Staff.
1. It has been noted your present difficulties
due lack of all weather airfields suitable modern types, Assume
you are doing everything possible during present operations to
improve the facilities.
2. Chain of airfields in North Africa and particularly in Tunisia
will be of paramount importance both in connection with re-
opening of Med. to military traffic and for subsequent air
offensive from Tunisia.
3. Your report of any assistance in personnel or material you
require from U.S.A. or U.K. is required as early as possible;
also your programme and time table for North Africa Airfield
development.
(Washington 1551Z/23 to Usfor, London).

Suspicious Master British (?CO) LISTER reports sighting
Tanker. 0500Z/22nd December in 016.45 N. 062.20 W.
tanker similar to German ship SPICHERN, course
southerly.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1556R/23 to Com.10.
Opnav, Admty).

CHELSEA. CHELSEA departed 1530Z/23rd to join O.N.152.
E.T.A. in vicinity daylight December 25th.
(C.T.24. 1639Z/23 to GEORGETOWN (R) F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C.).

JAMES Your 1710A/19.(re JAMES MACKAY lost Convoy,
MACKAY. proceeded independently). Has JAMES MACKAY
arrived Belfast?
(Connav, 1645Z/23, to Admty) Reply:- No News.
(D.T.D. 1317A/24).

/U/B...

821^A

FROM War Registry.

Date 29.12.42.

Correction to message from C.O.A.C.

C.O.O. 1745Z/23 December re sailing of L 15.

Paragraph 1: for corrupt group read 17

for (19?23) read 23rd

for (28th?) read 28th.

for H.W.R.

Marking as in former.

HP.

See pp 819 & 822

822

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B. Following from A/C using call sign TV.56.
Am over enemy S/M in 39.55 N. 14.39 W.
Enemy S/M was sighted on surface and observed
to submerge, course 270° speed 4 knots.
Late 2 hrs 30 mins.
(Halifax 1720A/23 to C.T.F.24.7. (R) Admty, C. in C. W.A.).

AVENGER loss Your 1711/17th November Informal enquiry held
design of into loss of AVENGER. Conclusion is ship was
A.C.V.s. torpedoed port side at about 75 frame causing
Bomb Room to blow up. Fuller report being
prepared and copy will be sent to you.

In ARCHER, DASHER and BITER we are fitting longitudinal
bulkheads in the Bomb Room, about 1" thick, approx. 16 ft.
each side of middle line, stowing all bombs in the central
compartment and filling outboard compartments with buoyancy
drums.

Strongly recommend similar work be undertaken in all A.C.V.s
and hope this will be possible.

There were only twelve survivors from AVENGER.
(Head of M.A.S. 1742A/23 to B.A.D.).

L.15. 1. Intend to sail L.15 at 1830/26th routed in
See P. 819/821 accordance with my 2106/16th to pass through
position at times given. Position A. 2030 (corr-
upt group) BB. (?19.23) 45 (28th?)
CC. 0300/31st, DD. 2359/31st, EE. 0700/3rd. F. 1115/5th. G. 1845/
5th.

2. Escorted by MAHONE to position A. speed with escort 10
knots. Unescorted making 192 miles per day.

3. L.15 has been ordered to report his position to A.C.I.C.
if not met at position F. After waiting two hours at F. to
proceed to position G. To remain at G. until escort is met.

4. L.15 painted a very dark green, no markings on C/T, no net
cutter. One A/A gun and one 3" gun forward of C/T. One A/A
gun aft of C/T.

5. Request total B/Rs 50 miles ahead 100 miles astern and 15
miles either side of track may be arranged.

6. All times G.M.T.

(C.O.A.C. 1745Z/23 to Admty, A.C.I.C., C. in C.U.S. Fleet, F.O.S
(R) B.A.D., C. in C.W.A. C. in C.H.F., C.T.24, ~~Admiral Miles~~
S.B.N.O. N.R. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.).

Convoy
Conference
Washington.

Cinclant designate representatives including
one from T.F.24, to attend conference at Navy
Dept. Washington Dec. 29th. Purpose of conference
is to discuss opening Transatlantic Trade

Convoy Cycles to 10 days and Allied subjects. N.S.H.Q. and
B.A.D. requested to nominate representatives to attend this
conference. B.A.D. and N.M.C.S., have this.

(Cominch 1843A/23 to Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. (R) C.T.F.24,
Admty, N.M.C.S.). Reply:- Admty 1543A/24.

/North...

823

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

North Atlantic shipping, loading bunkers. Request attention of Routeing Officer be drawn to necessity for loading ships destined for North Atlantic so that draught will not exceed winter mark when bunkered at Ocean Assembly Ports. Several vessels recently had to be unloaded New York for this reason. Also ships are arriving New York with excess bunkers for convoy some ships having bunkers for passage at their full speed. Requirements are, for H.X.22 days at 10 knots, for S.C.30 days at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (N.S.H.Q. 1905Z/23 to S.O.(I) Rio De Janeiro, C. in C.S.Atlantic, F.O.W.A., S.O.(I) Jamaica, (R) Admty).

CHESTERFIELD Weather damage. Chesterfield arrived St.Johns 22 with serious weather damage and docking essential. Ship's bottom at forward magazine plates leaking and frames buckled. Extensive upper deck damage. Ship can be made seaworthy to proceed to repair port by a.m./26th. Dock at St.John's not available until about 3rd January. Propose CHESTERFIELD be sailed to Halifax for repairs with concurrence of N.S.H.Q. Consider unlikely ship can possibly be ready for next convoy assignment. (F.O.N.F. 1928Z/23 to C.T.F. 24.(R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. Admty, Cominch, CHESTERFIELD, C. in C.W.A.).
Reply:- C.T.F. 24, 0447/24.

Service Personnel in "Castles." Your 2201/21 being passed to C.O.A.C. As total of only 250. U.S. personnel to be embarked in "Castles" propose CAPETOWN CASTLE now en route New York be diverted to Halifax where Canadian personnel will be embarked.
(A) Under British rules, I.E. 250 of each service or,
(B) Under Canadian rules of unescorted ships, i.e. up to 50% of life saving capacity. 250 U.S. Army personnel could be transported by rail to Halifax.
(2) Propose similar arrangements for STIRLING CASTLE and ATHLONE CASTLE.
(3) B.A.D. please pass P/L copy to N.M.C.S. (N.S.H.Q. 1955Z/23 to B.A.D.(R) Admty etc).

Numbers in Troopship Sailings. Your 0339/19. After consultation with Canadian Army Authorities it is agreed that present method reporting intended troopship sailings not proving satisfactory. (reasons).
2.Canadian Army Authorities prefer previous system whereby numbers which they had available for despatch were reported by N.S.H.Q. to D. of S.T. who allocated vessel or vessels for required number. If return to this system not now possible suggest following modifications.
(N.S.H.Q. 2050Z/23 to D.S.T.).

H/F Position Reports from M/Vs. Reference Admty,1840A/12 addressed to B.A.D. 1.Cominch will accept the following amendment to M.A.R.I. Sect.2 para.11 "The following applies to all independently sailed United Nations managed ships

/fitted....

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War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

H/F fitted with H/F and traversing the Atlantic Ocean
 Position in accordance with routeing instructions. Masters
 Reports shall maintain dead reckoning plot from port of
 from M/Vs. departure to port of destination based on speeds
 Contd as given by the Master to the routeing Officer at
 port of departure. Whenever a ship is more
 than 100 miles ahead or astern of the position it should be
 in based on this speed the Master shall report at night by H/F
 his correct position. Using the corrected position as a new
 origin Master shall continue dead reckoning and if ship again
 becomes 100 miles out of position calculated as above the
 Master shall again report at night his correct position. If the
 ship has suffered a breakdown which will result in a definitely
 sustained reduction of speed the Master shall make a report at
 night by H/F citing the facts and for subsequent dead reckoning
 the Master shall use the new speed as given in his report. If
 approaching New York or U.K. and an approach report is required
 the out of position report need not be made. Out of position
 and breakdown reports as required hereby shall be encoded and
 such reports shall have the War time radio call sign encoded
 as the first word after the code indicator Out of position
 reports shall be in the form laid down in C.A.M.S.I. 52/42.
 Reports required hereby shall contain in the preamble the P/L
 passing instructions pass to Admiralty or pass to Cominch
 depending on whether British or U.S. shore stations are contacted.
 All Merchant Ships contacting shore stations for the purpose
 indicated above shall use the radio general call sign NUMS
 (as received) in lieu of their own War time call signs. When
 necessary to avoid confusion this general call sign may be
 augmented by any arbitrary numeral. Radio operators are not to
 exceed a period of two mins. on any one frequency in calling
 shore stations and not more than one attempt to effect communica-
 tion shall be made on any one of 3 frequencies employed. If
 contact cannot be established with shore stations during one of
 these three calling periods of two mins. each transmission is to
 be delayed until the following night." As regards (2) Your
 1840A/12. In view of the excellent communications between Navy
 Depts and Admiralty the passing instructions pass to Admiralty or
 pass to Cominch hold many advantages. On this basis Cominch C
 and R. would forward all position reports received to Admiralty
 and Admiralty would forward to Cominch C and R. Cominch C and R.
 concurs with three.
 (C) However this will require amendments to C.A.M.S.I. which
 are not covered by this dispatch.
 (Cominch C. and R. 2057/23 to Admty).

VICTORIOUS. Sail VICTORIOUS to Hampton Roads via.
 G. 35.20 N. 69.50.W.
 H. 37.15 N. 74.05.(?W).
 J. 37.05. N.75.30. West arriving Point (J) 1200Z/
 31st December. U.S.Dest.will meet North Point (J)
 and escort into Hampton Roads.
 (C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 2109/23, to N.O.B. Bermuda (R) C. in C.A.F.
 C.E.S.F. Admty, S.B.N.O.W.A., N.S.H.Q., Commandant 5th U.S.Naval
 District (Hampton Roads).

/Sub...

825

War Diary.23.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub. A. ETNA torpedoed sunk 17.50 N. 46.20 W. 0430Z/14.
Attack & B. LACONIA four Subs. identified. (1) U-88 type
Sighting THE CHURCHILL No.135 and figure of Churchill
Summary. carrying two buckets blood, also former German
Navy Cross on C/T, also reported French labels
on fittings and French speaking cook; (2) U-88
Type Bozo Dog painted on C/T, C.O. stated based Brest: (3)
U-45 Type 77 on C/T; one Italian and possibly one with 157 on
C/T. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. from Cominch.
C. Brazilian Navy Tug sights S/M 19.20 S. 39.30 W. 1030Z/22.
(Cominch 2111/23 to Admty (R) Cinclant, N.O.B. Trinidad,
N.O.B. Guantanamo, C.A.F.A.C., N. S.H.Q. C. T.F., 23, Commandants
all Naval District Lant, Commanders all Seafrontant.)

Radio J.S.M 606, 23rd December. Following is text of
Procedure. telegram No.369 to Algiers (Begins):-
Decision of C. C.S., specifies new combined radio-
telegraph procedure to become effective in area
of strategic responsibility when decided by Joint C.M.S.
concerned to insure co-ordination between all forces involved and
that this procedure will be effective earliest practicable date
require three to six months. Your No.2611 December 20 cite
SPSCO CCB authorized only to consider combined matters but almost
certain radiotelegraph procedure to be adopted for U.S. joint
and intra Army use. U.S. members of CCB recommended radio-
telephone procedure by effective on or before April 15th exact
date to be determined by theatre commander concerned but no
reply from British Members this matters. (Ends).
(J.S.M. T.O.O. 2137Z/23 to War Cabinet, London).
J.S.M.607. Following is text of Algiers telegram No.2611
(Begins) - What date will new radio procedure approved by C.C.S.
go into effect? Will use be joint or combined or universal? (Ends)
(J.S.M. 2159Z/23 to War Cabinet, London).

French Units Negotiations to acquire. (J.S.M. 610
Martinique. 2211Z/23) See Lion Copy.

MONTGOMERY. Departure MONTGOMERY for Charleston S.C. Arrival
Etc. Q.0552, Q.0553, Q.0562, Q.0563, from Mulgrave.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 2225Z/23, to Admty etc).

B.A.Ms. LORSA 6408. The following assignments were rati-
Algiers fied by the C.M.A.B. on 19th December B.A.M.13,14,
A. C.Vs. 15, 17, 18, 19 to U.K., B.A.M. 1 to 7, 16, 22 to
to U.S.Navy 180' P.Cs 827 to 841 to the U.K. 180'
P.Cs 867 to 881, 891, to 898 to the U.S.Navy. Canadian Algerines
Building under the Hyde Park agreement 321 to 328 and 331 to the
U.K.
Part 2 A/S A.C.V. 55 is 1st Vessel of her class, ship has now
been reassigned to the U.S.Navy and A.C.V. 56 assigned to
the U.K. in her place. Latest official completion date of ship,
believed to be optimistic, is 22nd March.
3. Name AMEER has been transferred to A.C.V.56 and British names
for B.A.M.S. assigned to U.S.Navy have been cancelled.
(B.A.D.2301Z/23 to Admty (R) B. A.T.M. Ottawa).

/U.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)

2211Z/23rd December.
IN.

MOST SECRET.

From J.S.M. Washington.

Date 24.12.42.
Time 0327Z

CYPHER.

Addressed War Cabinet Offices London.

IMPORTANT.

IZ2783 J.S.M. 610 23rd December, 1942.

Following is text of Algiers telegram No. 2794 for Hull from Murphy.

BEGINS:

We have had a number of enquiries from local authorities regarding the possibility of finding a solution which would enable the Allied Forces to acquire the use of the French Naval units and merchant shipping now in Martinique. Admiral Darlan for example has expressed the desire to send Admiral Battet formerly a member of Admiral Roberts staff to Martinique for conversations in this regard. I have replied that I thought that this action was premature but I should now like the benefit of the Department's advice. We are here of course without information regarding the Department's existing arrangements with Martinique and whether any liaison between the local authorities and Admiral Roberts would be desirable. Darlan of course feels strongly that Roberts would be willing to ally himself with the North African unit if he believed that it guaranteed any stability. Darlan suggests that it is a great pity to allow the continued immobilization of the Fleet and merchant shipping now in Martinique. Other officials interested in the economic supply program are eager to see some of the merchant shipping used for this area even if for only one trip after which the shipping would undoubtedly form part of the Allied shipping pool. It would be of course of great advantage if possibly two of the French tankers now in Martinique could be used for the early shipment of gasoline and gasoil from Aruba. This is a particularly important item in respect of agriculture and it would go far to

solving/.....

2.

solving the local paralysis of civilian transport which it seems to us is one of the most important factors in unfavourable economic situation. Restoration of reasonable transport will undoubtedly bring on the market many goods from the hinterland especially food stuffs which now do not succeed in arriving on the seaboard due to lack of transport. Please comment.

ENDS.

2211Z/23

Circulation:

Brig. Jacob.
For. Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels.,
A.M.C.S.(C)
C.C.O.
Lord Strathallan.
Mr. Strang.

Received in Admiralty
at 1505/24.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(W)
A.C.N.S.(UF)
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. (0)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.F. (2)
W.D.

Ad. Blake.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
Ad. Bollairs.
Ad. Ramsey (4)

826

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U.S. U.S. Army transport STATE OF VIRGINIA sailed
Transports. 18th Dec, no destination given.
 (N.S.H.Q. 2311Z/23 to Admty).

TRURO. Hove to at 1900Z in 047. 25, 047 05. wind S.S.W.
 veering westerly. Proceeding when weather
 permitting to join route via (corrupt grp).
 (TRURO 2320Z/23 to F.O.N.F.(R) C.T.U. 24.18.6.
 C.T.24.CO. A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

U/B. Following has been read from Nav.Radio Trinidad.
 War Warning S/M sighted 1445 N. 61.55 W. at
 1726 G.C.T./23.
 (Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 2324/23, to Admty)

Dakar Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W)
Conference. 403. Ref. J.S.M.6000(1529/22).
 F.O.C.W.A. has been instructed by Admiralty to
 send his Chief Staff Officer to Dakar forthwith.
Air Ministry have instructed A.O.C.West Africa to proceed himself.
In both cases officers will report to Admiral Glassford.
2. Your J.S.M. 592. confirmed. Necessay arrangements will be
made by representatives as above.
(Air Min. 2330Z/23 to Britman, Washington)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. MONOWAI arrived Nukualofa and sailed on return to
 Suva (Fiji) at 0240Z/22nd. U.S.Ship TRYON arrived
 Auckland 0334Z/23rd.
 (S.O.(I) Wellington 0452Z/23 to Admty).

1. Departures 22nd December. Brisbane U.S. Dest. O'BANNO for
Espiritu Santo. U.S. Destroyer SOUTHARD for Sydney.
22nd December, D.S. TROMP for Fremantle. Milne Bay LITHGOW, for
Townsville. Arrival 21st December, Sydney (N.S.W.) MILDURA.
Newcastle, DELORAINE,
My*0647/22nd, amend destination HORSHAM from Sydney (N.S.W.) to
Fremantle. * N.S.W.
(A.C.N.B. 0812Z/23 to Admty, etc).

U.S. Store ship GOLD STAR arrived Fremantle 22nd December.
Hospital ship MANUNDA arrived Brisbane 22nd. R.A.F. Auxiliary
AASE MAERSK arrived Townsville 5th. U.S. Transport TASMAN arrived

/Gladstone...

827

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Movements. Gladstone 19th ?VAN HEUTZ CREMER arrived Gladstone
Contd. 20th.
U.S. Transports BONTEKOE, TASMAN, CREMER (VAN)? HEUTZ
departed Gladstone 22nd due Townsville 24th.
U.S. transport VAN DER LIJN departs Townsville 23rd due Portland
Roads 26th thence to Thursday Island.
(A.C.N.B, 1432Z/23 to Admty, Connav).
Arrival Wellington U.S.S.WEST POINT.
(S.O.(I) Wellington 1654Z/23 to Admty).

N.Z. Intend reorganising A/S M/S, M/S and all Trawlers
Minesweepers in N.Z.into Flotillas or Groups. Title of 25th
and Trawlers. M.S.F. composed of MATAI and three R.R.D.Class
if still maintained although vessels are fitted
with A/S is it Admiralty's intention to retain
this title. It is not known if SCOTTISH ISLES now in New Zealand
are still designated 7th Trawler Group. Desire to form following
Flotilla Groups including (corrupt portion) four combined M/S
F/S and M/S (corrupt group).It is also desired that two Flotilla
numbers be allocated (corrupt portion) for M.Ls.
(N.Z.N.B. 1206M/23 to Admty).
W.D.Note:- Repetition of corrupt portions has been requested.

Situation. Digest Serial Number 335 December 22nd.
December 23. R/C Rabaul morning 22 indicated
position number and state of shipping substantially
the same as previous day. Unsuccessful attack at intercepting
R/C Fortresses by 8 Zeros over Rabaul and three off Iaceerford
one Zero destroyed. One small cargo vessel also sighted 45 miles
north west Rabaul afternoon 22 heading Rabaul. Two vessels
observed south end St.Georges Channel same morning course 180°.
2. At least 50 enemy troops reported occupied Cape Gloucester
(north Western end New Britain).
3. R/C Liberator attacked well camouflaged 1500 ton M/V
anchored Jacquhot Bay morning 22, no bomb hits but vessel well
strafed. 3 Fortresses attacked camouflage 1000 ton vessel
anchored Arawe Harbour same morning scoring one direct hit near
stern causing vessel to burn fiercely. These small vessels and
those attacked Finschaen 21 all well camouflaged with trees and
branches.
4. Five Bostons bombed and strafed enemy position and dump
Ambega River area destroying huts and starting fires.
5. R/C Buka Area afternoon 22 reported 3 small vessels (one
schooner towing two barges) entering passage from North East one
8,000 ton M/V stationary in Padsagt six medium bombers and number
fighters on drome four medium bombers airborne.
6. Our forward patrols establishing bridgeheads across Sonomi
Creek in Eastern Sector and across entrance Creek near Buna
Government Station both supported by artillery fire.
7. Enemy destroyer reported visiting points south west coast
Dutch New Guinea including Kaukenau December 14 and 16. Enemy air
activity also reported this area recently. One Zero Float Plane
reconnoitered Mesauke (S.Coast Dutch New Guinea) afternoon 22
dropping two bombs.
8. In Timor Four Beaufighters strafed air strip being constructed
Fullero (2 piles S.Vila de Aviz) morning 22. Tents small buildings
and constructional machinery thoroughly strafed. Strip still
rough and only half completed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 130?Z/23 to Admty etc).

/HOBART...

828

23.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

HOBART, Your 0149/20th. It is now confirmed that due to
SHROPSHIRE. guaranteed work being carried out to damaged U.S.
ship at Sydney it is not possible to undertake
modernisation of HOBART in Australia.
2. Present situation will not allow her being released before
relief by SHROPSHIRE which should enable her to reach U.K.
by (?next) October.
3. Is it possible to spare relief for HOBART to enable her to
reach U.K. before SHROPSHIRE commissioned, thus enabling crew
to transfer? If so A.C.N.B. would be most grateful as it is
also very desirable HOBART's refit be taken in hand at the
earliest possible date practicable.
4. Assuming SHROPSHIRE ready to commission mid-May, relief
cruiser should join squadron by mid-February.
(A.C.N.B. 1800Z/23 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1300A/23, Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 1410A/23, 1411A/23).

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.

24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V with BERWICK and 3 destroyers arrived at Scapa at 2350 today.

V.A. 2 in ANSON, with CUMBERLAND and 3 destroyers arrived today at Akureyri and may have been reported by an Enemy A/C seen off that port at 1315A.

S.O. Force "R" in SHEFFIELD with JAMAICA, as well as OPPORTUNE and MATCHLESS, arrived today at Kola Inlet, whence two Russian A/C left at 0830A to meet convoy J.W.51 A.

Convoy J.W.51 B. was probably reported at 1315A by a F.W. A/C; and the S/MS P.216, O.14, P.312 and GRAPH left Lerwick today to take up their patrol positions in North Russian waters. BULLDOG and ACHATES, part of the Escort of this Convoy, have sustained weather damage and are returning to U.K. and Seidisfiord respectively.

The docks at St. Malo and at Den Helder were bombed during daylight yesterday by our A/C.

Peterhead Harbour was re-opened at 1455 today.

South Atlantic.

A/S Forces.

With the lull in the U-boat campaign in South African waters and the arrival within the next few weeks of 20 A/S escort trawlers, C. in C. S.A. considers there is no justification for retaining all 4 destroyers and 3 corvettes lent from Eastern Fleet. He proposes that when the South African troop convoys have arrived from the north, C. in C. E.F. should withdraw 2 destroyers and 2 corvettes, and consider the situation regarding the remaining 2 destroyers in a month's time. The one remaining corvette he would like on permanent loan.

830

24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B flares. S.O.(I) Freetown sends details which appear to point to the use by U-boats of flares as a decoy for shipping.

STAR OF SUEZ, Egyptian 4999 tons, was torpedoed and sunk by U-boat off St. Paul's Rocks at 1420 G.M.T. 15th Dec. Eleven survivors landed near Fortelaza, Brazil, on 23rd Dec. but 1 boat with 28 is missing.

Mediterranean.

Admiral Darlan. The High Commissioner in French Africa, Admiral Darlan, was assassinated shortly after 1500 today on arriving in the offices of the High Commissariat at Algiers.

Force H. Force H is at sea in the Balearic area, and is due at Gibraltar on the 26th.

Operation "Peppercorn". N.C.X.F., at 1502A/24 instructed N.O.I.C. Bone to carry out this operation, *F.A.A. sweep northwards of Bizerta.*

Malta Convoys. C. in C. Med., asks for a fast convoy for Malta. The passage across the Central Basin can be effected in comparative safety by 13 knot convoys, whereas 10 knot convoys offer enemy surface forces a chance to intercept, which he feels they will accept sooner or later. He aims at stocking Malta to the end of 1943, and a fast convoy should almost enable him to do this.

Air Operations. 9 American B.24s left last night to bomb harbour installations at Naples. 5 bombed the Vittorio Emanuele Mole, 3 returned, and 1 bombed Taranto shipyards. Beauforts laid mines off Misurata and Kerkenah.

Bad weather prevented any operations from Malta.

2 Beauforts laid 4 mines off Misurata last night. About 6 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi last night without causing any damage or casualties.

831

24.12.1942.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Con/d:

P. 219.

S/M P. 219 at 1952 sighted and attacked a U-boat in 37.25 N., 8° 1' E., but the result is not yet known.

Black Sea.

A German U-boat is reported sunk by R-boats on 19th Dec. 25 miles W. of Tuapse.

The enemy are rebuilding the Russian cruiser CHERVONNAYA UKRAINA (7,600 tons) sunk by air attack in Sevastopol in Nov. 1941.

America & West Indies.

Shipping
identifica-
tion.

Admty. in a signal to Cominch today give reasons for thinking that the proposal to paint signal letters on ships' sides has more advantages than disadvantages, and they request further remarks.

Australia

A small M/V exploded and sank this morning after a direct hit from a Liberator near Arawe.

Six Fortresses made 3 hits on a 5,000 ton vessel at Gasmata this evening.

A small destroyer or gunboat and 4 merchant vessels landing troops in several barges at Laivai, Timor, today were attacked by A/C which made one direct hit and several near misses and damaged the ships with gunfire.

A punitive party of 200 Japanese arrived at Tinutez Harbour (25 miles E.S.E. Buka Passage) today in 2 schooners, and after destroying the mission station moved inland.

24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SEALION Officers undergoing the S/M C.O. qualifying course are at present severely handicapped in having to carry out their attacks in older S/Ms whose characteristics can not compare with those of more modern constructions. Intend therefore to transfer SEALION to 7th S.F. for duty with C.O. qualifying course on date agreed upon by Captain concerned.
(F.O.S. 1041A/24 to Admty).

Searching of M/Vs. My 1221/24 November is cancelled. Instructions regarding search are as laid down in my 1255/6 November and my 1256/6th November. Certain Eireann ships may still apply for exemption from calling at a Search port as laid down in my 1639/30 April. C.A.M.S.I. 211/43 will be amended.
2. Any reductions in personnel which can now be effected as a result of reduced requirements for searching ships should be reported.
(M.Branch 1329A/23).

A/S Trawlers for Belfast. Your 1147/13 and C. in C.Nore's 1954/13.
2. Your offer to release 2 Escort Trawlers is welcomed but it is considered that the requirements of Belfast are greater than Harwich.
3. It is requested that 2 "Dance" Class Trawlers be transferred to W.A.Command and sailed to Belfast as soon as practicable.
(D.A/S.W. 2206A/24 to C. in C.Rosyth).

Movements.

ONSLOW. Seidisfjord arrival at 2005/23, Capt.(D) 17th in ONSLOW.
(A.C.I.C. 0130A/24).
* Sailed ONSLOW independent.
(N.O.I.C.Aultbea 1400A/24 to C. in C. W.A.).

ADVENTURE, *AJAX. Estimated P.C. and S. 1200A/24th ADVENTURE 44.02 N 16.22 W. 010°, 18 knots. AJAX 48.30 N.15.30.W. (?180°), 20 knots.
* *See p. 843A*
(C. in C.W.A. 1204A/24 to ADVENTURE, AJAX)

DOLFIJN . GURNARD. Have 2 sailors seriously ill, possibly appendicitis. Weather unsuitable for transfer at sea. Request authority to proceed with escort to Falmouth after meeting GURNARD.
(DOLFIJN 1255A/24 to Capt.S.3.).
Proceed Falmouth.
(F.O.S.1614A/24 to DOLFIJN, GURNARD). *See over*

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24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- DOLFIJN. Amend my 1721/23 para (H) and (J) DOLFIJN and
GURNARD. GURNARD escorted by ST. ELSTAN are proceeding
Contd. to Falmouth, E.T. A. 2200/24.
See p. 833 (F.O.S. 1854A/24 to Admty).
My 1544/24. Delete para. (N) Amend para
(G) to read (G) DOLFIJN escorted by ST ELSTAN leave Falmouth
0900/25 to arrive 360° Round Island Scillies 7 at 1700/25, thence
DOLFIJN dived by day through 50.10 N. 09.00 W. and as in my
1544/24 para (G).
(F.O.S. 1856A/24 and 0146A/25 to Admty).
My 1219A/21st December. Add 26 hours to all times. N.O.I.C.
Falmouth pass to Vikingbank.
(Capt.S.3. 1911/24, to V.A.Gib.(R) F.O.S., C. in C.
Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, S.O.S/Ms Gib.
Capt.(S) 8. DOLFIJN).
- SOKOL. On return from patrol SOKOL is to proceed to
See p. 833 Dundee to join 9th S/M Flot. temporary.
(F.O.S. 1304A/24 to S.O.S/M Lerwick).
- W.A.Command. Situation at 2005A/24. Details.
(C. in C.W.A. 1359A/24) See Lion Copy.
- ANSON. My 1302/23. Arrived. *(Landing)*
CUMBERLAND. (A.C.I.C. 1429A/24 to C. in C.H.F.).
- LOBELIA. Admiralty 1845/October 7th. Intend sailing
LOBELIA to join West Africa Command early February
after return from next Convoy duty.
(C. in C.W.A. 1539A/24 to Admty).
- S/M At 0800A/25. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S. 1544A/24,) See Lion Copy.
- H.43. Your 1147A/22. H.43 escorted by AYRSHIRE arrived.
See p. 835 (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1730A/24).
- GLASGOW. Sailed GLASGOW for Loch Ewe and Scapa E.T.A.
Loch Ewe 0945A/25. E.T.A. Scapa 1500/26th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2004A/24).
- KING GEORGE V, Scapa arrival C. in C.H.F. in K.G. V. with
BERWICK. BERWICK, MUSKETEER, RAIDER, QUADRANT.
(A.C.O.S. 2350/24).

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.)

From - C. in C.W.A.

SITUATION AT 2005L/24/12/42

SECTION N.E.

S. DE BRAZZA 57 29 06 58 to Clyde 12

SITUATION AT 2005L/24/12/42

SECTION S.E

H.M.S. DIANTHUS		Off Mill of Galloway to Londonderry	12
	ST. ELSTAN	Vicinity to Clyde Hartland Point 0130A/25	10
GLASGOW		55 38 05 02 to Scapa	18
Convoy	ORACLE	52 08 05 22 Northbound	8
H.M. 87	MAID MARION	52 53 05 04 to Milford Haven	8
K.M.S. 6	AURETTIA	54 04 04 59 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	04
K.M.S. c. 6	BLACK SWAN 3 Corvettes	55 36 04 59 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles thence 55 36 13 02	8
O.N.S. 156	BODO	55 52 04 32 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles thence 58 13 12 10	7
O.N.S.C. 156	Unescorted	Sails Clyde 2300A/24 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	7
ONSM. 156	Escorted	Sails Belfast 0530A/25 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	6
SC(U)112	H.M.S. SHIKARI	56 42 07 10 Loch Ewe	7
SC(B)112	H.M.S. SHIKARI	leaves at 057 degs. North for Londonderry Dispersed	
	H.M.S. KIRKELLA	55 28 06 36 to Liverpool	7

/Situation

MOST SECRET

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SITUATION AT 2005A/24/12/42.

SECTION N.W.

R.U. 54	KING SOL BLACKFLY PAYNTER WHITEHORN DOROTHY GRAY	60 25 16 39	to	60 10 15 59 thence 59 10 09 50	6
HX. 219 (E) C.T.U. 24.L.16	HESPERUS VANESSA MIGNONETTE GENTIAN HEATHER SWEETBRIAR	59 16 26 12	to	59 10 20 20	9½

SITUATION AT 2005A/24/12/42

SECTION S.W.

DRANGEX HAARLEM		50 45 11 30	to	50 18 14 05 thence 46 08 17 24	10
P. 615		46 33 13 48	to	42 59 13 50	2½ by day 9 by night
AJAX		45 52 15 30	to	43 01 15 30 thence 38 01 14 01	20
ADVENTURE		46 32 15 50	to	50 10 15 01	18
LAGAN 1 Tug		53 32 16 10	to	51 00 27 11	6
WELLINGTON		52 22 11 18	to	40 00 16 15	10
REGINA		52 22 11 18	to	39 58 15 10	10
O.N. 155 C.T.U. (E) 24.L.4	FAME BURZA EGLANTINE VERVAIN ACANTHUS KINGCUP	56 49 30 11	to	56 48 32 01 thence 54 20 37 56	9
O.N.S. 154 C.T.U. (E) 24.L.11	ST. LAURENT BATHLEFORD CHILLIWACK SHEDIAC KENOGAMI NAPANEE	51 38 20 48	to	47 00 29 02	6

/Section

MOST SECRET

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-- 3 --

SECTION S.W. (CONTINUED)

SITUATION AT 2005A/24/12/42

W.S.25 W	UNESCORTED	48 24 21 50	to	44 59 24 00	24
				thence	
				35 05 23 58	
K.X.7,A	SLAZAK WENSLER STARWORT	48 59 14 45	to	43 02 14 43	6

1559A/24/12/42

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

DAT.

833-D

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 M E S S A G E 1544/24th Dec.
IN.

From : F.O.S.

Date: 24.12.42.

Reed : 1601

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed : Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

403. Positions of S/M's at 0800A/25th and movements for following 24 hours.

- (a) P. 339, SOKOL, TORBAY, P. 223, in Norwegian Waters East of 15 degs East. *See p. 833*
- (b) P 49, 64 degs 30' North, 04 degs 00' East.
- (c) P 216, 64 degs 27' North, 03 degs 10' East
- (d) O 14, 63 degs 01' North, 02 degs 10' East.
- (e) P 312, 62 degs 59' North, 00 degs 50' East. *See p. 839.*
- (f) GRAPH, 61 degs 58' North, 00 degs 50' West.

Submarines in (b) to (f) routed as in my 1721/23 and probably proceeding on the surface.

- L. pp 832 & 833* (g) DOLFIJN, 50 degs 10' North, 09 degs 50' West dived by day through 50 degs 10' North, 12 degs 40' West, 49 degs 10' North, 13 degs 50' West, 43 degs 01' North, 13 degs 50' West.
- (h) P. 615, 44 degs 30' North, 13 degs 50' West Dived by day through 42 degs 59' North, 13 degs 50' West at 0900/26th December thence to Frootown.
- (j) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, 44 degs 30' North, 12 degs 20' West. Dived by day to zone K.501.
- (k) U.S.S. SHAD, 44 degs 40' North, 11 degs 05' West Dived by day to zone K.502.
- (l) U.S.S. HERRING, in zone K.505.
- (m) U.S.S. BARB, on patrol off Vigo. *See p. 843 A*
- (n) U.S.S. GURNARD, escorted by ST. ELSTAN, 51 degs 25' North, 05 degs 00' West to Clyde expected time of arrival 1100/26th. *See p. 832 & 833.*
- (o) P. 229, escorted by CEDAR, leaves Chatham 1400/25th for Portsmouth.

1544/24

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

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

834

24.12.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. Coastal fog. C.E.S. returning to bases. (C. in C.Nore 0225A/24).
 Destroyer duties tonight. Patrols 6, COTTESMORE, 7 HOLDERNESS, moving to 5 and 6 respectively when ordered by C. in C.Nore. (C. in C.Nore 1056A/24).
 Movements tonight. 2. M.G.B. 52 (S.O) 51, 54, from Portland will patrol latitude 50° 20' N, between 1° 30' W. and 2° 10' W. Keeping as far as possible to Southward of convoys.
 3. CHASSEUR, 14 (S.O) and 11 are to patrol South of E.A.5 buoy (C. in C.Portsmouth 1130A/24 and 1131A/24).
 → 1. Intend M.G.Bs 52 (S.O), 51, 54 to Patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between - 1.30 W. and 2.10 W.
 2. Leave Weymouth at 1745 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. Codeword "Jovial 2".
 * F.O.I.C.Portland 1224A/24).
 4. 2 Chasseurs patrolling south of E.A.5. buoy. 5.3 M.G.Bs leaving Weymouth 1745/24 for patrol South of St.Albans. Expected time of return from patrol between 1730 and 1900/24. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1515A/24).
 Patrol tonight. (1) 2 M.L. each Z 12 and Z.15. (2) 2 M.G.B (L) No.2 Buoy. (3) 2 M.G.B,(L) each Z.17 and Z.19. (C. in C.Nore 1551A/24).
 → My 1224A/24. Amend para. 1 to read M.L.247 and R.M.L. 532 leaving harbour at 1715/24. (F.O.I.C.Portland 1634A/24).
 → My 1224A/24 and 1634A/24. Sailed 1745A/24. (F.O.I.C.Portland 1805A/24).

P.55. 1. Request you will sail P.55 for working-up Patrol. anti-U/Boat patrol on 28th December.
 2. P.55 is to proceed via Lerwick to area K.104 bounded by parallels 060.50 and 061.20 longitude 002.50 E. and Norwegian Coast.
 3. P.55 is to arrive Lerwick 13th January from patrol, thence proceed to Blyth for fitting of R.D/F. (F.O.S. 1311A/24 to Capt.S.3).

ALERT. A.M. 1938/21 and 2216/23, and my 1455/22. Request (Cable Repair). you will issue necessary sailing orders and sail ALERT and escort when weather outlook appears settled.
 4. ALERT may use Eire territorial waters when necessary but escort is not to enter those waters except in emergency or in compliance with C.A.F.O. 1028/42.
 5. Intended sequence of repairs is (A) followed by first cut in (B) as given in A.M. 2216/23 then as circumstances require. (C. in C.Plymouth 1819A/24 to F.O.I.C.Falmouth).

Operation V.P. My 2040/23. Postponed further 24 hours. (A.C.O.S. 1851/24).

835

24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Trials in Liverpool Bay. H.43. ~~10.833.~~ My 2259/20th and 2351/20th. Following is outlined arrangements for trial. Details. (F.O.S. 1037A/24 to N.O.I.C.Holyhead). F.O.S. 1037/24 and 1038/24. Request you will inform me of area selected for M.A.D. trials in para.2. of F.O.(S) 1037/24.

2. F.O.(S) 1037/24 para.4 Owing to unswept water trial must not take place east of 4° W. Confirmation runs should be on course not East of 338° from Great Ormehead.

3. Para.5. In view of heavy traffic likely to be in area H.43 should return to Holyhead or anchor in Moelfre bay which ever is nearer. (N.O.I.C.Liverpool 1816A/24 to N.O.I. C.Holyhead).

Torpedo Trials. Important trials connected with new torpedo developments require the periodical use of a destroyer approximately once a week for their duration.

2. It is estimated that these trials may take some months.

3. In view of the essential nature of these trials it is requested that you will provide the necessary facilities from Rosyth Escort Forces. (D.O.D.(H). 1850A/24 to C. in C.Rosyth).

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command Operations. On day 23rd December 18 Bostons of 2 Group attacked the docks at St.Malo, and 6 Venturas of 2 Group with Fighter cover attacked the docks at Den Helder. Bursts were seen S.E. of Naval Basin, across the torpedo workshops and the Naval Barracks. (H.Q.B.C. 1230A/24).

Air Cover for Convoys. Swordfish and Sunderland A/C will carry out anti E-Boat cross-over patrols from 1830 today till dawn/25th to cover passage of convoys. Object of A/C is to report and shadow E-Boats. 2. Eastern Patrol by Swordfish between positions:

- (A) 220 Portland Bill 22.
- (B) 335 Cap de la Hague 14.
- (C) 146 Start Point 36.
- (D) 134 Start Point 18.

Western Patrol by Sunderland between positions.

- (E) 129 Start Point 23.
- (F) 138 Sumart Point 51.
- (G) 180 Eddystone 37.
- (H) 186.Eddystone 17.

3. To prevent risk of contacts between A/C and our own forces convoy escorts are not to leave vicinity of convoys unless ordered or unless requested by A/C to attack damaged enemy.

4. Subject to above conditions A/C have freedom to attack all contacts South of line joining position (H)(D) (A) and (J) 160 Portland Bill 18. (C. in C. Plymouth 1409A/24 to Escorts W.P.268 and P.W.268).

830

War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland.

Your 1516A/24. One unidentified A/C was sighted off Akureyri about 1315A/today and may have reported V.A.2's force which had just arrived. (A.C.I.C. 2135M/24 to Admty).

Mining.Sweep of
Q.Z.X.866.

My 1615/19. Swept two laps of QZX 866. Only 17 swept as far as known, but 34 plus one doubtful disposed of. (M/S 9th 1045A/24 to V.A. Dover).

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
destroyers.

Three enemy Destroyers in 46.36 N. 05.30 W. course 170°, speed 14 knots. (A/C 32 R.N. 0302/24).

Enemy
M/Vs.

Position course and speed of 3 enemy merchant vessels. 47.28 N. 04.20 W, 360°, 10 knots. (A/C 0507/24 to 19th Group).

U/Boats.U/Boats
reported.

Preliminary D/F bearings at 2240Z indicate U/Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you. (D.D.I.C. 0011A/24 to Escorts U.G.S.3.).

Anti
U/Boat
Tactics.
Night
illumination.

Similar night illumination tactics to the following were recently employed with success: Object - to forestall U/Boat attacks. Information - Convoy attacks within previous 24 hrs. Steady stream of H/F D/F bearing indicates several U/Bs still in vicinity. Weather conditions suitable for star shells. Latter part of night intensely dark following night moon set. Method of execution - A codeword for operation pre-arranged. Time of commencement based on accurate appreciation of probable time of enemy attack taking into account condition of visibility and any previous attacking period favoured by enemy. Preparative signal - all escorts close within visibility limit of nearest ship of convoy. Probably one mile. Executive signals for commencement of operation - escort proceed outward from convoy at 15 knots on pre-arranged courses after 5 minutes commence star shell search over prearranged arcs. Repeat star shell search if necessary 10 minutes after executive signal. On completion 2nd star shell search and in any case not later than 15 minutes after executive signal, if nothing is sighted escort proceeds resuming stations on night diagram. (C. in C.W.A. 1734Z/24 to S.Os, Escort Groups).

837

War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Peterhead. Cancel my 1310/23. Peterhead Harbour now open.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1455/24).

Technical.

Practice Bombs against S/MS. My 1448/26th November. Allied authorities agree to 8½ pounds Bakelite bombs being used against allied S/MS on the surface except for following types, against which these bombs are only to be used when vessels are fully submerged. O.9, O.10 O.14, O.15, Netherland S/M K.14 Class, Norwegian N.S.B.I.

2. JUNON, MINERVE, and RUBIS are not to be used for any trial with practice bombs at present.
(F.O.S. 2226A/24 to Capt.S.)

Casualties & Defects.

LANCASTER. Your 1028/23 confirmed. ^{p. 800}
(Capt.D.Greenock 0045A/24 to R.A.M.).

IRISH ASH. Following received.
IRISH ASH 0040 anchored Ballycotton Light 198° W. one mile possibly ? proceed Cork ? Light under own steam Jeffers Master.
(Wick Radio 0155/24 to Admty).

ACHATES. E.T.A. 1130A/24. (Unit) should be all right with extra stays. ^{Must arrive by 23/12. p. 801}
(ACHATES 0745A/24 to N.O.I.C. Seidisfiord).
Seidisfiord arrival at 1205/24, ACHATES.
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik 1618A/24).

PAUL RYKENS. My 2040A/23. Arrived PAUL RYKENS. (B.1 fast)
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 1036A/24).

ST. MARY'S. Your 1653/22nd. ST. MARY'S grounded Lerwick Harbour about 2200/23. There is damage to frames and bottom plating but ship is not making water.*
(A.C.O.S. 1126/24 to Admty). *Tug has been sent from Scapa.

D.L.HARPER. Sailed rescue tug SCHELDE to assist SS.D.L.HARPER with engine trouble in position 335° Smalls 5½ miles.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1227A/24).

Arrived D.L. HARPER. SCHELDE sailed for Milford Haven.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 2130A/24).
Arrived SCHELDE. D.L. HARPER arrived Swansea under own power.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2217A/24 to Admty).

CRAIG. Your* 2358/1, and* 2251A/18. M.F.V. CRAIG has been

*H.T. in N.S.

/under....

838

War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

CRAIG. under engine repair since August. Ran for one week recently and broke down again. E.O. is recommending her return to Owners. Consider vessel unsuitable.
Contd. (Ch.Constructor Corpach. 1631A/23 to Admty).

VARDEFJELL. Following from Consular Officer Sudero, begins. VARDEFJELL located 1300 today 6 miles off shore. Bows down, engine working, steering gone, 29 survivors, 4 British landed at Vaag, 11 crew lost. Faeroes vessel SMIRIL attempting to tow into Vaag.Ends.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes 1806A/24 to A.C.O.S.).

My 1952/21. VARDEFJELL located at 1300/24 in approx. 6 miles N.E. of Akraburg Sydero Faeroes. Survivors have landed and Faeroese fishing vessel SMIRIL attempting to tow hull into Vaag. N.O.I.C.Aultbea is requested to sail MARAUDER as soon as fuelled to take over tow.

3. N.O.I.C.Stornoway is requested to sail STELLA PEGASI to R/V with MARAUDER as ordered by N.O.I.C. Aultbea and act as escort.

4. N.O.I.C.Faeroes to recall HAMLET and RISOR.
(A. C.O.S. 2038A/24).

Your 1806/24. Intend sailing Salvage Steamer WILLIAM HASTIE escorted by BRESSAY to arrive Vaag Fiord at daylight 25th.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes 2128A/24 to A.C.O.S.).

AMHERST. E.T.A.Moville 0600Z/25. Bridge damaged in gale. Request permission proceed direct to Londonderry on arrival.
(AMHERST 1901Z/24 to Cdre.Londonderry).

839

24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- J.W. 51B. 18 Group aircraft immediately on sighting U-Boats will broadcast self-evident group S S on group R/C frequency or frequency in use thus "commencing sign S5K from J9CX pause S S ending sign" before carrying out normal enemy reporting procedure.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1210A/24 to H.F. Operational.)
P.216 left Lerwick at 0402A/24 by route "Black" to 071° 43' N. 017° 55' E., then to waiting-position 071° 43' N. 023° 40' E. Leave waiting-position for patrol area R.One at 1200A/28. Unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion till 17° E., thence diving by day.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0407A/24.)
When off Seidisfjord and clear of convoy report by immediate signal latest known P.C.S. of J.W. 51B. A.C.I.C. is requested to signal any information available from R/C aircraft.
(S.O. Force R, 1040C/24 to BLANKNEY, A.C.I.C.)
O.14 sailed from Lerwick at 1215A/24 and on the surface until East of 017°, thence dive by day. By route "Orange" to 070° 22' N. 015° 01' E., then direct to patrol position R.5.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1217A/24.)
Westbound U-Boat estimated within 60 miles of 64° 00' N. 05° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1220A/24 to Escorts J.W. 51B.)
Your position was probably reported by a F.W.200 aircraft at 1315A/24.
(D.D.I.C., 1516A/24 to Escorts J.W. 51B.)
At 1610A/24, P.312 left Lerwick unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion whilst West of 017° E., then dived by day. Proceeding by route "Pink" to 071° 43' N. 016° 40' E., then to waiting-position 071° 43' N. 022° 55' E. Leaves waiting-position 1200A/28 for patrol position R.2.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1615A/24.)
GRAPH left Lerwick 2210A/24 unescorted and on surface at C.O's discretion till 017° E., then dive by day by route ("Pink?") to 071° 43' N. 016° 40' E. and to wait position 071° 43' N. 022° 05' E. Leave waiting position at 2000A/28 to patrol in position R.4.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2216A/24.)
- J.W. 51A. 2 Russian aircraft left Kola Inlet 0830A/24 to contact J.W. 51A.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0847A/24 to A.I.G. 47.)
Arrived Kola Inlet 0830A/24 S.O. Force R, JAMAICA in company.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1352A/24 to H.F. Operational.)
Kola Inlet arrival OPPORTUNE and MATCHLESS at 1930A/24.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2012A/24 to H.F. Operational.)
- S.C.112. Sailed KIRKELLA for S.C.112. *See next page -*
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0450A/24.)
My 1750/23. 16 ships collected including Comdre.
(U) Portion consisting of 10 ships escorted by SHIKARI expected to arrive 057° N. 2300A.
(B) Portion consisting of 6 ships escorted by SCIMITAR expected to arrive position "A" 1730A. Request broadcast be made to straggler to proceed to destination.
(SCIMITAR, 1110A/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

/SCIMITAR's ...

War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- S.C. 112. SCIMITAR's 1425/24. Destination of PUNDIT is
(Contd.) Belfast.
(2) SCIMITAR's 1110/24. Broadcast to stragglers
has been made.
(3) All ships are to proceed independently to destinations.
(4) SCIMITAR is to proceed to Londonderry forthwith.
(5) KIRKELLA is to proceed to Liverpool forthwith. *See previous page*
(C. in C. W.A., 1741A/24 to SCIMITAR, KIRKELLA.)
- U.R. 55. My 1640A/23. Sailing again postponed owing
to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 0910A/24.)
Sailed at 1430/24 ships in accordance with my 1020A/21 escorted
by ANGLE, HUGH WALPOLE, ARAB and FARSUND.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe. 1440A/24.)
- P.W.D.268. P.W.D.268 cancelled on account weather.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0917/24.)
- O.N.S.156. 1. Loch Ewe portion delayed.
2. Two corvettes of A.3 Group are to proceed
forthwith to Loch Ewe to fuel and escort Loch
Ewe portion North of Butt of Lewis to join convoy at R/V to
be signalled.
3. CAPE PALLISER is to proceed to Greenock.
(C. in C. W.A., 0929Z/24 to C.T.G. 24.7.)
- Cromarty Kite Balloon Base Cromarty will be in operation
Balloon for ships routed to Invergordon and also
Base. Inverness from 1200/26/12.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0935A/24.)
- K.M.F. 6. Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by EGRET
and LOYAL passing Clyde boom 0030A/26 to R/V
with Liverpool portion in position (S) at 1000A/
26. Codeword "Tictac".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0954A/24.)
My 1045/21. Delete SWALE.
(C. in C. W.A., 1241A/24.)
- K.M.S. 6. My 1532/22. Delete EMPIRE TOWER and for 5
motor vessels read 4 motor vessels.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1004A/24 to AUBRETIA.)
My 1128/21. (1) Delete *CARNATIC owing to defects. (2) Add to
escort from Clyde MOOSEJAW, who will subsequently be ordered to
join M.K.S. 4. ** See next page -*
(C. in C. W.A., 1043A/24 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Sailed AUBRETIA escorting 4 motor vessels in accordance
with my 1018/22 amended by my 1532/22nd and by my 1004/24.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1134A/24.)
My 0946A/23. Sailed. Codeword "Sparrow".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2018A/24.)

/Convoy ...

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24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.S. 6. Convoy sailed as in Admiralty 1507A/20 as amended
(Contd.) by Admiralty 1635A/22nd December except following
 did not sail: EMPIRE TOWER, SAINT ESSYLT, WEARWOOD
 EMPIRE HUNTER, NORTON, CLAN MCBEAN.
2. Escorts as in C. in C. W.A. 1128A/21 as amended by his
1043A/24.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2054A/24 to F.O.C. W. Africa.)
- K.X. 8. A.M. 1653/22. WELLS cannot be made available
 for this duty.
 Propose**CARNATIC* be sailed as additional escort
if she can be ready in time, also two ships of 16th M.S.F. if
they can be made available.
(D.O.D(H), 1612A/24 to C. in C. W.A.) * *See previous page.*
- W.S. 25. Following ships sailed from U.K. on 18th December.
 Details and destinations.
 (D.S.T., 1751A/24.)
 See Lion Copy.
- O.N.S.154,
FIDELITY. My 1457/16. Destination of FIDELITY is Freetown
 for onward passage. She is to be detached when
 you detach other ships for south Atlantic ports.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1820A/24 to Escorts O.N.S.154.)

MOST SECRET

841^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 exempted from this rule.) 1751A/24th December.
OUT.

MOST SECRET

Addressed F.O.C. W. Africa 321. Date 24.12.42.
C. in C. South Atlantic 96.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet 310.
Repeated C. in C. Mediterranean 602.
V.A. Gibraltar 868.
F.O.R.S.C.A. 961.
F.O.C.R.I.N. 616.
N.O.I.C. Durban.

Naval Cypher (XD)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT to F.O.C.W.Af.

Following transports sailed from U.K. 18th December in convoy W S 25.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Numbers on Board</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
A.2	BRITANNIC	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	West Africa South Africa East Africa Middle East Iraq India	1 15 4 54 2138 2743	31
A.3	ESPERANCE BAY	14	Middle East	1805	41
A.4	HIGHLAND BRIGADE	15	West Africa	1882	51
A.5	HIGHLAND PRINCESS	15	East Africa Middle East Iraq India	378 247 966 339	52
A.6	MATAROA	14	South Africa East Africa Middle East Iraq India	749 160 20 22 946	42

A.7./.....

841^B

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 being sent in a One-Time Pad "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Nos. on Board</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
A.7	ORION	19	West Africa South Africa East Africa Middle East Iraq India Ceylon	57 3 199 99 2012 2719 221	32
A.8	RANGITIKI	14	Australia South Africa Madagascar East Africa Middle East Iraq India Ceylon	23 512 363 185 1533 1 1 3	21

2. H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE and H.M.S. CHESHIRE also sailed in convoy with 803 and 109 personnel respectively for West Africa.

3. Following stores etc. were loaded in troop transports:-

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Destination</u>
HIGHLAND BRIGADE	Stores Commercial	50 660 d.w.	West Africa Takoradi
RANGITIKI	Stores Currency notes	46 19	Durban Middle East

4. Cargo ship TARIFA also sailed in convoy. Details as follows:-

<u>Speed</u>	<u>Cargo</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Stores, ammunition, vehicles, 10 Hurricanes	India	11

5. M.T. ship CITY OF LINCOLN also sailed in convoy W.S. 25. Details are as follows:-

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Personnel on board</u>	<u>Pendant No.</u>
R. 648	16	Tanks, guns, vehicles, stores ammunition.	Basra	9	22

6./.....

841^c

6. Separate signal has been made regarding on-carriage of personnel for West Africa from Freetown.
7. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should arrange for the on-carriage of personnel from South Africa as follows:-
 - (a) All personnel for destinations beyond South Africa ex ESPERANCE BAY, HIGHLAND PRINCESS, MATAROA and RANGITIKI.
 - (b) For East Africa and Middle East ex BRITANNIC and ORION.
8. P.S.T.O. India should arrange for onward conveyance of all personnel for Iraq, Ceylon and Australia.
9. HIGHLAND BRIGADE on completion of movements on West African coast should proceed to the Plate to load for U.K. HIGHLAND PRINCESS MATAROA ESPERANCE BAY and RANGITIKI after disembarkation in South Africa will proceed to New York to load for U.K.
10. Further signal will follow as to whether ORION and BRITANNIC will turn round in South Africa or continue to Bombay.
11. Commodore of convoy is Commodore A.T. Tillard R.N.R. in BRITANNIC, Vice Commodore L.J. Vesty in ORION.
12. Addressees pass to S.T.Os. and Military authorities concerned.

1751A/24

1st S.L. (2)	D. of S.T. (M.W.T. Ext. 2187)
4th S.L.	
V.C.N.S.	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	
A.C.N.S. (UT)	D. of P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of S.T.
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P. (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)	W.D.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.C. (2)
D.T.D. (3)	Ad. Blake.
D.T.D. (M)	D. of S.
Hd. of M. (10)	
D.D.I.C. (2)	

EO

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24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

K.M.F. 5. Your 86032 (Q.(M).3) and Gibraltar's 18968. Arrangements made for sailing following ships with K.M.F.5 to destinations given. Oran, SILVER LAUREL, PARDO, ELISABETH BAKKE. Algiers, GLOUCESTER, AJAX. Bougie, CLAN LAMONT. Major part of bulk foodstuffs being handed over for civil consumption. Slow ships TILAPA, CORRALES, EMPIRE KAMAL held at Gibraltar pending acceptance of one or more by Casablanca. Remaining four ships discharging selected cargo Gibraltar. Special arrangements made for collection of Malta mail from six fast ships first names for onward despatch at first opportunity. Is Gibraltar collecting mail from remaining seven ships? Confirm Air/Sea rescue launches are to remain on present ships. Request Gibraltar notify Freedom when discharge given in his para. 7 completed. Agreed.
(Freedom Algiers, No T.O.O. to W.O., etc., Recd. 1615/24.)

General.

Fuel requirements. 1. Ref. A.M. 1537/19 estimated furnace oil requirements at points other than Addu Atoll are Suez 19,000 tons; Fremantle 9,500 tons; Adelaide or Sydney 13,000 tons; and Fremantle for the three returning transports 8,500 tons.
2. Will (a) P.S.T.O.M.E. confirm that bunkering at Suez can be handled with existing facilities and (b) A.C.N.B. comment generally and in particular state whether he will be able to arrange bunkering at Fremantle without provision of a commercial tanker for direct oiling.
(D. of S.T., 0154A/24 to P.S.T.O. Middle East, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.)

North Atlantic.

VAL DE LA HAYE, Convoy. Proceeding in company BLAIRESK, ELIZABETH MASSEY. S. of A. $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, 0345A/24 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) ST. NECTAN.)
Your 1847A/23rd (N.T. in W.D.) Have rendezvoused KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE. Armed Guard changed. M.S. Trawler and convoy going on ahead. Am escorting VAL DE LA HAYE as (? long) as time permits.
*(ST. NECTAN, 0740A/24 to F.O. Gibraltar.) * *see next page*

/Movements ...

843

War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements.

My 1557/23rd. ^{V.T. in H.D.} Sailed cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER. *ST. NECTAN holds Q.K.A. 80. *See previous page. (V.A. Gib., 0936A/24 to Admty.) _{p. 843 B}

P. 615.

Your 2002/23rd (re programme for P.615). Add to all times in my 1631/22nd 31 hours. (V.A. Gib., 0943A/24 to P.615, (R) C. in C. S.A., etc.)

U/B.

A.I.264, 24th Dec. A.I.262. Ref. sighting by G/202 1723/23 Dec. corrected position 39.36 N. 14.28 W. course 270°, not attacked. (A.H.Q. Gib., 0950Z/24 to H.Q.C.C.)

QUILLIAM,
ROCKWOOD,
PINK.

QUILLIAM left Ponta Delgada 0200 G.M.T. 24th, ROCKWOOD at 0230, PINK at 0830. (N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 0955C/24 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

TRIBUNE.

_{See p. 852} Your 2224/23rd (route instructions for TRIBUNE). Estimate TRIBUNE will pass Cape Palos 0330/25th and 038° 09' 002° 13' E. at 0130/26th. Bombing restrictions extended up to Cape Palos.

(V.A. Gib., 1137A/24 to Capt. S.8, (R) TRIBUNE.)

Comply with V.A. Gibraltar 1137 and R/V escort in 037° 00' 003° 00' E. at 0830A/26th.

(Capt. S.8, 1716A/24 to TRIBUNE, (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Am too late to arrive 26th. Your 2224A/23rd. Shall patrol within radius 20 miles Cape Palos from 0600/25th, proceed as ordered to arrive R/V 0815/27th. Weather report. (TRIBUNE, 1905/24 to Capt. S.8, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib.)

M.K.F.5.

<sub>See pp 843 B
7851</sub> Intend sailing ARGUS, ORDUNA, to join off Europa Point at 1900/25. WAVENEY will join as Ocean Escort. (V.A. Gib., 1203A/24 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.F.5, for Commodore, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)

LOCH OSKAIG.

Request 80 tons bunkers at Horta a.m. 26th Dec. Weather report. (LOCH OSKAIG, 1305A/24 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements.

Arrivals LONDONDERRY, HASTINGS, PRESCOTT, ALGOMA, LULWORTH, LANDGUARD, BIDEFORD, WOODSTOCK, CALVARY, CAMROSE, KITCHENER. (V.A. Gib., 1432A/24 to Admty., etc.)

/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.)

1332A/24 December.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 24.12.42.

Received 1935.

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

Situation Report Area X.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2000A/24th.

1. U.S. submarine BARB on patrol Vigo area.
2. French LA GRACIEUX, one submarine chaser, four M/V, onward leave Casablanca 0800A/25th coastwise to Gibraltar seven, one M/V to join off Mohediya.
3. H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, one M/V, 031 degs (?29') 013 degs 04' through 028 degs 03' 014 degs 58' thence 180 degs 10½
4. Portuguese naval tanker SAIBRAZ, 035 degs 21' 017 degs 12' 062 degs 11.
5. ARCTIC RANGER, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, 036 degs 55' 005 degs 49' repairing cable.
6. LORD HOTHAM, 037 degs 41' 009 degs 08' to rendezvous 2 M/V's off Tagus at 1900A/25th and escort coastwise to Cape St. Mary 8.
7. G.U.S. 2, 031 degs 38' 015 degs 42', all ships of convoy 9.
8. U.G.F. 3. (O), H.M.S. ROCHESTER, H.M.S. LEITH, H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH, H.M.S. VANOC, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, 035 degs 43' 006 degs 06' through 035 degs 51' 005 degs 57' through Straits of Gibraltar 12½. See p. 844
9. H.M.S. AJAX, 044 degs 41' 015 degs 30' 043 degs 01' 015 degs 30' and 038 degs 01' 014 degs 01' thence 122 degs 20. See p. 832

/10.....

843^B

-2-

(10) ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON-PENDER 035 degs 50'
005 degs 58' then through 035 degs 43' 006 degs 30'
and 035 degs 20' 006 degs 49' thence 208 degs 4. *See p. 843*

(11) M K F 5* fleet unit, H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT,
H.M.S. VERITY, H.M.S. FOLKESTONE, H.M.S. MILNE,
H.M.S. METEOR, WESTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, WAVENEY,
passing Europa Point 1900A/25th, westbound. *ARGUS - *See p. 843.9*

(12) Swedish relief ship MONGABARRA, FENRISE, BARDALAND, 851
FORMOSA, 036 degs 01' 006 degs 30' 275 degs 12.

1332N/24.

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

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. W/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C. (2).
I.F. (2).
W.D.
D.T.D. (3).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
D.S.D.
D.M.S.
D.D.O.D. (M).
Ad. Ramsey (4).

843^e
843

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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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1336A/24th December IN

Date 24. 12. 42.
Recd. 1702

From V.A. Gibraltar

Naval Cypher S by W/T and T/P

Addressed A.I.C. 65

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 1955A/24th.

(1)* Fleet Unit, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH, 042 degrees 11' 033 degrees 09' through 040 degrees 01' 038 degrees 59' thence 251 degrees 14. * VICTORIOUS. See p. 855

(2) BURDOCK, 019 degrees 31' 029 degrees 19' 010 degrees 12. See pp. 845A & 848, & 855

1336A/24

Advance copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

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

24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.HORORATA,
CEFALU.

My 1723/22nd. EMINENT returned a.m. 24th with remainder crew HORORATA. Has assisted CEFALU to berth in harbour. Operation completed. Request further orders.
(R.O. Fayal, 1612C/24 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gib., N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

G.U.F. 3.

Intend to sail U.S. Navy Ship SAMUEL CHASE and tankers BULK OIL, MONMOUTH, TICONDEROGA to join G.U.F.3. Request rendezvous. Also intend to sail in company with above M/Vs. TILAPA, CORRALES and EMPIRE KAMAL for Casablanca.
(V.A. Gib., 1810A/24 to S.N.O.C.A., (R) N.C.X.F., Connav, Admty., Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

BADSWORTH,
WOLVERINE.

BADSWORTH and WOLVERINE have been detached to fuel Ponta Delgada a.m. 25th Dec. Expect to reach position JAN VAN GOYEN p.m. 27th. My position 035° 01' N. 025° 35' W. Weather report.
(BADSWORTH, 1900A/24 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Londonderry, WOLVERINE.)

Lisbon
Trawler
Construction..

My reference sheet O-105 27th August. Trawler Guild now offer to take PORTISHAM and PORTAFERRY now completing ALFEITE for trawler MACHADO and one trawler Alberto class and 20 thousand pounds in cash. They will not require electric steering.
(2) Suspect this offer made for fear of German reprisals for building ship for us in naval yards. Guild report Germans have already withdrawn export licence from Switzerland for machinery for other ships building for Guild.
(3) This offer does not appear advantageous. We suggest counter offer be made for 3 trawlers approved by Lloyds Surveyor and 20 thousand pounds cash.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1920/24 to Admty.)

G.U.F.3.

G.U.F.3 arrived Casablanca 1718Z/24th December consisting of Task Force 35 and following in tow BROOMHURST, SEATRAN TEXAS, Brazilian THOMAS H. BARRY, Argentina SLOTERDYK, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, URUGUAY, CADIA, THURSTON, BENNINGTON, MERRIMAC. Mediterranean section broke off 0820/24th December position 34.09 N. 08.04 W. consisting of MONMOUTH, ALEXANDER, JAMES PARKER, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, DOROTHY L. DIOFF, ELIZ. C. STANTON, TICONDEROGA escorted by ANTELOPE, VANOC, ROCHESTER, LEITH, SCARBOROUGH.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 2044Z/24 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, etc.) *See a/30 p. 843A*

War Diary.

24.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

*ILEX. My 1810Z/23rd. Amend R/V to position 026° 21' N.
W.S.25. 021° 09' W. at 1600Z/26.
* See next page (R.A.W.A., 0915Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty., ILEX, Escorts of W.S.25.)

DESPATCH. DESPATCH sailing 1600Z/24th Dec. Route
(A) 004° 40' N. 002° W. (B) 003° 39' N. 007° 45' W. (C) 008° 07' N. 014° 35' W. S. of A.
20 knots. E.T.A. Freetown 0900Z/27th Dec.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 0934Z/24 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) DESPATCH, Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

BALUCHISTAN. F.O.C.N.Af's 1710A/23rd. From position (B) pass
(C) 011° 00' N. 019° 00' W. (D) 009° 00' N. 016° (729') W. thence to (?T)).
(F.O.C.W.A., 1130Z/24 to BALUCHISTAN, (R) Admty., F.O.C. N.Af.)

COLUMBINE. Arrival 1900/23rd ST. LOMAN ^{12.847} escorting H.M. Tug
BOLD towing SS. COLUMBINE.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1201C/24 to C. in C. S.A., Admty., F.O.C.W.Af., B.N.L.O. W.Af.)

Repatriations. In view of your 0930/22, Axis were informed that SATURNIA and VULCANIA would be delayed at St. Vincent for fourteen days. Your 1420/23 is therefore not understood. Request urgent explanation.
(M. Branch, 1204A/24 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, (R) F.O.W.Af.)
Your 1204A/24th. On arrival ships required only: SATURNIA 300 water and VULCANIA 500 which can be supplied in 3 days. If ships had taken 1200 tons each it would have meant delay of 14 days. Submit in future ships signal minimum requirements. Unless otherwise ordered ships will sail p.m. 25th.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent C.V., 1640/24 to Admty., (R) R.A.W.A.)

O. 19. Simonstown departure 1024Z/23rd D.S. O.19 for Freetown routed (?A) 030° S. 010° E. (B) 015° S. meridian. (C) Equator 010° W. escorted by ROCKROSE to 031° 08' S. 012° 25' E., S. of A. 15 knots.
(2) Shifting to W/T organisation for area P at 2000/31st. Holds naval code 2 and naval cypher 3 with S.P.02350, S.P.02361, S.P.02365 and S.P.02380 series.
(3) E.T.A. position C 1200Z/6th Jan. and Freetown 1200Z/9th.
(4) O.19 has been ordered to report any change in E.T.A. position C. 48 hours before arrival that position.
(5) F.O.C.W.A. is requested to arrange surface escort his area and degaussing range on arrival Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1231C/24 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A., Comsolant, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)

/PHOEBE ...

SECRET

845A

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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SECRET MESSAGE 1113Z/24 December. IN.

From R.A.W.AF.

Date 24.12.42.
Recd. 1440.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 149.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. BURDOCK, 19 35 29 20 (7010 degs. or 003 degs.)
12½. *See Hs. 843 C, Y 845, T 855*

ARRAN, 14 15 29 20 058 degs. 8½.

INKSPEN, 11 40 28 20 102 10 at 2001Z 24th.

H.M.S. ILEX, 14 40 17 50 346 degs. 17. *See previous page*

H.M.S. *NIOBE, escorting from Bathurst to Freetown 9½.

**not duplicated.*

1113Z/24.

Advance copy. Ops. O.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F).
A.C.N.S.(UT).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim. Admy. Hse.
Ops. (3).
O.D. (5).
O.I.C. (3).
I.P. (3).
D.S.D.9. (2).
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (O).
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
M. (3).
U.S.N. (3).

3

84573

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

M E S S A G E

IN

From R.A.W.I.f.

1137Z/24/Dec.
Date 29.12.42.

Time 1452.

Naval Cypher M by R/T

Addressed A.T.C.150

IMPORTANT

HOLCOMBE (?H.M.S. HYDRANGEA), escorting off Freetown 1/2
South east 8 1/2.

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ORFASY, 3 H.L., with S.T.49, 0440
09 25 to 03 39 07 (?45) thence 081 degrees 9 at 1957Z/24th.
H.M.S. LADY ELSA, H.M.S. WELLD, off Takoradi to Congo River 10.
H.M.S. CAPE WARWICK, H.M.S. INDIAN STAR, 06 20 South 04 40
East 150 10 - 3. H.M.S. ALCANTARA, with C.F.10, 09 20 South
05 05 East to 07 35 South 03 50 East thence 314 12 1/2.

1137Z/24

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Trade

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

24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

PHOEBE,
BRIDGEWATER,
ARMERIA.

In next page.

PHOEBE, BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA sailed p.m. 23rd December.
Admty's 1158/23rd for PHOEBE (repetition of Combrax Chatham's 1501/22) is being repeated to Trinidad,
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1315Z/24 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. W.Af., B.S.N.O. Trinidad.)

Movements.

Arrival 22nd December Brazilian Tug^s HEITOR, PERDIGAO. Arrival 23rd U.S. Dest. DAVIS, H.M. Transport CHANTILLY.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1340Z/24 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo, S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro.)

GLENROY,
JANUS.

Intend to sail GLENROY and JANUS in company for Freetown calling at Walvis Bay and Pointe Noire. Endurance of JANUS is 180 hours at 13 knots necessitating her fuelling at Walvis Bay, Pointe

Noire and Takoradi.

2. GLENROY proceeding on one engine with maximum speed 12 knots endurance 32 days.

3. Request onward route and instructions from Pointe Noire.
(C. in C. S.A., 1415C/24 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) Admty.)

A/S Vessels
from Eastern
Fleet.

With the lull, however temporary, in the U-Boat campaign in South African waters and the arrival within the next few weeks of 20 A/S escort trawlers, I feel there is no justification in retaining all 4 destroyers and 3 corvettes lent

from Eastern Fleet.

2. In addition to expected trawlers the A/S force belonging to S.A. Station consisting of 3 corvettes only. With no destroyers available Monsters and fast valuable ships will get no surface escort.

3. Propose therefore that when the South Africa troop convoys have arrived from the north you withdraw 2 destroyers and 2 corvettes and consider the situation regarding remaining 2 destroyers in 1 month's time. The 1 remaining corvette I should like on permanent loan.

(C. in C. S.A., 1505Z/24 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., V.A. Eastern Fleet.)

CECILE
MAPLESON.

My 0704Z/24th (N.T. in W.D.) CECILE MAPLESON returned to East London main engine defect. Further signal will be made.
(N.L.O. East London, 1704Z/24 to Admty., etc.)

/LADY ...

847

War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

LADY ELSA, Sailed 1700Z/24th LADY ELSA, WELLARD escorting
WELLARD. BELGIAN FISHERMAN, E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0700Z/29th
Dec. through (B) 001° 00' N. 003° 00' E. (C)
002° 32' S. 008° 00' E. (D) 004° 37' S. 011° 02'
E. Reference position (E) 000° 00', 000° 00'. (F) Cape
Lopez. Speed 9 knots. BELGIAN FISHERMAN Code 21 22
independent 5 days 17 coal.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1800Z/24 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.
W.Af., B.N.L.O.W.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos, S.O.(I) Freetown.)

U/B use At 2245Z/2 Dec. *ASTURIAS sighted light and
of flare closed to investigate. At 2345 passed large
as decoy. canister about two feet square emitting
considerable smoke and very brilliant white
light in 07.51 N. 14.28 W. Light was visible
until 2400. * See next page.
(2) At 0020Z/3 Dec. ST. LOMAN escorting S.T.45 convoy sighted
torpedo track in 07.50 N. 14.18 W.
(3) Comment. It is possible U-Boat was responsible for eke (sic)
flare place to attract shipping.
(S.O.(I), Freetown, 1825Z/24 to Admty.)

BELLWORT. Arrival 24th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1836Z/24 to Admty., R.A.W.Af.,
C. in C. S.A.)

BRIDGEWATER, If not necessary for BRIDGEWATER and ARMERIA to
ARMERIA. escort PHOEBE beyond Trinidad intend them to
See previous page R/V with westbound convoy about 7th Jan. in 040°
page W. BRIDGEWATER would return Trinidad with
convoy and ARMERIA continue to Freetown. Report intention
immediately on arrival Trinidad.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1847Z/24 to PHOEBE, (R) BRIDGEWATER, N.O.I.C.
Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.A.)

EAST WALES, Vice Consul Natal reports by cable arrival that
TEESBANK. port night 23rd Dec. of 28 survivors ex SS. EAST
WALL (EAST WALES intended, see Connav 2003/24)
and 19 ex M.V. TEESBANK. Captain and 16 others
including other officers of EAST WALL believed lost with ship.
43 of crew TEESBANK missing.
No further details yet received.
(R.O. Recife, 1902Z/24 to Admiralty, (R) S.O.(I) Freetown,
Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro.)

Takoradi The completion of boom defences at Takoradi is
defences. being delayed and the maintenance of those already
in existence cannot be properly carried out owing
to lack of boom defence vessels. In view of
increasing importance of this port consider it essential that
one more Bar Class vessel in addition to BARFOSS and CONSBRO
should be permanently allocated.
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 1916Z/24 to Admty.)

/STAR ...

848

24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

STAR OF SUEZ (torpedoed 15th Dec.) Egyptian ship STAR OF SUEZ torpedoed off St. Pauls Rocks 1420 G.M.T. 15th Dec. 11 survivors including Master, Second, Third Officers, Second, Fourth, Fifth Engineer Officer, Radio Operator and 3 crew landed 23 miles southward and eastward from Fortelaza night 23rd Dec. 2nd Officer died since from exhaustion and 1 stoker in hospital severely injured. One lifeboat with Chief Officer and 27 others got away but not arrived. Code and cypher sunk and Master has all ship's books. One killed and 2 missing. (R.O. Ceara, 1955/24 to Admty.)

BURDOCK. My P.C. and S. 2000Z/24th 018° 43' N. 029° 56' W. 011° 10 knots. Expect to maintain this speed but owing to weather conditions and amount of fuel remaining shall be unable to reach Ponta Delgada until p.m. 29th December. Weather Report. (BURDOCK, 2016Z/24 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Trawlers. Your 1201/13 (re equipment of trawlers from West Africa operating across Atlantic.) The 8 A/S Trawlers of the Hill class recently allocated to you, although not of the very largest class, are new constructions, have good endurance and are fitted with all the latest approved equipment for A/S Trawlers, including T.W.12 E.H. Six have C.N.S.1 and two other C.N.S.1 are being sent. 2. Larger A/S Trawlers are not available for allocation to your command. 3. C.N.S.1 sets are not available at present for other A/S Trawlers as they are in short supply and are required for Corvettes. (D.A/S.W., 2201A/24 to F.O.C.W.A.)

ASTURIAS. Arrival 24th December. (S.O.(I) Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2205Z/24 to Admty.)

See previous page.

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War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following has been read. One enemy merchant vessel 3 (? E-Boats) 39.02 N. 11.51 E. course 190°, 10 knots at 0345.
(A/C using call sign AOUD, 0350/24.)

Following has been read. One merchant vessel 6000 tons 2 destroyers one (? E-Boat) corrected position 38.45 N. 12.06 E.
(A/C using call sign AOUD, 0400/24.)

At 0510A/24th, 3 merchant ships 4 destroyers in 038° 12' 011° 51' course 238°, speed 10 knots.
(Capt. S.10, 0605A/24 to P.51.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 23rd Dec. WELSHMAN, SOUTHERN ISLES, ERICA, *MAINSTAY, SOUTHERN MAID, KLO. Departure 23rd Dec. BURRA, CROOME, BELVOIR, ANTWERP. My 0914/23rd Dec. delete FORESTAY (amended).
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0908B/24 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
**not identified*

VILLE D'ANVERS. Your 1650/23rd (N.T. in W.D.) Destination of VILLE D'ANVERS is United States. She should be sailing in next G.U. convoy.
(N.C.X.F., 0945A/24 to F.O. Oran, (R) Admty., Cdre. Algiers.)

EROS. EROS did not sail on 19th. She will now leave Piraeus for Salonika 0900/27th routed as in my 1428/17th.
(Capt. S.1, 0958B/24 to TAKU, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Cositrep No. 634. (3) Air. Night 22nd/23rd Dec. Liberators and American B.24s despatched to attack shipping at Sousse and Tunis. Owing to bad weather only two Liberators located objective and dropped bombs through cloud on Sousse harbour and railway yards at Mahdia. Damage unobserved. Bad weather prevented offensive operations from Malta.
(5) Malta Beaufighters attacked a M/V of 1000 tons escorted by a destroyer and six Ju.88s off Sousse. Hit with bomb followed by clouds of smoke and explosions. Escorting Spitfires shot down one Ju.88 damaged another. Malta Spitfires bombed aerodrome on Lampedusa Island. Damage obscured by cloud.
(C. in C. M.E., 1200B/24.)

P.247, P.212. 1. Cancel previous R/V instructions.
2. P.247 is to proceed through 038° 01' 003° 59' E. and P.212 through 038° 07' 004° 33' E. both to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 01' 003° 34' E. at 0800A/25th.

3. Force H from westward arriving Algiers daylight 25th.
(Capt. S.8, 1216A/24 to P.247, P.212, (R) N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers)

/Movements ...

24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrival UNA (group missing) ? P.44.
Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1312A/24 to Admty., C. in C. Med.,
Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, (R) N.C.X.F.)

M.K.F. 5 Sailing telegram.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1332/24, 1338A/24 to Admty.)

M.K.S. 4. Sailing telegram.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1336A/24, 1337A/24, 1338A/24,
1435A/24 to Admty.)

PLANET. Sailed H.M. B.D.V. PLANET.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 1351Z/24 to Admty.)

Malta D.S.T's 0225/23rd not to Admiralty. The request
Convoys for a faster convoy was made by me. The passage
and Stocks. across the Central Basin can be effected in
comparative safety by 13 knot convoys. 10 knot
convoys offer enemy surface forces a chance to
intercept which I feel they will accept sooner or later. The
forces at my disposal are inadequate to cover this risk.
(2) To avoid tempting enemy unduly I have kept slow convoys
down to two ships and accepted uneconomical use of escorts,
fighter and R/C aircraft and immobilization of air striking
forces during passage of each pair of ships.
(3) I shall not be satisfied until Malta is stocked to end of
1943. I am very anxious to achieve this while the going is
good and enemy's attention turned to other areas. The fast
convoy for which I have asked should almost enable me to do so.
Malta's subsequent requirements can be met by occasional small
10 knot convoys for which I shall require 12 knot ships.
(C. in C. Med., 1430B/24 to Admty.)

Operation Carry out Operation "Peppercorn". E.T.A. 2000A/
"Peppercorn". 24 position 000° Cani Rock 2 miles northbound.
(FAA Sweep N. of (N.C.X.F., 1502A/24 to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) H.Q.
Bizerta) E.A.C., F.O.I.S., V.A. Malta, 12th C.S.)

TIGRIS, Intend sailing TIGRIS for Malta and P.217 for
P.217. patrol p.m./27th crossing 008° E. TIGRIS in
038° 07' N. 0230A/29th and P.217 in 038° 28' N.
at 0530/29th thence as ordered (by)? Capt. (S)
10, S. of A. 160 miles a day.
2. TIGRIS has 11 torpedoes only, and is unfit for patrol because
17 ratings and 10 tons assorted stores and spares including
about 180 rounds of 3 inch flashless are carried.
3. Both S/Ms carry Capt. S.10's 0005/1st Dec.
(Capt. S.8, 1610A/24 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., F.O.S., V.A. Malta,
C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1, Capt. S.10, Cdre. Algiers.)

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

- P. 219, information. Convoy leaves Bougie 0800A/25th for Bone by inshore route, speed 15 knots, (Capt. S.8, 1624A/24 to P.219, (R) F.O.I.S.)
- Malta Albacores. Albacores intend to operate about 0200A/25th in approx. position 038° 05' N. 011° 40' E. (V.A. Malta, 1707A/24 to N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S., (R) S.O. Force Q, C. in C. Med.) My 1707/24. Operation cancelled because of weather. (V.A. Malta, 1935A/24.)
- Black Sea. (1) Naval. (a) S/Ms. Numerous sightings reported off this coast. German S/M reported sunk by R-Boats 25 miles west of Tuapse Dec. 19th. (b) Enemy rebuilding cruiser CHERVONNAYA UKRAINE sunk by air attack in Sevastopol November 1941. (2) Land. (a) Tuapse area. Russians continued attack up to Dec. 20th and advance 2/3 on eastern and central parts of front, capturing several heights and considerable quantity of equipment arms and ammunition etc. (b) Maikop area. Russians commenced an offensive on Dec. 21st are encountering heavy artillery fire and strong counter attacks. (3) Air. Usual R/C by both sides. Enemy bombed the Becho (? field) (90 km. S.W. Nalchik) Dec. 21st and Gelendjik Dec. 22nd. Russian A/C brought down (corrupt group) enemy Dec. 22nd. (L.O. Black Sea, 1707C/24 to Admty., etc.)
- Malta Air Report. A.I.200 24th Dec. C.S.R. Night 23rd/24th Dec. No enemy activity locally. Adverse weather prevented our offensive operations. Day 24th Dec. 8 Spitfires made offensive sweep in Pantellaria Lampedusa area but saw no enemy aircraft or shipping. Further offensive operations were prevented by bad weather. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1800/24, 1905Z/24.)
- S/M reported by enemy. A British S/M was reported from a shore station near Trapani at 1629B/24th. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1848B/24 to Capt. S.10, Capt. S.8, (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. S.1.)
- Malta. Message from President Roosevelt. (B.A.D., 1935Z/24.) See America and West Indies.
- Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrival DIDO, TARTAR, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND from Bone, M.L. 444, F.P.V.2013 from Delys. Departure WESTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, ESKIMO, TARTAR, NASTURTIUM, HELVIG with *M.K.F.5, ALYNBANK, HUSSAR, BADDECK, ALBERNI, RHYL, STORNOWAY, CLACTON, BUDE, QUEBEC, PORT ARTHUR, SCOTTISH with M.K.S.4. (Cdre. Algiers, 2049A/24 to Admty.) Algiers arrivals STURGEON, P.228. (Cdre. Algiers, 2109A/24 to Admty.)

/TRIBUNE ...

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24.12.1942.

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

TRIBUNE. Force H will not now be arriving Algiers tomorrow Friday but will be remaining at sea and may meet TRIBUNE.

Sum p 843

(2) TRIBUNE is to report P.C. and S. if unable to adhere within 2 hours of following position: 135° part company (sic) 5 miles 0330/25th 038° 09' 002° 13' E. at 0130/26th 037° 00' 003° 00' E. at 0830.

(Capt. S.8, 2200A/24 to TRIBUNE, P.212, P.247, (R) F.O. (H), N.C.X.F.)

Adm. To: Agwar. For: Marshall. From: Clark.
Darlan. The news of Darlan's death is spreading rapidly here. Have authorised immediate broadcast by radio Marco and radio Algiers, Usfor deliver this message to British Chiefs of Staff.

(Algiers via Agwar, 2202Z/24 to Usfor.)

To: Marshall. From: Clark. Arrangements have just been made for release of the following announcement by French via radio. "Admiral Darlan, High Commissioner in French Africa, was assassinated this afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock on arriving in the offices of the High Commissariat at Algiers. The assassin fired several revolver shots, of which two took effect on the Admiral who died shortly afterwards while being transported to the hospital. The assassin was arrested on the spot. Complete order reigns in Algiers notwithstanding general indignation caused by this event. The examination of the murderer is now taking place. Whether the assassination was of German or Italian inspiration is not yet known from preliminary examination of the assassin".

(Algiers via Agwar, 2225Z/24 to Usfor.)

M.W. 17. Total unloaded to 1700/24th 6528 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 2305A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

Salvage Ships. Your 1230/14. The salvage ships with their complement of men and equipment including the six salvage pontoons are most urgently required in Western Mediterranean. It is requested that the ships with their equipment and pontoons be sailed as early as possible for Oran via the Cape. B.A.D. pass to Navy and War Departments. C. in C. Med. pass to Gen. Maxwell, Cairo.
(N.C.X.F., 2355A/24 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., B.A.D.)

M.K.F.O.5 M.K.F.O.5 sailed as in my 1650/23. Outcon 323 issued.
(F.O. Oran, 2359/24 to N.C.X.F.)

24.12.1942.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

DURBAN. DURBAN (? left). ^{23/12 - Pink list}
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0230Z/24 to Admty., etc.)

Addu My 0507Z/24th Nov. In view of A.M. 0440A/6th
Atoll Dec. is it still intended that BRITTANY should
Net. relay indicator net at Addu Atoll.
(2) Request information whether indicator nets at
Diego Garcia should be lifted. The same applies to Addu if
it is not intended to relay net.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0420Z/24 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.)

OKAPI. Arrival at 0745Z.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1014Z/24 to Admty.)

Jibuti 89070 Cipher (M.O.5) 24th December.
French Your 0/87074 of 21st Dec. noted, but no decision
for M.E.F. can be reached until Jibuti negotiations
completed.
(W.O., 1120A/24 to C. in C. Middle East, (R)
G.O.C. in C. East Africa.)

Jibuti, 72916 continuation my 72813 to 12th A. Div. and
demonstration. A.H.Q.E.A. only.
1. No date yet received from Navy. We must have
this before we can fix date for demonstration.
2. Have just discussed your telegram personally with A.V.M. here.
His firm date is 30th Dec. but may be able to advance to 29th
Dec.
3. Movements into C.S.F. of Fighter French must be co-ordinated
so as to ensure that it arrives only short time before demon-
stration and so that there is no risk of an action developing
before combined forces are ready to stage demonstration.
4. If firing has to be opened it should, in first instance, be
by Naval ships only on true Military targets away from civilian
population. If this fails to induce surrender Naval and Air
Forces should concentrate fire on selected military targets.
5. This answers your 15488 of 23rd Dec. to A.O.C. in so far as
A.O.C. East Africa is concerned.
(G.O.C. in C. E.A., No T.O.O. to 12 A. Div., (R) W.O., C. in C.
Middle East (for Minostate and A.O.C. in C.), A.O.C. East
Africa, C.H.Q. Aden.)
Following for Chiefs of Staff from A.O.C. in C. Ref.
E.A.C. signal 72916 Dec. 24th. I have strongest objection my
forces being used in manner proposed unless specifically
instructed to do so by Chiefs of Staff. In present circum-
stances in Jibuti I consider only conceivable excuse for use of
air action would be in direct support of land advance should
that advance be seriously held up. Request immediate ruling
from Chiefs of Staff.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1844Z/24 to Air Ministry.)
See Chiefs of Staff No. (E.A.) 19, 1700Z/25.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Movements, Colombo. Colombo arrival, 24th December, 0100Z, Netherlands Sloop SOEMBA, 0500Z D.S. 0.24.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1151Z/24 to Admty., etc.)

Air Report. U.S.A.A.F. report. Dec. 22nd 5 Liberators bombed docks Rangoon 17 bombs target area. 2 S/E fighters intercepted 60 miles ? W. ? of Rangoon after bombing. One E/A probably destroyed. Most bombs Calcutta raids appear 50 KG G.P. some incendiaries. (A.H.Q. India, 1216Z/24.)

WAYLAND. B.A.D. Washington's 0341/22nd Dec.
H.M.S. WAYLAND will leave U.K. with K.M.F.7 due Gibraltar 16th Jan. 2. Onward escort to Eastern Fleet via Freetown and the Cape will be provided by RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT due Gibraltar about 19th Jan.
(D.O.D.(F), 1302A/24 to C. in C. E.F., V.A. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W., C. in C. S.A., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Glasgow, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

PLADDA, Sailed PLADDA and SLUNA for Tamatave to join SLUNA. local defence force. E.T.A. 0800C/26th Dec.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1417Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Tamatave, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. East Africa & Zanzibar, C. in C. S.Africa, S.O.(I) Kilindini.)

U.S. Forces. A.M. 1709/17. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific.
*NEW ORLEANS - at Sydney. CARD, CHENANGO, MARBLEHEAD, MILWAUKEE, MONTPELIER, NASHVILLE - at Sea. NEVADA, San Diego. RICHMOND, San Francisco. BOGUE, Panama Canal Area.
(D.O.D.(F), 1825A/24 to C. in C. E.F.)

* See p. 862

24.12.1942.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SEAWOLF (1) On passage New London to Halifax keeping wireless watch in accordance with A.F.O "S" 1/42 as amended S.263/42 Section U.S. Table 3. (3) (Washington N.A.A.Fox) shifting to read Louisburg broadcast L. (2) Book held in accordance with form A 2 C Para. 44. (A) With U.S. British book including S.P. 02346 in addition. (B.A.D., 0145Z/24 to SEAWOLF, (R) Admty. Cominch. Com. S/M Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

MANSFIELD Boston returned 1227Z/23 MANSFIELD. (N.S.H.Q., 0406Z/24 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

CHESTERFIELD, WANDERER. Concur your 1928Z/23. To augment T.U.24.1.5 in view absence CHESTERFIELD propose you sail WANDERER with this unit or to overtake and remain with S.C.115 to prudent limit thence to U.K., F.O.N.F., 1809/23. (C.T.F., 0447Z/24 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T./24 Dec.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
T.A.31 A.	43° N., 61° W.	270°	19
T.A.31	44½° N., 50½° W.	222°	26
<i>See p. 843</i> VICTORIOUS } 3 destroyers	42½° N., 32½° W.	243°	14
* BURDOCK	19½° N., 29½° W.	011°	12½.

(D.O.D. (F), 0925Z/24 to Opnav (R) Connaveu).
* *See pp. 843, 845, 848*

Pacific Shipping Routes. Your 2035/8 and A.M. 2127/12. Concur in route through Panama during present phase U-boat activity off St. Paul's Rocks. 2. To conserve oil stocks on Pacific route, propose broad principle for British managed ships coal fired sail by Pacific route and oil fired by Cape Horn. (D.T.D., 1124Z/24 to Connav).

B.A.D. is to be added as a repeated addressee of Admty. 1124Z/24.

(D.T.D., 1829Z/24 to Connav (R) B.A.D.)

My 1124/24 is subject to investigations now being made with regard to capacity of Colombo. Request information regarding estimated average number U.S. controlled ships which will call at that port monthly.

(D.T.D., 2030Z/24 to Connav (R) B.A.D.)

My 1124/24 which replied to Connav's 2035/8 not to B.A.D. Request you will ascertain whether any arrangement has been made with A.C.N.B. and N.Z.N.B. regarding coal bunkering ports and quantities.

(D.T.D., 2130A/24 to B.A.D.)

254
855A

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.)

M E S S A G E 1142A/24th December.
OUT.

MOST SECRET.

Addressed C. in C. U.S. Fleet. Date 24.12.42.
Repeated OPNAV.
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.
B.A.D. Washington 796.

U.S. (X)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic.

Operating in Northern Waters

JAMAICA
SHEFFIELD
9 Destroyers

Area Iceland (C)

ANSON
CUMBERLAND
NORFOLK
8 Destroyers

Area Scapa

KING GEORGE V
HOWE
MALAYA
BERMUDA
BERWICK
KENT

Passage to South Atlantic

1 destroyer

Passage to Bermuda

VICTORIOUS
3 destroyers

Area Gibraltar

NELSON
RENOWN
RODNEY
ARGUS
FURIOUS
FORMIDABLE
AURORA
DELHI
SCYLLA
SIRIUS
8 destroyers

Passage/.....

855B

2.

Passage to U.K.

ADVENTURE

Passage to Gibraltar.

AJAX

1142A/24

for D.O.D. (H)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (M)
I.C. (2)
U.S.N. (4) and for Comnavu.
D. A/S W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.

EO

War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- OVERTON Bermuda departure U.S.S. OVERTON.
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 1203Q/24 to Admty. (R) N.S.
H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica).
- TAIGETE. My 2011A/9 Dec. TAIGETE was delayed at
Las Palmas for repairs but will sail Dec. 27th
by reverse of route in Connav's 1601/11 Nov.
(M. Branch 1205A/24 to Connav F.O.C.W.A.,
V.A. Gib).
- JAMES MACKAY. H.X. 217. Your 1645Z/23. No news of JAMES
MACKAY.
(D.T.D., 1317A/24 to Connav).
- U/B Positions. S/M estimate 24th Dec. and U.S. submarine notice.
(Cominch, 1520/24, 1552/24)
- O.N. 153 SUNFLOWER's 1250Z/24 (N.T. in W.D.) SARNIA
and *TENACITY will be sailed to assist after
refuelling a.m./25th. * *see p. 859. (COLDWELL)*
(F.O.N.F., 1527Z/24 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Cominch,
Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G.
24.7).
Your 1250Z/24th. If fuel permits send escort to
investigate.
(C.T.24., 1619Z/24 to SUNFLOWER, (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)
Your 1619Z. Have detached BUCTOUCHE to investigate.
(SUNFLOWER, 1735Z/24 to Comtask 24. (R) F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)
SUNFLOWER 1250Z/24. Request you send. Have directed
SUNFLOWER detach to investigate.
(C.T.F.24., 1643Z/24 to C.C.N.F., (R) SUNFLOWER).
- S.C.113 Following are stragglers. *SCHVILLE, SCANDIA,
EMPIRE ACTIVITY, DUNAV, LACONIKOS. 51 ships
Commodore estimates all but DUNAV will overtake.
Weather report. **not in file*
(C.T.U. 24.1.12., 1530Z/24 to Connav).
My P.C. and S., at 1530Z/24th 055° 35' 038° 13'
A. 043° 7 knots.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1535Z/24 to ORILLIA).
- Convoy Conference. Cominch 1843/23. Suggest following points be
raised at proposed conference.
(a) Re-institution of S.L./O.S. convoys which
is an urgent matter is bound up with opening
of trans-Atlantic cycle to 10 days. By
re-adjustment of escorts thus released with those employed in
"Torch" it will be possible in addition to the 3 groups for
D.W.I. - U.K. tanker convoys to provide 3 groups of paper
strength 5 escorts each for S.L./O.S. convoys enabling these
latter to be restarted on a 20 day cycle. In view of weakness
of these groups it will be necessary to obtain maximum air

/support...

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Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - 15/11Convoy
Conference.
Contd.

support from newly acquired bases in Morocco and French West Africa.
(b) Present arrangements for Western Local escort involve changing escorts off Halifax. There does not appear to be any necessity for this. Also present system by which convoys pass through control of 3 different authorities between New York and Cape Race could be avoided if one centralised control were established, who should also control all the A/S aircraft in the area and co-ordinate their operation to best advantage.
(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S. (T) 1543A/24 to B.A.D.)

Tankers
for "Torch"
Area.

My 0341/22. Assuming one tanker required to be discharged at Ponta Delgada, she will be detached from nearest point en route and will return to U.S. independently. ESSO GETTYSBURG has been provisionally selected for this duty out of the five starters for this convoy.
2. Oiling at sea gear now in British Tanker LAURELWOOD is being transferred to U.S. fast Tanker SEAKAY.
(B.A.D., 1601Z/24 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

M.M.S.

C.E.S.F. B.S. 161619. Motor minesweepers left Chesapeake for Miami today.
2. Request you inform S.B.N.O. Trinidad and F.O.C. W.A.F., of their arrival at Kingston and E.T.A. Pernambuco.
(B.A.D., 1603Z/24 to N.O.I.C. Kingston (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.B.N.O., W.A.T., F.O.C., W.A.F., Admty).

Signal
Letters on
Sides of
M/Vs.

Your 1238/25 Nov. has been fully considered.
2. The merit of the proposal to paint signal letters on ships lies in the increased facility it gives to our warships in rapid establishment of bona fides on merchant ships met in areas where blockade runners or raiders may be present. This facility is enhanced by recent establishment in East Indies and South Atlantic Stations of system known as "Checkmate Signal" which enables warships to obtain quick corroboration or otherwise from shore plots of bona fides of a suspected merchant ship. Checkmate signal was also put in force in South West Pacific area by A.C.N.B. Melbourne on 3rd Nov. Details follow as para. 8.
3. Although it may be feasible for raiders and blockade runners to pass scrutiny by means of camouflage, checkmate system makes it necessary for them to be in correct estimated position of ship represented. Added inconvenience of having to paint correct signal letters will, it is hoped, be a very strong deterrent to them and our great difficulty of making certain of identity of Merchant Ships will be decreased.

858

24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - con'ts.

Signal
Letters on
sides of
M/Vs.
Contd.

4. Although we fully realise that adoption of proposal entails amendments to existing instructions regarding concealment of ships names and use of war call signs in distress messages we feel that its advantages outweigh its disadvantages. Survivors of ships sunk out of convoy are often interrogated by U-boats, but U-boats attacking at night cannot in any case see ships name. Present U-boat policy favours night attack on convoys therefore probability of target identification is low.
5. It is not proposed to paint signal letters on certain large ships of unique appearance but application should be otherwise general.
6. In conclusion we felt that the possibility of increased use of blockade runners and raiders warrants every precaution that we can take against them.
7. Request your further remarks.
8. Chekmate signal is intended for occasions when
- (a) Identification procedure proves inconclusive.
 - (b) Boarding is undesirable.
 - (c) There is no strong objection to use of W/T.
2. Procedure. Warship signals in Naval Code word "Check" only. Shore plots immediately collect particulars of ships in vicinity. This is followed by cypher message from warship giving relevant details of suspected ship. Shore plots reply with word "Mate" followed by one of the following. Correct (ship should be in your area). Suspicious (no information whatever). Elsewhere (ship named known to be elsewhere). (D.T.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 1621Z/24 to Cominch).

BUTTERMERE,
WASTWATER.

Take WASTWATER under your orders and leave Bermuda at 1500Z/25th Dec. and proceed to Trinidad passing through following position (D) 018° 35' N., 063° 37' W. (E) 011° 50' N., 062° 16' W. S. of A. 12 knots to be adjusted to

arrive 1100Z/30th.

2. Communications in accordance with A.F.O's 1/42 section A C table 3 (1) line 7 and table 4 (1) lines one and 2 guarding station H/F (I/F) routines. (?S.P.) (?02358) series held. B.A.D. 0221/8th Nov. refers. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1632Z/24 to BUTTERMERE (R) F.O.C.W.A., etc).

U/B

Enemy submarine reported 45.10 N., 61.05 W., 1545 G.M.T. (Halifax, 1640 G.M.T./24 to C. in C. W.A., Admty. Londonderry for Escort Control).

Cargo-
carrying
Submarines.

Your 691 (1827/28 Nov) We agree that production of such craft could only be at the expense of more important requirements and for that reason we are not in favour of proceeding further. (D. of P. Approved V.C.N.S. 1658A/24 to B.A.D.)

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War Diary.24.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

S.C.111 My 1930A/23. Amend time of arrival off Oversay to 1800A/16.
(D.T.D., 1720A/24 to Connav N.S.H.Q.)

Salvage Vessels. Ref. Salor 4567. Ocean going Salvage Vessels, Lorsa 6416. Since receiving Admty. requirements in Salor 4567 of August 23rd the situation has changed. The following is the review of the present position as we understand it.

2. Present deployment. British. 5 all in Mediterranean U.S.16. Casablanca 3. Atlantic East Coast (Newfoundland Trinidad including Gulf) 8. West Coast (Alaska to San Diego) 3. Pacific 2.
3. Additional requirements 1943, British 20. U.S.32, Combined total 52.
4. Under construction 1943. British. In U.K. 3. Steel in U.S.4 steel (two assigned to Australia, two to U.S.) 8 wooden U.S. in U.S.11. Steel 5, wooden combined total 31.
5. The U.S. are planning to place salvage vessels in areas which according to Salor 4567 are also covered by British development, viz West Indies, A.N.Z.A.C. area, Iceland.
6. Our immediate consideration is the assignment of wooden bars, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The U.S. are claiming 5 and 6 for urgent duty in the Pacific leaving us with 7, 8 and 9.
7. If we are to go to the V.A. in order to retain all five a very strong case will be required giving details of immediate operational urgency. Request this information with your very early views.
(B.A.D., 1819Z/24 to Admty).

Dakar Conference. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 405. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 403 (2330/23). It has now been decided that F.O.C.W.A. will go to Dakar himself instead of sending his Chief Staff Officer.
(Air Min. 1845Z/24 to Britman, Washington).

Russian S/Ms Admty. 1841/11 (Passage of Russian S/Ms from Halifax to North Russia and U.K.) All S/Ms have been issued with relevant Q messages up to and including Q.Z.S.354 Q.Z.Y.355, Q.Z.X.690, Q.Z.F.31.

2. Para.7. C.O.A.C. Halifax will be responsible for passing this information to all submarines to the westward of 047° W. Request another authority be designated to pass necessary information between 047° W., and 026° W.
3. Submarines have no S.S/T smoke candles, smoke grenades nor three star cartridges. They can identify themselves by lamp and flare only.
(C.O.A.C., 1850Z/24 to Admty).

CALDWELL My 1503/21 (Rescue Tugs TENACITY and FRISKY left to search for CALDWELL) H.M.R.T. TENACITY returned St. Johns 0414/24 with CALDWELL in tow.
(St. Johns N.F., 1859Z/24 to Admty).

/S. P. 856

24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

840 Air
Sqdn.

My 2010/19. Request confirmation that 840
squadron was landed.
(D.N.A.D., 1901A/24 to B.A.D.)

Message
to Malta.

Please recypher following message in one time
pad and pass, via V.A. Malta, to Governor Malta.
Also pass P/L to C.O.S. (begins). Addressed
Governor and C. in C. Malta (R) C.O.S. M., from
J.S.M. Washington.

President Roosevelt has asked that the following message be
passed to you from him (begins).

"The mighty blows which you and your vessels have struck the
enemy during the past week have been an inspiration to the
people of the U.S. and their armed forces. The last war had
its Verdun. The present conflict brought us Stalingrad and
the epic struggle of the battle of Britain. Now Malta, after
endless months of sacrifice and valour, strikes back with the
devastating power of your sailors and aviators to bring us a
complete victory in North Africa. My thanks and Christmas
Greetings to your command" (ends).
(B.A.D., 1935Z/24 to Admty).

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serial 23 and 24. EMPIRE HAWK Serial
19 sunk by torpedo 11th December 05.56 N., 39.50
W. TEESBANK sunk 5th Dec. 03.38 N., 29.35 W.
RIPLEY Serial 17 position 00.33 S., 33.04 W.
ETNA Swedish sunk by torpedo 14th Dec. 17.50 N.

46.20 W. en route.

Following routes to Rio de Janeiro. CEFALU Serial 18 arrived
Horta. OTINA Serial 20 sunk. ORFOR sunk by torpedo 14th
Dec. 16 N., 50 W., 15 survivors picked up.

EAST WALES Serial 16th Dec. 00.24 N., 31.27 W. after picking
up survivors of TEESBANK 15th Dec. Survivors both ships land
Natal today.

CADDO Serial 7 sunk by torpedo (corrupt group) Nov. approx.
48° N., 49° W. 6 survivors landed Philadelphia. Master and
First Mate taken prisoner by submarine.
(Connav, 2003/24 to Comnav).

L.C.I.(L)s
LARIAT,
DESTINY.

re sailing
My 2152/23 Dec. (re sailing of L.C.I.(L) 164,
with L.C.I. (L) 7, 98, 100, 165, 166, 167, 168
and 239 and H.M. Tugs LARIAT and DESTINY)
Sailing postponed for about 3 days. Further
signal will be made.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 2049Z/24).

/Hall....

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24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Hall Scott Engines. Lorsa 6427. Hall Scott Standard Defender 2/1 reduction gear engines.
(1) Canada has presented requirement for 70 Hall Scott defenders for 26 Fairmile.
(B) Currently under construction or to be built shortly. This requirement was not notified previously.
(2) Navy Department and B.A.D. have advised R.C.N. that allocations exist for entire 1943 Hall Scott Defender production, and therefore requirement for engines cannot be met.
(3) Canada states 8 East Coast boats are required as escort essential Coastal Convoy and Ferry in Gulf St. Lawrence. Also for A/S duties Gut Canso, Straits, Belle Isle, and patrol of indicator loop at defended Port. 18 West Coast boats are for A/S patrols Strait Juan de Fuera, Johnson Strait and Approaches to Prince Rupert.
(4) Deliveries required April 16, June 24, July 18, Aug.12, Sept. 6, Oct. 6. Eighteen of foregoing are for spares. Please advise if this requirement can be met out of U.K. deliveries during 1943 of Hall Scott Standard Defenders. (B.A.D., 2241Z/24 to Admty).

Casualties. ROSALIE, Barge, ashore Sandy Point. St. George Nfld. 9th Dec. total loss. PLAYMAYB, abandoned in sinking condition on voyage from Rose Blanche to English Harbour West Nfld. 9th Dec.
ELMER E. GRAY, ashore near Port Aux Basques Nfld. 29th Nov. Total loss.
(N.S.H.Q., 2307Z/24 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Washops Report. (1) New Guinea. Japanese landing at Madang with occupation of 3 positions within 10 miles radius night Dec. 18/19 now confirmed. Only 2 small sailing vessels observed there, Dec. 21st.
(2) Aleutian. Japanese recently reconnoitred Amchitka Island but established no force there. (J.S.M. 0007Z/24 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., War Office, Air Ministry).

ILE DE FRANCE. Arrival Wellington H.T. ILE DE FRANCE. (S.O.(I) Wellington, ??18Z/24 to Admty).

/ARMIDALE...

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24.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

ARMIDALE My 0631Z/8 and 0214Z/14. Allied Headquarters (sunk and Australian Prime Minister issued statement 1st Dec). for press and broadcast 24th Dec. Statement makes no reference to nature of ARMIDALE's duties at time of attack and refers to locality only as in vicinity of Timor. (A.C.N.B., 0246Z/24 to Admty).

SOLACE Arrival Auckland U.S.S. SOLACE. *Hospital Ship* (D.N.I. Wellington, 0424Z/24 to Admty).

MONOWAI MONOWAI arrived Suva 0530Z/23 and sailed 1800Z/23 for Noumea, E.T.A. 0100Z/26th. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0435Z/24 to Admty).

Movements. Arrivals. Sydney, 24th Dec., U.S. Destroyer LANSDOWNE. Townsville, 24th Dec. LITHGOW. 25th Dec. BENDIGO. Departure. Sydney, 25th Dec. U.S. cruiser CHESTER LANSDOWNE for West Coast U.S.A. Townsville, 25th Dec. LITHGOW. for Brisbane, BENDIGO for Port Moresby. Port Moresby, SWAN for Milne Bay. (N.B. Melbourne, 0547Z/24 to Admty. etc).

Arrivals 22nd Dec. Fremantle, U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS. 23rd Dec. Darwin, H.M.A.S. WILCANNIA, Sydney N.S.W., Destroyer U.S. SOUTHARD, Fremantle, Netherlands destroyer VAN GALEN. Departures 23rd Dec. Darwin, CASTLEMAINE, for Thursday Island, Sydney (N.S.W.), Neth. Minelayer and Minesweeper ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B., 1341Z/24 to Admty etc).

U.S. Transport BANTAM departed Fall River 22nd December for Orobay. My 1432Z/23 Dec., arrival GLADSTONE, U.S. Transport CREMER, amend arrival date to read 18th Dec. (A.C.N.B., 1729/24 to Admty etc).

Arrival Port Moresby 23rd Dec. SWAN. Sydney, 24th Dec. U.S. Cruiser*NEW ORLEANS, U.S. Destroyer SHAW, MORESBY, and KAPUNDA. ** see p. 854*

Brisbane, 24th Dec., ECHUCA. Port Adelaide, 24th Dec., HORSHAM. Melbourne, 24th Dec., F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT. Fremantle, 24th Dec., Netherlands destroyer TJERK HIDDÉS. Departure, Brisbane, 24th Dec., hospital ship MANUNDA for Port Moresby. Thursday Island, 24th Dec., H.M.A.S. KALGOORLIE. Townsville, 24th Dec., U.S. BAGLEY. (A.C.N.B., 2333Z/24 to Admty etc).

Departure Auckland U.S.S. BELLATRIX, E.T.A. arrival Noumea 0400Z/28 Dec. route direct. (Wellington, 2333Z/24 to Admty).

/Situation...

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24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Situation.

Digest Serial No. 336 Dec. 23.

Our troops crossed entrance Creeks Buna area 22 captured Island at mouth with bridge at either end. In eastern sector advanced 1,000 yards

N.W. Simemi Creek along main landing strip. Light enemy activity reported west of Soputa Sanananda track.

Natives report night landings from small craft Kumusi Amboga area.

(2) Two small craft reported 3 boats machine gunned and set on fire allied supply vessel unloading Hariko (4½ miles South South East Cape Endiaderoc) near midnight 23rd.

(3) Launches and one probable torpedo boat departed Yambare River night 22nd.

(4) Photographic R/C Kavieng 23 showed 2 heavy cruisers probably including one Mogami 1 large transport 1 small merchant vessel also 1 merchant vessel beached. Zeros attacked recco. Fortress 10 miles south Kavieng 1 destroyed 2 probably and 2 damaged.

(5) Photographs 23rd show 4 medium bombers 15 fighters (1 and 6 serviceable) respectively. Buka Aerodrome.

Considerable constructional activity. North East Merchant vessel Buka passage area.

(6) Air R/C 23rd also reported one destroyer on northerly course 50 miles West South West Buka passage 2 small motor launches towing 2 dinghies broken water Bay (North Coast New Guinea) one small vessel Gorgrove Island (Witu Group).

(7) Three B.25s scored many near misses on small camouflaged vessel near Arawe morning 23rd. Liberator attacked same vessel evening. Serial number 335 para. 3 refers.

(8) Liberator attacked possible tanker 1° 30' S., 146° 32' E., course 090° morning 23 no damage.

(9) Three B.25s attacked airfield installations Cape Gloucester 23rd photographs show new runway possibly under construction.

(10) Six Beaufighters strafed barges and possible dumps Cape Killerton Buna area 23rd.

(11) 450 Japanese reported landed Kaukenau (Dutch New Guinea).

(12) Dobo bombed 23rd fires started. One of enemy seaplanes intercepting set on fire.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0715Z/24 to Admty etc).

WEST POINT.

Departure Wellington, U.S.S. WEST POINT, E.T.A. Auckland 2100Z/25.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 1011Z/24 to Admty).

Landing
Craft.

Your 1100/3 Nov. and 0846/6 Nov. to C.C.O. For the reasons given in my 1519/12 June it is regretted that it is not possible to provide you with any landing ships or craft from U.K.

Large allocations of landing craft are made by

U.S. to the S.W. Pacific area which includes Australia and application should be made to Supreme Commander of that area.

2. Drawings of L.C.T. (5) could more quickly be obtained from U.S.A. where they are built, but when considering their use in Pacific waters it should be borne in mind that they are insufficiently seaworthy for ocean passages.

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24.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - *con 19.*

Landing
Craft.

3. Details of Type 304 will be provided.
4. Engines for landing craft are mostly made in U.S.A. and are proving very largely the bottleneck for landing craft constructions, both in U.K. and in U.S.A. Supply should be arranged direct with U.S. Authorities.
5. Special fittings i.e. compasses and non-magnetic plating cannot be supplied from U.K. for craft building in Australia (vide para (a) of your 1100/3 November refers).
(D. of P. 1935A/24 to A.C.N.B., (R) C.C.O.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1401A/24, 1402A/24).

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The 11 M/Vs composing the Murmansk section of Convoy J.W.51 A and all the British Escorts arrived safely at Kola Inlet at 0800A today; and the remaining 5 M/Vs of this convoy, comprising its White Sea section, are proceeding to the White Sea.

Convoy J.W.51 B, consisting of 14 M/Vs was estimated to be about 220 miles N.E. of Seidisfjord at 0800 today; and at 2300/24th. Capt. D. 17 in ONSLOW, with ORIBI, OBDURATE, OBEDIENT, and ACHATES, left Seidisfjord to join the convoy as through escort. At least 3 F.W. A/C were reported to be active from Trondheim during today.

The Port of Rosyth was closed for 3 hours today owing to the weather, but was re-opened at 1445A.

QUEEN MARY which left the U.K. on 23rd Dec. and is today about 300 miles W.N.W. of Madeira is carrying 10,560 troops to Suez where she is due on the 21st January.

"Torch" Area.

Air Control,
Gibraltar.

An Admiralty appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal for A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command to take over control of the R.A.F. Gibraltar, is made today to N.C.X.F., who has been asked for his remarks.

French
Repairs.

Regarding the re-equipment of their fleet, the French in North Africa wish the maximum amount of repairs to be done in the U.S.A. N.C.X.F. points out that this will involve a large number of ships ranging from battle cruisers to submarines going there and none to U.K. and he asks for confirmation that this is felt to be the correct policy.

/SS...

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SS. OBSERVER, British, was torpedoed and sunk near Fernando do Noronha (about 220 miles N.E. of Natal, Brazil) at 1820 G.M.T. 16th Dec. Seven survivors arrived at Fortelaza, Brazil, on 24th but the rest of the crew is missing.

A floating dock at Montevideo has been purchased and will be towed in 2 sections to Capetown for onward passage to Port Elizabeth.

Mediterranean.

P.228
Report.

S/M P.228 reports having hit with one torpedo a merchant vessel, which almost certainly blew up, at 1114/14 in 37.45 N., 10.39 E. At 1111/17 in 37.53 N., 10.05 E. she obtained 2 hits on a 6,000 ton merchant vessel and 2 hits on a "Gregale" class destroyer, both of which are believed to have sunk. *The destroyer, AVIERE, was sunk.*

Minesweeping.

Seven more moored mines have been exploded in sweep by Oropesa trawler at Bone.

Air
Operations.

Spitfires and Beaufighters on offensive sweeps strafed with cannon and machine guns 2 loaded barges at 0730 in a position 70° Kuriat 10 miles, one being left sinking. Opposition was encountered from 6 F-boats and 1 Beaufighter was lost, the crew being rescued by an R.A.F. launch.

7 Wellingtons laid mines in the approaches to Tripoli last night. Bad weather prevented offensive operations from Malta.

North Africa.

Sirte was occupied by our troops at midday today.

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25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Calcutta was again raided, by about 9 bombers, last night.

SS. WILLIAM F. CODY, American, 7176 tons encountered a submarine at 0230Z in 05.10 N., 78.10 E., attacked and "apparently destroyed" it. The ship had left Colombo at 1200Z/24 for Wellington.

Australia & New Zealand.

An enemy convoy probably including 1 light cruiser, 4 destroyers, 1 M/V of 8,000 tons and 1 smaller was located at 2300Z in 4.30 S., 152.30 E. The larger M/V was bombed and set on fire. The Convoy continued southward and was last sighted at 0410Z/26 heading north in 2 groups with the burning vessel in tow.

A force of American M.T.Bs. attacked a surfaced U-boat off Kumusi River New Guinea and made at least 2 torpedo hits. The U-boat was seen to break in half and sink.

The U.S. S/M SEADRAGON reports the destruction of a Japanese S/M in St. George's Channel off Gasmata today. I.4 sunk 20/12. (Lt. Probolt & (sub. 6846)

War Diary.25.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Trawlers for W.A. Command. Admty. 2206/24. Intend to sail VELETA and COTILLION to Belfast on completion of boiler cleaning about 4th January.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1219A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Rescue Tug situation. In view of shortage of suitable highpower Dockyard Tugs, it is proposed to allocate MARAUDER to Plymouth and return RESOLVE to Portsmouth.

2. All ocean-going Rescue Tugs are urgently required abroad and on operations with Ocean Convoys. No class (A) Tug is available now to relieve MARAUDER.
3. Request your remarks on the use of Empire Tugs for Target towing until situation permits class (A) Rescue Tug being allocated to Scapa.
(A.C.N.S. (T), 1303A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Scapa. My 2532/O.S.12 dated 14th December. C. in C. H.F. has concurred in relief of 6 H.D. M.Ls. by ring net vessels. Fleet anchorage patrols are not affected.
(A.C.O.S., 1115/25 to Admty).

Movements.

DOLFIJN Cancel my 1829 ^{p. 24 - N.T. in N.D.}
(F.O.S., 0144A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
Departure DOLFIJN.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0916A/25).

GURNARD. My 1856/24. ^{p. 833} Delete all reference to ^{DOLFIJN} GURNARD. escorted by ST. ELSTAN leave Falmouth 0900/25 direct to Clyde.
(F.O.S., 0146A/5 to Admty).
My 1644/24. ST. ELSTAN escorting GURNARD will proceed from Falmouth to Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0800A/25 to F.O.S.)
Cancel my 1911A/24. My 1219A/21 delayed.
(Capt. S.3., 0929A/25 to V.A. Gibraltar).

GLASGOW. My 1631A/6. GLASGOW completed and sailed for Tail of Bank according to programme a.m./24th.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0945A/25 to Admty).
Arrived GLASGOW.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0951A/25).

W.A. Command Situation at 2001A/25. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1358A/25, 2150A/25) See Lion Copy.

868A

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

1358A/25 Dec.

From. C. in C. Western Approaches.

SITUATION AT 2001A/25/12/42.

Section N.E.

R.U. 54	KING SOL BLACKFLY PAYNTER WHITEHORN DOROTHY GRAY	58 59 06 38	359° Butt of Lewis 6 miles thence Minches.	7½
ONSUJ 156	NORTHERN DAUPHIN	58 17 05 46	270° Cape Wrath 18 miles thence 58 42 03 00	6
U.R.55	ANGLE HUGH WALLPOLE ARAB	59 34 09 52 to	61 01 14 59	6½
W.N.76	SILVER HILL SPURS	58 11 05 34 to	Methil	7½

SITUATION AT 2001A/25/12/42.

Section S.E.

4 Auxiliary Craft.	NORTHERN SKY	56 10 07 15 to	Stornoway via Sleat Sound	8
U.S.S/M GURNARD	ST ELSTAN	50 50 04 55 to	Clyde	10
SWALE		55 30 09 15 to	St John's	15
CELANDINE		55 30 06 20 to	Liverpool	11
KMS.6	BLACK SWAN 10 Corvettes	55 40 08 39 to	55 36 13 02	7
KMF.6	SARDONYX	53 57 04 50	R/V 270 degs Oversay 6 miles	10
KMFC.6	EIGHT LOYAL	Sails Clyde 003-04/26	R/V 270 degs Oversay 6 miles thence 55 20 12 31	10

CONVOY.....

MOST SECRET

868B

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.)

-2-

CONVOY	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	52 07 05 23	Northbound	8
ONS.156 C.T.U. 24.1.3.	DIANTHUS TRILLIUM	55 53 07 10 to 58 13 12 10		5
B.B.48	AQUAMARINE HELIER II	53 30 05 00	Southbound	8

SITUATION AT 2001A/25/12/42

SECTION N.V.

LEMINGTON		59 44 30 10 to 58 00 32 00		10
H.X.219 C.T.U. 24.1.16	HESLERUS VANESSA MIGNONETTE GENEVA HEATHER SWISSEBRIAR	58 24 19 14 to 57 01 15 02		9½
S.C.113 C.T.U. 24.1.12.	BROADWAY SHERWOOD PRIMROSE POLYANTHUS MORDEN ORILLIA	57 51 34 17 to 58 15 34 01 thence 59 01 30 56		7

SITUATION AT 2001A/25/12/42

SECTION S.W.

DRANGY HAARLEM		48 20 15 40 to 46 08 17 24 thence 41 50 21 35		10
P.615		44 00 13 50 to 42 59 13 50 thence Southward		2½ by day 9 by night
WELLINGTON		48 22 13 05 to 40 01 16 15		10
REGINA		48 20 12 50 to 39 53 15 10		10
LAGAN 1 Tug		52 22 19 20 to 51 00 27 11		6
K.X.7.A	SLAZAK WENSLEYDALE STARVORT	46 37 14 47 to 43 02 14 43		6

ONS.154.....

868^c

-5-

ONS.154	ST LAURENT	50 25 22 20 to 47 30 24 02	5
C.T.U.	BARTLEMO D.		
24.1.11.	CHILLIWACK		
(E)	SHEDIAC		
	KENOGAMI		
	NAPANEE		

135BA/25 and 2150A/25.

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

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

R.N.
E.M.

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

P.229 Sheerness. Departure P.229 escorted by CEDAR at 1425.
See next page (C. in C. Nore, 1454/25).

S/M Positions. At 0800/26. Details.
(F.O.S., 1611A/25) See Lion Copy.

P.615 My 1946/25. Keep 20 miles to Eastwards of your route during dark hours tonight. You are covered by bombing restrictions.
See next page (F.O.S., 2009A/25 to P.615).

Operations.

Patrols. My 1224A/24 and 1634A/24 "Jovial 2" arrived 0931A/25.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0938A/25).
Tonight ST. ALBANS is to anchor at St. Helens at immediate notice.
(2) ~~CHAS66~~ 54 (S.O.) and 11 patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy.
(3) 2 M.G.Bs. at immediate notice at Portland.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1114A/25).
1. Intend M.G.Bs. 54 (S.O.) and 51 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 2° 15' W., and 2° 35' W.
2. Leave Weymouth at 2000 via Q.Z.S. 382, thence to Western end of patrol-line.
3. Object anti-E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1925A/25).
My 1925A/25. "Device" sailed 2000A/25.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2016A/25).

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship. Following from Portrush Radio: AAAA distress bearing by D/F was 278° class 3.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1509 G.M.T./25).

AUDACIOUS Following from Siree Radio. First grade, 246° distress (message from) AUDACIOUS.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1512 G.M.T./25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Intercept at 1500 G.M.T. de AUDACIOUS. 240° 110 miles V.V. suspicious aircraft.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1600/25).

Mining.

Sweep of Q.Z.X.866. Proposals for continuation of sweeping in vicinity of Q.Z.X.866 on 26th December. Details.
Value of sweeping Q.Z.X.866 will be largely discounted unless area between Q.Z.X.866 and 867 is searched. To do this will expose whole flotilla to M.P.(B) and M.I. 6. As nothing has so far been swept in M.P.(B) it is thought this risk is considered

/justifiable...

869A

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 1611A/25th December IN

From F.O.S.

Date 25.12.42.
Time 1632

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

412.
IMMEDIATE

Positions of S/m's at 0800/26 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) P. 339, SOKOL, TORDAY, P. 223, in Norwegian waters east of 15 degs E.

(B) P. 49, 67 degs 35' N 8 deg 40' E through 69 deg N 11 deg E to 71 deg 25' N 18 deg 15' E.

(C) P. 216, 67 deg 55' N 8 deg 05' E through 69 deg N 09 deg 56' E to 71 deg 43' N 17 deg 55' E.

(D) 014, 66 deg 10' N 6 deg 25' E through 69 deg N 11 deg E to 70 deg 22' N 15 deg E.

(E) P. 312, 66 deg 45' N 5 deg 30' E through 69 deg N 08 deg 52' E to 71 deg 43' N 16 deg 40' E.

(F) GRAPH, 65 deg 55' N 4 deg 10' E through 69 deg N 08 deg 52' E to 71 deg 43' N 16 deg 40' E.

Submarines (D) to (F) probably on surface until 17 deg East then diving by day.

(G) P. 615 43 deg 05' N 13 deg 50' W to 31 degs N 20 deg W probably on surface when south of 43 degs N. *See previous page*

(H) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, in Zone K.501.

(J) U.S.S. SHAD, in Zone K.502.

(K) U.S.S. HERRING, in zone K.505.

(L) U.S.S. BARB, on patrol of Vigo. *See 1610.6764*

(M) U.S.S. GURNARD, escorted by ST. ELSTAN, 52 deg 30' N 5 deg 30' W to Clyde 10 knots. *See 1610.868*

(N) P. 229, escorted by CEDAR, arriving E A 5 buoy 0800 thence to Portsmouth. *See previous page.*

1611A/25.

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

Inf.

War Diary.

25.12.1942.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - con/s.Sweep of
Q.Z.X.866.
Contd.

justifiable. Intended programme to start on these proposals will be detailed in my 1415/25 December.
(M/S 9., 1314A/25 to V.A. Dover).

U-boats.U-boats
reported.

Am over enemy S/M in 45° 55' N., 06° 00' W.
(A/C J87 Duty C 0410/25 to 19 Group).
Incomplete D/F bearings at 0941Z/25 indicate U-boat probably within 90 miles of 40° 00' N., 15° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1210A/25 to AJAX).
D/F bearings at 1454Z indicate U-boat in area within 75 miles of 50° N., 21° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1631A/25 to O.N.154).

Navigational.

Rosyth

Port closed owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1155A/25).
Cancel my 1155A/25.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1445A/25).

Casualties & Defects.Unknown
Ship.

Following from Portrush Radio (?effected) class one automatic S O S.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1008 G.M.T./25).
Received 1118 G.M.T. 175° Class 1. de unknown station automatic S O S signals heard Type A2 strength 3/4. C/G Port Patrick advised.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1218/25 to Navy Charge, Greenock).

SWALE.

1814/24. SWALE sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1230Z/25 to F.O.N.F.)
Heavy knock in port H P bottom end and hot bearing require immediate adjustment. Estimated time 2 hours. Am returning to Moville.
E.T.A. 1800A.
(SWALE, 1600A/25 to Cdre. Londonderry).

VIMY.

Return to harbour forthwith.
(Capt. D.1., 1257/25 to VIMY).
*My 12151A/24. VIMY unable to sail due to serious machinery defect.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1719A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
*N.T. n. A.D.

JAN VAN
GOYEN

Unable to decode message B.N.729. Request you repeat in naval code or cypher. My P.C.S. are (2052°) 40' N., 018° 52' W., 255° 10 knots uncertain.
(LAGAN, 1455A/25 to Admtty).

/ST. MARYS...

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

ST. MARYS.
K.X.8.

My 1126/24. ST. MARYS is still aground and will not be available for duty required by Admty's *1653/22 C. in C. W.A's 1107/25. also refers. *next p.*
(A.C.O.S., 1514/25). * *insert for K.X.8 - see p. 768.*

BULLDOG.

Clyde arrival BULLDOG.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2024A/25).

SEA GIANT.

My 1705/25 ^{N.T. & D.} and 1813/25. SEA GIANT did not sail owing to fouling propeller on leaving Wharf and grounding.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2101A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.S.6

FOWEY, CAMPION, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, VIOLET and CARNATION sailed for K.M.S.6. CAMELIA, delayed by engine defect will be sailed to overtake.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 0730A/25).

Sailed MOOSEJAW to overtake K.M.S.6.

(Cdre. Londonderry 1517A/25).

My 0730/A/25. Sailed CAMELIA.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 2027A/25).

J.W.51 B.

Seidisfjord departure at 2300/24. Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW, ORIBI, OBDURATE, OBEDIENT, ACHATES in company.

(A.C.I.C., 0816/25, 1043A/25).

J.W.51 B. When destroyers of through escort join, Hunts may be retained to shepherd stragglers to main body until prudent limit of endurance before parting company for Seidisfjord.

(C. in C. H.F., 1015A/25 to Capt. D.17, BLANKNEY).

C. in C. H.F., 1147A/18. Intend to proceed ANSON with CUMBERLAND, FORESTER, IMPULSIVE, and ICARUS from Akureyri a.m./26th so as to arrive in position 070° 03' N., 000° 01' E. at 21(00)A/27.

Failing information enemy, intend to keep south and East of line joining following positions: 070° 03' N., 000° 01' E. and 072° 02' N., 006° 51' E. and 072° 39' N., 012° 35' E, subsequently returning to Hvalfjord, fuelling at Akureyri if necessary.

(V.A.2., 1507A/25 to C. in C. H.F., (R) A.I.G.47).

At least 3 Focke Wolfe A/C active from Trondheim today.

(D.D.I.C., 1607A/25 to A.I.C., 47, (R) H.Q.C.C.)

→ K.X.8

CARNATIC from Clyde if ready, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC from Londonderry are arriving Milford Haven dawn 30th at the latest to fuel and act as additional escort to K.X.8.

(C. in C. W.A., 1103A/25). *over*

25.12.1942.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - cont'd.

- K.X.8
Contd. It would be appreciated if TANATSIDE, LANCASTER, NEWARK, and *ST.MARYS if available could arrive Milford Haven 28th. * See previous page.
(C. in C. W.A., 1107A/25).
Your 1107/25. NEWARK will be sailed to comply.
(R.A.M., 1514/25 to C. in C. W. A.)
Your 1107/25. Regret TANATSIDE will not be able to arrive before 29th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1547A/25 to C. in C. W. A.)
- H.X.219 F. At daylight 26th detach ships for Mersey escorted by two corvettes capable of arriving 04° W., by 1300/28.
C. in C. W.A., 1308/25 to Escorts H.X.219).
- K.M.F.6 My 1540/23. Sailed Liverpool porton, escort SARDONYX.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1330A/25).
- F.N.900 F.N. 900, sailings from Humber nil, owing to fog.
(N.C.S.O. Number, 1511A/25).
- J.W.51 A. Murmansk section J.W. 51A and all British escorts arrived Kola Inlet 0800A/25th.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1605A/25).
- A.T. 32
(ANDES) Route via C. 041° 50', 059° 45'. D. 042° 25' 049° 20'. E. 051° 30', 046° 35'. F. 057° 10' 041° 30'. G. 059° 25', 030° 15'. H. 059° 10' 021° 15'. J. 056° 35', 014° 45'. K. 056° 15' 008° 20'. "Chop" 0300Z/3rd.
(Connav, 1640/25 to C.O.A.C.)
- K.X.7A.
P.615. Your 1758?(25th). My position 1700/25 044° 24' N., 014° ?(00') W., speed 11 knots.
SLAZAK, 1730A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
K.X. 7 reports 1700/25 P.C.S. as 044° 24' N., 014° 00' W. 180° 11 knots. convoy informed of your movement.
(F.O.S. 1846A/25 to P. 615).
Your 1730/25. Estimated position of P. 615 at 2000A/25, 044° 00' N., 013° 50' W. Proceed to 042° 59' N., 013° 50' W. on surface at night.
(C. in C. W.A., 1945A/25 to SLAZAK).
Situation at 2000. My 1358/25. Amend K.X.7 A (E)
P.C.S. 43. 53, 14 17 to 43.02, 14.43, thence 36.40, 11.40 11 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 2150A/25 to Ships).

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- W.S.26 Q. DURBAN CASTLE will not now be included in convoy W.S.26 Q.
2. Following is proposed embarkation programme. Details.
(D.S.T., 2047A/25).
- W.S.25
See p.676 Following personnel arriving Freetown in W.S.25 for on carriage to destinations as stated. Details.
(D.S.T., 2047A/25 to D.S.T.O. West Africa).
- W.S.25 W.
(QUEEN MARY). Convoy W.S.25 W. sailed from U.K. 23 Dec.
2. 10560 personnel are on board for Middle East and 1 for Freetown. Also approximately 200 tons d.w. of stores for Middle East.
(D.S.T., 2051A/25 to F.O.C, W.A., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

874

25.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

R.A.F. Gibraltar, Control. Personal from First Sea Lord and Chief of Air Staff. Following signal received from A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command: To: Air Ministry (D.O.N.C.) (R) Admty. A.P. 705 22nd Dec.

With operation of 2 G.R. squadrons from Algiers second stage of operation "Torch" is complete and I consider therefore that control of R.A.F. Gibraltar should revert to my command. With your approval I propose to take over forthwith. 1045/22 (ends).

2. As we see it the advantages are:

(a) The G.R. aircraft at Gibraltar have been augmented from Coastal Command groups in U.K. There are obvious administrative advantages in having these squadrons under their own A.O.C. in C.

(b) There is no large maintenance unit in Gibraltar. The G.R. and F.B. squadrons are kept up to strength from aircraft from U.K. A.O.C. in C. is the best authority to do this.

(c) The squadrons at Gibraltar, whose work is primarily anti-submarine, will be kept in touch with all tactical and technical developments as a matter of course.

(d) Operational control from U.K. to the Straits of Gibraltar will be under one Air Authority.

(e) H.Q. E.A.C. (Air-Marshal Welsh) is primarily interested in the air operations over land and sea eastward of Oran and might be glad to quit administration of Gibraltar.

The disadvantages are:

(f) Gibraltar has to link up with the American S.N.O.C.A. and H.Q. E.A.C. R.A.F. All operational flying must be co-ordinated with operations of these authorities. Both these authorities are under Allied Force H.Q. and it is logical that A.O.C. Gibraltar should also be in the command.

(g) The Atlantic sea area covered by aircraft from Gibraltar is part of the area under F.O.C.N.A., who is under you and not Admiralty. It would, therefore, seem right that A.O.C. Gibraltar should be under A.O.C. in C. E.A.C. who is your opposite number.

(h) It may be desirable to move aircraft as between bases in N. Africa and Gibraltar. This is much simpler if the whole is in one command.

3. Your remarks are requested.

(A.C.N.S.(H) for 1st Sea Lord, 0025A/25 to N.C.X.F.)

Reply: N.C.X.F. 1946A/26.

French Shipping, M.K.S.4.

1. We note from V.A.C's 1615/21 Dec., repeated to Algiers, the inclusion of P.L.M.21, VILLE D'ORAN and tanker LORRAINE in M.K.S.4. We had no previous confirmation that VILLE D'ORAN and LORRAINE were coming to U.K.

2. Presume VILLE D'ORAN is on charter to C. in C. and that we should appoint managers but please confirm. Arrangements have been made to send French repatriates to North Africa in British troopship in January. Assume VILLE D'ORAN will therefore be available to carry our troops. Please confirm.

(D. of S.T., 0120A/25 to Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

Reply: 1706A/26.

/Ref. ...

875

25.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X - con/15.

French Shipping, M.K.S.4. (Contd.) Ref. your 1623/22. Our 1821/17 para. 2 was sent in view of instructions issued by N.C.X.F. (? S.T.O.) Oran and Casablanca but owing to attitude of French who claim MEONIA and GEIR as French proves they are not now likely to proceed to Gibraltar. We are maintaining our position regarding British ex-Danes and consider in view of this and French situation best way of getting both ships into service is to charter them from French as French ships under their control. (M.W.T.R. Algiers, 0900/25 to D.S.T.)

Your 1623/22nd. Instructions were given as in my 1626/15th and my 1632/15th but French claim these 2 ships as French prizes. M.W.T.R.'s view is that we have no legal title to these ships and that the best way to get them into service is to charter them see M.W.T.R. Algiers 0900/25th.

(N.C.X.F., 0910A/25 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, M.W.T.R. Algiers.)

French Re-Equipment. French are now preparing their requests for re-equipment of army, air and fleet. A Liaison Committee has been formed to deal with their requests by Gen. Eisenhower. R.N. and U.S.N. are represented on this committee. General line being taken at present is that maximum amount of re-equipping and repairs should be done in United States. This will involve a large number of ships ranging from battle cruisers to submarines going to U.S. and none to U.K. and I should be glad of confirmation that this is felt to be the correct policy. (N.C.X.F., 1214A/25 to Admty.)

Excess of Survivors in LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Complaint received from Merchant Navy survivors of VICEROY OF INDIA and NIEUW ZEELAND that a total of nearly 800 were subjected to unnecessary risk by being repatriated in LLANGIBBY CASTLE which had only four lifeboats whereas eight other troopships in M.K.F.1 were empty or had very few passengers. Request urgent report of reason why these survivors were not dispersed over other ships in the convoy. (D. of S.T., 2052A/25 to P.S.T.O. X.F.) Reply: P.S.T.O. X.F., 1342A/27.

876

25.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

HAYDON, Arrived Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T. 25th.
BADSWORTH, (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1010C/?25 to S.O.(I)
WOLVERINE. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
See p. 876 B Following signals passed N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada
for HAYDON. Admiralty pass to all addressees.
(Begins). Addressed Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. W.Africa,
F.O.C.N.A. from HAYDON. O.W.S.25, E.T.A. 020° N. 1900Z/27th.
T.O.O. 1335A/25th. (Ends).
(2) (Begins). Addressed F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty. from HAYDON.
Intend sailing from Ponta Delgada 0900Z/26th E.T.A. destination
0800Z/29th. T.O.O. 1201Z/25th. (Ends.)
(Ponta Delgada, 1130C/25 to Admty.)

CARNARVON Following signal passed to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada,
CASTLE, San Miguel. Admty. pass to all addressees.
W.S.25. (Begins). Addressed F.O.I.C. West Africa (R)
See p. 873. N.O.I.C. Bathurst Gambia, *ILEX, from CARNARVON
CASTLE. Your 1810Z/23rd. E.T.A. position (U)
0200Z/26th, E.T.A. 020° N. 1900Z/27th. Position (V) is 021° N.
019° W., S. of A. 12.5 knots. T.O.O. 0953/24th. (Ends.)
(Ponta Delgada, 1240C/25 to Admty.) * *See p. 876 E*

LOCH OSKAIG. Arrived 1000 G.M.T. 25th, expected sailing 2000
G.M.T.
(R.O. Fayal, 1126/25 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
My 1126/25th. LOCH OSKAIG and MIRROR left for Gibraltar 1915
G.M.T. 25th.
(R.O. Fayal, 1723C/25 to G.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., S.C.S.O.
Ponta Delgada.)

LADY DENISON My 0936/24th. Ship sailing at 1300A/24th.
PENDER. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1112A/25 to S.N.O. Casablanca
Area, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af.) *See p. 843.*
next page

G.U.F.3. My 1659/25, request routeing G.U.F.3, expect sail
29th Dec.
(S.N.O. Casablanca Area, 1501Z/25 to D. of S.T.,
(R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)
Your 1810A/24. Gibraltar section G.U.F.3 R/V 1400Z/29 Dec.
position 33° 56' N. 07° 53' W. VP.73 provide air coverage from
35° 00' N. to R/V point J.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1659Z/25 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., Connav,
Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran, C.G.W.T.F., C.T.U. 26.7.2, C.T.U. 26.7.1.)

ST. CERGUE Swiss ST. CERGUE 4260 G.T. speed 9 knots, national
colours, ship's name, Switzerland painted on side,
sailed 1535/25th routed West Iviza 10 miles North
of Cape Cabalaria and Revellata Point thence Genoa. Not to be
interfered with this voyage.
(2) V.A.M. pass to A.O.C. Malta and Cdre. Algiers to E.A.C.
(V.A. Gib., 1541A/25 to A.I.G.262, V.A. Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt.
S.10, (R) Admty.)

876^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.

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

"O.T.P." are excepted from this (1329) / 25th December,

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.

Date 25.12.42.

Time 2045

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 2000A/25.

- (1) U.S. S/M ~~BARB~~, on patrol off Vigo. *See p. 869A*
- (2) H.M. S/M P.615, 44 50 13 50 through 42 59 13 50 at 0900A/26th thence 202 on the surface 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 872*
- (3) French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE, 1 P.C, 2 merchant ships, 34 39 06 30 coastwise Gibraltar 7.
- (4) H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, 1 merchant ship, 27 38 14 58 through 27 01 14 58 and 25 01 17 17 631 188 10 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 876 C 9878*
- (5) Portuguese naval tanker SAM ~~BRAZIL~~ 20 12 25 to Lisbon 11.
- (6) ARCTIC RANGER, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, 35 55 05 49 repairing cables.
- (7) LORD HOTTAM, 2 merchant ships, off Cape Espichel coastwise to Cape Saint Mary thence direct Gibraltar 8.
- (8) GUS 2, 32 24 19 46 through 32 59 22 58 thence 277 9.
- (9) H.M.S. AJAX, 38 01 14 01 through 36 01 10 01 and 35 52 06 01 thence Gibraltar 20. *See p. 877*
- (10) Swedish Relief ships MONGABARERA, FENRIS, BARDALAND, FORMOSA, 36 26 12 30 275 12.
- (11) H.M.S. ST. NECTAN, H.M.S.* LADY DENISON PENDER, 34 53 07 06 through Malin Head 40 07 52 to Casablanca 4.

** See previous page.*

(12)/.....

876^B

2.

(12) MKF 5^{*} Fleet Unit, H.M.S. MILNE, H.M.S. METEOR,
H.M.S. WESTON, escort vessels H.M.S. GORLESTON, H.M.S.
TOTLAND, WAVENEY, passed Europa Point 1900A/25th through
36 20 10 01 thence (corrupt group) 13. p.877

* ARGUS

1320A/25

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

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

EO

maf.

876^c

MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From V.A.Gib.

1323i/25/Dec.

Date 25. .42.

Time 1300

Naval Cypher S.3. by W/T

Addressed A.I.G.65

IMPORTANT.

(1) H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, 1 (one)
Merchant ship, 27 38 14 58 through 27 01 14 58 and 25 01
17 17 thence to 1188 deg 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ *see p. 876 & 878*

(2) W S 25, H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE, H.M.S.
CHESHIRE, QUILLIAM, ROCKWOOD, 30 04 23 02 through 28 01 22 01
thence to 161 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. HAYDON, H.M.S. WOLVERINE, BADSWORTH,
parted company P.M. 24th for Ponta Delgada. *see p. 876*

(3) BALUCHISTAN, 27 20 24 29 170 deg 12.

Situation 2002A/25th.

(4) BURDOCK, 24 23 28 24 10 deg 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

(5) *Fleet Unit, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH,
39 48 39 45 251 deg 14 *VICTORIOUS

(6) H.M.S. ILEX, ²⁰43 04 19 17 to rendezvous W. S. 25 in ~~39~~
26 21 ^N21 01 W. at 1700A/26th *see p. 875. also p. 876.*

1328A/25

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- 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 (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Ad. Blake.

maf.

877

War Diary.25.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

M.K.F.5. MILNE ?arrived 1500 fuelled and sailed 1705 to
 rejoin M.K.F.5. *see p. 876^B*
 (V.A. Gib., 1745A/25 to Escorts M.K.F.5, (R)
 Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F.)
 METEOR arrived 1830 fuelled and sailed 2040 to rejoin M.K.F.5
 (V.A. Gib., 2142/25 to Escorts of M.K.F.5, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.,
 C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F.)

ARGUS, My 1203/24th. Sail ARGUS, WAVENEY, SS. ORDUNA.
 WAVENEY, (V.A. Gib., 1845/25 to Escorts M.K.F.5 for Cdre.
 ORDUNA. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.) *see p. 876^B*

U.G.F.3(O) U.G.F.3(O), tankers MONMOUTH and TICONDEROGA
 arrived.
 (F.O.C. Gib., 1915A/25 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.C.
 Gran, S.N.O.C.A., Admty., Connav Washington.)

AJAX. E.T.A. 1530A/26th. S. of A. 23 knots.
 (AJAX, 2225A/25 to V.A. Gibraltar.) *see p. 876^A*

NASTURTIUM, Arrival.
 HUSSAR. (V.A. Gib., 2230/25 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

South Atlantic.

OBSERVER British ship OBSERVER torpedoed near Fernando do
 (sunk 16th Noronha 1820 G.M.T. 16th Dec.
 December.) 2. Torpedoed, ship sank immediately.
 3. 2 rafts floated off with 14 men.
 4. First with 7 Lascars disappeared but 2nd with
 4 British and 3 Lascars arrived Fortelaza 2300 G.M.T. 24th.
 5. British survivors are 2 gunners, carpenter and seaman.
 6. Voyage from Capetown to Trinidad.
 7. Rest of crew missing.
 (N.C.S.O. Ceara, 0015/25 to Admty.)

STAR OF R.O. Ceara's 1955/24th (re STAR OF SUEZ
 SUEZ torpedoed) is being passed to you.
 (torpedoed (S.O.I. Montevideo, 0132Z/25 to Admty., (R)
 15th Dec.) R.A.W.A., etc.)

/D.N.9 ...

878

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

D.N. 9. Expect to sail D.N.9 at 0600Z/26th to R/V with C.D.3 at outer end of Durban swept channel (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0715/22 refers). Speed 7½ knots consisting of 7 ships. EMPIRE (SUCCESS?) to Beira, PANAMA, AURETTA, KAI KOURA to Aden, GLENWOOD, ERICA MOLLER, BAHRIN (ship) to Persian Gulf. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0832Z/25 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., etc.)

U/B. U-Boat reported in 5° 35' S. 11° 52' E. at 0100/24 by Master of SS. PONCE dived four minutes after being sighted. (F.O.C.W.A., 0901Z/25 to Admty.)

PRESIDENT HOUDUCE. In view of her operational limitations and difficulty of finding suitable Liaison Officers and communication personnel, Admty. are very averse to the appointment of Liaison personnel to PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.
2. F.N.F.L. propose that, in addition to local operations off French Equatorial Africa, she should be employed as escort to and from Lagos and Duala.
3. F.N.F.L. have requested reconsideration of Admty. position stated in para. 1.
4. Request your views.
(D.O.D.(F), 0913A/25 to F.O.C.W.A.)

A/S Trawlers. Arrival 2100/24th ARCTIC EXPLORER, LE TIGER. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 0943A/25, 2047C/26 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

Movements, Capetown. Capetown arrivals 24th Dec. ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, COVENTRY CITY, MAGNOLIA, STELLA POLARIS, BARBRAKE. (C. in C. S.A., 1019C/25 to Admty.)

Vessels from Trinidad. Your 1202Q/21st and 1533A/23rd. Request information of your intention for CAIRNS, MORRIS DANCE, MILFORD, TAMARISK, AMARANTHUS and YESTOR. Their early return to Freetown is essential. (F.O.C.W.A., 1133Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A., MILFORD.)

WOODRUFF. Onward route from (P) to (Q) 015° 01' N. 018° 20' W. (R) 009° 09' N. 017° 00' W. thence to Freetown. (N.O.I.C. W.Africa, 1149Z/25 to WOODRUFF, (R) CROCUS, F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

See pp. 876A & C

/Repatriations ...

879

War Diary.25.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Repatriations. Your 1640/24 not to V.A. Gibraltar. In order to allow time to notify Axis of change in arrangements, SATURNIA and VULCANIA should not sail until p.m. 27th.

(M. Branch, 1249A/25 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, (R) F.O.W.A., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Following is a repetition of N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1420/23: (Begins) Addressed to Admty., (R) R.A.W.A. Arrivals 23rd Italian VULCANIA and SATURNIA. Estimated date of sailing 25th. (Ends).

(Freetown C.C.O., 1325Z/25 to Admty.)

BELLWORT,
HAI LEE.

G.M.T. (as received) sailed 1600Z/25th Dec. BELLWORT escorting M/V HAI LEE to Bathurst, E.T.A. 0800Z/30th Dec. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi (Gold Coast), 1743Z/25 to Admty., etc.)

Floating
Dock.

Floating Dock at Montevideo has been purchased by British Govt. and will be towed in two sections to Capetown for onward passage to Port Elizabeth. *See pp. 590 & 591*
2. In view of necessity of endurance and experience rescue tugs THAMES and ROODE ZEE will be required for this purpose.

3. C. in C. E.F. is requested to sail THAMES to arrive Montevideo in time to sail again not later than 15th Feb.

4. C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange for one A.M.C. to act as anti-raider cover during the passage of the dock and to furnish A/S escort from as far West as possible to Capetown or Simonstown as convenient and onwards to Port Elizabeth.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S., 1958A/25 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.I.C. E.Africa, N.O.I.C. Kilindini, B.A.D., N.A. Montevideo.)

F.O.C.W.A.
at Bathurst.

On arrival Bathurst today en route to Dakar with A.O.C. met Col. Holmes who brought personal message and letter from Adm. Glassfurd urgently requesting us to postpone visit until more propitious times. In view of Darlan's assassination he also considers it undesirable to send any British officers to Dakar at present but will inform me as soon as this is possible. I than intend to send Lt. Cdr. Best who is fully aware of my views and is French interpreter, as Glassfurd's letter indicates an officer of Kelsey's seniority undesirable. He will also inform me when he considers A.O.C. and I can visit Dakar with advantage. In the meantime Glassfurd may be able to visit me in Freetown. Under these circumstances am returning to Freetown a.m. 26th Dec. (F.O.C.W.A., 2000Z/25 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)

War Diary.25.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

TRIBUNE Your 1905/24th proceed on surface (corrupt group) to comply with my 2200/24th. Total bombing restrictions arranged accordingly. (Capt. S.8., 0006A/25 to TRIBUNE (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H., V.A. Gibraltar).

(1) Your escort (?will be) M.L.444. (2) Large Eastbound convoy will be in vicinity of your R/V at 0900/26th. 10 ships escorted by BRIXHAM (?FELIXSTOWE) enter Algiers, remainder continue Eastward.
(Capt. S.8., 1558A/25 to TRIBUNE).

U/B Report, *P.219. **See p.883
next page.
2/20 p.884*

An Italian U-boat reported sighting one British sub. in a position within 10 miles of (?037°) 30' N., 008° 10' E., at 2055B/24th. (C.O.I.S. Alex. 0022B/25 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1 ?V.A. Gib). You may have been sighted by U-boat at 1955/24th. (Capt. S.8., 0222A/25 to P. 219).

Adm. Darlan. To General Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From Adm. Leahy. Concurrence approved in your action of immediately releasing news of Darlan's death by Radio from French Morocco and Algiers. Expedite text of any radio or press release which you have authorised to be made by Radio or press from French North Africa. These texts should be sent Urgent Priority for Usfor London and Agwar Washington. (Agwar, Washington, 0036/25 to Usfor, London).

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. In view of my 1537/19 request you will expedite passage of NIEUW AMSTERDAM as much as possible. 2. P.S.T.O. Middle East is requested to report as soon as possible anticipated date of arrival at Suez of this vessel on her voyage from Durban in January. (D. of S.T., 0445A/25 to P.S.T.O. Middle East, C. in C. E.F.)

Movements, Alexandria. Departure 24th Dec. *FAREHAM, *KLO, M.T.Bs. 264, 267 313. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0945B/25 to Admty. C. in C. Med). **See p.882*

U/B sunk by ENCHANTRESS 13 Dec. *(Italian CORALLO sunk, ca pp. 442, 458)*

Your 1932A/24th. (Originated by W.R. Requesting repetition of 0507/13 referred to in ENCHANTRESS' 0610/13) Following is a repetition of ENCHANTRESS' 0505/13th (begins): N.C.X.F. (?R) Cdre. Algiers from ENCHANTRESS. Have attacked and sunk submarine on surface by ramming in position 036° 58' N. 005° 07' E. (Ends.) (N.C.X.F., 1005A/25 to Admty.)

/Oran...

881

25.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Oran
defences.

I understand from F.O.I.C. Oran that an officer called Brigham has arrived in Oran without my knowledge to work on A/S fixed defences. Request status and functions of this officer may be defined.

(2) Your 1305/21. There is no trace of P.L. M/A.S.W.3482/42 dated 27th Oct. in my office. Presume it was despatched with remainder of missing mails for naval party 601.

(3) A/S defences of Oran will be arranged by my staff in accordance with local conditions - and final layout will be reported.

(N.C.X.F., 1027A/25 to Admty) Reply: Admty. 1617A/26.

Cositrep
635.

2. Air. Night 23/24 Dec. American B.24s bombed harbour installations at Naples. Damage unobserved. Wellingtons attacked Tymbaki aerodrome in Crete, starting six fires. Beauforts laid mines off Misurata and Kerkenah. Bad weather prevented operations from Malta. (C. in C. M.E. 1120B/25).

U/B

Following has been read: Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in position JTCP 3202 (indecipherable). Enemy S/M was on course 070° speed 8 knots when first sighted. (A/C using call sign TK7C 1150/25). My 1150, position 37.16 N., 01.18 W. (A/C using call sign TK7 C, 1235A/25).

Situation
report No.
310.

Western Desert, Tobruk. Ex Italian tug CORNELIUS 11 (270 tons) has raised and now in working order.

2. Benghazi raided 22nd Dec. by 12 aircraft no service damage or casualties. 4 aircraft destroyed. TRAJANUS refloated 23rd Dec.

3. Ras-el-Ali. Bad weather retarding unloading operations from L.C.T.'S. Slight enemy air activity but no damage. (C. in C. Med., 1203B/25 to Admty).

Force K.

2 destroyers of Force K leaving Malta 1500A today arriving off Turqueness at about 2300. Subsequent movement depending on R/C. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1205A/25 to C. in C. Med., 201 Group, H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

P.219, U/Es
attacked.

2052/23rd sighted U-boat in 037° 17' N., 008° 27' E., diving and torpedoed at 50 feet. 2247/23 D/F bearing of U-boat in Galita Rock. 1952/24th sighted and attacked U-boat in 037° 25' N., 008° 01' E. (?P.219 1230A/25 to Capt. (S) 8 (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S. Bone, C.S.12).

*See pp. 650, 683
& 884*

War Diary.25.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

L.C.Ms. My 1000/23rd. My 0902/24th. Intend sailing
Fishing Craft. L.C.Ms., 2 fishing craft, 0100/26th for Jijelli
E.T.A. daylight and continue in accordance with
previous instructions.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1410A/25 to S.O.I.S. (R)
N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bone, Philippeville).

M.K.S.O.4 F.O.I.C. Oran 1430A/25. See 1005A/26.

Movements, Departure. PALADIN, JAVELIN.
Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1458A/25 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,
(R) N.C.X.F.)

Italian Report, British submarine was reported by an Italian
P.51. destroyer at 1220B/25th December in 037° -
037° 20' N., 010° 20' - 010° 40' E.
(C.O.I.S., Alexandria, 1508B/25 to Capt. S.8.,
Capt. S.10., (R) Capt. S.1., C. in C. Med).
You were probably sighted at 1220A/25th.
(Capt. S.10., 1520A/25 to P.51).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 14 enemy war motor boats 34.45 N.
10.50 E. 270° 5. 9 aeroplanes 35.30 N., 12.35 E.
(Med. A/C 1510/25 to Hal Far D/F Malta,).

Movements, 25th Dec. Port Said, arrival *FAREHAM Greek D.
Port Said. SPETSAI, Greek IERAX, *KLO, FLAK, departure M.L.
354, +FAREHAM. *2. p.320
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1538B/25 to Admty etc).

S/Ms For information. Own surface force and aircraft
information. will be exercising south west of Filfolia Is.
between 1001A and 1401A/26th Dec. Any submarine
arriving a.m./26th should make E.T.A. as soon as
it is safe to do so during the night of 25/26th.
(Capt. S.10., 1757A/25 to Submarines on Patrol
(R) N.O.I.C. Malta).

Survey J.S.M.621 25th Dec. Following is text of
Party, Telegram No. 406 to Algiers. (Begins).
Algiers. Subject transportation priorities to be
determined by you, Joint Chiefs of Staff have
approved despatch of small survey party from
Office of Strategic Services to proceed Algiers
reporting to Commanding General Allied Forces. All details
of proposed future mission for theatre to be collaborated by
survey party with your officers and agencies. Supplies and
equipment over those suppliable from theatre stocks to be
requisitioned by office of Strategic Services theatre
representative through you. Plans and operations proposed
subject your approval and direct control. Upon theatre commander
approval, entire plans including equipment and material needed
from United States, will be submitted Joint C.O.S.
Copy papers covering project sent Air Mail.
(J.S.M., T.O.O., 1821Z/25 to War Cabinet, London).

/Malta...

25.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Malta Air
Report.

A.I. 201 25th Dec. Ref. my A.I. 197.
Beaufighter and Spitfire shipping attack, add
one Ju.88 damaged.
Night 24/25 Dec. No enemy air activity locally,
bad weather prevented intruder operations.

Day 25th December. 14 Spitfire and 11 Beaufighter sorties have
been made in offensive sweeps against Axis transport aircraft
and shipping. 2 Beaufighters and 2 Spitfires sighted 0730
hours 2 heavily loaded barges 070° Kuriat 10 miles course S.,
and attacked, raking them with cannon and machine gun fire
and leaving one barge smoking and sinking. One Beaufighter
was severely damaged by fire from 6 F-boats near barges and had
to be abandoned but both crew are safe. Rescue was effected
55 miles West of Malta by R.A.F. Rescue Launch co-operating
with searching Swordfish Beaufighter and Spitfires.
9 Spitfires were airborne on interception but raiders turned
back before nearing Malta.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1832Z/25).

Situation 1. Swordfish 813 Squadron made contact with enemy
report No. 39. convoy twenty miles north of Bizerta at 2140/24.
Weather unfavourable and no torpedo attack made.
2. P.228 reports 5,000 ton merchant vessel hit
with one torpedo and almost certainly blew up at
1114/14 in position 37.45 N., 10.39 E. At 1111/17 in position
37.53 N., 10. 05 E., obtained two hits on 6,000 ton merchant
vessel and two hits on "Gregale" class destroyer. Slight counter
attack from a second destroyer. Nothing in sight one hour
later probably both sunk. *[Sighting was the AVIERE, and was sunk.]*
3. *P.219 at 2052/23 sighted U-boat in position 37.17 N., 8.27 E.
dived and rammed at 50 feet. At 1952/24 sighted and attacked
U-boat in position 37.25 N., 8.1 E. result not yet known **Sup. 880*
4. Bone. Seven more moored mines exploded in sweep by
Oropesa trawler. Ferrying of troops ex K.M.F. five from Algiers
and Bougie completed.
5. Force H at sea since a.m./24 in Balearic Area to arrive
Gibraltar 26.
(N.C.X.F., 1837A/25 to Admty).

AQUITANIA.

Your 2013/23. Vessel will have to remain in
Suez area until required as in A.M.1537/19.
2. Request you concert with F.O.R.S.C.A. and
C. in C. Med., as to disposal of ship during
this period.
(D.S.T., 2049A/25 to P.S.T.O. Middle East).

Jibuti,
proposed
Agreement.

War Office telegram to G.O.C. in C. East Africa
No. 86889 (M.O.11) dated 15th Dec. concerning
Jibuti Agreement. Free French object to form
of Article 4 in which Chief Naval Authority is
appointed by you. They propose instead the
following:-

(Begins)...

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Jibuti, (Begins). The Naval Commander in the Colony shall proposed be a Naval Officer appointed by General de Gaulle, Agreement. Commander-in-Chief of the Free French Force, Contd. in agreement with the Naval Officer Commanding in Chief in the strategic zone of which the Colony forms part. The Naval Commander of the Colony shall ensure that the operation of 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 the directions of the Naval Officer Commanding in Chief in the strategic zone of which the Colony forms part. (Ends).
2. The difference in practice would be between having inevitably a Free French Officer in charge at Jibuti and having the right under our text of the Agreement to appoint a British Officer if you so wish.
3. Admiralty see no objection. Request your views. (M. Br. Approved V.C.N.S., 2102A/25 to C. in C. Med) Reply: C. in C. Med., 1809B/26).

Port Air C.A.F.O. 759/42. para. 5 and 6. Air Defence Defence. organisation of port difficult owing to few ships only holding necessary apparatus.
2. Request all ships sloops and above destined for Western Med., are supplied with apparatus including wooden box before sailing.
3. Request also that 24 sets be sent to N.C.X.F. at Algiers by air including 12 copies of each type of high angle range table for supply to ships already on station. (N.C.X.F., 2130A/25 to Admty).

P.219 P.219 pass 038° 00' 008° (7000°) East at
Pp. 880, 881 2130 (7A) 25th thence eastward as ordered by you.
883 (Capt. S., 8 2200A/25 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) P.219)

War Diary.25.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies

Movements.

Departure CARTHAGE.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0331Z/25 to Admty etc).
Arrival 0415Z/25th Dec. MARYBOROUGH with
H.N.M.S. ZUIDERKRUIS.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0420Z/25 to Admty).
Arrived 25th Dec. F.S. LEOPARD.
(F.O.E.A. and Zanzibar, 0751Z/25 to Admty).

U/B (?)

Merchant ship reports sighting suspicious vessel
probably submarine in 008° 42' N., 070° 12' E.
at 1330Z/24th.
(C. in C. E.F., 0335Z/25 to S. and A. E.I.
Stn).

BLINJOE

Request early decision on question raised in
my 0812/27th Nov. *and Admiral Helfrich's (5
groups missed) (being obtained) BLINJOE sailed
under orders S.O. Patrol Force N.A. on 22nd
Dec. operating temporarily as a Dutch merchant ship. Present
situation eminently unsatisfactory due to limitations on
vessels taking offensive action.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0412Z/25 to Admty).
*Re native crews of Dutch subjects of ships.

Japanese
U-boats.

One by D/F at 1310Z/22nd Dec. in 010° N., 063°
E. and at 1645Z/22nd Dec. in 011° N., 068° E.
considered same unit and 1st position unreliable
Doubtful sighting 009° N., 070° E., 24 Dec.
may be same U-boat homeward bound.
(C. in C. E.F., 0724Z/25 to S. and A. E.I.)

Crews for
L.S. Ts.

IZ 2814. 32609/C.O.S. 24th Dec.
Following for Chiefs of Staff. My 31063/C.O.S.
of 9th Dec. (1330/9) (re manning of craft with
Indian ratings).
If I am to raise crews I must take action without
further delay. May I therefore have a reply to
my para. 4?
(Arminia, 0740Z/25 to Air Min).

Air
Report.

Daily Intelligence Summary No. 285.
About 9 bombers raided Calcutta 2230 Dec. 24.
First wave 15000 second 18000 feet. Hurricane
damaged 1 bomber.
U.S.A.A.F., Dec. 20. 6 Liberators started fires
Rangoon Railway yards and docks where 2 8,000
ton ships seen in midway stream.
(A.H.Q., India, 1225Z/25).

/Raider...

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

SECRET.

MESSAGE

OUT.

TO. C. in C. P.A.I.C.
Repeated Minister of State, Cairo.
J.S.M. Washington.

Date 25.12.42

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

OZ. 2323.

FIRST. Following procedure for notification tonnages to be loaded in U.S.A. for Persian Gulf has been agreed with U.S. W.D. Washington and will take effect from 1st January 1943.

Begins. (A) That the General Officer Commanding in Chief Persia and Iraq Command should send a message each month to the Combined Chiefs of Staff Washington and to Chiefs of Staff London, reporting (i) estimated capacity of Persian Gulf ports and inland transportation agencies four months in advance. (ii) British Army requirements (iii) Essential civil needs (including aid for Poles).

(B) That at same time C.S.A.B. London will telegraph to C.S.A.B. Washington estimated tonnage Russian supplies from Indian Ocean area to be delivered four months ahead,

(C) That upon receipt these reports it will be possible to determine in Washington balance available for U.S. transportation requirements and U.S. Russian aid. Decision reached will be telegraphed direct to Persian Gulf and repeat London. Ends.

SECOND. Request you pass procedure in First to U.S. Commanding General as from W.D. Washington.

THIRD. You should include in your monthly telegram, which will be sent on 1st of each month tonnage which can be accepted at each Persian Gulf port (differentiating between quantities by rail or road) under three headings:-

(i) British and American Army requirements.

(ii) Essential Civil needs including Polish maintenance.

(iii) Balance available through passage to Russia as guide for allocation in Washington between U.S. supplies to Russian and U.S. transportation requirements. You should also include any amendments to be made to previous estimates of port and clearance capacity in months between loading and clearance periods.

/FOURTH.....

885-13

-2-

FOURTH Tonnage in First (B) will be notified to Rep. M.W.T. Basra by M.W.T. London.

FIFTH. Your attention drawn to great importance obtaining agreement U.S. Commanders and Reps. W.S.A. and M.W.T. to all estimates given and necessity for clear statement to this effect in each monthly telegram. This will obviate duplication of action with subsequent repercussions on Persian Gulf deliveries.

SIXTH. Agreed M.W.T. London. Inform Reps. M.W.T. and W.S.A.

0155Z/25.

Received from Air Ministry at
1145/25.

Air Ministry circulation.

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

INTERNAL.

A.M.C.S. (C)

C.C.O.

EXTERNAL.

Brigadier Jacob

Foreign Secretary

War Reg. Admiralty.

C.6. Tels. W.O.

Minister of War Transport.

Mr. Donaldson W.C.O.

Brigadier Parker.

BP

885-C

MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
04017/25 December

From P.S.T.O. India Date 26.12.42.

Recd. 0235
NAVAL CYPHER A BY W/T and T/P

Addressed C.in C. Eastern Fleet Repeated
F.O. Ceylon, N.O.i/c. Hormuz, Armindia
D.of S.T. Cdre. Aden.

IMPORTANT.

Cancel my 1137 / 10th December
and amendments.

Following is a revised and up to date
programme of troop movements

- (A) B P 64½ from Bombay 1 personnel ship YOMA sailing 26th December
- (B) B A 36 from Bombay 1 personnel ship CAP ST JACQUES sailing 28th December. From Karachi 1 personnel ship ISLAMI sailed 26th December.
- (C) Bombay Addu Atoll and Diego Garcia via Colombo 1 personnel ship KAROA sailed 28th December
- (D) B P 65 from Bombay 2 personnel ships ERINPURA JALAGOPAL sailing 6th January
- (E) B P 66 5 personnel ship VARSOVA ELLENGA EL MADINA KOGCIUSZKO RAJULA sailing 16th January.
- (F) B A 37 1 personnel ship TALMA sailing 19th January
- (G) DILWARA Karachi to Mombasa with approximately 800 Polish families and 250 Polish troops. Sailing 21st December
- (H) Hospital ship KARAPARA Karachi to Bombay with 110 patients. Sailing 26th December
- (I) Hospital ship T.L.M.B.A Bombay to Durban via Colombo with approximately 450 patients sailing 30th December.

04017/25

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

/?1137/10 from N.C.S.C. Bombay intended.
/Rd extra moves of service personnel.

1st S.L.(2)	N.A.1st S.L. D.T.D.(M)	D.of S.T.
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D.(H)(2)	Hd. of M.(10) I.F.(2).
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.O.D.(F)(2)	D.D.I.C.(2) #.D.
A.C.N.S.(UT)	D.T.D.(3)	D.of P.(2). D.C.(2)
		Ad. Blake.
		M.D.G.

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Raider Situation No. 22. No further information of German or Japanese raiders. Strong indications that Raider "H" is number 28 original appearance like ANKARA, Raider "J" is number 23 very probably Cairo (sic) SAWOKLA, overdue Capetown from Colombo since the 8th considered U-Boat victim.

2. KOTA NOPAN could by now be in Japanese controlled waters. Following information graded B.1. Captured tankers HERBORG and MADRONO expected to leave Far East soon for Europe. RHAKOTIS was expected Batavia 23rd Nov. to load rubber prior to sailing for Bordeaux. DOGGER BANK refitted probably ex SPEYBANK expected to leave Far East for Europe in January. (C. in C. E.F., 1309Z/25 to S. & A. E.I.)

Jibuti, demonstration. Your 72916 - 24th Dec. para. 4. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (E.A.) 19. Hitherto your proposals for action of Air Force and Navy have been for demonstration air threats only, and it was on this basis that authority for offensive action was given in W.O. telegram 88503 cypher M.O.11 dated 22nd Dec. Now plan has changed to proposal to open fire by naval and air forces on military targets. We think this course is undesirable since some French and civilian casualties will be inevitable and agree with 12th Div. cypher 15408 dated 20th Dec. that "British Forces would not fire on French Forces unless themselves attacked". Nothing in this telegram should be interpreted as prohibiting you from making full arrangements for adequate air support for our own troops who may be engaged in operations.

(Air Min., 1700Z/25 to G.O.C. in C. East Africa, (R) Cs. in C. Middle East, Minister of State Middle East, A.O.C. East Africa, C.H.Q. Aden, 12th Division.)

THAMES,
ROODE ZEE.

Required for floating dock.
(Admty., 1958A/25.)
See South Atlantic. *p. 679*

886A

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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MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN.
 1350 or 1330C/25th December.
 From G.O.C. in C. East Africa. Date. 25.12.42.
 CIPHER. Recd. 1445.

Addressed 12 (A) Div. Repeated The War Office,
 C. in C. Middle East (for Minstate, C. in C. Mediterranean
 and A.O.C. in C.) C.H.Q. Aden (pass Commodore Aden),
 A.O.C. in C. East Africa.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

090625. 0/73211 cipher 25 Dec.

C. in C. Your 15514 not to all addressees.

1. Action proposed your para. 3 approved.
2. After Raynals entry subsequent action to be in accordance with your 15408/20 Dec. Note my 72916 of 24 Dec.
3. Refer to me before Pentagon is put into force. Note. Mideast please pass my 15408/20 Dec. to C. in C. Med. and A.O.C. in C. and my 72916 24/12 to C. in C. Mediterranean C.H.Q. Aden pass my 72916 to Commodore Aden.

1350 or 1330C/25.

Recd. from W.O. 0015/25.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.I.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Nav. Sec.
- Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.J.
- P.A.S. (S)
- 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)
- and for Mr. Waldock.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake.
- Ad. Bellairs.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)

- 4 No T.O.O./20.
- W.O. circulation:-
- S. of S. Major Morton, 10
- C.I.G.S. Downing Street.
- V.C.I.G.S. 20 Mil. Mission.
- P.U.S. (Lt. Col. Archdale) 2.
- P.U.S. (F) (Mr. K. Rooker). 2.
- D.M.O. Colonial Office.
- D.D.M.O. (O) (Lt. Col. Rolleston).
- M.O. 1. 5. 11
- D.M.I.
- D.D.M.I. (I)
- M.I. 3 17a.
- D.F. (a)
- F. 5.
- Foreign Secretary (2)
- Foreign Office (Mr. Stirling) 2.
- Hd. of War Registry (Admiralty)
- A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry).
- Brig. Jacob.

SECRET

886B

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 1523Z/25th. Dec.

III

From: C. in C. E.F.

Date: 25.12.42.
Time: 2310

E.F. Code OUT BY W/T & T/P

Addressed: East Indies Station 49.C Repeated:
Admiralty. C. in C. S.A.Stn. A.C.N.B.
Melbourne.

83. Cancel 746 C. N.C.S.O. attention is drawn to Admiralty message 1218A / 2nd. December.

2. Amend paragraph (3) of message 789 C to read "Agent telegrams and supply signals, if used, as only required by N.C.S.O's or reporting officers at first port of call. See F O N I C 09 explanatory notes 5 and 6.

3. Cancel 863 (C). N.C.S.O's attention is drawn to Admiralty lettered message J Q.

495 category 925 (C), 926 (C), 928 (C).
Reference amendment to "C" message.

1523Z/25
Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade

A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A.I.S.L.
Capt. Pim
Ops.(3)
O.D.(5)
O.I.C.(2)
D. of S.2A
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
D. of S.T.(2)

I.P.(3)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
U.S.H.(3)
D.S.D.(2)

887

War Diary.25.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.ST. CLAIR,
O.N.S. 152.Your 0038Z/25th (N.T. in W.R.) P.C.S. at
0100Z/25th 047° 22' N. 045° 40' W. 235° 7.5 knots.
(ST. CLAIR, 0103Z/25 to ST. CROIX.)TAMAROA,
MORETON BAY.My 2217/2 para. 2 not to last two addressees.
Troop transports TAMAROA and MORETON BAY sailed
from Montevideo 17th Dec. and 18th Dec.
respectively for U.K. via Trinidad and New York.
(D. of S.T., 0312A/25 to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New
York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)QUEEN
ELIZABETH.Position V 0400Z/25th E.T.A. pilot 1300Z/26th.
(QUEEN ELIZABETH, 0401Z/25 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet,
(C. & R.), (R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F.)

L.S.Ts.

Norfolk arrived 2300Z/21 L.S.T. 363, 303, and 403.
(N.S.H.Q., 0510Z/25 to Admty.)U.S.
Movements.Departure 24th, U.S. Army Transport FRANKLYN
LEISINGER escorted by patrol vessel S.C., LEAD,
Miami 25th.
(R.N.O. Nassau, 0907/25 to Admty., S.O.(I)
Jamaica.)
U.S. Ship S.C.506 arrived 25th Dec.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1025/25 to Admty.)PHOEBE,
BRIDGEWATER,
ARMERIA.This is a re-encypherment of C.T.F. 23 1145/24.
(Begins). Addressed Cominch, Info, Comdes 38,
C.T.U. 23.6.1, N.O.B. Trinidad, C.E.S.F., B.A.D.
Cominch pass to Admty. and F.O.C.W.A.PHOEBE escorted by BRIDGEWATER and ARMERIA left
Recife 2300Z/23 for Trinidad routed through the following points:
All positions S. and W. (A) 07.58, 34.41. (B) 06.36, 35.00.
(C) 05.11, 35.41. (D) 04.53, 36.18. (E) 04.33, 38.40.
(F) 03.03, 39.37. (G) 02.05, 44.16. (H) 00.17, 49.00.
(I) 02.18, 51.08. (J) 04.47 52.42. (K) 05.44, 55.25.
(L) 07.00, 55.25. (M) 08.00, 58.00. (N) 10.00, 60.25.
(O) (? Serpent's Mouth). S. of A. 11.5 knots, E.T.A. position
(N) 1700Z/30. Port of Spain 0145Z/30. Maximum possible
air coverage is requested for approach to Trinidad.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1050/25 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)ETNA
lifeboat.My 1141/22nd. Boat sighted was from Swedish
ship ETNA (2 corrupt groups) was off Martinique
and sea too rough to board. COLISTER Trinidad
informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1101R/25 to C.C.S.F.,
(R) Admty., Connav, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

/Motor ...

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25.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Motor
Minesweepers.

Norfolk sailed for Freetown via Miami, Kingston Jamaica and Pernambuco M.M.S. 107, 106, 105, 103, and 102. First three thence Basra, via Lagos (Nigeria), Capetown, and Aden. Last two to Mediterranean.
(N.S.H.Q., 1120Z/25 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.)

S.C.114.

ROXBOROUGH designated T.U. No. 24.12.2 will act as support unit to S.C.114 detaching in 38° W. to O.N. No.156 fuel permitting.

(C.C.N.F., 1215Z/25 to C.T.24, (R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. No. 24.7, BEVERLEY.)

S.C.114. C. Mid-Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.15 in CALIOPE *(WATCHMAN 7 intended) plus DAHLIA, WALLFLOWER, MONKSHOOD, BORAGE, MEADOWSEET re-appointed Ocean escort for S.C.114.

(C.T.24, 1313/25 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet C. & R., (R) C. mid-ocean escort T.U. 24.1.15, C. Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.8, C.T.G. 24.6, C.T.G. 24.7, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

* *Completed by Comdr. J. L. White,*

L. 15.

My 1745/23rd. Sailing of L.15 delayed. Further signal will be made.
(C.O.A.C., 1301Z/25 to Admty., etc.)

Personnel
in "Castle"
Ships.

Your 2201Z/21 para. 3 (Proposal that the 3 "Castle" ships embark 250 U.S. Army at New York). Concur but in this case total number of passengers per ship should not exceed 1000.
2. The rules are again under revision.
(D.O.D.(H), 1321A/25 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

SEAWOLF.

C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2101/22nd. SEAWOLF will be routed via Cape Cod Canal through point 15 miles south of Cape Sable to arrive 44.21 N. 63.28 W.

1720/30th. Thence to Halifax. Departing Point Judith 1201/28 and off point Cape Cod 2059 same date times are all Z. Surface S. of A. 10 knots. Diving by day 29th speed 2 knots.

(Comdr. Subs. Atlantic Fleet, 1324Z/25 to C.E.S.F., C. in C. A.F. (U.S.), Com.3, C.T. 24, C. in C. U.S. Fleet who is requested pass to Admty., F.O.(S), C. in C. W.A., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

S/M Notice. SEAWOLF proceeds from New London to Halifax. Departs point Judith 1201/28. Unescorted. Speed on surface 10 knots. When submerged 2 knots. Via swept channel to Cape Cod Canal. All times Z. Dates December. Departs eastern entrance canal 1901 and 3 miles north-west of point Cape Cod 2059 same date. Thence through point 15 miles south of Cape Sable, 0515/30 to arrive 44.21 N. 63.28 W. 12 hours later. Running submerged during day 29th. Then to destination. S/M is painted grey and has "N.47" painted on conning tower. Area limits 50 miles ahead and behind estimated positions. Also 15 miles either side of track. S/M will report if these limits are exceeded and if routeing is changed for any reason after departure. Passed to SEAWOLF by hand.

(Cdr. S/Ms Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) 1722Z/25 to Cdr. 1st U.S. N.D. Boston, C.E.S.F., C. in C.U.S. Fleet pass to N.S.H.Q., F.O.S. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.) /FRISKY ...

25.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.- Contd.

- FRISKY,
CALDWELL,
HARTSBRIDGE. My 1503/21 (FRISKY left St. Johns to assist CALDWELL).
H.M.R.T. FRISKY returned St. Johns 0525/25 from search for CALDWELL and SS. HARTSBRIDGE. Latter ship reported proceeding under own steam. (F.O.N.F., 1325Z/25 to Admty. for C.C.R.T., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
- O.N.S. 156. Commander Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.3 in JOHN L. SPENCER (H/F D/F) plus U.S. Destroyer BADGER, DIANTHUS, ROSTHERN, TRILLIUM, DAUPHIN sailed to meet O.N.S.156. Latest Q.J.A.673. (C.T.G. 24.7, 1420Z/25 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., N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Liverpool, C.T.G. 24.6.)
- U/B Positions. S/M Estimate Dec. 25th and U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1511/25, 1512/25, 1610/25, 1611/25, 1612/25, 1643/25.)
- S.C. 113. C.T.U. 24.1.12 1535Z/24. Convoy not met. Intend proceeding convoy route (? and) speed, my position 1500Z/25th (? 027°) 1' N. 034° 25' W. Weather report. (ORILLIA, 1542Z/25 to C. in C. W.A., (R) F.O.N.F., C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
- S/M S.55. My 1602/25 (1600/25 intended re situation report S.E. - N.T. in W.D.) Add U.S.S.R. S/M S.55 on surface escorted by U.S. Dest. BERNADOU 044° 35' 057° 46' 089°, 12. BERNADOU parts company in 044° 35' 057° 40' returning to Halifax. Submarine then proceeds unescorted towards 046° 01' 049° 01'. S. of A. 240 miles per day. (C.O.A.C., 1605Z/25 to Admty.)
- S/M S.54. My 1630Z/25th (N.T. in W.D.) Add U.S.S.R. S/M S.54 on surface escorted by PORT HOPE departs Chebucto Head 2330Z/25th toward position 44.35 57.40 S.O.A. 12? knots. (C.O.A.C., 1636Z/25 to Admty.)
- U.G.S., G.U.S., speed. Minimum speed for ships to be included in U.G.S. and G.U.S.5 be changed from 10 to 9 knots. Escort (? responsible) should be authorised to return in first 24 hours any ship unable to maintain this speed without smoking. U.G.S.4 will sail as scheduled January 6th. Admiralty deliver to C. in C. Africa and N.C.X.F.) (Cominch, 251637 to S.O. 16th Destroyer Flot., (R) C.E.S.F., Port Director New York, Admty., Comnav, C. in C. Africa., N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, B.A.D.)

/ U/B ...

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25.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B B.A.M.S. 2B, 2B, 3A, 3A, from Cominch.
Submarine sighted 06.30 S. 28.00 W at 1400 G.M.T/25
(Connav. 1804/25 to Admty.)

J.S.M. 621 T.O.O. 1821Z/25.
See Mediterranean.

U.G.F. J.S.M. 613 25th Dec. 1942. Following is text of
U.G.S. telegram 348 T.O.O. 0103/22 to Algiers. (Begins).
Convoys, Increase in size of both U.G.F. and U.G.S. convoys
French by three French ships approved by Navy.
Ships. Your 2138 Dec. 16th (J.S.M. 579). These French
ships must be capable of 15 knots for U.G.F. and
10 knots for U.G.S. convoys. In this connection
Navy is being requested to reduce speed of U.G.S. convoys and
slower ships may be approved, although no decision as yet. No
escorts available to bring these ships from Dakar in addition
to regular "Torch" convoys, therefore necessary for ships to
have French escorts, or travel alone. Regarding weapons for
French and your 2392 (NAF 44) December 18th, certain equipment
being shipped see our 232 December 17th answering your 1825 Dec.
12th. Complete answer that subject being prepared. (Ends).
(J.S.M., 1825Z/25 to War Cabinet, London.)

HAVELOCK N.G. (?24) E.T.A. Bocas 0930Q/27th. Following
GODETIA urgent repairs necessary. HAVELOCK hull of motor
SAXIFRAGE boat and new medium frequency D/F to calibrate.
GODETIA brickwork in combustion chambers of both
boilers to be renewed electric power 110 volts.
direct current desirable but not essential. SAXIFRAGE dynamo
ammeter to repair R.D.F. starter motor to repair. It will still
be necessary for the group to complete with dry and fresh
provisions.
(HAVELOCK, 1903Z/25 to N.O.B. Trinidad, S.B.N.O. Trinidad,
B.A.M.R. (R) C.C.S.F., U.S. Port Director, New York.)

Floating B.A.D.'s 1555/17, F.O.C.W.Af's 1221/20 and B.A.D.'s
Dock, Tugs. 1551/21.
See p. 877
In view of further commitment for towage of
floating dock from Montevideo to the Cape in early
February, B.A.D. is requested to arrange for ROODE ZEE to be
sailed to Montevideo in time to sail again not later than 15th
February.
2. Suitable tug will be sailed from U.K. to arrive New Orleans
about Feb. 1st to assist ZWARTE ZEE and ORIANA with A.F.D. XXIV.
B.A.D.'s 1555/17 para 2(a) refers.
3. As there will be no convoy for escorts ex F.T.T. 4 to take
back to Freetown, and as British escorts for A.F.D. XXIV is now
required at New Orleans instead of Trinidad, it is desired to
employ these ships for A.F.D. XXIV.

War Diary.

25.12.1942.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. *con-13.*

Floating Dock, Tugs. (Contd.) 4. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to place them under the orders of Cominch until required to sail for New Orleans. It is not considered that destroyer reinforcement of escort is necessary but one A.M.C. should provide anti-raider cover from about 55° W. onward.

5. B.A.D's 1555/17 para. 3 DESTINY. See A.M. 1532/22.

6. B.A.D's 1555/17, paras. 2B and 4, approved, but it is not considered feasible for crane lighter CAIRO to accompany a convoy. (D.O.D.(F), Approved V.C.N.S., 1959A/25 to B.A.D., F.O.C.W.Af., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. S.A., S.B.N.O. W.A., S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. STAR OF SUEZ torpedoed sunk 01° N. 29.30 W. 15th Dec. ORFOR torpedoed sunk 16° N. 50° W. 0300Z/14. EAST WALES torpedoed sunk 0024. N. 31.27 W. 2025Z/16.

Para. C. Surface craft sights sub headed east 47.56 N. 52.52 W. 2030Z/24. Pan airplane sights white sub 03.30 S. 28° W. 25th Dec. Sub reported 05.29 S. 35.14 W. 1400Z/24. P.B.Y. makes possible Radar contact and sights wake 39.39 N. 68.32 W. 1505Z/25.

Para. D. Army plane sights sub 20.41 N. 71° W. 2100Z/24. SS. HOWARD sights sub 25.05 N. 82.40 W. 1936Z/24. (Cominch, 2040Z/25 to Admty. for O.I.C., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Shipping Casualties. 222125 Connav Serial 22. OMBILIN reported torpedoed 12th Dec. 07.25 N. 39.19 W. MONTREAL CITY torpedoed 21st Dec. 50.28 N. 38.00 W. convoy O.N.152. (Connav, 222125 to Comnav.)

BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER. My 1632/24th. BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER sailed and returned to Bermuda owing to defects in WASTWATER. Further signal will be made. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 2202Z/25 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Suva, U.S.S. DELPHINIUS, Noumea 1800Z/27. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0101Z/25 to Admty.) Arrival Auckland, 25th Dec., U.S. Ship TAURUS. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0706M/25 to Admty.) Departure Auckland, U.S.S. SOLACE, Noumea 0200Z/28 December. (D.N.I. Wellington, 1819Z/25 to Admty.) Arrival Auckland, U.S. Ship WEST POINT. (S.O.(I), Wellington, 2359Z/25 to Admty.)

/Situation ...

892

25.12.1942.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 337 Dec. 24th.
 Advance continued along old strip Buna against strong enemy resistance, enemy posts east of entrance creek being mopped up. Six Fortresses made three hits on 5000 ton vessel at Gasmata evening 24th. Ship last seen listing and settling by stern.

(3) Small merchant vessel near Arawe exploded and sank morning 24th after direct hit from Liberator. Interception over Gasmata by 12 Zeros three shot down one possible damaged. Four Zeros three other aircraft seen on Gasmata aerodrome previously considered unserviceable.

(4) Japanese visited Raua (near Banbu Bay, Bougainville) for first time 23rd, burnt houses and stores.

(5) One Liberator bombed Lae strafed schooner Lorengau harbour 24th. Another bombed Madang Gasmata runways, results not observed. Third bombed Lae aerodrome, fire and debris seen.

(6) Three Bostons strafed five canoes with approx. 20 Japs about 9 miles South Salamaua 24th, 18 considered casualties.

(7) Unidentified vessel sighted by aircraft 6° 18' S. 148° E. 1315Z/23.

(8) Aircraft reported one small destroyer or gunboat one passenger vessel 5/7000 tons 3 merchant vessel 2/3000 tons landing troops in several barges Laivai (Timor) 24th. Aircraft made one direct hit several near misses and damaged ships with gunfire.

(9) Six Beaufighters strafed Maulloron Strip (Timor) 24th two enemy fighters on strip attacked one burnt out second probably badly damaged.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0737Z/25 to Admt., etc.)

W.R. Note:- The words "Para. 2" were not inserted by originator.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
 (D.D.I.C., 1357A/25, 1410A/25.)

War Diary.26.12.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Although the aircraft carrier GRAF ZEPPELIN is believed to have been located in the floating-dock at Kiel on 23rd December, a report received today from Stockholm graded A.3 states that she passed the Fehmarn Belt Lightship westwards on the 19th December accompanied by 2 Sperrbrechers and 4 torpedo boats.

At 1130A today convoy J.W.51B was reported to be in 68° 23' N. 06° 32' W. steering 043° at 8 knots; and at 1301 V.A.2 in ANSON, with CUMBERLAND, FORESTER, IMPULSIVE, and ICARUS left Akureyri for 70° 03' N. 00° 01' E. to cover the convoy.

S.B.N.O. North Russia considers that, if the present fine bombing weather continues, the presence of SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA in North Russia until the departure of convoy R.A.52 may subject both ships to grave risks, and has asked that the matter may be reconsidered.

The destroyers BLANKNEY, LEDBURY, and CHIDDINGFOLD returned to Seidisfjord at 0345 today.

U-Boat sunk.

(U.357)

A U-Boat sighted by HESPERUS at 1526Z today in 57° 20' N. 16° 00' W. with convoy H.X.219 was persistently hunted and attacked by HESPERUS and VANESSA and, after being rammed by VANESSA, was finally rammed again and sunk by HESPERUS at 2045Z. *57°10'N. 15°40'W. (Dr. Roebolt)*

A Liberator attacked 2 U-Boats W.S.W. of the Fastnet Rock from 1506 - 1632 today: no definite evidence of destruction was seen.

"Torch" Area.Air Control,
Gibraltar.

In reply to the Admiralty request for his views on the control of R.A.F. Gibraltar, reverting to Coastal Command, N.C.X.F. considers that the disadvantages of this proposed change are conclusive. He suggests some form of Coastal Command system for the "Torch" Area, to be under A.O.C. Eastern Air Command, for the moment, as a preliminary to instituting a Coastal Command covering all North and North West Africa. This view seems also to be shared by A.O.C. in C. Middle East.

894

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Force H - NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, DIDO and 9 destroyers - returned to Gibraltar at 1900A.

South Atlantic.

Survivors of SS. QUEEN CITY, of Cardiff, landed at Maranham, reported that their vessel was torpedoed by an Italian U-Boat on 21st Dec. in approx. 00.50 S. 41.46 W. One lifeboat with 29 persons is missing.

N.C.X.F. reports that the French Admiralty wish to resume convoys along the coast of West Africa and Gulf of Guinea, and propose to appoint a Liaison Officer from Dakar to the staff of F.O.C. West Africa to co-ordinate details.

Mediterranean.

P.42 hit and probably sank a 5000 ton ship 4 miles off Punta Imperatore (Isola d'Ischia 40° 43' N. 13° 51' E., Gulf of Naples) at noon today and obtained 30 hits on a brick railway viaduct near 40° 7' N.

Air
Operations.

11 Wellingtons were despatched last night to bomb Tunis docks with Sousse as secondary target. 6 found both targets obscured by cloud and returned. 3 attacked Tunis and La Goulette docks through cloud gaps. 2 attacked Sousse Harbour.
B.17s raided Sfax and Bizerta.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft in Algiers Bay last night is suspected.

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

- A/S Forces. Replying to C. in C. S.A. (see 24th December) C. in C. E.F. agrees that EXPRESS and FORTUNE should remain in the South Atlantic area until the 2nd South African troop convoy has arrived, when the situation should be again reviewed; and that INCONSTANT should remain until her refit is due. He asks that FOXHOUND be sailed for Kilindini. As to the 4 corvettes (of which C. in C. S.A. wanted one on permanent loan) these can all be spared, and C. in C. E.F. would prefer that all should return as soon as adequate reinforcements reach the South Atlantic.
- Enemy Unit. An unknown German unit was fixed by D/F at 1859Z in 20° S. 98° E.
- French Somaliland. Fighting French troops entered French Somaliland at 0600 today. Tomorrow morning contact is to be made with troops occupying certain positions with a view to rallying them to the Fighting French cause. If unsuccessful within 48 hours, British troops, with R.N. and R.A.F. support, are to enter the colony.
- Calcutta. Except in the docks, where all labour is reported to have left, C. in C. India reports that the situation in Calcutta is satisfactory. Evacuations total about 42,500 daily.

America and West Indies.

- U-Boat attack on O.N.S.154. SHEDIAC, one of the corvettes of T.U.24.1.11 escorting Convoy O.N.S.154, sighted a U-Boat ahead of the convoy at 2040 in 47.50 N. 24.10 W. and attacked with depth charges. The position of the convoy at 2307Z was 45.55 N. 27.34 W. Certain ships were attacked (see 27th).

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

Dutch SS. VAN HEEMSKERK, 2996 tons, was bombed by a single Zero aircraft at 2340Z off the entrance to Merauke, South Coast of New Guinea; 3 native seamen were killed and 4 wounded.

897

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

SWALE,
*VIMY. Cancel my 1230Z/25.
* *see p. 402* (Cdre. Londonderry, 0724A/26 to F.O.N.F.)
My 1143/24. As it has been impossible to get
VIMY ready to sail with B.3 escorting O.N.157,
it is intended to replace her in escort with SWALE. Consequently
sailing of SWALE direct to St. Johns N.F. has been cancelled, her
absence from S.C.115 being accepted in view of Comtask 24 0447/
24th. If possible VIMY will be sailing to meet S.C.115 to
reinforce after WANDERER departure.
(C. in C. W.A., 2220Z/26 to Comtask 24.)
Cancel sailing of SWALE to St. Johns. She will be
required to sail with B.3 in place of VIMY.
(C. in C. W.A., 2234A/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

GLASGOW. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0941A/26.)
Scapa arrival GLASGOW.
(A.C.O.S., 1540A/26.)

NEWARK. Intend to sail NEWARK to pass Sleet Boom at 1100
tomorrow and thence by standard route through
North Channel and Irish Sea to Milford Haven.
Speed of advance 15 knots. E.T.A. 1100/28.
(R.A.M., 0944/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CLYDE. F.O.S. 1128/23. Route from 180° Lizard 12 through
180° Bishop 10, (? latitude) N. 009° 01' W., 050°
10' N. 015° 02' W., thence as ordered by C. in C.
W.A.,
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1031A/26 to Capt. S.5.)

P. 55,
P.225. Intend to sail P.55 escorted by AYRSHIRE from
Clyde at 1100A/28 by Minches and West of Orkneys
to Lerwick. E.T.A. 1400A/30.
(Capt. S.3, 1047A/26.)
Intend to sail P.225 to Clyde escorted by AYRSHIRE 1400A/27.
E.T.A. Cumbraes 0730A/28. On completion AYRSHIRE to escort
P.55 from Clyde to Lerwick in accordance with C. in C. W.A's
1916A/25.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1530A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

P.229. Your 1454A/25. Arrived 1030/26.
CEDAR. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1104A/26.)

DOLFIJN. Intend sailing DOLFIJN escorted by LORD INCHCAPE,
see p 698^A CONWAY CASTLE at 0930/27 to 180° Lizard Head 3
miles, thence through 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles
westwards until dusk, thence S/M to westward, trawlers returning
to Falmouth.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1152A/26.)
Capt. S.3's 0929/25 and 1219/21 December. DOLFIJN passes through
043° 01', 013° 50' at 0001A/2nd.
(F.O.S., 1226A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/UGANDA ...

War Diary.26.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

UGANDA. On successful completion of trials at Rosyth request you sail UGANDA for Scapa to work up. (D.O.D.(H), 1230A/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

ADVENTURE. Arrived ADVENTURE. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1615A/26.)

S/M At 0800/27. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S., 1641A/26, 1944A/26.)
See Lion Copy.

PETERHEAD. PETERHEAD is to join Minesweeping Flot. 15 in Iceland. Propose she should provide additional escort for next U.R. Convoy.
(2) Request date she should arrive Loch Ewe.
(C. in C. H.F., 1722A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1722/26. Concur. PETERHEAD should arrive Loch Ewe a.m. 29th.
(C. in C. W.A., 2203A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

BODO. ^{N.T. in 4.3.}
Your 1745/26. BODO is to remain at Londonderry at four hours notice and is not to be sailed again with tow.
(C. in C. W.A., 2256A/26 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

Operations.

Operation V.P. My 1915/22 and 1851/24. Operation V.P-K and V.P-R para. 3 now reads 0800A/26th in both cases. Amend V.P-R para. 2 to read 626 (S.O.) and 623 add following patrol V.P-N and V.P-V. Details.
(A.C.O.S., 0022/26 to A.O.C. Wick, etc.)

Patrols. My 1925A/25. "Device" returned to Harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0030A/26.)
M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.) and 615 are to proceed to patrol tonight between 50° 31' N. 00° 35' E. and 50° 30' N. 00° 05' W. passing E.A3 Buoy at 1745 and 0815. They are to keep southward of convoy C.W.144 as far as patrol-line allows. Codeword "Advent".

3. CHASSEURS 14 (S.O.) and 10 patrolling south of E.A5. W/T watch on 1700 k/cs.

4. M.L. 303 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 522 from Portland patrolling latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1101A/26 to HORNET.)

1. Intend M.L.303 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 522 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W.

2. Leave Portland at 1700 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. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1250A/26.)

/M.Ls ...

898A

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 1641A/26 Dec. IN

From - F.O.S.

Date - 26.12.42
Recd. 1704

P.L. by T.P.

Addressed - Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

417.

Positions of S/MS at 0800 27th December and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) P.339, SOKOL, TORBAY, P.223 in Norwegian waters East of 15 degs. East.
- (B) P.49, 70 degs. 33 mins. North 15 degs. 32 mins. East through 71 degs 25 mins. North 18 degs. 15 mins. East to 71 degs. 25 mins. North 21 degs. 59 mins. East.
- (C) P.216, 71 degs. 08 mins North 15 degs. 59 mins. East through 71 degs. 43 mins. North 17 degs. 55 mins. East to 71 degs. 43 mins. North 23 degs. 40 mins. East.
- (D) O.14, 69 degs. 19 mins. North 11 degs. 55 mins. East through 70 degs. 22 mins. North 15 degs. 01 mins. E. thence to patrol in vicinity of 70 degs. 32 mins. North 20 degs. 02 mins. East.
- (E) P.312, 70 degs. 22 mins. North 12 degs. 31 mins. East through 71 degs. 43 mins. North 16 degs. 40 mins. East to 71 degs. 43 mins. North 22 degs. 55 mins. East.
- (F) GRAPH, 69 degs. 59 mins. North 11 degs. 28 mins. East through 71 degs. 43 mins. North 16 degs. 40 mins. East to 71 degs. 43 mins. North 22 degs. 05 mins. East.
- (G) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, in zone K.501.
- (H) U.S.S. SHAD, in zone K.502
- (J) U.S.S. HERRING, in zone K.505
- (K) U.S.S. BARB, on patrol off Vigo.
- (L) U.S.S. GURNARD, escorted by ST. ELSTAN arriving Clyde Area from South.
- (M) DOLFIJN, escorted by LORD INCHAPE and CONWAY CASTLE leaves Falmouth 0930 27th December to position 180 degs. Lizard Head 3 miles thence through position 180 degs. Bushop Rock 10 miles Westward until dusk then proceeding unescorted to Westward. *See b.897*

1641A/26

A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Capt. Pin
 D.O.D (H) (2)
 D.O.D (F) (2)
 D.D.O.D (M)
 Duty Capt. (2)
 D.D.I.C (2)
 D. of P (2)
 D.A/S.w.

D.T.D (M)
 Hd. of M.
 W.D.
 I.P. (2)
 D.N.I (4)

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

D.T.

899

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 20th/26.

Patrols. M.Ls 137 and 139 patrolling between Fairlight
(Contd.) and Rye Buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 1926A/26.)
2 M.Ls patrolling south of Anvil Point.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1957A/26.)
HOLDERNESS proceed to number five, PYTCHLEY to No.6 patrol.
(C. in C. Nore, 2041A/26.)

ALERT. Intend to sail ALERT escorted by ST. KILDA at
(Cable 0900/27 to 051° 22'30" N. 010° 00' W. for cable
operations) operations.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1044A/26.)

Allied Air Activity.

Patrol. Weather permitting Sunderland and Whitley A/C will
carry out anti E-Boat cross-over patrols from
1830 today till dawn 27th to cover passage of
convoys. Details. Object is to report, attack, and shadow
E-Boats.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1411A/26 to Escorts W.P.269, P.W.269.)
My 1411/26. Air patrol cancelled. Weather unsuitable.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1739A/26.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. One unidentified aircraft sighted N.E. of
Borgarnes 064° 32' N. 021° 55' W. at 1304/26 and
disappeared course S.W. Cloud 10/10ths, 1000 ft.
visibility 1500 yards.
(A.C.I.C., 1935A/26 to Admty., (R) C. in C.H.F.)

Mining.

Sweep of S.O. 9th M.S.F's 1314/25. Concur generally but
Q.Z.X.866. it is preferable that both lines of M.I.6 should
be cleared completely in G formation.
(D.M.S., 1403A/26 to V.A. Dover.)

P.S.26. P.S.26 arrived. Lt. Cdr. M.M/S reports operation
complete negative result.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1530A/26 to C. in C.Portsmouth)

War Diary.26.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Sandnessjoen My 1558/14.
and Leir As from 11th December, all vessels and boats
Fjord. must advise the Harbour Master of Sandnessjoen
of their intention to navigate Leir Fjord (whether
by day or night).

2. Between 1600 and 0900, Sandnessjoen Harbour is closed to all
traffic (except rutebater) which must anchor over night in the
outer roads.
(D.N.I., 1250A/26 to F.O.S., A.C.O.S.)

E-Boats. Suspected E-Boat activity to East of me.
(Nore W/T, 1820A/26 to S.E.E.C.C.D. North.)

Unknown Unidentified plot in 112° Start Point 4 miles,
Ship. apparently stopping.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1849A/26 to Escorts W.P.269.)

GRAF GRAF ZEPPELIN escorted by (? 4) torpedo boats
ZEPPELIN. and two SPERRBRECHER passed Femern Belt Light
Ship proceeding West on December 19th. Graded
A.3. (corrupt group) E S M.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1901/26 to Admty.)
Comment: GRAF ZEPPELIN left Gdynia between 18th November and
12th December (P.R.U.) and was reported at Kiel on 3rd December
(Graded B.3). Photographic R/C of Kiel on 23rd December, which
was incomplete owing to extensive use of a smoke-screen, showed
a large unit in the floating dock which is believed to have been
GRAF ZEPPELIN.

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy S/M in 49° 11' N. 22° 21' W.
attacked. (A/C of 120 Sqn., 1510A/26 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C of 120 Sqn., 1535A/26 to 15 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 49° 48' N. 20° 40' W.
(A/C of 170 Sqn., 1616/26 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C of 170 Sqn., 1650A/26 to 15 Group.)

U-Boat sunk In 57° 20' N. 16° 00' W. 1 submarine, co.25°, 10 miles
by HESPERUS type unknown.
and VANESSA (HESPERUS, 1526Z/26.)
(Convoy Submarine sighted on the surface bearing 250°, 10
H.X.219.) miles. Submarine now submerged. My position is
U.357 *sub*. 057° 20' N. 016° 00' W. Am hunting with VANESSA.
(HESPERUS, 1529Z/26.)

My 1529/26th. Periscope sighted in 057° 12' N. 015° 44' W. 3
attacks carried out. Am continuing to hunt. Request call sign
of A/C sent to assist.
(HESPERUS, 1731Z/26 to Admty.) *7m*

/My ...

901

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats, Con/S.

U-Boat sunk by HESPERUS and VANESSA. (Convoy H.X.219). (Contd.)
U.357 sunk.

My 1731Z/26. Carried out 3 further attacks. Still in firm contact. Aircraft has returned to base of Wing. (HESPERUS, 1936Z/26 to Admty.) Your 1731. Call sign 7ADH. (C. in C. W.A., 1943A/26 to HESPERUS.)

My 1529Z/26. U-Boat rammed and sunk by both VANESSA and HESPERUS. *(in 57°10'N. 15°40'W. Con. Towboat)*

(HESPERUS, 2045Z/26 to Admty.)

My 2045/26. U-Boat surfaced after 10 attacks and was rammed but not much damaged by VANESSA. U-Boat attempted to escape at high speed on the surface and was rammed and sunk after short chase by HESPERUS. 6 prisoners in HESPERUS, 2 in VANESSA, all ratings. No damage to VANESSA. HESPERUS has buckled bow and flooding forward and asdic dome removed. Both ships proceeding 17 knots. Expect to rejoin convoy at 0600Z/27. (HESPERUS, 2350Z/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats reported. Inconclusive D/Fs at 1655Z and 1746Z indicate U-Boats in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1925A/26 to Escorts O.N.154.)

Transmissions referred to in A.M. 1925/26 and intercepted subsequently on Series 7 indicate that convoy is being shadowed, and that three U-Boats are in the immediate vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 2235A/26 to Escorts O.N.154.)

Technical.

Merchant Ship Recognition. 1. As from 0001 G.M.T. 16th January 1943, warships or aircraft carrying out recognition procedure with merchant ships are to make a reply letter in accordance with following instructions. Details. (D.S.D., 1014A/26.)

Casualties and Defects.

MASTADONTE. Proceed to assist MASTADONTE in approx. 049° 36' N. 006° 32' W. at 0001/26. Proceed towards Falmouth. MASTADONTE is short on fuel, speed probably 2.4 knots. Tug CHERBOURGEOIS 3 is leaving to meet you. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0122A/26 to CLEVELAND.)

MASTADONTE position 0800/26 049° 37' N. 006° 07' W. course 068°, 3 knots. Tug CHERBOURGEOIS 2 meeting her approx. 0930. CLEVELAND may be in attendance or vicinity. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0825A/26 to *ADVENTURE.) * *see p. 898*

Arrival MASTADONTE. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1621A/26.)

/LOCHNAGAR ...

902

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

LOCHNAGAR. SS. LOCHNAGAR has broken down in 59° 48' N. 09° 18' W. Am taking her in tow. Request assistance of tug.
(ARAB, 0345A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0345. No tug at present available. Report if you can manage tow.
(C. in C. W.A., 1025A/26 to ARAB.)
Your 1025A/26. Tow has parted. In view of weather do not think I shall manage tow. My estimated position 059° 40' N. 009° 04' W.
(ARAB, 1230Z/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
Proceed at best speed to assistance of LOCHNAGAR broken down in 059° 40' N. 009° 04' W. at 1330A/26 and assist ARAB who is standing by to tow in.
(C. in C. W.A., 1726A/26 to CAPE PALLISER.)
LOCHNAGAR raised steam at 2200Z/26 and is proceeding at four knots, course 120°. Estimated position at 2200Z/26 059° 47' N. 008° 40' W.
(ARAB, 2250Z/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

POLLUX. Reference to POLLUX, vessel now ashore at Barn Corkie Bay. Could you give any assistance regarding the crew.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1130/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

M.M.S. 175. ^{/N.T. in H.D.} My 1114A/26. "Cadger" returned owing to engine defects in M.M.S.175.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1236A/26.)

JAN VAN GOYEN. JAN VAN GOYEN now being towed by PROSPEROUS. P.C.S. 051° 40' N. 024° 32' W., 066°, 7 knots.
(LAGAN, 1413A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
1. Cancel my 1133/23. Ship now in tow by tug.
2. Proceed BADSWORTH in accordance with my 2127/22, WOLVERINE in accordance with BADSWORTH 1130/26. ^{See p. 907}
(C. in C. W.A., 1647A/26 to BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE.)

MOOSEJAW. ^{See next page (M.M.S. 6.)} MOOSEJAW arrived with A/S defects and flooded compartments.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1450A/26.)

YORK CITY. YORK CITY arrived 1325 with defect.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1723A/26.)

VIMY. ^{/N.T. in H.D.} ^{See p. 897} Cancel my 1621/26. Movements postponed due to machinery defect which has not yet been made good. It is improbable that ship will be able to sail within twenty-four hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2020/26.)

/L.C.T. ...

903

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

L.C.T.420. My 2026/26. L.C.T.420 is ashore to eastward of Goat Island. Salvage Officer investigating. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 2205A/26.)
My 2205/26. L.C.T.420 refloated. Leaking slightly in shaft compartment. Ship seaworthy and does not require docking. Could be beached to lighten rivets.. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1033A/27.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F. 6. Convoy sailed as in A.M. 1502A/20 December was amended by Admiralty 2057A/21. Escort as in C. in C. W.A. 1045A/21 less SWALE.
Cdre. Marten R.N.R. in NEA HELLAS. Vice Cdre. STAFFORDSHIRE.
Rear Cdre. WINDSOR CASTLE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0044A/26.)
My 0954A/24. Sailed. Codeword "Tictac".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0046A/26.)
Sailed EXE, BANFF, CLARE, TEST, FISHGUARD for K.M.F. 6.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0740A/26.)

K.M.S. 6. My 1507/20.
The following ships did not sail: EMPIRE TOWER, SAINT ESSYLT, WEARWOOD, EMPIRE HUNTER, NORTON, CLAN MCBEAN, EMPIRE DRIVER.
(D.O.D.(H), 1127A/26 to N.C.X.F.)
Estimated E.T.A. of convoy at position (o) 048° 03' N. 018° 00' W. 1800A/29. Sailing MOOSEJAW when ready to overtake accordingly. *See previous page.*
(C. in C. W.A., 1929A/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
Sailed MOOSEJAW to overtake K.M.S. 6.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2355A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

J.W. 51B. In view of fine weather likely to continue and recent bombing, consider presence of 2 cruisers between arrival of J.W. 51B and departure of R.A. 52 merits reconsideration. If weather conditions continue they are subject to grave risks. S.O. Force R concurs.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1301A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
Seidisfjord arrivals BLANKNEY, LEDBURY and CHIDDINGFOLD at 0345.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1332A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
V.A.2's 1507/25. Sailed at 1301/26.
(A.C.I.C., 1510A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)
R.A.(?51) sailing 30th December, leading ship passing Toros Island at 1500C.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1547/26 to A.I.G. 47.)
Following received by aircraft by V/S from S.O. escort "Corncrake" today begins. Position at 1130A 068° 23' N. 006° 32' W., 043°, knots 8.
(A.C.I.C., 2036A/26 to C. in C. H.F., (R) V.A.2, S.O. Force R.)

/M.K.F.5 ...

904

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

M.K.F. 5 and My 1219/22. Estimated position at 2000A/26,
M.K.S. 4. WELLINGTON 044° 00' N. 015° 16' W. to 040° 00',
016° 15', 12 knots.
REGINA 043° 53' N. 014° 07' W. to 039° 58', 015°
10', 12 knots. *See p. 909.*
Request you will signal R/V instructing REGINA to proceed
Gibraltar if necessary.
(C. in C. W.A., 1421A/26 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

H.X. 220, H.X.220. My 1349/23. ^{/N.T. & H.D.} Delete DIGBY delayed by
DIGBY. defects. Anticipate sailing ship 28th December
direct to St. Johns N.F. to rejoin Western Local
Escort Task Unit 24.18.1.
(C.O.A.C., 1555Z/24 to C.T.U. 24.18.1.)

H.X.219 A.Q. My 1308/25. If two portions are still in sight
convoys are to join up.
(C. in C. W.A., 1943A/26 to Escorts H.X.219.)

North As a result of my experience receiving vessels
Russia J.W. 51A can you make following arrangements in
Convoys. future to avoid delay.
(2) All Captains to be instructed have all cargo
papers ready in a box to go ashore by tug. Cargo
plans must be on top of box.
(3) Minimum 3 cargo plans must be on board each ship. Only one
copy was on EMPIRE METEOR.
(4) All vessels with expected arrival draft of over 24 ft. to be
instructed to arrive on an even keel. EL OCEANO arrived drawing
24 feet forward, 25 feet 11 aft. GATEWAY CITY arrived drawing
23 feet 10 forward, 26 feet aft. Both vessels now trimmed to
25 feet.
(5) We rely on expected draft arrival figures very much.
Please see they are accurate.
(6) Request that no further bombers be loaded for North Russia
this winter. They delay discharge badly.
(7) If this is impossible please see that no bombers or heavy
lifts are loaded on top of T.N.T. and explosives. It is most
important that whenever over 100 tons explosives are aboard one
ship they can be discharged immediately on arrival.
(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 2329A/26 to Admty.)

J.W. 51A. Following vessels berthed and discharge commenced:
M/Vs at GATEWAY CITY, EL OCEANO, EL ALMIRANTE, BEAUREGARD,
Murmansk. WINDRUSH.
(2) EMPIRE METEOR and BRIARWOOD due to berth now.
(3) DYNASTI discharging in roads, then berths.
(4) GREYLOCK and JIN CURRY are in roads waiting use of EMPIRE
ELGAR to discharge bombers. Then discharge explosives in roads
before berthing.
(5) EMPIRE ELGAR has been ashore, now refloated with no apparent
damage.
(Dalgleish, Archangel, 2342A/26 to Admty.)

/K.X. 8 ...

War Diary.

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.X. 8.

Your 1103A/25 and 1107A/25. Subject to satisfactory completion of defects, it is anticipated LANCASTER will be ready to proceed Greenock late p.m. 28th and CARNATIC late p.m. 29th.

(Capt. (D) Greenock, 2358A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

906

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

G.U.F.3.

As Oran section U.G.F.3 arrived late it is unlikely that G.U.F.3 can sail before 30th from Casablanca. When F.O.I.C. Oran reports estimated time of completion further signals will be made.

(N.C.X.F., 1010A/26 to S.N.O. Afloat Casablanca (R) Admty. Cominch, F.O.C.N.A., F.O.I.C. Oran).

Negotiations
with French
Authorities.

Your 0048/25. The signal to which my 1715/17 referred was your Mast 18. This made reference to M.W.T.R. not signing any document referring to High Commissioner for North Africa and thus appeared to miss the fact that M.W.T.R. was negotiating as representative of Allied C. in C. (N.C.X.F., 1312A/26 to D.S.T. (R) B.A.D.)

R.A.F.
Gibraltar,
Control.

Personal for First Sea Lord. Your 0025/25. The arguments given in para. 2 (f) to (h) are conclusive in my view. I consider that aim should be to set up some form of coastal command system for "Torch" area to be under A.O.C. Eastern Air Command for the moment as preliminary to instituting a coastal command covering all North and North West Africa.

2. This view seems also to be that of Tedder from my conversation with him.

3. It seems that some of the points under para. 2 (a) to (d) could surely be covered by some special arrangement. For instance, it should be easy enough ensuring that Gibraltar at least is kept fully up to date with tactical and technical developments of A/S.

(N.C.X.F., 1946A/26 to Admty).

K.X.8
EMPIRE
LORENZO.

A.M.1300A/23 para. 4. Understand that Port and Transit Committee have decided that EMPIRE LORENZO should be sailed in K.X.8 and be retained in North Africa as crane ship after discharging at Gibraltar. The view, held also by the W.O. is that she is urgently required at Algiers to expedite unloading. Request confirmation that she is required and can be accepted.

(D.N.C.X.F., 2009A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty).

907

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- U/B Am over enemy S/M in 37° 22' N., 0° 00' E. S/M has dived.
(A/C C/S TIRR 0343/26 to R.A.F. Gibraltar).
- Air Report, Gibraltar. Operational Summary for 24 hrs. ended Midnight 25th Dec.
U/B sightings and attacks. Wellington C/179 on A/S sweep East at 1053 25 when in position XTJB 2447 made contact 8 miles to Starboard and at 6 miles sighted U-boat C/T only visible at 070/8 knots. At 1055 in position XTJB 1642 attacked swirl. (U-boat having submerged) with 4 D/C, one of which hung up. First 2 fell short to starboard of track. Third fell directly on U-boat track about 200 feet ahead of Swirl. Small patch of oil which quickly dispersed seen after last D/C explosion subsided. (H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 0500Z/26 to Air Min).
- QUEEN MARY. My 1752/19. To avoid suspected U-boat alter course forthwith to pass through 30° N., 23° W. thence direct to position R omitting position Q. (D.S.O. for D.D.O.D. (F), 0752A/26 to QUEEN MARY (R) V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.)
- W.S.25 *See pp 908-910*
WOLVERINE and BADSWORTH left Ponta Delgada 2000 G.M.T. 25th. HAYDON left 0845/26th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0958/26 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty). *See p. 902 - also p. 910*
- VAL DE LA HAYE (French). VAL DE LA HAYE sent in Gibraltar cargo 250 tons zinc Shipper Real Cia Glamuriana De Minas Requejada Hinojedo. Consignee Groupement D'Importation Et De Repartition Des Mineraiis Pamir zinc.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 1015/26 to Admty for M.E.W. Arfar.)
My 1132/23 not to B.N.A. Madrid. VAL DE LA HAYE arrived Gibraltar p.m./24th. Crew with exception of Chief Engineer and one deck hand are pro allies, and prepared to serve the cause under North Africa of De Gaulle authority. The two Recalcitrants have been landed here.
(2) Master holds first class masters certificate and is Sub. Lieut. in French Naval Reserve. Mate who is Master's father is a senior Bordeaux pilot.
(3) Owners of ship Society de Navigation Cotiers et de Sarl Rouen.
(4) Brother of Managing Director of firm is said to be member of French National Committee in London.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1114/26 to Admty. N.C.X.F., (R) B.N.A. Madrid):

/G.U.F...

908

War Diary.26.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

G.U.F.3 Your 1501Z/25 not to Connav. Convoy G.U.F.3.
Route: through position T. 33° 01' N., 09° 58' W.
U. 31° 03' N., 15° 02' W. V. 31° 00' N., 24° 57'
W. W. 33° 59' N., 35° 10' W. X. 35° 20' N.,
46° 55' W. Y. 36° 04' N., 55° 00' W. Z. 36° 19' N., 61° 08' W.
A. 37° 10' N., 70° 06' W.
2. Stragglers route as convoy lettered D to L with instructions
that, if straggling, ships are to keep 35 miles to starboard of
route given.
(D.O.D. (H) 1219A/26 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.,
Connav).

Convoy for A.M. 1916/19 para. 3. Request you sail 3
Canary Islands. destroyers of 13th Destroyer Flotilla to comply.
(N.C.X.F., 1220A/26 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) F.O.
C.W.A., Force, Admty).

Movements. Arrival 1100, French Sloop Minesweeper* LA CAPRI-
CIEUSE, U.S. Ship P.C. 481, escorting SS. ORKLA.
1130, U.S. PARKER, DORAN escorting Tanker
BENNINGTON.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1226A/26 S.N.O. Casablanca,
N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. Comtask Force 35).
**In Home Waters (P.L.)
LA CACIEUSE*

SUEVIA SUEVIA port of registry Vigo painted grey black
(Spanish). funnel entered Corunna stress of weather sailed
mid-day 26th reported Leixoes. Cargo unknown
believed without Navicert. Vessel suspicious.
(Corunna, 1325/26 to Admty (R) Gibraltar M.E.W.)

BALDUR German BALDUR 61 left for France 25th fully
loaded.
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1730/25 to Admty. (R) M.E.W.,
B.N.A. Madrid S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

M.K.S.4 Sailed LONDONDERRY, HASTINGS, LULWORTH, BIDEFORD,
See next page LANDGUARD, SOUTHERN GEM, H.M.C. Ships, KITCHENER,
CAMROSE, ALGOMA, WOODSTOCK,*TETCOTT, escorting
ROBERTS and HELVIG and Gibraltar section M.K.S.4
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1822A/26 amended 1617A/27 to Admty. C. in C.
W.A., (R) N.C.X.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). *PRESCOTT m/ind.
M.K.S.4. Gibraltar section (details follow) sailed to
join in 035° 57' N., 006° 43' W., at 1000 B.S.T. 27th thence
in accordance with N.C.X.F. 1225/20. Stragglers to keep 30
miles to starboard of convoy route.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1830A/26 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.,
ROCHESTER, Connav). List and details 1915A/26 See Lion Copy

Force H. Arrival S.O. Force H. in NELSON, (?RODNEY)
FORMIDABLE, DIDO, ESKIMO, TARTAR, QUIBERON,
PANTHER, PENN, PATHFINDER, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE,
O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1900A/26 to Admty. N.C.X.F.
(R) Cdr. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oban, C.S. (12)
C.S. (15).

/AJAX...

908A

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. 1330A/26th December.
MESSAGE. IN
From, V.A. Gibraltar. Date, 26.12.42.
Reed, 2356.
Naval Cypher 3 By W/T.

Addressed. Situation report for Area X of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation 2001A/26th.

1. U.S. Submarine (^{BARB}?forecast) on patrol Vigo area. *See p. 898*
2. Submarine P. 615, 041 degs. 30' 014 degs. 38' on the surface 202 degs. 82.
3. H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER, H.M.S. MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, 035 degs. 55' 005 degs. 49' repairing cable.
4. H.M.S. LORD HOTHAM, 2 merchant ships, 036 degs. 37' 007 degs. 19' to 8.
5. M.K. (?F) 5, fleet unit H.M.S. MILNE, H.M.S. METEOR, H.M.S. WESTON, H.M.S. FOLKESTONE, CORLESTON, TOTLAND, WAVENEY, 037 degs. 03' 011 degs. 50' through 037 degs. 40' 013 degs. 30' and 040 degs. 01' 016 degs. 15' thence 003 degs. 13. **ARCUS*
6. Swedish relief ships MONGABARRA, FENRIS, BARDALAND, FORMOSA, 036 degs. 55' 013 degs. 27' 275 degs. 12.
7. K.X. 7 A, SLAZAK, POUTING, WENSTFYDALE, 039 degs. 46' 013 degs. 09' through 036 degs. 40' 011 degs. 40' thence 103 degs. 11. **not identified.*
8. LONDONBERRY, HASTINGS, LULWORTH, BIDEFORD, REGINA, KITCHENER, CAMROSE, LANDGUARD, ALGOMA, WOODSTOCK, CALGARY, WEYBURN, sail 1615A/26 to rendezvous with M K S 4 in position 035 degs. 59' 006 degs. (?43') at 1000A 27th. *See p. 898*
9. M K S 4 passes Europa Point 2300A 26th through 036 degs. 20' 010 degs. 01' thence 312 degs. 72, local escorts return to Gibraltar from position 035 degs. 59' 006 degs. 43'.

1330A/26.

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

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| V.C.N.S. | Duty Capt. (2) | D.T.D. (M) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | U.S.N. | D.N.I. (5) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | D.A/S.W. | D.S.D. (2) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Id. of M. | D.T.D. (3) |
| Capt. Pim | D.D.I.G. (2) | Ad. Ramsey (4) |
| D.O.D. (H) (2) | E.F. (2) | |
| D.O.D. (F) (2) | | |

9083

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 1334A/26th December IN

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 26.12.42,
Reed. 1624.

NAVAL CYPHER 'S' BY W/T

Addressed Situation report for Area Z of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2001A/26.

1. W.S. 25, CARNARVON CASTLE, CHESHIRE, QUILLIAM, ROCKWOOD, ILEX, 025 degs. 47' 021 degs. 08' 172 degs. 11½. *See pp. 907, 910*
2. BALUCHISTAN, 022 degs. 38' 023 degs. (933') through 020 degs. 01' 023 degs. 01' thence 157 degs. 12.
3. W.S. 25, W, 030 degs. 44' 023 degs. 40' through 030 degs. 01' 023 degs. 01' thence 172 degs. 24.
4. Italian Repatriation Ships VULCANIA, SATURNIA, leave St. Vincent Cape Verde Is. p.m. 27th through 020 degs. 01' 020 degs. 01' thence 024 degs. 16½.
5. Italian Repatriation Tonker TAIGETE sails 27th from Las Palmas through 027 degs. 40' 015 degs. 12' and 027 degs. 07' 017 degs. 48' thence 255 degs. 9.

1334A/26.

amended 0136A/27

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

- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (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)
- Adm. Blake
- D.N.I. (4)
- Adm. Secy (4).

EML.

909

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.- Contd.

- AJAX. Intend sailing AJAX for Algiers at 1700/27 routed through 28° 73' 52° 44' 100 S. of A. 24 knots.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1920A/26 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. S.O. Force H., AJAX C.S.12, Cdre. Algiers).
- SCYLLA A.M.1701/7. Destination of SCYLLA is Hebburn-on-Tyne where she will be taken in hand by Messrs. Palmers for fitting F.D.O. and R.D.F. and progressing arctic fitting.
2. She should call at Greenock to disembark passengers and mails.
(D.O.D. (H) 1940A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gib. F.O.I.C. Tyne, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, C.S.12, C. in C. H.F.)
- M.K.S.4 REGINA. C. in C. W.A's 1421/26. Proceed so as to R/V with escort of M.K.S.4 is routed through (p) 36° 20' 10° 00' (q) 39° 58' 15° 10' S. of A. 7½ knots.
See p. 904
also p. 908
(2) Escorts of M.K.S.4 passes Europa Point at 2100/26.
(3) Report if not met by 1700/28.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1945A/26 to REGINA (R) Admty. Escorts of M.K.S.4 C. in C. W.A.)
- PINK PINK sailed Ponta Delgada for St. Johns N.F. p.m./23rd.
(C. in C. W.A., 2201Z/26 to A.I.G.302).

South Atlantic.

- Movements. Arrived FOXHOUND. *See p. 917*
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0301Z/26 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)
Departure 25th.
- 1230, H.M.S. KHYBER, E.T.A. at Capetown 1700/28th escorting CLAN COLQUHOUN, ~~SARITANA~~ 28th.
- 1600, H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, escorting H.M. Tug BOLD, towing ^{S.S.} COLUMBINE E.T.A. at Capetown. 1600/30th.
- 1700, SPHENE, NORTHERN CHIEF, escorting H.M. Tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter, E.T.A. at Capetown 1700/31st.
(N.C. S.O. Walvis Bay 1023C/26 to C. in C. S.A. Admty).

/Arrival...

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. *cont. 17.*

Movements. Arrival 26th, ARRAN.
Contd. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1505/26 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Freetown).
Arrival 25th, U.S. Destroyer *GREENE. Arrival 26th, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW. * *Sample under*
(R.O. Recife, 1955Z/26 to Admty (R) S.Os. (I) Montevideo, Freetown, Rio de Janeiro).
Arrival 26th, COMMANDANT DROUGOU F.S.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2021Z/26 to Admty (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

PRIAM PRIAM Number two hold flooded in heavy weather to depth of 32 feet. After immersion all equipment requires immediate overhaul if deterioration beyond repair to be avoided.
Estimated ready for sea about first January.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 0827/26 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A., Cdre. in C. Freetown).

D.N.9, My 0832Z/25 D.N.9 consisting of 7 ships sailed
C.D.3. 0700Z/26 escorted by JASMINE to R/V with C.D.3 in 030° 21' S., 030° 54' E., at 1100Z/26. Route Cdre. of D.N.9. Master (?EMPIRE) (?SUCCESS) (?until) R/V. Escort for combined convoy JASMINE and THYME.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 0914Z/26 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., N.C.S.O. Capetown, N.O.I.C. East London, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth).

QUEEN CITY Master and 14 crew SS. QUEEN CITY of Cardiff
torpedoed landed here. Vessel torpedoed by Italian
21 Dec. submarine 21st approx. 00° 50' S., 41° 46' W. Master states another life boat with 29 persons got away but have no news of her.. No known casualties. Remainder of survivors (to Admty

only) as follows.
(R.O. Maranh, 0922/26 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo, S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro, Ass. S.O.(I) Pernambuco, Brit. Consul Para).

R.O. San Luiz reports arrival of one boat with 15 survivors including Master from British QUEEN CITY torpedoed 21st in 000° 50' S., 041° 46' W., by Italian S/M.

(B.R.L.O. Belem, 1247/26 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D.)

Ship Survivors ex QUEEN CITY of Cardiff landed at Maranh. torpedoed by Italian Sub. on 21st in 000° 50' S., 041° 46' W.

(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1903Z/26 to F.O.C.W.A.F., Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica, S.O.(I) Capetown).

W.S.25 My 1810Z/23. Convoy W.S.25 E.T.A. position
See pp 907 (U) 0200Z/26. S. of A. 12½. Amend position (V)
908 B to 021° N., 019° W.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1015Z/26 to ILEX (R) CARNARVON CASTLE)

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B

At 0625/26 U-boat fixed by D.F. within 30 miles of coast between Cape Blanco and 018° 30' N. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1102Z/26 to WOODRUFF (R) CROCUS).

French Convoys coast of W. Africa, Liaison Officer.

French Admty. wishes to resume convoys along coast of West Africa and Gulf of Guinea and propose to appoint Liaison Officer Capitaine de Frigate from Dakar to your staff to co-ordinate details of movements escorts routes enemy information and air protection. Request your remarks. Is there a Fighting French representative at Freetown? (N.C.X.F., 1052A/26 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 1610Z/27.

EMPIRE HAWK torpedoed 11 Dec. survivors.

20 survivors including Master from EMPIRE HAWK arrived here 25th. Remaining 30 of crew are in 2nd boat and search is being carried out. Ship on passage from Trinidad to Capetown was torpedoed 2400 G.M.T. 11th in 003° N., 038° W. All confidential books were thrown overboard. S/M was seen but not identified. (B.R.L.O. R.O. Belem, 1212/26 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A.T., B.A.D., Washington, S.O. (I) Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro).

A.F.D. ~~24~~ XXIV. Escort.

Your 1235/23. CARNARVON CASTLE and CHESHIRE. No objection. (D.O.D. (F), 1220A/26 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

DESPATCH

See p. 911^B

My 1058Z/24 to F.O.C.W.A. only and your 1157Z/26 Amended E.T.A. 1000Z/27. Target required for one hour. (DESPATCH, 1900Z/26 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) BIRDLIP, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU).

U/B sighted by A/C.

Ascension reports aircraft sighted U-boat in 7° 45' S., 16° 20' W., course 300° at 1715/26. (F.O.C.W.Af. 2011Z/26 to Admty).

Area P.

My 1704/12 Dec. Request sub. areas may now be promulgated. (F.O.C.W.Af. 2123Z/26 to Admty).

SECRET

911A

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

1153C/26th December.

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 27.12.42.

NAVAL CYpher 'D' BY W/T

Date. 0150

Addressed C. in C. Eastern Fleet. 308. F.O.C. West Africa 603. D.C. in C. Eastern Fleet. V.A. Gibraltar. H.M.S. ROTTERHAM. F.L.O. Delhi. S.D.N.O. Western Atlantic.

Weekly Stats South Atlantic Station 26th December.

Cape Area H.M.S. ROCKROSE, K one, D.S/M O 19. J one B, H.M.S. ~~ANTHONY~~, ~~INDIAN STAR~~, O J 2 C. DUNEDIN STAR. Durban to Cape Durban Area H.M.S. EXPRESS, H.M.S. GENISTA, H.M.S. CATTERICK, H.M.S. ~~WINDY~~, THYME, H.M.S. JASMINE. Simons town D.S.O. 21. H.M.S. NIZAM, Motor Launches 380, 382, 383, H.M.S./M.P. 552, H.M.S. DAUNTLESS, H.M.S. JAMES, H.M.S. FORTUNE, GLENROY.

Durban H.M.S. EREBUS, H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY, H.M.S. RESOURCE, H.M.S. ALBATROSS, H.M.S. NAPIER, H.M.S. FREESIA, H.M.S. INCONSTANT, H.M.S. ATHENE (H.M.S. FOXHOUND), EMILE BAUDOT. Cape Town COMDANT DUBOZ, ST. ZENO, NORTH BRIDGE DAWN, GOVEYERY CITY, WILDFIRE, SPINDRIFT, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, (QUEEN OF BERNUDA), HEED, BARBARANE, H.L. 381. Port Elizabeth KETTI, STORWALCK. East London COLOMBIA, BARRA, CECILE MAPLESON.

* See p. 909 * Depot Ship - Sheerness
Walvis Bay H.M.S. NORWICH CITY, H.M.S. *ST. LOREN, H.M.S. *NORTHERN GLEEF, H.M.S. *SPHERE, H.M.S. ARCTIC EXPLORER, H.M.S. THE TIGER, *BOLD, *THE RIFLER, *PIRE WARLOCK, KETTER. Saldanha Bay H.M.S. FERNWOOD, BARGROSS. * See p. 909.

1153C/26

Advance Copy to Ops. O.D.

V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S. (A)
A.C.H.S. (U)
N.A. 1st Bn.
Capt. Pm, Admin. Ity. Hse.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.D.S.
O.I.C.
M. (2)
U.S.N. (3)

D.P.S.
Mails.
Movts.
D. ~~A.F.V.~~
W.F.
D.T.D. (M)
I.P. (3)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel
D.T.D. (C)

D.N.L.O.
P.N.L.C.
D.D.C.D. (C) (2)
R.A.C.F. by Courier
C.C.C. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
D.H.E. (CC)
P.N.L.O. (FF) (2)
D.B.D.
D.T.D. (4)

911 B

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 1219Z/26th December IN

From F.O.C. West Africa. Date 26.12.42.
Recd. 1610.

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. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. DESPATCH, 06 45 12 35 to Freetown 20. *See p. 911.*

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA ~~HOLCOMB~~, 04 05 10 05 to join
H.M.S. ALCANTARA 12.5.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, with C.F. 10, 01 45 South 03 10 310
12.5 at 1959Z/26th.

BELLWORT escorting 03 10 06 55 to 02 55 07 49 thence
306 12.5.

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ORFÈRE, 3 Motor Launches, with
S.T. 49, 04 25 02 40 to Lagos 9.

H.M.S. LADY ELSA, H.M.S. WELLARD, escorting 00 (?08)
South 04 14 East 132 9.

1219Z/26.

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

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

912

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.W.17. Total unloaded to 1700/25, 9165 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 0110A/26 to C. in C. Med).

Movements, Departure FALMOUTH 0318Z. Arrival CERES.
Aden. (Cdre. Aden, 0552Z/26 to Admty).

Enemy Units. At 0615A/26th 2 small merchant ships and
one escort in 038° 26' 012° 28' course 240°
5 knots.
(Capt. S.10., 0801A/26 to URSULA, P.51 (R) P.48)

Movements ^{Alex:} Arrival 25th Dec. BURRA, M.L. 349, Greek
SAKTOURIS.
(S.O.(I) Med., 0912/26 to Admty).

TAKU. Leave patrol as necessary to pass through
(1) 035° 19' 026° 40' at 1800B/27th.
(2) 033° 37' 030° 59' at 0800B/29th, thence
running on surface to arrive Beirut searched
channel at 0615B Dec. 30th.
(Capt. S.1., 0913B/26 to TAKU (R) C. in C. Med., C.C.F. Capt.
S.10., Comdre. (D) 201 Group)

P.219 Capt. (S) 8th's 2200/25th. Steer 076° orders
follow.
(Capt. S.10., 0946A/26 to P.219 (R) Capt.(S) 8).
Cancel my 2200/25th.
(Capt. S.8., 0958A/26 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) P.219).
Request you will sail P.219 diving by day for Algiers
routed through (A) 038° 01' 007° 50' E. (B) 038° 01' 003° 06' E.
to R/V escort for Algiers in (C) 037° 01' 003° 06' E., at 0830A
on day of arrival and signal time of departure.
(2) Request you will also arrange bombing restrictions.
(3) S.O.I.S. pass to N.O.I.C. Bone and P.219.
(Capt. S.8., 1208A/26 to S.O.I.S. (R) N.C.X.F., P.219,
Capt. (S) 10, S/Ms on patrol, N.O.I.C. Bone, Cmdre. Algiers)
P.219 left Bone 1400/26th routed along 037° 30' N., and
crossing (?004°) East at 0001/28th.
P.219 is to R/V with escort for Algiers in 037° 01' N., 003°
06' E., at 0830/28th and is not to arrive vicinity R/V before
0800.
(Capt. S.8., 1812A/26 to S/Ms on patrol).

M.K.S.O.4 Following is a repetition of my 1430A/25
(received undecypherable) (begins) N.C.X.F.
(R) Comdre. Algiers, N.C.S.O. Algiers, Admty.
V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Gibraltar from
F.O.I.C. Oran. M.K.S.O.4 sailed as in my 1650/23rd.
VILLE D'ANVERS (13) now bound for Gibraltar for onward routing
to U.S. Outcon 324 issued. GEORGE B. McCLELLEN does not hold
S.P.02272 (22) T.O.O.1430A/25th (ends).
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1005A/26 to N.C.X.F. (R) Comdre. Algiers,
N.C.S.O. Algiers, Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

War Diary.26.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-Weekly Night 22nd/23rd Dec. 6 Liberators, 8 B.24
Opsum No.85. despatched to attack shipping and harbour
installations at Sousse and Tunis respectively
experienced bad weather with low cloud, electrical
storms, and icing over Tunisia. 2 Liberators each dropped 6
1000 lb. bombs through gaps in cloud on Sousse Harbour and
railway yard at Mahdia respectively. Damage unobserved. All
remaining aircraft failed to locate objectives and returned.
Enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Tripoli in Syria wounding 1
civilian.

Night 23rd/24th Dec. 9 Wellingtons despatched to attack
Heraklion Aerodrome found objective obscured by low cloud. A/C
bombed alternative target Tymbaki. 9 B.24s despatched to attack
harbour installations at Naples experienced bad weather en route
and 3 returned. 5 bombed Vittorio Emmanuele Mole but search-
light glare and smoke from Vesuvius over harbour prevented
observation of results. Remaining 1 B.24 bombed shipyards at
Taranto with unobserved results. 2? Beauforts laid 4 mines
off Misurata. About 6 enemy aircraft believed Ju.88s bombed
Benghazi. No damage or casualties reported. 3 Beaufighters
up but no interceptions.

24th Dec. A single Ju.88 bombed and machine-gunned Tobruk at
dusk. No damage or casualties reported.

Night 24th/25th Dec. 7 Wellingtons laid mines in approaches to
Tripoli Harbour.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1022Z/26, 1047Z/26, 1051Z/26.)

Minelaying. My 1206/24*. Your 1553/25*. I do not want to
curb activities but the signal as received here
gave an impression of rather haphazard laying
which made me uneasy for the safety of submarines and motor
torpedo boats.
(N.C.X.F., 1122A/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta.)
* No trace of formers.
See also C. in C. Med. 2032B/28.

Cositrep 3. Air. Night 24th/25th Dec. Wellingtons mined
No. 636. approaches to Tripoli harbour. Bad weather
prevented offensive operations from Malta.
4. 25th Dec. Beaufighters and Spitfires from
Malta attacked two heavily laden barges southbound off Kuriat
Island. One barge left sinking.
(C. in C. M.E., 1135B/26.)

M.T.Bs. Intend sailing 7 motor torpedo boats to Bone at
1600A today 26th. Route 036° 52' 012° 59', 038°
00' 011° 17', 038° 00' 010° 35' thence direct.
E.T.A. 0730A/27th. Codeword "Nugget". Call sign BDY.
(V.A. Malta, 1206A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S., S.O. Force Q,
C.C.F., N.O.I.C. Bone.)
My 1206/26. Weather unsuitable for sailing today.
(V.A. Malta, 1501A/26.)

/QUEEN ...

914
26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

QUEEN OLGA, C.O. Your 2107/23rd Dec. (requesting name and rank of C.O. of QUEEN OLGA.) Lieut. Cdr. George Blessas, Royal Hellenic Navy. (C. in C. Med., 1231B/26 to Admty.)

LAFOREY, LIGHTNING. E.T.A. 1700A/26th. Oil fuel required LAFOREY 430, LIGHTNING 290.
See next page. (Capt. D.19, 1241A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.O.I.C. *(Thamesmouth, Algiers)* Algiers, LIGHTNING.)

TIGRIS, P.217. TIGRIS and P.217 leaving Algiers 1600A/27th ¹⁴³dived by day. TIGRIS through 038° 02' 005° 01' E. to pass 038° 07' 008° 00' E. at 0230A/29th thence Malta as ordered by Capt. S.10.
2. P.217 through 038° 28' 004° 06' E. to pass 038° 28' 008° 00' E. at 0530A/29th thence patrol as ordered by Capt. S.10.
F.O.I.S. pass to P.219.
(Capt. S.8, 1354A/26 to Subs on Patrol, (R) F.O.I.S., P.219.)

S/Ms. Sailed P.37, TURBULENT.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1455A/26 to Admty., C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, (R) N.C.X.F.)
Algiers arrival TRIBUNE.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1610A/26 to Admty.)

Oran defences, Mills. Your 1027/25. Lieut. Comdr. Brigham, R.N.V.R. was sent out in charge of a party of 2 officers and 12 ratings to lay special miniature Indicator Loops, known as Mills, at Mers-el-Kebir.
2. These loops are designed for the detection of Human Torpedoes. They are about 300 yards in length and are efficient in depths up to 10 fathoms, being fitted with specially sensitive recorders.
3. The suggested site is between the end of the breakwater and the shore. Full details were contained in A.L. M.A/S.W. 3482/42 of 27th October, a further copy of which will be forwarded by air.
4. Lt. Comdr. Brigham was shown tracings of the system before leaving U.K.
(D.A/S.W. Approved V.C.N.S., 1617A/26 to N.C.X.F.)

Movements, Malta. Arrivals PALADIN, JAVELIN.
(V.A. Malta, 1620A/26 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Port Said. 26th Dec. Port Said, arrivals nil. Departures ABA, FAREHAM, DELPHINIUM, KLO, IERAX.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1631B/26 to Admty., etc.)

WOLBOROUGH. Arrival, 26th December.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 1704B/26 to Admty., etc.)

915

26.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

French Shipping. Nasab 530. Your O120A/25.
Para. 1. Do not understand why tanker LORRAINE has sailed U.K. Am investigating.
Para. 2. VILLE D'ORAN still uncertain whether she can reach U.K. owing bunker capacity. If she can she will be available for British troops but local authorities have been told that Madagascar prisoners would be given priority on her. If they have been previously shipped this inoperative, We will report if she can sail U.K.
(M.W.T.R. Algiers, 1706A/26 to D.S.T., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

Jibuti, proposed agreement. Your 2102/25. Concur in proposed wording with words "Naval Officer Commanding Area under general direction of" inserted between "Direction of" and "Naval Officer Commanding in Chief" towards end of article.
(C. in C. Med., 1809B/26 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.202, 26th Dec. Night 25th/26th Dec. 1 Beaufighter was airborne for a raid which turned back without approaching close to Malta. Day 26th Dec. 15 Spitfires have been airborne for several raiders which approached Malta but turned back on being engaged by Spitfires; one Me.109 was damaged without loss to ourselves.
Night 25th/26th Dec. 11 Wellingtons were despatched to attack Tunis Docks with Sousse as secondary target. 6 aircraft found both targets completely obscured by cloud and brought bombs back. 3 Wellingtons attacked Tunis and La Goulette docks through gaps in cloud at 2013 hours dropping bombs from 7/8000 feet. 4000 lb. bomb burst near electric railway station but other results obscured by cloud. 2 Wellingtons attacked Sousse harbour from 2050 to 2103 hours dropping bombs from 5/600 feet scoring hits on quays and near a large fire in north-east (? corner) of harbour which was found burning on arrival. Intense accurate heavy flak at Tunis and La Goulette reported, much increased since last attack. One Wellington missing, but crew rescued by R.A.F. Rescue Launch co-operating with Beaufighter and Swordfish.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1921Z/26.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrival WIVERN, VELOX from K.M.S.5. HENGIST, LAPAGERIA from Bougie, (?ANTELOPE), *LAFOREY, *LIGHTNING from west. Departures POZARICA, WIVERN, VELOX to join K.M.S.5. ACUTE, ALARM, ALBACORE, CADMUS to Bone. QUEEN EMMA, WISHART to Arzeu. French trawler GOELAND to Tenes.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2056A/26 to Admty.) *See previous page.

PENELOPE. My 0043/9th Dec. para. 4. PENELOPE will not now leave U.K. until about mid. of January.
(D.O.D.(F), 2057A/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)

916

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MAURITIUS

Departure MAURITIUS.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0246Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

ILE DE
FRANCE.

Understand from Armindia ILE DE FRANCE is due
Bombay shortly. Request E.T.A. as soon as possible.
(P.S.T.O.I. 0515Z/26 to D.S.T. (R) B.A.D.)
Reply: 1721A/27.

French
Somaliland
demonstration.

Following for Free French H.Q. (Begins) F.F. Troops
entered French Somaliland at 0600 hrs. on 26th Dec.
One detachment transported by train reached Chebele
the last bridge of importance on the railway 15KM
from Djibouti at 2030 hrs. One detachment in M.T.
in area Oweah. A tract will be dropped by aircraft A.M. 27th Dec.
and contact will be made with troops occupying positions with
view to rallying them to F.F. Cause. If unsuccessful within 48
hrs. British troops supported by R.N. and R.A.F. will force their
way into the colony and will proceed after an ultimatum by tracts
dropped from aircraft to Jibuti.
(Free French, Harar T.O.O. Nil.(Recd. in War Registry 1730/27) to
W.O.)

Following for Sir A. Cadogan from Hopkinson. Situation may
arise during next few days where it would greatly strengthen our
hand if we could have some document establishing fact that U.S.Gov.
has disinterested itself in Jibuti negotiations. Is there any
hope of this? In any case it would be useful to know present
situation vis-a-vis Americans.

(12A Division 1130/26 to W.O.)

Ref. Air Ministry No.CZ 2326 from C.O.S. 1. Purpose of
demonstration is to force Jibuti to come to our terms. In event
however of demonstration failing to produce required result it
cannot just fade away and must in last resort be prepared use
force. No one wishes to kill any Frenchman but fire will have to
be opened if the French open fire on our forces.
2. 12(A) Div. will proceed on plan in such a manner in the event of
Dupont refusing to surrender that French will have to open fire
first if any firing has to take place. 3. In the event of any
firing having to take place it should in first instance be only
by Naval Ships or Army on true military targets away from civil
population. In the event of this still failing to induce surrender
and air forces having to be employed, fire should still be restrict-
ed to selected military targets away from civil population.
4. The work "restrict" in para 4 of my 72916 would have been
better than the word "concentrate" and this meaning was intended at
the time.

(G.O.C. in C. E.A. 1525C/26 to W.O.)

WILLIAM F.
CODY, attack
on U/B.

Following received at 1509Z/25 from WILLIAM F. CODY
(KGFK) (begins) - 24th Dec. (25th intended, see
below) 0230 G.M.T. met, attacked, apparently
destroyed submarine 10° 69 miles from position C
T.O.O.1500/25 (ends). Comment. Ship left Colombo
1200Z/24 bound Wellington. Position given is 005° 10' N. 078° 10'
E. WILLIAM F. CODY could have been in this position at 0250Z/25.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0625Z/26 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty, A.C.N.B.,
N.Z.N.B.)

/Movements ...

917

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Movements,
Addu Atoll.

Departure 0940Z/26 Dec. DERBYSHIRE, ZUIDER-
KRUIS with H.T. SANTHIA.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0944Z/26 to Admty (R)
S.Os. (I) Bombay, Colombo, Aden, Kilindini).

A/S Units
lent to
South
Atlantic.

Your 1505/24. With the small number of destroyers
at present allocated to Eastern Fleet, it is not
desirable any should remain on detached service
for indefinite period.

(2) Concur however that EXPRESS and FORTUNE
should remain South Atlantic Area until the
2nd South Africa troop convoy has arrived, when
situation should be again reviewed, and that INCONSTANT should
remain until her refit is due.

(3) It is requested *FOXHOUD be sailed Kilindini as soon as
convenient. *L.L. p. 909

(4) There are at present 4 corvettes detached to South Atlantic
Station, NIGELLA, FREESIA, JASMINE and FRITILLARY. They can all
be spared from this station where there are still many anti-
submarine commitments unfulfilled. I would therefore prefer
that all these corvettes should be released to return to
Eastern Fleet as soon as adequate reinforcements reach your
station.

(C. in C. E.F., 1002Z/26 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. V.A.3).

M.N.B.D.O.1

Amend address of my 1020/19 regarding reliefs for
personnel of boat company of M.N.B.D.O.1 to
read "C. in C. Med. (R) H.Q., M.E. for Overt,
Arminia, Gencom. F.L.O. Delhi, C. in C. E.F.,
Admty. 477".

(F.O. Ceylon, 1034Z/26 to C. in C. Med., H.Q.
M.E. for Overt, Arminia, Gencom, F.L.O. Delhi,
C. in C. E.F., Admty).

Movements,
Bombay.

Arrival 0320Z SCOUT, ASTER, with M.B.20. Departure
1010Z CLIVE, MADRAS with B.P.64 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1111Z/26 to Admty etc).

Movements.

Colombo departure 26th Dec. 0900Z SONAVATI.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1200Z/26 to Admty etc).
Departure OKAPI at 1200Z/26th.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1220Z/26 to Admty).

E.T.A. OKAPI Colombo 0100Z/28th.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1222Z/26 to F.O. Ceylon).

Arrival 26th Dec. TOOWOOMBA.

(F.O.E.A., 1301Z/26 to Admty).

15 25th TAKLIWA escorted by BURNIE, Kilindini 09 29th,
knots (A) 12, (B) 13, days 14.

(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez, 1532Z/26 to F.O.E.A. Connav).

918

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

India.
Sitrep.
No. 96.

5. Calcutta. Except in docks where all labour reported left situation is satisfactory. Evacuation through Howrah is twice and Sealdah three times normal moves totalling about 42500 daily. No specials put on and overflow has taken to road. Civil Defence services working well.

(C. in C. India, 1600G/26 to W.O.)

"S" Report.

Following has been read. SSSS 12.19 N., 80.10 E. BFS1 submarine submerged. (Madras W/T, 1744Z/26).

918A

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.)

2345Z/26th December

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

TO: Armindia.

DATE: 26.12.42.

CYPHER

FROM: Air Ministry.

IMMEDIATE

OZ.2335. 26th December 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.C.O.S.(India) 109.

Your No.31063/C.O.S. of 9th December and 32609/C.O.S. of 24th December. In present manpower shortage in U.K. we are obliged to adhere to strict order of priorities. We cannot give you a final answer until we know your requirements more exactly. Meanwhile, you should proceed to raise crews in India as in your paragraph 4, for a landing of one Brigade Group.

2. Personnel requirements shown in your Para. 1 do not reconcile entirely with our calculations. As it is most desirable that a common basis should be worked out for such calculations, where applicable, it is requested that you will send full details by Air Mail.

3. Copy of our calculations is being sent to you by Air Mail. This shows that we consider you will require the following:-

- (a) Crews for small landing craft
264 officers.
3604 ratings.
- (b) Beach parties and beach signal units for 1 Infantry Brigade
12 officers
Group landing 96 ratings.
- (c) Base maintenance personnel
(2 units) 10 officers, 140 ratings.

Total requirements are therefore 286 officers, 3645 ratings,

of which you already have 57 officers and 717 ratings from the Royal Navy ex IRONCLAD.

4. Although landing craft crews and Army formations required for operation ANAKIM are likely to have to be provided and trained in India

we/...

918^B

- 2 -

we intend to send the additional beach parties and beach signal units required, with the landing ships' infantry from U.K., mentioned in C.O.S. India 95 Para.2.

5. What proportion of European officers do you consider to be essential in your Para.1?

6. Information is also requested with regard to your proposed maintenance and repair arrangements both during training and expansion period and immediately before and during operations.

23457/26.

Recd: in War Reg. 0250/27

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

D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.

Sec.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

N.A. 2nd S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

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

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

D.N.I. (4)

D of P (2)

Duty Capt.

B.D.I.C. (2)

D of P (Q)

Hd of M (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

Ad. Blake.

D.P.S.

P.A.S. (O)

C.C.O. (3)

Air Ministry Circulation

Brig. Jacob,

Foreign Sec.

First Lord.

C.6. Tols. War Office.

C.A.S.

C.C.O.

General Lockhart.

War Diary.26.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

S.C.113 Your 1542/25 (Convoy not met intend proceeding Convoy route and speed) Unless you have urgent defects try and join me by daylight hours. My P.C. and S. 058° 24', 033° 44' 047° 7 knots. alter course at Dawn for V. Transmit your call sign 2410 k/cs W/T as in WASO 216 every 4 hours commencing 0400Z and I will home you.
(BROADWAY, 0011Z/26 to ORILLIA).

U/B Following received from Lands End Radio:-
Intercept D 026 G.M.T. De NAU to C Q R D O
Trinidad C K 12 Govt. Navy urgent, 25, 2203
G.M.T., war warning Sub. sighted 05.02 N., 52.22
W. at 0930 G.M.T./25. 2203Z.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0129/26 to Admty).

T.F.38 This established Task Force number 38 Commander
U.G.S.4. Clark's U.S. Destroyer division 13 plus U.S.
Destroyer PLUNKETT plus one additional destroyer
to be designated later probably KENDRICK and
HOUSATONIC, KAWEAH, which will be directed by
Cmd. Task Force. No. 29 to report to you later. About 48
cargo vessels of convoy U.G.S.4 scheduled to sail Casablanca and
other Africa ports January 6 from New York. Escort for this
convoy and following route prescribed by Connav. Operational
control shifts from me to Admiralty at 040° W., and to C. in C.
Allied Force at 010° W. Vessels of convoy for Mediterranean
ports should be turned to British escort at point initially
designated by Connav. Use tankers in Task Force to fuel
destroyers at sea. When directed by Commander Task Gr. No.
26.7 escort in accordance with Admty. routing ships returning
from North Africa. Return New York unless I otherwise direct.
N.C.X.F. pass C. in C. Allied Force.
(C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, 0826/26 to Com. U.S. Destroyer Sqdn.
7, (R) C.E.S.F., Cmd. 3rd U.S. Naval District, Cmd. destroyers
Atlantic Fleet, C.T.F. 29, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Cmd. Naval
Forces in Europe, C. in C. Allied Force, C.T.G.No. 26.7,
Admty).

Tanker Intend to sail HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL,
Convoy SAXIFRAGE escorting special tanker convoy
for "Torch" T.M.I. at 1600Z/28th Dec. E.T.A. Gibraltar
Area. 1600Z/14 Jan.
2. Escort will refuel at sea from convoy
Tanker SS. NORVIK.
3. Communications. Washington Broadcast and
Series G.M.4295 k/cs shifting if necessary to read Bermuda
routines A.F.O.S 1/42 Set A.C. Table 2 and Guard 500 k/cs
until 1200Z/4th Jan. thereafter in accordance with A.F.O.S
1/42 Section N.A.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 0942Q/26 to Admty (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O.
W.A., F.O.C.N.A., N.O.B. Trinidad).

/Movements....

26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

Movements.

Arrivals EYEBRIGHT, THREE RIVERS, H.M.C. Tug ST. ANNE towing SAGUENAY from St. Johns N.F. SKEENA, SACKVILLE, GALT ex J.H. 28. U.S.S. BERNADOU ex escorting U.S.S.R. S.55., SWIFT CURRENT from Pictou.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1001Z/26 to Admty).

(?)PATUXENT

Departure 25th Dec. U.S. Transport PATUENT*for Canal Zone.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1007QR/26 to Admty etc).
*(?PATUXENT).

EMILE
FRANCQUI,
BELLO,
survivors.

2 Officers and 16 men survivors from EMILE FRANCQUI are on board*WOLVERINE. No survivors from BELLO received. Intend to order WOLVERINE to Liverpool on completion of present duty to land survivors and settle ship's money account with Base Staff. My P.C. and S. 041° 01' N., 025° 08' W., 360, 17 knots. Weather report.
*(BADSWORTH, 1130Z/26 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc). *See p. 907

Movements
Summary.

1800 G.M.T./26th.Dec.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
VICTORIOUS	38½° N. 45° W.	249	14
3 destroyers			
BURDOCK	28° N. 27½° W.	011	12½
QUEEN MARY	29° N. 25° W.	160	24
U.S.S.R. S/M			
S.55.	45½° N. 53° W.	076	10
U.S.S.R. S/M			
S.54	44½° N. 58½° W.	090	12
Two Tugs and			
9 L.C.I.(L)s	30° N. 60½° W.	091	10.

(D.O.D.(F) 1144Z/26 to Opnav (R) Comnav).

Dispositions.

My 1142/24. Area Gib. Delete ARGUS, Add 2 destroyers.
Passage to U.K. Add ARGUS, 2 destroyers.
Operating in Northern Waters for 9 destroyers read 12 destroyers.
Area Iceland (C) for 8 read 3 destroyers.
Area Scapa. add one destroyer.
(D.O.D. (H), 1207Z/26 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R) Opnav, etc).

Russian
S/MS.

Your 1850/24 para. 2.
Request you will arrange with Cominch to pass information of our own and enemy movements to the submarines between 47° W., and 26° W.
(D.O.D. (H), 1214A/26 to C.O.A.C.)

Estimate U.S.S.R. S/M S.55 45.03 N., 54.10 W., at 1200/26 076° 10 knots altering in 49.01 W., at 0930/27 to 001°.
(F.O.N.F., 1327Z/26 to C. Western Local Escort Task Units 24.18.1. etc). *cont'd next page*

/Your...

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26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - cont'd

Russian S/Ms Contd. Your 0354Z/26th acknowledged. PORT HOPE has been informed at R/V. If PORT HOPE has not been met proceed along route ordered.
(C.O.A.C., 1345Z/26 to U.S.S.R. Submarine 54, PORT HOPE, N.S.H.Q.)

My 1605Z/26 (N.T. in W.D.) U.S.S.R. S/M S.55 unescorted 045° 28' 052° 15' 007° altering to 001° in 046° 01' 049° 01' at 0930Z/27th speed of advance 240 miles per day.
U.S.S.R. S/M S.54 PORT HOPE 044° 34' 057° 57' 085° 12 altering to 077° in 057° 40' W., whence PORT HOPE parts company and returns to Halifax speed of advance unescorted 240 miles per day.
(C.O.A.C., 1610Z/26 to Admty).

Following is a recoded version of C.O.A.C. Halifax 1742Z/26th addressed PORT HOPE (R) N.S.H.Q., (Begins).
Your 1500/26th not to N.S.H.Q. Proceed to position A. If S/M not met at position A by dark you are to return to Halifax.
(Ends).

(C.O.A.C., 1805Z/26 to U.S.S.R. S/M S.54).

Following is a recoded version of PORT HOPE's 1500Z/26th addressed C.O.A.C., Halifax (begins). Not yet in contact with Russian Submarine S.54. My position 1515Z 044° 32' N., 059° 20' W., course 090° (Ends).

(C.O.A.C., 1810Z/26 to U.S.S.R. Submarine S.54).

U/B Positions. S/M situation Dec. 26th and U.S. S/M Notice.
(Cominch, 1508/26, 1509/26, 1550/26, 1551/26, 1552/26).

CHESTERFIELD. Ref. C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1830/24th. and F.O.N.F. 1928/23 and 1228/25th. Advise if repair to CHESTERFIELD can be effected in U.S. and if so at what port and when.
(N.S.H.Q., 1520Z/26 to B.A.M.R.)

R.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Arrived Ambrose 26/1322Z.
(Port Director New York, 1538Z/26 to Connnav etc).

EMPIRE WATERHEN. Following is a repetition of my 1931/25 (Begins) Admty for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., From F.O.N.F. TENACITY departed St. Johns 1304/25 to assist SS. EMPIRE WATERHEN reported drifting in 45° N., 41° W., 1931Z/25. (Ends).
(St. Johns N.F., C.C.O., 1659Z/26 to Admty. C.C.O. Ottawa, C.C.O. Halifax C.C.O.)

Contacted EMPIRE WATERHEN in estimated position 045° 55' N. 045° 32' W. Engines completely disabled. TENACITY preparing to tow. Weather report.

(WASAGA, 1800Z/26 to F.O.N.F.)

COLUMBIA defects. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 2320Z/26th. Urgent defects. One blow down valve.
(COLUMBIA, 1712Z/26 to C.C.N.F.)

/BUTTERMERE...

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26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

BUTTERMERE,
WASTWATER.

My 2202/25th. Leave Bermuda at 1500Z/27 Dec. and proceed in accordance with my 1632/24th. E.T.A., Trinidad amended to read 1100Z/1st Jan. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1752Q/26 to BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Recife, F.O. W.A.. N.O.I.C. Bermuda, N.O.B. Bermuda, S.O.(I) Kingston, C.C.S.F., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D.)

LEAMINGTON,
FAME.

Following received by Aircraft by V.S. from LEAMINGTON.
"Pass to FAME. Going direct to St. Johns Newfoundland course 226° owing to shortage of Oil Fuel T.O.O. 1305A/26th".
(A.C.I.C., 1830A/26 to FAME, (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F.)

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWFLAKE arrived with SS. ARGOLIKOS, SNOWFLAKE has some weather damage which can be repaired here. Propose carrying out repairs and sailing ship with B.7 escorting S.C.115. (F.O.N.F., 1834Z/26 to C.T.24 (R) Admty. etc).

FORTUNATA

Your despatch 0900Z/19th Decision regarding sailing of FORTUNATA to (?U.S.) held in abeyance pending report of Warship Administration representative Slater who arrives Africa shortly and has been instructed to communicate with you.
(Vice-Opanav, 1839/26 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, N.C.X.F.)

A.T.33

Convoy A.T.33 consisting of EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will be ready to leave New York for Clyde on 31st Dec. carrying military personnel.

2. Request that ship may be sailed to pass through position Y in 56.09 N., 09.01 W., at 0830Z/7 and that estimated speed of advance may be signalled.
3. Ship will be sailed independently and maximum air protection both A.A. and A/S should be arranged.
4. Fighter protection codeword "Gosling".
(D.O.D. (H), 1920A/26 to Connnav, etc).

A.T.32

Convoy A.T.32 consisting of SS. ANDES will be ready to leave Halifax for Clyde 29th Dec. carrying military personnel.

2. C.O.A.C. is requested to sail ship as requisite to pass through position X in 56.16 N., 09.00 W., at 0830Z/5, and to signal estimated S. of A.
3. Ship will sail independently and maximum air protection both A/A and A/S should be arranged.
4. Fighter protection code word "Damson".
(D.O.D. (H), 1921A/26 to C.O.A.C., etc).

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26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

MANSFIELD. MANSFIELD departs Boston Dec. 27th at 0800 en route for St. Johns N.F. Speed 18. E.T.A. (?Sydney (C.B.)) 29th at 1700. All times Eastern (?region) (?time). Routed through the following route:- A. 043° 05' N., 069° (02') B. 043° 05' N., 065° 32' C. Sambro Light Vessel D. 045° 05' N., 061° 00' W. E. 045° 55' N., (059°) 32' F. Cape Race. (Cdre. 1st U.S. Naval Dist. Boston 1959Z/26 to C.E.S.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., etc).

Shipping Connav Serials 25 and 26. OBSERVER torpedoed
Casualties. sunk 16 Dec. 005° 30' S., 031° 00' W.
JAMES MACKAY overdue Belfast since 13th Dec.
STAR OF SUEZ torpedoed sunk 15 Dec. 001° 00' N.
029° 30' W.
(Connav, 2050/26 to Comnav).

O.N.S.154 SHEDIAC sighted and attacked U-boat ahead convoy
U/B attack. at 2040 position 047° 50' N., 024° 10' W.
(ST. LAURENT, 2055Z/26 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).
Probably only one U-boat shadowing. SHEDIAC sighted in
6,000 yards ahead of convoy and made an attack with depth
charges. SHEDIAC rejoining. Fuelled 100 tons. My P.C. and S.
045° 55' N., 027° 34' W., 200° 7 altering to 239° 39 0100Z/27th.
Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11., 2307 Z/26 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav,
etc).

Sub. attack Para. A. OBSERVER torpedoed sunk 05.30 S., 31 W.
and sighting 2023Z/16.
summary. Para. B. EMPIRE HAWK three torpedo hits. Army
transport plane sights periscope and submerged
sub. 10.40 N., 65. W. 1730Z/25.
Para. C. FIRETHORN, seated Neptune holding
Trident, also large square root radical with combination of
letters and numbers. Or for two subs reported participating.
Para. D. U.S.C.G. MONOMOY sights sub. 30.13 N., 71.47 W.
about 0900Z/26. Sighting 05.02 N., 52.22 W., 0930Z/25 now
reported non-sub.
(Cominch, 2100/26 to Admty for O.I.C.)

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26.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Wellington, U.S. Dest. GRAYSON escorting U.S. ships PRESIDENT ADAMS, PRESIDENT JACKSON, PRESIDENT REES, CRESENT CITY, expected time of arrival Noumea 2000Z/29th. **HAVE not left.*
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 0444Z/26 to Admty).

U.S. Transport CREMER, BOSPHORUS, VAN HEUTZ, BONTEKOE, TASMAN departed Townsville 24th Dec. due Port Moresby 27th. Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE departs Brisbane 25th due Cairns 30th. H.T. DUNTROON departs Port Moresby 25th due Fall River 26th. H.T. TAROONA departs Fall River 25th due Townsville 27th. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departs Townsville 25th Due Brisbane 28th. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT arrived Townsville 26th.
(A.C.N.B., 0904Z/26 to Admty etc).

Departure Auckland U.S.S. TYRON. E.T.A. Bulari passage 0400Z/29.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 1933Z/26 to Admty). **not in file*

Situation. Digest Serial No. 338 Dec. 25th.
Our forward elements reached coast south east Buna station 25th. Pressure continues against enemy positions in eastern sector. Still enemy resistance Soputa - Sanananda track. Light enemy night bombings Buna area ineffective. Small boats seen off Buna night 25th.
(2) R/C Fortress strafed large submarine Wide Bay evening 25th without result.
(3) 4 Liberators bombed Gasmata airfield evening 24th.
(4) R/C Liberator dropped bombs Cape Gloucester Lae airfields 25th, results unobserved, no opposition. Report 18 aircraft latter field all unserviceable confirmed by photograph.
(5) ?Punitive party 200 Japs. arrived Tinputz Harbour (25 miles E.S.E. Buka Passage) in 2 schooners 24th destroyed Mission station moved inland.
(6) Aircraft strafed 20 barges 100 Japs and stores on Laivai Beach ?25 hits observed on barges A.A. encountered. No shipping sighted.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0900Z/26 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1331A/26, 1338A/26).

925

27.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Convoy J.W. 51B was estimated to be 140 miles E.S.E. of Jan Mayen at 0800 today; and at 1330 today SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA left Kola Inlet to cover the convoy East of 015° E. After covering convoy J.W. 51B and R.A.51 to the East of 015° E. Force R will now proceed either to Seidisfjord to refuel or to Kola Inlet to top up and then to Scapa, and will not await in Russian waters the departure of convoy R.A.52.

The Dutch S/M O.14 has been forced by an engine defect to leave her patrol in northern Norwegian waters. She arrived safely at Lerwick at 1701A/30.

A small-scale air raid on Murmansk yesterday caused only slight damage to the SS. JOHN WALKER; and six small air raids upon Murmansk and ships in the Kola Inlet between 1100C and 1830C today caused no British or American damage or casualties.

The sailing barge GERTRUDE MAY was blown up, presumably by a mine, in the swept channel off Brightlingsea at 1115A today. Ten moored mines were detonated off Ramsgate today. 2 acoustic mines were exploded by sweepers today in the Clyde at a spot where the last known minelaying from enemy A/C was on 5th May 1941.

North Atlantic.CAMPOMANES
torpedoed.

CAMPOMANES, Spanish tanker, 6276 tons, on passage from Bilbao for Aruba, reported that she was torpedoed at 1000, 15 miles west of Cape Silleiro (about 30 miles from Vigo) and was sinking by the stern. She was however, brought into Vigo on 28th. N.A. Madrid states the ship was torpedoed at 2300/26, six miles off the coast and that the general opinion is that the vessel was torpedoed by an Axis submarine. CAMPOMANES was given Navicert.

A Wellington aircraft on A/S sweep at 0310 sighted and attacked a U-Boat in 37.20 N. 1.20 E. The aircraft was damaged in combat and signalled it would have to ditch, but landed safely at Tafaraoui.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

M.V. OAKBANK (Suez to Demerara and U.K.) is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 2250Z today in 0° 46' S. 37° (or 27°) 58' W. SS. MORMACSWAN is reported to have been missed by a torpedo in approx. 2° N. 30° W. at 0855Z today.

Mediterranean.

P.211.

S/M P.211 reports having sunk at 1548/18 a southbound schooner of 150 tons laden with petrol 3 miles south of Hammamet. At 1234/20, in 36.04 N. 10.30 E., she gunned a 400 ton southbound tanker which was later beached.

RORQUAL reports having laid mines S.E. of Cani Rocks on 8th Dec. and N.W. of Ischia Channel on 17th Dec. At 2041/18, in a position 9 miles N.W. of Ischia, she probably sank a northbound laden motor vessel of 2500 tons.

Petrol-
Carrying
Submarines.

As submarines are no longer required for the supply of petrol to Malta, NEBOJSCA (Yugoslav) is to be sailed for Kilindini, and OSIRIS and PARTHIAN to be used for A/S training. Agreement of the Greeks for the use of their S/M MATROZOS (ex P.712) for this purpose is also being sought.

Air
Operations.

Malta Albacores last night bombed Sousse Harbour, scoring hits among barges.
14 Malta Wellingtons attacked Tunis docks and obtained hits around the main basin. One 4000 lb. bomb started a fire near the electric railway depot.
1 Wellington bombed Pantellaria Harbour.
American B.24s bombed Tunis, Sousse and Sfax Harbours last night. In a further attack on Sousse Harbour today they claimed 2 hits on one M/V and near misses on other shipping at the quays. An aircraft today attacked a U-Boat, apparently in Algiers Bay, straddling the enemy with depth charges within lethal range. The U-Boat's fire damaged the aircraft, which eventually had to be abandoned. The U-Boat submerged with the gunners still firing.

927

27.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

Shipping.

To avoid U-Boats on the Trinidad - Capetown route, it is intended to route some well-powered ships to India and the Persian Gulf through Panama and the Pacific. The anticipated total monthly increase of United Nations ships calling at Colombo is 25 to 30, and F.O. Ceylon is asked to confirm that this is within the port capacity.

Reunion.

C. in C. E.F. forwards a report from C.O. LEOPARD that the population of Reunion is in danger of starvation. Immediate needs are for rice, flour, salt, cooking fats, cattle and clothing.

America and West Indies.O.N.S. 154
attacked.

The following ships in Convoy O.N.S.154 were torpedoed during last night in about 47° 30' N. 24° 35' W.:-

KING EDWARD, British, 5224 tons, at 0415Z, sunk immediately with no survivors.

MELROSE ABBEY, British, 2473 tons, missing.

EMPIRE UNION, British, 5952 tons, missing.

SOEKABOEMI, Dutch, 7051 tons, believed still afloat.

In addition to the foregoing, SCOTTISH HEATHER, British tanker, 7087 tons, was torpedoed at 2037Z/27, but arrived at the Clyde on 2nd January 1943. ST. LAURENT, S.O. of the Convoy escort (T.U. 24.1.11) sighted a U-Boat on the starboard quarter of the convoy at 0548Z and dropped a pattern on periscope by eye, but did not get the U-Boat; the remaining generators failed at the critical moment.

At 1905Z CHILLIWACK attacked a U-Boat on the surface in 44.41 N. 21.04 W.

C.T.24 at 1611Z directed F.O.N.F. to sail ST. CROIX when ready to reinforce the escort of O.N.S. 154.

Shipping
Routes.

In view of continued heavy losses in the area between Cape San Roque and St. Paul's Rocks, Admty. today proposed to Connav that all ships from South and West Africa to Trinidad and the U.S. coast and vice versa should be routed N.E. of St. Paul's Rocks. (p. 953)

* off N.E. Coast of Brazil

War Diary.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

27 heavy bombers attacked shipping at Rabaul early this morning and destroyed 1 large vessel, as well as setting 2 medium vessels on fire.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SEALION F.O.S. 1041A/24. Intend to transfer SEALION to S.7 p.m./29th. (Capt. S.3., 1115A/27).

Norwegian Coastal Operations. It has been reported to the Norwegian Naval Authorities that the M.T.Bs. operating on the Norwegian Coast have been making contact with the local inhabitants.
2. It is considered that this practice may lead to reprisals and also may endanger the success of subsequent operations.
3. Request you will therefore ensure that such communication be limited only to that which is necessary for the successful conduct of these operations.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1140A/27 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

GURNARD. Arrived GURNARD escorted by ST. ELSTAN. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0106A/27).

Rosyth Command. Principal ships present at 0900/27. Names. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0901A/27).

DOLFIJN Departure. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0936A/27).
See p. 930^A

SEVERN SEVERN has had large change in personnel. Request you will sail her when ready for work-up practice at Holy Loch. SEVERN will also require to carry noise trials and torpedo discharge trials from stern tubes. Total time to Holy Loch will be about 3 weeks. My 1311/8 refers. (F.O.S., 1039A/27 to Capt. S.5).

W.A.Command. Situation at 2002A/27. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1356A/27) See Lion Copy.

H.43 Intend sailing H.43 escorted by GLEN STRATHALLAN 0800A/28 in accordance with my 0129A/27. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1105A/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
See p. 930^B

ROSELYS, LOBELIA, ACONIT. Request ROSELYS, LOBELIA, ACONIT may visit St. Pierre on completion of duties with O.N.157. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1400A/27 to C. in C. W.A.) D. Greenock 1400/27. Request you will arrange this if convenient. (C. in C. W.A., 2119Z/27 to C.T.F.24).

MOST SECRET

929A

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.)

SITUATION AT 2002A/27/12/42

Section N.E.

O.N.U.J.157	QUADRILLE	57 44 06 38	270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	9
E.N.78	MINUET WOLVES	58 45 03 42	To Loch Ewe	7
W.N.77	VALSE POLKA	2015A/27	Sails Loch Ewe to Methil	7½

SITUATION AT 2002A/27/12/42

Section S.E.

LEEDS		57 04 07 09	to Liverpool	18
NEWARK		55 26 06 38	to Milford Haven	15
1 Auxiliary Vessel		54 16 05 17	to Liverpool	10
HESPERUS		55 47 08 22	to Londonderry	15
PALOMARES		Vicinity North about Oversay to Nore		12½
P.225	AYRSHIRE	53 50 04 53	to Cumbræes	10
O.N.157	AQUAMARINE SOUTHERN BREEZE	53 38 04 53	270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	10
O.N.157	MOLDE	53 54 04 41	270 degs. Oversay 6 miles thence 55 20 11 02	9
H.M.89	ADRIATIC	52 54 08 04	To Milford Haven	8
H.X.219	GENTIAN	55 52 09 15	To Liverpool	9½
C.T.U. 24.1.16	HEATHER MIGNONETTE SWEETBRIAR		Clyde and Belfast portion detached unescorted	
Convoy	Unescorted	51 59 05 28	Northbound	8
O.N.M. 157	Escorted	Sails Belfast 0230A/28	270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	9
O.N.C.157	Unescorted	Sails Clyde 2200A/27	270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	9

/Situation

92.9^B

- 2 -

SITUATION AT 2002A/27/12/42

Section N.W.

U.R.55 (E)	ANGLE	62 08 17 44	to 63 12 22 01	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	HUGH WALPOLE			
	FARSUND			
O.N.S.156	U.S.S. SPENCER	58 11 13 20	to 57 01 30 41	7
C.T.U.	U.S.S. BADGER			
24.1.3	DIANTHUS			
	TRILLIUM			
	DAUPHIN			
	ROSTHERN			
S.C.113	BROADWAY	58 55 24 18	to 58 50 19 58	7
C.T.U.24.1.12	SHERWOOD			
	PRIMROSE			
	POLYANTHUS			
	MORDEN			
	ORILLIA			

Section S.W.

1 M/V in tow of tug	LAGAN	53 03 19 09	to North East	7
WOLVERINE		46 52 24 31	to O.N.154	17
BADSWORTH				
MOOSEJAW		53 23 12 49	to K.M.S.6	12
K.M.S.6	BLACK SWAN	53 28 17 09	to 53 01 17 59	7
	1 Sloop		thence	
	9 Corvettes		48 03 18 00	
K.M.F.6	EGRET	52 42 14 49	to 50 01 17 04	11
	2 Destroyers			
	2 Corvettes			
	2 Sloops			
O.N.S.154	ST. LAURENT	45 58 26 30	to 42 58 35 01	7
C.T.U.	BATTLEFORD			
24.1.11.	CHILLIWACK			
	SHEDIAC			
	KENOGAMI			
	NAPANEE			
M.K.F.5	Fleet Unit	40 41 16 14	to 49 18 15 32	13
	2 Destroyers			
	5 Sloops			
	1 Corvette			

1356A/27/12/42

V.C.N.S.	D.T.D (M)	Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D(H)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.T.D(3)	D.T.D.
A.C.N.S.(F)	D.T.D(1)	
A.C.N.S.(UT)	Duty Capt. (2)	I.P (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	U.S.N.	W.D.
Capt. Pim	D.A/S.W.	Ad. Ramsay (4)
D.O.D(H) (2)	Hd. of M.	D.E.S.
D.O.D(F) (2)	D.D.I.C (2)	D.D.O.D (M)

AT.

930

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

P. 225 Departure at 1400A P.225 escorted by AYRSHIRE.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1423A/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

S/M Positions At 0800/28. Details.
(F.O.S.1544A/27). See Lion Copy.

P. 315, My 1058/21. Intend to sail P.315 and P.53
P.53. escorted by POTENTILLA 1500A/29 Northabout to Clyde. Speed 11 knots. E.T.A. Cumbræes 0800A/30.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1605A/27).

ST. ALBANS. Request you sail ST. ALBANS to arrive Rosyth not later than 1st January.
(D.O.D. (H), 1618A/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

BODO Request you sail BODO to Aberdeen as soon as practicable.
(D.O.D. (H), 1626A/27 and 1929A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
Sailed BODO. E.T.A. Aberdeen 1300A/29.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2110A/27).

MILNE, On completion of escort duty with M.K.F.5 about
METEOR. 1st January request you will sail MILNE and METEOR as directed by C. in C. H.F.
(D.O.D. (H), 1651A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

CIRCE. Hvalfjord 27th Dec. arrival CIRCE at 1715.
(A.C.I.C., 1801A/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

H.F. Destroyer state 2000A/27.
Destroyer (1) Scapa. MUSKETEER, MONTROSE, WORCESTER,
State. WALPOLE, WINDSOR.
(2) Working up at Scapa. RELENTLESS, QUEENBOROUGH
IROQUOIS, ADRIAS, NIAOULIS, PIORUN, VIVACIOUS,
ORKAN, QUADRANT, RAIDER.
(3) Kola Inlet. FAULKNER, FURY, ECLIPSE, INGLEFIELD, ECHO,
(4) With S.O. Force R. OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS.
(5) Seidisfjord. BLANKNEY, LEDBURY.
(6) With J.W.51. ONSLOW, ORIBI, OBEDIENT, OB DURATE, ORWELL.
(7) With V.A.2. IMPULSIVE, ICARUS, FORESTER.
(Comdr. D. 1801 A/27 to Admty).

WOLVERINE Your 1308A/27. ^{n. 7. 2-43.} My position 048° 33' N., 018° 23' W. course 038° speed 17½ knots.
(WOLVERINE, 1900A/27 to Admty).

/VANESSA...

930^B-

- (L) U.S.S. HERRING in Zone K. 505.
(M) U.S.S. BARB off Vigo. *See p. 938^A*
(N) H.43 exercising in vicinity of Great Ormes
Head. *See p. 929*

1544A/27

Advance copies sent Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
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)
D.N.I. (4)
U.S.N. (3)

EO

931

War Diary.

27.12.1942.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

VANESSA. Arrived fuelled and sailed VANESSA.
(Care. Londonderry, 2045A/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
VANESSA vicinity Altacarry at midnight for Liverpool 15 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 2254A/27).

Operations.

Patrols. EGLINTON, number 8, and HAMBLEDON, No. 7 patrol.
No. 3 patrol PUFFIN, 4, WIDGEON, 5, CAMPBELL, 6 QUORN. 5 and 6 patrol are to be on patrol by 1845, 3 and 4 by 2000.
(C. in C. Nore, 1032A/27).
CHASSEURS 13 (S.O.) and 10 are to patrol tonight from their normal patrol area to 50° 31' N., 0° 35' E. keeping 8 miles to Southward of convoy C.E.142. They are to return to patrol area after convoy has passed out of Portsmouth Command. Codeword "Cadger".
M.L. 247 (S.O.) and 297 patrol between positions St. Catherines Point, 50° 20' N., 1° 35' W., 50° 20' N., 2° 21' W, and Kimmeridge Bay.
BLEASDALE at immediate notice at St. Helens.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1254A/27).
1. 2 CHASSEURS patrolling from E.A.5 buoy to Eastward thence returning to E.A.5 Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1550A/27).
M.Ls. 139 and 137 between Rye and Fair Light buoys.
Three M.T.Bs. supported by six M.G.Bs. patrolling to the southward of Birch buoy, E.T.D. 1630, E.T.R.0230/28.
(V.A. Dover, 1554/27).

SHAD SHAD may operate in zone K.506 as well as K.502.
Patrol. (F.O.S., 1454A/27 to S/MS). *See p. 930^A*

Operation My 0022/26. All boats returned being unable
V.P. to enter leads owing to weather. Nothing
to report.
(A.C.O.S., 1825/27).

Exercises.

Exercise ROWAN, LINCOLNSHIRE, DANIEL CLOWDEN, AMBROSE
"Haulabout". PARE are to be off M. Buoy at 0830/28 and each
take 2 L.C.Bs. in tow.
2. When ready tows to proceed to Fowey by
inshore route. Codeword "Scent". Ships not
to proceed unless weather suitable for towing.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1523/27 to ROWAN, etc).

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk
bombed on
26th and
27th Dec.

Small scale air raid on Murmansk December 26th. No damage to British and American ships and no casualties to personnel. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1200C/27 to Admty). Six air-raids by small numbers of plane on Murmansk and ships in Inlet between 1100C/27 and 1830C/27 when weather became too bad for flying.

As far as known no casualties to British or American ships or personnel. SS. JOHN WALKER sustained near miss p.m. Dec. 26th Slight damage not affecting seaworthiness. One officer wounded landed Vaenga hospital.

(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 2300C/27 to Admty).

Iceland.

One unidentified aircraft plotted by R.D.F. 20 miles east Vattarnes at 1321/27. Aircraft circled Budareyri at 1400 and was sighted from Seidisfjord flying high, course north, at 1415. Cloud 2/10th visibility 30 miles. (A.C.I.C., 1504A/27).

Mining.

Iceland.

Hvalfjord 27th December departure S.O. 15th M/S Flot. in FRASERBURGH, LLANDUNDNO, BEAUMARIS, BOOTLE in company at 0605. (A.C.I.C., 1125A/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

GERTRUDE
MARY
(Sailing-
barge) sunk.

Holland observation Post Frinton report explosion apparently 1115/27 at 132. 8,000 yards Thorpe. Believed possible one of a number of sailing barges proceeding course W. at this point may have been blown up. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1228A/27 to C. in C. Nore). Sailing Barge GERTRUDE MARY blown up 1109/27

Near Walleth No. 2 Buoy in swept channel, approx. position 51° 47' N., 01° 19' E. Skipper of Barge rescued. 5/B GEORGE SMEED bound for Rochester was in vicinity.

(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1325A/27).

My 1228A/27. At 1115A/27 GERTRUDE MARY sailing barge, sank in 51° 47' N., 01° 19' E. Master rescued suffering shock. Mate presumed lost.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1512A/27 to Admty).

Sweep of
Q.Z.X.866.

To assist completion of present operations request that BLACKPOOL may be sailed for Dover if possible to arrive at A Buoy at 0815/29 in readiness to lay up to 28 Dans that day. (V.A. Dover 1832A/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Clyde

2 Acoustic Mines detonated by sweepers at 1605/27 in 188° Craigendoran Pier 7 cables. Details.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1859/27).

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Ship. Unidentified vessel has been plotted by R.D.F. in position 20 Prawle 15 at 0550 moving North. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0557A/27).

Suspicious Ship. Suspect ship in 48° 55' N., 12° 09' W. Carrying out square search. (A/C 1205/27 to 19 Group).

Three Enemy ships. P.C.S. of 3 unknown enemy vessels 47° 25' N., 04° 29' W. 180° 5 knots. (A/C 2145/27 to 19 Group)
3 unknown vessels bearing 180° 3 miles. Position 46° 56' N., 05° 31' W. Course 090°. (A/C 2222/27 to 19 Group)
P.C. and S. of 3 enemy ZXDW 47° 07' N., 04° 54' W. 270° 10 knots. (A/C 2348/27 to 19 Group).

U-boats.

U-boat sunk. (U.357) Your 2045/26. Well done. (C. in C. W.A., 0004A/27 to HESPERUS, VANESSA).

U-boats reported. One or two outward bound U-boats estimated in your immediate vicinity today. (D.D.I.C., 0952A/27 to escorts M.K.F.5).

Casualties & Defects.

LOCHNAGAR. LOCHNAGAR is proceeding under own steam at 8 knots Position at 0800Z/27th 059° 12' N., 006° 22' W, course 170°. Request instructions. (ARAB, 0805Z/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 1726/26. Your assistance is not now required. Proceed to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1124A/27 to CAPE PALLISER).
Your 0805/27. If defects to LOCHNAGAR have been repaired and ship is capable of voyage, escort her to Iceland (C) along original route.
(2) Otherwise LOCHNAGAR is to return to Loch Ewe. ARAB escort if necessary, otherwise proceed at best speed to rejoin your group in Iceland (C).
(3) Report intentions.
(C. in C. W.A., 1212A/27 to ARAB).
LOCHNAGAR unable to proceed to Iceland. Have ordered her to Loch Ewe. E.T.A. 1900 Z. Am proceeding to Reykjavik at best speed.
(ARAB, 1315A/27 to LABURNUM).

/DUKE...

934

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

DUKE OF YORK. A.M. 2110/22. Request date of completion may be 20th February.
(C. in C. H.F., 0956A/27 to A.S. Rosyth).

Unknown Ship. Following received from Tiree Radio. One class 129° S O S unknown ship.
(Portishead Radio, 1550 G.M.T./27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

VARDEFJELL. Your 1952/21. VARDEFJELL. located by A/C at 1400 today in 062° 35' N., 005° 08' W. MARAUDER STELLA PEGASI, and BRESSAY. E.T.A. this position 2124/27. R.A.F. Vaagar have been requested to send Sunderland at daybreak tomorrow to assist if ships have not located VARDEFJELL by that time.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1625A/27 to A.C.O.S.)

ST. MARYS After partial lightening ST. MARYS was refloated at 1425 today.
Anticipate tugs will be required. Intend to retain IMPERIOUS till ST. MARYS is berthed for repairs and METINDA as long as required to control leakage. Not making water in any main compartments.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1830A/27 to A.C.O.S.)

EBRO. Intercepted at 1823 G.M.T. Tug EBRO on fire off South Bishops.
(Port Patrick W/T, 1923/27).
Received 1831 G.M.T. from Tug EBRO. Fire under control. All clear. Master.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1932A/27 to Admty).

BRODRENE sunk. Norwegian drifter BRODRENE sunk in collision 1518/26 with U.S.S. "DUANE". Crew saved.
(S.S.T.O. Iceland, 2016A/27 to D.S.T.)

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.51 B. Negative patrol. Have returned due to dangerous extended crack in port diesel engine. Position 067° 20' N., 008° 20' E. speed 7 knots.
(O.14, 0417A/27 to F.O.S.)

(1) TORBAY, SOKOL, P.223, P.339 leave patrol at 1200A/28 for (?Lerwick) passing through 070° 55' 022° 05' thence along parallel 070° 55' and as follows
(A) TORBAY and SOKOL to 070° 55' 016° 33' thence by route Orange. (B) P.223 to 070° 55', 015° (?)20° thence by route Black. (C) P.339 to 070° 55', 014° 10' thence by route Pink.
(2) S/M to proceed diving by day until west of 017° E., thence on surface at C.Os. discretion.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - 20th Dec.

- J.W.51 B. (3) P.223 and P.339 not to exceed 9 knots until
Contd. west of 017° E.
(4) S/Ms are not to be attacked during 28th Dec.
(Capt. S.9., 1033A/27 to S/Ms)
S.B.N.O. North Russia 1301/26. Concur. Intend
following amended programme for Force R.
(1) To provide cover east of 015° E., for J.W.51 B and R.A.51.
(2) Fuel permitting proceed to Seidisfjord to refuel, thence
Scapa providing maximum cover to R.A.51 westward of 015° E.
(3) If (2) impracticable return to Kola to top up, thence
Scapa calling at Seidisfjord to fuel.
(4) As destroyers will be unable to remain in company throughout
(1), they should at your discretion be released at prudent limit
of endurance to proceed Seidisfjord fuel, thence to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 1216A/27 to S.O. Force R).
Your 1434A/25. Subject to no sudden changes in weather
propose to receive 3 or 4 ships of suitable draft from J.W.51 B
at Ekonomia. With large ice breakers LENIN, *WORT, *KRAKOW,
*(?CZER)IN in Dvina (?very soon) I feel no uneasiness about
their safe exit, and congestion at Molotovsk will be considerably
eased. Details will be given after conference with Russians
tomorrow. Batson and Roullard concur. *not identified
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1542A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
After covering J.W. 51 B. Request you will proceed ANSON
to Akureyri or Seidisfjord to fuel destroyers and thence to
Scapa.
(2) CUMBERLAND is to be detached at your discretion to proceed
independently to Hvalfjord.
(3) Three Hunts are remaining at Seidisfjord for the present.
(C. in C. H.F., 1638A/27 to V.A.2).
- H.X.219 Detach forthwith all ships of 11½ knots and over
to proceed independently. Names of ships
detached to be reported. Any Loch Ewe ships
remaining with convoy are to proceed independently
from 10° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 0823Z/27 to Escorts H.X.219).
- S.C.112 C.T.U. 24.1.14 in CHURCHILL plus RESTIGOUCHE,
SHERBROOKE, AMHERST, BRANDON, COLLINGWOOD,
arrived from S.C.112.
(C.T.G., 24.7., 0845Z/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
- WAR PINDARI. N.C.S.O. Invergordon's 1451/26. *N.T.M. N.D.*
Ship should sail unescorted. A.C.O.S. is
requested to provide escort from daylight if
possible.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0950A/27 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon)
- WARWICK Report maximum speed & endurance is 10½ daylight.
(WARWICK, 1023Z/27 to Comtask 24).

War Diary.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

J.W.51 A. Request (1) Percentage of fuel remaining in ships of Force R. and escorts on arrival Kola. (2) Estimated stock remaining at Kola when R.A. 51 sails. (C. in C. H.F., 1131A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia) Arrival Molotovsk SAN CIPRIANO, RICHARD BLAND, RICHARD BASSETT, OREMAR, WEST COTOMSKA. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1732A/27 to Admty).

K.X.8 Admty. 1653/22, 1300/23. (1) Escort LANCASTER, S.O, TANATSIDE, NEWARK, LAUDERDALE, FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC, CARNATIC. (2) CARNATIC for onward routeing to Bombay. (3) FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC, if convenient rejoin M/S F. 16 as part escort of convoy M.K.S. No. 6. (4) Remainder escort return convoy as required. (C. in C. W.A., 1454A/27). Intend sailing FORT CONFIDENCE loaded with Government stores at 2359/27 routed by normal route to Milford Haven for K.X.8. E.T.A.daylight 29th. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1924A/27).

R.A.51 Sailing 30th December. Leading ship passing Toros Island at 1500C. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1547/26 to A.I.G.47).

WESTERNLAND. SS. WESTERNLAND speed 15 knots is expected to arrive Clyde 28th December and will disembark 850 service personnel. 2. On completion vessel is required to proceed to London for conversion to Destroyer Depot ship. 3. Request you will sail her accordingly as soon as ready and suitable escort is available. (D.O.D. (H), 1709A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

Ships with D.G. defects. Subject to warning of enemy minelaying in Port of destination or its approaches ships developing D.G. defects the repair of which would entail delay are to proceed to any port within W.A. Command notwithstanding such D.G.defects. 2. The N.O.I.C. of the Port of Departure if in the U.K. or the Admty. in the case of homeward bound convoys will furnish the F.O.I.C. of the sub.Command and the N.O.I.C. of the Port of Destination with the name of any ship with defective D.G. 3. Should it be necessary the F.O.I.C. or N.O.I.C. concerned is to divert the incoming ship. (C. in C. W.A., 1754A/27).

VETLUGA Your 1226/15. Arrived 1330/26. (A.C.I.C., 1952A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

U.G.S.3
G.U.F.3

In order to clear port for DEFIANT U.G.S.3 30th. Intend sailing G.U.F.3 about 1200Z/29 to R/V Oran section 30th at point to be designated by N.C.X.F. Request Gibraltar section arrive with Oran section and my 1659/25 be cancelled.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 2032Z/27 to N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Oran, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.T.U.26.7.2 C.T.F.33, C.T.F.35).

North Atlantic.

Movements. RHYL and STORNOWAY returned Oran.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 0110A/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty).
Following received by hand from D. of S.T.

Arrival Casablanca French Ship FOUAROYANT. (s.s.)
(Gibraltar, 1210Z/27 to S.N.O.C.A.)
Arrival 0700 LORD HOTHAM escorting META, EMPIRE FRANKLIN from Lisbon.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0914A/27 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)
Sailed H.M. M.L.s 174 and 170 with SS. BEGUM to Melilla and back.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1835A/27 to Admty, N.C.X.F.)
Arrivals ex M.K.S.4. BOREAS, BRILLIANT, VERITY, HUSSAR, ALBERNI, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, SCOTTISH, VILLE DE QUEBEC.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2055A/27 to Admty. N.C.X.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

SANDWICH
G.U.F.3

My 1924/26 (not received) sailed SANDWICH to Oran to join G.U.F.3 (O).
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0113A/27 to N.O.I.C. Oran, N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area (R) Admty. ROCHESTER).

HORORATA,
CEFALU,
EMINENT.

Report situation HORORATA, CEFALU.
(2) Are there any further requirements for EMINENT if not intend sailing to join home bound convoy.
See pp. 938 & 940
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1120A/27 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon, R.O. Horta).
Your 1120/27. 7 weeks required for temporary repairs HORORATA to enable ship reach U.K. Await report on CEFALU.
(2) No further requirements for EMINENT.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1305C/27 to 1305C/27 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. R.O. Fayal).

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in position RBNJ 5931 (indecypherable). Have lost touch. (A/C C/S UM9T., 0310/27).
Following has been read: Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C C/S UM9T 0420/27).
Following has been read - We are 20 miles East of Oran approx. we ditch. (Gibraltar A/C UM9T T.O.R. 0735/27 to R.A.F. Gibraltar).
Following has been received. Ditching off coast Oran position of submarine 37.20 N., 1.20 E. 511 4 ditching by Oran. (Gib. A/C UM9 Duty O. No T.O.O./27 to R.A.F. Gibraltar).

German No.55 German 55 now leaving harbour 1030 G.M.T./27th for France. (SCHARLACH-BERGER.) (H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1130/27 to Admty M. of E.W. S.O.(I) Gibraltar and Madrid).
German No.55 leaving harbour 1030 G.M.T. 27th. (N.A. Madrid, No T.O.O./27 recd. 1420/27 to Admty)

SCYLLA Take ^{*}WISHART, ANTELOPE under your orders. Sail at 0900/29 to arrive Gibraltar 0700/30. Routes 9 60 82. * See p. 943
V.A. Gibraltar is requested to sail SCYLLA onwards for Greenock. Ultimate destination Hebburn-on-Tyne, for fitting of E.D.O., R.D/F., and Arctic Fitting. (N.C.X.F., 1134A/27 to SCYLLA (R) WISHART, ANTELOPE, F.O.12 C.S. V.A. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. Algiers.)

Excess of survivors LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Your 2052/25. LLANGIBBY CASTLE was the only vessel available at the time for the transfer of survivors. Other vessel(s) in M.K.F.1 did not arrive Gibraltar until just prior to sailing O.N. Convoy when it was not practicable to distribute them. (P.S.T.O.X.F., 1342A/27 to D. of S.T.)

SCEBELI, HORORATA, CEFALU, EMINENT. Your 1120/27 both ships, also Norwegian SCEBELI which arrived 26th will be able to proceed without assistance on completion of repair. Estimated time repair HORORATA 8 weeks SCEBELI and CEFALU about 3 weeks each. 2. No further requirements for EMINENT. (R.O. Horta 1458C/27 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).
See pp 937 940

CAMPOMANES torpedoed. Following intercept received from Spanish Tanker CAMPOMANES begins:-
Torpedoed at 1000 sinking by stern 15 miles west of Silleiro. Ends. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1629A/27 to Admty. N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth).

/T.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.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been 1305/27 December P. d :
MOST SECRET. "O.T.P." are ~~excepted~~ MESSAGE. in this rule.) IN.

From V.A. Gibraltar. Date: 27.12.42.
Recd: 2156.
NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report Area X.

U.S. Sub. BARB, on patrol Vigo Area. *See p. 930^B*

H.M. Sub. P.615, 038 degrees 32' 016 degrees 18' 202 degrees 8 1/2' on the surface throughout.

ARGUS
M K F 5, Fleet Unit, H.M.S. MILNE, H.M.S. METEOR, H.M.S. WESTON, H.M.S. FOLKESTON, H.M.S. WELLINGTON, H.M.S. TOTLAND, H.M.S. *GORLINGTON, WAVENEY, 040 degrees 32' 016 degrees 15' 003 degrees 13. K X 7 A. SLAZAK, H.M.S. STARWORT, WENSLEYDALE, 036 degrees 01' 010 degrees 52' through 036 degrees 03' 008 degrees 05' to Gibraltar 11 situation 2002A/27th. M K S 4, H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, 2 sloops, 2 outters, 6 corvettes, 036 degrees 12' 008 degrees 29' through 036 degrees 20' 010 degrees 01' thence 312 degrees 7 1/2'. REGINA 039 degrees 24' 014 degrees 20' 132 degrees 12 to R/V with M K S 4. *E. stat.

LOCH OSKAIG cable ship MIRROR, 037 degrees 34' 021 degrees 11' 098 degrees 8. *See p. 938C*

DON (corrupt group) 036 degrees 20' 012 degrees 40' until 1600 28th thence Gibraltar 13 1/2. H.M.S. *FELIX cable ship H.M.S. MARIE/LOUISE MACKAY repairing cable 035 degrees 55' 005 degrees 49'. H.M.S. IMPERIALIST, one merchant ship, off Tarifa coastwise to Chipiona H.M.S. IMPERIALIST then patrols vicinity Chipiona. *CALGARY sailed Gibraltar 2045A/27th to overtake M K S 4 14. **not identified*
X See p. 940 1305A/27. *B.B.V. FELIX at Harwich*
Amended 0932/28

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.
D.D.I.C. D.T.D.

- 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.
- 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)
- Admiral Ramsey (4)
- D.S.D.

DR.

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 0932/28th December IN

Date 28.12.42
Recd. 1145

From N.O.I.C. Gibraltar

Naval Cypher 3 (S) by W/T

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

IMMEDIATE

My 1305A/27th add SEACK DECK. U.G.S.3,
31 12 18 40 through 31 10 16 30 thence 61 (?8½).

0932/28

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)
- 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.V.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(C)
- Admiral Ramsey (4)
- D.S.D.

938c

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 1310/27th Dec. IN

From:- N.O.I/C. Gibraltar.

Date. 27/12/42.

Recd. 1620

N.CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed:- A.I.G. 64.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 1958/A/27th.

(1) DRANGEY, HAARLEM, 041 degs 27' 021 degs 59' to Ponta Delgada 10.

(2) LOCH OSKAIG, cable ship MIRROR, 037 degs 34' 021 degs 11' 098 degs 8. *see p. 938A*

(3) BURDOCK, 030 degs 24' 027 degs 30' 011 degs 10. *see p. 939*

G U S 2, 033 degs 30' 028 degs 10' through 033 degs 40' 030 degs 01' thence 273 degs 9.

*see
enclosure
0120A/28*

(5) Swedish relief ship ~~MAGABARRANE~~ FENRIS, BARDALAND, FORMOSA, 037 degs 22' 024 degs 24' 275 degs 12. *see p. 938E*

1310/27.

Advance Copy. Ops.
O.D. TRADE.

PS

- 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. Pin.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.M.S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.E.W.D. (3)

North Atlantic

~~25.12.42~~
Friday 938D

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

M E S S A G E

IN

0120A/28/December.

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 28.12.42.

Naval Code K.1 by W/T

Time 0405.

Correction and
recirculation

Addressed Ships and Authorities North Atlantic Station
Area Y.

IMPORTANT

My 1310/27th/. Paragraph (4) amended position and
course to read 3308 2807, 250.

0120A/28

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. Trade.

↙ Situation at 1958/27

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

A.C.N.S. (U)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt Pim

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

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

D.T.D. (M)

D.C. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A/S.W.

Head of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (C)

D.E.W.D.

E.M.

MOST SECRET

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

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

**MOST
SECRET**

MESSAGE
1330A/27th December.

IN

From: V.A. Gibraltar.

Date: 27.12.42.

Recd: 1645

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed: A.J.C. 25.

IMPORTANT!

Situation at 2004A/27th One Swedish relief ships
MONGABARRA, FENRIS, BARDALAND, FOAMOSA, *See 10.9389*
037 degs. 22' 024 degs. 24' 275 degs. 12'
(2) G (U)? S 2,033 degs. 30' 023 degs. 10' through
030 degs. 01' thence 273 degs. 9.
(3) W S 25 W, unescorted, 021 degs. 26' 021 degs. 35'
(191 degs.?) 24.
(4) W S 25. CARNARVON, CASTLE, H.M.S. CHESHIRE, QUILLIAM,
ROCKWOOD, ILEX, 020 degs. 01' 019 degs. 01' 174 degs. 12. *See 10.94173*
(5) Italian repatriation ships VULCANIA, SATURNIA leave
St. Vincent (C.V) p.m. 27th through 020 degs. 01'
020 degs. 01' thence 024 degs. 16½.
(6) Italian repatriation tanker TAIGETE sailed 27th from
Las Palmas through 027 degs. 40' 015 degs. 12' and 027 degs.
07' 017 degs. 48' thence 255 degs. 9.
(7) H.M.S. *WOODRUFF, H.M.S. *CROCUS, one merchant ship,
020 degs. 08' 018 degs. 01' through 020 degs. 01' 018 degs.
00' thence 183 degs. 10½. ** See 10.941A 942*

1330A/27

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(UT)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.T.D.(M)
D.C.(2)
U.S.N.
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(3)
D.E.W.D.(3)

J.R.

939

27.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- T.F.33 Request your arrival latitude 33.54 longitude 07.48 at 0800Z/30. V.A. Gibraltar requested by this despatch provide escort Oran section from that point. Local forces will meet and escort through minefields and provide air coverage from 28th this area.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1635Z/27 to T.F.33 V.A. Gibraltar (R) Comtask 26.7.3, Comtask 26.7.1., Admty. N.C.X.F., Comtask 26.7.2 C.G.W.T.F., F.O.I.C. Oran). (See also 2032Z/27, Force X).
- BURDOCK *See p. 938* My P.C. and S. 029° 55' N., 027° 26' W., 011° 10 knots. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1700Z/29. Am experiencing a loss of 25 tons feed water at two boilers per day. Have shut down one boiler and will make further report on opening up boiler a.m. tomorrow Monday.
(BURDOCK, 1645Z/27 to V.A. Gibraltar).
- Dinghy Intercepted 1549 G.M.T./27 de unknown Station. S O S 4 English flyers in dinghy position 36° 37' N., 01° 14' W. No bearing obtained Acknowledged. N. Foreland Radio. Burnham on Sea Radio.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O./27 recd. 1720/27 to Admty. Adml. Liverpool, R.A.F. Rudloe.)
- AJAX My 1920/26 sailed AJAX Q.B.201 and 93 less 92 Q.B.A.20 Q.B.B.311, Q.B.C.553 less 500 501.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1731A/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. S.O. Force H., C.S.12 Cdre. Algiers).
- M.K.F.5, U/B. Indefinite bearings on 7640 k/cs at 1519Z/27 indicate U-boat in vicinity M.K.F.5.
(D.D.I.C., 1923/27 to Escorts M.K.F.5., C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)
- EBRO fire. Intercept 1830 G.M.T. from PDUH (undecypherable) addressed G L D (Lands End Radio) N.O.I.C. from EBRO fire under control all clear Master. Controlling station Lands End radio. B.S.T. Port Patrick radio.
(Port Patrick, 1930/27 to Navy Charge, Greenock)
- OLIVER H. PERRY. A.S. OLIVER H. PERRY New York no.525 arrived Casablanca this date straggler from U.G.S.3 intend sailing her rejoin Oran Section U.G.S.3 30th F.O.I.C. Oran inform G.4 movements and transportation.
(S.N.O.C.A 1940Z/27 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran, Cominch Cinclant)

/French...

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

French Navy requests. Admiral Delaye came to see me last night and made following requests.
A. French Merchant ships and escort vessels to be supplied with inter-allied code and convoy instructions now in use. I informed him that I would refer matter to you and temporised by saying that in any case I had not got a supply of books here ready for issue.
B. That definite routine periods should be allocated for inter communication between him and French radio Casablanca. This does not appear necessary or desirable especially as direct Cable should be available in near future.
C. Permission to make use of U.S. planes for carriage of correspondence to Casablanca and Oran. There would appear to be no difficulty about this.
D. To be allowed to use special cypher for intercommunication between himself and Admiral Michelier. I told him I would refer this to you.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2000/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).

U.G.S.3. Plane received following from escort U.G.S.3
LANCASTER,*LLOYDWOOD,*TEEL, TRAVELLER, BENJAMIN HARRISON rejoined convoy. *BANKDULL did not rejoin. Now present 11 ships inside and 24 ships outside F.O.I.C. Oran inform G.4 M and T (end).
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 2031Z/27 to N.C.X.F. (R)
V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cominch C.G.W.T.F.)
**not Bankdull's*

CALGARY, M.K.S.4 Sailed CALGARY to overtake and act as additional escort to M.K.S.4.
See pp. 938A
(V.A. Gib. 2105A/27 to Admty. Escorts M.K.S.4 (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

EMINENT M.K.S.4 EMINENT is to proceed forthwith and join convoy M.K.S.4 routed through 039° 58' N., 015° 10' W. and 049° 20' N., 014° 35' W. estimated to be in 042° 16' N. 015° 01' W. at 2000/30. S. of A.7½ knots S.O. of escort LONDONDERRY.
See pp. 937 & 938
(V.A.Gib. 2335A/27 to R.O.Horta, (R) Admty. Ponta Delgada Escort M.K.S.4).

Air Rept. Gibraltar. Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 27 Dec. U-boat sightings and attacks T/179 on A/S sweep east night 26/27 signalled a sighting of U-boat in position XTNV 1423 at 0310/27 the same signal reported aircraft had lost touch. Another signal received from A/C reported an attack on U-boat in position XTNV 2020 time unknown further signals reported damage to aircraft in combat with U-boat. Aircraft landed at Tafaraoui. Further details unknown. No E/A sightings casualties G/233 on U-boat hunt M/179 on A/S sweep west aircraft signalled starboard engine U/S position LBJY 2220.
(H.Q., R.A.F. Gibraltar, 2350Z/27 to Air Min).

SECRET

940A

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

SECRET. MESSAGE. 0909Z/27th. Dec. IN.

FROM: F.O. W. Africa. DATE: 27/12/42.
RECD: 1550.

Naval Cypher 3(M) by W/T.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty 643, C.in C. Lant 67.
N.C.X.F. B...D. Washington, V.A.
Gibraltar. S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.
COMSOLINT for 128.

Weekly state December 26th.

Cape Verde Is Area H.M.S. BURDOCK, H.M.S.
*WOODRUFF, H.M.S. *CROCUS, *BALUCHISTAN. ** see pp. 938^E + 942*

Freetown area, H.M.S. DESPATCH, H.M.S.
HYDRANGEA, HOLCOMBE, BELLWORT.

Freetown, H.M.S. EDINBURGH CASTLE, H.M.S. ASTURIAS,
H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, H.M.S. PHILOCTETES, P. 614, COMMANDANT
DROGON. *next page*

Takoradi area, ^{COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.

Ascension area, H.M.S. ALCANTARA. Detached.
H.M.S. VINDICTIVE, H.M.S. WIVERN, H.M.S. VELOX,
H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. VILLY, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S.
VANSITTART, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S.
AUBRETTA, H.M.S. SNOEDROP, H.M.S. VIOLET, H.M.S.
ROCKROSE, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S.
AMARANTHUS, H.M.S. ILEX, H.M.S. LOBELIA, (5)
H.M.S. CORINTHIAN, H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE, H.M.S.
SOUTHERN GEM, H.M.S. ARMERIA, H.M.S. TAMARISK,
COWSLIP, SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.

0909Z/27.

Advance Copies: Ops. O.D.
Trade.

V.C.N.S.
C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st. S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.D.S.
O.I.C.
M. (2)
D.P.S.
Mails.
Movts.
D.A/S.W.

W.D.
D.T.D. (M)
I.P. (3)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. (Citadel)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)

War Diary.27. 12. 1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CATTERICK Sailed CATTERICK escorting R.F.A. RELIANT for
RELIANT. Kilindini routed through the following positions:-
See next page
X 025° 02' S. 037° 22' E. Y015° 35' S. 042° 20' E.
Z 011° 20' S. 042° 10' E.
(2) Shifts to group (SVP?) at 0245Z (1st or 10th) Jan. (3) S.
of A. 10 knots E.T. A. A.M. 4th. Jan.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1116Z/27 to Admty, C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.
S.N.O. Afloat, Kilindini, F.O.E.A. and Zanzibar.)

AMERICAN Departure 1000Z/27 Tanker AMERICAN SUN in
SUN. accordance with order issue to Master by N.C.S.O.
Freetown. "Chop" 30th. Speed of advance 14 knots
E.T.A. Curacao 5th Jan.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1145/27 to R.A.W.A. (R) S. O.
(I) Freetown Admty. Connav.)

JANUS. Simonstown departure 0900C/27th. (GLENROY) JANUS
GLENROY. for Freetown routed (a) 028° 00' S. 014° 00' E.
See p. 941 A (b) Walvis Bay. (c) 018° 00' S. 011° 00' E. (d)
Pointe Noire thence as ordered by F.O.C.W.A.F., S.O.A. 11½ knots
to Walvis Bay thence 12 knots. (2) JANUS to fuel from (GLENROY)
at Walvis Bay. (3) E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1000C/30 Pointe Noire
1700C/3 Jan. (4) Shifts to W/T organisation for area P at 1500C/2
Jan..
(C. in C. S. A. 1319C/27 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F. N.C.S.O. Walvis
Bay B.N. L. O. W.A.F.)

F.S. F.S. CDT. DROGOU from Freetown will R/V in 005°
COMMANDANT 19' N. 011° 12' W. at (?16) 30Z/28 and join
DROGOU. escort to Freetown. (C.F. 10)
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1415Z/27 to ALCANTARA (R) HYDRANGEA
Admty. HOLCOMBE, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU.)

Lieut. Ref. N.C.X.F. 1052A/26 following is passed for
Halle information. Up to fall of France Lieut. Halle
services. believed to be resident at Conakry as a Banana
Planter was French Liaison Officer on N.C.S. Staff
at Freetown. He first placed his services at full
disposal of C. in C. S.A. but later requested to be relieved of
his obligations. Halle believed to be sound and has good
knowledge of N.C.S. duties and convoy routine and might be of
value.
(D.T.D. 1425A/27 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.C.X.F.)

MOVEMENTS. Departure 27th. ARRAN. *See p. 941 B*
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1515/27 to Admty. (R)
S.O. (I) Freetown.)
Arrival 27th. Motor Launch Nos. 290, 296, and 271
(N.O.C. Takoradi, 1834Z/27 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

941A

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.

1205C/27th December.

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 27.12.42.

NAVAL CYPHER M by W/T & T/P.

Recd. 1405.

Addressed A.I.G. 125.

IMPORTANT.

CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR, 017 degs. 00' south
010 degs. 30' east to Walvis Bay 10 knots.

NORTHERN DUKE, standing by DUNEDIN STAR in vicinity

018 degs. 12' south 011 degs. 42' East

NETHERLAND SUB. 019, 025 degs. 20' south 006 degs. 40' east
to Freetown 8 knots

H.M.S. EXPRESS, GENISTA, with D.C.2 from Durban, expected
time of arrival Capetown 28th Dec.

VIVIANA, 025 degs. 40' south 013 degs. 25' east to Capetown
10 knots

H.M.S. FROBISHER, H.M.S. GAMBIA, FRITILLARY, with M.C.2,
024 degs. 50' south 048 degs. 40' east to Durban 10½.

H.M.S. GLENROY, H.M.S. JANUS, leave Capetown P.M. 27th
for Walvis Bay *Sailed - See previous page.*

H.M.S. FOXHOUND, INCONSTANT, (027 degs.?) 40' south, 042 degs.
00' east, 076 degs. 16 knots

CATTERICK, Supply Ship RELIANT, off Durban to Kilindini. *See previous page*

H.M.S. JASMINE, THYME, with C.D.3 and D.N.9, 030 degs. 00' south
035 degs. 20' east 088 degs. 7½ knots.

1205C/27.

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 Captain (2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D. of P.(2)

D.A/S.W.

D.T.D.(H)

Head of M.

W.D.

I.P.(2)

D.T.D.(3)

D.N.I.(4)

Advance copy Duty Capt.

D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

MC.

941B

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 1239Z/27th December IN

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

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 27.12.42.
Time 1458

Naval Cypher (I) By W/T

Addressed A.I.G. 149

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE, H.M.S. CHESIRE,
 H.M.S. ILEX, ~~M~~WILLIAM, ROCKWOOD, with W.S. 25,
 19 45 18 55 175deg 12½ *See pp. 938E*
 WOODRUFF, CROCUS, escorting 15 25 18 20 to 15 01
 18 20 thence 166 deg 11½. *See pp. 938E 1942*
 2 Motor Launches patrolling off CHOP. W.S. 25
 W 21 05 21 30 to 17 57 20 04 thence 167deg 24.
 BALUCHISTAN, 17 50 22 05 157 deg 12 at 1959Z
 27th. *See pp. 940A 1942*
 ARRAN, off St. Vincent to North West 8½. *See p. 941*
 INKPEN, 09 20 16 35 to Freetown 10½

1239Z/27.

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

- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (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)
- maf. Ad. Blake.

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Movements.
(Contd.)Arrival 27th DESPATCH.
(S.O.(I). Freetown, 2005Z/27 to Admty., N.O.I.C.
Lagos.)

BALUCHISTAN.

*See p. 940A*From 015° 52' N. 021° (?)10' W. proceed to
Bathurst. E.T.A. 29th Dec.
(R.A.W.Af., 1541Z/27 to BALUCHISTAN, N.O.I.C.
Port of London, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)W.S. 25,
*WOODRUFF,
CROCUS.*See p. 938 E*WOODRUFF, CROCUS from Bathurst will join escort
of W.S.25 in 012° 15' N. 018° 14' W. at 0800Z/29.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1543Z/27 to CARNARVON CASTLE, (R)
Admty., Escort W.S.25.)French
Convoys
coast of
W. Africa,
Liaison
Officer.Your 1052/26. There are Free French Naval and
Military Liaison Officers and staffs at Freetown
and several Free French Corvettes operating from
here. Consider it would be most difficult to
accept a Liaison Officer from Karar (? Dakar)
at present, but hope to send officer to Glassfurd's
staff shortly and who could also act as Liaison
with Admiral Collinet if acceptable. In the
meantime Collinet can communicate with me through American
Mission and I am anxious to afford him every help.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1610Z/27 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1052/26th. In any arrangements you make with the French at
Dakar for A/S air escort of convoys request that general lines of
T.C.A.O. particularly T.C.A.O.11 may be followed as far as
possible so as to obtain uniformity in North and West Africa.
(N.C.X.F., 1624A/27 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

QUEEN MARY.

From position R steer for new position T 07° N.
21° W. thence direct to Freetown omitting S.
(D.O.D.(F), 1725A/27 to QUEEN MARY, (R) F.O.C.
W.A.F.)
Your 1631Z/27 (N.T. in W.R.) received. New E.T.A. 1600Z/29th.
Do you concur.
(QUEEN MARY, 2137A/27 to F.O.I.C. W.A.)BUTTERMERE,
WASTWATER
escort to
minesweepers.*See p. 953*B.A.D. 1603Z/24 and S.B.N.O.W.A. 1752/25 neither
to Comsolant, request BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER are
sailed as escort to (?) minesweepers for voyage
Trinidad. Pernambuco. Freetown.
(F.O.W.Af. 1813Z/27 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Comsolant-
for, (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty.)CROCUS,
EMPIRE
ELAINE.E.T.A. 0730Z/28 ^{with} CROCUS escorting EMPIRE ELAINE
draught 18½ feet. Request pilot if available.
(WOODRUFF, 2130Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R)
R.A.W.Af.)OAKBANK
"S" Report.Received 0133 G.M.T. de EMPIRE BARRIE SSSS de
OAKBANK 2° 33' S. 36° 45' W.
(Portishead Radio, 2238/27 to Admty.)

943

27.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements. Arrival CHITRAL.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0444Z/27 to Admty., etc.)
Arrival 26th Dec., FALK, M.L.354, CROOME, BELVOIR,
ANTWERP. Departure 26th Dec. BRIGAND, SOUTHERN MAID, FALK,
BURRA, KAI, SOUTHERN ISLE, M.L.349, ERICA, G.S. SAKTOURIS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0921B/27 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
26th Dec. departure WOLBOROUGH, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, F.S.
COMMANDANT DOMINÉ.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 1250B/27 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)
Departure P. 35. *See p. 945*
(V.A. Malta, 1440A/27 to Admty., C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1,
Capt. S.8, (R) N.C.X.F.)
Algiers departure, TIGRIS, P.217.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1818A/27 to Admty.)
27th Dec. Port Said arrival, FALK.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1821B/27 to Admty., etc.)
Algiers arrivals, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER,
ZETLAND, WILTON, PRINSES BEATRIX from Bone. *WISHART from Arzeu.
Departure Tug HENGIST to Bougie. LAPEGERIA to Philippeville.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2006A/27 to Admty.) **See p. 938*

W.S. 24A, Convoys W.S.24A, C.M.36 arrived less SALWEEN
C.M. 36. proceeded Berbera.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0538Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

P. 211. Move to position 033° 09' 012° 06' by 1600/28th.
See next page (Capt. S.10, 1053A/27, 1242A/27 to P.211.)
You were probably sighted twice shortly before
sunset today.
(Capt. S.10, 1945A/27 to P.211.)

M.T.Bs for Intend to sail V.10 in M.T.B. 268 with 260, 265
Bone. and 266 in company to Bone today 27th. Detail as
in my 1206A/26th, not to 201 Group and 247 Wing.
2. Intend M.T.B. 307, 315 and 316 shall make
coastal sweeps off Hammamet from 2330A/27th to 0130/28th then
returning to Malta.
(V.A. Malta, 1058A/27 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S., S.O. Force Q,
C.C.F., C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Bone, 247 Wing, No. 201 N.C.
Group.)
7 M.T.Bs will be proceeding Malta to Bone tonight routed north
of Pantellaria and Q.B. 201. They will not attack S/MS.
(Capt. S.10, 1451A/27 to S/MS on Patrol.)
Cancel my 1058A/27th. Weather unsuitable.
(V.A. Malta, 1722A/27.)

/Situation ...

944

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation S/Ms. P.211 reports 1548/18th Dec. sank 150 tons southbound schooner laden with petrol three miles south of Hammamet. *See previous page*

(2) At 1234/20th Dec. in position 036° 04' N. 010° 30' E. gunned 400 ton southbound tanker, later beached.

(3) At 2052/22nd Dec. 5 miles south of Hammamet gunned D/G fitted schooner ROSINA, 12 prisoners taken including C.O. Vessel finally sunk by one torpedo.

(4) RORQUAL laid mines south-east Cani Rock 8th Dec. and north-west of Ischia Channel 17th Dec. At 2041/18th Dec. in position 9 miles North West of Ischia probably sank 2500 tons northbound laden motor vessel.

(5) Malta. JAVELIN and PALADIN made sweeps R.A.S. Turgeuness area p.m. 25th/26th Dec. but found nothing.
(C. in C. Med., 1245B/27 to Admty.)

S/Ms for A/S Training. As submarines are no longer required for supply of petrol to Malta, NEBOJSCA should be sailed for Kilindini as soon as practicable.

2. It is requested that you will report if OSIRIS can be made fit for A/S training without returning to U.K. for refit.

3. PARTHIAN is to be used for A/S training in Mediterranean. Capt. S.10 2319/14th Dec. refers.

4. Agreement of Greek authorities in London for use of Greek S/M MATROZOS for this purpose is also being sought.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. on O.D.1244/42, 1257A/27 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.S.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 4 small vessels 33.02 N. 12.10 E. 110°, 7 knots.
(A/C C/S GMRA, 1345/27 to Hal Far.)

P.219. (1) Your escort will be M.L.338.
(2) MINNA from Bone arrive Algiers 0900A/28.
(3) Convoy from West arrive Algiers 1400/28th.
(4) Several Corvettes leave Bone p.m. 27th coastwise to Algiers, (Capt. S.8, 1356A/27 to P.219, (R) TIGRIS, P.217.)

E.T. 7. Owing to slowness discharge petrol through fumes all other cargo discharged not considered missed this convoy, following 2 vessels sailed today in E.T.7 to U.K. with cased petrol remaining OCEAN TRAVELLER 25 tons, CITY OF PERTH 40 tons agreed with Military. Position explained to N.O.I.C. Inshore F.O. Squadron but convoy had to sail.
(D.S.T.O. Bone, 1410A/27 to D. of S.T., (R) P.S.T.O. X.F.)

PAKENHAM, PALADIN. 2 destroyers may be leaving Malta at 2030A tonight to operate in the vicinity of position K and will be leaving for return journey about 0400A/28th.

If they are sighted you are to dive and remain deep until they have passed.

S/M will not be attacked.

(Capt. S.10, 1616A/27 to P.35.) * *See next page*
/Sailed ...

945

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con. 7.PAKENHAM,
PALADIN.
(Contd.)Sailed PALADIN, PAKENHAM.
(V.A. Malta, 2210A/27.)Malta Air
Report.A.I. 203, C.S.R. 27th Dec. Part 1.
Night 26th/27th Dec. No enemy air activity
locally.

Day 27th Dec. 3 Beaufighters of which 2 carried bombs searched for enemy shipping in Ras Kaboudia area but sighted nothing. In addition 18 Spitfire and 3 Beaufighter sorties have been made in offensive sweeps against Axis transport aircraft and shipping but nothing was sighted. 1230 hours, 3 Me.109s approached Malta and were intercepted North of island by 4 Spitfires who without loss to themselves destroyed 1 Me.109 and forced the others to turn back.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1939Z/27.)

Salvage
Ships.

N.C.X.F. 2355/24th being passed to addressees. Request you will comply and report dates of sailing.
(C. in C. Med., 2016B/27 to N.O.I.C. Massawa,
(R) N.C.X.F., etc.)

P. 35.

*See p. 943.
(Phos mmt)*

Have suspected case of diphtheria temperature 104°. Have not (? got intended) to return E.T.A. 0801A/28th. Now proceeding south to avoid surface forces.
(P.35, 2141A/27 to Capt. S.10.)

Benghazi.
Situation
Report.

Departures H.S.L. 2515, 215, 2518. (WHEATLAND ?) arrived. Cargo discharged 3029 tons despite westerly swell making outer harbour unworkable and badly congested quays due to bogged transport. Convinced that with improved organisation on quayside and proper use of appliances the figure can be maintained in all but worst of weather. Night fighters which have been grounded for 36 hours in operation tonight. Boom in operation across inner harbour entrance. Hope to recover from enemy outer boom and gate within 48 hours if weather moderates. 6 inch guns in operation.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2252B/27 to C. in C. Med.)

M.W.17.

Total unloaded to 1700/27th, 12751 tons. Operation will be completed p.m. tomorrow Monday.
(V.A. Malta, 2315A/27 to C. in C. Med.)

P. 45.

You have freedom of action in your area, keep within striking distance of coast.
(Capt. S.10, 2345A/27 to P.45.)

946

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

SEMLA It is intended to use SEMLA as a local patrol craft at Colombo. Request approval to fit type 123A Asdic. Stores are available. She is being replaced by M.F.V. as examination vessel.
(F.O. Ceylon 0322Z/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Movements. Arrival NETRAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 0503Z/27 to Admty. etc.)
Departure HINNOY.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 0531Z/27 to Admty. etc.)
Colombo departure 27th Dec. 0030Z MARGUERITE.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 1302Z/27 to Admty etc.)
Arrivals 27th Dec. HAWKINS, departing 27th Dec. DERWENT, RANPURA.
(F.O.E.A., 1501Z/27 to Admty.) (Kilgus)

Reunion Following information obtained from the C.O. situation. F.S. LEOPARD. The population of Reunion are in danger of starvation. No clothing is available in shops and in parts of island the French White population are practically naked. At present island is sympathetic towards United Nations but if faced with starvation Governor fears there will be trouble. Immediate needs are for rice flour salt cooking fats cattle and clothing.

LEOPARD left officer and twelve men on island - he enlisted 1000 soldiers but they are short of uniforms and boots, so training is difficult. LEOPARD's men are clearing Dredger sunk in entrance to Port De Galets. Other small Dredger is deepening Channel and C.O. considers ship with draught nineteen feet could now enter harbour. There are ample lighters and tugs for unloading ships outside. Two guns in battery at Port de Galets have been repaired but maximum range is eight thousand yards. C.O. states that M. Pillet who has very strong Axis sympathies is at present in custody of Governor of Mauritius.

I understand similar reports have been made to General De Gaulle and Governor of Mauritius.
(C. in C. E.F. 0528Z/27 to Admty.)

M/Vs F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 0622/19th (Re Merchant ships in firing on certain areas firing on single aircraft) and F.O.I. aircraft. C. Ceylon's 0621/23rd (Re consider risk of attack by single aircraft on East Coast is such that no restriction must be put on Merchant Ship power of self defence. I agree with views of F.O.I.C. Ceylon on this matter.
(C. in C. E.F. 0749Z/27 to Admty.)

Japanese Hospital Ships. Japanese Gov. have intimated that following ships being employed as hospital ships (1) CHICAGO MARU 5866 tons. (2) ARABIA MARU 9480 tons. (3) HUSO MARU 8195 tons. (4) BUENOS AIRES MARU 9625 tons. (5) YOSHINO MARU 8990 tons (6) MIKASA MARU 3143 tons. Report will be issued confirming acceptance of these vessels as Hospital Ships.
(C. in C. E.F. 0829Z/27 to E.I. Station.)

/French ...

947

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.French
Somali-
land.Situation Jibuti.

Fighting French Force under Col. Reynal crossed Frontier 0600 hrs. 26th Dec. Garrison Ali Sabi Sabiot joined Reynal's force. Break in railway line repaired by 1600 hours and force left by train to seize bridges at Hol Hol and

Chebele. Both taken without opposition. Indications that Jibuti still in ignorance of present situation.

(G. O. C. in C. E.A. 0958C/27 to W.O.).

Pass to C. in C. M.F., A.O.C. in C. Minstate, D.C. in C. E.F. C.H.Q. Aden.

Passing 0014 D.T.D. 28th Dec. 1942 from Adv. 12 Div. addressed to H.M.S. HERO, R.A.F. Aiscia, (R) E.A. Comd. (Begins).

For Commodore and group Captain Humble. Situation is as follows. Ref. Map Jibuti one over 10,000 Fighting French occupied last night Negad Sal and Bouet which are forward posts on railway and road approx. 2 miles south of main defences. This morning Jibuti Battn. occupying Western defences reported rallying to Fighting French. I received telegram this morning from General Dupont saying he was sending me letter offering discuss terms. Have replied direct saying that I would meet him at 1800 hrs today in Chebele to take measures to rally Jibuti to United Nations as part of Free France but that could discuss no other terms. Strong indication that resistance Jibuti is breaking up and I think Dupont will sign tonight. Managing to keep population informed. Meanwhile arrangements commencement of "Pentagon" at 0800 hours 29th Dec. will stand. (Ends). R.A.F. Aiscia pass to HERO. Original T.O.O.1139C/27. (G.O.C. in C. E.A. 1630C/27 to W.O.)

Enemy
Unit.

By D/F on 8470 K/cs. at 1859Z/26th, position of unknown German unit was 020° S. 098° E.

Unreliable fix.

(C. in C. E.F. 1649Z/27 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Considered U-Boat see Admty.1613/28.

ILE DE
FRANCE.

Your 0515/26. ILE DE FRANCE is due Bombay about 13th Jan. with following approx numbers of U.S. personnel on board for disembarkation:- (a) for India 2,000 (b) for outward movement to Iraq 5,000.

2. After disembarkation vessel is to proceed to Suez for service as detailed in A.M.1537/19. P.S.T.O. Middle East should advise you of date by which she should arrive.

3. Presume you will make as much use as possible of her on the voyage Bombay to Suez so as to save ships intended for B.A. convoys (D. of S.T. 1721A/27 to P.S.T.O. India).

Shipping
Routes
Colombo
capacity.

In order to avoid U-boats on Trinidad Capetown route it is intended to route some well powered ships to India and Persian Gulf through Panama and Pacific.

2. Anticipated total monthly increase of 25 to 30 United Nations ships calling Colombo.

3. Request confirmation this is within capacity of port.

(D.T.D.1828A/27 to F.O. Ceylon (R) C.in C. E.F. etc.)

Reply: 0646/28

MOST SECRET

1830A/27 December.
WARNING: This is an unparaphrased verbatim 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 the War Office. Date: 27.12.42.
Read: 2020.
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One Time Pad "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

Addressed 12 A Division, repeated G.O.C. in C. East Africa, Mideast for Minstate.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

89596 Cipher (M.O.11) dated 27 December.

Your 15534 December 26.

Following for Hopkinson from F.O.

1. U.S. Government have not yet gone as far as we hope.

2. H.M. Ambassador only received on December 24 letter from Hull answering representations in my tel. 7977 to Washington. Main points of letter were (A) U.S. Consul made no sort of agreement with French authorities in Jibuti. (B) U.S. Government were averse to any bloodshed at all at Jibuti, which in view of U.S. Military authorities, might have unfortunate repercussions in French North and West Africa. (C) While not questioning that strategic command of East Africa theatre is in British hands, U.S. Government cannot believe that Jibuti question is so urgent as to demand immediate solution. (D) Assurance is requested that no action will be taken involving any danger of civil strife. Hull later told H.M. Ambassador that death of Darlan made it more important than ever to avoid bloodshed at Jibuti.

3. Tel. from Washington summarising this letter crossed our tel. to Washington instructing H.M. Ambassador to inform U.S. Government of our decision to proceed with our programme at Jibuti. We have not yet had U.S. reaction to this communication but we decided that as Jibuti is in last resort solely a British responsibility we were justified in going ahead without awaiting it notwithstanding Hull's letter.

1830A/27.

✓ T.O.O. 1130/26.

War Office circulation:-

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- 1st S.L.(2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- Sec.
- N.A.1st S.L.
- 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)
- Adm. Blake.
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)

- S. of S.
- P.U.S.
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- Brig. Jacob(Cabinet Offices)
- Major Morton (10 Downing St)
- 20 Mil. Mission (Col. Archdale) (2)
- 20 Mil. Mission (Mr. Rooker)(2)

948

27.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Attacks on Convoy O.N.S. 154.

Situation. At 0110Z/27th, while searching H/F D/F bearings, R.D.F. (? contact) was obtained 8 miles on starboard bow of convoy. Contact was chased and 2 torpedoes were heard fired on my port beam. This indicates 2 U-Boats. My position 045° 51' N. 027° 52' W. Weather report 5460 2954.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0134Z/27 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., G.T.G. 24.7.)

EMPIRE GERAINT (incorrect, see 1017/27) *next page* EMPIRE GERAINT torpedoed. I think one other. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0203Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.) EMPIRE GERAINT, fourth ship in port column, torpedoed at (? 0205Z). Consider third U-Boat attacked submerged from (? port beam). *NAPANEE cover rescue vessel. H/F D/F bearings indicate another attack from ahead. Intend to keep escort close this time. 37 65 28 54.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0405Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)

KING EDWARD. (U.N.S. 154) Ship torpedoed at (? 0415)Z. Probably KING EDWARD. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0427Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)
My 0405/27th. From A.C.I. (A) 0415Z/27th. (B) 1 submerged. (C) From ahead. (D) KING EDWARD. (E) Nil. (F) NAPANEE cover rescue vessel. (G) Corvette will be run short of fuel request relief.. Intend continue close screening, P.C.S. 045° 30' 028° 40' 239°, 6.5, weather report 3845 2654.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0435Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav.)

U/B attacked by ST. LAURENT. Sighted U-Boat starboard quarter of convoy. Dropped pattern off periscope by eye. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0548Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)
My 0548, dropped 3, did not get U-Boat.
Remaining generators failed at critical moment. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0612Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)
Sighted and closed U-Boat starboard side convoy. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0640Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav.)

U-Boats reported. D/F bearings between midnight and 0600Z/27 indicate three or four U-Boats in contact with convoy. It is estimated that about six more U-Boats are within 120 miles of convoy endeavouring to make contact.
(D.D.I.C., 0927A/27 to Escorts O.N.154.)

/BADSWORTH ...

949

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (cont'd.)Attacks on Convoy O.N.S. 154 - Contd.

BADSWORTH, Fuel just permits proceeding to assistance of
WOLVERINE, O.N.154, being heavily attacked. Approx. P.C.
assistance. and S. of convoy at 0900Z/27th, 047° 40' N. 024°
50' W. 239°, 7 knots. Oiler is available at
convoy but fuelling must not be relied on when
deciding whether it is practicable to join. Even a few hours
support is desirable. Request intentions.
(C. in C. W.A., 0938Z/27 to BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE, (R)
Ships escorting O.N.154, Admty., C.T.F.24, C. in C. U.S.
Fleet (C. & R.))
Your 0938Z/27th. Fuel situation does not permit ships to
join convoy unless fuelling can be definitely relied on.
BADSWORTH anti-submarine out of action and R.D.F. unreliable.
Intend proceeding to destination direct. My position 047° 01'
N. 019° 31' W. Weather report 6381 1463.
(BADSWORTH, 1101Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) O.N.154, etc.)
O.N.154. My 0938/27th. Amend P.C. and S. of convoy to
046° 42' N. 025° 40' W. at 1100Z/27th, 239°, 7 knots altering
to 192° at 1500Z/27th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1423Z/27 to BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE.)

Refuelling Your 0435/27th. Corvette should be refuelled
from Oiler. from Oiler if possible even though convoy is
threatened.
(C. in C. W.A., 1002Z/27 to C.T.U. 24.1.11, (R)
C.T.F.24, Connav, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.,
C.T.G. 24.7.)
Have instructed corvettes to obtain oil at whatever risk
or damage. Is this approved? Will report casualties when
fully informed. My P.C. and S. are 45° 10' N. 28° 28' W. 239°
7 knots. Weather report 5470 2654.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1140Z/27 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.)
My 1140/27th. Amend position to read 046° 42' N. 025° 40'
W. at 1100Z. My 0612/27th. All equipment in all escorting
working except defective type 271 in KENOGAMI.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1250Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)
O.N.S. 154. My 1002/27th and your 1140/27th. Corvettes
should not be fuelled regardless of damage but they should be
fuelled one at a time during daylight unless attacks are
actually in progress.
(C. in C. W.A., 1428Z/27 to Ships escorting O.N.S.154, (R)
Connav, etc.)

Ships torpedoes. EMPIRE GERAIN was not torpedoed. Following ships
torpedoed KING EDWARD, MELROSE ABBEY, SOEKABOEMI
and EMPIRE UNION. KING EDWARD sank immediately
with no survivors.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1017Z/27 to A.I.G. 303.)

/Course ...

War Diary.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - 4/11/42

Attacks on Convoy O.N.S. 154 - Contd.

Course. O.N.S. 154. General situation requires that your course be altered forthwith to 192°. This means course is to be held until further orders. (C. in C. W.A., 1318Z/27 to Escorts of O.N.S.154, (R) WOLVERINE, V.A. Gibraltar, BADSWORTH, Admty., C.O.A.C., Connav, C.T.F. 24, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7.)

ST. CROIX. Sail ST. CROIX when ready to reinforce escort O.N.154. Directive for employment CHELSEA and MANSFIELD will be issued later being governed by existing circumstances. (C.T. 24, 1611Z/27 to F.O.N.F., (R) C. in C. W.A., Mid-Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.11.)

→ CHILLIWACK, attack on U-Boat. Attacked submarine on the surface in position 044° 41' 021° 04'. (CHILLIWACK, 1905Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24, C.T.G. 24.7, Admty.)

D/F. Further D/F bearings including transmission on 4955 k/cs at 1731Z/27 indicate U-Boats still in contact with O.N.154. (D.D.I.C., 1909A/27 to Escorts O.N.154.)

Disposal of Survivors. Rescue vessel cannot accommodate any more survivors. Suggest landing survivors at Fayal. FIDELITY is appointed rescue vessel. NAPANEE covering TOWARD is 15 miles astern. P.C. and S. 046° 09' N. 026° 25' W. 192°, 7 knots. Weather report 4762 2852. *See p. 948*
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1915Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)
Your 1915. Not desired to land survivors at Fayal. If opportunity arises distribute them amongst ships of convoy.
(2) TOWARD should be retained in any case on account of H/F D/F.
(3) Rear ships of columns preferred to FIDELITY as rescue ship in view of latter's destination.
(4) Report fuel situation when W/T silence is next broken.
(5) Good Luck to your effort.
(C. in C. W.A., 2259Z/27 to C. Mid-Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.11, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7., Admty., Connav.)

SCOTTISH HEATHER (Oiler) damaged. SCOTTISH HEATHER torpedoed. That finishes oiling. My P.C. and S. 045° 54' N. 026° 39' W. 193°, 7 knots. Weather report 4651 2754. (C.T.U., 24.1.11, 2037Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24 etc.)

→ My 2037/27. CHILLIWACK sighted submarine 6 miles astern convoy.

(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 2105Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)

My 2037/27. SCOTTISH HEATHER still afloat and steaming.

(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 2128Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - *Lon 131.*

General.

- U/B. Fisherman report sighting of S/M S.S.E. Louisburg Light 5 miles at approx. 1900Z/26th. (C.O.A.C., 0009Z/27 to G.B. 7A.)
- Pacific Shipping Routes. Your 2130/24. A.C.N.B. and N.Z.N.B. are being requested to reply direct regarding coal bunkering facilities. 2. Navy Dept. do not anticipate that any U.S. controlled coal burners will be employed on this route and further that as "Liberty" ships will bunker to destination the off-take of bunker fuel oil from Australian and New Zealand ports will not be large. (B.A.D., 0213Z/27 to Admty.)
- L. 15. Allied S/Ms. Russia L.15 delayed. Modify my 1550/26th until further notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0233/27 to Admty.)
My 1745/23rd. Amend time of sailing L.15 read 1830/28th. Amend times of passing through positions to be - A 2030/29th. BB 2345/31st. CC 0300/3rd Jan. DD 2359/3rd Jan. EE 0700/6th. F 1115/8th. G 1845/8th. (C.O.A.C., 1448Z/27 to Admty., A.C.I.C., Cominch, F.O.S.)
- CACHALOT. U.S. S/M Notice. CACHALOT proceeding to port of Ponce, Puerto Rico, for repairs from vicinity 10 miles south of Mona R. E.T.A. Ponce 1200Z/27. Modify my 1509/26. *NT & W.D.* (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0421/27 to Admty.)
- Motor Minesweepers. Norfolk departed 1055Z/24 M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106, 107 for Miami. (N.S.H.Q., 0458Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C.O.AC. F.O.N.F.)
- Movement. Arrival 26th Dec., U.S. Transport STATE OF VIRGINIA. (N.C.S.O. Curacao, 1003QR/27 to Admty., (R) S.O. (I) Kingston.)
- Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T. 27th Dec.
- | Ship | Position | Course | Speed |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|
| VICTORIOUS)
3 destroyers) | 36½° N. 51° W. | 249° | 14 |
| BURDOCK)
PHOEBE) | 30½° N. 27° W. | 011° | 10 |
| BRIDGEWATER)
ARMERIA) | 02° N. 47½° W. | 305° | 11 |
| U.S.S.R.)
S/M S.55) | 47° N. 49° W. | 001° | 10 |
| U.S.S.R.)
S/M S.54) | 45½° N. 53° W. | 077° | 10 |
- (D.O.D.(F), 1037Z/27 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)

951A

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.)
MESSAGE 1045Z/27 Dec
OUT

To. C. in C. U.S. Fleet. Date. 27.12.42.
Rept. OPNAV.
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet
B. A.D. Washington. 890.

TYPE X U.S. SETTINGS.

From Admiralty.

Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic Fleet.

Operating in Northern Waters.

ANSON
CUMBERLAND
JAMAICA
SHEFFIELD
15 Destroyers.

Area Iceland (C)

NORFOLK

Area Scapa

KING GEORGE V
HOWE
MALAYA
BERMUDA
BERWICK
GLASGOW
KENT
1 Destroyer

Area Plymouth

ADVENTURE

Passage to U.K.

ARGUS
2 Destroyers.

Passage to Bermuda

VICTORIOUS
3 Destroyers

Area Gibraltar

NELSON
RENOWN
RODNEY
FURIOUS
FORMIDABLE
AJAX
AURORA
DELHI
SCYLLA
SIRIUS
6 Destroyers.

2. Cominch pass to C. in C. Lant.

1045Z/27

C.N.A.S.

N.A. 1st S.L.

A.C.N.A.S.

Capt. Pim.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

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

B.T.I. (M)

D.C. (2)

U.S.N.

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.A/S W.

I.P. (2)

Hd. of M.

W.D.

U.S.N. (3)

D.N.A.D.

RN

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

S.C. 113. My 1230/26th. S.C. now 50 ships present. Straggler as in my 1530/24th not to C.T.G. 24.6 plus one whom he cannot identify. Please inform LACONIKOS by B A M have been change of destination as in A.M. 1845/23. SHERWOOD, *CONDOLITIS may have to leave early. BROADWAY must leave about 12° W. unless can fuel. L.X. convoy. Weather report. * ? CONDYLLIS *in the 23.*
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1205Z/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav etc.)
My 1205/27th ASHBURY is missing ship.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1300X/27 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav etc.)

PICTOU E.T.A. 1730/27th, boiler hours. Urgent defect defects. steering gear and forward stokehold feed pump. (PICTOU, 1232Z/27 to F.O.N.F.)

Strategic Areas. Your 1705/26 (re suggest attempt be made to agree common rules for British and American strategic areas, 1247/27 - N.T. in W.D.) These complications are fully realised in Admiralty and the co-ordination of British and American rules is under urgent consideration.
2. Proposals will be communicated to you as soon as possible. (D.O.D.(F) 1301A/27 to B.A.D.)

CHAMPLAIN Following for C.C.R.T. H.M.R.T. FRISKY sailed aground. ?2030/26 to assist Tug CHAMPLAIN aground on Sand Bank at Lawn Bay, Burin Peninsula, Newfoundland. (F.O.N.F., 1431Z/27 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)

ORFOR Trinidad report British ORFOR torpedoed and (torpedoed abandoned 0300 G.M.T. 14th Dec. in approx. 016° 14th Dec.) N. 051° W. settling but not seen to sink. 1st mate and 14 men at Trinidad. 2 other boats and possible 2 rafts away, total crew 58. 2 U-Boats sighted. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1423R/27 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

S. 56. My 1758/23rd. Amend time of sailing S.56 to be 1830/28th. Amend time of passing through positions to be A 1630/29th. B 0530/31st. C (?12)30/2nd Jan. D 1845/2nd. E 1800/4th. X 1959/5th. Y 0500/7th. Z 1030/8th. (C.O.A.C., 1452Z/27 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Dakar Admty. please pass to British Chiefs of Staff, Mission. London. The following is message originated by Admiral Glassfurd as his 261400: Holmes proceeded to join Eisenhower on the 25th. Work TF AFATCOC (possibly corrupt groups, as received) air route facilities is proceeding. Until situation clarified on return Governor General the Mission activities are practically suspended. (Comnav, 1557/27 to Admty.)

/BUTTERMERE ...

953

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.BUTTERMERE,
WASTWATER.*See p. 942*

Bermuda departures BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER in accordance with my 1752/26th. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1622Z/27 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.C.S.F., etc.)

P.553.

C.O.A.C. Halifax is to sail P.553 to comply ? with Admty's 1221/18th.

(2) As this will now leave only one training submarine at Halifax for use by the large number of new construction vessels and ships working up after refitting it is requested that arrangements may be made for individual ships and group training to be carried out at Bermuda by R.C.N. ships. (N.S.H.Q., 1647Z/27 to Admty., C.O.A.C. Halifax, (R) C.C.N.F., B.A.D., etc.)

U/B
Positions.

Sub. Estimate Dec. 27th and U.S. Sub. Notice. (Cominch, 1628/27.)

U.G.F.,
G.U.F.
Convoys,
limits.

Present limits of 20 ships in U.G.F. and G.U.F. convoys and 45 ships in U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys are hereby increased by 3 ships each under the following conditions.

A. Addition in each case requested by U.S. Army.

B. Ships are carrying military equipment for French or commodities for civilian population of North West Africa or en route for us preparatory to such employment.

C. Ships are otherwise qualified for inclusion in these convoys. Admiralty pass to S.N.O. Casablanca, N.C.X.F. and C. in C. African forces.* Com. 3 pass to Port Director New York. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1802/27 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) C.E.S.F., Admty., N.C.X.F., Com.3, Port Director New York, S.N.O. Casablanca, C. in C. African Forces.)

* Passing action being taken by War Reg.

N.N.G.1,
O.T. 3.

Arrival 27th Dec. HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE N.N.G.1; MILFORD, TAMARISK escort O.T.3. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1902Q/27 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

U/B Reports.

My 2240Z/24th and 0009Z/27th. Reliability of these sightings is as follows my 2240Z/24th. Grading B.Z, my 0009Z/27th grading C.Z. (C.O.A.C., 1912Z/27 to Comtask Force 24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Comtask Group 24.7.)

Shipping
Routes.

In view of continued heavy losses in area between Cape San Roque and St. Pauls Rocks propose that all ships from South and West Africa to Trinidad and U.S. coast and vice versa be routed North-east of St. Pauls Rocks.

War Diary.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - con. 15.

Shipping
Routes.
(Contd.)

2. Ships to and from South America are covered by your 1858/26th Dec. not to C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C.W.Af. and it is presumed these will be included in Trinidad - Baia convoys when these are instituted.
(D.T.D., 1942A/27 to Connav, (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af.)
Reply: C. in C. S.A., 1115/28.

WASAGA,
TENACITY,
EMPIRE
WATERHEN.

Lost V/S contact with TENACITY and EMPIRE WATERHEN. Am hove to in strong gale. Intermittent snow.
(WASAGA, 2010Z/27 to F.O.N.F.)
My 1527/24 for SARNIA read WASAGA. Intend to sail VEGREVILLE 1130/28 to relieve WASAGA screening TENACITY and SS. EMPIRE WATERHEN reported in position 45.55 N. 45.50 W. at 1500/27. TENACITY second tow line parted. Two tow lines aboard VEGREVILLE.
(F.O.N.F., 2119Z/27 to C.T.F., (R) Cominch, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. 24.7.)

L.C.I.(L)
Route.

(1) My 2152/23rd Dec. para. (2). After position (W) add (X) 180° Lizard Head 3 miles and (Y) 050° 02'00" N. 004° 58'45" W., thence by Q.Z.S.278 to Plymouth.
(2) My 2049/24th Dec. You are to leave Bermuda at 2000Z/28th Dec. Date in para. 4 of my 2152/23rd Dec. should be amended (? to) read 11th Jan.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 2109Z/27 to L.C.I.(L) 164, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Cinclant, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Kingston, F.O.C.N.A., U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, C. in C. Plymouth.)

Sub attack
and sighting
summary.

ONS
154

Para. A. Following torpedoed area 45.35 N. 28.10 W. 27th Dec. MELROSE ABBEY, SOEKABOEMI, EMPIRE UNION, KING EDWARD sunk. QUEEN CITY sunk 00.50 S. 41.46 W. 21st Dec. Italian sub. reported. Schooner LUCY EVELYN shelled 12° N. 75° W. 2150Z/15th Nov. Position EMPIRE HAWK 05.56 N. 39.50 W. 0335Z/11. TEESBANK torpedoed sunk 03.25 N. 29.26 W. 0545Z/5. SOLON II later position approximately 10° N. 58.50 W. 2230Z/3. H.M.C.S. SHEDIAC attacks sub 47.50 N. 24.10 W. 2040Z/26. Surface craft attack subs. area 45.30 N. 28.15 W. 0548 and 0640Z/27. ^{GEORGE M.}
Para. B. BUCHANAN and INDEF 3 torpedo hits each. U.S.S. BIBB attacks sub 10.32 N. 57.09 W. 1336Z/27. Attack on sub 1500Z/24 my 2001/24 read 10.30 N. 55° W. 1500Z/23. My 2001/29 read 10.30 N. 55° W. 1500Z/23.
Para. C. Fisherman sights sub about 45.50 N. 59.55 W. 1900Z/26. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2130/27 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

SEAWOLF.

Departure SEAWOLF from New London delayed 3 hours. Correct times of my 1722Z/25th and my 1911Z/27th accordingly. Previously reported area limits and requested bombing restrictions remain in effect. By hand to SEAWOLF. (Com. S/MS Atlantic Fleet, 2322Z/27 to C.E.S.F., Com. 1st U.S. Naval Dist. and Cominch latter pass to N.S.H.Q., F.O.S., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.)

/MONTGOMERY ...

War Diary.27.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.MONTGOMERY. Charleston arrived 2300Z/26 MONTGOMERY.
(N.S.H.Q., 2337Z/27 to Admty.)Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No.339 Dec. 26th.
27th Dec. Enemy convoy located 2300Z/25 4° 30' S. 152° 30' E. course 360° probable composition
1 light cruiser, four destroyers, one M/V 8000 tons, one smaller. Larger M/V bombed, set on fire. Convoy continued southward but last sighted 0410Z/26 headed north 2 group with burning vessel under tow.
2. Photographic R/C showed one probable heavy cruiser, 1 M/V (beached), 2 small craft Having (? Kavieng) harbour morning. 26th. One M/V 8000 tons 3° S. 150° 15' E. headed Kavieng. 10 serviceable 2 damaged bombed 5 destroyed on aerodrome.
3. Reference Laivai landing reported Serial Number 337, 1 destroyer, 4 M/Vs arrived Yowsi morning 25th.
4. Some Allied gains Sinemi Creek ?area 26th. Stiff enemy resistance Government Gardens Area East of Allied Line. Enemy air activity Buna Area 26th as follows. Groups of Zeros with a few bombers attacked ground position and air strips Dobodura Area. P.40s intercepted. Results 5 Zeros destroyed, 4 probable one damaged. 2 Hudsons damaged one Osorty lost. Zeros also shot down Hudson off Oro Bay, one Zero destroyed by A.A. Another Zero shot down Amboga area.
5. Our air operations 26th. Liberator bombed set on fire large warehouse Madang encountered A.A. fire Qewak. Another bombed Cape Gloucester airfield observed hits on runway. 3 Bostons attacked Objemrivos along coast Amboga Ridge to Salamaua. Little activity observed except at Alumbayi. Fortress strafed Launch Rondahl Harbour (Lost of Jacquinet Bay) Laga (Timor) bombed and strafed by Beaufighters, buildings hit, fires started. Barges, stores, trucks strafed at Laivai. 4 Fortresses bombed shipping Rabaul Harbour at night, result unobserved.
6. Japanese submarine sunk by M.T. boat with 2 possible 3 torpedo hits off Kumusi River midnight 25th. Allied submarine sank enemy sub. off Gasmata 25th. Utmost secrecy is requested in all items dealing with submarines South West Pacific Area. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0920Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

Trawler Intend reorganising A/S M/S, M/S and all Trawlers Organisation. in New Zealand into Flotillas or Groups title of two fifth M.S.F. composed of MATAI and three R-RD class if still maintained. Although vessels, are fitted with A/S is it Admiralty's intention to retain this title. It is not known if SCOTTISH ISLES now in New Zealand are still designated seventh Trawler Group. Desire to form following

/Flotilla ...

War Diary.

27.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - *CON/7.*

Trawler
Organisation.
(Contd.)

Flotilla Groups including SCOTTISH ISLES - (A)
four combined M/S F/S and M/S, M/S A/S and M/S
(B) one LL (C) two spare for Castle Trawlers
when they become available. It is also desired
that two Flotilla numbers be allocated for M.Ls.
(N.Z.N.B., 1206M/23 to Admty.)
(Correction received in W.D. 29th December.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1331A/27, 1340A/27.)

28.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The 14 M/Vs in Convoy J.W.51B were about 240 miles E.N.E. of Jan Mayen Island at 0800 today; and a Russian air R/C at 1003A yesterday showed three enemy main units, believed by Admty. to be HIPPER, KÖLN and either LÜTZOW or NÜRNBERG, in Altenfiord.

C. in C. Portsmouth reports today that, owing to refittings and defects, there are at present no destroyers operationally available in his Command.

The swept channels at Liverpool which have been closed at night since March 1941 are now open again by day and night; but the port from the Bar Light Vessel inwards will now be closed daily from half an hour after sunset until half an hour before sunrise.

North Atlantic.

The accidental discharge this morning of a pom-pom on board RENOWN berthed in Gibraltar harbour caused casualties in that ship and on board VANOC and ERNE.

South Atlantic.

Shipping
Routes.

Replying to the Admty. suggestion (see 27th), for shipping to be routed via St. Paul's Rocks, C. in C. S.A., would much prefer to route slow ships from South Africa to South American ports for onward convoy, if Connav concurs. He thinks these ships have very little chance of survival either side of St. Paul's Rocks.

28.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

C. in C. Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, has returned to Alexandria from a visit to Western Desert ports. His visit to Malta was postponed owing to the unserviceability of aerodromes.

At 0553 today URSULA sank with 3 torpedoes a southbound 6000 ton troop transport in 38° 9' N. 11° 51' E. (about 40 miles west of Cape San Vito.)

M.E. 14. Convoy M.E.14 (four empty M/Vs) sailed from Malta this afternoon escorted by EURYALUS, DULVERTON, TETCOTT, BEAUFORT and PINDOS.

ST. ISSEY. Tug ST. ISSEY was sunk at 0750 in 32.37 N. 20.22 E., about 40' N.N.E. of Benghazi. This was at first attributed to a mine, but later, on the evidence of a German broadcast it was attributed to a U-Boat.

Air Operations. 12 Malta Wellingtons attacked Tunis and La Goulette docks last night. 1 Wellington also dropped bombs at Sousse. Today American B.24s bombed shipping in Sousse Harbour: two ships at the Commercial Quay were set on fire and a third ship in harbour was seen to explode, and hits were made in the port.

C. in C. Med. estimates that since the middle of November 4 vessels have been sunk in La Goulette for the 23 mines laid by aircraft in 4 raids. It appears that no other method will stop this difficult traffic.

East Indies.

French Somaliland. (Operation "Pentagon".) General Dupont, acting Governor of French Somaliland signed an agreement with the British military commander, Major-General Fowkes, and a representative of the Fighting French Nation Committee, M. Chancel at Chebele at 2015 today. By this agreement, French Somaliland adheres to the United Nations as part of Fighting France. The French National Committee in London issued the following announcement on 29th December.

/M. Andre ...

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies - cont'd.French
Somaliland.
(Operation
"Pentagon".)
Cont'd.

M. Andre Bayardelle, a colonial administrator, formerly in Equatorial Africa, has been appointed Governor of French Somaliland. M. Bayardelle has gone to Jibuti. French troops in the colony number about one division, and General de Gaulle is acceding to their urgent request to be transferred to an active theatre of operations as soon as possible.

General Legentilhomme, National Commissioner for War, and French High Commissioner for Madagascar and the Indian Ocean, has arrived at Jibuti to confer with General Dupont, commanding the French forces in the region.

Fighting French officials state that a garrison will be maintained in Somaliland to ensure the defence of this strategically important Red Sea territory.

Commodore, Aden, in HERO, with CERES, ROMNEY, POOLE, and Greek destroyer PANTHER were in the vicinity of Jibuti (but out of sight) for a co-ordinated demonstration of land, sea and air power to force the French to come to terms, but on the signing of the agreement Operation "Pentagon" was cancelled.

America and West Indies.

Attacks on
O.N.S.154.
*U.356 sunk by
ST. LAURENT
CHILLIWACK
BATTLEFORD &
NAPANEE 27/12
Pos. 45° 30' N.
25° 40' W.
(Gr. Rowbotham
& Co. 6943)*

The Admiralty estimated at 1151A today that at least 12 U-Boats are concerned in the attacks on Convoy O.N.S.154, and that about 6 may be in contact.

Early this morning, MILNE and METEOR of 3rd Destroyer Flotilla, escorting M.K.F.5, were ordered to reinforce the escorts of O.N.S.154. They anticipate joining by 1400Z/29th, but will have to part company by 0001Z/31, in order to fuel at Ponta Delgada.

At 2155Z, C.T.U. 24.1.11 (ST. LAURENT) reported that he believed 5 ships had been torpedoed, and at 2231Z, a further three.

At 0243Z, ST. LAURENT attacked a U-Boat on the surface 2 miles astern of the convoy and claims to have destroyed it, counting 14 explosions, (1 enormous) from 10 depth charges.

At 0317Z, CHILLIWACK claimed a direct hit on a U-Boat.

/CHILLIWACK ...

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies - conts:-Attacks on
O.N.S.154.
(Contd.)*U.356 sunk
by ST. LAURENT
etc. conts:-*

CHILLIWACK at 2007A made contact with a U-Boat on the surface, about 500 yards away, which crash dived. Ten charges were dropped over it in 43.23 N. 27.28 W. (or 31' W.)

At 2030Z, the convoy was attacked by 5 U-Boats, which were engaged by all the escorts, some with promising results. NAPANEE claims one, and ST. LAURENT also one probable.

At dusk C.T.U. 24.1.11 endeavoured to fly off FIDELITY's aircraft to cover an alteration of course but it crashed at take-off, both airmen being rescued. FIDELITY's main engine failed, and SHEDIAC was left to screen her.

At 2330Z, following an attack on a U-Boat, engine room damage was reported from CHILLIWACK, and it may be necessary to detach her to the nearest port.

Shipping
Routes.

As experience has shown that detaching southbound ships in O.N. convoys is seldom practicable in planned position about 35° W., D.T.D. has proposed to Connav to discontinue the southerly routing of these convoys. Southbound ships will be detailed when opportunity offers.

Convoy for
"Torch" Area.

Convoy T.M.1, 9 tankers for Gibraltar and "Torch" Area, escorted by HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, sailed from Trinidad today.

SS. TREWORLAS (Massowah for Baltimore) was torpedoed and sunk at 0845Z in 10° 52' N. 60° 45' W.

Australia and New Zealand.

Eight Liberators attacked the Rabaul area and Gasmata Aerodrome early this morning. Three direct hits were made on a heavy cruiser or large transport in Rabaul Harbour, setting the ship on fire.

961

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.SCYLLA,
CHARYBDIS.

Your 0043/9 para. 3. Request I may be informed whether SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS are being attached to Home Fleet for operational purposes or for administration only.
(C. in C. H.F., 1043A/28 to Admty.)

Movements.

DOLFIJN.

See p. 961 c

Arrival.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0350A/28.)

O.10.

It is anticipated that O.10 will be available to sail p.m. 3rd Jan. for Dundee to embark torpedoes and stores, arriving Dundee a.m. 4th Jan. She should be able to leave Dundee p.m. 4th Jan. for onward passage to Rothesay.

(2) Escort from Blyth to Dundee will be by rescue motor launch from Blyth.

(3) It is understood that Capt. (S) 9 can provide escort from Dundee as far as Scapa.

(4) It is requested escort from Scapa may be provided.
(Capt. S.6, 0945/28 to Capt. S.7.)

CLYDE.

F.O.(S) 1128/23, C. in C. Plymouth 1031A/26. Onward route for CLYDE from 050° 10' N. 015° 02' W. to 050° 00' N. 026° 00' W., thence as ordered by U.S. Authority.
(C. in C. W.A., 1006A/28.)

P.225.

Clyde arrivals. P.225 escorting ^{ED by} AYRSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1126A/28.)

P. 55.

See p. 961 c

Sailed P.55 escorted by AYRSHIRE in accordance with S.3's 1047A/26.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1136A/28 to Consubron.)

GEORGE W.
CAMPBELL.

CAMPBELL sailed independently to join escort unit 24.6.5. CAMPBELL has orders to report to C.T.U. 24.1.3 for duty at I.C.O.M.P. and augment that escort unit.
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1215Z/28 to C.T.F. 24.)

W.A.
Command.

Situation at 1958A/28. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1359A/28.)
See Lion Copy.

S/M
Positions.

At 0800/29. Details.
(F.O.S., 1546A/28.)
See Lion Copy.

961^B-

<u>Section S.W.</u>	<u>SITUATION AT 1958A/28/12/42</u>	<u>SECRET CODE</u>
WOLVERINE	54 19 11 16 To Liverpool	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
BADSWORTH	54 19 11 16 To Londonderry	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 M/V in tow of tug.	LAGAM 54 12 14 35 066 degs.	7
M.K.F. 5	FLEET UNIT 5 sloops. 1 corvette.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
K.M.S. 6	BLACK SWAN 1 Sloop 10 corvettes.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
K.M.F. 6	EGRET 2 destroyers. 2 corvettes 2 sloops.	12
O.N.S. 154. C.T.U. 24.1.11.	ST. LAURENT BATTLEFORD CHILLIWACK SHEDIAC KENOGAMI NAPANEE	43 19 27 18 Steering 192 degs. 7

1359A/28.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H) 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.T.D. (M)
Duty Captain (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. (C)
D.D.O.D. (M)
D. of P. (2)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D.M.S.
C.C.R.T.

961R

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.)

1546A/28th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From F.O.S.

Date 28.12.42.

Reed. 1618.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

432.

Positions of S/Ms at 0800/29th and movements for the following 24 hours

- (A) TORBAY, 70 degs. North 14 degs. East for Lerwick
- (B) SOKOL, 70 degs. 35' North 15 degs. 50' East for Lerwick
- (C) P.223, 70 degs. 55' North 16 degs. 10' East through 70 degs. 55' North 15 degs. 20' East for Lerwick
- (D) P.339, 70 degs. 55' North 16 degs. 59' East through 70 degs. 55' North 14 degs. 10' East for Lerwick
- (E) O.14, 61 degs. 40' North 00 degs. 40' East for Lerwick submarines in (A) to (E) on the surface at C.O.'s discretion *See p. 967*
- (F) P.49, P.216, P.312, and GRAPH, on patrol in Norwegian waters East of 20 degs. East
- (G) URIEDD, escorted by LOCH MONTEITH, 59 degs. 20' North 01 degs. 30' West, E.T.A. Lerwick 1500/29th.
- (H) P.55 escorted by AYRSHIRE 56 degs. 40' North 07 degs. 10' West via Minches to Lerwick $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots. *See p. 961*
- (J) DOLFIJN 50 degs. 10' North 12 degs. 30' West dived by day through 50 degs. 10' North 12 degs. 40' West and as in my 1544/27th para (H). *See p. 961*
- (K) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, in Zone K 501.
- (L) U.S.S. SHAD, in Zones K 502 and 506. *See p. 962*
- (M) U.S.S. BARB, off Vigo. *See p. 970⁷³*
- (N) U.S.S. HERRING, in Zone K 505.
- (O) H.43, exercising vicinity Great Ormes Head. *See p. 963.*
- (P) P.315, P.53, escorted by POTENTILLA, leave Barrow 1500/29th for Clyde E.T.A. 0800 30th.

1546A/28

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

A.C.N.S.(H).	D.D.O.D.(M).	D.T.D.(M).	
N.A. 1st S.L.	Duty Captain (2).	Head of M.	
Captain Pim.	D.D.I.C.(2).	W.D.	
D.O.D.(H) (2).	D. of P.(2).	I.P.(2).	P.N.L.O.
D.O.D.(F) (2).	D.A/S.W.	U.S.N.(3).	D.N.I.(4).

962

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- P.229. C. in C. W.A. 0942A/26. Intend to sail SKATE 1530A/30 to R/V with P.229 in 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 0830Z/1st. S.O.A. to R/V 10 knots, thence 12 knots to Clyde. E.T.A. Boom 0900A/3. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1602A/28.)
- ONSLAUGHT. Sail at 2000/30th and proceed by searched channels to Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1721A/28 to ONSLAUGHT.)
- ATLANTIS. On completion of embarkation of invalids, H/S ATLANTIS should be sailed for New York on 30th Dec. calling at Belfast en route to embark a further 60 Army invalids. After disembarkation at New York, ship should proceed to Cape for orders. (D.S.T., 1848A/28 to D.S.T.O. Newport.)
- PETERHEAD. My 1136/27. Sailing postponed until weather moderates. (C. in C. H.F., 1901A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

- Patrols. Duty tonight. Patrols 6 CAMPBELL, 7 CATTISTOCK. Destroyers to be on patrol by 1900. Patrols may be altered by C. in C. (C. in C. Nore, 1108A/28.)
1 M.L. and 1 R.M.L. patrolling 20 miles South of Anvil Pt. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1533A/28 and 1644A/28.)
2 M.Ls on patrol 15 miles S.E. Portland Bill. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1637/28.)
- Biscay S/M Patrols. (1) As there are 4 S/Ms now operating in Bay of Biscay, propose to take opportunity to reconnoitre the route used by Bilbao - French ports (corrupt group) ~~GRETRAD~~ *de trade*.
* SHAD.
* *See previous page* (2) If approved intend to order SHAD to R/C north of Spanish coast between longitude, of Bilbao and 002° 15' W. with instructions not to attack shipping unless definitely identified as enemy and shipping is outside territorial waters.
(3) C. in C. Plymouth concurs. (F.O.S., 1201A/28 to Admty.)
Your 1201/28. Approved. (Admty., 2310A/28 to F.O.S.)
- N.W. Norway S/M Patrol. Following S/Ms will be required to leave Lerwick 12th Jan. for patrol in accordance with my 1512/11. P.314, P.224, TRIDENT, *UREDD, JUNON. (F.O.S., 1309A/28.) * *See previous page*

/Landing ...

963

28.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Landing
operation.
NAMSOS.*? Spitzbergen.
See 25/11-
p. 1043.*

Following is a recoded version of NAMSOS 1225/28 to Admty., Repeated A.C.I.C., N.N.L.O. Ice conditions growing bad. Landing conditions bad. Wireless station not landed. Trying to embark superfluous crew. Ship leaving daybreak tomorrow.
(A.C.I.C., 1639A/28 to Admty.)

East Coast
M/L Patrols.

Pending issue of written orders the following routines for 60th and 69th R.M.L. Flotillas is to come into force today 28th December.

(1) 69th R.M.L. Flotilla to continue patrol from the Humber as ordered by Nore's 118A of 19th Jan. 1942 when available, with the exception that H.Q.B.C. are being requested to inform C. in C. Nore when patrols are required, and R.M.Ls are not to be sailed automatically, when weather permits, as ordered in para. 5 of the above quoted letter.
(2) 60th R.M.L. Flotilla at Yarmouth will be detailed to maintain a patrol in conjunction with other coastal forces in vicinity of 53° 00' N. 02° 20' E. and will be recalled by signal when no longer required.
(C. in C. Nore, 1914A/28.)

Exercises.Trials at
Liverpool.
H. 43.*See p 961c*

My 0129A/27. Trials delayed owing to technical breakdown at shore end. Hope repairs will be effected in time to commence 0930A/29. H.43 and GLEN STRATHALLAN proceeding to Moelfre meanwhile.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1101A/28 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Torpedo
Trials.

A.M. 1812A/7 and your 1531/14.
Regret destroyer not likely to be available for about a month unless one is relieved from convoy escort duty.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1140A/28 to VERNON.)

Allied Air Activity.Convoy
Cover Patrol.

Anti E-Boat cross-over patrols will be carried out by Swordfish and Whitley aircraft from 1830 today till dawn 29th to cover passage of convoys. Object of aircraft is to report, attack and shadow E-Boats. Details and positions.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1344A/28 and 1809A/28 to Escorts W.P.270 and P.W.270.)

984

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. One F.W. sighted over Vattarnes course N.W. at 1257/28, and from Akureyri at 1458, course N.W. (A.C.I.C., 1729A/28.)

Mining.

Operation H.S. ADVENTURE. *(Mining in St. George's Channel)*
 1. Request you will sail ADVENTURE for Milford Haven when ready.
 2. Intention is to proceed with Operation H.S. subject to minimum interference with preparation by Mine Depot of Mark XVII mines to be held in readiness for transport to Mediterranean by ADVENTURE if required. (A.C.N.S. (H), 1152A/28 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy. P.C.S. of 3 merchant vessels and 3 E/V 47° 14' N. 04° 25' W. 070° 18 knots. (A/C, 0055/28 to 19 Group.)

GURNARD report. No target sighted by GURNARD that could be definitely identified as enemy. Sighted about 50,000 tons coastal shipping with proper Spanish marking. No enemy aircraft patrols sighted. Numerous drifting mines Irish Sea. (Comsubron 50, 1016Z/28 to F.O.S.)

SCHARNHORST, PRINZ EUGEN, GNEISENAU on 18th Dec. German main units. Gdynia December 18th. (1) SCHARNHORST alongside Belgian Wharf. SCHARNHORST has been carrying out exercises lasting two to three days off Gdynia. Graded B.3. (2) PRINZ EUGEN at anchor off Belgian Wharf. Graded B.2. (3) GNEISENAU lying in basin number 3. Guns removed. No repairs appear to be in progress. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1717/28.)
 O.I.C. Comment: The above corroborates similar information dated 17th December.

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. By D/F at 0713Z U-Boat within 60 miles of 51° 30' N. 19° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 0902A/28 to Escorts K.M.S.6.)
 At 1307Z U-Boat heard transmitting B barred message bearing 217° within 30 miles. (C.T.U., 24.1.12, 1430Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
 See Shipping.
 Bearing by D/F SSSS 243°, class 3. (Shegra Radio, 2302 G.M.T./28 to A.C.O.S.)

/Following ...

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.
(Contd.)Following received from Wick Radio. Received at 2228 G.M.T. de Gallon Head Radio begins. At 2116 unknown station S S S S. No other particulars.
(Scapa W/T, 2330/28 to Admty.)U-Boat sunk
on 26th
December.
HESPERUS
and VANESSA.
(U. 257)Preliminary report of sinking of U-Boat by HESPERUS and VANESSA. H.X.219 was unmolested until 15° W. when U-Boat sighting report was H/F D/F'd by HESPERUS at 1400. VANESSA sent out on bearing, sighted U-Boat which dived at about 10 miles. HESPERUS followed. On reaching diving position VANESSA commenced box sweep, while HESPERUS was taking station on her beam periscope was sighted close to port. U-Boat appeared to be about to fire torpedoes at VANESSA. 14 charge pattern was immediately dropped and hunt commenced which lasted 5 hours and finished in darkness. 7 14-charge and 2 10-charge patterns and 1 mark 10 were dropped by the two ships. U-Boat dived deep and kept stern on to attackers using bursts of high speed. U-Boat eventually surfaced and made off at 18 knots. After 12 minute chase VANESSA rammed it astern causing it to stop. HESPERUS following up rammed it amidships and it sank immediately.
(Capt. D. Liverpool, 1556A/28 to Admty.)Navigational.

Liverpool.

Fleet Notice to Mariners 2240T/42 and my 1836/30/9/42. Swept channels now open day and night. Port of Liverpool from Bar Light Vessel inwards will be closed from half an hour after sunset until half an hour before sunrise. Inward bound vessels unable to make Rock Light before dark may anchor at bar.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0958A/28 to Admty.)Ice report
December 28th.(a) Gulf of Bothnia. Little change since last report owing to continued mild weather. In Gavle Area shipping is no longer hindered by ice.
(b) Sweden West Coast. Inner Skerries in Stromstad Area free from ice.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1757/28 to Admty.)Casualties and Defects.

BADSWORTH.

E.T.A. Merville daylight 29th. Following defects. To facilitate docking do not intend fuelling Merville before proceeding up harbour. My P.C.S. are 051° 41' N. 014° 21' W., 038°, 17.
(BADSWORTH, 0900A/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
Proceed to Belfast for docking.
(C. in C. W.A., 1714A/28 to BADSWORTH.)

/SCYLLA ...

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

SCYLLA. N.C.X.F's 1134A/27. Request ship may be docked for making good defects in port propeller boss glands also replacement of leaky rivet and bolt and stiffening of after compartment plating vide A.L. D.O. 18946/42. Propose that outstanding defects affecting fighting efficiency and fitting of twin Oerlikons vide A.L.G.O. 11730/42 of 17th October 1942 may also be taken in hand if time permits. (SCYLLA, 1356A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

GLAISDALE, Following is destroyer state in Portsmouth
BLEASDALE, Command. Times given for repairs are estimated
ALBRIGHTON, times required from today 28th December.
ESKDALE. GLAISDALE in hand for urgent boiler defects.
Time required 48 hours.
BLEASDALE fractured oil pipe to "A" bracket. Will be docked as soon as possible. Estimated time 8 to 10 days.
ALBRIGHTON undergoing long refit and repairs to stem. Time 5 weeks.
ESKDALE undergoing long refit and action damage repairs. Time 3 weeks.
No destroyers are therefore operationally available at present.
ST. ALBANS leaves the Command 29th December.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1755A/28 to Admty.)

PORPOISE. Captain S.5 recommends vessel should not attempt passage across the Atlantic at this time of year on account of the following main machinery defects. Details.
Request above defects be surveyed by Portsmouth yard with a view to such repairs being effected as will enable PORPOISE to proceed to U.S.A. at an early date for refit as scheduled.
(F.O.S., 2116A/28 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

FORT My 1924A/27. Sailed at 0338/28.
CONFIDENCE. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0359/28.)

O.N.157. Sailed SWALE,*LOBELIA,*ROSELYS,*ACONITÆ for
O.N.157.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0745A/28.)

Situation report at 2000. My 1359/28. Amend course and speed
O.N.157 to 55° 45', 17° 02', 5.
(C. in C. W.A., 1716A/28 to Ships.) *See p. 990

S.C.113, SHERWOOD has serious condenseritis cannot make
(? port). Request tug immediately. My P.C.S.
at 0900Z/28, 058° 57', 020° 30', 110°, 8 knots.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1042Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Your ...

967

28.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - *cont'd.*

- S.C.113, SHERWOOD. (Contd.) Your 1436/28. SHERWOOD requires assistance now. MORDEN will try to tow until tug arrives. Cannot escort them if they drop back. Will act if this happens. My 1205/27 BROADWAY can remain with convoy owing to good progress. Your 1017/28.
- My P.C.S. at 1400Z 058° 38' 019° 36' 168°, 7.5 knots, At 1307Z U-Boat heard transmitting B barred message bearing 217° within 30 miles.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1430Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1430/28. SHERWOOD reports impossible to (corrupt group). Endurance 12 hours. MORDEN taking in tow before dark and ordered to escort SHERWOOD to port when tug arrives.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1545Z/28 to C., in C. W.A.)
My 1545/28. SHERWOOD and MORDEN not now in touch with me. Not known whether SHERWOOD yet in tow. SHERWOOD keep addressees informed.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1730Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
C.T.U. 24.1.12 1042/28 and 1430/28. No tug available in W.A. Command. Request you will sail tug if available to assist SHERWOOD.
(C. in C. W.A., 1858A/28 to A.C.I.C.)
C. in C. W.A. 1858/28. Rescue tug DEXTEROUS escorted by ^{NY}HONIGSVAAG will be sailed as soon as possible.
^{^^}(A.C.I.C., 2031A/28 to C. in C. W.A., C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
- J.W. 51B. Soviet air R/C Altenfiord area 1003A/27 shows 2 cruisers, 1 battleship or cruiser, 3 destroyers in Altenfiord. 2 destroyers, 2 merchant ships, 2 tankers in Hammerfest.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1047A/28 to Admty.)
Repeats S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1047A/28.
Comment:- Units are probably HIPPER and KÖLN and either LÜTZOW or NÜRNBERG. LÜTZOW is believed to have proceeded to Norwegian waters during December.
(D.D.I.C., 1538A/28 to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47 etc.)
My 1516/22. O.14 is returning to Lerwick with defects.
Approx. P.C.S. 064° 20' N. 004° 01', 210°, 7 knots at 0800/28. ^{See 15-9-42}
(F.O.S., 1319A/28 to Admty., A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)
- TJALDUR. Intend sailing at 0900/1st TJALDUR kite balloon for Lerwick with troops. S.O.A. 10 knots, E.T.A. Lerwick 0700/2nd. Request escort and fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1132/28 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- WESTERNLAND. Admty. 1709/27. As no escort is available request you will sail WESTERNLAND to Rosyth for onward routeing to London.
(C. in C. W.A., 1612A/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Ships for W. and S. Africa. Ships bound for West and South African ports should be given approach instructions for Bathurst for use in case of diversion.
(D.T.D., 1751A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Armed ...

War Diary.

28.12.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Armed Guard
Officers.

My 1334A/15. Armed Guard Officers are those in charge of naval defence personnel and equipment in U.S. Merchant ships.
(D.T.D., 1811A/28.)

Small Craft
by Inshore
Routes.

Between ports to the westward of and including Exmouth N.A.Bs or other small craft which are unable to maintain convoy speed or are clearly unsuitable on night passage may proceed by inshore routes by day irrespective of whether it is a convoy day or not.

2. Between Exmouth and Portland these craft are only to be sailed under cover of the Minesweepers or on convoy days under cover of the convoy.

3. My 1044/21/5 and 1328/15/4 are cancelled.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1955A/28.)

M/Vs with
D.G. defects.

The following instruction is now in force:-
Ships developing D.G. defects the repair of which would entail delay are to proceed to any port of destination on West Coast U.K. between Clyde and

Avonmouth inclusive notwithstanding such D.G. defects.

2. The effect of this instruction is that ships in ocean convoys developing D.G. defects should not longer be directed into Belfast on that account. But it becomes essential that after changes of destination have been given to a convoy at sea the names of all ships to which paragraph 1 applies should be reported to Admiralty repeated C. in C. W.A. at an early opportunity.

3. It is requested that this change of procedure may be explained to Convoy Commodores and at Convoy Conferences.

4. The provisions of N.C.S.I.62 are suspended.
(D.T.D., 2105A/28.)

969

War Diary.28.12.1942
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSForce XFrench
Shipping.

Your 0910/25. Does French claim in Prize date back to 1940?
(M. Branch, 0028/28 to N.C.X.F. 133 (R) M.W.T.R. Algiers.)
Your 0028 28th. Yes.
(N.C.X.F., 1425A/28 to Admty. (R) M.W.T.R. Algiers.)

G.U.F.3.

Your 2208/27 not to all addressees and S.N.O. Casablanca 2032/27. Request you will sail G.U.F.3 (O) at 0900A/30 routed through B, 8, 57 (?then) (a) 35°56' N. 06°30' W. (b) 35°10' N. 07°30' W. S. of A. 15 knots.

- (2) Gibraltar section joins in position 57 at 0100A/31.
(3) Oran section R/V with Casablanca section at 0930A/31.
(4) Escort ROCHESTER, LEITH, SANDWICH, SCARBOROUGH.
(5) F.O.I.C. Oran and S.N.O. Casablanca acknowledge.
(N.C.X.F., 1006A/28 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) C. in C. A.F. S.N.O. Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Development
of G.C.I.

My 1122/16. After discussion with (Corrupt Group) U.S. Type S M, shipboard version of S.C.R. 615 might be answer to problem though production difficulty may mean long delay.

Understand laboratory model of S C R 615 has been sent to U.K. for investigation by T R E and A S E. Is there any possibility of fitting such a set in cruiser in spite of stabilisation difficulty for which provision is made in type S M.
(N.C.X.F., 1011/28 to Admty., (R) C.S.12, S.O. Force H.)

EMPIRE
LORENZO.

Your 2009/26 EMPIRE LORENZO is not required at present.
(N.C.X.F., 1230A/28 to D.N.C.X.F., (R) Admty.)

North AtlanticMovements

Sailed NASTURTIUM, ALBERNI, BARBARIAN, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, VILLE DE QUEBEC escorting TASAJERA BACHAQUERO, MISOA, AQUILLA (Oran section) and ST.E.11 NASTURTIUM holds Q.B.A.18, Q.B.B.311, Q.B.93 missing (?89) and 92.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0315/28 to Admty., N.C.X.F. (R). Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Arrival, ARCTIC RANGER, Cable Ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. *See 12.970B*
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2155A/28 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

/M/V

970

28.12.1942
Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

M/V reported One merchant ship escorted by one trawler in
by *P.615 036° 51' N. 017° 14' W. course 080°.
** See p. 973* (P.615, 0530Z/28 to V.A. Gibraltar)
P.615 was in your vicinity at 0530/28.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 094A/28 to LOCH OSKAIG)
Your 0530/28. Trawler is LOCH OSKAIG. There
are some U-Boats in your vicinity.
(V.A. Gibraltar 0942A/28 to P.615 LOCH OSKAIG.)

U/B One enemy submarine on the surface, course N. 037°
Attacked 02' N. 017° 15' W.
by gunfire (LOCH OSKAIG 0730A/28 to V.A. Gibraltar)
My 0730 A/28. On being engaged by gunfire,
Submarine made off at high speed to N.N.E.
*(LOCH OSKAIG, 1030A/28 to V.A. Gibraltar)
** See p. 973*

Air Ref. U-Boat attack Opsum 27th by TOMMY 179
Report U-Boat was fully surfaced course 260/5. Time
Gibraltar 0732 27th 4 Torpex D/cs. dropped, no results
observed. corrected position of attack 37° 29' N.,
1° 25' E.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0745A/28 to Air Min.)

PAUL A.K. PAUL HAMILTON from U.G.S.3 arrived
HAMILTON Casablanca this (?date).
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1113Z/28 to C.T.F. 33.(R)
Admty. V.A. Gibraltar. N.C.X.F. C. in C. U.S. Fleet.
C. in C. A.F. (U.S.).

KMS.6# Sail DRANGY, HAARLEM to R/V convoy KMS.6 in
position to (P) at 1100/1st. BURDOCK is to be
sailed to overtake. *See p. 989.*
(2) KMS.6 routed through (O) 48.03 18.00 (P) 39.05 17.12
(Q) 35.59 12.05 Speed of advance 8 knots.
(3) Ships are required to escort Freetown section KMS.6.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1225A/28 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)

U/B Several U/Boats on passage estimated in your
Report vicinity between noon and midnight to-day 28th.
(D.D.I.C., 1410A/28 to Escorts of KMF.6. (R)
Escorts of KMS.6. N.C.X.F. C. in C. Plymouth
C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)
Two or three U/Boats bound N.E. may be in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1415A/28 to BURDOCK (R) V.A., Gibraltar C. in C., W.A.)

M.K.S. 4 Request you will sail convoy M.K.S.4 (Y) for U.K. on
1st Jan. consisting of PROMETHEUS, OCEAN FREEDOM,
MAHOUT, CITY OF PERTH, OCEAN TRAVELLER,
OCEAN SEAMAN, LLANGIBBY CASTLE and any other ships
available total number not to exceed ten. Escorts of K.X.7 (A)
Route as in Admty's 1249/8.
(N.C.X.F., 1444A/28 to V.A. Gibraltar. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

/Convoys

970A

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.	IN.
From V.A. Gibraltar.	1309A/28th December.	
NAVAL CYPHER S by W/T.	Date. 28.12.42.	Recd. 1926.

Addressed A.I.G. 65.

IMPORTANT. Situation 2005 A 28th.

(1) G.U.S. 2 031 degs. 55' 032 degs. 04' through 031 degs. 01' 035 degs. 01' thence 285 degs. 9.

(2) Swedish relief ships MONGABARAA, FENRIS, BARDALAND, FORMOSA, 037 degs. 51' 030 degs. 27' through 038 degs. 01' 032 degs. 29' thence (?089 degs.) 12.

(3) Italian repatriation ships SCOPEIA SATURNIA 022 degs. 05' 019 degs. 05' through 028 degs. 10' 016 degs. 10' thence 035 degs. 19. *?VULCANIA in the 1.8

(4) Italian repatriation Tanker TAIGETE sailed from Las Palmas 27th through 027 degs. 40' 015 degs. 12' to 027 degs. 07' 017 degs. 48' thence to 255 degs. 9.

1309A/28.

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

- 1st S.L.(2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(11)
- Head of M.(10)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.E.W.D.(3)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- Duty Captain (2)
- Admiral Blake.
- D.N.I.(4)
- F.O.S. by Courier.

MC.

970B

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

1342A/28/December.

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 28.12.42.

Naval Cypher S by T/P

Time 1945

Addressed A.I.G. 63

IMPORTANT Situation 1956A/28th

- (1) U.S. S/M BARB, patrolling off Vigo. *See p. 961^c*
- (2) P.615,035 degs 05' 018 degs 02' on surface
201 degs 8.2 knots *See p. 970*
- (3) K X 7A, SLAZAK (P.D.), H.M.S. STARWORT, WENSLEYDALE
035 degs 59' 007 degs 18' to Gibraltar 9.3
- (4) M.K.S.4, Fleet Unit, H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, 2 sloops,
2 cutters, 7 corvettes, 037 degs 28' 011 degs 36' West
312 degs 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
- (5) *LOCH OSKAIG, MIRROR, 036 degs 37' 014 degs 37
096 degs 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ * *See p. 970*
- (6) HAYDON, 036 degs 15' 011 degs 31' to Gibraltar 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ *See next page*
- (7) ARCTIC RANGER, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, repairing
cable 035 degs 55' 005 degs 49' *See p. 969 - (Note message)*
- (8) B.U.F 3, expect sail from Casablanca 1300A/29th
through 033 degs. 01' 009 degs. 58' thence 246 degs. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 969 & 971*
- (9) CALGARY, 37 04 11 03 to overtake M K S 4 13.
- (10) U.G.S.3, Task Force 33, estimated 32 42 13 20 through
34 20 09 50 thence 105 degs. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$.

1342A/28.

- 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)
- D.A/S.W.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Captain (2)
- Ad. Blake.
- D.N.I. (4)
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.S.O. (& for W/T Board).

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

EM.
MC.

971

War Diary28.12.1942
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

- Convoys R/V time. Authorities sailing Coastal convoys are to impress on Cdre. and S.O. of escort the necessity for adhering strictly to R/V time given in convoy sailing orders.
- (2) In sailing signal originated by N.C.X.F. speed of advance given include an allowance for $\frac{1}{2}$ knot easterly set between Gibraltar and Bone.
(N.C.X.F., 1509A/28 to V.A. Gibraltar F.O.I.C. Oran Cdre. Algiers. N.O.I.C. Bougie Phillipeville (R) S.O. Force H S.O.I.S. O.S.12)
- G.U.F.3. N.C.X.F. 1006A/28 not to all addressees.
Supp 469 4
1970B Casablanca section of GUF 3 escorted by CTF 35 departs 1200Z/29 to R/V with Med. Section of GUF 3 in 35°- 10'N 07° - 30' at 0930 A/31 coming thence in accordance with Admty. 1219A/26.
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1632Z/28 to N.C.X.F. C.T.F. 35 Convoy Cdre.(R) V.A. Gibraltar F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty. C.T.F.33 C.T.U.26.7.2. C. in C. U.S. Fleet C. in C. A.F. C.T.U. 26.7.1 C.T.U. 26.7.3.)
Sailed IMPERIALIST escorting EMPIRE FRANKLIN to Melilla.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1641A/28 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)
- CAMPOMANES Spanish Tanker. CAMPOMANES has been brought into torpedoesd Vigo with damage astern said to be due to 27/12. torpedo 0500/27 off Vianna Portugal.
(Consul Vigo, 1730/28 to N.A. Madrid. (R) S.O. (I) Gib. Admty.)
- HAYDON Your 1631/27 (N.T. in W.R.) Search unsuccessful. Proceeding Gibraltar E.T.A. 1330/29.
See previous page
(HAYDON 1756A/28 to F.O. Gibraltar).
- EMINENT EMINENT left 2000 G.M.T. 28th in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 2335/27.
(R.O. Fayal, 1811/28 to F.O. C.N.A., Admty., (R) N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
- SCHARLACH- 28th Departure German 55 delayed vessel still in BERGER. harbour.
(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1823/28 to Admty. M.E.W. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
- Instructions Reported that two Portuguese ships were routed to neutral Norfolk Virginia with full details of secret shipping. swept channel and approach.
2. Such information should not be given but vessels should be instructed to close the patrol vessel situated in general area bearing 105° true distant 5 miles from Cape Henry Light, for instructions for entering port.
(D.T.D., 1847A/28 to C.S.A. Lisbon (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/VAL DE LA HAYE

War Diary.

28.12.1942
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

VAL DE LA
HAYE
(French)

Your 1114/26. N.A. Madrid was authorised in A.M. 1015/13 to promise the Master that on arrival at a British port he and the crew would be entitled to (a) Payment in cash of any arrears of wages and bonus on current articles up to a maximum of 5 months. (b) Special bonus of one month's wages plus bonus. (c) subsequent employment on British rates, including pensions etc.

(2) To assist us in reaching a decision whether to take over the ship ourselves or let her go to North Africa, request report whether (a) The ship is capable of making the voyage to the U.K. (b) whether the Master or crew have shown any sort of preference for joining de Gaulle or the North African French.
(M. Branch, 2201A/28 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.A. Madrid. N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Convoy escort. Request all South and West African ships ex O.N.S. 150 be diverted to Bathurst draught permitting. Onwards escort will be provided. (F.O.C.W.Af. 0030Z/28 to Admty (R) Connav C. in C.S.A.)

Your 0030/28 prefer that you should divert ships as "Chop" is in plenty of time and ships may not have latest chart corrections especially movement of fairway buoys for entry to Bathurst. (D.T.D. 1621A/28 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

W.S.25. At 2000Z/28 position of convoy W S 25 was 013° 56' N. 020° 57' W. course and speed 180° 13 knots. (ROCKWOOD 0230Z/29 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Escorts of W.S. 25, WOODRUFF, CROCUS.)

See p. 973 B & C

U/B. By D/F at 2222Z/27 U/B within 120 miles of 17° 30' N. 28° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 0445A/28 to F.O.W.Af.)

Movements. Departure 1700/27 ARCTIC, EXPLORER, LESTIGER coastwise to Capetown E.T.A. 1700/30. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1023C/28 to C.in C. S. A. COMMANDANT Admty.)

Arrival 28th. DESTIENNE DORVES, H.M.S. FORFASY. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 1100Z/28 to Admty.)

Arrival A.M. 28th. WOODRUFF, CROCUS escorting EMPIRE ELAINE, also Motor Launches 277 and 251 from patrol off Cape Verde Island. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1527/28 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

Departure 28th. *FANDANGO escorting JAMES TURNER. (S.O.I). Freetown 2133Z/28 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.) *See p. 973 C*

French Refits in U.S.A. Your 121XA/27 (as received presumably 1216/27 intended re French ships in W. Africa being refitted, used for patrol etc.) will take this matter up at first opportunity but until I can either get to Dakar myself or establish Liaison Officer there I can do little. Admiral Glassfurd is aware of desirability of using French ships for blockade runner patrol and I understand is anxious to get them to sea early. At present my only means of communication with Admiral Glassfurd and French is in U.S. Army code through U.S. Army in Accra and Bathurst. This method is unsatisfactory and very slow. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1035Z/28 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Shipping Routes. Ref. A.M. 1942/27 () I should much prefer to route slow ships from South Africa to South American ports for onward convoy if Connav concurs. These ships have very little chance of survival either side of St. Pauls Rocks. Request early reply. (C. in C. S. A. 1115C/28 to admty. (R) Connav. F.O. W.Af.)

943A

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1031C/20th December IN

From O. in O. South Atlantic. Date 28.12.42,
Reed. 1025.

NAVAL CYPHER '3.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

Netherlands Submarine O.19,022 degs. 30' South
004 degs. 50' East to Freetown 8 knots.

VIVIANA, 029 degs. 25' South 015 degs. 30' East to
Capetown 10.

H.M.S. GLENROY, H.M.S. JANUS, 028 degs. 30' South
015 degs. 20' East to Walvis Bay 11½.

H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, escorting tug BOLD towing
S.S. COLUMBINE 030 degs. 20' South 016 degs. 50' East
to Capetown 6½.

H.M.S. NORTHERN CHIEF, H.M.S. SPHERE, escorting
tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter number 3, 028 degs.
30' South 015 degs. 40' East to Capetown 5½.

1031C/28.

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

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

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1205Z/28th December IN

From F.O. West Africa.

Date 28.12.42.
Time 1609

Naval Cypher "M" by W/T

Addressed A.I.G. 149

IMPORTANT.

ARRAN, escorting 019 deg 09' 026 deg 43' 110 deg (79)
~~BAU~~ PUCHISTAN, 014 deg 38' 018 deg 50' to Bathurst 12.
H.M.S. *CURACOA, H.M.S. CROCUS, 012 deg 36' 017 deg 58' 241 deg 11 to
R/V with WS 25. * *See 2/10/42 - WOODRUFF memo p. 973*
H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE, H.M.S. CHESHIRE, H.M.S. ILEX, QUILLIAM,
ROCKWOOD, with *WS 25 015 deg (118') 021 deg 00' (2215 deg 12 *See p. 973*
H.M.S. FANDANGO, escorting 009 deg 11' (2015 deg) (223) to 011 deg
00' 016 deg 22' thence 325 deg 9 *See 6. 473*
BELLWORT, escorting 007 deg 27' 014 deg 17' to 007 deg 58' 014 deg 30'
thence 321 deg 11 *See previous page.*
S/M P. 614, on surface 009 deg 26' 014 deg (756') to 010 deg 51' 017 deg 39'
10.
INKPEI, arrives Freetown 2100/28th. BIRDLIP 008 deg 42' 014 deg 02'
West 285 deg 9.
H.M.S. NORTHERN ISLES, DUNICAN, DUNKER, and M.L. on patrol off
Freetown. 2 M.L.s on patrol off Cape Verde Is.

1205Z/28

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- 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.
- H d of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.D.O.D. (M)

maf.

974

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.SITHONIA
(British)
torpedoed
12/7
survivors.

19 Survivors including Master from SITHONIA arrived Freetown from Senegal. Confirm ship sunk by German U-Boat one torpedo 12th July, 1942 in 28° N. 25° W. One other boat 26 survivors believed landed Rio Del Oro and repatriated to U.K. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1202Z/28 to Admty.)

Salvaging

My 2340Z/8 not to C. in C. S.A. KELT will be ready for towing to Capetown in about 8 weeks. Intend to make this arrangement subject to C. in C. S.A. concurrence. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1234Z/28 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A. R.N.O. Lagos.)

Towage of
floating
dock from
Montevideo
to Cape.Ref. A.M. 1959/25.
H.M. Ships MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, MORRIS DANCE, YESTOR are to be placed under orders of C. in C. U.S. Fleet in accordance with para 4. Intend ALCANTARA with 1 corvette to arrive Trinidad about mid February to provide ocean escort. N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to ships in address. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1331Z/28 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.A., B.A.D. Admty, MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, MORRIS DANCE, TAMARISK, YESTOR)

Cancel my 1847Z/25 not to Admty. In view of A.M. 1959A/25 not to all addresses, para.4 BRIDGEWATER and ARMERIA cannot be spared to escort PHOEBE beyond Trinidad. Request they be sailed for Freetown as soon as possible after arrival at Trinidad, ARMERIA to call at St. Vincent (Cape Verde Is.) for fuel if necessary. (R.A.W.Af. 1801Z/28 to PHOEBE, S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) BRIDGEWATER, Admty., N.O.I.C. Trinidad (Port of Spain).)

Dakar
Mission.

Washington 1655/28. See America & West Indies.

Aerodromes.

My 1441/19th Dec. (1245/4 re availability of Hastings aerodrome to Navy). Air Ministry agree to make Hastings available to Navy if not required for R.A.F. Fighter Squadrons. (Head of Air Branch 1754A/28 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

S.L. Convoys
intention
to discon-
tinue.

A.M. 1948/27 (Intention to discontinue sailing S.L. convoys) (N.T. in W.D.) Cape Horn Route. Reply to para. 2 will be made separately after consultation with N.C.S.O. Capetown. Meanwhile clarification is sought of Admty. intentions regarding British controlled shipping of over ten and under fifteen knots. A.M. 2330/1/9 1(A) refers to all suitable ships below 15 knots, but A.M. 2349/22/9 para. 4 states that ships which can maintain a speed of not less than 12 knots are to be routed direct to U.S. east coast ports provided they can take sufficient bunkers.

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War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. *con. 15.*

- S.L. Convoys intention to discontinue. (Contd.) 2. A.M. 1945/11 para. 2. (A) (B) (C) appears to confirm present policy of routeing coal-burners of 12 knots and all oil-burners via west coast of Africa. Para. 2 (D) appears to contradict this policy. (C. in C. S.A., 1803C/28 to Admty., (R) N.C.S.O. Capetown.)
- L.S. Convoy. My 1841Z/22 para. 4. BREDON escorting BARFOS⁶ leaves Marshall for Takoradi about 29th and should be sailing with convoy. TURCOMAN will not arrive in time. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1837Z/28 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty.)
- TEESBANK torpedoed 5th Dec. EAST WALES torpedoed 16th Dec. My 1902Z/24 and my 2215Z/25. Following is further information just received from R.O. Natal. (2) M.V. TEESBANK bound from Port Elizabeth to Demerara in ballast was torpedoed 0545 G.M.T./5th. in 003° 25' N. 029° 26' W. 2 torpedoes struck and one missed. Submarine stated to be apparently similar to U.37 or U.43. Wrong information given to submarine Commander's questions. Survivors picked up 15th by SS. EAST WALES. (3) EAST WALES bound from New York to Alexandria via Trinidad and Durban was torpedoed 1925 G.M.T./16 in 000° 24' N. 030° 27' W. Ship struck in engine room by 1 torpedo and sank within 3 minutes. Part structure fell on one 1 lifeboat and occupants not seen again. Submarine which was not sighted before attack is described as follows: Size and armament equal to U.69; conning tower had painted on front in white a sphinx with head pointing starboard and on side a circular device of rising sun with orange-red back ground and gold rays having in centre a smaller circle with map, possible of U.S.A. Submarine Commander questioned survivors who gave wrong information. (4) In each case code and cypher thrown overboard in boxes provided. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1858Z/28 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Freetown, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro.)
- B.3 Group. B.3 Group from which it is proposed to draw the relief corvettes for West Africa Command, is working most happily and fixed on the vital task of trans-Atlantic escort duty. Difference of language and training makes it difficult to weld ships of mixed nationalities into a coherent group and it is therefore doubly important that this fine group now training should remain undisturbed at least until situation eases in about 6 months time. The success of the group has been achieved largely by the excellent spirit of co-operation shown by Fighting French Corvettes. (2) While therefore the desirability of relieving F.F. Corvettes in West Africa Command is fully appreciated I earnestly request the matter may be reconsidered. (C. in C. W.A., 1919A/28 to Admty., (R) F.F.N.L., N.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt. (D) Greenock, E.G.B.3.)

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War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P. 35. Your 2141A/27 acknowledged.
See p. 978 Proceed into harbour unescorted. Sweepers
 leave harbour 0800A. Destroyers for docking.
 3 M.T.Bs arrive before 0900A.
 (Capt. S.10, 0235/28 to P.35, (R) PAKENHAM, PALADIN.)
 Arrival P.35.
 (V.A. Malta, 1027A/28 to Admty., etc.)

Enemy P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 37.30 N. 11.50 E.
 Destroyers. 260°, 25 knots.
 (Aircraft call sign CYR Duty 'D', 0335A/28 to
 Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements. Arrival KANARIS.
 (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0456Z/28 to Admty., etc.)
 Arrivals 27th Dec. ANTWERP, PROTEA, M.L.357,
 BELVOIR, CROOME, PRIMULA. Departures 27th Dec. ROMEO,
 WELSHMAN.
 (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0904B/28 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
 Arrival PALADIN, PAKENHAM. *See p. 980*
 (V.A. Malta, 1023A/28 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
 Dec. 28th Port Said arrival DELPHINIUM, ROMEO, KLO.
 Departure FALK, PENNET.
 (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1747B/28 to Admty., etc.)
 Arrived and left 28th Dec. Greek Dest. IERAX.
 Departure 28th Dec. WOLBOROUGH.
 (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 1805B/28, 0923B/29 to Admty., etc.)
 Algiers arrival, FLEETWOOD, POZARICA, PENTSTEMON, VETCH,
 WIVERN, SAMPHIRE, ALARM, CONVULVULUS, ACUTE, ALBACORE, CADMUS,
 *HYERES with E.T.7. VELOX, MINNA, from Bone, AJAX from Gibraltar,
 11 C.M. with NEGRO, GOTH, ELBURY, FILEY BAY and French Escort
 CHASSEUR 3. *Not in list.
 Departure FLEETWOOD, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, SAMPHIRE, CONVULVULUS
 with E.T.7, MINNA to Gibraltar, ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, SALVESTOR to
 Bougie, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND to Bone.
 (Cdre. Algiers, 2103A/28 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S.)
 Algiers arrival P.219.
 (Cdre. Algiers?, 2122A/28 to Admty.)
 Departure P.311, P.46.
 (V.A. Malta, 2229A/28 to Admty., etc.)

NIEUW Your 0445/25th Dec. NIEUW AMSTERDAM sails ex
 AMSTERDAM. Suez 2nd Jan. for Durban E.T.A. 13th. S.S.T.O.
See p. 983 Durban requested report duration of stay Durban
 and E.T.A. Suez.
 (P.S.T.O. Middle East, 1021B/28 to Admty. (D. of
 S.T.), (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

/K.M.F.6

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28.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.F.6. Pass Europa Point at 2300A/1 S. of A. 13 knots route Q lettered D to H.
(2) Detach Oran section in position "Amaze" at 1600A/2.
(3) Arriving Algiers 0700A/3.
(4) Destination of all escorts is Algiers.
(5) Local escort will be provided for ships for ports (corrupt group) for Algiers. Details later.
(6) EXE pass to Cdre.
(N.C.X.F., 1032A/28 to EXE, Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.6, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.Cs. Bougie, Philippeville, Bone, C.G. 12th A.F., H.Q. E.A.C., A.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty., F.O.I.S., Capt. (S) 8, S.O. Force H, C.S.12, C. in C. W.A.)

M.T.Bs for Bone. Intend sailing V.10 in M.T.B. 266 with 265 (corrupt group) (?263) in company to Bone today 28th. Details as in my 1206A/26th not to 201 Group and 247 Wing. E.T.A. Bone 0730A/29th.
See p. 979
(V.A. Malta, 1041A/28 to N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) F.O.I.S., S.O. Force Q, 247 Wing, F.O.C. Coastal Forces, C. in C. Med., 201 Group.)

Air Protection for Convoys. Reference bombing attack on convoy carried out at approx. 1830/26th Dec. (?A) M.E.S. 892 states area in the vicinity longitude 005° 00' E. for purposes of night fighter direction out of range both from here and from Maison Blanche. Danger of loss from air attack appears high for slow convoys routed by this area at dusk.
(N.L.O. Jijelli, 1043A/28 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S., etc.)

R/C, Italian Ports. P.R.U. Dec. 28th. 0645 Messina, 3 cruisers, one destroyer. 5 merchant ships, one destroyer just outside. 0730 Naples, 3 cruisers. 3 merchant ships 3 destroyers 210° Imperatore Point 5 miles course 240° at 15 knots. 0745 Taranto, 3 battleships. One merchant ship 2 destroyers 270° Gallipoli 2 miles course 330° 5 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1100A/28 to C. in C. Med., etc.)
P.R.U. Dec. 28th. 1445 Taranto, 3 battleships. 1525 Messina 3 cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1707A/28 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Australian Troops for Fremantle. Land forces Melbourne M.C. 1065 24th Dec. to G.H.Q. Middle East only para. (2) and D. of S.T's 0154/24th Dec. Request you will confirm that Western Australian units and details spread over whole convoy can be accepted for disembarkation Fremantle.
(P.S.T.O. Middle East, 1139/28 to A.C.N.B., etc.)

/Cositrep ...

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War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositrep (3) Air. Night 26th/27th Dec. American B.24s
No. 638. bombed Tunis, Sousse and Sfax Harbours. One
fire started near barracks at Sfax, remainder
results unobserved. Malta Wellingtons bombed
Tunis docks, bombs bursting around main basin. Fire started
near electric railway depot. Naval Albacores from Malta
attacked Sousse Harbour bombs bursting among barges.
(4) 27th Dec. American B.24s bombed Sousse Harbour claiming two
hits on one merchant vessel, near misses on other shipping at
quays. Many bombs burst on quays and railway sidings. Large
fires were seen burning N.W. of Harbour when aircraft departed.
(C. in C. M.E., 1150B/28 to W.O.)

Force Q. Force Q leaves Bone dusk 28th through 038° 10'
010° 50' E. at 0001A/29th to operate to eastward
returning to Bone passing 009° E. at 0700A/29th.
(Capt. S.8, 1226A/28 to Submarines on Patrol.)

Reports, Reports indicating that British S/Ms have possibly
S. 10. been sighted or detected either from shore, ships
or air are frequently received by me, this is
sometimes due to S/Ms attacking but I can seldom
deduce that. Such reports are of too frequent occurrence to
justify signalling warning and this will only be done when cir-
cumstances seem exceptional. You are reminded that after attack
or known detection area must be clear for 24 hours. If any
area appears untenable withdraw and inform me.
(S.10, 1251A/28 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

TIGRIS, Capt. S.8th 1354/26. Onward route as follows:-
P.217. TIGRIS to Malta through 038° 16' 010° 06' thence
as in my 0005/1st to arrive position (J) dawn 31st
and make R/V with sweeper at end of swept channel
at 0801A/1st in accordance with my 1146/14th.
P.217 through 038° 46' 011° 05' and 040° 20' 013° 08' to patrol
in area North-west of line 240° from Carena Point to arrive pm.
31st.
TURBULENT will be operating between 240° and 180°, and P.42 being
relieved by *P.35 night 1st/2nd to the East of 180° from this
point.
(Capt. S.10, 1315A/28 to TIGRIS, P.217, (R) Capt. S.8th, Subs.
on Patrol.) * *See p. 976*

Intentions N.C.X.F 1106/28th (N.T. in W.R.) One special
for Aircraft. Wellington will be in the area from 2000.
2. Albacore will strike east of (011°) 20' E.
before 2300. N.C.X.F. pass to H.Q. E.A.C.
(V.A. Malta, 1435A/28 to C.S.12, (R) F.O.I.S.,
Capt. S.8, C. in C. Med., H.Q. E.A.C., N.O.I.C.
Bone, N.C.X.F.)

/M.T.Bs. ...

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28.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.T.Bs. N.C.X.F. 1106/28th (N.T. in W.R.) and my 1041/28th. M.T.Bs have been informed of your 578 and instructed only to attack merchant ships. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1448A/28 to S.O. Force Q, (R) F.O.I.S., C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bone.) N.C.X.F. 1507A/28th not to all. M.T.B. in my 1041/28th ^{/P.277} sailed at 1630. Amended route 037° 14' 011° 38' N. of Zembra inside (Q.) B.201 to Bone E.T.A. 0900A/29th. Codeword "Nugget". Call sign BDY. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1714A/28 to N.C.X.F., S.O. Force Q, (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, S.O.I.S., F.O.C. Coastal Forces, C. in C. Med., 201 Group, 247 Wing.)
- URSULA. *See p. 958* *Your vicinity tonight. Clear present area to be in position 038° 40' 012° 10' by 0400A/29th. If northbound target is sighted it may be attacked. (Capt. S.8, 1621A/28 to URSULA, (R) S/Ms on Patrol, U.S. Submarine S (corrupt).) * As recd. ?group omitted.
- ^{FR}LAPAGERIA. Intend sailing ^{FR}LAPAGERIA by inshore route at 2000A/28th speed 8(?½) knots, E.T.A. Philippeville 0830A/29th. Codeword "Crown". (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1807A/28 to N.C.X.F.)
- M.N.B.D.O.II. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (M.E.) 342. Ref. CC/161 of 23rd Dec. We have gone carefully into points raised in your telegram but have come to conclusion that reasons for sending you this organisation in near future still hold good. 2. Arrangements outlined in C.O.S.(M.E.) 336 will therefore stand whereby personnel of M.N.B.D.O.II will be shipped in W.S.26, and vehicles and equipment will follow. (Air Min., T.O.O. 1810Z/28 to Cs., in C. Middle East.)
- M.E. 14. Sailed Convoy M.E.14 EURYALUS, DULVERTON, TETCOTT, BEAUFORT, PINDOS. (V.A. Malta, 1820A/28 to Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.C.R.S., (R) N.C.X.F.)
- P.211. Leave patrol proceeding direct arriving at usual R/V 0801A/30th. You are not to approach vicinity Gulf Hammamet. (Capt. S.10, 1840A/28 to P.211.)
- Troop Convoy, Algiers. The following additional ships will be arriving with 139th Infantry Brigade Group. DERBYSHIRE and STAFFORDSHIRE in K.M.F.6. TIBA, CITY OF WORCESTER, TRISTRAM DALTON, JOHN DAVENPORT in K.M.S.6. (N.C.X.F., 1851A/28 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Admty.)

/Malta ...

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War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I.204, 28th Dec., C.S.R. Malta.
Night 27th/28th Dec.
No enemy air activity locally. Day 28th Dec.
16 Spitfire and 7 Beaufighter sorties have been made on offensive sweeps east of Malta. Beaufighters damaged 1 SM.82. 8 Spitfires carried out offensive sweeps over Southern Sicily but encountered no enemy aircraft.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1914Z/28.)
Part 2. Night 27th/28th Dec.
2 special Wellingtons on shipping R/C patrolled between Cavoli and Marittimo and between Cape Bon and Marittimo. Wellington sighted 0235 hours 215° Marittimo 30 miles 2 D/Rs course 260° speed 25 knots. 1 special Albacore of the R.N.A.S. on shipping R/C Pantellaria area made no important sightings. 3 torpedo carrying special Wellingtons despatched to locate and attack enemy shipping north-west of Sicily made no sighting. 12 Wellingtons attacked Tunis and La Goulette Docks from 1820 to 2038 hours scoring hits around main basin at Tunis and in railway marshalling yards at La Goulette and starting fire south of railway marshalling yards at Tunis. Bad visibility prevented close observation of results. 1 Wellington also dropped 2 x 250 lb. bombs at Sousse scoring hits in N.W. corner of harbour.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1921/28, 1933Z/28.)

SELANDIA. My 1923/17th Dec. not to D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Aden. SELANDIA ex Suez about 31st Dec. allocated embark Army 180, Merchant Navy 15 for Durban.
Presume if escort considered necessary vessel will be held to sail with returning vessels W.S.24 and C.M.36.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 2001B/28 to F.O.C.R.S.F., (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty., for D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

19th D.F. LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, LOYAL, LOOKOUT, PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER form 19th D.F. with Capt. D. 19th in LAFOREY.
(N.C.X.F., 2005A/28 to all British ships and authorities concerned in Operation "Torch" (excluding ships refitting in U.K.), V.A. Malta, (R) Admty., (Corrupt group) (? Inshore Squadron), Capt. D.3rd.)

Situation Report No. 312. Western Desert. Benghazi. Over 3000 tons of cargo discharged Dec. 27th. Boom in operation across inner harbour entrance.
2. Ras-el-Ali. Small Greek steamer unloading cased petrol in spite of bad weather. L.C.T.I have maintained high rate of stores discharged.
3. H.M. Tug ST. ISSEY believed mined in position 32.37 N. 20.22 E. 0750/28th Dec.. No further details known. *(Under a threat to U/R)*
4. Malta. *PAKENHAM and *PALADIN carried out sweep between Linosa and Pantellaria night of 27th/28th Dec. but found nothing.

* Lm p. 476

/5. ...

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28.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean— *cont'd.*

Situation Report No. 312. (Contd.)

5. Submarines. P.44 reports sighting twelve M/Vs, 25 destroyers, 16 E-Boats during patrol Tunis - Marittimo area 13th/22nd Dec.

6. Own forces. WELSHMAN due Malta 29th Dec. My 1803/11 Dec. not to all addressees. One tanker and one M/V have left Alexandria for Malta. Convoy of four empty M/Vs has left Malta for Port Said. Unloading of last two ships into Malta completed today 28th Dec. no enemy air interference.

7. Aden. Operation "Pentagon" (E.N. commands 04065 23rd Dec. refers) Commodore Aden in HERO with CERES, ROMNEY, POOLE and Greek destroyer PAKTCER (PANTHER intended) in vicinity of Jibuti by 28th Dec. (but out of sight) for co-ordinated demonstration of land, sea and air power to force Jibuti to come to terms. *See p. 283*

8. C. in C. Med. has returned to Alexandria from visit to Western Desert ports. Visit to Malta postponed due to unserviceability of aerodromes.
(C. in C. Med., 2026B/28 to Admty.)

Minelaying La Goulette. Your 1122/26th. Since middle of Nov. I estimate 4 vessels have been sunk in La Goulette for the 23 mines laid by aircraft in 4 raids. It appears no other method will stop this difficult traffic, particularly the Italian destroyers. If mines are kept within 3 miles of La Goulette would you like Malta to continue the effort?
(C. in C. Med., 2032B/28 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Malta.)

TAKU. Your 1920/28th (N.T. in W.R.) Return by route as in my 0913/26th all times 48 hours late. Report if unable to comply.
(Capt. S.1, 2043B/28 to TAKU, (R) C. in C. Med.)

SEAHAM, Benghazi. Your 1631 and 1938 (N.T. in W.R.) Yes. Required for cutting adrift wreck in position 032° 34.5' 020° 15' E. depth 52 fathoms verified by Asdic. 3 barges in tow E.T.A. off port 0300 both motor launches screening me.
(SEAHAM, 2126B/28 to N.O.I.C. Benghazi.)

E.A.C. Report. A.354, 28th Dec. Opsum number 47 covering period 1800 hours 26th Dec. to 1800 hours 27th Dec. 1942.
F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 14 B.17s with U.S. fighter escort attacked Soussse Harbour and shipping 1030 hours. Direct hits claimed on shipping and severe damage to dockside buildings.
(E.A.C., 2335A/28 to Air Min., etc.)

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War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.RANPURA,
Explosions.Sighted 5 flashes possibly explosions
centralized 250° far distant am investigating.
My position is 009° 41' S. ?(041°)50' E.
(?(RANPURA), ?012/28 to 18th C.S., C. in C. E.F.)

J.C.5.

Departures HASHEMI escorting IRENE, S EMBIRICOS.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 0246Z/28 to to Admiralty, etc.)
Convoy sailing telegram JC5.

(2) 0245Z/28th Dec.

(4), (5), (6), (8), (14) and (15) no change vide
N.C.S.O. Colombo 1130Z/23rd Dec.

(7) 101 13(A) blank.

(N.C.S.O. Madras, 0251Z/28, 0255Z/28)

Movements.

Arrival DURBAN.

(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 0516Z/28 to Admty., etc.)

Departure DURBAN E.T.A. Bombay 0930FG/30th.

(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 1201Z/28 to Admty., etc.)

Sailed 27th AMERICAN ARROW for P.B. convoy for Colombo.

(N.C.S.O. Abadan, 0529Z/28 to Admty., etc.)

27th, departure 1845Z, DIPAVATI. 28th, arrival 0536Z, GERALDTON,
PUNJAB, with P.B. 18.

(S.O. (I) Bombay, 0927Z/28 to Admty., etc.)

Colombo, arrival 28th Dec., 0930Z ST. ANTHONY, departure 0930Z

ST. ANTHONY, 1030Z Netherlands sloop SOEMBA.

(S.O. (I) Colombo, 1231Z/28 to Admty., etc.)

Shipping
Resources.
Colombo.Your 1828/27. Confirmed provided fleet is
not present and as general rule ships will not
require to work cargo.(2) F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to remark on
whether Cochin could if necessary be substituted.

(F.O. Ceylon, 0646Z/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C.

E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N., B.A.D.) Para. 1 cancelled, see 0558Z/29.

Addu
Atoll
DefencesYour 0420Z/24/Dec. Intend to send BRITTANY to
Addu Atoll with B one strokes which should
be used for repairing present defences.(2) A trawler will be required for this work
and should remain at Addu Atoll subsequently to
maintain the defences.(3) It is intended also that BRITTANY should relay defence
where it has completely disappeared.(4) BRITTANY is unable to recover indicator nets and it is not
intended to carry out any work on the nets at Diego Garcia.(5) Anticipate that BRITTANY will arrive Addu Atoll middle of
January.

(C.E. in C., E.F. 0931Z/28 to F.O. Ceylon. Repeated: Admiralty)

/Air

28.12.1942
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies. - Contd.

Air Report. Daily summary 288 Dec. 28th. (B) 3 E/A over Calcutta 23000 ft. 0350.FG. Dec. 28th. 9 plus bombs including I.B. Willingdon Bridge Area. 6 Hurricanes up no results 3 more E.A. 10000 ft. bombed Fenny Satellite 0404(?) Hurricanes Al no interception. 2 R/A bombed Chittagong Jetty. (Air H.Q. India, 1032/28)

Situation Jibuti despatched normal Sunday train for Ali Sabiet on 27th Dec. with General Manager Railways on board. Train was taken over by Fighting French at Oliveralfa and then proceeded Ali Sabiot. Potez 25 from Jibuti carried out R/C Ali Sabiet 1130 hours and Daouente 1700 hours 27th Dec. French garrisons at Oueha and Bouet have rallied to Fighting French. Fighting French Coln. occupied Oueha and Bouet 27 Dec. Progress slow owing bad weather. 28(or 21) Bde. now concentrated area Daouenla Aiscia. (G.O.C. in C., E.A., 1255C/28).

For Free French H.Q. from Chancel. Sabiet and Dikkil Commands here entirely rallied to Fighting France as well as 4th Bn. which occupies (?Western) sector Jibuti defences. General Dupont invites General Fowkes and (?myself) to meet him this afternoon at Jibuti to discuss immediate measures necessary for rallying French Somaliland at side of United Nations by adherence to Fighting France.

(12 Div., 1315/28 to W.O.)

From Ops. H.Q. C. in C. from Fowkes and Hopkinson. General Dupont signed an agreement with M. Chancel and General Fowkes by which French Somaliland adheres to United Nations as part of Fighting France at Chebele at 2015 hours this evening. Full text follows tomorrow. * "Pentagon" cancelled. All informed.

(12A division, 2050Z/28 to G.O.C. in C. E.A. (R)W.O. etc.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM Following received from NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Addressed N.C.S.O. Aden. E.T.A. Suez 0930? G.M.T. 31st Dec. (Colombo W/T, 1520 G.M.T/28, to Admty.)

Enemy Unit Your 1649Z/27. This unit considered to be German U/Boat was fixed by Admiralty D/F in approx. 49° 30' N. 29° W. (D.D.I.C. 1613A/28, C. in C.E.F. Repeated A.I.G.5 C. in C. S.A. A.C.N.B.)

Flotilla Numbers Your 0415/22. (A) Flotilla numbers 55 to 59 inclusive allocated to B Type Fairmiles. (B) Flotilla numbers 120, 121 and 122 were allocated to you in A.M. 1603/8/4. Additional flotilla numbers 136 and 137 now allocated for

H.D.M.L's.

2. Request you will report date on which boats commission, flotilla to which they are allocated and base from which flotillas will operate. (D.D.O.D.(C), 1846A/28 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

SECRET

983A

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

2050Z/28th December

From Operations H.Q. 12A Div.

Date. 30.12.42

Recd. 0715

P/L BY L/E

Addressed G.O.C. in C. East Africa. Repeated War Office,
(pass Foreign Office), C. in C. Middle East,
(pass Minister of State, Cairo.)

to IMMEDIATE

0107 cipher 29 Dec. 1942.

Ref: My telegram 0101 of Dec. 28th following is text of agreement signed at Chebee Dec. 28th.

Begins. Major Gen: Fowkes C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (representing the G.O.C. in C. E. Africa) on behalf of the Govt. of the U.K. of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mons. Chancel on behalf of the French National Committee, and General Dupont, Governor of French Somaliland and dependencies.

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 recognized. The Colony remains an integral part of French Empire and shall be administered under authority of French National committee.

Article 2. The British authorities shall extend the colony such economic assistance as exigencies of the situation permit. The inclusion of Colony in Sterling Area and trade and financial arrangements necessary in this connection shall form the subject of separate agreements. The treatment accorded to Colony in economic matters shall be not (repeat not) less favourable than that accorded to British territories in similar circumstances.

Article 3. The pay and pensions of officials and military personnel of Colony are guaranteed provided they agree to serve under French National Committee.

/Article 4

983B

- 2 -

Article 4. Subject to approval of G.O.C. in C. in 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 5. (?There will be no) victimization of any person in C.F.S. on account of political opinions held in past. Should there be any members of (?past) French armed forces whose conscience prevents them from joining Fighting France they will if they so desire be treated as prisoners of war. They will (?receive) the privileges to which soldiers surrendering in honourable circumstances may be entitled irrespective of (?rank) and colour.

Article 6. 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 right to require the removal according to his directions from colony of any such persons.

Article 7. The present agreement has been drawn up in two copies in English and French languages and in case of any disagreement between them the English text shall be Authoritative.

It shall enter into force on date of signature and shall remain in force until the end of the war between U.K. and Fighting French on the one hand and last of 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 contracting parties. Ends.

Text of confidential protocol annexed to agreement follows in my next numbered telegram.

Note by C.C. (Telegrams) Above is an unparaphrased version of message NOT received in 1 time tables

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
P.A.S. 10
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (S)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q)
M. (2)
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Blake

2050Z/28th
To: M.O.11 for action
Copies sent by War Office to:
S. of S. Foreign Office
P.U.S. (Mr. Stirling) (2)
P.U.S. (F) Admiralty (Head of WR
C.I.G.S. A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry
V.C.I.G.S. Brig. Jacob (Cabinet
D.M.O. Offices)
D.D.M.O. (O) Maj. Morton (10
M.O. 1.5.11. Downing Street)
D.M.I. (Lt.Col.Archdale) (2)
D.D.MI (I) 20 Mil.Mission (Mr.
M.I.3., 17a Rooker (2)
D.P.W. Colonial Office
D.D. P.W. (Lt. Col.Rolleston)
P.W. 1.2.
D.F.a.
F. 5.
Foreign Secretary (2)

984

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Attacks on O.N.S.154.MILNE,
METEOR,
to
reinforce.MILNE and METEOR are to be detached forthwith proceeding at 20 knots to reinforce escorts of O.N.S.154, acting under orders of C. in C. W.A.
2. Estimated position of O.N.S.154 at 2359A/27 was 45° 38' N., 26° 40' W. steering 192° at 7 knots.

3. S.O. of escort is ST. LAURENT.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 0104A/28 to WESTON, Escorts of M.K.F.5, Escorts of O.N.S.154, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth. V.A. Gibraltar) O.N.S.154. Ref. A.M.0104/28th.

(i) You are required to reinforce escort of O.N.S.154 which is being heavily attacked.

(ii) Proceed at best speed on the assumption you will remain with convoy till a.m./2nd and arrive Ponta Delgada a.m./4th to fuel.

(iii) Present S.O. of escort is C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.11 in ST. LAURENT. Other escort BATTLEFORD, NAPANEE, KENOGAMI, SHEDIAC, CHILLIWACK.

(iv) As oiler supplying escort is damaged escort may require fuel at Ponta Delgada.

(v) Report speed at which you intend joining also position and course.

(C. in C. W.A., 0213Z/28 to Capt. (D) 3rd. D.F. (R) Connav, V.A. Gibraltar, C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., WESTON, METEOR, C.T.G.24.7., C. in C. H.F., C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.11, N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Greenock, R.A.(D) H.F., C. in C. W.A., C.T.F.24, Admty, N.S.H.Q.)

My 0213/28th para. 4. ST. LAURENT reports escorts will probably be able to refuel from oiler today.

(C. in C. W.A., 0935A/28 to Capt. (D) 3, (R) Ships escorting O.N. Convoy 154).

Your 0213Z/28th. Position at 0800Z/28th 041° 33' N., 017° 47' W., 270° 20 knots. Anticipate having to proceed to fuel by 0001Z/2nd assuming convoy will then be within 600 miles of Ponta Delgada. Request further information of convoy route.

(Capt. D.3., 0943Z/28 to C. in C. Western Approaches, (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. C.T.G.24.7, N.C.X.F., C. in C. H.F., METEOR, N.O.I.C. Greenock, R.A.D., V.A. Gibraltar).

C. in C. W.A.'s 1132Z/28th and my 0943Z/28th. My P.C. and S. at 1700Z/28th 041° 57' N., 021° 58' W., 287° 18½ knots. Anticipate joining convoy by 1400Z/29th.

It will now be necessary to part company by 0001Z/31 in order to fuel Ponta Delgada arrive a.m./2nd January.

(Capt. D.3., 1729Z/28 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. in C. H.F., V.A. Gibraltar, R.A.(D), O.N.S.154).

U/B attacked
by ST.

LAURENT.

Have attacked U-boat on surface 2 miles astern of convoy.

(C.T.U.24.1.11., 0243Z/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav etc).

Got him. Dropped 10 charges and counted 14 explosions, one enormous. Psalms 119 verses 97

and 98.

(C.T.U.24.1.11., 0313Z/28 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).

/U/B...

985

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - contd.Attacks on O.N.S.154. - Contd.

U/B attacked CHILLIWACK scored a direct hit on U-boat.
by CHILLIWACK. (C.T.U. 24.1.11., 0317Z/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R)
Connav, C.T.F.24., etc).
See also p. 994 C.T.U.24.1.11 0313 and 0317. Fine work keep it
going.
(C. in C. W.A., 0844A/28 to Escorts O.N.154, (R)
C.in C. W.A. Connav, C.T.F.24., etc)

D/F Further D/F bearings, including transmissions on
7640 k/cs at 0112Z/28 and on 3920 k/cs at
0115Z/28 indicate that O.N.154 is still being
shadowed by several U-boats.
(D.D.I.C., 0322A/28 to Escorts O.N.154).
Immediate to S.E. O.N.154 only. My 0322/28. Up to 0925Z/28
34 further transmissions in vicinity of convoy. It is considered
that at least 12 U-boats are concerned and that about six may
be in contact.
(D.D.I.C., 1151A/28 to Escorts O.N.154).
U-boats transmitting in your general area have been using
series 1 as well as series 7 since 1200Z.
(D.D.I.C., 1906A/28 to Escorts of O.N.154 (R) MILNE,
METEOR, etc).
A.M.1151A/28. 27 transmissions from your area on Series 1
and 7 between 0925Z and 1922Z indicate U-boats still in contact.
(D.D.I.C., 2155A/28 to Escorts of O.N.154).

Fuel: ST. LAURENT has seven days fuel. CHILLIWACK
weather. obtained 100 tons yesterday. Sea is flattened,
will be able to refuel today.
(C.T.U.24.1.11., 0334Z/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R)
Connav, C.T.F.24., Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F.,
C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7).

Position Situation Report at 2000 Section S.W. My 1359A/
28th, add to O.N.S.154 altered at 2200A/28 to
42.58, 35.01.
(C. in C. W.A., 1728A/28 to S. and A. W.A.)

FIDELITY Intend using FIDELITY's aeroplane if weather
aircraft. permits. E.G. SUBERT has 250 tons of fuel
oil to spare for corvette.
(C.T.U.24.1.11., 1843/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R)
Connav, Admty. C.T.F. 24., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C., C.G.24.7).

/U/B...

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - con/s.Attacks on O.N.S.154. - Contd.

→ U/B attacked Disposition M. Contacted S/M surfaced about 500
by CHILLIWACK. yards away. Crash dived. Dropped 10 charges 35
(as received ? 3 to 5 intended) right on him.
(CHILLIWACK, 2007A/28 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).

5 U/Bs Convoy being attacked by 5 U-boats already
sighted and attacked. (?Events) moving quickly.
Will report more later.
(C.T.U.24.1.11., 2030Z/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R)
Connav etc).

Attack repulsed. No ships torpedoed. Every escort has
had a fight. Some attacks promising (?none certain).
(C.T.U.24.1.11, 2045Z/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav etc).

→ FIDELITY, At dusk endeavoured to fly off FIDELITY's
SHEDIAC, aircraft to cover alteration of course. Aircraft
NAPANEE, crashed at take off, both airmen rescued.
ST. LAURENT. FIDELITY's (?main engine) out of order. Have
left SHEDIAC to screen her. NAPANEE claims one.
Mine probable. Heard extra underwater
explosions.
(C.T.U.24.1.11., 2050Z/28 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., Comtask Group 24.7).

Ships 3 or 4 ships torpedoed. NAPANEE narrowly missed.
Torpedoed. Still in control.
(C.T.U.24.1.11, 2106Z/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R)
Connav, etc).

U/B attacked Dropped 5 charges on fresh contact. 6
by ST. LAURENT explosives, last one delayed. Dropped further
10 charges on stopped target for luck.
(C.T.U.24.1.11., 2127Z/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R)
Connav etc).

My 2271?/28th (2127/28 intended?) CHILLIWACK dropped
pattern around conning tower of diving S/M.
(C.T.U.24.1.11., 2255Z/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav etc).

→ U/B attacked Attacked S/M in 043° 23' N., 027° 28' W.
by CHILLIWACK (CHILLIWACK, 2158Z/28 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, etc)

→ FIDELITY FIDELITY reports 5 days required to repair main
SHEDIAC. engine. She is stopping in 043° 23' N., (?027°)
07' W., with SHEDIAC screening. In view of her
large ships company intend leaving (?SHEDIAC) with
her. Please instruct FIDELITY direct.
(C.T.U.24.1.11 2159Z/28 to (?) C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F.24
Admty. etc).

/CHILLIWACK...

28.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - cont'd.

Attacks on O.N.S.154 - Contd.

CHILLIWACK
damaged.

CHILLIWACK report engine room damage, cannot drop further depth charge. May be necessary to detach to nearest port. Further report follows. (C.T.U.24.1.11., 2330Z/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav etc).

Situation.

Intend leaving survivors. Request Destroyers may (?drop) down track for them tomorrow. Moon rising and situation improving. P.C. and S. at 2140Z, 043° 22' N., (??070°) 24' W., 264° 7 knots.

Believe 5 ships torpedoed tonight. CHILLIWACK, KENOGAMI, R.D.F. defective.

(C.T.U., 24.1.11., 2255Z/28 (?2155Z intended) to C. in C. W.A., Recd. 2348/28).

My 2155/28*3 more ships torpedoed, no revenge.

(C.T.U.24.1.11 2231Z/28 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc Recd. 2358/28)*(?2255/28 intended).

N.B. U.356 sunk during this attack - see p.959.

General.

Russian
S/MS.

Allied S/M notice. U.S.S.R. S/M L.15 departs Halifax 1830Z/28th Dec. for Reykjavik. Making 10 knots escorted by MAHONE to Point 044° 35' N., 057° 40' W., at 2030Z/29th. Thence making 192 miles per day surfaced or submerged at

discretion unescorted to 046° 10' N., 048° 01' W. at 2345Z/31 to 053° 01' N., 047° 40' W. at 0300Z/3rd Jan. thence 055° 40' N., 045° 40' W., 2359Z/3 Jan. thence 060° 01' N., 034° 45' W., 0700Z/6th thence 064° 01' N., 025° 01' W., 1115Z/8th. Thence 064° 07' N., 022° 45' W., at 1845Z/8th thence Reykjavik. (Cominch, 0022/28 to all commands). *Sailed - see next page.*

Allied Sub. Notice. U.S.S.R. Sub. S.56 departs Halifax 1830Z/28 escorted BERNADOU E.T.A. 44.35 N., 57.40 W., at 1630Z/29 thence to Rosyth unescorted speed 240 miles per day surfaced and submerged via 46.01 N., 49.01 W., at 0030Z/31st to 53.10 N. 48.50 W., at 0030Z/2nd January to 56.01 N., 47.01 W., at 1845Z 2nd January to 60.30 N., 34.42 W., at 1800Z/4th to 60.30 N., 26.01 W., at 1959Z/5th to 59.45 N., 15.01 W., at 0500Z/7th to 270°. Barra Head 10 at 1030Z/8th thence destination.

(Connav, 0201/28 to Admty). *Sailing delayed - see next page.*

988

28.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Russian (1) New position (W) 058° 20' N., 041° 01' W.
S/Ms. Contd. has been established on your route.
(ii) Total bombing restrictions have been arranged 30 miles either side of your route as follows: between (D) and (W) from 1800/29th to 0600/31st between (W) and (E) from 1800/30th to 0800/2nd between (E) and (X) from 6100/31st to 1200/3rd between (X) and (Y) from 1600/1st to 1800/4th between (Y) and (Z) from 0001/3rd to 0001/6
(iii) If for some cause you find that submarine is outside bombing restriction make an immediate signal to F.O.(S) repeated Admty. and C. in C. W.A. giving your position course and speed and weather conditions.
(iv) All times above are zone minus one. This time is kept in U.K.

(F.O.(S) 1306A/28 to U.S.S.R. S/M S.54, S.55)

My 1545/28th (1645/28 intended situation report South West) add U.S.S.R. S/M S.56 escorted by U.S. Destroyer BERNADOU departed Chebucto Head 1930Z/28th steering 089° speed 12 to arrive hundred fathom line (2044°) 35' 057° 40' at 1630Z/29th 16. U.S. Destroyer BERNADOU proceeding to Argentia and U.S.S.R. S/M S.56 proceeding unescorted steering 077° speed of Advance 240 miles per day.

U.S.S.R. S/M L.15 escorted by MAHONE departed Chebucto Head 1930Z/28th steering 089° speed 10 knots.

(C.O.A.C., 1646Z/28 to Admty).

My 1646/28th delete reference to U.S. Destroyer BERNADOU escorting U.S.S.R. S/M S.56 movement delayed.

(C.O.A.C., 1934Z/28 to Admty).

Cancel my 1758/23 amend by my 1452/27. Intend to sail S.51 and S.56 in company to position EA at 2230/29th routed in accordance with my 2106/16th to pass through position at time given. Position A 2030/30 B. 0930/1st C 0430/3rd D 2245/3rd E 2200/5th.

2. From E, S.51 proceed through F. at 1115/7th to G at 1715/7th. S.56 proceed from E through X at 2359/6th Y at 0900/8th to Z at 1330/9th. 4.S/M escorted by U.S. (D) BERNADOU to position A. My 1745/23 para. 3 applies to S.51. My 2314/21st Para. 5 applies to S.56. 5 para. 4, 6 and 7 of my 2314/21st applies to both S/Ms.

(C.O.A.C., 2201Z/28 to A.C.I.C., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, F.O.S C. in C. W.A., (R) Comtask 24 N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., B.A.D., S.B.N.O. North Russia, C. in C. Home Fleet Admiral Miles).

→ Sailed L.15 at 1830/28th in accordance with my 1745/23, amended by my 1448/27th.

(C.O.A.C., 2305Z/28 to Admty. A.C.I.C., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, F.O.S. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Home Fleet, Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q., Admiral Miles, F.O.N.F., B.A.D., S.B.N.O. North Russia).

SEAWOLF.

Allied submarine notice. Modify my 1531/27th. British S/M SEAWOLF departure delayed 3 hours. Leaves Point Judith speed 10 knots 1501Z/28th on surface diving at discretion via swept channel to Cape Cod canal. Departs east entrance 2201Z/28th passing 3 miles N.W. Race Point 2359Z/28th thence 15 miles South Cape Sable at 0625Z/30. Submerged during day 29th. (Cominch, 0305/28 to Admty).

/U/B...

War Diary.

28.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B Submarine sighted. 12.33 N., 36.45 W. at 2238 G.C.T./27.
(Cominch, 0316/28 to Admty. B.A.M.S.2 B).

Repair of French Vessels in U.S.A. For Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers. From Combined Chiefs of Staff.
Ref. Your 2878 of Dec. 23, (T.O.O. 1532/23).
1. Ref. above communication, the directive for Glassfurd Mission CCS 129/2 (T.O.O.1507/10) specifically directed that he discuss with the French at Dakar.

"The repair and reconditioning of French Naval Vessels in the United States; assistance required including escorts, for movement to United States".

2. To co-ordinate the reconditioning and repair of all French Naval Units in Africa, it has been proposed that Adm. Glassfurd and his technical aides, upon completion of their work in Dakar proceed to North Africa to consult with you and French Naval Authorities and to report and recommend through you French Naval repair and reconditioning needs from the United States.

3. Your comments are requested.
(Agwar Washington, 0349Z/28 to Usfor London).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T./28th	December:	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
<i>See p. 994</i>			VICTORIOUS } 3 destroyers	34½° N., 58° W.	249	14
			PHOEBE } BRIDGEWATER } ARMERIA }	05° N., 51° W.	305	11
			U.S.S.R. S/M S.55	51½° N., 49° W.	001	10
			U.S.S.R. S/M S.54	47½° N., 49° W.	001	10
<i>See p. 970</i>			BURDOCK (D.O.D. (F) 1020Z/28 to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).	34° N., 26½° W.	011	10.

U.S. Movements Arrival 28th U.S. Army transport FRANKLYN LEISINGER escorted by patrol boat P.C.488.
(R.N.O. Nassau, 1103/28 to Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Arrival 26th Dec. U.S.A. transport ENGLEMAN.
(Broutof, Aruba, 11380R/28 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).
Kingston arrival 1100R/28th Dec., U.S. Tug EDMOND F. MORAN,

U.S. Tug PETER MORAN, U.S.S.*S.C.10 40, U.S.S. S.C.749.
Dredges require repairing. Cdr. G.S.F. pass to convoy control Key West.

(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1246R/28 to Opnav etc).
Departure 26th December, U.S. Destroyer*GREENE, departure

27th, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW, departure 28th, U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD, U.S. Destroyer DAVIS.
Arrival Brazilian minesweeper CAMAQUA, departure 23rd, Brazilian tug ANIBAL MENDONCA.

(R.O. Pernambuco, 2102Z/28 to Admty).
Bermuda arrivals U.S. Minesweepers DESPITE, DIRECT and

DYNAMIC.
(Cdre. i/c Bermuda, 2209C/28 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica, Admty).

990

28.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- O.N. Convoys. As experience has shown that detaching southbound ships is seldom practicable in planned position about 035° W., propose to discontinue southerly routing of these convoys. Southbound ships will be detached when opportunity offers.
(D.T.D., 1129A/28 to Connav (R) B.A.D. etc).
- ROSELYS, ACONITE, LOBELIA. When U.S.S. relieves and circumstances permit intend to direct F.S. ROSELYS, ACONITE, LOBELIA, proceed St. Pierre.
See p. 946. (C.T.24., 1133/28th to C. Mid Ocean Escort, T.U. 24.1.17 ?(R) C. in C. W.A., F.S.ROSELYS, ACONITE, LOBELIA, Capt. (D) Greenock).
- Floating Dock Escort. Your 1133/25 (return of CAIRNS etc. to Freetown is essential) Intend to comply with Para. 4 of Admiralty's 1959/25 (re towage of floating dock from Montevideo to the Cape) and pending further instructions retain MORRIS DANCE with the MILFORD Group. Nothing is known of CAIRNS.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1151Q/28 to F. O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc).
- FIREDRAKE, (sunk 16 Dec). *by U.211.* Survivors from FIREDRAKE and reports regarding her loss are returning to U.K. in B.7 Group. Herewith brief summary of circumstances. Second attack on O.N.153 was from starboard side at 1705/16 at 1800/16 after Raspberry. FIREDRAKE believed to have intercepted M/F D/F. homing signals went but four miles down moon on starboard flank of convoy maintaining approx. course and speed of convoy. At 2010 16 torpedo struck starboard side below foremost funnel and ship broke in half with bow floating away and sinking without survivors. Stern half remained floating with about 35 crew who attracted attention of SUNFLOWER with ?starshell. Stern sank and 26 survivors were rescued by SUNFLOWER in very heavy seas with commendable skill and seamanship at 0045/17. Other escorts at this time were SNOWFLAKE starboard beam, CHESTERFIELD, ALISMA and PINK rejoining from astern. C.T.F.24 extends sympathy in the loss of the FIREDRAKE and her gallant crew.
(C.T.F.24 1355/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty).
- U/B Position S/M estimate 28th Dec. and U.S. S/M notice.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1531/28 1532/28, 1611/28 1612/28th, 1613/28th, 2305/28th.)
- Floating Dock. Admty. 1959/25 (re towage of floating dock from Montevideo to the Cape). Am taking necessary action on para. 4 first sentence.
2. S.B.N.O.Trinidad is requested to signal present whereabouts of these ships.
(B.A.D., 1533Z/28 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, F.O.C. W.A.F., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At).

/TORTUGUERO...

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Cond.

TORTUGUERO

Your 2050/18th Dec. (TORTUGUERO torpedoed in convoy O.N.153) TORTUGUERO arrived Halifax 1300Z/28.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1555Z/28 to Connav (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Fairmiles,
Free French.

Your 0146Z/5. Free French Naval Authorities agree to take over 3 Fairmiles as your 2054Z/4 but would appreciate it if they could be employed at St. Pierre and urge provision of base equipment and repair facilities of which details were given in A.L.M. 052011/42 of 7th Nov. 1942 (not to F.O.N.F.)
(Head of M. 1602A/28 to N.S.H.Q., (R) F.O.N.F. B.A.D.)

Shipping
Routes,
St. Paul
Rocks.

Your 1942A/27 and 2150Z/8 considering slow speeds lost vessels involved the close inshore route area Cape San Roque preferable. Vessel will be included in convoy when instituted. (Connav 1610/28 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.) Reply Admty. 1409/29.

Rescue
Tugs.

WATCHMAN 1235/28 (N.T. in W.D.) Rescue tug not immediately available here. My 1527/24 (re O.N.153) TENACITY with SS. EMPIRE WATERHEN. My 2003/26 FRISKY salvaging tug CHAMPLAIN ashore on Burin Peninsula.
(C.C.N.F., 1625Z/28 to C.T.24 (R) C.T.G.24.7., C. Mid Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.15 C.T.U. 24.12.2., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

T.M.1
(tankers
for "Torch"
area).

Sailed HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE escorting T.M.1 in accordance with my 0942/26 not to S.O.(I) Jamaica,
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1632Q/28 to Admty (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At. F.O.C.N.A. S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.O.B. Trinidad).
List 9 ships destination Gibraltar.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1646Q/28 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Kingston (Ja.) N.S.H.Q., F.O.C.N.A.)

Dakar
Mission,
British
Officers.

Following is Vice Admiral Glassford 1699Z/26 to Combined C. of S. Washington and British C. of S. London. "Was notified morning 25th that Air Vice Marshal Cole Hamilton and Admiral Pegram with total four staff Officers would arrive Dakar from Bathurst same afternoon. Due to changed conditions incident Darlan murder and absence Governor General Boisson their arrival would have been most unfortunate. Requested Pegram defer visit until later. This request has been complied with. I was advised on 23rd that Commodore Kelsey and one Staff Officer would come Bereras

/British...

MOST SECRET

991A

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.
1645Z/28th December.
From C.O.A.C. Date. 28.12.42.
NAVAL CYPHER 3S by W/T. Recd. 2228.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Section South West O N 153 Western Local
Escort Task Unit 24.18.2
(E) 040 degs. 44' 064 degs. 36' 230 degs. 9.5 alter to
270 degs. in 039 degs. 50' north O N 152 Western Local
Escort Task Unit 24.18.5 042 degs. 32' 062 degs. 02'
227 degs. 7.5 Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.6
escorting Halifax portion O N 152 vicinity
043 degs. 08' 062 degs. 02' en route Halifax S C 115
Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.4 040 degs. 07'
069 degs. 40' 089 degs. 7.5 alter to 044 degs. in
066 degs. 30' West. F.H. 25, NORANDA, depart St. John
N.B. 1830Z/28th, S.H. 72, *TARIGON, Halifax (?1030) *not identified
11th. H. J. (?23), DIGBY, 044 degs. 38' 061 degs. 48' 075 degs.
12. CHESTERFIELD, 042 degs. 54' 065 degs. 22' en route
Boston, 18. H.M.C.S. SAGUENAY, towed by FOUNDATION
FRANKLIN, ST. ANNE, escorted by GODERICH, 043 degs. 56'
(?063 degs.) 58' 226 degs. 7 alter to 270 degs. in
065 degs. 35' and to 360 degs. in 066 degs. 40' west.
H.M. Sub. *SEAWOLF, unescorted, from position 042 degs. 08'
north 070 degs. 08' west at 2359Z/28th to arrive
position 15 miles south of Cape Sable at 0625Z/30th
CHELSEA, departs Halifax P.M. 28th en route St. Johns
N.F. *SENTARES, en route St. John N.B. from Lunenburg.

*See p. 988
*not identified 1645Z/28.

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

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H)
D.D.I.C.

D.T.D. (C)
U.S.N. (3)
D.M.S.
C.C.R.T.

MC.

SECRET

991B

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

From: (Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One Time Pad 20/12/42
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule) Recd. 0710

Naval Cypher 3(S) By T/P W/T

Addressed: Admiralty.

Important

My 1645/28th.

South(?west) add MINAS 043° 43' North,
064° 00' West to rejoin O.N. 152.

CHELSEA ?depart Halifax 2300Z/28th en
route St. John's N.F. Speed 17 knots.

0259Z/29.

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

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (2)
D.A./S.W.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
W.D.
M. (2)
I.P. (2)
U.S.N. (3)
C.C.R.T.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.

10

992

28.12.1942.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - con/7.

Dakar
Mission,
British
Officers.
Contd.

British Liaison with Mission. I do not consider advisable at this time that British impose on French or French at Dakar such imposing adjunct to this mission as this Air Vice Marshal and the Rear Admiral in person. Pegram has been of my opinion in this matter. Only Kelsey and one staff officer should come when time is (?ripe)

Furthermore British controlled radio at Accra still continued on 24 hour radio propaganda directed at French West Africa. On same evening just before Boisson learned of Darlan murder and departed for North Africa he brought this propaganda to my attention and observed that it would be very difficult for him to receive British Officers under circumstances unless this propaganda ceases at once, it is liable to cause Governor General to refuse entry here to any British Officer or activity".

(Radio, Washington, 1655/28 to Admty). Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.
(W) 410, 1755Z/28 - See Lion Copy.

MANSFIELD

Boston sailed 1300Z/27 MANSFIELD for St. Johns N.F.

(N.S.H.Q., 1716Z/28 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

U.G.F.4

Convoy U.G.F.4 sailing New York Jan. 5th composition as follows. For West African ports, A.P. MONTEREY, ERICSSON, SANTA ROSA, SANTA ELENA, A.K. EXAMINER, SANTA MARIA, A.O. ESSO HARTFORD.

For Mediterranean ports, A.P. CRISTOBAL, MCANDREW, EVANGELINE, SHAWNEE, BORINQUEN, SANTA PAUL, (group missing) ANCON, (?ARUNDEL), A.O. ESSO HARRISBURG. U.S. KENNENBEC accompanies to fuel (corrupt group) destroyers. Total 17 ships. Admiralty transmit to C. in C. A.F.

(Cominch, 1735/28 to C. in C. Lant (R) U.S. Port Director, New York, C. in C. A.F., V.A. Gib. C.T.F.29, C.T.F.34, N.C.X.F., C.E.S.F., Commandant 3rd U.S. Naval District, Admty. Comnav, B.A.D., Cdr. N.W. African Sea Frontier).

A.T.33

Sail A.T.33 to R/V at 56.09 N., 09.01 W., time 0830Z/7th via. (L) 38.05, 71.50 (M) 38.40, 58.30 (N) 42.45, 47.50. (O) 53.40, 39.20 (P) 56.40, 22.30. (Q) 56.06, 08.10.

"Chop" 0330Z/6th.

(Connav, 1738/28 to U.S. Port Director at New York (R) Cinclant, C.E.S.F., C.T.24, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.T.G.24.6).

WASAGA
TENACITY,
EMPIRE

WATERHEN.

Estimated P.C. and S. 045° 07' ^{20.00} 047° 41' W. 304° 2 knots. TENACITY towing WATERHEN. 4854 1763.

(WASAGA, 1930Z/28 2030Z/28 to F.O.N.F. (R) VEGREVILLE).

MOST SECRET

992A

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

1755Z/28th December.

MOST SECRET.

OUT.

Addressed Britman, Washington.

Date 28.12.42.

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

IMMEDIATE.

-OZ.2349. 28th December, 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(W) 410.

A. Following telegram dated 26th December has been received from Resident Minister, West Africa.

BEGINS.

Flag Officer Commanding, West Africa, has just reported that after all arrangements had been made for him and Air Officer Commanding to proceed to Dakar, and when they had arrived at Bathurst on their way to Dakar, he received an urgent message and letter from Glassford, delivered by Colonel Holmes, requesting him and Air Officer Commanding to postpone their visit "until more propitious time." Flag Officer states that this partly due to Darlan's assassination, but that Glassford also appeared to think that visit was premature in any case.

2. I think this very unsatisfactory after arrangements had been made between British and U.S. Staffs and Admiral and Air Officer Commanding should join Glassford; and it was generally known that British officers were on their way.

3. I cannot resist the conclusion that this is in deference to Boisson. It must be derogatory and detrimental to British interests that British officers should be at Boisson's beck and call.

ENDS.

B. Colonial Office are replying as follows:-

BEGINS.

Situation is developing favourably, and we should hope that now that Giraud is High Commissioner Glassford's objections to visit will disappear.

We/.....

992^B-

- 2 -

We are, however, asking Joint Staff Mission to take matter up urgently. ENDS.

C. Please take this up with U.S. Chiefs of Staff with a view to arranging for the postponed visit to take place as soon as possible.

1755Z/28

(Rec'd in War Reg. 0250/29 Dec)

Circulation:-

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Sec.
S. of S. Colonies.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels. W.O.
A.M.C.S. (C)
Mr. Strang F.O.

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

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U.S.A.T. 28 2000 WUYX U.S. Army Transport MEXICO.
 MEXICO. Ascension Island. 6th Jan. Route Serpent's
 Mouth thence through following positions all
 positions North and West.
 P. 09.59 61.22 Q. 09.40 60.34 R. 08.37 58.50
 S. 06.43 56.07 T. 06.09, 53.10 U. 04.51 50.55 Beginning with
 V all positions South and West.
 V. 02.05 39.30 W. 04.55 34.50 X.07.59 27.54 Y. 07.59 15.17.
 Knots speed A.15.5 B. 17.5.
 (Port Director, Port of Spain, 1957/28 to Connav, Comsolant etc).

Shipping My 1942/27 and C. in C. S.A. 1115/28. Admty.
 Routes. intention is that ships now on passage should
 be diverted into one stream on the Freetown side,
 bunkering at Freetown or St. Thomas if
 necessary instead of the two streams as at present
 2. Fully concur however with C. in C. S.A.'s proposal if room
 can be found for ships from South Africa to join J.T.convoys.
 (D.T.D., 2000A/28 to Connav (R) B.A.D., C. in C. S.A.)

French Refer your 0059A/1 Dec. If available please
 Shipping. advise present location and condition following
 French Merships last reported in or due ports
 named.
 Oran. GONNEVILLE, V.D. JEBEL - AMOUR, GOVERNEUR
 GENERAL JONNART, JANINE, PALBAS, PARAME.
 Algiers. CATHERINE SCHIAFFINO, MARIE LOUISE LE BORGNE,
 PENERF, STE.MATHILDE (Ex. Norwegian BOSPHORUS) THESEE, VILLIERS,
 GOVERNEUR GENERAL GREVY, LILLOIS, BOUGIE, MANTAIGE, Bone, STE.
 JULIENNE, (ex Norwegian ORIA)
 Tunis. THISBEE, KROUMIR, LIBERIA, MIN, MOSTAGANEM, Sfax. ROUBAIS-
 IEN. STE. MARTHE.
 (Connav, 2106/28 to Admty).

D/G The following instruction is now in force:-
 Defects. Ships developing d.g. defects the repair of
 which would entail delay are to proceed to any
 port of destination on West Coast United Kingdom
 between Clyde and Avonmouth inclusive notwith-
 standing such d.g. defects.
 2. The effect of this instruction is that ships in ocean
 convoys developing d.g. defects should no longer be directed
 into Belfast on that account. But it becomes essential that
 after changes of destination have been given to a convoy at
 sea the names of all ships to which para. 1 applies should be
 reported to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., at an early opportunity.
 3. It is requested that this change of procedure may be
 explained to Convoy Commodores and at Convoy Conferences.
 4. The provisions of N.C.S.I.62 are suspended.
 (D.T.D., 2055A/28 to Connav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) B.A.D.,
 N.S.H.Q., B.R.L.O. New York, C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B D/F bearings at 1459Z/28 on 11068 k/cs indicate U-boat in approx. 58° 30' N., 19° W. (D.D.I.C., 2110A/28 to Escorts of O.N.156, Escorts of S.C.113).

MILFORD Sloop MILFORD Corvettes AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, etc. trawlers YES/TOR, ARRAN, now in Trinidad area have been placed temporarily under orders of C. in C. U.S. Fleet by British. Vessels must arrive New Orleans by Jan. 27th to form escort for A.F.D.24 thence to Freetown for which orders will be issued later. Vessels are hereby placed under your orders for use desired until necessary for them to depart for New Orleans. B.A.D Washington informed. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2126/28 to C.C.S.F., (R) C.G.S.F., MILFORD, S.B.N.O. Trinidad, F.O.C.W.A., N.O.B. Trinidad, Com.8).

VICTORIOUS Ref. Admty. 2137A/18. Delayed by weather. E.T.A. in swept channel 0800Q/30th Dec. Intend sailing p.m. same day and arriving Hampton Roads 1300Q/1st January. Weather report. (VICTORIOUS, 2128P/28 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Admty).

See p. 989

Shipping COOT (Hond) en route Havana to Tampa caught Casualty. fire December 17th twenty miles south southeast of Rebecca Shoal. Five survivors landed Key West. Remainder three members of crew drowned. (N.S.H.Q., 2144Z/28 to Admty. Connav).

Sub. Attack Para. A. SCOTTISH HEATHER torpedoed 45.54 N., and sighting 26.39 W., 2037Z/27. CHILLIWACK sights sub. about summary. 46° N., 26.39 W., 2037Z/27 and attacks subs on surface one about 46.05 N., 26.33 W. 1900Z/27 and one about 45.10 N., 26.45 W. 0137Z/28 Surface craft attack sub on surface about 45° N. 26.45 W. 0243Z/28 possibly severely damaged. *See pp. 984 & 987*

Para. B. R.A.F. attacks sub. 49.11 N., 22.22 W. 1235Z/27. Army plane sights sub on surface 02.30 S., 29.15 W. 1326Z/28 course 150. B.18 sights sub. 10.35 N., 56.52 W. 2206Z/27. Sighting 1336Z/27. My 272130 read B.18

Para. C. Not U.S.S. BIBB. Sub. sighted on surface 57.20 N., 15° W.

Para. D. 1226Z/27. My (sic) sights sub 12.13 N., 36.45 W. 2238Z/27. (Cominch, 2146/28 to Admty).

/Convoy...

War Diary.28.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy Commodores. Your 1743/18th Oct. and my 1532/20 Oct. not to N.S.H.Q. Due to delay in O.N. convoys owing to bad weather etc. there is only one Cdre. now available New York. Suggest that by cutting Cdre's stay in New York to 7 days leaves no margin for mishaps of sickness. Every Cdre. whose stay in New York has been cut to 7 days or less has complained that this is not enough time for rest after an arduous and trying Westerly passage under winter conditions. Therefore request that at least one Cdre. be sailed in next O.N. convoy as Vice Cdre. and on arrival New York keeps his turn as Cdre. of homeward bound convoy.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 2228Z/28 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.) Reply; 1615/29.

ROXBOROUGH, EMPIRE BUNTING. Am screening EMPIRE BUNTING in approx. 048° 55' N., 044° 05' W., slight temporary repairs will be effected by 0001/29th when she intends to proceed St. John's (N.F.) one (?corvette if possible) escorting her there. Approximate position S.C.114 049 (50° 15' N. 104° 10' W. or 0420) 30' shielding O.N. 156. Weather report.
(ROXBOROUGH 2230Z/28 to C.T.F.24., F.O.N.F. (R) WATCHMAN, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Connav, C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7).

Dakar Mission. To. Eisenhower. From Deane. Signed. Marshall. By British Staff Mission I have been informed that Rear Admiral Pegram, F.O., West Africa, and Air Vice Marshal Cole Hamilton, A.O.C. West Africa, will be Glassford Mission's Naval and Air Representatives.
(Agwa Washington, 2309Z/28 to Algiers).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Auckland, U.S. Ship LANSLOWNE. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0019Z/28 to Admty).
Departure Auckland, U.S. ship LANSLOWNE escorting U.S. ship WEST POINT to Noumea E.T.A.0600Z/31st.
(L) 035° 25' S., 176° 00' E. (M) 024° 10' S., 168° 05' E.
(N) 023° 23' S., 166° 30' E. S. of A. 21 knots.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2229Z/28 to Admty).
Departures Milne Bay, 25th December, U.S. Patrol gunboat TULSA for Aden, 26th December, H.M.A.S. SWAN for Townsville. Sydney (N.S.W.), 26th December, H.M.S. PIRIE for Townsville. Darwin, 27th December, H.M.A.S. WILCANNIA for Thursday Island. Arrival 27th December, Thursday Island, CASTLEMAINE, Brisbane LITHGOW.
(A.C.N.B., 0437Z/28 to Admty etc).

/Arrivals...

996

28.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - 20th/28.

Movements.
Contd.

Arrivals 27th December, Portland Roads, U.S.
Transport VAN DER LIJN. Port Moresby, U.S.
Transport CREMER, BOTH, VAN HEUTZ, BONTEKOE,
TASMAN. Brisbane, R.A.F.A. KURUMBA, Townsville, H/T
TAROONA. 28th, Port Moresby, Hospital ship MANUNDA.
(A.C.N.B., 0913Z/28 to Admty, Connav).
Arrival Auckland H.M.N.Z.S. MONOWAI.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2309Z/28 to Admty).

Situation.

Digest serial No. 340 summary for Dec. 27.
Enemy driven from several strong positions
Eastern sector Buna Area. Severe fighting
continues south east of Mission. Strong advance
made along Soputa Sanananda track. Attacks this area by 20 -
30 fighters 7 - 8 dive bombers caused few casualties otherwise
failed completely. 12 P.38s intercepting shot down 11 Zeros
and 4 dive bombers.
Our positions Buna village shelled intermittently without
damage by possible submarine for 4 hours from 1400 S.M. 26Z.
Further bombardment near midnight 27th. Barges reported off
Govt. Station 1150/27/Z engaged by artillery result unknown.
2. Photographs 26th show 5 new A.A. positions near Kavieng
airfield 3 new A.A. guns on Aago Is.
3. 27 heavy bombers attacked shipping Rabaul Harbour early
morning destroying one large vessel and setting fire to 2
medium. Observed in harbour practically same number of
vessels previously reported.
4. Other air strikes as follows.
3 Bostons bombed and strafed mouth Amboga River and buildings
Dona Mission where one fire started. Reconnaissance Liberator
bombed Finschaffen runway. Personnel and one aircraft
Fudlord strip strafed. Stores buildings personnel trucks Laivai
area strafed. 2 large fires observed probably fuel dumps.
Liberator strafed camouflaged launch probably armed with M.G.
at Saidor 50 M.L.S. S.E. Madang.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., (?)7125/28 to Admty etc).

Troop
Convoy
from M.E.

Your 0154A/24th (estimated furnace oil
requirements for convoy lifting 9th Aust. Div.
from M.E. to Australia) Fuel will be available
at Fremantle and Sydney. Absence of Fleet
oilers from Fremantle will necessitate arrange-
ments for commercial tanker for direct oiling of
3 vessels.
(A.C.N.B., 0356Z/28 to D.S.T.)

S.S. VAN
HEEMSKERK

Dutch vessel VAN HEEMSKERK was bombed by
single Zero Aircraft 2340Z/26 off entrance
Merauke. Forecastle and forward hatch damaged.
3 native seamen killed and 4 wounded.
(N.B. Melbourne, 0438Z/28 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.

28.12.1942.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1403A/28, 1503A/28).

Submarines Attacked.

U.S. Report. Your 1059B/22 July. Dec. 25th Force of M.T.Bs. attacked surfaced S/M off New Guinea. Made at least 2 torpedo hits. S/M seen to break in half and sink. U.S. S/M SEADRAGON reports destruction of Japanese S/M in St. George's Channel. 21 attacks reported in week ending 2400Z/27th. B.A.D. Washington and C.N.J.S.M. have this by hand. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2127/28 to Admty). *I.4 Sunk 20/12. Sunk 25/12. 13.867.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.51 B is estimated to have been about 90 miles S.W. of Bear Island at 0800 today. ORIBI one of the 5 escorting destroyers lost touch with the convoy at 0045A today through R.D/F failure and after 24 hours unsuccessful search proceeded to Kola Inlet independently, arriving 1100A/31.

Mumerous small air-raids on Murmansk from 0600C yesterday till 0400C today started small fires near the railway and slowed down the unloading of ships. This morning, a blizzard prevented further local raids.

Speed restrictions on ships entering or leaving the Bristol Channel were abolished today, but may be re-imposed in the event of further enemy minelaying.

A Mine was exploded by WOLSEY at 1610 today off Mablethorpe.

"Torch" Area.

The convoy movements proposed by the French Admiralty are given in N.C.X.F. 2145A/29 and 1330A/30.

North Atlantic.

Italian tanker PAGAO, sunk at Gibraltar when Italy entered the war and (according to Lloyds) sold to Spain in June, 1942, has been raised by Spanish authorities and is now alongside the Mole at Algeciras. V.A. Gibraltar understands she is to be towed to Cadiz.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

The routeing policy at present being followed for shipping from the South Atlantic to the U.S.A. eastern seaboard is outlined in A.M.1829A/29, 2125A/31 and Cominch C. and R., 2053/30.

Mediterranean.

Force Q carried out a sweep to the northward of Bizerta last night. No surface craft were sighted. Enemy aircraft closed and fired recognition signals on two occasions, but did not attack.

P.212 reports that at 1350/14 in 37° 37' N., 10° 41' E., she obtained one certain and possibly 3 hits with torpedoes on two 6,000 ton merchant vessels. P.46 is known to have attacked at the same time. Both ships sank. P.247 on 17 Dec. off Bizerta fired 4 torpedoes at a "Ramb" class merchant ship escorted by a destroyer. One hit was obtained, probably on the destroyer, which was not seen or heard again. P.228 had attacked this convoy an hour previously (see 25 Dec).

At 0240A, torpedo Albacores from Malta blew up a merchant ship of 4,000 tons apparently carrying ammunition escorted by a destroyer in 37.18 N., 11.40 E. (35 miles N.E. of Cape Bon) Near misses with bombs were scored by a special Albacore on the destroyer. 4 Beaufighters escorted by 4 Spitfires attacked and damaged a 2-masted schooner off Bou Ficha and destroyed a Ju.88 flying north at 1420, 20 miles south of Pantellaria.

Tunis docks, Sousse Harbour and Bizerta were attacked by aircraft last night.

Western
Desert.

Bad weather along the coast is retarding the movements of tugs and lighters and is slowing up cargo discharge.

/Black...

1000

War Diary.29.12.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.- Contd.

Black Sea.

Liaison Officer, Black Sea reports that Russian surface forces attacked an enemy convoy near Sulina, damaged the escorting destroyer heavily and set on fire a merchant vessel which was subsequently beached. Another force bombarded the coast in this area. E-boats raided Anapa on the night of 16th Dec. sinking 3 barges loaded with ammunition. On the night of 20 Dec. surface forces with air escort bombarded Yalta and Feodosia. Russian dive bombers attacked Novorossisk from 18 to 21 Dec. and on 21st raided Yalta where several E and R boats were set on fire and barges damaged.

America & West Indies.Attacks on
O.N.S.154.

Nine more ships in O.N.S. 154 (8 British and 1 Norwegian) were torpedoed last night in the area 43° 17' N., 27° 22' W. bringing the total attacked to 14.

Four destroyers and 3 corvettes have been ordered to reinforce the convoy escort from the westward, and 2 corvettes from the eastward (ex M.K.S.4). Promising attacks were made on at least 5 U-boats during the night.

Capt. (D) 3 (MILNE) and METEOR~~†~~ recovered a number of survivors at 0815Z in 43.17 N., 27.22 W., and intend~~s~~ landing them at Ponta Delgada when fueling on 1st Jan.

The ships attacked were:- LYNTON GRANGE 5029 tons Sunk.

VILLE DE ROUEN 5598 tons Sunk.

EMPIRE SHACKLETON 7068 tons, Sunk.

Commodore's ship. 2 boats including Commodore, rescued by FIDELITY at 1930Z.

ZARIAN, 4871 tons, Sunk. BARON COCHRANE 3385 tons Sunk. MELMORE HEAD 5273 tons Sunk.

(all the above were torpedoed about 2225Z/28).

JASPER PART 7130 tons believed torpedoed.

EMPIRE WAGTAIL 4893 tons missing.

NORSE KING (Norwegian) 5701 tons torpedoed 2228Z/28 not sunk and at 0645Z/29 reported in 43.25 N., 27.18 W., making 6 knots. Ordered to proceed to Azores. Three unidentified ships are also missing.

At 0122A SHEDIAC, assisting FIDELITY was ordered to rejoin convoy, and tug EMINENT from Gibraltar was ordered to proceed to FIDELITY's position. The latter ship was believed to be making about 2 knots in about 43.10 N., 27.19 W.

/SHEDIAC...

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies - *Cont. 1/2*

Attacks on
O.N.S.154.
Contd.

SHEDIAC at 1045Z attacked a U-boat in approx.
43° N., 27° 30' W.
At 1058Z the escort of Convoy M.K.S.4 was
ordered to detach 2 corvettes to proceed to
search the area 43.22 N., 27.25 W., where it is
estimated 5 to 8 ships were torpedoed and survivors
and possible derelicts may be found.
(WOODSTOCK and PRESCOTT were detailed).
The convoy was attacked at 1735 today by one
U-boat which was counter attacked and hunted.

HMCS
U. 356 sunk by ST. LAURENT, CHILLIWACK, BATTLE FOR
(27-29 Dec) + NA-PA-NEE in 45°30'N, 25°40'W.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

General

De F.N.F.L. Londres. Following for all Fighting French ships and establishments.
No. G.7. From now on you should exchange salute as prescribed by regulations with French ships of North Africa or A.O.F. forces that you might meet. In such occasional meetings you should send friendly messages in order to create a favourable atmosphere for the F.N.F.'s collaboration with these Forces which we hope to be closer in the near future.
(Admty. 1450A/29 to A.G.M. 989A).

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

15th M/S Flotilla. Communication Ratings. Your 1739/24. In view of Capt. (D) Greenock 1648/28 Dec. request very early reconsideration of provision of additional communication ratings in 15th M.S.F. Experience in Western Approaches over past two years has shown necessity for minimum communication complement as proposed in Capt. (D) Greenock's 1248/22 Dec. in all Ocean Convoy escorts. 15th M.S.F. sails on 7th January on Ocean Convoy escort duties.
(C. in C. W.A., 1254A/29 to Admty).

SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS. Your 1043/28. SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS are both to be attached to Home Fleet for operational purposes.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1255A/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

Portsmouth Command. Combined Operations Base. It is noted that C.A.F.O. 2601/42 Schedule B differs in principle from Appendix B to Admty. Letter M.051446/42 of 23rd Oct. 1942 by the insertion of the word "Bases" in the heading of Schedule B and the omission of the last section of appendix B to the A.L. quoted above. Hitherto the discipline and administration of the bases has been the responsibility of the Commander in Chief, as these matters are closely linked with multifarious preparations for operation "Round-up" with which I have been charged in my command. Under the C.A.F.O. as now issued I shall be no longer responsible for the discipline nor be the Administrative Authority of the Combined Operations Base. This creates a novel situation and in my opinion would be a retrograde step and impracticable.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2135A/29 to Admty).

1003

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of U.K.

Seidisfjord
Loops. My 0301/28th Oct. Number one indicator loop of Seidisfjord A/S Defences has been repaired by OPHIR. Both loops are now in action. (A.C.I.C., 2210A/29 to Admty).

Movements.

1st M.L.
Sqdn. Present completion dates ex trials of Minelayers under refit are AGAMEMNON 8th January, PORT QUEBEC, 12th January, MENESTHEUS 23rd January, and SOUTHERN PRINCE end of January. Propose each ship should carry out 3 days working up practices at Scapa before returning to Port Z A. Request you provide WELLS and another Destroyer as screen for passage to Scapa and onward also during their practices. Another of my destroyers will be detailed to assist as soon as one becomes available. (R.A.M., 0924/29 to A.C.O.S.)

CLYDE.
P.229. CLYDE leaves Portsmouth, England 31st December for Philadelphia passing through 050° 01' N., 026° 02' W., at 1530A/6th January. S.O.A. on surface 12 knots. Cominch is requested to arrange bombing restrictions West of 026° W. Capt. (S) 5 will arrange bombing restrictions East this longitude. (F.O.S., 1056A/29 to Cominch). Intend sailing CLYDE and P.229 escorted by FILLA from Needles at 1700/31 for (A) 180° Lizard Head 12 miles routed through Spithead convoy route, E.T.A. 0830/1st. (2) Thence CLYDE proceeding independently to Philadelphia as ordered in F.O.S. 1128/23 routed through. (B) 180° Bishop Rock (710 miles) (C) 050° 10' 009° 01' (D) 050° 10' 015° 02' (E) 050° 05' 020° 00' (F) 050° 00' 026° 00'. E.T.A. position F 1530/6th. (3) P.229 proceed Holy Loch escorted by SKATE. (Capt. S.5., 1101A/29 and 2327A/29 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

ARGUS On arrival in U.K. ARGUS is to fly off 833 Sqdn. to Machrihanish for onward routing to Stretton. She is then to proceed to Clyde to unload some 15 damaged aircraft. From then until 20th Jan. ARGUS will be required for D.L.T. (D.O.D. (H), 1312A/29 to ARGUS).

W.A.
Command. Situation at 2004A/29. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1357A/29) See Lion Copy.

S/M
Positions. At 0800/30. Details. (F.O.S., 1609A/29) See Lion Copy.

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.)

1357A/29th December.
MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
Date. 29.12.42.
From. C. in C. Western Approaches. Recd. 2100
P/L

Addressed. Admiralty.

SITUATION at 2004A/29/12/42.

Section N.E.

P.55	AYRSHIRE	58 20	05 38	To Lerwick	9½	AGA
U.R.56	GAVOTTE STAINES REIGHTON WYKE	58 06	05 48	270° Cape Wrath 18' thence 59 30 03 11	5	

Section S. E.

PORT YORK		53 50	05 10	To Milford Haven	14	
P.315 P.53	POTENTILLA	54 30	04 30	To Clyde	9	
GERANIUM SPITREA		53 55	04 55	To Londonderry	10	
TADUSSAC		54 27	05 18	To Milford Haven	14	
CONVOY	YORK CITY	53 03	04 53	Northbound	9	
CONVOY	Unescorted	55 34	09 25	To Belfast	10	

Section N.W.

O.N.S.156 C.T.U. 24.1.3 (E)	U.S.S. SPENCER U.S.S. BADGER DIANTHUS DAUPHIN TRILLIUM ROSTERN	59 05	18 59	To 59 20 20 02 thence 59 21 29 59	5	
O.N.S.J. 156.C.T.U. 24.6.5	U.S.S. DUANE U.S.S. SCHENCK U.S.S. CAMPBELL	59 20	20 35	270° until day- break 50th then 0300° to R/V with O.N.S.156	7	
One Tug SHERWOOD MORDEN (E)	WISTARIA	62 12	21 50	To H.M.S. SHERWOOD	7½	
		57 22	16 10	Course 110°	5	

/ Section S.W.

1003^c

-2-

Section S.W.

SHERWOOD MORDEN		57 22 16 10	To Port Ellen	5
DOLFIJN		49 55 12 58	To 49 10 13 50 thence 43 00 13 50	2 by day 9 by night
S.C.113 C.T.U. 24.1.12	BROADWAY PRIMROSE POLYANTHUS ORILLIA	56 34 14 29	To 56 00 08 25	7½
O.N.157 C.T.U. 24.1.17	GARLAND SWALE ORCHIS NARCISSUS LOBELIA ACONIT ROSELYS	55 42 12 37	To 57 20 23 00	6
M.K.F.5	Fleet Unit 5 sloops 1 corvette	49 55 15 08	To 55 00 10 45	12½
K.M.F.6	EGRET 2 destroyers 2 sloops 2 corvettes	43 24 17 21	To 39 59 17 15	12
K.M.S.6	BLACK SWAN 1 sloop 10 corvettes	47 50 18 00	To 39 05 17 12	7½
O.N.S.154 C.T.U. 24.1.11	ST. LAURENT MILNE METEOR BATLEFORD CHILLIWACK KENOGAMI SHEDLAC NAPANEE	43 10 30 52	To 42 58 35 01	7
1 M/V in tow of tug	LAGAN	54 17 12 50	066 ⁰	6

1357A/29

A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
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.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)

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

1004

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

P.315,
P.53.
POTENTILLA.
See p.1003A
My 1605/27 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 0330/28.
Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1628A/29 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

P.55
See p.1003A
My 1609/29. ^{HT 2 H.3.} Amend para. (G) to read P.55
escorted by AYRSHIRE 58° 05' N., 06° 05' W.
to Lerwick.
(F.O.S., 2133A/29 and 0214A/30).

Operations.

Patrols. 1. Intend M.L. 303 (S.O.) and M.L. 123 to
Patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 1°
30' W., and 2° 05' W. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1120A/29).

1. Tonight CHASSEURS 14 (S.O.) and 11 are to patrol
South of E.A.5 Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1342A/29).
Cancel my 1120A/29 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1628A/29).
M.Ls. 142 and 140 patrolling D buoy to Rye buoy, until
midnight, then in Dungeness East Roads.
(V.A. Dover, 1714A/29).

SHAD Proceed forthwith dive by day towards Bilbao
Patrol. instructions follow.
See pp 1003A 9
1006 (F.O.S., 1219A/29 to SHAD).
My 1219/29. It is desired to ascertain route used
by enemy ships carrying iron ore between Bilbao
and French Ports. Proceed to patrol longitude Bilbao and 002°
15' W. Attention is called F.S.K. Section 46 particularly
page 10.

2. Shipping is not to be attacked unless definitely identified
as enemy and is outside territorial waters.

3. List of enemy shipping is contained in S.I.S. section
4 list F Number 55 - 59 61 and 62 most likely trading between
Bilbao and Bordeaux. It is reported that these ships fly German
colours with possible exception of 59. Usual time of leaving
Bilbao 2200 but may be 1000. These ships will not carry
illuminated colours at night.
(F.O.S., 1303A/29 to SHAD).

Operations Your J. 05019 A. of 27th Dec. 1942. Operation
"Inhabit" and "Backchat" concurred.
and "Back- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1355A/29 to S.O. Force J.
chat". (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty. N.O.I.C. Portland,
C.C.O. S.O. 1st Coastal Force Flotilla, M.T.B.
344).

/Operations...

1005

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operations "Weathervane", "Promise", "Huckaback", "Woodward".
Proposals for operations "Weathervane" and "Promise" dated 26th December are concurred in subject to their being carried out on nights when convoys are not on passage across Lyme Bay. On nights when convoys are on passage motor gunboats could operate from Plymouth but would be required to make a detour as far west as $004^{\circ} 45' W.$, between $050^{\circ} 00' N.$, and $049^{\circ} 40' N.$, to keep clear of aircraft patrols.

2. Proposal for operation "Huckaback" is concurred in subject to being carried out on nights when no convoy is crossing Lyme Bay.

3. Regret operation "Woodward" cannot now be concurred in. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1707A/29 to S.O. Force J. (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, Admty. C.C.O., S.O. 1st Coastal Force Flotilla, S.S.R.F.C. Motor Gunboats 317, 312, M.T.B. 344).

Landing Operation. NAMSOS. (3 corrupt groups) crew on board. Ship proceeding Akureyri. (NAMSOS, 1912A/29 to Admty).

Exercises.

Trials at Liverpool H.43, GLEN STRATH-ALLAN. *3. p. 1003*
My 2315A/28. Owing to weather trials further delayed and cannot be commenced today. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1453A/29 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk bombed. Numerous small-scale air-raids on Murmansk from 0600C/28th to 0400C/29th. Several small fires started in property said to adjoin railway but all now extinguished. Nuisance value (?to) communications has slowed up work of unloading. Blizzard now preventing further local raids. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 0700A/29 to Admty)

Mining.

Operation Q.U.2. My 1802/26th Nov. Prepare to carry out operation Q.U. 2 on 30th December or next suitable night. (C. in C. Nore, 1542A/29 to BEEHIVE).

Sweep of Q.Z.X.866. Today had to abandon check sweep in K as weather became as bad as forecast. Five drifting Z type mines destroyed, one drifting Y star type may also have been sunk. Southern end of South Falls has a liberal supply of drifting mines. (M/S 9, 1555A/29 to V.A. Dover).

1006

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Humber Area. At 1610/29 one mine exploded by WOLSEY in 53° 18.6' N., 01° 04' E. Details. (WOLSEY, 1614/29 to Admty).

15th M/S Flotilla. My 1125/27. Returned. (A.C.I.C., 2046A/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARLACH-BERGER. Reported leaving Bilbao shortly. (F.O.S., 1807A/29 to *SHAD). * See p. 1004

U-boats.

U-boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 52° 12' N., 24° 00' W. (A/C No. 1 U.S. Sqdn. 1146A/29 to 19 Group) Have attacked enemy with depth-charges and estimate 2 hits. (A/C No. 1 U.S. Sqdn. 1203/29 to 19 Group)

Unknown ship attacked. Following from Tiree Radio. 237° class 2 distress 4 hours XP 21. (Port Patrick Radio, 1739 G.M.T./29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock). Received 1743 G.M.T. de Tiree Radio. SSS de XP21. 3 torpedoes passed from port starboard 1739 G.M.T./29. (Port Patrick Radio, 1843/29 to Greenock).

Navigational.

Bristol Channel. Speed restriction on ships entering or leaving Bristol Channel is abolished, but may be re-imposed by request of local naval authorities in event of resumption of enemy minelaying. (D.T.D., 1742A/29).

Casualties & Defects.

TADOUSSAC TADOUSSAC delayed by defects. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1017A/29).

BADSWORTH Arrived BADSWORTH. (Mouille - See p. 965) (F.O.I.C. N.I., 1246A/29).

/Tanker...

1007

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.Tanker off
Cape Clear.
(REGENT
LION)Proceed at best speed to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1315/29 to LORD ESSENDEN)
Aircraft report tanker stopped in 051° 23' N.,
010° 43' W., at 1005 today. This may be
damaged British REGENT LION or German GERMANIA
both believe abandoned.ST. KILDA is to leave ALERT and proceed forthwith
to search and stand by tanker informing ALERT of probable movements
LORD ESSENDEN and tug SEA GIANT leaving Falmouth today to
assist.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1327A/29 to ST. KILDA).

SEA GIANT escorted by LORD ESSENDEN is to be sailed to
salvage tanker reported by A/C in 051° 23' N., 010° 43' W.
at 1305 today. Codeword "Warrant".

2. Ship may be either British REGENT LION or German GERMANIA.
3. Weather in above position, wind North force 5, visibility
fair, squally showers, sea rough.
4. H.M.S. LORD ESSENDEN is to be given a copy of A.M. Q.Z.L.18.
5. ST. KILDA now with cable ship ALERT in this area has been
detached to search.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1343A/29 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth).

Your 1343/29. SEA GIANT has fractured steering engine rod
and piston. Vessel out of action for 3 days.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1630A/29 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Contacted abandoned Tanker ~~escort~~ at 1900/29 in 51° 12' 30"
N., 10° 38' 30" W., drifting 140°. Unable to identify name of
ship. Intend to board and take in tow at daylight weather
permitting. ALERT insists on remaining with ST. KILDA.

(ST. KILDA, 1915A/29 to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 1343/29 and my 1127/29. SEA GIANT unable to sail.

2. LORD ESSENDEN is to proceed direct from Runnelston Buoy to
position 180° Fastnet Rock 5 miles.
3. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ABEILLE IV
4. To R/V LORD ESSENDEN in 051° 06' 00" N., 009° 00' 00" W.
at approx. 1700/30. 4 ships then to proceed in company to
salve tanker. Codeword "Warrant".
5. Position of Tanker as confirmed by R/C aircraft at 1641/29
as 051° 18' N., 010° 49' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1943A/29 to LORD ESSENDEN).

Sailed rescue tug ABEILLE IV via Q.Z.L. 18 to R/V at
1600/30 with LORD ESSENDEN in 51° 06' N., 09° W.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2019A/29 to C. in C. Plymouth).

JAN VAN
GOYEN.Destination of PROSPEROUS and JAN VAN GOYEN is
Clyde. Destination of LAGAN is Tobermory. LAGAN
should proceed from North Channel if escort is
no longer required.
(C. in C. W.A., 1739A/29 to LAGAN).

MIERVALDIS

Departure Rescue Tug DIVERSION to assist SS.
MIERVALDIS vicinity 3A buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2233A/29).

1008

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.157 Sailed GARLAND to overtake O.N.157.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0006A/29).
- Convoy Plot indicates you are 2 miles South of your route
P.W. (N.O.I.C. Portland, 0035A/29 to Escorts P.W.)
Plot indicates you are 2½ miles south of your
route and standing into dangerous area.
(N.O.I.C. Portland 0135A/29 to Escorts P.W.)
- S.C.113. My 2031/28. Reykjavik departure tug DEXTEROUS
SHERWOOD. escorted by WISTARIA at 0130 today to assist
SHERWOOD in tow of MORDEN in 058° 38' N., 019°
36' W., at 1500/28th. Course 168° speed 7.5 knts.
to 057° 02', 018° 57'.
Codeword "Embryo".
(A.C.I.C., 0240A/29 to C. in C. W.A., MORDEN).
My 1545/28 and A.C.I.C.'s 2031A/28. When tug and
HONIGSVAAG arrive, request MORDEN be relieved of escort duties
as important that she return to harbour early to fit type 271
during present lay-over period.
(C.T.U.24.1.12, 0900Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
C.T.U.24.1.12's 1545/28 not understood. Main Quarter Pumps
can be isolated by shutting cross connection.
(C. in C. W.A., 1112A/29 to SHERWOOD).
Following from SHERWOOD. Tow parted. Hope to re-
establish tomorrow. P.C.S. 058° 20' N., 019° 07' W., 122° 5½
knots. 2100Z/28. WISTARIA pass to DEXTEROUS.
(A.C.I.C., 1115A/29 to WISTARIA).
Your 1112/29. This isolation tried on three occasions.
during trip without reducing density Condensate. At present
making five knots on starboard engine. Port main circulator
seized up at Impeller end. MORDEN standing by but hope to make
Merville under own power. P.C. and S. at 1200Z 057° 34' N.,
017° 14' W., 110° five.
(SHERWOOD, 1200Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1115/29. P.C.S. at 1200Z today 057° 34' N., 017° 14' W,
110° 5 knots. Pass to DEXTEROUS.
(A.C.I.C., 1654A/29 to WISTARIA).
On completion of present duty with submarine N.O.I.C.
Greenock is requested to sail POTENTILLA to relieve MORDEN
escorting SHERWOOD to Londonderry. Estimated P.C.S. of MORDEN
and SHERWOOD at 2000A/30 056° 43' N., 012° 48' W., 103° 5 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 2009Z/29).
- WESTERNLAND. C. in C. W.A.'s 1612/28. WESTERNLAND should be
sailed to Methil for onward routeing in F.S.
convoy.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1120A/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- O.N.S.156 Remain with O.N.S.156 until orders to join S.C.114
are received.
(C. in C. W.A., 1136Z/29 to C.T.U.24.6.5).

War Diary.29.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

U.R.56 My 1120A/27. Sailing delayed 24 hours owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1440A/29).

Safety of M/Vs. Owing to acute shortage of escort vessels, it is essential to avoid weather damage and to impress again on C.Os. that care of their ships is a primary consideration and that it is often better to be late than to break up their ships. (C. in C. W.A., 1730A/29 to Cdre. Londonderry, Capts. D. Greenock and Liverpool).

North Russia Convoys. Loading and Trim. Your 2329/26 December. Your paras. 1 to 5 noted and action will be taken. Your paras. 6 and 7 are being transmitted to Washington for decision.
(D.S.T., 2113A/29 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
1. Your 2329/26 paras. 1 and 5, also signal 0852/27 from S.S.T.O. Archangel. We still maintain our previous views that up to 5 ships from each section of J.W.51 and J.W.52 may proceed to Molotovsk, subject to your being satisfied that ice conditions and availability of sufficient suitable icebreakers make the risk of ships being frozen in reasonably small. For instance, we would not wish you to send any ships of J.W.52 into the White Sea if on their approach 9 ships ex J.W.51 were still there, as we think this would risk too many ships at the same time. Our view regarding Ekonomia is that no ship should be sent to this port if at the time you consider there is any greater risk of being frozen in there than if ships were sent to Molotovsk.
2. We note your recommendations regarding desirability of ballasting all ships in J.W.52 but we intend accepting risk and maintaining our policy stated in our Mast 294 in view of strong representations at high level from Russians. You will require, however, to press the Russians to make as much cargo as possible available at Murmansk in case Molotovsk cannot be used.
3. In view of danger of coal ballast heating we now propose to load solid ballast instead of coal in seven ships mentioned in our Mast 294, para. 2 (c).
4. EMPIRE BARD. We must leave the location of this ship to you and the Russians to decide where she can be used to best advantage, but please advise us if you have any serious difference of opinion bearing in mind she must not be immobilised at Molotovsk, also bearing in mind there will be a considerable number of ships at Murmansk with derricks overloaded. We are unable to give you a general idea of homeward convoy cycle in view of uncertain position. You must keep in close touch with S.B.N.O. North Russia.
(D.S.T., 2115A/29 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

K.X.8 WEARWOOD Intend to sail WEARWOOD loaded with Government stores at 2300/29 by normal route to Milford Haven for K.X.8. Speed 9½ knots. E.T.A. 0900/31 Request cover.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 2135/29).

1010

War Diary.29.12. 1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

K.M.F.6. Sailed from U.K. 25/12 List, numbers destinations.
(D.S.T. 0250A/29 to P.S.T.O. X.F.) See Lion copy

Oilers. Following oilers are programmed for Admiralty replenishment of furnace oil in North Africa:-
NORVIK, MINISTER WEDEL, OLTENIA II, VANJA, CLIONA, and ALBERT L. ELLSWORTH. Cargo approx. 10,000 tons each in Special Convoy T.M.I. due Gibraltar about Jan. 14th, one oiler in U.G.F.4 approx. 14,000 tons due Gibraltar about 18th. Jan., three oilers 14,000 tons each in Special Fast Convoy due Gibraltar about 20th. Jan. Request fast oilers be given prompt discharge. (Director of Stores 1826A/29 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib).

French Convoys. French Admiralty propose following convoy movements
First convoy from Dakar to Ivory Coast and Dahomey- 3 ships sailing about 1st. Jan. Second convoy from Dakar to Conakry - one ship sailing about 10th Jan. Third convoy from Dakar to Casablanca 3 ships 7 knots sailing about 5th. Jan. escort one Aviso. * French Admiralty have asked for additional escort for third and fourth convoys. French Naval Authorities at Dakar have been told that if they cannot supply further adequate escort from Dakar they should communicate with you through Admiral Glusford for possible inclusion of these ships in one of your convoys. (N.C.X.F. 2145A/29 to F.O.C.W.A. (R):- S.N.O. Casablanca.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 1533Z/31. * Fourth convoy from Dakar to Casablanca sail about 10th Jan. - 3 ships 11 to 12 knots Escort 1 Aviso.

Raiders

Intelligence My 2015A/22. 1. No further reports of German or Japanese raiders. 2. Blockade runners. KOTA NOPAN could by now be in Japanese waters. If RHAKOTIS left Batavia beginning of Dec. could now have reached South Atlantic. Other ships probably also on passage to Europe. 3. SPICHERN, MAX ALBRECHT and NORDATLANTIC believed still in Spanish ports. (D.D.I.C. 1000A/29 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

MOST SECRET

1010A

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 0205A/29th December OUT

TO: P.S.T.O. X.F.

DATE: 29.12.42.

Repeated: D.S.T.O. Algiers
D.S.T.O. Oran
D.S.T.O. Bone
D.S.T.O. Phillipville
S.T.O. Gibraltar
F.O.C.N.A.
N.C.X.F.

NAVAL CYPHER (TT)

From: Director of Sea Transport.

Convoy***K.M.F.6** sailed from U.K. 25th December comprising following troopships. * See next page

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>No. of Personnel on board</u>	<u>Destination</u>
P.11	MORMONDE	2385	Oran
P.22	ORONTES	3104	Oran
P.23	EMPERESS OF AUSTRALIA	3566	Oran
P.1	DERBYSHIRE	3184	Oran
P. 26	STAFFORDSHIRE	2165	Oran
P. 18	STRATHAIRD	4065	Algiers.
P. 41	WINDSOR CASTLE	2353	Phillipville
P. 46	NEA HELLAS	44 3651	Bone. Algiers.
P. 64	BOISSEVAIN	383 2607	Bougie Bone

2. Particulars of vessels proceeding to Algiers, Phillipville and Bone are:-

<u>Ship.</u>	<u>Length Overall.</u>	<u>Estimated arrival draught</u>
STRATHAIRD	664	28'9"
WINDSOR CASTLE	686	29'7"
NEA HELLAS	584	28'0"
BOISSEVAIN	560	24'8"

3. If berthed STRATHAIRD must lie with port side to wharf owing to damage sustained on starboard side.

0250A/29.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2) D.T.D.(M) Director of Sea Transport.
A.C.N.S.(UT) D.T.D.(3) (M.W.T. Ext. 2186.)
N.A.1st S.L. Head of M.(10) I.P.(2) U.S.N.(3).
D.O.D.(H)(2) D.D.I.C.(2) W.D.
D.O.D.(F)(2) D. of P.(2) Ad. Blake.
D.T.D.(3) D. of S.T. Duty Captain (2)

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CERAMIC (Claimed sunk by Germans, night of 6/7 Dec).
Now officially presumed lost. No survivors have
been recovered from her.
(D.O.R., 1229, 30 Dec).

Movements. Arrivals SLAZAK, WENSLEYDALE, STARWORT and
convoy K.X. 7A.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1049A/29 to Admty).
K.X. 7 A arrived: KAFIRISTAN, DELILIAN, MANCHESTER
MERCHANT, HOUSTON CITY.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1423A/29 to Admty).

→ Arrival PUCKERIDGE.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1330A/29 to Admty etc).
BURDOCK arrived Ponta Delgada 1600 G.M.T./29th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1435/29 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R)
Admty).
Arrival M.Ls. 174 and 170 with SS. BEGUM from Melilla.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1523A/29 to Admty. N.C.X.F.) *Algeria*
LORD HOTHAM escorting SS. BLAIRESK sailed 1655 for Algeria.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1710A/29 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

A/S Sweep *BRILLIANT in the Sea. See in*
U.G.S.3. → Sailed F.S. DUPLEIX, BOREAS, VERITY, AVON VALE,
PUCKERIDGE, CALPE for A/S sweep thence R/V convoy
U.G.S.3 in accordance with S.N.O. Casablanca Area
1635Z/29. Q.B.A. 20. S.N.O. Casablanca Area
pass to C.T.U.26.7.2.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1856A/29 to T.F.33, S.N.O.
Casablanca Area. F.O.I.C. Oran, N.C.X.F. (R)
Admty. C.T.U.26.7.2).

Gibraltar Shipments in K.M.F.5 and K.M.F.6
**See previous page*
AJAX and escorts to K.M.F.5 arrived Gibraltar
with Personnel and stores on board. Signals of
notification were received after ships arrived,
and ships themselves had no information as to
final destination of stores and personnel.
2. Request information whether anything has
been embarked in escorts of K.M.F.6.
3. Request I may always receive advance information by signals
of details of shipments in H.M. ships bound from U.K. to
Gibraltar.
4. When shipments are made in Mediterranean escorts not
calling at Gibraltar great inconvenience is caused and in bad
weather transshipment during passage through Straits cannot
be effected.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1418A/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.,
F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. Greenock).

PAGAO (sunk June 11 1940).
Salvage work on Italian Tanker PAGAO by Spanish
Authorities has been successful and tanker now
alongside Mole Algeciras.
(2) Am informed negotiations concluded with
H.M. Ambassador Madrid permitting Tanker to
be towed to Cadiz.
(3) Request early confirmation para. 2.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1436/29 to Adty)
Confirmed (Adty. 1306A/31).

MOST SECRET

1011B

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

1334A/29th December. IF
MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. Date. 29.12.42.
From. V.A. Gibraltar. Recd. 1917
Naval Cypher 3.S By W/T.

Addressed. Situation report for Area Z of North
Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 2002A/29th.

O.N.S. (7154), C.T.U. 24.1.11, H.M.S. MILNE, H.M.S.
METEOR, H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT, H.M.C. Ships BATTLEFORD,
CHILLIWACK, SHEDIAC, KENOGAMI, NAPANEE, 53 03 31 01 to
41 58 35 01 7. See pp. 1123 to 1125.

G.U.S. 2 31 15 36 02 204 9.

Swedish relief ship MONGABARRA, FENRIS, BARDALAND,
FORMOSA, 38 01 36 30 270 12.

Italian repatriation tanker TAIGETE, 26 29 20 27 256
10.

1334A/29

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

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

1012

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- EMINENT *See previous page.* My 2335/27 and your (70058 or 1058Z/29) not to all addressees. Tug EMINENT sailed from Horta 2100/28. (V.A. Gib. 1522A/29 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc). *See p. 971*
- Cables. Your 1917Z/21 Nov. not to Admty. LADY DENISON PENDER now in vicinity reports laying Gibraltar Casablanca cable now approaching completion. 2. Request clarification as to policy regarding operation, maintenance and control of cable at Casablanca. At present position is not clear as to division of responsibility between U.S. Army U.S. Navy and Cables and Wireless Company. (S.N.O.C.A., 1527Z/29 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).
- G.U.F. 3 Your 1006/28. As escort cannot maintain 15 knots R/V amended as follows, Gibraltar 0500A/31st Casablanca 1530A/31 S. of A. 12 knots. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1740A/29 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, etc).
- G.U.F. 3. My 1006/28th not to ROCHESTER. Amend R/V to read Gibraltar Section in position 57 at 0500A/31st and with Casablanca section in position (b) at 1530A/31st. (2) S.N.O. Casablanca send R/V to escorts Casablanca section. (N.C.X.F., 2305A/29 to F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O. Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar, (R) ROCHESTER, Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet).
- HAARLEM, DRANGEY, K.M.S.6. *See pp. 1011 & 1012.* My 1340A/29 (1341/29 intended) second para. HAARLEM, DRANGEY amend speed to read: As requisite to R/V K.M.S.6 in 039° 05' 017° 12' at approx. 1400A/1st. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1714A/29 to N.A.S. Area Y).
- CAMPOMANES My 1629/29 (N.T. in W.D.) Following received from Vigo (begins) Spanish Tanker CAMPOMANES has been brought into Port with damaged stern said to be due to torpedo 0500/27 off Vianna (Ends). (F.O.C. Gib., 1804A/29 to Admty. etc).
- TAGUS safe conduct. Portuguese M/V TAGUS 1092 G.T. Red Cross and C international painted on side, speed 9 knots, sailed 1745/29th routed coastwise to Cape San Sebastian thence direct Marseilles. Not to be interfered with this voyage. 2. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C. Malta, and Cdre. Algiers to E.A.C. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1811A/29 to S. and A. Area G., N.C.X.F., etc).
- Repatriations Your 2330/27 Dec. (GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO proceeding to Las Palmas) Approved. (D.O.D. (F) 1830Z/29 to S.B.N.O., GIULIO, CESARE)

1013

War Diary.29.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements. E.T.A. 0800Z/29 for oil. Request radio beacon from 0600. Acknowledge.
See p. 1013B (ROCKWOOD 0235Z/29 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)
 My 1259Z/17th. (SS PONCE from Matadi is being instructed to proceed Accra instead of Takoradi. E.T.A. Accra about 20th Dec.) Amended E.T.A. 2nd Jan.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 0959Z/29 to R.N.O. Lagos.)
 E.T.A. 1200Z/30th.
 (CAPE WARWICK 1000Z/29 to N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)
 Simonstown arrival, 28th, EXPRESS, U.S. Destroyer EDISON.
 Departure, 1300C/29, NIZAM for Durban, E.T.A. p.m. 31st.
 1230C/29, FORTUNE escorting C.D.4, shifts to W/T organisation for area J at 0800C/1st Jan. * *see next page*
 (C. in C. S.A. 1358C/29 to Admty etc.)
 Departure, 1500/29th, VIVIANA escorting tug EMPIRE WARLOCK to Luderitz, E.T.A. 30th, thence Saldanha Bay, towed lighter E.T.A. 2nd Jan. VIVIANA then proceeding Capetown E.T.A. 2nd Jan. *See next page*
 (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1507C/29 to C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
11.5.43 Your 1559Z/29th. My position 005° 49' N. 010° 22' W
 Speed 5 knots. E.T.A. Takoradi 1200Z/3rd. Jan.
 (BREDON 1810Z/29 to F.O.W.Af., (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C., Lagos.)

Suspicious Ship. British ship CITY OF HANKOW night 13th Dec. sighted vessel burning guiding light in 018° 25' S 011° 05' E. Vessel definitely stopped was low in water and appeared to be large. Master considers vessel was possibly fuelling ship.
 2. South Atlantic D/F bearing fixed Italian U-Boat in 018° 30' S 011° E at 2242Z/13 Dec.
 (C. in C. S.A. 1135C/29 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af. N.L.O. Saldanha Bay.)

Lieut. Halle Your O(?)425A/27/12. (1425/27/12 re use of Lt. Halle who has good knowledge of N.C.S.O. duties etc.)
 This would appear to help solve a difficult situation. The F.F.N.L.O. is unable to say whether Lieut. Halle would be welcomed without confirmation first from Fighting French Admty. in London that they approved of his appointment but the F.F.N.L.O. did express an opinion that an appointment of a Senior French Officer to Freetown would much improve the French prestige. Request information from French Admty., London.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 1205Z/29 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1021/28. (NIEUW AMSTERDAM sails ex Suez 2nd Jan.) Request you will consult Dawson and inform me if it is imperative to prolong length of stay for boiler cleaning. Without repair ship could be turned round in four days.
 (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1217C/29 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D. of S.T.)

/PRESIDENT...

MOST SECRET

1013A

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MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1017C/29th December IN
From C. in C. S.A.S. Date 29.12.42.
Recd. 1120
Naval Cypher (M) by W/T.

Addressed "Situation Report E"

IMPORTANT

O.19, 019 degs 40 min south 003 degs 20 min east to Freetown
8 knots.

H.M.S. VIVIANA, 032 degs 40 mins south 017 degs 30 min east
to Saldanha Bay 10 knots. *See previous page*

H.M.S. GLENROY, H.M.S. JANUS, 024 degs 30 min south 014 degs
00 min east to Walvis Bay 11½ knots.

~~ST.~~ LOMAN escorting Tug BOLD towing ~~H.M.S.S.~~ COLOMBINE, (See 1026 -
032 degs 20 min south 017 degs 30 min east to Saldanha Bay *through mail*)
6½.

NORTHERN CHIEF, SPHENE, escorting tug INTEGRITY towing crane
lighter? number 3, 030 degs 40 min south 017 degs 00 min east
to Saldanha Bay 5½ knots.

ARCTIC EXPLORER, LE TIGER, 030 degs 20 min south 017 degs
00 min east to Saldanha Bay 10 knots.

Oiler OLWEN, off Algoa Bay to Capetown 8 knots.

H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY, 031 degs 20 min south 030 degs
20 min east to Capetown 8 knots. *See 1014*

H.M.S. FORTUNE, with (cruiser) C.D 4 off Cape Agulhas to
Durban 9½ knots. *See previous page*

H.M.S. NIZAM 034 degs 40 min south 022 degs 20 min east
to Durban 20 knots. *See previous page*

1017C/29

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

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

I.P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (0)
D.M.S.
C.C.R.T.

MOST SECRET

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1103Z/29th December.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 30.12.42.

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

Recd. 0030

Naval Cypher 3 M By V/T

Addressed. Ships in Area P of South Atlantic Station
north of 8 degs. North. Admiralty. C. in C.
South Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.

IMPORTANT.

ARRAN, escorting, 18 01 23 20 102 9 at 1959Z/29th.

H.M.S. ~~EBBANDGO~~, escorting, 12 01 17 35 to Bathurst
9.5.

BELLWORTH, BIRDLIP, escorting, 10 (750) 17 05 to
Bathurst 10.

H.M. Sub. P. 614, on patrol submerging 10 51 17 39 to
08 15 19 27.

H.M.S. GARNARVON CASTLE, H.M.S. CHESHIRE, ^{1152 in F. 2nd. See}
*ROCKWOOD, QUILLIAM, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, with ^{P.D. 8730, p. 9730}
W.S. 25, 08 47 21 01 to 07 02 20 59 thence (7194⁰, 079⁰,
074, 259⁰) 13. *See p. 1013.

Four motor launches on patrol between Freetown and 08 10
15 01.

NOTHERWISLES, 3 motor launches, on patrol between
07 (743) 17 20 and 08 11 14 59.

DUNCTON, DUNKERY, on patrol off Grentes Bank.

1103Z/29

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

V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S.(H)
A.C.H.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.H.
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.T.D.(M)

D.D.O.D.(M)
D. of P.(2)
D.D.O.D.(C)
D.M.S.
D.H.I.(4)
P.N.L.O.
F.O.S. By courier.

1014

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

PRESIDENT HOUDUCE A.M. 0913/25. It is not considered advisable to employ PRESIDENT HOUDUCE on escort duties unless a Liaison Officer is borne, and in view of the difficulty in obtaining one it is recommended that she should carry out local defence duties only. (F.O.C.W.A.1317Z/29 to Admty.)

MANCHESTER CITY. Sailed MANCHESTER CITY to Simonstown. Coastwise keeping 12 miles off shore during dark hours. *See p. 1013A*
2. S. of A. 10 knots. E.T.A. 1400C/2nd Jan.
3. Shifts to Groups S.L. at 0300C/30th. (Cdre. in C. Durban 1514C/29 to Admty etc.)

Attacks on U-Boats. My 2027A 25th Nov. Following are December assessments of attacks carried out in your area:-

Date	Ship or A/C	Position	Assessments.
16th Aug.	CATTERICK	02°16'N.14°30'W	H
5th Sept.	BRILLIANT	00°28'N.06°15'W	F
21st Sept.	ARMERIA	00°02'S19°44'W	H
26th Sept.	CORINTHIAN	07°22'N.14°30'W	H
1st Oct.	Hudson V/200	03°24'N.07°32'W	F
10th Oct.	Hudson X/200	05°08'N.16°04'W	H

(D.A/S.W.1743A/29 to R.A.W.A.)

Shipping Routes. Your 1803/28 South Atlantic and Cape Horn routeing policy to U.S.A. eastern seaboard is as follows.
A. Ships of 15 knots and over sail independently by Atlantic route direct to U.S.A. port.
B. Well found and well powered ships of 10 to 14.9 knots by Magellan - selection being guided by considerations in my 2330/1st September.
C. All other ships to Trinidad for convoy divided into two streams as in my 1945/11th December.
D. Exceptions to B and C above are ships between 12 knots and 14.9 knots inclusive unsuitable for the Cape Horn route which may sail direct to U.S.A. by Atlantic route provided they have sufficient bunkers for whole voyage see my 2349/22nd September.
2. In view of Cominch C and R's 1610/28 indicating preference for close inshore route off Brazil for slow ships, delete sub paras. 1A and 1C of Admty message 1945/11 and substitute 1A "ships of 12 knots and over to keep east of 20° W till north of 10° N. 1C "ships of under 12 knots for ports in U.S. area keep as close inshore as safe navigation permits from Cape S. Roque to the westward."
3. See my 1409/29 to Connav regarding approach to Trinidad. (D.T.D.1829A/29 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Connav, F.O.C.W.A.) Amended by 2125A/31, q.v.

W.S.25 W Arrival 29th December. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1937Z/29 to Admty. etc.)

/C.F.10...

1015

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

C.F.10

Arrivals 29th Dec. ALCANTARA, HYDRANGEA,
COMMANDANT DROGOU, HOLCOMBE with C.F.10.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1937Z/29 to Admty. etc.)

EMPIRE HAWK,
CITY OF
BOMBAY.

My 2127Z/21st. Following is further information.
EMPIRE HAWK struck by 3 out of 5 torpedoes fired,
also was shelled from about 1400 yards range after
ship had been abandoned, and sank in about 1½ hrs.
No description of submarine available.

Ship's cargo was coal and Army transport material.
CITY OF BOMBAY - correct time of attack 2130 G.M.T. Ship sank
6 hours later. Ship hit by two torpedoes and by incendiary
shells fired at range 440 yards. Casualties caused by panic of
native crew whose conduct was mutinous on board and in life
boats. Submarine described as of about 750 tons painted light
grey without streaks or stripes, raked and stream lined C/T
armed with one 4.7 gun on fore deck and one A/A gun on fore end
of C/T, fitted with net cutter. Third Officer of CITY OF
BOMBAY was called aboard submarine whose Cmdr. (German) spoke
English and apparently had fairly accurate information re ship's
movements and cargo (Indian Military stores and munitions).
(R.O. Pernambuco, 2015Z/29 to Admty.)

1016

War Diary29.12.1942
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- P.48 My 1715/28th (N.T.in W.D.). Amend your position to read 037° 00' 010° 45' by 0959A/29th. (Capt. S.10, 0025A/29 to P.48 (R) S/MS on patrol). Cancel my 0025/29th. Freedom of action in your area. (Capt. (S) 10., 1101A/29 to P.48.)
- TAKU My 0913/26th (Route for TAKU) all times 48 hours late. (Capt.(S) 1., 0055B/29 to C. in C. Med. Cdre. (D) No. 201 N.C. Group. C.C.F. (R) TAKU. Capt. (S) 10.)
- Enemy Units. Position of 2 enemy destroyers and 1 unknown vessel 37.56 N., 11.51 E. course 240° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/S BVOR. 0145A/29 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
- P.37 Information and orders. Your 2259/28th (N.T. in W.R.) acknowledged. P 311 will be making passage K to J during daylight today and P 46 arrives position K also Northbound at dusk today 29th. (Capt. S.10, 0445A/29 to P.37 (R): S/ms on Patrol.) Cancel patrol orders proceed from G direct to patrol in vicinity of position 038° 50' 009° 15'. Attack shipping during passage but do not compromise final position. Orders follow. (Capt. (S) 10, 1002A/29 to P.37, Submarines on Patrol.)
- Salvage ships. Your 2016/27. U.S. Salvage Tug RESOLUTE sailed 24th Dec. My 1329/24th not to all refers. U.S. Salvage Tug INTENT sailed 29th Dec. Separate signal reference pontoons is being made. (N.O.I.C. Massawa, 0710Z/29 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. Red Sea, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Admty., N.C.X.F. B.A.D.)
- M/V destroyed. At 0240A/29th, Naval aircraft blew up a merchant ship apparently carrying ammunition in 037° 18' N. 011° 40' E. Ship was escorted by 1 destroyer. (V.A. Malta, 0832A/29 to N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med. Admty., (R) S.O. Force "Q".)
- WELSHMAN. Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0845A/29, to Admty C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.)
- M.T.B.6 Your 1626/28th arrived. (N.O.I.C. Bone, 0910/29. to V.A. Malta C. in C. Med. C.S. 12 etc.)
- Movements. Arrivals 28th Dec. HYACINTH F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, CUMBRAE, SOUTHERN SEA, SEKSERN, Departures 28th Dec. EXMOOR. HURSLEY, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0923B/29, to Admty. C.in C. Med. /28th

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.)

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1200Z/29th December

From Governor & C. in C. Malta.

Date 29/12/42
Recd. 2215

Cypher

Addressed C. in C. Middle East. Repeated the War Office.

091369. G/6105/R cipher 29 December. Most Secret.

Situation Report week ending 26 December 1942.

1. Enemy. 3 daylight recco. raids by Mo.109s. Spitfires damaged 2. No enemy night activity.
2. Own air. Over 50 Beaufighter and 80 Spitfire sorties on daylight offensive reccos. Only 1 Ju.88 sighted. Destroyed by Beaufighters. Two railway engines area Kyriat damaged and loaded bargo off coast left sinking. Beaufighters and Spitfires on shipping striko scored one hit one near miss bombs M/V 1000 tons. Escort 6 Ju.88s attacked. 1 destroyed 2 damaged. Spitfire bombers attacked Lampedusa. Total 46 Wollington sorties sent to attack docks Tunis and La Goulotte. 31 located 3 bombed Sousso rest returned with bombs. Direct hits ships Tunis docks claimed. Albacores torpedoed 1 escort vessel and M/V 2000 tons. Albacores also bombed Sousso and rd. Sousso-Monastir. Beaufighters and Spitfires maintained patrol over approaching friendly convoy and shipping in G.H.
3. 2 M/Bs quadrangle C arrived 21 December 1942 unloading continuous. Speed unloading hampered by very bad weather. Army working parties now convoy 1700 aerodromes 1500 daily plus 500 pon building.
4. Increases in rations as result of recent convoys. Approx. 70% of the commodities now up to full scale authorised for Malta. Increase mainly in bread. Flour and sugar. Some commodities still not available. M.T. fuel increased army now allowed approx. 6000 galls. per week. No increase in other kinds of fuel.

1200Z/29.

/ War Office Circ.

War Office circulation -

S. of S.	
C.I.G.S.	D. Air
V.C.I.G.S.	Air Co-ord.
D.C.I.G.S.	Air 1
D.M.O.	D.Q.M.G.
D.Plans (2)	Q(Ops)
D.D.M.O.(O)(H)	D.Mov.
M.O.1.4.5.7	D.D.Mov.(S)
D.M.I.	Q(M)3
D.D.M.I.(I)	C.A.S., Air Ministry
M.I.3.9.14.17(a)	A.M.C.S., Air Ministry
D.E.A.	C.N.S., Admiralty
D.D.R.A.(R)	Head of War Registry, Admiralty
R.A.1	Col. Rolleston, Colonial Office

Received from War Office 1530/30.

Advance copies 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.A.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D.O.D.(H)(2)
 D.O.D.(F)(2)
 D.D.I.C.(2)
 D. of P.(2)
 Duty Captain (2)
 Head of M.
 D.N.I.(4)
 I.P.(2)
 D.P.D.
 W.D.
 Admiral Blake
 D.N.A.D.
 D.A.C.D.

1017

29.12.1942
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - con/s-

Movements 28th Dec. Departure G.S. ~~IEBAX~~.
Contd. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 1225B/29, to Admty.)
Arrival BENNINGTON, departure DINGLEDALE, FACTO,
HILDUR I, SERULA, MEROPE, ZAAAN, ORPHEUS, NASPRITE,

s.s. EGRET.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1402A/29 to Fairmiss. (R) N.C. X.F., C. in C.
U.S. Fleet.)
Algiers arrival RHYL, CLACTON, STORNOWAY from Oran. VENOMOUS
from Phillipeville. Departure to Gibraltar SCYLLA, WISHART,
ANTELOPE.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1851A/29 to Admty. (R):N.C.X.F., F.O. I.S.
F.O. I/C Oran).
Sailed TROOPER, THUNDERBOLT.
(V.A. Malta, 1908A/29, to Admty., etc.)

Black Sea. 1 Naval. (a) Dec. 13th near Sulina surface forces
attacked enemy convoy of two merchant vessels
escorted by a destroyer and five R boats, one
R(?boat and) destroyer heavily damaged and one merchant vessel set
on fire subsequently beached. Another force bombarded coast in
this area. (b) Night Dec. 16th E Boats raided Anapa sinking three
barges loaded with ammunition. (c) Dec. 17th submarine sank enemy
merchant vessel 8,000 tons in (?mouth of) Black Sea. (d) Night
Dec. 20th surface forces with air escort bombarded Yalta and Feodosia.
Large fire accompanied explosions observed at Feodosia.
2. Air attack. (a) Novorossisk attacked by Russian divebombers
Dec. 18th to Dec. 21st three ammunition dumps destroyed and supply
columns damaged. Railway junction on Dec. 23rd fires started and
large explosions observed. (b) Yalta raided on Dec. 21st several
E and R boats fired barges damaged.
(L.O. Black Sea, 0947C/29 to Admty., C. in C. Med., Admiral Miles,
S.O. (I) Istanbul.)

TIGRIS My 1315/28th. Steer to pass through 038° 00'
011° 12' thence direct position H.
(Capt. S.10, 1015a/29 to TIGRIS (R) Subs. on patrol.)

Air P.R.U. Dec. 29th. 0830 Taranto, no sightings.
R/C 0930 Messina, 3 cruisers beleived still present,
visibility bad.
(V.A. Malta, 1109A/29, to C. in C. Med. etc.)
P.R.U. for Dec. 29th. 1135 Taranto, 3 Battleships.
1220 Messina, 3 Cruisers, 3 Merchant ships stationary outside.
2 Destroyers close off moving slowly south.
(V.A. Malta, 1520A/29 C. in C. Med. etc.)
P.R.U. Dec. 29th visuals. 1435, Taranto, 3 Battleships. 1525,
Messina, 3 cruisers, 2 destroyers.
(V.A. Malta, 1737A/29)

Enemy Position and course of enemy one medium merchant
M/V vessel 120°. 33.20 N., 11.30 E.
(A/C Call Sign AOUE, 1230A/29, to Hal Far D/F).

/ALBA JULIA

1018

War Diary29.12.1942
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

ALBA JULIA (Roumanian) My 1310C/27
ALBA JULIA loading accelerated; (?freight) likely to complete Dec. 31st or Jan. 1st. Graded B.2.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1235C/29 1516C/29 to S.O.(I) Med. S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

T.E.11 Propose sailing SHUNA, ALPERA, POLO to Bone to discharge. R/V with T.E.11 in 99 at 0001/31st. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1245A/29 to N.C.X.F.)

Co-sitrep No. 639 3. Air. Night 27/28 Dec. Liberators attacked shipping and harbour installations at Sousse. Four hits claimed on one M/V which was set on fire and left blazing. Several large fires visible for 70 miles started near quays and among buildings west of harbour.
4. Malta Wellingtons attacked docks at Tunis and La Goulette. Bombs burst around main basin at Tunis and started a fire south of marshalling yards. Hits scored on marshalling yards La Goulette. Bad visibility obscured details of damage.
5. 28 Dec. American B24's bombed shipping in Sousse Harbour. Hits claimed on two tankers and fires started on quay. (C. in C. M.E., 1250B/29 to W.O.)

G.U.F.O.3. Intend sailing G.U.F.O/3 at 0930A/30th as in your 1006/28th. Ships as follows:
ELIZABETH C. STANTON, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, LYON, H.F. ALEXANDER, DOROTHY L. DIX, JAMES PARKER. Code word "Thrapsia", first two letters of W/T call sign (?to) R/V are U.K.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1301A/29 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. C.A., Admty, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Cinclant.)

Enemy M/V's Position of two small enemy vessels (merchant vessels not exceeding 2000 tons) is 34.44 N., 10.46 E.
(A/C 7FZ duty E., 1320A/29 to Hal Far.).

Situation report No. 313. Western Desert. Benghazi. My 2026/28/12 para. 3.H.M. tug ST. ISSEY was mined* and sunk with all hands. She had done noble work with the Inshore Squadron throughout every Western Desert campaign, her loss is much regretted.
2. Sirte. Pier is demolished over most of its length.
3. Bad weather along coast retarding movements of tugs and lighters and slowing up cargo discharge.
4. Operation "Pentagon" completed. Agreement signed Shebele (see C.M.1804B plan 42 2015/28th Dec.) by which French Somaliland joins Fighting French (HQ 12A division telegram 0101 repeated Foreign Office refers). Naval Forces entered Djibouti 1000/29th Dec. at request of G.O.C. 12th Division. (C. in C. Med. 1413B/29 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)
*Later attributed to U/Boat, see 1853/3/1.

/Add

1019

29.12.1942
Tuesday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - con't.

Situation report No. 313 Contd. Add to situation report 313. I.M/V. blown up by Naval Aircraft 30 miles N.E. of Bon Cape at 0340 Dec. 29th. (C. in C. Med., 1339B/29, to V.A. Gibraltar, R.A. Alexandria, etc.)

TRIBUNE TRIBUNE leaves Algiers 1600A/30 to patrol in area N. of latitude 041° 18' N. between longitude 004° 50' E. and 009° 10' E. remaining under operational control Capt. (S) 8. (Capt. S.8, 1510A/29 to S/ms. on patrol. Repeated N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)

K.M.F.6. Destination of DERBYSHIRE and ^{? OXFORDSHIRE.} ORDSHIRE is Algiers EXE pass to Cmdre. (N.C.X.F., 1513A/29, to EXE and Escort of K.M.F.6 (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, Comdre Algiers, Admty.)

War Situation Report from Admiral Kelly. (N.A. Ankara, 1537C/29 to Admty.) See Lion copy.

Situation report No. 40. 1. Force Q carried out sweep to northward of Bizerta night 28/29. No surface craft sighted. Enemy aircraft closed and fired recognition signals on 2 occasions but did not attack. 2. P212 reports at 1350/14 in 37.37 N. 10.41 E. attacked 2 merchant vessels about 6000 tons each with torpedoes. 1 certain hit, 2 more possible. P46 is known to have attacked at same time. Both ships sank. 3. P.247 at 1213/17 off Bizerta fired 4 torpedoes at Ramb Class Merchant ship escorted by Destroyer. One hit probably on Destroyer which was not seen or heard again. P228 had attacked this convoy one hour previously. 4. Bone. M.T.B's 265, 266, 307, and 315 due from Malta. L.C.T. Ferry services to Taborka interrupted by swell since 25/12, now resumed. Oropesa Trawlers continue successful minesweeping. 5. CAMERONIA at Bougie sails for Algiers under own power tomorrow Wednesday. Damaged starboard side number 7 hold. Hole size 18 feet by 14 upper edge at water level. 6. P219 damaged bows and torpedo tubes orifices require 2 to 3 weeks in dock. (N.C.X.F., 1840A/29 to Admty., etc.)

Air Patrol. Cavoli-Marittimo Patrol cancelled for night of 29th/30th owing to weather. (V.A. Malta, 1919A/29, to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O. I.S. S.O. Force Q. C. in C. Med. Codre. Algiers.)

Malta Air report. AI.208 29 Dec. C.S.R. Night 28th/29th Dec. No enemy air activity locally. 1 Beaufighter made intruder patrol in Tunis Nabeul area but saw no enemy aircraft.

/Day

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET.	MESSAGE.	1537C/29th December.
		IN
From. N.A. Angora.		Date. 30.12.42.
		Recd. 1000
	I.D.C. O.T.P. By C. & W.	RECIRCULATION at
		Request of N.I.D.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C.in C. Mediterranean.
H.M. Minister, Angora.

War Situation - Turkish View.

Following from Admiral Kelly.
Conversed with Marshal Cakmak who had seen Turkish Ambassador just arrived from Berlin. Germans have lost over two million killed and four million disabled. No home without its sacrifice. Germans not demoralized but have abandoned all hope of victory. Their hope now pinned on making separate peace with England or Russia preferably former. Hitler is still popular but popularity waning. He is getting rid of all strong Generals round him replacing "Yes Men".

2. German aggressive spirit has gone, defence is now the policy. They wish to shorten their line in Russia and have withdrawn five air regiments to west and Tunis and (?33) from Balkans. They do not hope to hold Tunis but are gaining time to strengthen defences of Italy and parts of Greece where main stand will be at Salonica to prevent new Salonican campaign by Allies. Garrisons in Crete, Morea and Islands may be reduced.

3. There is sufficient bread, potatoes and meat in Germany, principal lack is in fats. Germans can just make good losses in aircraft but cannot increase.

4. The present atmosphere in Germany is that of 1918 when before third battle of (?Balkans) Falkenheim knew Germany was beaten.

5. Ambassador reports Germany has been doubtful of Turkish neutrality but is now reassured and will not attack except in case of aggression or from fear of action on part of Allies..

6. Marshal considers war will be over in 1943. Roumania has, or definitely is, going to make approach to England and Bulgaria as Russians advance comes more towards Allies.

7. Marshal formerly (?said to have been) interventionist, now says Turkey will, if not attacked, maintain neutrality until end of war. Policy as always governed by fear of Russia.

8. He has report from Japan that they are much influenced by German set back and have lost all hope of victory. Their losses in ships and aircraft are greater than means of replacement.

1019^B-

-2-

9. About passage of troop lighters through Straits he agreed we were entitled to more than strict neutrality and will press Foreign Office to find excuse for (corrupt group) waiting.

10. He believes our best policy after clearing North Africa is Sicily and Sardinia and then South Italy.

1537C/29

N.I.D. Comment

A good report and of interest that these views should have been voiced by the Turkish Ambassador in Berlin, which confirms that Germany's difficulties are now being more freely discussed than ever in Germany since the war started.

Para.1 Estimate of total German killed and permanently out of the war to date, is between 3½ and 4 million.

Lost hope of victory confirmed from other sources. Hope of separate peace no doubt exists, but few can expect its realisation.

There is more criticism of Hitler and less blind faith in his infallibility but the German people trust no-one else.

Replacement of Generals and Hitler's dislike of criticism are confirmed from other sources.

Para.2 No confirmation of withdrawal of air regiments to Tunis from Russian front, nor is there anything to confirm Axis have no hope of holding Tunisian bridgehead.

Strengthening of defences in Italy and parts of Greece probably true but nothing to support weakening of defences of Crete.

Para.3 Lack of facts confirmed through other sources.

Para.4 Similar atmosphere exists but further comparison dangerous.

Para.5 Confirmed through other sources.

Para.6 Quite likely Roumania and Bulgaria will take some such step when they realise Germany likely to be beaten.

Para.7

MOST SECRET

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N.I.D. Comment(contd.)

Para.7 Or will possibly enter on side of victorious Allies at last moment to ensure seat at Peace Conference.

Para.8 Probably correct that Japan has lost hope of victory, though still hopes for compromised peace.

Correct as regards Japan's shipping losses, but aircraft construction believed just keeping pace with losses.

Para.9 Four of these lighters passed westwards through Straits 23rd December and report (graded B.2) says 10 more are expected shortly from Black Sea.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.of P.(2)
- D.C.(2)
- Hd.of M.(for F.O., W.O.,A.M.,
Brig. Jacob, War Cabinet Offices) (20)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.of P.(Q)
- I.P.(2)
- D.P.D.
- W.D.
- Ad.Blake.
- D.D.I.C.(2)

1020

War Diary29.12.1942
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - con/7.

Malta Air report. Contd. Day 29th Dec. 4 Beaufighters escorted by 4 Spitfires attacked and damaged a 2-masted schooner off Bou Fichta and destroyed one JU.88 flying N. at 1420 hours 20 miles S. of Pantellaria. 12 Spitfire sorties have been made in offensive sweeps S.E. of Sicily. 15 Spitfires and 9 Beaufighters have provided fighter escort to convoy on way from Malta to Middle East and 3 Beauforts have made A/S patrols ahead of convoy. 20 Spitfires have been airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

Night 28/29th Dec. 4 special Wellingtons on shipping R/C patrolled Gulf of Taranto Straits of Messina N.W. of Sicily and from Cavoli to Marittimo. Wellingtons sighted 0037 hours 240° Marittimo 17 miles 2 D/Rs 1 unidentified vessel course 240° speed 10 knots. 1 special Albacore and three torpedo-carrying Albacores of R.N.A.S. despatched to locate and attack enemy shipping between Sicily and Tunisia found at 0157 hrs. 327° Pantellaria 28lx8 one M/V 4000 tons escorted by one D/R and one smaller vessel course S.S.W. speed 10 knots. 1 Albacore attacked with torpedo impact depth setting 9 feet dropped from 50 feet range 500 yards, scoring hit on M/V which exploded and integrated in mass of flames rising to 1000 feet. Special Albacore attacked one D/R with 2 250 lb bombs scoring near misses. 10 Wellingtons attacked Tunis docks from X840-2015 hours dropping 36 500 lb. and 63 250 lb bombs. Hits scored in docks area and marshalling yards but evasive action from very accurate heavy flak prevented observation of results. 3 other Wellingtons unable to find Tunis attacked Soussse harbour dropping 1 4000 lb. 10 500 lb. and 14 250 lb. bombs. The 4000 lb bomb burst among warehouses on north quay. Other bombs on north quay increased area of fire which was found burning on arrival and others started new fire on barges or buildings on north shore. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2030Z/29).

EMPIRE LORENZO. Personal D.Mov. to Philipe. Confusion has arisen about heavy lift crane ship EMPIRE LORENZO. N.C.X.F's signal 1230A/28 states ship not required by you. Cannot agree with this view. We are greatly handicapped here by having to keep all lifts within capacity of ship's gear except in exceptional circumstances. With heavy lift crane ship at your disposal allocation of ships and cargo would be more flexible. For instance on assumption Empire Lorenzo will be available to facilitate discharge we have already allocated lifts beyond capacity ship's gear to three ships in K.M.S.8 Hamble. Propose therefore to sail EMPIRE LORENZO in K.X.8. on 30 Dec. as planned unless confirmation that she is not required is received immediately from you. (W.O. 2355A/29 to A.F.H.Q. Algiers.) Reply Algiers 1522Z/30.

P.51
P.211

P.51 2130/29th acknowledged. Proceed into harbour unescorted. P.211 arrive swept channel 0801/30th and P.51 0829/30th. Channel will have been swept. (Capt. S.10, 2357A/29, 0615A/30, to P.51. P.211.)

SECRET

1020A

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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MESSAGE

2235/29th December.

III

Date 29.12.42.

Recd 2347.

From PRU Benson.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty, Air Ministry Whitehall, Bomber Coastal Fighter Int. Army Co-operation Commands, Medmenham, ADI PH AM2, 16 Group, 8th USBC.

EMERGENCY FORM WHITE.

G/42 29 December.

FRU Sortie C/776 dated 29 December time 1200 hours shows Toulon Naval units remain as on 21 December. Small amount of smoke still issuing from one eight inch and one six inch Cruiser. Two cranes are working on Battlecruiser DUNKERQUE. Only other change of note in shipping is movement of tanker T503 from outside Darse Nouvelle to dry-dock. One small vessel seen sweeping with diamond sweep at entrance to Petite Rade, Marseilles since 25 December some decrease in Merchant shipping and considerable turnover fourteen H/Vs over 200 ft departed and nine arrived. Among the departures are M/V 470/490 ft. Tankers T507 T508 and T528 still present. Only two troops of heavy railway flak now present compared with five on 12 December. Heavy fall of snow seen in Marseilles area but none at Toulon.

Tang De Borro since 21 December two M/Vs 340/450 ft departed while eight liners 340/570 ft including the liners CHENONCEAUX, JEAN LABORDE, and EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER arrived. All the above liners seen recently at Marseilles. Shipping now present comprises eight liners 330/570 ft. four tankers 390/550 ft. and one H/V 340 ft. Port Bouc arrival of one H/V 330 ft and departure of one M/V 240 ft. only change in shipping since 21 December Canal Maritime since 21 December liner 360 ft. and one M/V 330 ft arrived while two M/Vs 400/450 ft. departed.

2235/29

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C.,

mm

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UP)
A.C.N.S. (W)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
Ops. (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)
D. of P. (Q)

1021

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shipping Resources Colombo. My 0646/28th. (Refers to Admty 1828/27 routing Ships to India and Persian Gulf via Panama and Pacific). Cancel para 1. Reply will be made by C. In C. Ceylon after question of bunkers and provisions has been investigated. (F.O. Ceylon 0558Z/29 to Admty.)
Your 1828/27th and F.O. Ceylon's 0646/28 para 2. confirmed Cochin could take this additional number of ships monthly. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0617Z/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Convoy Escorts. Intentions for escort FALMOUTH and BATHURST, P.B.20, RATNAGIRI, P.A.18, sails 0600Z 3rd Jan. Ocean route number 2. MADRAS, P.B.21, LAUNCESTON, P.A. 19, sails 0430Z/9th Jan. Ocean route number 1. INVESTIGATOR to meet DUNERA in A B 5 early Jan. and escort to Hormuz. (S.N.O.P.G.0648Z/29 to NO.I.C. Hormuz, (R) C. in C. E.F., Cdre. I/c Aden, C.in C. S.A. etc.)
Cancelled, see 1217Z/30.

C.M. 37 B. Route for convoy C.M.37 B. (details).
Pass to N.C.S.O.s in due course.
(C. in C. E.F. 0721Z/29 to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Tamatave, Com. R.I.N., Admty.) Cancelled by 1156Z/2, q.v.

Movements. Arrival 0805, ~~para.~~ HINNOY, departure 0830Z SCOUT, ASTER, KONKAN with B.M.36.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 1111Z/29 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 1119Z 29th Dec., H.M.A.S. GAWLER.
(N.O.I.C. Adau Atoll 1120Z/29 to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 29th Dec. 0600Z, MARYBOROUGH, ZUIDERKRUIS.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 1210/29 to Admty. etc.)

Water Carriers. My 1405 17th Dec. (No Trace in W.D.) P.S.T.O. Bombay now states that NINGKWANG is not available as she is urgently required Middle East. Propose that arrangements for GENERAL VAN HEYDEN should proceed as in my 1405 17th Dec. and that she should be sent to Persian Gulf as soon as possible.(3) P.S.T.O. Bombay is requested to consider possibilities of taking up another ship suitable for conversion to water carrier for Bombay to be available for Port F.
(C. in C. E.F., 1326Z/29 to F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O. Bombay, (R) Admty., S.N.O. Persian Gulf, F.O. I/c Ceylon.)

U/B attack, ACTIVE 8th Oct. Your 1043Z/4. Serial E.F.4. ACTIVE's attack has been re-assessed by Admty. New Assessment B. (D.A/S.W., 1744A/29 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
U.179 Sunk.

See 8/10.p.202.

9/10.p.p.2479249.

/Hong Kong...

SECRET

1021A

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

M E S S A G E 1242Z/29th December. IN.

From: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Date: 29.12.42.
Recd: 1915.

NAVAL CODE (J) BY W/T.

Addressed: Eastern Fleet 174Y, Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic 46, F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area. N.O.I/C Durban.

IMPORTANT: 289. Movement summary number 31, December 29th.

(1) H.M.S. DERWENT left Kilindini 27th December due Aden 31st December, calling Dante 30th December.

(2) H.M.S. RANPURA left Kilindini 27th December, due Durban 2nd January.

(3) H.M.S. CATTERICK left Durban 27th December escorting H.M.S. RELIANT due Kilindini 4th January.

(4) H.M.S. CAIRNS left Kilindini 26th December, due Diego Suarez 29th December, thence Seychelles.

(5) H.M.S. MAURITIUS left Bombay 26th December, due Kilindini 30th December.

(6) H.M.S. CARTHAGE left Bombay 25th December, due Aden 31st December.

1242Z/29.

Advance Copy: Ops. O.D.

D.A/S.W.

W.D.

D.T.D. (M)

I.P. (3)

D.M.S.

D.M.S. Citadel.

D.T.D. (2)

D.T.D. (C)

D. of V. (2)

D. of S. (3)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.

Ops. (3)

O.D. (5)

O.D. 8.

O.I.C.

M. (2)

D.P.S.

Mails.

Movts.

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.)/29 December.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. PIN.

From Advance 12 Division.

Date: 30.12.42.
Recd: 0345.

CYPHER.

Addressed Command H.Q. East Africa, repeated The War Office (pass Foreign Office), G. in U. Middle East. (pass Minister of State).

IMMEDIATE.

091432. C103 cipher 29 Dec.

Reference my preceding numbered telegram herewith text of (?terms of) protocol. (?Begins) With reference to agreement signed this day concerning French Somaliland it is (?agreed) between Major-General Fowkes and Monsieur Chancel on the one hand and General Dupont on the other hand that:

1. All wireless installations which in the opinion of Major-Gen Fowkes are capable of communicating with outside world shall forthwith be placed under the control of military (?personnel) belonging to British and Fighting French forces operating under command of Maj.-Gen. Fowkes until such time as regular arrangements for censorship have been established.

2. General Dupont agrees to continue to (?carry out) his functions until 9 a.m. on 29 December 1942. At that hour he will hand over his functions as Governor French Somaliland to Monsieur Chancel as representative of French National Committee in East Africa such functions to be carried on by latter until appointment of a Governor by French National Committee. At same hour General Dupont will hand over his functions as Commanding Officer of troops to Colonel Raynal who has been designated for this purpose by Maj. Gen. Fowkes commander of Allied forces.

3. General Dupont undertakes to refrain from any act prejudicial to interests of united nations particularly with reference to maintenance of law and order in colony. In the interest of such law and order and for their personal safety the undermentioned persons will be removed from the colony to British territory forthwith - Commandant Antoine Colonel Theine Commandant Arbanere Commandant Monod Commandant Delgee Captain F.R. (?DE) Monsieur Poyresze Monsieur Lassere Monsieur Lassus. For this purpose General Dupont will ensure the departure by rail of above persons who will be provided with a train to enable them to arrive at 8 a.m. on 29 December 1942 at

Sheble /.....

1021^c-

- 2 -

Cheboko where they will be taken over by British authorities.

No T.O.O./ .

Note by C.6. Tels. Above is unparaphrased version of message NOT received in One Time Tables.

War Office Circulation:-

1st Lord.	S. of S.
1st S.L.(2)	P.U.S.
V.C.N.S.	P.U.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	C.I.G.S.
Sec.	V.C.I.G.S.
N.A.1st S.L.	D.M.O.
P.A.S.(S)	D.D.M.O.(0)
P.A.S.(0)	M.O.I.5.11.
D.C.(2)	D.M.I.
D.O.D.(H)(2)	D.D.M.I.(I)
D.O.D.(F)(2)	M.I.3.17a.
D.D.I.C.(2)	D.F.a.
D.N.I.(4)	F.5.
D. of P.(2)	Foreign Secretary (2)
D. of P.(Q)	Foreign Office (Mr. Stirling)(2)
Head. of M.	Admiralty (Head of War Registry)
D.P.D.	A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry)
D.S.D.	Brig. Jacob (Cabinet Offices)
W.D.	Major Merton (10 Downing Street)
I.P.(3)	20 Mil. Mission (Lt. Col. Archdale)(2)
Admiral Blake.	20 Mil. Mission (Mr. Rooker)(2)
	Colonial Office (Lt. Col. Rolleston)

DR.

1022

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong
Kong
Prisoners.

A report on conditions among P.O.W. in Hong Kong by Central News Agency dated 25th Dec. has appeared in local (?newspapers). Presume also published in London. (?One) reports working parties on Kai Tak number 800 daily. Have had no reports of ill treatment or deaths while working. Have had no reports of P.O.W. being forced to clean the streets. Am endeavouring to trace source.
(M.A. China, 0825 G.M.T./29 to W.O.)

1023

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Attacks on O.N.S. 154.

→ SHEDIAC, Rejoin convoy forthwith. Tug EMINENT is being
FIDELITY. diverted to assistance of FIDELITY. */Emp. 1011^c*
See next page (C. in C. W.A., 0122A/29 to SHEDIAC, (R) C.T.U.
24.1.11, FIDELITY, Admty.)

C.T.U. 24.1.11 reports FIDELITY from O.N.154 main engines out
of action in 43° 30' N. 27° 10' W. at 2050Z/28 and SHEDIAC
standing by. Request you will order EMINENT to assistance of
FIDELITY.
(D.O.D(H), 0146A/29 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) A.I.G.303, Escorts of
O.N.154, Capt. D.3.)

6 ships → FIDELITY believed to making about two knots in
torpedoed. vicinity 43.10 27.19. SHEDIAC reports 120
survivors from two merchantmen on board and is
rejoining. She returns crew to steamship
NORSEKING. Your 1151Z/28th, 6 damaged or destroyed.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 0900Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.24,
C.T. 24.7, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

Reinforcement Detach 2 corvettes forthwith to proceed to search
for Escort. area 043° 22' N. 027° 25' W. where Convoy O.N.S.
See next page 154 was attacked during night of 28th/29th. It
Woods Hole is estimated 5 to 8 ships were torpedoed and
survivors and possible derelicts may be in area. Ships detailed
report name and E.T.A. Any further information obtained will
be signalled. If necessary fuel may be obtained at Azores
notified search.
(C. in C. W.A., 1058Z/29 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.4, (R)
A.I.G.303, Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.,
C.T.G. 24.7, V.A. Gibraltar, Capt. D. 3rd. D.F., Ships escorting
O.N.S. 154, N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Rescues Recovered following survivors at 0815Z/29th in
by MILNE, 043° 17' N. 027° 22' W.
METEOR. LYNTON GRANGE 52 (? none) missing. ZARIAN 49
missing 4. BARON COCHRANE 42 missing 2. C.Bs
and S.Ps disposed of adequately. All 3 sunk at
2225Z/28th approx. No other survivors are considered possible
from these ships. → FIDELITY in 043° 13' N. 026° 51' W. at 0645Z
manned and endeavouring to make 2 knots southwards. NORSE KING
in position 043° 25' N. 027° 18' W. at 0745Z making 6 knots
(? southwards). Intend landing survivors at Ponta Delgada when
fuelling p.m. Jan. 1st. C.T.U. 24.1.11's 0010Z/29th. No sign
of this vessel. My P.C. and S. 043° 12' N. 028° 06' W., 264°,
18½ knots.
(Capt. D.3, 1101Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, Admty., etc.)

/CALGARY ...

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - cont'd.

Attacks on O.N.S. 154 - Contd.

CALGARY, Suggest CALGARY (as received) speed 15 knots
BATTLEFORD. carrying women and children be despatched with
BATTLEFORD for Azores today. BATTLEFORD has
only 4 days oil fuel.

(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1205Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.24,
Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T. 24.7.)

O.N.S.154. Your 1205/29th not to V.A. Gibraltar. Ship's
name received corrupt. If UMGENI was ship intended she is not
to proceed Ponta Delgada and is to be retained with convoy.
Unless prospects of fuelling from oiler are reasonably good
BATTLEFORD should proceed Ponta Delgada forthwith to fuel and
rejoin. E.T.A. and fuel required should be reported to F.O.C.
N.A.

(C. in C. W.A., 1709Z/29 to C. Mid Ocean East Task Unit 24.1.11,
(R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.,
C.T.G. 24.7, V.A. Gibraltar, Capt. (D) 3.)

SHEDIAC, Following is a repetition of SHEDIAC's 1045 (begins)
FIDELITY. Praise the Lord and pass the oil fuel. We have

See previous page smashed one Bastard. (Ends). Following is a
page repetition of FIDELITY's 1015. (Begins).
Position 043° 00' N. 027° 20' W. Will be under way in 3 hours.
(Ends).

(C.T. 24.1.11, 1215Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.24,
Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

Request for Report situation as soon as possible giving to
Sit. Rep. best of your ability the following details.
(A) Number of ships torpedoed and their names and
whether they are still likely to be afloat.
(B) Any particulars with regard to survivors which may be of
value to searching vessels.
(C) Endurance of escorts and chances of obtaining further fuel
from convoy.
(D) Depth charge situation.

(C. in C. W.A., 1215Z/29 to C.T.U. 24.1.11, (R) Admty., C.O.A.C.,
F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., Capt. D.3, C.T. 24, C.T.G. 24.7, Opnav.)

10 ships
believed
torpedoed.
ONS 154

It is believed that 10 ships were torpedoed last
night.

(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1301Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R)
Connav, etc.)

WOODSTOCK,
PRESCOTT.

previous page
Your 1058A/29th (re search for survivors of ships
torpedoed in O.N.S. 154.) PRESCOTT in company
P.C. and S. 38.50 N. 14.18 W., 295°, 15 knots.
E.T.A. 1100Z/31st Dec. Following two groups
unrecorded. Weather report 5481 3084.
(WOODSTOCK, 1600Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Escorts
of Convoy M.K.S.4, Capt. D.3, O.N.S.154, V.A. Gib.)

/Situation

1025

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Attacks on O.N.S. 154 - Contd.

Situation. Your 1215/29th. (a) Believe total 14 ships.
O.N.S. 154 Sunk: EMPIRE SHACKLETON, KING EDWARD, VILLE DE ROUEN, MELMORE HEAD.
 Believed floating: SCOTTISH HEATHER, NORSE KING, SOEKABOEMI.
 Not known: BARON COCHRANE, LYNTON GRANGE, JASPER PARK, EMPIRE WAGTAIL and 3 others. 31 ships present excluding FIDELITY astern.
 (b) All survivors of known sunk ship(s) rescued. None from KING EDWARD. Remainder in vicinity of 043° 21' N. 027° 24' W.
 (c) and (d) (corrupt group) in days at economical speed and depth changes remaining at 1600 Saturday as follows: ST. LAURENT 6, 30; CHILLIWACK 7.7, 50; NAPANEE 4, 36; BATTLEFORD 4, 69; SHEDIAC 4, 52; KENOGAMI 6, 56; 12 (? GENTIAN) fuelling Newfoundland.
 If (? ordered) will be able to fuel escort.
 (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1630Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)

EMPIRE SHACKLETON. Ref. my 1950Z, FIDELITY message (begins). At 1930Z rescued 2 boats from EMPIRE SHACKLETON including Commodore of convoy. Am proceeding awaiting instructions. Speed 3 to 4 knots. T.O.O. 1950/29th.
(Egerton)
AE
 (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 2209Z/29 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, etc.)

General.

SEAWOLF. U.S. Submarine Notice. British submarine *imp. 1025 R* SEAWOLF marked N.47 departed Point Judith 1501Z/28th via swept channel to Cape Cod Canal departing Eastern Entrance 2201Z/28th passing 3 miles north-west Race Point 2359Z/28th thence 15 miles South of Cape Sable at 0625Z/30th. SEAWOLF submerged during daylight 29th.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0158/29 to A.I.G. 314.)
 From position 15 miles south of Cape Sable at 0625/30th proceed (corrupt group) diving at discretion to arrive Sambro Light Vessel at 1825/30th. Patrol vessel will meet you at Sambro Light Vessel to escort into harbour. Total bombing restrictions arranged. All times G.M.T.
 (C.O.A.C., 1405Z/29 to SEAWOLF, (R) N.O.I.C. Shelburne, A.O.C. E.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Dec. 28th arrivals - WARWICK, COLUMBINE, BUTTERCUP, ~~X~~ARROWHEAD, ~~X~~CHICOUTIMI ex H.X.220. Departures - PICTOU to A/S patrol.
*Wabana, VEGREVILLE to relieve WASAGA escorting TENACITY towing EMPIRE WATERHEN. *X See p. 1024*
(F.O.N.F., 0305Z/29 to Admty.)

**not identified either as plane or ship.*

U/B. Intercept, received, submarine sighted 11° 33' N. 60° 47' W. at 0624 G.M.T. Dec. 29th.
(Kingston Jamaica, 0325R/29 to Admty.)

Russian U.S. Submarine Notice. U.S.S.R. S/M S.51 and S/MS. S.56 depart Halifax in company with escort BERNADOU at 2230Z/29th speed 12 knots, E.T.A. 44.35 N. 57.40 W. 2030Z/30th. Thence unescorted to 46.01 N. 49.01 W. E.T.A. 0903/1st Jan. My 1611/28th and my 2305/28th refers.
See p. 1028¹³
(Cominch, 0711/29.)
Sailed S.51 and S.56 at 2230Z/29th in accordance with my 2201/28th. Cdre. A.V. Tripolski embarked in S.51.
(C.O.A.C., 2321Z/29 to Admty., etc.)

U.S. Departure 28th Dec. U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN to sea.
Movements. (B.R.O. Aruba, 0950QR/29 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Arrival Vieuxfort, 28th, U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 0953Q/29 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
Departure 29th, U.S. Army Transport FRANKLIN LEISINGER escorted by Patrol Boat P.C.488, Miami 30th.
(R.O. Nassau, 0959/29 to Admty., S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica.)
Departure 29th Dec. U.S. Transport STATE OF VIRGINIA for Aruba.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1133QR/29 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T. 29th December.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
		BUTTERMERE)	22° N. 64° W.	176°	12
		WASTWATER)			
		PHOEBE)	07½° N. 55° W.	305°	11
		BRIDGEWATER)			
		ARMERIA)	55½° N. 47½° W.	020°	10
		U.S.S.R.)			
		S/M S.55)	51½° N. 49° W.	001°	10
		U.S.S.R.)			
		S/M S.54)	44½° N. 58° W.	076°	8
		U.S.S.R.)			
		S/M L.15)	12° N. 59° W.	057°	9
		Convoy T.M.1)			
		HAVELOCK)	(D.O.D.(F), 1011Z/29 to Opanav, (R) Comnav.)		

/GLORIA ...

1027

War Diary.29.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

GLORIA MAY Overdue Sanrian from Lunenberg British Schooner
GLORIA MAY.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1114R/29 to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A.,
B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

O.N. 153. O.N. (?153) E.T.A. Gate 1600Z/30th. Oil fuel
requirements total 400 tons excluding EDMUNDSTON.
21 ships in convoy. No southbound ships detached,
all require fuel and HILARY requires provisions, repairs and fuel.
(C. Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.2, 1230Z/29 to C.E.S.F.,
Cdt. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, U.S. Port Director New
York, Connav, (R) Admty., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

Commander (D) Following from C.T.F.24 addressed C. in C. W.A.
Argentia. (Begins) - "Cdr. Broome considers that his
administrative duties in connection with main-
tenance, training, supply and discipline can be
more efficiently conducted by changing his official title to
Commander (D). C.T.F.24 concurs in this change provided it
does not conflict with your policy 1619Z/22". (Ends.)
2. C. in C. W.A. has no objection.
3. In view of your 1439/9 March and my 2304/12 March request
your remarks.
(D.O.D.(H), 1310A/29 to F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

"Q" Vice Opnav serial 0632520 of 30th Nov. In order
Messages. that appropriate distribution may be given "Q"
messages from contiguous area, following
procedure is prescribed.

- (A) All Q.B.A., Q.G.A., Q.K.A., and Q.L.A. messages will be
routed exactly as prescribed for Q.J.A. messages except that
such messages will not be placed on Fox Schedule for Lantflt.
- (B) Hydro will select messages from Q.Z. area and deliver to
Radio Washington for further delivery as in para. (A) above.
- (C) Q.F.A. and Q.M.A. messages will be passed to U.S. authorities
as prescribed for Q.P.E. messages.
- (D) Q.F. and Q.M. two letter messages will be passed to U.S.
authorities as prescribed for Q.P. messages.
- (E) Distribution of messages in para. (A) to Lant Fleet will be
monthly by mail.
- (F) Distribution of two letter Q.B., Q.G., Q.K. and Q.L. messages
will be effected monthly by mail except where addressees are
specifically designated by originating authority in the message.
(Vice Opnav, 1340/29 to various.)

Shipping Your 1610/28. Request you will say how far to
Routes. westward of Cape S. Roque ships should keep
inshore and whether fixed approach routes to
Trinidad should be used.
(D.T.D., 1409Z/29 to Connav.)
Your 1409Z/29. Inshore route to 042° W. thence
Trinidad southern approach route.
(Connav, 2003/29 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.,
F.O.C.W.A.)

/ U/B ...

1028

29.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B Positions. 29th Dec. S/M Estimate and U.S. S/M Notice. (Cominch, 1516/29, 1517/29, 1600/29, 1601/29, 1602/29, 1918/29.)

Convoy Commodore. Your 2228/28. Request in A.M. 1743/18th Oct. was that stay in New York should not exceed ten days where feasible.
2. Proposal in para. 1 of your 1532/20th Oct. was assumed to be agreeable to Commodores and to satisfy requirements.
3. Presume that Commodore of O.N.150 understood to be at Halifax is available in addition to the one Commodore mentioned as being at New York.
4. Re request in final sentence of your 2228/28, one additional Commodore will be sailed in O.N.159 and O.N.161. Will this make position satisfactory?
(D.T.D., 1615A/29 to B.R.L.O. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)
Reply: 1558Z/30.

ROXBOROUGH, EMPIRE BUNTING. My 2230Z/28th. EMPIRE BUNTING rigged emergency steering gear. Am (portion of message jammed and missed) 8. Tugs will be required for entering harbour. Weather report.
(ROXBOROUGH, 1625Z/29 to F.O.N.F., C.T.24, Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., WATCHMAN, Ships escorting O.N.155, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

A.C.Vs ATTACKER. Your 1701/16 of July 1942. Request that unless otherwise ordered all A.C.Vs may be sailed when ready to U.K. in convoy. My 1820/22 July refers.
2. Destination in U.K. will be signalled when sailing date is known.
3. ATTACKER who is to work up in U.S.A. is an exception to this rule. My 2010/19 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 1704A/29 to B.A.D.)

O.N.159, O.N.154. Circumstances permitting FAME proceeds forthwith to O.N.159. Polish destroyer BURZA remaining with convoy until relieved by (?Flying) Fortress escort. Contemplate sailing U.S. destroyer DALLAS, U.S. destroyer COLE to O.N.154 from Argentia morning 30th.
(C.T.24, 1707Z/29 to Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.4, (R) Connav, C. in C. W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q., etc.)
Your 1707Z/29th. Have been unable to fuel today. Am proceeding to St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 0930Z/30th. On completion of fuelling intend to proceed so as to join O.N.154 in daylight 31st. Polish Dest. BURZA S.O. of Escort O.N.155. Weather.
(FAME, 1748Z/29 to A.I.G.302, (R) ST. LAURENT, COLUMBIA.)
See also 1945Z/29. /b-1029.

/EMILE ...

MOST SECRET

1028A

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.)

1850Z/29th December.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 29.12.42.

From. C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Recd. 2230.

Naval Cypher S By W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Section South West. O.N.153, W.L.E. Task Unit 24.18.2...
039 degs. 50' 068 degs. 42' (?270 degs.) 9.5.

O.N. 152, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5 040 degs. 29' 064 degs.
55' 227 degs. 7.5 alter to 270 degs. in 039 degs. 50' North,
EDMUNDSTON detaching from O.N.152 and returning to Halifax.

S.C. 115, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4 040 degs. 33' 066 degs.
02' 044 degs. 7.5

FENNEL (arrived 1907/29)

~~FIMMENS~~ COWICHAN, escorting H.S.C.115 departing Halifax
1900Z/29th, DUNVEGAN departing 0400Z/30th all joining S.C.
115 at 1600Z/30th.

F.H. 25, NORANDA, 043 degs. 34' 051 degs. 52' en route
Halifax speed 7.

Not identified
H.F. 25, TARIBO, French, 044 degs. 07' 063 degs. 42'
223 degs. 7.5 alter to 267 degs. in 065 degs. 22' and to
353 degs. in 066 degs. 30' West.

FLEUR DE LYS, vicinity Western Head en route Shelburne.

H.S.77, FORT WILLIAM, 044 degs. 38' 062 degs. 23' speed
7.5.

H.M.C.S. SAGUENAY, towed by FOUNDATION FRANKLIN and
ST ANNE, screened by GODERICH, 043 degs. 08' 066 degs. 40'
360 degs. 7, en route for St. John N.B.

H.M.C.S. ASSINIBOINE, LA MALBAIE, depart Halifax about
1830Z/29th en route for St. Johns N.F. speed 12.

H.M.S. SEAWOLF, unescorted, 042 degs. 50' 067 degs. 12'
passing through position 043 degs. 08' 065 degs. 37' at
0625Z/30th thence proceeding to Halifax on surface E.T.A.
Sambro 1830Z/30th.

Not identified
Tug NANCY MORAN towing MINUS KING, Halifax approach inbound.

1650Z/29

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

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

MOST SECRET

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

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

MOST SECRET	MESSAGE	1551Z/29 Dec.	IN
From: C.O.A.C.Halifax.		DATE: 29.12.42.	
		RECD: 2059.	
<hr/>			
NAVAL CYPHER 3 'S' by W/T.			

Addressed: Admiralty.
IMPORTANT.

My 1650Z/29th (?Add) U.S.S.R. submarines S.51 and S.56 (?depart) Chebucto Head 2330Z./29th escorted by U.S.S. BERNADOU steering 089 degs. speed 12 knots. *See p. 1026*

1551Z/29.

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D.(H), D.D.I.C.

- A.C.N.S.(H).
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2).
- N.A.1st S.L.
- 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).
- D.T.D.(3).
- D.T.D.(C).
- C.C.R.T.
- C.C.C.S.
- U.S.N.(3).
- P.N.L.O.
- F.O.S. by Courier.
- Capt. Pim.

CC.

1029

War Diary.29.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- EMILE FRANCQUI (sunk 16th December) Br. SS. ST. BERTRAND arrived Dec. 29th with two survivors from Belgian SS. EMILE FRANCQUI. Vessel was struck by two torpedoes and sank 1945/16th Dec. in approx. 50.46 N. 24.50 W. Master rescue ship believes additional survivors picked up by an escorting corvette.
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., 1817Z/29 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- A.S.10. Sail A.S.10 for Suez via L. 028° 55' S. 034° 10' W. M. 035° 20' S. 021° 50' W. N. 040° 30' S. 006° 45' W. O. 043° 20' S. 009° 05' E. P. 041° 55' S. 018° 45' E. Request C. in C. S.A. provide onward route to U.S.N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro. U.S.N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro has for action. (Connav, 1858/29 to U.S.N.O.B. Rio de Janeiro, (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
- O.N.154. *See p. 1028* Western Local Escort for O.N.154 consists of corvettes *ARROWHEAD, *CHICOUTIMI and minesweeper DIGBY. Intend to sail corvettes to join O.N.154 in 45° W. and minesweeper in about 51° W. As there are no destroyers in this group request U.S. destroyer DALLAS and U.S. destroyer COLE remain with convoy as far to westward as possible. (F.O.N.F., 1945Z/29 to C.T.24, (R) C.O.A.C., C. Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.11, N.S.H.Q.) * *See p. 1026*
- Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 29. SOEKABOEMI serial 28 (O.N.S.154) now reported afloat when last seen. TORTUGUERO serial 18 (Incorrectly reported torpedoed in O.N.153 on 16th Dec., corrected later to EMILE FRANCQUI) arrived Halifax 28th Dec. possibly not torpedoed. (Connav, 2119/29 to Comnav.)
- Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. (A) Five subs sighted area 43.08 N. 27.25 W. about 2030Z/28. CHILLIWACK attacks sub 43.23 N. 27.38 W. about 2158Z/28. *See p. 1001*
Para. (C) Pan air Clipper sights large sub course south-east 02.30 S. 29.30 W. 1320Z/28. Sub sighted on surface 11.33 N. 60.47 W. 0625Z/29. Contact reported 47.30 N. 59.20 W. 1500Z/29. Eastern air pilot sights sub course 170° 13.59 N. 63.27 W. 1140Z/29. Sub sighted area 46.25 N. 43.10 W. 0640Z/25.
(Cominch, 2128/29 to Admty. for O.I.C. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- L.S.Ts. My 1835/29 (re present position re L.S.Ts and L.C. I.(L)s.) The manning position of L.S.Ts is not clear. Admty. 2217/24 does not appear to conform to the statement in para. 3 of C.O.S.(W) 404. 2. 49 L.S.Ts have been allocated to British and crews are arranged. We are striving for a further 26 and crews for them should be sent as soon as possible. 3. Prospects of obtaining 30 other L.S.Ts to complete to 105 are dependent on future grand strategy. Crews should be earmarked. (B.A.D., 2129Z/29 to Admty.)

War Diary.29.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and Zealand.

Movements. Departure Rarotonga, Free French OISEAU DES ILES, E.T.A. Makatea 1st. Jan.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0541Z/29 to Admty.)

Arrival 28th. Dec., Townsville, H.T. DUNTROON, V.S.I.S. MERKUR. R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA, U.S. Transport BOSPHORUS, Departed Port Moresby 28th, due Fall River 29th., U.S. Transport BANTAM departed Fall River 27th. due Townsville 30th. Hospital ship MANUNDA departed Port Moresby 28th., Fall River 29th..
(A.C.N.B. 1141Z/29 to Admty. Connav.)

Situation. Digest serial number 341 summary for Dec. 28th.
8 Liberators attacked Rabaul area and Gasmata Aerodrome early morning. Three direct hits scored on heavy cruiser or large transport Rabaul Harbour. Ship set on fire emitted large volume black smoke. Some indications of burning, probable hit on ammunition dump. R/C showed shipping strength substantially unchanged. At Gasmata small fires started.
(2) 4 Catalinas attacked Kavieng Airfield night 27/28 starting large fires, two destroyers two probable warships, three unidentified vessels observed. One aircraft bombed Gasmata airfield on return journey.
(3) One large carrier one heavy cruiser one light cruiser two destroyers sighted 1515/26 82 miles N.E. by N Sourabaya on course 060°.
(4) Substantial advance Buna strip Area after repulse of enemy counter attack during night 27/28. Enemy made costly unsuccessful counter attack Government Station Area 28. Enemy strong point S.W. Government Gardens reduced with capture of 13 (Missing group)
(5) Single floatplane bombed allied merchantman Merauke Harbour morning 27. Some damage and casualties. Similar attack previous day unsuccessful.
(6) Small merchant vessel observed at Baucan (Timor) morning 27.
(7) Remaining allied air operations 28. R/C Liberator scored two hits on Gasmata runway another bombed Lae Aerodrome starting fire. Three Beaufighters strafed enemy positions mouth Samboga River. Landing strips Fuloro strafed without opposition P.39 shot down Jap. R/C plane off Goodenough Is.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1000Z/29 to C.inC. E.F. etc.)

Group Your 1206/23. While 25th. M.S.F. forms a mine clearance flotilla suggest title be retained.
Numbers. 2. 7th. Trawler Group is still so designed at present..
3. 30th. Trawler Group is allocated if required for KIWI, MOA, and TUI.
4. Following Groups are allocated for Commercial Type Trawlers. Ships fitted 'O' sweep Auxiliary M/S Groups 94 to 99 inclusive. Ships fitted 'LL' or Magnet Sweeps Auxiliary M/S Groups 194 to 196 inclusive.
(5) Flotilla numbers 80 and 81 allocated for M.L's.
(6) There are no Groups in signal books for A/S M/S Groups of Trawlers.
(D.M.S. 2005A/29 to N.Z.N.B.)

War Diary

29. 12. 1942.
Tuesday.

U- BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1345A/29 1420A/29)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22 July. On 24th. S. of Malta P.219 reported she had sighted a U-Boat diving and torpedoed her at 50 feet.

On 25th. a Searchlight Wellington attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat in the Bay of Biscay with 4 torpex depth charges; a terrific explosion followed with a purple flash completely enveloping the U-Boat amidships and the bows were lifted out of the water. On the 26th. a Liberator attacked a U-Boat with 6 torpex depth charges; oil and a black cylindrical object were reported. On the same day HESPERUS and VANESSA rammed a U-Boat and took 8 prisoners. U.367. See 28/12. p 945.
On the 28th. the Escorts of O.N.5.154 claim to have sunk a U-Boat. (D.A/S.W. 1105Z/29 to Cominch etc.) See p.1001.

1032

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Convoy J.W.51B is estimated to have been 90 miles S.E. of Bear Island at 0800 today.
Convoy R.A.51 sailed from Kola Inlet at 1130A today for Iceland and U.K.

A tanker, believed to be the REGENT LION torpedoed and abandoned in Convoy O.N.153 on the 16th Dec., was reported by A/C yesterday to be drifting about 40 miles West of Cape Clear and at 1620A today was in tow of the trawler ST. KILDA with the Cable Ship ALERT and the destroyer MELBREAK in company. LORD ESSENDEN and the Rescue Tug ABEILLE 4 are on their way to assist her into Milford Haven. The tanker was taken in tow, but the tow had to be slipped at 0005/31 on account of the weather, in 50° 45' N. 9° 51' W., but the ship was later taken in tow again for Falmouth, where she arrived on 5th January.

40 out of 77 Fortress aircraft despatched bombed the submarine pens at Keroman (Lorient) this morning. It is reported that a large number (28 are provisionally claimed) of enemy aircraft were destroyed during the raid. 3 Fortresses are missing.

Intermittent air raids on Murmansk took place during the 36 hours ending 1730C today. Damage does not appear to be heavy, though one Russian ship was flooded aft by a near miss by planes diving to below 2000 ft. N.O.I.C. Murmansk asks for a balloon barrage to be supplied.

Normal traffic was resumed in the Tyne this evening (see 17th December).

There is positive evidence that the enemy have dropped some "G" mines during recent minelaying raids on the East Coast.

Mediterranean.

At 0522 today URSULA was rammed by a merchant ship whilst diving during a moonlight attack on 3 escorted merchant ships 12 miles north of Cape San Vito. Both her periscopes are out of action, and standards broken, and she has superficial damage to her bridge.

/U.S. ...

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

U.S. B.17s with fighter escort made two attacks on the docks and marshalling yards at Sfax today. Wellington attacked the port this evening, where considerable damage has been caused since 14th December.

P.R.U. of Sousse today showed 3 merchant ships of 1/2000 tons sunk since 12th December, and also one or two F-Boats and a schooner sunk and an F-Boat beached, as well as damage ashore in and around the port.

Eastern Air Command reports that it has been ascertained that from Squadron Commanders downwards Italian pilots take off on operations, stay over the sea for an appropriate period, drop their bombs and return home.

Six moored mines and 2 type R German mines were found off Bone yesterday and today.

America and West Indies.

O.N.S. 154.

At 0755A today V.A. Gibraltar ordered EMINENT to proceed forthwith at best speed to assist FIDELITY whose engines broke down on 28th December. At 1100Z/29 FIDELITY was reported steering for the Azores.

Capt. D.3 (MILNE) with METEOR after fuelling at the Azores has been ordered to take WOODSTOCK and PRESCOTT (detached from M.K.S.4) under his orders and search for survivors of the convoy. No attacks on the convoy developed during last night and there have been no further casualties in the convoy.

At 1200Z today O.N.S.154 was in 43° 8' N. 33° 45' W. At 2140Z C.T. 24.1.11 reported that he had sighted and attacked a U-Boat in 43° 6' N. 35° 48' W.

The following steps are being taken to reinforce the escort of O.N.S.154. U.S. destroyers FRINGLE, BACHE and COLE are en route and expected to join on 1st January. FAME is expected to leave St. Johns N.F. today and to arrive tomorrow. CHELSEA (S.O.) and MANSFIELD (designated 24.12.1.) sailed from St. Johns N.F. to arrive on 1st Jan. Western Local Escorts are expected to R/V in 45° W. on 2nd January, viz. ARROWHEAD (S.O.) and 5,0 CHICOUTIMI, to be joined by DIGBY in about 31° W.: designated 24.18.1.

See p. 1029

1034

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - con't.

O.N.S. 154.
(Contd.)

Seventeen survivors have been picked up from the Belgian tanker PRESIDENT FRANQUI; the fate of the ship and remainder of the crew is not known, but it is presumed she was torpedoed and sunk on 28th December.

SS. PADEREWSKI was torpedoed, shelled and sunk in 10° 52' N. 60° 25' W. at 0735Z today.

Australia and New Zealand.

Merauke, on the south coast of New Guinea was bombed this afternoon by 22 T.97 Mitsubishi bombers and half the township was destroyed, though the dock area was unhurt.

17 Fortresses attacked Rabaul harbour early this morning. Two large unidentified vessels and an 8000 ton transport were hit, and a 10,000 ton transport was near missed in St. George's Channel. R/C of Rabaul next day showed 2 ships on fire, one of them beached.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Portsmouth Command. Combined Operations Base. I endorse the remarks in C. in C. Portsmouth's 2135A/29, and recommend that the arrangements made in Appendix B to A.L.M. 051446/42 of 23rd October 1942 be adhered to. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1020/30 to Admty.) C. in C. Portsmouth's 2135/29 is entirely concurred with. (V.A. Dover, 1603A/30 to Admty.) Concur with C. in C. Portsmouth's 2135/29. (C. in C. Nore, 1855A/30 to Admty.)

FRASERBURGH, BEAUMARIS and BOOTLE. Urging that they should return to England to give leave. Strain is showing signs of having adverse affect on morale and I consider Ship's companies are in urgent need of special consideration. (A.C.I.C., 1220A/30 to A.C.O.S., (R) C. in C. H.F., Admty.)

Movements.

UGANDA. My 1700/28. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0937/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

ABDIEL. 1. On completion of Operation H.U.1, ABDIEL is to proceed to the Mediterranean to act under the orders of N.C.X.F., having embarked mines at

Milford Haven.

Request you sail her accordingly.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 1011A/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

** Please lay up off the Yew Tinge.*

BODO. BODO is to be sailed 0830/31st. She is to carry out anti-aircraft practice already arranged in swept channel south-east of Aberdeen and then proceed by route given my 1330/13th November. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1045A/30 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

** N.T.N.D.*

P. 229. Cancel my 1602A/28 and 1604A/28. SKATE unable to sail owing to defects. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1102A/30.)

See pp 1036 C & D

ONSLAUGHT. My 1721A/28. Amend fighter protection codeword to read "Forced". (C. in C. Rosyth, 1115A/30.) Cancel my 1721/28. Sailing delayed for completion of type 286P. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1536A/30 to ONSLAUGHT.)

/WHADDON ...

1036

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.WHADDON,
VEGA.*See p. 1043.*

When ships of F.N.⁹⁰4 have anchored in Gt. Yarmouth Road or at the Cork take VEGA under your orders and proceed independently to Rosyth at best speed weather conditions will allow.
(C. in C. Nore, 1222A/30 to WHADDON.)

W.A.
Command.

Situation at 1956A/30. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1358A/30.)
See Lion Copy.

P. 31.

See p. 1036c

Sheerness departure P.31 with G.W.145.
(C. in C. Nore, 1422A/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

UREDD.

See p. 1036D

Intend sailing UREDD escorted by LOCH MONFEITH at 1100A/31st, to carry out trials between 1600/31 and 1000/1st in vicinity of 059° 35' N. 000° 28' W. in accordance with F.O.(S) 1313/29 as amended by A.C.O.S. 1110/28 and F.O.(S) 1908/28, returning to Lerwick on completion. E.T.A. 1600A/1st.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1505A/30 to A.C.O.S.)

O. 10.

My 0945/28. Propose to sail D.S. O.10 with internal fuel only.
(Capt. S.6, 1531A/30 to F.O.S.)
Your 1531/30. Approved.
(F.O.S., 2218A/30 to S.6.)

1st M.L.
Squadron.

Your 0924A/29. ^{p. 1003} WELLS will be sailed as screen for passages as proposed.
2. Regret no other destroyer can be made available from my Command.
3. Cmdre. D. anticipates being able to provide screens as necessary during work-up practices.
(A.C.O.S., 1548A/30 to R.A.M.)

S/M
Positions.

At 0800/31. Details.
(F.O.S., 1636A/30, 2134A/30, 1921A/30.)
See Lion Copy.

PETERHEAD.

Your 2254A/29. ^{p. 1003} Full gale. My S.O.A. 4 knots, position 058° 30' N. 005° 37' W. Intend to shelter in Broad Bay, proceeding to Loch Ewe when conditions permit for further orders.
(PETERHEAD, 1745/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

/A.F.D.XX ...

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.)

1358A/30th Dec.

From: - C. in C. Western Approaches.

SITUATION AT 1956A/30/12/42.

SECTION. N.E.

SALADIN		56 50 07 10	To West Hartlepool	13
U.R. 56	GAVOTTE STAFNESS REIGHTON WYKE	270° Cape Wrath 18 miles	To 59 50 08 11 thence 61 38 15 00	5
WN. 78	MINUET WOLVES VALSE POLKA GIARD	Sails Loch Ewe 2200A/30	To Methil	6
BRECON		56 24 07 32	To Scapa	17

SECTION S.E.

AMAZON		Sails Clyde 2100A/30	To Liverpool	15
SKATE		53 44 04 32	To Lizard	10
HOSPITAL SHIP HM. 91		Off Helwick	To Belfast	15
CONVOY SC(B)113	LEEDS UNITED MAID MARION BROADWAY 2 Corvettes	52 57 05 04 52 54 04 54 56 09 09 58	Southbound Northbound To 56 00 08 25 thence North Channel	8 8 7½
SC(U)113	1 Corvette	56 16 09 58	To Loch Ewe	7½
BRECON		56 24 07 32	To Scapa	17
POTENTILLA		55 28 06 12	N. Westward to P/V Morden	12

SECTION N.W.

ROCKINGHAM		60 43 16 45	To Reykjavik	15
ONS. 156	U.S.S. SPENCER	59 20 25 25	To 59 21 29 59 thence, 7 48 04 43 20	
C.T.U. 24.1.3	U.S.S. BADGER U.S.S. CAMPBELL DIANTHUS DAUPHIN TRILLIUM ROSTHERN U.S.S. DUANE U.S.S. SCHENCK			

/ ON, 157

SECTION N.W. Continued.

ON.157	GARLAND	57 22 18 18	To 59 20	
			23 00 thence	9
C.T.U.	SWALE		59 01	
24.1.17	ORCHIS		30 59	
	NARCISSUS			
	LOBELIA			
	ACONIT			
	ROSELYS			

SECTION S.W.

SHERWOOD	MORDEN	56 43 12 43	To Londonderry	5
DOLFJN		47 35 13 50	To 43 00	2½ by
			13 50	day
				9 by
				night
1 M/V in Tow of Tug LORD ESSENDON 1 Tug	LAGAN	54 54 11 13	To Nth. Channel	4½
		Searching vicinity		
		51 12 10 38		
SC.114	WATCHMAN	50 49 36 48	To 51 01	35 59
			thence	7
			53 55	25 01
C.T.U. 24.1.15	DAHLIA			
	MONKSHOOD			
	WALLFLOWER			
	BORAGE			
	MEADOWSWEET			
KMS.6.	BLACK SWAN	44 50 17 41	To 39 05	17 12 7½
	1 SLOOP			
	10 Corvettes			
MKS. 4	LONDONDERRY	42 21 15 08	To 49 20	14 35 7½
	3 Corvettes			
	4 Sloops			
	1 Trawler			
MKF.5	FLEET UNIT	54 25 11 15	To 55 00	10 45 12½
			thence	
			55 25 08 30	
	5 Sloops			
	1 Corvette.		Nth. Channel.	

1358A/30.

PS

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.V.

HD. of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.D.C.D. (M)
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (6)
D.M.S.
A.H.Q.H.F.

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

C.C.R.T.
D. of P. (2)
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Ramsey. (4).

IH.

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

1636A/30 December

From F.O.S.

Date 30.12.42.

Recd. 1650

P/L BY SECRET T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

446. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/31st December and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) TORBAY, 62 degs 10' North 01 degs 10' East
(B) SOKOL, 62 degs 12' North 03 degs 40' East
(C) P.223, 64 degs 34' North 03 degs 22' East
(D) P.339, 64 degs 05' North 01 degs 56' East
Submarines (A) to (D) all making for Lerwick probably on surface. Positions very approximate.

~~(E) O.14 approaching Lerwick from N.E.
Position unknown.~~

(F) P.49, P.216, P.312, and GRAPH, on patrol in Norwegian Waters East of 20 degs East.

(G) P.55, escorted by AYRSHIRE, approaching Lerwick from South. *See next page*
(H) H.43, exercising vicinity Great Ormes Head. *See p.1037*
(J) P.31, on passage to Portsmouth with C W 145. *See p.1036*
(K) DOLFIJN, 46 degs 08' North 13 degs 50' West.
Course 180 degs 130 miles in 24 hours diving by day. *See p.1049*
(L) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, in Zone K.501.
(M) U.S.S. SHAD, off Bilbao.
(N) U.S.S. BARB, off Vigo.
(O) U.S.S. HERRING, in Zone K.505.
(P) X CLYDE, and P.229, escorted by FILLA, leaves Needles 1700/31st December for position 180 degs Lizard Head 12 miles routed through Spithead convoy route. ** See p.1035, next page*

X See p.1065

(FOS 1636A/30 and 2134A/30)

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

A.C.N.S.(H)

N.A.1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.

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

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

D.D.O.D.(M)

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).

D.N.I.(4).

U.S.N.(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.)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE IN
1921A/30th December.

Date: 30.12.42.

From: F.O.S.

Recd: 1929

P/L by T/P

Addressed: Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

447. My 1636/30.

(1) Delete paragraph (G)

(11) Paragraph (P) delete P.229. *see previous page*

(111) Add paragraph (Q) UREDD, escorted by LOCH

MONTEITH, leaves Lerwick 1100/31st December to
carry out trials in vicinity of 59 degs. 35 mins
North 00 degs. 28 mins. West. *see p. 1036*(1V)*P.55, leaves Lerwick 1130/31st December
proceeding probably on the surface through position

090 degs. out Skerries 5 miles 61 degs. 01 mins.

North 00 degs. 06 mins. East 61 degs. 04 mins.

North 02 degs. 05 mins. East thence diving by day
to patrol area K.104. * *see previous page*

1921A/30

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

A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pin.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.D.O.D.(M)
D.C.(2)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D. of P.(2)
D.A./S.W.
D.T.D.(M)
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.F.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
U.S.N.(3)

J.R.

1037

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

A.F.D. XX, Your 1915/9.
 A.F.D.VII. (a) Earliest date of arrival of A.F.D.XX in the Clyde is mid February 1943.
 (b) A.F.D.XX will replace A.F.D.VII in the latter's present position.
 (c) A.F.D.VII is allocated to the Gareloch for use by C.C.O. who is about to resume occupation of Base Two Roseneath. (Head of M., 2219A/30 to A.S. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Patrols. 1. Intend R.M.L. 523 (S.O.) and M.L.123 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° 05' W.
 2. Leave Portland 1700 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol line, adjusting position as to cover passage of P.W. and W.P. convoys. Leave patrol line at dawn and return to Base.
 3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Cadger".
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1154A/30.)
 Weather permitting tonight M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.) and 615 are to carry out patrol between 50° 31' N. 00° 35' E. and 50° 30' N. 00° 05' W. during dark hours keeping to southward of C.W.145 during its passage. Codeword "Device".
 3. Chasseur 10 (S.O.) and 14 patrolling south of E.A5 Buoy constant W/T watch on 2450 k/cs.
 4. R.M.L.523 (S.O.) and M.L.123 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 05' W. and 01° 30' W.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1259A/30.)
 My 1154A/30. "Cadger" sailed 1720A/30.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1740A/30.)

Exercises.

Trials in My 1453A/29. Weather improving. Trials
 Liverpool commencing 1000A/30.
 Bay. H.43, (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 0959A/30 to F.O.I.C.
 GLEN Liverpool.)
 STRATHALLAN.

"Haulabout". My 1623/29. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1048/30 to N.O.I.C. Poole.)

Allied Air Activity.

Convoy Whitley and Swordfish aircraft will carry out
 Cover anti E-Boat cross over patrols from 1830 today
 Patrol. till dawn 31st to cover passage of convoys.
 Object is to report, attack and shadow E-Boats.
 Details.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1357A/30 to Escorts W.P.271 and P.W. 271.)
 My 1357. Owing to weather aircraft patrol will be withdrawn at 0345 or possibly earlier.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 2303A/30.)

1038

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C off
Tuskar.

Following received from Lands End Radio.
Intercept 1205 G.M.T. de unknown station. Help,
conflict, four unidentified planes travelling
S.W., position 17 miles 98° Tuskar.
(C.C.O. Plymouth, 1305A/30 to Admty.)
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O. to Admty.)

Convoy
K.M.S. 6.

At least two F.W.200 aircraft may be operating
in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1310A/30 to Escorts K.M.S. 6.)

Murmansk
bombed.

Intermittent air raid on town and docks during
last 36 hours. During raid 0600/30th fresh-
water pipe in dock broken. One Russian ship
in berth not used for discharging or loading
sustained near miss and flooded aft. For this and other air
raids planes diving to below 2000 feet. No British or American
casualties. Request very early decision regarding supply of
balloon barrage.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1731C/30 to M. of W.T.)

North Sea.

D.S.*O.14 reports that on homeward passage enemy
aircraft which appeared to be searching were
sighted daily.
(F.O.S., 2342A/30 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

* See p.1041

Mining.

East Coast
sweeping.

There is positive evidence that some "G" mines
have been dropped during recent minelaying air
raids on the East Coast.
2. Standard "LL" sweeping should detonate most
"G" mines. The special sweep as laid down in C.B. 4063/42
paras. 700 to 705 should therefore only be carried out in
obstinate cases of known mines.
(D.M.S., 1837A/30.)

Operation
H.S.

Anticipated ADVENTURE will be ready for sea p.m.
6th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2314/30 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Cherbourg,
Brest.

Information enemy between 8 and 12 E-Boats are
based on Cherbourg, about 7 torpedo boats at Brest.
R.D.F. states are at Porsal and Morlaix.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0844A/30 to ABDIEL.)

/TURJA ...

1039

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.TURJA,
SUURSAAKI.

Finnish guardship TURJA and icebreaking tug SUURSAAKI damaged by Russian coastal gunfire when leaving Petsamo in summer 1942 were repairing in September at Harstad and Trondheim respectively. Graded B.3.
(D.N.I., 1555A/30 to Ad. Miles, Moscow.)

Warship.

(Corrupt group) position bearing and distance from point (c) 170°, 60 miles, unknown, speed 6 knots, warship.
(U.S.S.R. S.54?, 1600Z/30 to F.O.S.)

U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.

By D/F at 0137Z/30. U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 45 miles of 50° 20' N. 13° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 0331A/30 to Escorts M.K.F. 5.)

Navigational.

Tyne.

Cancel my 1149/17. Normal traffic may be resumed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1701A/30.)

Casualties and Defects.

Tanker off
Cape Clear.
(REGENT LION)

Proceed forthwith to stand by damaged tanker in 051° 12' 30" N. 010° 38' 30" W. at 1900/29. ST. KILDA is now in company with tanker and tug ABEILLE 4 and LORD ESSENDEN are on their way. Subsequently escort to Milford Haven. Fighter protection by one Beaufighter has been arranged from 0900 to 1700.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0045A/30 to MELBREAK.)

MELBREAK sailed Falmouth 0230/30 proceeding to 051° 12' 30" N. 010° 38' 30" W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0245A/30 to Escorts W.P.271.)

Your 0045/30. REGENT LION in tow by trawler ST. KILDA. ALERT in company. P.C.S. 050° 42' N. 010° 26' W., 066°, 4 knots. ST. KILDA reported sighting enemy aircraft 1000 today.
(MELBREAK, 1620A/30 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

At 2000 LORD ESSENDEN report P.C.S. and whether in company with ABEILLE 4.

MELBREAK report when LORD ESSENDEN and tug join.

Weather permitting Beaufighters will escort tow from 0900/31.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1819/30.)

At 1745 aircraft reported LORD ESSENDEN and ABEILLE 4 in 051° 05' N. 009° 24' W. Estimated position of ST. KILDA and tow at 1745 was 050° 45' N. 010° 05' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 2033A/30 to MELBREAK.)

/MIERVALDIS ...

1040

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- MIERVALDIS. My 2233/29 returned and anchored in roads - assistance not required. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0100A/30.)
- TORNADO. Immingham departure at 0230. H.M. Rescue Tug HORSIA to assist H.M.T. TORNADO in distress vicinity of No. 14 Buoy. (F.O. Humber, 0315/30.)
- STRATHALLAN survivors. My 2048/25. Following personnel on board:- DUCHESS OF YORK about 465 merchant navy crew of STRATHALLAN. (D.S.T., 0434A/30.)
- BRODENE (Sunk 26th December.) Drifter BRODENE in ten fathoms. Skipper states condition repairable. Advise if vessel should be saved. F.W.O. states lifting comparatively easy. (S.S.T.O. Iceland, 1100A/30 to D.O.S.T. London.)
- Unknown Ship. Following from (GLSD?). Am proceeding Clyde. Vessel sustained heavy fractured shell plate in boiler room, necessary to dry dock to repair. If you order Liverpool for discharging cargo can make it and also keep leak under control while discharging. Fracture is below light draft level. Master. (Port Patrick Radio, 1115/30 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- HARVESTER. Admty. 1853/27.
(1) HARVESTER's refit can only be completed in time for ship to sail with her group if torpedo discharge trials are omitted.
(2) As HARVESTER is urgently required for escort duty and torpedoes are not used in Western Approaches I intend to defer trials to a more suitable occasion.
(C. in C. W.A., 1157A/30 to Admty.)
My 1157/30. HARVESTER is now required to leave Liverpool Feb. 11th. Request as much work as possible may be carried out within the extended time and that A and A item for fitting of oiling bollards may be completed.
(C. in C. W.A., 1251A/30 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- VARDEFJELL. MARAUDER's 1145/30. If weather continues to deteriorate evacuate personnel and sink tanker. 2. Ultimate destination* MARAUDER return to Scapa escorted by one trawler, remaining trawler return to Faroes. 3. S.O. report intentions. * See next page
(A.C.O.S., 1514A/30 to KINGSTON AGATE, MARAUDER, HAMLET.)
Am proceeding in company with MARAUDER and HAMLET to transfer 9 of MARAUDER's crew from KINGSTON AGATE. Heavy sea makes sinking of tanker dangerous to guns crew. Request Nolso Light tonight.
(KINGSTON AGATE, 1725A/30 to F.O.I.C. Faroes.)

/ST. MARYS ...

1041

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

ST. MARYS. N.O.I.C. Lerwick's 1830/27. Anticipate ST. MARYS will be ready to sail utilising starboard engine only about 6th January. If tug is required as is probable intend to use ^{*}MARAUDER. Ships requires docking for repair. Request refitting port.
(A.C.O.S., 1617A/30 to Admty.) * *See previous page.*

O. 14. Arrived O.14.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1701A/30.)

Shipping and Convoys.

ORDUNA. ORDUNA is due Greenock for discharge about 31st Dec. and is to be moved into Glasgow as soon as berth available.
(D.S.T., 0023A/30.)

SAN ZOTICO. Sailed E.T.A. Clyde 1600A/30.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry, 0500A/30.)

Discharge of M/Vs in North Russia. Fuel oil at Kola Inlet. Your Mast 298. At present there are still two vessels lying idle in roads here (corrupt group) having bombers and explosives on board. As Murmansk is bound to be our main line supply during next few months (? consider) turn-round of ships here more important at present than anything else.

- (2) As a result I have suggested to Papanin and he has got Moscow to agree following five ships shall proceed White Sea to discharge, EMPIRE ^{*}EMERCARU, JEFFERSON MYERS, R.W. EMERSON, CHESTER VALLEY, PUERTO RICAN. All these except tankers have bombers on board and most have explosives. * *EMERALD in line 9. 1st page*
- (3) JEFFERSON MYERS and R.W. EMERSON will obviously have to discharge at Molotovsk (? owing to) draft.
- (4) I recommend that other two dry-cargo ships should discharge Economica if draft permits and subject to no (? changes) in ice conditions. (Corrupt group) agree (corrupt group) can I also have permission to load them for U.K. with timber? Owing to possibility of changes in ice conditions while it would be my aim to get minimum of 1000 (? packages) in each steamer it might be necessary to send them away light.
- (5) For your guidance there is practically no timber at Molotovsk. Vessels now there will be loaded with chrome magnesite or potassium chloride for U.S. discharge.
- (6) As SAN CIPRIANO is being discharged quickly have no hesitation in sending EMPIRE EMERALD to Molotovsk where berth should be ready against her arrival.
- (7) Russians specially request PONTFIELD after discharging her bunker fuel here should proceed Molotovsk to discharge aviation spirit. If ice conditions remain as they are consider she should be able to catch R.A.52 even if she does this. It will also enable her to avoid most dangerous area. Would you (corrupt group) (? note of interrogation) please rush reply.
- (8) Request S.B.N.O. North Russia to issue orders to vessels named in para 2 to proceed White Sea.

/Berthing ...

1042

War Diary.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Discharge of M/Vs in North Russia. Fuel oil at Kola Inlet. (Contd.)

Berthing instructions to be issued after reply is received from you London.
(9) If PONTFIELD sunk EMPIRE EMERALD must proceed Kola first.
(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 0634A/30 to Admty.)
Your 1711/29.
In spite of fuel sent in J.W. 51A only 6000 tons remain at Kola as about 4500 tons were diverted White Sea.

2. This situation is unsatisfactory and unless improved will prejudice future convoys and any possibility of operating in Barents Sea. The convoy will have larger escort and require more fuel at Kola.

3. Essential no furnace fuel in J.W. 51B be diverted to White Sea.

4. J.W. 52 and subsequent convoy must each deliver 10,000 tons in order to provide a prudent margin.
(C. in C. H.F., 1147A/30 to Admty.)
Stop discharging fuel oil from SAN CIPRIANO. Balance is to be brought to Kola Inlet.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1758/20 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
C. in C. H.F. 1147/30. Intend fuel oil in EMPIRE EMERALD shall be brought to Kola Inlet after she has discharged white oil at Molotovsk.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1959A/30.)
My 1944/29. Four other ships are R.W. EMERSON, CHESTER VALLEY, PUERTO RICAN, JEFFERSON MYERS.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2045A/30 to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 0634A/30. In view of C. in C. H.F. 1147/30 strongly urging that no furnace oil in J.W. 51B should be discharged White Sea. We have nominated EMPIRE ARCHER for White Sea instead of EMPIRE EMERALD. Otherwise we confirm your nomination.

2. You will no doubt arrange that EMPIRE EMERALD after discharge black oil at Kola proceeds White Sea if situation permits.
(D.T.D., 2110A/30 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

WESTERNLAND. C. in C. Rosyth's 1120/29. Sailed at 0602/30.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0800/30 to N.O.I.C. Methil.)
Request MONTROSE may be sailed as soon as ready/e
Methil whence C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail her as escort WESTERNLAND to Southend.
(C. in C. Nore, 1212A/30 to Cdre. D. H.F.)

P.S.30, S.P.30. Sailing of P.S. and S.P. 30 postponed till weather moderates.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0805A/30.)
P.S.30 and S.P.30 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1141A/30.)

S.C. 113, SHERWOOD. Detach ships to Loch Ewe at dusk today escorted to 57° N. by 1 corvette, thence unescorted.
(C. in C. W.A., 0957Z/30 to Escorts S.C.113.)

/Sailed ...

1043

War Diary.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - cont'd.

S.C. 113,
SHERWOOD.
(Contd.)

Sailed POTENTILLA to comply with C. in C. W.A's 2009Z/29.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1356A/30.)
SHERWOOD has following defects. Details.
Intend proceeding Liverpool from Moville.
(SHERWOOD, 1735Z/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

R.U. 55.

Sailing postponed to 2000/31st.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1001A/30.)

Atlantic
Escort
Group.
SWALE,
LOGAN.

In order to strengthen trans-Atlantic escort, Escort Groups 40, 42, 44 and 45 are being reduced temporarily to 5 running ship apiece.
(2) Following ships are allocated temporarily to groups SWALE to B.3, LOGAN to C.2.
(3) Following ships are earmarked for trans-Atlantic Convoy and will be allocated shortly, TAY, KALE, JED, EXE, WOODPECKER, WAVENEY.
(C. in C. W.A., 1015Z/30.)

Coastal
Convoy
Escorts.

Cancel my 1001/30.
Your 0846/30. Following is a repetition of my 1904/28 to A.I.G.45. Begins.
It is intended that, where timetables permit, the destroyer escorting the C.W. convoy returns the following day with the C.E. convoy. C., in C. Portsmouth is requested to signal in advance the estimated times of departure of C.E. convoys from Spithead Gate in order that arrangements may be made accordingly.
3. 16th and 21st Flotillas will provide destroyer escorts alternately the 21st Flotilla proving for C.W.146 and C.E.144. Destroyers detailed from 16th Flotilla are to be sailed to arrive Southend p.m. the day before convoy sails. All destroyers detailed are to be reported 48 hours before sailing.
6. In order to facilitate buttoning by Q.Z.S.376 N.C.S.O. Thames is to request approval, on receipt of C.E. timetable, to delay the sailing of the appropriate F.N. convoy up to 0930, having regard to number of ships and speed of the F.N. unless ships can be buttoned at B.2 buoy further signals will not be made and N.C.S. tug will be at East Shingles Buoy. 1904A/28. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 1023A/30 to Admty.)

F.N. 404.

Will endeavour to heave the convoy to off number 4 Buoy.
(WHADDON, 1025/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

Suggest F.N. 404 returns Harwich.
(WHADDON 1119A/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

p. 1036

Your 1222A/30 (see Movements). Last three ships are being escorted to Harwich by STELLA RIGEL. Believe one ship of convoy is not accounted for. Am proceeding to Rosyth VEGA in company.

Present S.O.A. 14 knots.
(WHADDON, 1405A/30 to C. in C. Nore.)

F.N. 404 is cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1543A/30 to Admty.)

1044

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.F. 6. Detach EXE to Londonderry to arrive Jan. 4th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1115A/30 to EGRET.)
Cancelled, see 1821A/30, under North Atlantic. ^{P. 1050}
- Your 1115A/30. P.C.S. 039° 49' N. 017° 24' W., 626, 11.5 knots.
EXE with 32 passengers, 50 bags of mail, and special heavy R.D.F. stores for Algiers will be detached at 0600Z/31st. Fuel and time should be allowed for her to proceed to Gibraltar and weather preventing transfer. Weather report 7180 1016.
(EGRET, 1510A/30.)
- K.M.S. 6, 1. MOOSEJAW is to join M.K.S. 4 during daylight
M.K.S. 4, 31st.
MOOSEJAW. 2. Estimated position of M.K.S.4, 044° 10' N. 015° 01' W. at 1000Z/31st.
3. Route. (q) 039° 58', 015° 10'. (r) 049° 20',
014° 35'. (s) 055° 00', 010° 00'.
4. Speed 7½ knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 1116A/30 to BLACK SWAN, MOOSEJAW.)
M.K.S. 4. My P.C.S. at 2000A/30, 041° 28' N. 015° 14' W., 004°, 6¾.
(LONDONDERRY, 1810A/30.)
- R.A. 51. My 1547/26. Left Kola Inlet 1100A/30.
BOADICEA remaining.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1131A/30.)
- O.N. 269.⁹ Ships from O.N.269 are to be escorted to Belfast.
Onward sailing orders will be sent from Milford Haven and ships are to be sailed escorted by 2 A/S trawlers to a R/V as signalled by N.O.I.C. Milford Haven off Old Head of Kinsale at 0900A/2nd. Naval Comdre. is to be embarked in the escort and will act in that capacity until R/V is effected.
(C. in C. W.A., 1303A/30.)
My 1303/30th. Cancel all after Belfast.
(C. in C. W.A., 1557A/30.)
K.X. 8. My 1557/30th. Ships from O.N.157 and EMPIRE LORENZO are to be sailed escorted by 2 A/S trawlers from Belfast via Q.Z.L.18 in time to make R/V in 180° Old Head of Kinsale 10 miles at 0900A/4th. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to appoint a Naval Cdre. to embark in a trawler.
(C. in C. W.A., 2311A/30 to F.O.I.C. Belfast, (R) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Admty.)
- J.W. 51B. BLANKNEY, LEDBURY, and CHIDDINGFOLD are to R/V
Covering with me in 050° Langanes Light 10 miles at 0230A
Force. tomorrow Thursday. My approach course 230°.
(V.A.2, 1329A/30 to BLANKNEY.)
C. in C. H.F. 1638A/27. My 1329A. After making R/V, FORESTER, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS will be detached to (group omitted) Seidisfjord to fuel. Cover (? provides) 2 alternatives (A) ANSON to enter Seidisfjord at 1100A. (B) ANSON will not enter, in which case R/V for destroyers will be signalled.
Report if X berth can be cleared.
(V.A.2, 1331A/30 to A.C.I.C.)

/P.W.271 ...

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.P.W. 271,
P.W.D.271.

MANGROVE is to take CAMBRIDGESHIRE, GRIMSBY TOWN, M.L.556 under his orders and pass the gate at approximately 0930/31 escorting P.W.D.271 to R/V with and relieve A/S trawler escort of P.W.271 at Eddystone.

2. Tanker STANDELL from Plymouth and ACCRUIITY from Portsmouth are both category (2) ships.
 3. GLAISDALE is to remain with convoy until relieved by CLEVELAND. Latter ship expected to sail 1600/31st.
 4. Speed of P.W.271 is to be adjusted not to arrive Eddystone before 1130.
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 1544A/30.)

K.X. 8.

My 1300/23, as amended by my 2135/28 and 1546/29. Sailing of convoy K.X.8 postponed. Convoy will leave Milford Haven on 3rd Jan.

2. The following additional ships destination Freetown are to be sailed from Belfast to R/V with convoy: SS. DEBRETT, SS. OCEAN STRENGTH, SS. BAARN, SS. BERWICKSHIRE, SS. FORT AUGUSTUS, SS. HARPAGUS, SS. EMPIRE PLOVER, SS. FORT CAMOSUN, SS. MAGICIAN, SS. QUEEN ANNE. Also SS. WEARWOOD from Milford Haven.
3. Above mentioned ships will be directed to part company with convoy as requisite to proceed independently. Route instructions in my 1805/29 not to all addressees refer.
4. Escort will be provided from Milford Haven by (A) H.M.S. LANCASTER, TANATSIDE, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, CARNATIC, NEWARK, LAUDERDALE, TADOUSAC. (B) In addition FORT YORK if ready.
5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange R/V for both sections of convoy and sailing of escorts to Milford Haven as necessary providing escort for Belfast Section to R/V.
6. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail ships as requisite.
7. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ships and escorts as requisite.
8. V.A. Gibraltar and F.O.C.W. Africa are requested to arrange such air escort as is practicable for ships mentioned in para. 2 after they have left convoy.
9. Owing to postponement of sailing date EMPIRE USK will be enabled to sail with convoy. Amend my 1546/29 accordingly. (D.O.D.(H), 2100A/30.)

W.N. 78.

Postpone 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 2220A/30.)

War Diary.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS." Torch"Area.French
Shipping
from
Dakar.

My 2145/29. French Admiralty announce a 5th. movement of one sailing on 31st. Dec. from Dakar for Bathurst escorted by Aviso and have added two more ships carrying troops to 4th. Convoy sailing from Waking to Casablanca.
(N.C.X.F. 1330A/30 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) S.N.O.C.A.)

Equipment
of French
Forces.

My 1214 25th. Nov. A reply is urgently needed on policy in view of early visit of Rear Adm. Glassford and expected arrival of Adm. Michelier when whole question will come under consideration.
(N.C.X.F. 1830A/30 to Admty.)

Special
Tanker
Convoy.

Admty. 1826/29. Intended allocation of oilers in special convoy due Gibraltar about Jan. 14th.
(A) NORVIK, B. WEDEL, OLTENIA II to Oran to discharge to shore stocks and British Tankers.
(B) VANJA, CLIONA, ALBERT L ELLSWORTH to Algiers to discharge to shore stocks.
(C) One Tanker in U.G.F. 4 to Oran to discharge to shore.
(D) 3 Tankers in special Fast Convoy to Gibraltar to discharge to shore.
(E) All oilers to be given prompt discharge and to be returned to U.S.
(N.C.X.F. 1835A/30 to V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers
(R) Admty.)

Vichy
French
Ships.

Your 2320/18 (Revised instructions regarding Vichy French Ships.) concur in proposed 'A' message.
(N.C.X.F. 2032A/30 to Admty.)

Casablanca-
Gibraltar
cable.

Your 1527/29th. Cables should be operated and maintained by Cables and Wireless in conjunction with P.T.T. under control of the military and naval authorities. This arrangement satisfactory at Algiers pending final official agreement. Allied Force H.Q. concur in above.
(N.C.X.F. 2133A/30 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty)

1047

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

EMINENT, Has my 0146A/29 (re request EMINENT to assist
FIDELITY, FIDELITY) been complied with?
(ex O.N.S. (D.C. for D.O.D. (F), 0120A/30 to V.A. Gibraltar,
154) *See p. 1064* (R) C. in C. W.A.)
1048, 1049 Your 1950/29. Proceed to Gibraltar if state
of engines permits or if in tow of EMINENT,
otherwise to Ponta Delgada. Report intention.
(D.O.D. (F) 0140A/30 to FIDELITY, (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A.
Gibraltar, C.T.24.1.11) W.R. Note. Signal T.O.O. 1950/29
was circulated in message T.O.O. 2209Z/29 from C.T.U.24.1.11.
Admty. 0146A/29. Proceed forthwith at best speed to
assistance of FIDELITY reported in position 043° 30' N., 027°
10' W., at 2050Z/28th with main engine trouble. FIDELITY repor-
ted steering for Azores at 1100Z/29th.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0755A/30 to EMINENT (R) Admty. C. in C.
W.A., Capt. (D) 3, ST. LAURENT).
Our approx. position 042° 27' N., 028° W. Attack carried
out on U-boat at 2000/29th in approx. 042° 53' N., 027° 47' W.
on good contact. Request repeat of 0755A/30. S.P. 02350 and
S.P. 02361 only held. Also request repetition of your 0140A/30.
(FIDELITY, 1130Z/30 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0755/30. If EMINENT is not required to assist
FIDELITY, request she may assist in Salvage operations referred
to in my 1720A/30 (KIRBY).
(C. in C. W.A., 1715A/30 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty.
FIDELITY, D.3., EMINENT).
Continue to assistance of FIDELITY whose position was
042° 27' N., 028° 00' W., at 1230A, 30th Dec. steering for
Azores, estimated speed 2 knots.
(Admiral Gibraltar, 2259A/30 to M.J.A.V., B.J.X.5
(EMINENT).)

Movements.

See p. 1049 & 1049c
Arrival SCYLLA, WISHART, ANTELOPE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0832A/30 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.,
C. in C. H.F., Cmdre. Algiers).
H.M. Trawlers DRANGEY and HAARLEM arrived Ponta
Delgada 1245 G.M.T./30. *See p. 1049*
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1055C/30 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar, (R) Admty).

O.N.S.154

Your 0002/30th (re Comtask Unit No. 24.1.11)
Make every endeavour to remain with convoy until
midnight. Your support during first few hours of
darkness may make all the difference.
(C. in C. W.A., 1048Z/30 to Capt. (D) 3 (R)
Connav, Admty. C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., Mid-ocean escort Task Unit 24.111,
N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

1. Your 1048Z/30th received and understood. In view of
fuel and weather conditions I am now proceeding to Ponta Delgada.
E.T.A. p.m./1st Jan. METEOR in company. MILNE has 143 survivors
to be landed. Fuel required up to 500 tons each.
2. O.N.154 was attacked at 1735/29th by one U-boat which was
counter attacked and hunted. No attacks developed during the
night and there have been no further casualties in convoy.

1048

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - cont.

- O.N.S.154
Contd.
3. KENOGAMI is also short of fuel but can remain with convoy until a.m./1st Jan. Understand NONPAREIL (?NAPANEE intended) CHILLIWACK, ST. LAURENT have enough fuel to reach St. Johns N.F.
4. O.N.154 P.C. and S. at 1200Z/30th 043° 08' N., 033° 45' W. 264° 7 knots.
5. Weather. Barometer 10 22 wind S.S.E. force 6. Low cloud 3/10 4,000 feet. Visibility 12 miles. Weather B.C.
(Capt. D.3., 1500Z/30 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.T.G.24.7., C.T.U. 24.1.11, V.A. Gib., Admty. ST. LAURENT). See also 1720A/30. BATTLEFORD and H.M.C.S. SHEDIAC E.T.A. 1200Z/31st require 170 tons fuel each etc.
- (2) MILNE, METEOR, E.T.A. a.m./1st Jan. require 300 tons fuel each. NAPANEE may arrive a.m./1st Jan. requires 170 tons fuel.
- (3) All ships probably carrying large number of merchant seamen survivors. Request you will make necessary arrangements.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1212A/30 2232A/30 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon).
(?Your) 1058A/29. My 1600Z/29. Amend E.T.A. to 1300Z/31 at 43.22 N., 27.25 W. PRESCOTT in company. P.C. and S. 40.35 N., 20.42 W., 295° 14½ knots. Weather report.
(WOODSTOCK, 1400Z/30 to C. in C. W.A., (R) A.I.G.303, F.O.C. N.A., LONDONDERRY).
E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1200Z tomorrow 31st. *SHEDIAC in company. Requirements. ** See p. 1263*
(BATTLEFORD, 1615Z/30 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. W.A.)
See also America and West Indies for O.N.154 reinforcements.
Request you will conduct search for casualties derelicts and survivors from O.N.S.154 as from 0001/31 taking WOODSTOCK and PRESCOTT under your orders.
2. Their position and E.T.A. in area is given in WOODSTOCK's 1600/29. They can be utilized until prudent limit of endurance and should then be sent to Azores to fuel.
3. MILNE and METEOR after fuelling should assist in search as long as fuel permits but must arrive Clyde in any case by Jan. 7th.
4. Tug EMINENT has been ordered to assist FIDELITY but if not required may be utilized for salvage, vide my 1531/30.
5. Probable situation. Two ships possibly MELROSE ABBEY and EMPIRE UNION missing subsequent to attack about 0200/27 in approx. 47.30 N., 24.35 W. SOEKABOEM left derelict with C.Bs. on board in same position. SCOTTISH HEATHER last sighted steaming southabout 46 N., 26 W. at 2040/27. Three ships referred to in your 1101/29 together with EMPIRE SHACKLETON, VILLE DE ROUEN and MELMORE HEAD known sunk in approx. 43.20 N., 27.40 W., on evening 28th ST. LAURENT reports survivors rescued from last three. JASPER PARK and EMPIRE WAGTAIL missing from same position. NORSE KING has been ordered to proceed Azores. FIDELITY has recovered two boats from EMPIRE SHACKLETON. Admiralty are operating FIDELITY. Air Co-operation for the next few days will be provided if possible.
(C. in C. W.A., 1720A/30 to D.3 (R) Admty. WOODSTOCK, V.A Gib. EMINENT, FIDELITY, 24.1.11., C.T.F.24., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C.)

/If...

1049

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.O.N.S.154
Contd.

If fuel and time permit sweep to the eastward for U-boats as far as 27° 30' W., before shaping course for Ponta Delgada.
(D.A/S.W. D.D.I.C., 2020A/30 to D.3., (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar).

SCHARLACH-
BERGER.

German 55 left for France 0630/30th.
(Consul Bilbao, 1144/30 to Admty. M.E.W. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib).

WINOOSKI.

U.S. WINOOSKI oil tanker (deadweight 15,850 tons) docked in No.1. dock on 4th Dec. for permanent repairs to torpedo damage port side amidships at No. 6 tank. (details) Anticipate undock mid-January and complete about third week January.
(C.S. Gib. 1232A/30 to Admty. N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib).

SCYLLA.

Supp. 1047 & 1049
Intend to sail SCYLLA for Greenock at 1830/30 routed through (Q) 35.48 06.10 (R) 36.46 10.01. (S) 40.01 16.01 (T) 45.01, 16.01. S. of A. 20 knots.

(2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to signal onward route from position (T).

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1500A/30 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.I.C. Greenock, SCYLLA)

My 1500/30th sailed SCYLLA.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1840A/30).

Supp. 1047
BURDOCK,
(DRANGEY,
HAARLEM.

Your 1225/28th. BURDOCK delayed by defective boiler tube, now sailing in company with DRANGEY at 2200 G.M.T./30th. Request further orders regarding route instructions. HAARLEM delayed with boiler defect, expect to sail dawn 31st. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1640C/30 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty).

DOLFIJN

Supp. 1036

After crossing 043° 01' N., at 0001/2nd proceed on surface at C.Os. discretion through (A) 36.55 09.11 at 1000/4th. (B) 36.37 07.26 at 2200/4th. (C) 35.54 06.15 at (708)00/5th thence Gibraltar S.O.A. 7½ all times zone minus

one positions North and West.

(2) Total bombing restrictions arranged 10 miles each side of route 35 miles ahead and astern of your estimated position report if unable keep within bombing restriction.

(3) You should not pass position (C) before 0800/5th.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1735A/30 to DOLFIJN, (R) F.O.(S) Capt. (S) 3., Capt. (S) 8).

/RENOWN...

1049B

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 "P." are accepted from this ~~date~~ 1-102/30th Dec. IN

From:- V.A. Gibraltar. Date. 30/12/42.
Recd. 2215.

N.CY.HER (3S) BY W/T

Addressed:- N.A. Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report in Area X at 1959A/30th.

- (1) U.S. Sub. BARB, on patrol off Vigo. *See p. 1036*
- (2) Sub. P. 615, 028 degs 44' 020 degs 01' 180 degs on surface 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See previous page & p. 1054*
- (3) MKS. 4, fleet unit, H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, two sloop, two cutters, six corvettes, 042 degs 21' 015 degs 02' 002 degs 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 1044.*
- (4) KMF. 6, H.M.S. EGRET, two destroyers, two corvettes, two sloops, 038 degs 54' 016 degs 05' through 036 degs 01' 013 degs 01' thence 090 degs 12.
- (5) KMS. 6, H.M.S. BLACK SWAN, one sloop, 10 corvettes, 044 degs 50' 017 degs 40' 176 degs 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- (6) *HAARLEM^x, CAPE MARIATO, proceeding from Ponta Delgada to R/V KMS 6 in position 039 degs 05' 017 degs 12' at approximately 1400A/1st. **See previous page & p. 1047 X 1/2 N. Just in water*
- (7) U.G.S. 3 (O), H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. VERITY, H.M.S. AVON VALE, H.M.S. PUCKERIDGE, CALPE, 034 degs 49' 007 degs 03' through 033 degs 54' 006 degs 10' at 1100/31st thence through straits 9 1200S. *See next page*
- (8) G.U.F. 3, approximately 035 degrees 35' 010 degs. 30' through 035 degs. 53' 007 degs. 30' to R/V with G.U.F. 3 (O) in 035 degs. 10' 007 degs. 30' at 1830 31st thence 224 degs. 12. *See next page & p. 1058*
- (9) G.U.F. 3 (O) H.M.S. ROCHESTER, LEITH, SCARBOROUGH, SANDWICH, HINE, pass Europa Point 0800A/31st through 035 degs. 56' 003 degs. 30' to rendezvous with G.U.F. 3. After rendezvous escort return to Gibraltar through 035 degs. 56' 006 degs. 30' *See next page.*

1049^c

- 2 -

(11) Italian repatriation ship VULCANIA and SATURNIA 033 degs. 05' 012 degs. 12' through 035 degs. 01' 010 degs. 30' and 035 degs. 57' 006 degs. 10' thence Gibraltar 17.

(12) ST. NECTAN, escorting LADY DENISON-PENDER, laying cables vicinity Casablanca 13, H.M.S. SCYLLA, off Cape Palos through 035 degs. 48' 006 degs. 10' and 036 degs. 46' 010 degs. 01' thence 304 degs. 20.

See pp. 1247 & 1249

Paragraphs (7) for 0800 31st read 1100 31st.
Paragraph (8) For 1530 31st read 1830 31st.
Paragraph (9) amend to read: G U F 3 (0) H.M.S. ROCHESTER, H.M.S. LEITH, H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH, H.M.S. SANDWICH, H.M.S. ERNE, pass Europa Point 0800A/31st through 035 degs. 56' 006 degs. 30' to rendezvous with G U F 3. After rendezvous escort return Gib. through 035 degs. 56' 006 degs. 30'. Delete para. (10). *See previous page.*

1402A/30.

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

A.C.N.S. (UT)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pin.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.D. I. C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.A/S.W.
D.T.D. (M)
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.F. (2)
D.T.D. (2)
D.T.D. (0)
D.N.I. (4)
U.S.N. (3)
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Ramsey. (4)
D.M.S.

DR.

12

SECRET

1049D

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. 1406A/30th Dec.

S E C R E T.

I N.

From V.A. Gib.

Date. 30.12.42.

Recd. 1750.

Naval Cypher 3(S) by W/T.

Addressed N.A. Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report Area Z. Situation 1959A
30th.

1. O.N.S. 154, C.T.U. 24.1.11, H.M.S. MILNE,
H.M.S. METEOR, H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT, CHILLIWACK,
KENOGAMI, NAPANEE, 268 degs. 7.

H.M.S. MILNE, H.M.S. METEOR, part company
P.M. 30th and proceed Ponta Delgada to fuel.

2. Italian repatriation 696 TAIGETE,
025 degs. 35' 024 degs. 20'
Through 025 degs. 28' 024° 48' thence 252°
9½.

4. BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, 039° (?43') 027° 32'
to Ponta Delgada 12. *See pp. 1048 11063*

1406A/30

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (UT)
A.C.N.S. (H)
N.A. to 1st S.L.
Capt. Pin.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9. (2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D.N.I. (5)
D.E.W.D. (3)
M. (6)
D. of P. (3)

MMC.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.- Contd.

RENOWN,
accident.

Regret to report that accidental discharge of after pom-pom in RENOWN at about 1000 on 28th Dec.
(2) Casualties occurred in VANOC and ERNE who were berthed astern RENOWN.
(3) Report and recommendation of Board of Enquiry now received and will be forwarded as soon as possible.
(S.O. Force H., 1759A/30 to Admty).

K.M.F.6
EXE

S-12.1044

(1) Cancel my 1114/30 (1115/30 intended) See Home Commands, Shipping)
(2) EXE is to remain with Convoy till further orders.
(3) V.A. Gibraltar is requested:-

(A) To order EXE to leave Convoy for Gibraltar at best speed when situation warrants.
(B) To sail EXE at best speed to Londonderry as soon as possible after arrival.

(C. in C. W.A., 1821A/30 to EGRET, V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, EXE).

Onward route for southbound ships from position (P) to TT 36.02, 21.05 UU 25.04 20.01. VV 15.03 19.00 WW 09.08 17.58 thence to Freetown.

(V.A. Gibraltar 1852A/30 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S. No. 6 (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. W. Africa. Admty. BURDOCK, HAARLEM, DRANGEY).

CAMPOMANES.

Spanish tanker CAMPOMANES was torpedoed Dec. 26th. I have been investigating circumstances and learn she sailed from Bilbao noon 25th. At 2300/26th near Cabo Silleiro about 30 miles from Vigo and 6 from coast Captain on bridge heard whistling sound and saw wash of something that missed ship. While scanning the dark torpedo struck ship very far aft and she went down at stern. Spanish fishing vessel came alongside and took crew off boats. Crew returned and trimmed ship. Engine room completely flooded. She was taken in tow by trawler and arrived Vigo 28th. She has big hole aft. Repairs to hull and engines will take some months. Ship was fully illuminated when attacked. Nothing seen of assailant. No loss of life. She was bound Aruba in ballast.

(N.A. Madrid, 1830/30 to Admty).

C.F.10
Convoy
from
Freetown.

A.M.1916/19 and your 1833Z/18. Request route and R/V position.
(V.A. Gib., 1858A/30 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty)
See F.O.C.W.A.F., 1717Z/30, South Atlantic.

Spain and
French
S/M.

V.A. Gibraltar pass to N.C.X.F. Your 1141/16th. Ministry of Marine confirms para. 1 and 2 my 1630/9th. Neither they or German N.A. are interested in ship. Ship will be towed to Port Soller as vital parts taken from machinery. No full crew will be taken or accommodated (my 1941/10th) In these circumstances I do not see it can be used as bargaining counter. H.M. Ambassador agrees.
(A.N.A., Madrid, 2112/30 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar, Malta).

/PAGAO...

War Diary.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

PAGAO

My 1436/29 (Italian Tanker PAGAO. Permission to be towed to Cadiz) Request immediate reply.
2. Ship reported to be ready to leave Algeciras. (V.A. Gibraltar, 2315A/30 to Admty).

A/S Sweep

Cancel my 2020A/30 (Sweep for U-boats) (D.A/S.W., 2350A/30 to D.3. C. in C. W.A. V.A. Gibraltar).

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Officers for Dakar. Following is Admiral Glassfurd's 291022. Admiralty pass to Chiefs of Staff London. "From Glassfurd for C.C.S. Washington, British Chiefs of Staff London, Cominch. Recommend one Lieut. Comdr. or above and at least one assistant and adequate communications Officers be ordered established ALUSNOB Office, Dakar, to arrive soon as practicable. Consider above representation necessary but sufficient for present, recommend consider Lieut. Louis Gour, U.S.N.R. now assigned Com. 6 as assistant." (Cominch 1030/30 to Admty.)

Dakar Oil Supplies. Following is Admiral Glassfurd's 291135. Admiralty pass to British Chiefs of Staff London. " From Glassfurd. Pass to C.C.S. British Chiefs of Staff London and C.S.A.B. Oil supplies available at Dakar are very limited and additional black products should be delivered as soon as practicable to fill the following empty tankage (details). Departure of four Norwegian Merchant ships for U.S. port is in part dependent upon receipt of diesel oil. Socony Vacuum representative has previously informed his company of empty tankage available, exclusive of Naval tankage. Gasoline requirements are being covered by Army Atcat Dakar". (Cominch 1100/30 to Admty.)

DESPATCH
W.S. 25 W. Sailed DESPATCH at 0015Z/30th. Dec. to provide ocean cover to limit of prudent endurance to convoy W.S. 25 W. DESPATCH routed through position (B) 007° 38' N. 014° 20' W. (C) 005° 58' N. 014° 20' W. (D) Equator 06 ° 00' W. and towards (E) 10° 00' S. 05° 00' E. S. of A. 19 knots. (F.O.C.W.A. 1119Z/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., DESPATCH.)
Convoy W.S. 25 W. Sailing telegram. (2) 1200/30 Dec. (3) Capetown 0800/5 Jan. (Route, etc) (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1457Z/30 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., DESPATCH)
Fuel and requirements. (D.S.T.O.W.A., 1501Z/30)

Suspicious Warships. Transit aircraft reports sighting 1 Battleship or Cruiser with 2 funnels and 1 Destroyer in 022° 20' N. 017° 17' W. W. Z. 260 at 1002Z/29th. Ships unidentified, reliability cannot be assessed. (F.O.W.A. 1201Z/30 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. N.A., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

/PRIAM

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

1115Z/30/December.

From F.O.C. West Africa

Date 30.12.42.

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T

Time 1428

Addressed A.I.G. 149

Situation at 2000Z/30th.

ARRAN, escorting, about 16 35 20 05 139 degs 9.
H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE, H.M.S. CHESHIRE, H.M.S.
WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, QUILLIAM, ROCKWOOD, with W S 25,
07 50 16 55 to Freetown 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
S/M P.614, patrolling submerged between 10 51
17 39 and 08 15 19 27. *See p. 1055*
3 Motor Launches, about 08 05 15 55 to Freetown 10.
Convoy F.T.T. 6 consists of 19 ships sailing
first ships past the boom at 1030Z 31st.

1115Z/30

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.C. (2)
U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D. (3)
E.M. D.M.S.
F.O.S. by courier

MOST SECRET

1052B

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

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic

1122C/30/December.

Date 30.12.42.

Naval Cypher M.3
by W/T & T/P

Time 1306.

Addressed A.I.G.125

IMPORTANT

My 1126C 30th part 1.

O.19, 017 degs 10' South 001 degs 25' East to
Freetown 3 knots.

H.M.S. VIVIANA, escorting EMPIRE WARLOCK towing
Lighter, off Luderitz Bay to Saldanha Bay 6 knots.

H.M.S. GLENROY, H.M.S. JANUS, off Walvis Bay. *See p. 1053*

H.M.S. NORTHERN CHIEF, H.M.S. SPHENE, escorting
tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter number 3, 032 degs
30' South 017 degs 30' East to Saldanha Bay 5½ knots.

H.M.S. FORTUNE, with C.D.4, 034 degs 30' South 024
degs 30' East to Durban 9½ knots.

1122C/30

Note:- part one only received remainder
has been called for.

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

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

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

A.C.N.S.(UT)

N.A.1st S.L.

Capt Pim

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

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

D.T.D.(M)

D.C. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A/S.W.

E.M.

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.T.D. (3)

D.of P. (2)

F.O.S. by courier

1053

30.12.1942
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

PRIAM My 0827Z/26th Dec. After removal of certain tanks now possible to view state of hold more accurately. Hold is scene of complete devastation (details). Date when ship ready for sea uncertain but probably not before 20th Jan.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1246Z/30 to Admty.)

French Agreement for refit, etc.
Cruisers, (Cominch, 1250Z/30). See America and West Indies.
Dakar.

MEXICO Request probable date of arrival U.S. Transport MEXICO at Takoradi.
(F.O.W.A., 1327Z/30, to Admty., (R) B.A.D. Cominch, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)

Your 1327 30th. MEXICO is due at Ascension 6th Jan. Dates for onward passage are dependent on unloading times. U.S. Army estimate following programme:

<u>Arrive.</u>	<u>Place.</u>	<u>Leave.</u>
6th Jan.	Ascension.	11th Jan.
16th Jan.	Takoradi.	21st Jan.
25th Jan.	Dakar.	26th Jan.
30th Jan.	Casablanca.	Blank.

(B.A.D., 2135Z/30 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements. Sailed *HERTFORDSHIRE and *NORTHERN ISLES escorting CAP PADARAN to Takoradi via "Red" route. E.T.A. Takoradi A.M. 4th Jan.

(2) *LADY ROSEMARY escorting BRITISH COAST from Marshall arrives Takoradi A.M. 4th Jan.

(3) Personnel for MERCATOR at Boma Arebi embarked in trawler at Takoradi.

(4) After coaling HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN ISLES, and LADY ROSEMARY are to be sailed to Point Noire and Boma and thence Walvis Bay.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1510Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi. (R): R.N.O., Lagos, C. in C., S.A., Vice Consul Matadi.)

Sailed (corrupt group) to Simonstown, Coastwise, keeping 12 miles off shore during dark hours.

2. S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. 1400 C 2nd Jan., 3 shifts, to Group S.L. at 0300 C/30th.

(Cdre. i/c Durban, 1514C/30 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.i/c East London, N.O. i/c Port Elizabeth, Cmdre. Supt. Simonstown.)

JANUS Arrivals 0930/30th JANUS, GLENROY, departed
GLENROY 1430/30th according to previous orders.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1527C/30 to C. in C. S.A. Admty. F.O.C. W.A., B.N.L.O.W.A.)

/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.

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1347Z/30th December IN

From R.A.W.A.F.

Date 30.12.42.

Recd. 1745

Naval Cypher 3(M) by W/T.

Addressed Ships in Area P south of 8 degs N.,
Admiralty, C. in C. S.A., N.O.i/c Takoradi,
R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

HOLCOMBE ~~ISLES~~ RUMBA, *HERTFORDSHIRE, with
convoy ST (?51) off Freetown to south east 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *See p. 1055*
H.M.S. *NORTHERN ISLES, about 07 20 15 20 to join
ST (?51). Convoy W6 25 W 05 58 14 20 125 25.5.
See p. 1052 H.M.S. DESPATCH, about 03 52 11 24 125 19. ~~BRITISH~~
BREDON, escorting BARFOSS, about 04 21 08 47 Takoradi 5.
H.M.S. *LADY ROSEMARY escorting BRITISH COAST off
Liberia Coast to Takoradi 8. *See previous page*

1347Z/30

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. 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. (C)

1054

War Diary.30.12.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic - Contd.

ILEX will reach position (A) 008° 06' N. 015° 37' W. at 0200Z/31st and proceed thence toward Freetown at 13 knots. ILEX will rejoin escorts at daylight 31st Dec. (R.A.W.A.F., 1557/30 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Ships escorting W.S. 25, ILEX, Admty.)
Arrival 30th Dec. ILEX.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2021Z/30 to Admty., etc.)

WILLIAM
TILGHMAN Following is a repetition of N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1747/29+ addressed to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty. (begins) E.T.S. WILLIAM TILGHMAN escorted by M.L. 302 and 277 0700Z/30th, will rendezvous with French Patrol Carrier off Dakar 1600Z/30th (Ends.) (F.O.C.W.A., 1639Z/30 to Admty.) *?D.

C.F.10 (1) Intend to sail convoy C.F. (?10) at 1200Z 1st Jan. Convoy consists of JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNVELT, (Cdre. Dawson) ALMANZORA, STRAAT SOENDA, and LARGS BAY escorted by ASTURIAS, ILEX, BELLWORT, WOODRUFF and HOLCOMBE.
(2) Route (A) 008° 00' N. 015° 01' W. (B) 011° 05' N. 017° 10' W. (C) 015° 59' N. 020° 01' W. (D) 022° 02' N. 020° 01' W. (E) 027° 54' N. 015° 34' W. (F) 035° 00' N. 008° 00' W. (G) 035° 50' N. 006° 00' W. thence Gibraltar. S.of A. 12½.
(3) LARGS BAY will be detached at dusk 3rd Jan. in app. 017° N. 020° W. to proceed independently to New York.
(4) HOLCOMBE will be detached to return to Bathurst from approx. 020° N. 020° W.
(5) V.A. Gibraltar is request to sail escort to R/V and take over A/S escort in 024° 18' N. 017° 33' W. at 1200Z 5th Jan. ILEX, BELLWORT (corrupt group) WOODRUFF, returning to Bathurst.
(6) Intend escort to shift to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 0800Z 4th Jan. (F.O.C.W.A.F., 1717Z/30 as amended 2352Z/1 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., N.O.I/C Bathurst, N.C.X.F., ASTURIAS, S.N.O.C.A.)

AMARYLIS My 1626/11 Dec. 6 Survivors were picked up by Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO, landed at Lobito and brought to Capetown in Port. Ship COLONIAL. AMARYLIS hit by one torpedo at 1920Z/2nd Dec., sank in 3 minutes. 2nd Officer Antony Bourthis only European Survivor. C.B's sank with ship.
(2) U-Boat 1 rge. type Maier Form Bow squat shaped conning tower with U.23 painted on, jumping wires, two guns. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1736C/30 to Admty., C. in C. E.F. Com. i/c Durban.)

P.615 From (b) 19.59 N. 19.59 W. at 0800Z 2nd Jan. Proceed through (c) 13.00 N. 18.01 W. at 1200Z 4th. and (d) 10.00 N. 16.30 W. at 1200Z 5th thence to Freetown. Bombing restrictions imposed. (F.O.C.W.A.F., 1741Z/30 to P.615 (R) F.O.S., V.A.Gib., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

/EMPIRE ELAINE

War Diary.

30.12.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

<p>EMPIRE → ELAINE NEWCHWANG.</p>	<p>Departure 1700/30th Dec., H.M.S. FANDANGO, BALUCHISTAN, M.L's 261, and 251, escorting S.S. EMPIRE ELAINE, S.S. NEWCHWANG routed through (a) 013° 10' N. 017° 30' W. (b) 011° 30' N. 017° 30' W. (c) 010° 30' N. 016° 40' W. ETA Freetown 2nd Jan. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1805Z/30 to F.O.C.W. Af. (R) Admty.)</p>
<p>Movement</p>	<p>Arrival (? 30th) Dec. H.M.S. BELLWORT escorting S.S. HAILEE, H.M.S. FANDANGO escorting S.S. JAMES (? TURNER), H.M. Trawler BIRDLIP. (N.O.I/C. Bathurst, Gambia, 1807/30 to F.O.C. W. Af. (R) Admty.)</p> <p>Arrival 30th Dec. U.S. Destroyers ELLIS, *OSMOND, INGRAM, MOFFETT, *GREENE, Brazilian mine layer CARAVELAS, British cable ship CAMBRIA. Departure 30th, U.S. Destroyer ELLIS, Brazilian mine-layer CABEDELLO, CHANTILLY. * See plane from Dec 2.</p> <p>(R.O. Pernambuco, 2022Z/30 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I) Rio De Janeiro.)</p>
<p>CORINTHIAN</p>	<p>Following is a repetition of my 1919/30th (begins) Assistant N.A. Rio de Janeiro for CORINTHIAN. (1) Unless other orders are received from Comsolant, for return to Freetown through position (X) 005° S. 016° W. (2) Allied naval units on blockade running patrol N.W. of position (X). (3) Wireless Watch. (4) Report S. of A. and E.T.A. position (X) on leaving Rio de Janeiro. (5) Your 2100 P/27th acknowledged. (F.O.C.W.A.F., 1921Z/30 to Cominch, Comsolant for Admty., N.O.I/C. Ascension, (R) B.A.D.W.)</p>
<p>S.T. 51 <i>See p. 1053 A</i></p>	<p>Departure 30th Dec. HOLCOMBE, *HERTFORDSHIRE, (?RUMBA) with S.T. 51. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2017Z/30 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.) * <i>See p. 1053</i></p>
<p>P.614 <i>See p. 1052 A</i></p>	<p>Your 2107Z/30th. Following is a repetition of my 1943Z/30th addressed: P.614 (R): Capt.(D) 18 (begins): Leave patrol in position B. at 1800Z/3rd Jan. and return direct Freetown. S. of A. 9 knots. Bombing restriction imposed. (F.O.C.W.A. 2301Z/30 to P.614).</p>

1056

War Diary30.12.1942
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- S.S. LANCASTER** Intercepted 2315 G.M.T. LANCASTER run aground at Dar El Beida. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio, No. T.O.O. Recd. 0045/30).
- Enemy Units 3 Merchant ships and 4 destroyers (?course and speed) (?260°)15' in 038° 24' N. 012° 42' E. (URSULA, 0500A/30 to Capt. (S) 10th repeated N.C.X.F.)
 → URSULA. *See p 1059* At 0501A/30 P/C and S. of 3 merchant ships 4 destroyers 038° 24' 012° 28' 242° 13 knots. (Capt. S.10, 0829A/30 to Subs. on Patrol.)
- Movements. Arrival 29th Dec. FALK, PUNNET, departure 29th Dec. ANTWERP, CROOME, F. Ships LA MOQUEUSE, COMMANDANT ~~DOMINE~~. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0918B/30 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)
- Dredging. Ports and Lights Administration have represented desirability of resuming dredging of Great Pass, discontinued when ST. DAVID evacuated to Port Said. Estimated time to complete Port Said roads with ST. DAVID and PELUSE four months. PELUSE only six months, allowing for loss of time due to weather. Submit for decision whether ST. DAVID should remain to complete Port Said or return immediately to Alexandria to resume work on Great Pass. (S.C.E. (Eastern Med., 0934B/30 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.R.S.C.A., S.C.E.(C.A.)).
- TIGRIS *See next page* Remain 24 hours in proximity 038° 10' 010° 10' then continue to Malta by same route, times one day late. (Capt. S.10, 0948A/30, to TIGRIS (R) S/Ms on Patrol, N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8.)
- THUNDERBOLT Wait in following position, THUNDERBOLT
 TROOPER 036° 10' 012° 10'. TROOPER 036° 15' 011° 45' orders follow. *See next page* (Capt. S.10, 1051A/30 to THUNDERBOLT, TROOPER.)
- P.46 P.46 endeavour to be in 037° 54' 011° 21' at sunset tonight, then steer direct toward Ustica, you must expect T.B. patrol on this line also
 P.37 targets about midnight. URSULA be in 038° 16' 012° 20' by 2100A/30th same objectives, you are
 → URSULA doing splendidly. P.37 endeavour to be in 037° 55' 011° 21' from 0001A/31st to 0601A/31st, same objective, then continue to Cagliari position. (Capt. S.10, 1055A/30 to P.46, P.37, URSULA (R) Subs. on Patrol, Capt. (S) 8.)
- KROM (Turkish) Your 1337/13th. Turkish Government communicate that S.S. KROM will leave Myrna 15th Jan. for U.S.A. and requests exact routes to be followed.

/Can

War Diary.

30.12.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - con/5.

KROM
(Turkish)
Contd. Can early confirmation be given that vessel is to proceed on a direct course from a point 20 miles south of Spartevento Cape (Sardinia) to Gibraltar?
2. Particulars of vessel which is ex British S.S. BRADDOVEY are as follows.
3. Position of national markings will be signalled later.
(N.A. Ankara, 1135C/30, to C. in C. Med.(R) Admty.)

Air P.R.U. Dec. 30th. 0850, Taranto, 3 Battleships.
R/C 0945, Messina, 3 Cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 1207A/30 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
P.R.U. 29/12. Toulon. No important change.

Marseilles. Since 11/13 decrease of 5 merchant vessels over 200 feet.

(D.D.I.C., 1214A/30 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. reports only. 2 battleships in Taranto at 11:08.

2. Messina. 3 cruisers present at 1230.

3. Photographic confirmation of Para. 1 will follow.

(V.A. Malta, 1348A/30 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

My 1348/30th Photographs did not cover whole harbour.

Further R/C due to land at 16.30.

(V.A. Malta, 1630A/30 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Correct my 1725A/30th (N.I. in N.D. but see 20/2A/30).

After 2 6" cruisers to read "and 1 damaged 8" cruiser".

(V.A. Malta, 1950A/30 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. Dec. 30th confirmed by photographer. Taranto, 2 Battleships present, one left. Messina, 3 6 inch cruisers present. Naples, 2 6 inch cruisers and damaged 8 inch cruiser left.

(V.A. Malta, 2012A/30, to C. in C. Med. etc.)

→ WELSHMAN Intend to sail WELSHMAN for Bone 1600A
31st Dec. routed through position (A)(A) 035°
40' N. 014° 20' E. (B)(B) 037° 07' N. 013° 15' E. (C)(C) 037°
39' N. 012° 11' E. (D)(D) 037° 47' N. 011° 42' E. (E)(E) 038°
08' N. 010° 48' E. (F)(F) 037° 45' N. 008° 58' E. thence direct
Bone.
(2) WELSHMAN expected to pass position F.F. at 0430A 1st at
S. of A. of 29 knots.
(3) Fighter protection codeword "Future", call signs B.C.S.
(4) Ship will be ordered to decypher messages bearing delivery
groups Q. H. and in addition after 0600A 1st Jan. those bearing
delivery groups K.B.
(5) Dangerous water books only held.
(6) N.C.X.F. pass to H.Q.E.A.C.
(V.A. Malta, 1208A/30 to N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S. (R) C. in C. Med.etc.)

→ TROOPER → At 0001A/1st WELSHMAN having passed close to
THUNDERBOLT Cape Granitola will be in 037° 52' 011° 32'
TIGRIS. steer 296° speed 29. At this time S/Ms are
to be in the following positions: TROOPER
See previous page 037° 41' 011° 15', THUNDERBOLT 037° 26' 011° 07',
both bound for 038° 00' 011° 25' TIGRIS, 038° 15' 011° 15'
bound for 037° 26' 011° 06'
(Capt. S.10, 1239A/30 to TIGRIS (R) P.311, WELSHMAN, THUNDERBOLT,
TROOPER.)

1057A

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.)

11301/30th December

OUT

Date 30.12.42

To C.in C.Middle East
Repeated Gov. & C.in C. Malta.

CIPHER

From War Office

IMPORTANT

No. 90236 cipher Q(Ops) 30/12.

*

Ref. 87019 of 16 Dec. to Malta repeated Middle East and QO.5972 of 22 Dec. from Malta.

FIRST. Advantage should be taken long winter nights stock Malta with seven months reserves plus two months current maintenance all supplies plus additional three months stocks preserved meat, biscuits, tea, sugar.

SECOND. Report proposed programme for implementing FIRST.

THIRD. Report by items your requirements to replace stocks used for SECOND. Particularly emphasise need for including items such as fertilizer, milk powder, spray dried egg and other specialised commercial Government and Service stores essential Malta's needs.

11301/30

* 1230A/16

Received from War Office 0615/31

1st Lord	War Office Circulation:-
1st S.L.(2)	C.H.G., D.Q.H.G., D.M.O., D.D.M.O.(O)
4th S.L.(3)	M.O.I.5., C.O.M., D.D.W., D.D.V.
V.C.H.S.	D.D.R.A.(W), Q(Ops.)(4), D.D.Mov.(S)
A.C.H.S.(F)(2)	Q(H)3, D.D.S.T.(S), S.T.2.6.D.D.S.T.
A.C.N.E.(UT)	(P.L.), D.E.in C.(A), D.D.G.A.M.S.(Ops)
N.A.1st S.L.	D.D.W.S.(A), D.D.C.S.(A),
D.O.D.(F)(2)	Admiralty (Head of War Registry)
D.O.D.(H)(2)	Admiralty (Paymaster Capt. Miller
D. of P.(2)	R.N.) War Cabinet Offices (Brig.
Duty Capt.(2)	Jacob), Air Ministry (A.M.C.S.)
D.D.I.C.(2)	Air Ministry (Wing Condr. Yuille)
D. of S.	Colonial Office (Mr. A.B. Acheson)
Hd. of M.	W.D.
D.N.I.(4)	D. of V.
I.P.(2)	D. of I.D.
	M.W.T. (Mr. Bellamy)

War Diary.

30.12.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

G.U.F.3. G.U.F. 3 sailed 4½ hours late, R/V to be amended accordingly. Ships as in my 1301 29th. S.N.O. Casablanca pass amended time to escorts Casablanca section. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1245A/30 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca., etc.)

BUDE Your 1315A/30th, proceeded 1400, E.T.A. Algiers 0800A/31st. (BUDE, 1340A/30 to F.O.I.C. Oran, Repeated N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib., etc.)

Move of 9th Aust. Div. Your 1537 19th Para. 5. (C) confirmed. Only 1 ship can be accepted at Suez at a time. Request arrangements be made for ships to arrive Suez at 2 day intervals commencing with QUEEN MARY. (C. in C. Med. 1442B/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

EMPIRE LORENZO 2355/29 EMPIRE LORENZO. N.C.X.F.'s 1230A/28 was agreed with us. Additional ship in Algiers will occupy valuable space. Can deal with lifts above capacity of ships gear with floating cranes here. One at 450 tons, one at 100 tons, in view of your 90021 (S.D.2c) might now be useful at Bone where no facilities exist. Assume from D.N.C.X.F. 2009A/26 ship already loaded for Gibraltar and will sail. Agreed. Signed C. in C. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 1522Z/30 to W.O.)

→ Enemy Convoy. At 1215A/30th, Aircraft reported 4 Merchant ships, Tanker, 5 escorts P.C. and S. 037° 54' 011° 26' 240° 9 knots. (Capt. S.10. 1524A/30 to Subs. on Patrol.) P.R.U. Report 4 M/S 6 - 8000 tons, 1 trawler, 5 escorting destroyers. Position 260 Marettimo 30, course 240° speed 8 - 10 knots at 1215A. (V.A. Malta, 1527A/30, to N.C.X.F., N.O. i/c Bone (R) S.O. Force "Q".) My 1524A/30th. Endeavour to be in position 037° 07' 010° 32' by 1800 today. → (Capt. S.10, 1535A/30 to P.48.)

→ P.32 (No 32) P? (32) has left patrol. Establish patrol by 0601A/31st within 10 miles of position 037° 31' 010° 39'. (Capt. S.10., 1541A/30 to P.48 (R) Submarines on Patrol.)

/ALBA JULIA

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. 1605Z/30th Dec. OUT

Date. 30/12/42.

To:- MidEast.

CYPLER.

From:- Air Ministry.

0Z.2367.

Following is repetition for Minister of State of Algiers No. 3445 of 29th December to USFOR London

Begins:-

From: C. in C.

For: HM Ambassador Madrid, pass to U.S. Ambassador Madrid + Minister of State Middle East; Resident Minister Achtmota ++.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 12-28 Dec.
LINREP 8.

In Tunisia Axis Forces are estimated at about 48,000 troops composed of 31,000 Germans, 14,000 Italians and 3000 German Air Force. The bulk of these forces are protecting the Sousse -Tunis-Bizerta Bridgehead. The enemy also continues to protect the coastal corridor in garrisons at Gabes and Sfaz with protective outposts at commanding points inland. Opposed to the Axis Forces, the British First Army holds the general line established Dec. 11th between Medjez El Bab and Djebel Aboid. On the South Flank French Forces have been augmented by troops from Morocco and assisted by U.S.A. troops. During the entire period covered by this report there have been almost continual rains. Air activity on both sides has been reduced due to resulting lack of visibility and muddy condition of airfields. Movement of tanks and other heavy vehicles has been restricted to roads. Active patrolling has been carried out by both sides which have maintained daily contact with each other. In the meantime Allied Forces have been sending forward reinforcements and supplies as fast as the limited transportation facilities will allow.

/French

French Railway Personnel are co-operating wholeheartedly and trains are operating to capacity. The death of Admiral Darlan has caused little change in the French Civil and Military Groups. Although a period of consolidation is considered necessary, the co-operation of French Authorities continues excellent and such realignments as may result to improve the situation are expected. Ends.

1605Z/30.

+ Paraphrased and passed to American Embassy Madrid for H.M. Ambassador Madrid by ETOUSA.

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

++ Passed by Colonial Office.

Circulation:

Brig. Jacob.
 Foreign Secretary.
 First Sea Lord.
 C.6. Telegrams. War Office.
 A.M.C.S. (C).

War Diary.

30.12.1942
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

ALBIA
JULIA. My 1235C/29. Reported B.2 ALBA JULIA received (? Dec. 28th) orders stop loading and sail to-night or early Dec. 31st. First destination may be Salonica to complete loading. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1825C/30, to S.O.I. Med. S.I., S.10, D.N.I.)

E.A.C. Op. summ. No. 49 covering period 1800 hours
Report. 28 Dec. to 1800 hours 29 Dec.
Italian (5) Blida. Night. Wellingtons made their first
Morale. sortie under Eastern Air Command. 6 aircraft
sent to attack quayside and Bizerta. One abandoned
task 1 jettisoned in sea. Goods station and
docks buildings were seen to be hit and fires were started by
incendiaries. 12th U.S. Air Force 17 B 17s with U.S. Fighter
escort attacked Sousse Docks in 9/10th cloud, no results observed.
Italian prisoners have been making surprising admissions to our
Interrogation Officers. A large proportion blame the Germans
for their troubles and one crew (shot down by Beaufighter 20 Dec.
near Bone) said that crews are no longer prepared to risk their
skins, they have nothing worth fighting for. It has been
ascertained that from Squadron Commanders downwards Italian pilots
take off on operations, stay over the sea for an appropriate
period, drop their bombs and return home. This is confirmed by
our own warning services which have been puzzled lately by enemy
aircraft plots 30 miles or so off the coast which move around for
a while and then fade.
(E.A.C., 1910A/30).

*URSULA At 0522/30 was rammied by merchant ship during
damaged, diving moonlight attack on 3 medium merchant ships
M/V sunk. escorted by 4 destroyers in position 360 San Vito
Cape (Sicily) 12. Both periscopes out of action
* *L/p. 1056.* and standards broken also superficial damage to
bridge. Received routings, dived satisfactorily. Present
position 039° 11' N. 012° 34' E. Course 245° S. of A. 120 miles
per day. At 0553/28th sank Southbound 6000 ton troop transport
during similar attack in position 038° 09' 011° 51'. 3 hits.
5 torpedoes remain. Weather.
(URSULA 2000A/30 to Capt. S.10 (R) Capt. S.8. N.C.X.F.)

S/M's Arrived P. 211, P.51.
(V.A. Malta, 2003A/30 to Admty., etc.)

Malta AI. 209 30 Dec. C.S.R. 30 Dec.
Air Night 29/30 Dec. No enemy air activity locally.
Report. 3 special Wellington 8's on shipping R/C
patrolled off Western Sicily and over Straits of
Messina and Gulf of Taranto. Wellington sighted
0001 hours 300 degrees Marettimo 15 miles 2 D/Rs course 160°
speed 20 knots. 0155 hours 020° Cape Bon 30 miles 3 D/Rs course
250° speed 25 knots. 1 special Albacore 3 torpedo carrying
Albacores of R.N.A.S. despatched to locate and attack enemy
shipping West of Tripoli made no sightings. Bad weather
prevented offensive operations over Tunisia.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2030Z/30.)

/Movements.

MOST SECRET

1059A

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

IN

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad; MOST SECRET "P." are excepted from this rule. 2009Z/30th December

From Algiers.

Addressed WAR and USFOR.

No.3588. NAF 67. Edited Literal Text.

Interior Addresses:

To:	AGWAR.
For:	Combined Chiefs of Staff.
To:	USFOR.
For:	British Chiefs of Staff.
To:	Secretary of State and Treasury.
From:	Murphy.
Signed:	Eisenhower.
Ref.	480 / FAN 48.

1. Except as hereinafter indicated, we agree that private commercial telegrams between United States and North Africa should be stopped.

2. We can see no early date when commercial trade can be resumed through purely commercial channels or when individual imports may be again possible. We believe that certain cables should be permitted between banking channels covering remittances and transfers of funds. For example remittances to and from civilian and Army officials and soldiers transfers of funds between United States banks for account of North African banks etc.

3. With these problems the Treasury is acquainted.

2009Z/30.

Relayed to AGWAR by signals. / Not received.

Circulation -

Brig. Jacob	A.M.C.S.(C)	Lord Strathallan
Foreign Sec.	C.C.O.	Mr.W.L. Fraser, Trsy
C.6 Tels. W.O.	Mr. Strang F.O.	1st Sea Lord.

Received in W.R. 2027/31.

1st Lord	Nav. Sec.	D.D.I.C.(2)	
1st S.L.(2)	P.A.S.(S)	D.T.D.(3)	
D.F.C.L.	P.A.S.(O)	D.S.D.	
4th S.L.	P.A.S.(F)	N.I.D.10 (2)	
V.C.N.S.	D. of P.(2)	Head of M.	
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.O.D.(H)(2)	D.P.D.	
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.O.D.(F)(2)	N.L.	
A.C.N.S.(UT)	D.C.(2)	I.P.(2)	Admiral Blak
Sec.	D.N.I.(4)	W.D.	D. of P.(Q)

1060

30.12.1942
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements
Algiers.

Algiers, arrived, DINGLEDALE with T.E. 11.
Departures, ZETLAND, BICESTER to Bougie. NEGRO,
GOTH, ELBURY, FILEY BAY, and 11 L.C.M. to Bone.
AJAX, LAFOREY, LIGHTNING to Bone. RHYL,
STORNOWAY, POLRUAN to Oran.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2109A/30, to Admty.)

S/M's
Information.

3 Aircraft are patrolling your area tonight after
moonrise in endeavour to bomb enemy torpedo boats
but enemy aircraft must be expected hunting you.
(Capt. S.10, 2209A/30, to P.46, P.37, URSULA.)

P.311

Join 0952A/30th, 038° 10' 011° 30'.
(P.311, 2328A/30 to Capt. S.10.)

War Diary.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Arrivals 1621Z, SONAVATI with M.B. 21, 1736Z, DURBAN (S.O.(I) Bombay 0913Z/30 to Admty.)
Arrival 30th. Dec. MAURITIUS. (F.O.E.A. 1216Z/30 to Admty.)

Convoy Escorts. Cancel my 0648/29th. Dec. Intentions for escort FALMOUTH, BATHURST, P.B.20, RATNAGIRI, P.A. 18
See next page. sails 0600Z/4th. ? Aden 4th. Jan. ocean route number 2. SUTLEJ and WILLEM, VAN DER ZAAAN, P.B.21 MADRAS, P. A. 19, sails 0430Z/10th. Jan. ocean route number 1. INVESTIGATOR to meet DUNERA in A.B.5 early Jan. and escort to Hormuz. (S.N.O.P.G. 1217Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A. F.O. Ceylon Com. R.I.N. N.O.I.C. Karachi, Comdre. I.C. Aden, Connav.)

Slow Tankers. Please recommend to authority which detail tankers that 6 knot should if possible be kept to Indian coastal route as they are too slow for convoy- have had to send S.S. CEYLON unescorted to Aden. (S.N.O.P.G. 1528Z/30 to Admty.)

Jibuti Bayardel arrived Jibuti by air (?10)00 hours today and has assumed duties of Governor French Somaliland. (H.Q. 12 Div. 1530C/30 to G.O.C. in C.E.A.)
Following is Sitrep from Jibuti. G.O.C. and Ops. H.Q. arrived Jibuti by rail 1100 hrs. French Guard of Honour. Naval Sqdn. anchored off Jibuti 1100 hrs. all quiet over whole area and relations all parties most cordial, population and Senegalese welcomed arrival G.O.C. with enthusiasm. Nine undesirables see para. 3 of Protocol my 0103 left Chebele as F.O.W. 0800 hours for Diredawa. Gens. Truffet, and Dupont left by rail 1400 hrs. for Harar where they will stay in a mess as guests G.O.C. (G.O.C. in C.E.A. 1650C/30 to W.O.)

VALIANT It has been decided that VALIANT should return to
EXPRESS U.K. to adjust complement.
FORTUNE 2. Opportunity will be taken to modernize R.D.F.
FOXHOUND and gunnery equipment. Time in hand 8 to 10 weeks
HOTSPUR. 3 C. in C.E.F. is requested to sail her to Durban
whence C. in C.S.A. is requested to sail her for
U.K. in company with W.S. ships leaving Durban
about 23rd. Jan. Further signal will be made re. W.S. Ships and
VALIANT's destination.
4 Escort should be provided by EXPRESS, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND and
HOTSPUR but arrangements will be made for additional escorts to
join in vicinity of Azores to provide protection while Eastern
Fleet destroyers are fuelling.
5. Request intended programme may be signalled.
6. It is intended that escort should give leave in U.K. before
returning to Eastern Fleet.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 1650A/30 to C. in C.E.F., C. in C.S.
A., F.O.C.W.A.) Reply C. in C.E.F. 1316Z/31

SECRET

1061A

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

0954Z/30th December

IN

From: N.O.I.C. Colombo

Date 31.12.42
Recd. 1118

NAVAL CYPHER (A) BY W/T

Addressed: Admiralty, Cdre. Royal Indian Navy,
C. in C. Eastern Fleet, S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

549. Ceylon movement summary number 31 of
30th December.

1. H.M.S. PALMOUTH left Aden 26th December escorting
A.P.11, Leaving Bandar Abbas 3rd January with H.M.A.S.
BATHURST escorting P.B.20.

2. H.M.S. SCOUT, H.M.S. ASTER, and H.M.S. KONKAN, left
Bombay 29th December escorting B.M.36 to Colombo, due
3rd January. H.M.A.S. LINDSMORE leaving Colombo 3rd January
to rendezvous with convoy and with H.M.S. KONKAN escorting
Trincomalee and Calcutta ships.

3. H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ and D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN leaving
Bombay 1st January escorting B.P.64 $\frac{3}{4}$.

4. H.M.I.S. JUMNA and BOMBAY left Bandar Abbas
28th December escorting P.B.(?19) due 2nd January.

5. H.M.I.S. CLIVE left Bombay 26th December with
MADRAS to escort B.P.64 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 065 degs. 45' East thence
Karachi for special duties.

6. OKAPI arrived Colombo 28th December.

7. H.M.A.S. MARYBOROUGH arrived Colombo 28th December
leaves 31st December escorting ~~SANTHIAN~~ Bombay.

8. H.M.S. GAWLER leaves Addu Atoll 3rd January
escortng CLAU FORBES to Colombo.

9. H.M.S. PUNJAB and H.M.S. GERALDTON leave Bombay
6th January to escort B.P.65.

0954Z/30

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

N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim (Admy. Hsc.)
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.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D.N.L.O. (2)
P.N.L.O.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel
N.L.O. Australia Hsc.

LRM.

War Diary.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.B.1. T.B.1. (Trinidad to Bahia) Convoy sails 5th Jan.
B.T.1. and B.T.1 13th Jan. Further details will be
signalled. EL GRILLO failed to R/V., J.T.1.
and returned Bahia.
(B.A.D., 0105Z/30 to Admty).

SUNFLOWER, Your 1832Z/29 (N.T. in W.D.) Present intention
ALISMA. sail SUNFLOWER and ALISMA 31, arriving St.
Johns daylight 1st Jan.
(C.T.F.24., 0121/20 to F.O.N.F. (R) Info.
C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C.)

U.S. 301001. Cominch's 300014 (serial No. 54) informs
Dispositions. as to following changes in his 221757:
Pacific: CHENANGO, MONTPELIER and COPAHEE at sea.
INDIANAPOLIS in Alaskan area. NEVADA at San
Pedro. CARD at Seattle. LONG ISLAND at San
Diego. CHESTER en route United States. NASHVILLE in South
Pacific.
Atlantic: ALABAMA at Casco Bay. BOGUE, SANTEE, and SAVANNAH,
at sea. MARBLEHEAD and CINCINNATI on patrol. MASSACHUSETTS at
Boston.
(Comnavu, 1001/30 to Admty).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T./30 Ship	Dec. Position	Course	Speed
<i>See p. 1065</i>	PHOEBE	09½° N. 58½° W.	309°	11
	BRIDGEWATER			
	AMERIA			
	Convoy T.M.1			
	HAVELOCK			
	3 Corvettes	14° N. 56° W.	058°	9
	8 L.C.Is.)	30° N., 57° W.	092°	10
	2 Tugs.			
	BUTTERMERE	17½° N. 63½° W.	169°	10
	WASTWATER	58° N. 42° W.	055°	10
U.S.S.R. S/M S.55				
<i>See p. 1067^A</i>	U.S.S.R. S/M S.54	55½° N. 47½° W.	021°	10
	U.S.S.R. S/M L.15	45° N. 54° W.	076°	8
	U.S.S.R. S/M S.51	44½° N. 58½° W.	090°	12
	U.S.S.R. S/M S.56			

(D.O.D. (F) 1022Z/30 to Opnav (R) Comnavu).

U.S. Arrival 29th Dec. U.S.A. Transport STATE OF
Movements. VIRGINIA.
(B.R.O. Aruba N.W.I., 1109QR/30 to Admty. (R)
S.O.(I) Jamaica).
Arrival and departure 30th December U.S. Sub.
Chaser S.C.532, Trinidad 31st Dec.
(Harbour Master, Barbados, 1305/30 to Admty.
S.O.(I) Jamaica).

/RACEHORSE...

1063

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

RACEHORSE, endurance. Your 2137/18 para. 5. Based on experience gained on passage to Bermuda endurance limit of destroyers concerned is, at 12 knots 4,100 miles, at 14 knots 4,300 miles, at 16 knots 3,900 miles, average fuel consumption is at 12 knots 1.7 tons per hour, at 14 knots 1.9 tons per hour, at 16 knots 2.4 tons per hour. The above figures are based on steaming on one boiler using auxiliary feed pumps. *Sic.
 *Supp. 1066 1068
 B.A.D. pass to Connav.
 (RACEHORSE, 1150Q/30 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A., VICTORIOUS, B.A.D., Connav, C. in C. H.F., REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH).
 See also 1602Z/30.

Overdue Ships. British ANGLO INDIAN and Brazilian LESTELOIDE overdue Trinidad.
 (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1158R/30 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

SHEDIAC survivors (O.N.S.154) Further to my 0130Z/30th (whether 132 survivors on board can be landed Ponta Delgada on arrival N.T. in W.D.) Following particulars survivors on board. From VILLE DE ROUEN, sunk, 71 survivors ship's company complete. MELMORE HEAD survivors captain and 36 ship's company, 12 unaccounted believed lost, ship sunk. PRESIDENT FRANCOU, 17 survivors, fate of ship and rest crew unknown.
 NORSE KING torpedoed, all picked up and returned on board. Ship got under way and proceeded Azores. I wish to land at Ponta Delgada 15 Naval and Army tons(?) Request advice.
 (SHEDIAC, 1201Z/30 to V.A. Gib (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., Comtask 24.7.)

GLOIRE, MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES. Understanding has been reached with French West African naval authorities as follows with respect to the cruisers GLOIRE, MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES which are now at Dakar. All of the ships have operated in this area for approx. two years, and it is believed that extensive wiring of electric circuits is necessary

Further details of repairs.

Due especially to extreme fire hazard, consider that these ships can be employed as ocean convoy escorts or other service remote from theatres of probable service or air action in their present state. Consider they can be employed in unlimited combatant service if the above defects are remedied.

Recommendations are as follows:-

1. That decision be reached immediately as to the future employment of these ships.
2. If decision is to use the ships in combatant theatres then it is recommended that all ships be overhauled in U.S. Navy Yards, one ship at a time, beginning with the first ship at once.

War Diary.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Lon/9.

GLOIRE,
MONTCALM,
GEORGES
LEYGUES.
Contd.

3. It is considered that the present 37 m.m. and 13 m.m. anti-aircraft guns be replaced with our 40 and 20 m.m. guns, and that additional guns be installed as practicable.
4. That aircraft and catapult be removed in order to simplify alteration to the top of hangar, which includes installation of new jack knife type airplane caale (??) which we must provide.
5. That the above proposals be presented to the French High Naval Command for their concurrence.
(Cominch, 1250Z/30 to Comnavu as amended 1023/31).

BELLO
(sunk 16
Dec).

- (1) BELLO (Nor). (2) Norwegian shipping and Trade Mission London. (3) 0720Z/16th Dec. 53.00 N., 27.00 W. (approx). (7) Ship sank. (10) Two torpedoes. (11) Went down with ship in steel chest.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1323Z/30 to Admty. Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q.)

O.N.154
See p. 1047

Following steps being taken to reinforce O.N.154 PRINGLE, BACHE, U.S. Destroyer COLE, en route E.T.A. daylight Jan. 1st. FAME expected to depart St. Johns N.F. today E.T.A. Dec. 31st. Expect to sail MANSFIELD, CHELSEA from St. Johns N.F. today E.T.A. Jan. 1st. Western Local Escorts expected to R/V in 045° W. Jan. 2nd.
(C.T.24., 1425Z/30 0321Z/31 to Cmdre. Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.11., Capt. D. (3) (R) Connav, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Cmdre. U.S. Destroyer Sqdn. 22, U.S. Destroyer COLE, FAME).
D/F bearings of continuing transmissions on Series 1 and Series 8 indicate U-boats remain in vicinity of convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 1557A/30 to Escorts O.N.154, MILNE, METEOR (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., C.T.G.24.7)
See also North Atlantic for escort arrivals at Ponta Delgada, and rescue operations.

A.T.34

Convoy A.T.34 should be sailed from New York so as to arrive U.K. 11 Jan.
2. Vessel will sail from U.K. for New York as T.A.34 on 18 Jan.

3. This answers B.A.D. Washington's 1529/28.
4. On arrival in New York vessel will be taken in hand for thorough overhaul.
5. B.A.D. pass to B.M.W.T. New York.
(D. of S.T., 1435A/30 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.M.W.T. New York)

A.T.32

My 1410/28th sailed late 3.
(C.O.A.C., 1501Z/30 to Admty etc).

/CLYDE...

1065

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

CLYDE *See p. 1036^e* Onward route. (C) 050° 01' 026° 02' (D) 046° 45' 036° 35'. (E) 043° 10' 044° 50' (F) 038° 55' 052° 15' (G) 039° 12' 061° 10' (H) 038° 56' 068° 15' (J) 038° 19' 074° 25'. thence Philadelphia.

Due to sail Portsmouth 31st Dec. speed 12 knots on surface. (Connav, 1516/30 to F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth, S.B.N.O.W.A. CLYDE, Cinclant, Admty. C.E.S.F., C.T. 24., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Portsmouth N.S.H.Q., Com.4).

PHOEBE *See p. 1062* Request PHOEBE be included in T.A.G.33 departing 1st Jan. and arrangements made for her onward passage to New York in suitable escorted coastal convoy. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1522Q/30 to N.O.B. Trinidad (R) Admty. B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O.C.W.Af).

Floating Dock Escort. Arrangements are being made for conference at New Orleans on 28th Jan. Request the following units may be present by that date. (A) Tug mentioned in para. 2 of Admty's 1959/25. (B) Escorts mentioned in para. 3 of F.O.C.W.Af.'s 1945/28. (B.A.D. 1535Z/30 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A.)

O.N.153 C.T.U's 24.18.2. 291230. Has HILARY arrived New York? (D.T.D., 1540Z/30 to Port Director, New York, (R) Connav) Reply: Comnav 0947/31.

S.55, S.54. Estimate own and enemy forces your area. Convoys none. Independents U.S. Navy and R.N. none. U-boats 2 or 3 estimated area 054° N., 042° W. not recently located. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1545/30 to Russian S/Ms, S.55, S.54).

WATCHMAN My P.C. and S. at 1400Z, 050° 45' N., 038° 04' W. (A) 070° 7.5 knots altering to 042° at 1900Z. R/V Noon/31st 052° 25' N., 035° 05' W. BARON NAPIER rejoined. Weather. (WATCHMAN, 1548Z/30 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.24., Admty, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.24.7).

Convoy Commodores. Your 1615/29th. 1. Proposal in para. (1) of my 1532/20th Oct. was satisfactory to Commodores then in New York and in view of anticipated regular arrivals of O.N. convoys. Unfortunately many recent convoys have been delayed due to stress of weather.

1066

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Convoy 2. Commodore of O.N.150 had to be brought
Commodores immediately from Halifax and be sailed in H.X.221.
Contd. This due to fact that Commodore of O.N.151 only
arrived New York 3 days before H.X.221 was due
to sail and felt he was not fit to go to sea at
such short notice, requiring time to rest after
an exceedingly arduous passage. He is the only Commodore at
present in America.

3. Proposal in para. 4 of your 1615/29th will make position
satisfactory as O.N.152, 153, 154 and 155 are all due within
next 10 days.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 1558Z/30 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

VICTORIOUS Take RACEHORSE, REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH under
destroyers. your orders and leave Bermuda at 2100Z Dec. 30th
proceeding through position (G) 035° 20' N.,
069° 50' W., (H) 037° 15' N., 074° 05' W. (J)
037° 03' N., 075° 30' W. to Hampton Roads.

S. of A. 16 knots.

(2) R/V with U.S. destroyer in position (J) at 1400Z Jan. 1st
(3) Fly off aircraft in accordance with C. in C. U.S. Fleet
1733/27th Dec.
(4) Guard Washington N.S.S. broadcast in addition to present
wireless watch. Comply with U.S.R.O. Sec. 1 para. 3 K.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1602Z/30 to VICTORIOUS (R) Admty. C. in C. U.S.
Fleet, C. in C. A.F., C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. S.O.(I)
Kingston, Jamaica, Com.5. N.O.B. Bermuda, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT,
QUICKMATCH).

U/B S/M estimate 30th Dec. and U.S. S/M Notice.
positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1611/30).

Fairmiles 3 Fairmiles are to be allocated by C.O.A.C.
for F.French. Halifax to be manned by Fighting French crews
which are now at Halifax under training. These
3 Fairmiles are then to be (?worked) (?up) by
Capt. (D) Halifax for a period of 28 days. At
the end of this period the ships are to be sailed to St. Johns
N.F. and are to be (?placed) under (?the) operational and
administrative control of F.O.N.F.
(2) There is at present no supply of (?high) (?Octane) (?nor)
Gasoline at St. Pierre and (?it) will therefore not be
possible to base these ships there. They may however visit
St. Pierre from time to time as arranged by F.O.N.F.
(3) C.O.A.C. report pendant numbers of Fairmiles detailed and
dates on which they can be manned by Fighting French crews.
(4) F.O.N.F. pass to Canadian N.L.O. St. Pierre, and C.T.F.24.
(N.S.H.Q., 1624Z/30 to C.O.A.C., (R) Cominch, C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F.,
Capt. (D) Halifax, Capt. (D) Newfoundland, Canadian N.L.O. St.
Pierre, Admty).

30, 12. 1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

A.T. 33

Sailing delayed until 6th Jan. Add 6 days to all dates of my 1738/28th.

(Connav, 1741/30 to Port Director New York (R) C. in C. Lant, C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F. C.T.24., Admty. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.T.G.24.6)

NORDANGER

Have you any news of NORDANGER (Norwegian) due Buenaventura 21 Dec from Capetown?
(D.T.D., 1751/30 to S.O.(I) Callao)
Reply 1002/2.

MILFORD,
etc,
floating
dock escort.

Cominch 2159/29 (refers to Cominch's 2126/28 subject:- MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YESTOR and ARRAN under orders of C. in C. U.S. Fleet) N.O.B. Trinidad is complying with your 1945/28th para. 3 and requests R/V as soon as possible. Ships ready to sail Jan. 2.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1812Q/30 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. B.A.D., S.B.N.O. W.At. MILFORD).

HOBART,
relief in
Australia.

Due to repairs to damaged U.S. Ship at Sydney A.C.N.B., state it is not possible to undertake modernisation of HOBART in Australia. A.C.N.B. is also anxious that HOBART's crew should commission SHROPSHIRE in U.K. in mid-May.

2. For these reasons we have been asked to provide relief for HOBART from mid-February until SHROPSHIRE's arrival in Australia.

2. No British cruiser can be found for this duty without repercussions on future offensive operations, convoys to North Russia or minimum trade route protection. In any case, we feel that need for relief of HOBART must depend upon projected American cruiser strength in Australian waters in 1943 on which we have no information.

4. Request you will approach Navy Department on above lines and inform us of their views.

(D.O.D. (F) Approved V.C.N.S. 1834A/30 to B.A.D. (R) A.C.N.B.)

M.T.Bs.

New York. Arrived 29th Dec. 19th Motor Torpedo boat flotilla.

(N.S.H.Q., 1930Z/30 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serial 30. Following ships torpedoed 28 Dec. approx. 044° N., 024° W.

Convoy O.N.154. EMPIRE SHACKLETON, VILLE DE ROUEN MELMORE HEAD, BARON COCHRANE (?CAPTAIN), LYNTON GRANGE, ZARION, all reported sunk.

Following reported torpedoed but afloat or or status doubtful. NORSE KING, JASPER PARK, EMPIRE WAGTAIL

(Connav, 2115/30 to Comnav (R) S.O.(I) Kingston, N.S.H.Q., C. East Gulf, Pa., Carib., Seafrons, N.O.B. Bermuda).

Sup. 1068

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 1626Z/30th December IN
From C.O.A.C. Date 30.12.42.
Recd. 2259
Naval Cypher (S) by W/T.

Addressed G.B.7.A.
IML ORIENT

My 1625/30th add ^{14.7.43} U.S.S.R. S/M L.15
unescorted 45 19 53 15 077 dogs speed of advance 192
miles per day.
U.S. Des. BERNADOU escorting U.S.S.R. S/M S.56, and
S.51, (735) 35 57 50 089 dogs 12 altering to 077 dogs
in 24 35 57 40 at 2030/30th whence U.S. Des. BERNADOU
parts company and proceeds to Argentina. Onward speed
of advance of S/M 240 miles per day. See p.1062

1626Z/30
Advance copy Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
D.O.D. (H)(2)
D.O.D. (F)(2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
Duty Capt. (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)
F.O.S. by courier

SECRET

1067B

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 1655Z/30th December.
IN.
From: C.O.A.C. Halifax Date: 31.12.42.
Recd. 0150

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed: G.B.7A *See 31/12 - p 1101 for amendments*

IMPORTANT:
Section south-west, S.C.115, WLFU, 24.18.4,
(E) 041° 35' 064° 45' 044° seven. FENNEL,
COWICHAN, escorting H.S.C.115 in vicinity to junction.
DUNVEGAN, escorting one motor vessel 043° 49'
063° 26' to join S.C. 115 in 042° 35' 063° 30'.

H.X. 221, Western Local Escort T.U.24.18.3,
040° 28' 067° 27' 086° 9 altering to 045° in (067°)
01' West. H.F. 25, NIPIGON, French 042° 52' 066° 31'
353° 7. U.S.S. MODOC, SATURN, 044° 16' 061° 22'
245° 12 altering to 264° in 065° 33' West. RED DEER,
escorting Q.0294, Q.0298, Q.0299, Q.101, Q.103,
045° 45' 060° 01' coastwise to Halifax. BITTERSWEET,
044° 32' 062° 58' 068° 12 altering to 077° in
061° 20' West. EYEBRIGHT, departs Halifax 0400Z/31st
en route St. John's Newfoundland. Speed 14.
THUNDER, departs Shelburne 0200Z/31st escorting
4 M.M.S.'s en route Halifax.

M.M.S.100, M.M.S.108, detaching to Lunenburg.

(OREGON EXPRESS, 043° 20' 065° 31' en route Halifax
13.5 knots.

H.M.C.S. SAGUENAY, towed by ^{FOUNDATION} FRANKLIN and ST. ANNE
vicinity 045° 00' North 066° 10' West en route
St. John's.

1655Z/30

V.C.N.S. Advance copy Ops., O.D., Trade.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L. D.T.D. (C)
Capt. Pim D.T.D. (4)
Ops. (3) U.S.N. (3)
O.D. (5) D.M.S.
O.I.C. (3) D.M.S. Citadel
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9 (2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

JAD

1067c

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.) 1900Z/30th December.

MOST SECRET. OUT.

Addressed Britman, Washington.

Date 30.12.42.

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

OZ.2370 30th December, 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff COS(W) 411.

+

Reference COS(W) 395, para. 2.

We have developed a 10 cm. equipment known as H.2.S. designed to enable bombers to navigate to, locate and attack accurately, industrial and strategic targets for our bomber offensive. Development has taken place in parallel with centimeter A.S.V. equipment which is now being fitted into aircraft of Coastal Command. H.2.S. production has been based initially on equipping squadrons of Pathfinder Force in Bomber Command which are specially selected units with picked crews whose task is to locate and mark targets for main force which follows. H.2.S. has now reached stage in production which will allow of two squadrons of Pathfinder Force being equipped and ready to operate by 1st January, 1943. We consider this sufficient for effective initial use of equipment. Trials over this country have shown great promise and we estimate H.2.S. will at once materially increase our ability to attack targets in Germany and elsewhere particularly those at long distances beyond the range of present bomber aids. We regard it as of special importance to exploit this facility while long hours of darkness enable us to penetrate to those more distant objectives of which submarine building yards and affiliated industries have high place in our offensive plans. We have examined in conjunction with Radio Board risk of compromise involved in antedating use of H.2.S. by two months. We do not consider it possible that the enemy is ignorant of our use of 10 cm. equipment on the ground and we shall be surprised if he is not already contemplating its use for airborne equipments. The worst we have to fear therefore is the appearance of simple countermeasures including listening devices in U-Boats which may deny us full enjoyment of

centimeter/....

1067²

2.

centimeter technique some two months earlier than we might otherwise expect. We estimate it would take the enemy some twelve months to develop fuller countermeasures and up to eighteen months to introduce centimetric devices for use against us assuming he has not already started. Impossible assess exactly the results on a quantitative basis of the earlier release of H.2.S. to Bomber Command or of the effect on the war at sea of the earlier capture of this equipment by the enemy. Ruling of Defence Committee is, however, that the value to Bomber Command of the earlier release of H.2.S. would be of greater benefit to our war effort than the probable advantages of 10 cm. A.S.V. to our anti-U-Boat measures. We accordingly ask agreement of Combined Chiefs of Staff to our use of H.2.S. equipment over enemy territory by the Pathfinder Force of Bomber Command as from 1st January 1943.

19007/30

Circulation:
Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels., W.O.
C.A.S.

Received from Air Ministry 1240/31.

+ 1425/17.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (UP)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (3)
D.C.D. (H) (2)
D.C.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)

D. I/S W.
D. of P. (2)
D.C.
D.D.I.G. (2)
D. of P. (C)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Ad. Blake.
D.S.D.
D.S.D.9.

30.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting Summary. *See p. 1067*
 A. D.B.N.O. AURORA torpedoed and sunk 02° S., 35° W., 25th Dec. Following torpedoed sank ARDAR 43.17 N., 27.22 W., 2225Z/28 ZARIAN, BARON COCHRANE and LYNTON GRANGE also EMPIRE SHACKLETON, VILLE DE ROUEN and MELWORE HEAD sunk NORSE KING torpedoed same area time unspecified. JASPER PARK, EMPIRE WAGTAIL and three unidentified missing same area. CHILLIWACK attacks*submarine on surface area 43.23 N., 27.31 W., about 2000Z/28 SHEDIAC attacks submarine area 43° N., 27.30 W., 1045Z/29. P.B.Y. attacks submarine on surface 11.41 N., 60.30 W., 0645Z/29.*U.356 *Sunk at 16° 57' LAURENTIUS*
 B. INDRA two submarines smaller had red circle on C/T. Surface craft attack sound contacts area 43.23 N., 27.38 W., about 2120Z/28.
 C. COLORADAN Red and Yellow Wreath apparently Sea Horse at centre. Submarines sighted one 10.56 N., 60.22 W., 0841Z/30, 12.05 N., 60° W., 0308Z/30. CALIFORNIA EXPRESS sights S/M 44.19 N., 63.16 W., 1030Z/30.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2125/30 to Admty for O.I.C.)

p. 1066
 VICTORIOUS, destroyer. *See pp. 1063 & 1060*
 Bermuda arrival and departure in accordance with my 1602Z/30 Dec. VICTORIOUS, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH.
 (S.B.N.O.W.A., 2129Z/30 to Admty).

O.N.S.154
 U/B attacked. Sighted and attacked U-boat. My position 043° 06' N., 035° 48' W.
 (C.T.24.1.11., 2140Z/30 to Comtask 24 (R)
 C.T.24.7., Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q.,
 F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

Routeing of Portuguese ships. Your 1705/12 (Not to C.S.A. Lisbon). Instructions sent to C.S.A. Lisbon failed to arrive in time for amendment of routeing of ships. Necessary action is being taken in respect of all future Portuguese ships.
 (Head of M. Branch, 2218A/30 to N.S.H.Q., (R)
 C.S.A. Lisbon).

Pacific Shipping Routes. My 0213/27 and A.C.N.B.'s 1038/30.
 N.Z.N.B. advises as follows "permanent stocks 3000 tons maintained Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton. Latter port most suitable for vessels bunkering on through passage as facilities good and replenishment of stocks easily maintained".
 (B.A.D., 2241Z/30 to Admty).

War Diary.30.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Townsville 27th Dec., BALLARAT, 28th Dec., SWAN. Sydney (N.S.W.) 28th Dec. ABRAHAM CRIJNSS~~EN~~. Port Moresby 27th Dec., BENDIGO. Brisbane 28th Dec., U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. Fremantle 29th Dec., Netherlands Cruiser TROMP. Milne Bay 29th Dec., ARUNTA. Departures Port Moresby 28th Dec. ARUNTA, Townsville 29th Dec. SWAN. (A.C.N.B., 0341Z/30 to Admty etc).

Situation. Digest Serial No. 342. Summary for Dec. 29th Advance supported by tanks penetrated strong enemy positions dispersal bays area N.W. of old strip, 400 yards Beachhead now secured between

Giropa Point and Mission about 600 yards from Vanguard in Eastern Sector.

2. M.T. and A/C activity noted Lae Drome past few days.

3. Ref. Serial No. 337 para. 8 unconfirmed report states Japs landed 1500 - 2500 troops many trucks, guns, supplies, Laivai 22nd to 24th.

4. Air operations. Three Bostons strafed Mouth Ambicu River also village and 30/35 canoes Lokaju (5 miles south Salamaua). Increased canoe activity noted along coast between these two points. R/C Liberator bombed Lae Airfield. Another did likewise Gasmata runway. 3 Beaufighters strafed native huts Betano. 2 down Bathurst Island, crews safe. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0720Z/30 to Admty. B.A.D., etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1350A/30, 1355A/30).

1942

re Oppalima + Wadchlers

was took place in the forenoon
of 2/12/42 about 30° E. Bat. Sun. p. 40

say the two Kosbiore left force R
to go home on 24th about 11° E

Cards say OPP + MATCHLESS arrived

Scapa 1257 1st Jan.

1070

31.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Attack on
Convoy
J.W. 51 B.
ACHATES,
BRAMBLE
and an
enemy
destroyer
sunk.

Enemy forces in greatly superior strength attempted four times this morning to attack Convoy J.W. 51 B, but were repelled. The convoy was first sighted by 3 German destroyers who retired after making contact.

ON SLOW and the 4 remaining destroyers escorting J.W. 51 B, engaged an enemy force reported as an 8-inch cruiser and 2 or 3 destroyers at 0950 today in 73° 18' N., 30° 6' E. (about 140 miles ~~North Cape~~ ^{North Cape} N. ~~N.W.~~ E. of Kola Inlet). Half an hour later ON SLOW reported that she had been hit and was retiring on the convoy. OBEDIENT then took charge of the 3 remaining destroyers.

*about 140 miles**N.N.E. of North Cape.*

About 1135 Force R (SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA with OPPORTUNE and MATCHLESS), who were covering the convoy, made contact and engaged an enemy vessel, believed at the time to be the cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER but later, on the evidence of shell fragments thought to be the pocket battleship LUTZOW. The enemy was hit by some 2 to 5 salvos and retired under cover of smoke. A destroyer of the Maas class was also engaged and left sinking in 73° 22' N. 30° 34' E. By the admission of the German wireless one destroyer was sunk. It is possible that yet another enemy group was present, consisting of one 5.9-inch cruiser. The German destroyers are reported to have taken no part in any actions with our destroyers.

*See next
page -*

Torpedo menace caused Force R to turn and shift target, with the result that contact with LUTZOW was lost, but contact was soon regained, with an enemy cruiser, believed to be the NURNBERG, though again enemy destroyer and torpedo menace caused Force R to turn away. The enemy retired at high speed to the south-westward, and S.O. Force R, having kept in touch by R.D/F long enough to establish the withdrawal of the enemy returned to protect the convoy from other enemy menace. SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA suffered superficial splinter damage, but no casualties. Most of the above details were not learned by the Admiralty until later.

No further signals were received from our forces after 1227, when an enemy destroyer was apparently engaged by Force R in 73° 21' N., 29° 52' E., until ON SLOW at 1958A sent a report on such occurrences as were within her knowledge, namely that she was proceeding independently to Kola Inlet (where she arrived at 0915A/1), that apparently ACHATES was damaged and her whereabouts uncertain (it was afterwards known that ACHATES was sunk by the enemy on 31st Dec., NORTHERN GEM rescued 78 ratings and an unknown number of officers), the remainder of the escort and 12 merchant ships undamaged, though the minesweeper BRAMBLE and 2 merchant ships had not been in company since 29th Dec. On 9 Jan. 1943, S.N.B.O. North Russia reported that it was learned that BRAMBLE at 1039/31 reported a cruiser bearing 300° and the supposition is that BRAMBLE was sunk at about this time and may account for an unexplained engagement to the eastward of the other engagements, about 1130. All merchant ships of the convoy eventually reached North Russia safely.

/Russian...

1979^A

TSD (Misc) 2102/48 - spare copy - insert in War Diary.

TSD/NG

With reference to "Fuehrer Conferences on Naval Affairs, 1943,"
Chapter 1., it is requested that Para. 1 be deleted and the
following substituted:-

"On December 31st 1942, a German Task Force comprising HIPPER (Flagship), LUTZOW and six destroyers attacked an Allied convoy bound for Russia. Spirited defence by the escort, led by Captain R.St.V. Sherbrooke, V.C., in H.M.S. ONSLOW, repulsed the attack, and the convoy got through to Murmansk intact. The British cruisers, SHEFFIELD flying the Flag of Rear Admiral R.L. Burnett, and JAMAICA, who were supporting the convoy, joined in the action, and engaged HIPPER. The German Flagship was hit several times and damaged. The German destroyer FRIEDRICH ECKHOLDT, carrying the German Captain (D), was sunk by SHEFFIELD. The German Admiral then broke off the action and withdrew.

Owing to a breakdown in communications the report of this action was not immediately available at Hitler's Headquarters, and in fact the first news he received was from an English news broadcast. Hitler's anger knew no bounds. His impatience while waiting for the outcome of the action had been fed by Goering, who had complained bitterly of "wasting" Luftwaffe squadrons on guarding the big ships, suggesting that they should be scrapped."

1071

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - con/31.

Attack on
Convoy
J.W. 51B.
ACHATES,
BRAMBLE
and an
enemy
destroyer
sunk.
(Contd.)

Russian submarines are proceeding to patrol to intercept the enemy on his return to Norway. At 1210A C. in C. H.F. ordered V.A.2's force (see 26th December) (covering J.W. 51B) to proceed to Hvalfjord, with the exception of NORFOLK who is to proceed to patrol "White". (V.A.2 in ANSON with 3 destroyers arrived at Seidisfjord later today.)

Convoy
R.A. 51.

C. in C. H.F. left Scapa at 1528 today in KING GEORGE V with HOWE, BERMUDA, KENT, BERWICK, MUSKETEER, PIORUN, WORCESTER, RAIDER, QUEENBOROUGH, and MONTROSE to take up a position to cover Convoy R.A. 51 which sailed from Kola Inlet yesterday. The weather prevented A/S air escort for C. in C. H.F.

R/C of Trondheim was unsuccessful today.

A. U.S.A. Liberator attacked a U-Boat today in 51.20 N. 20.58 W.; a considerable quantity of oil resulted and was still visible 2 hours later.

North Atlantic.

There were intermittent air attacks on Casablanca from 0200Z today, continuing during the forenoon. Damage is believed to be slight. This is thought to be a token raid, from southern France.

South Atlantic.

Details of the ship repair facilities at Dakar as given in Opnav 1409Z/31.

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Albacores torpedoed one of two 3000 ton merchant ships 38 miles S.W. of Marsala at 0100 today; later a fire was seen in the position of the attack.

Our aircraft bombed Sfax harbour last night and again this evening, with effect. A successful attack was made on Heraklion Aerodrome, Crete. U.S. aircraft made two bombing attacks on Sousse railway yards and docks today.

Australia and New Zealand.

There was a heavy air raid on Merauke at midday but the dock area was not hit.

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War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

* SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS. A.M.1926/26th and 1940/26th. In view of future employment of these ships during the coldest part of the year it is important that Arctic fitting should be completed. SCYLLA will be required at Scapa by Feb. 11th. (C. in C. H.F., 1220A/31).
** See next page p.1087A*

PENELOPE, CARLISLE, DIDO, AJAX. A.M. 0043/9 para. 4. When worked up about mid-January PENELOPE and CARLISLE are to proceed to Med., sailing independently if necessary.
2. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail these ships to Clyde to pick up stores, passengers etc.
3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail and route. them to Gibraltar.
4. PENELOPE is to join force in Western Med. under N.C.X.F. and CARLISLE Eastern Med. under C. in C. Med.
5. On PENELOPE joining, N.C.X.F. is requested to detach either DIDO or AJAX to join Eastern Med. under C. in C. Med. (V.C.N.S., 1728A/31).

Movements.

OAKLEY My 1614/30th. OAKLEY and transport delayed by weather. (A.C.O.S., 0146/31).

BODO Your 1045A/30 postponed 24 hours owing weather. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0815/31 to C. in C. Rosyth).

WOLVERINE WOLVERINE is to arrive Londonderry before dark/4th (C. in C. W.A., 1008A/31 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

P.55 Do not enter Lerwick. Part company with escort off Bard Head and proceed direct patrol by route indicated in my 1035/27th Dec. Your 1809 as in F.S.B.2. with particular reference to U-boats. Acknowledge and indicate (? E.T.A.) Bard Head. (Capt. (S) 9., 1113A/31 to S/M P.55, (R) A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)
See next page p.1074A

UREDD My 1505/30. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (S.O. S/MS Lerwick, 1005A/31 to A.C.O.S.)
See pp 1074A 1075

ARAB ARAB's 1315/27. ARAB has not yet arrived, on arrival propose retaining her until R.U.56. (A.C.I.C., 1126A/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

/BLANKNEY...

1074

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

BLANKNEY,
LEDBURY,
CHIDDINGFOLD.

See p. 1081

Seidisfjord, 30th December departure BLANKNEY,
LEDBURY, CHIDDINGFOLD at 2110 to R/V with (? V.A.2
PALOMARES). *See p. 1044*
(A.C.I.C., 1159/31).

Russian S/M
S.55

Encountered 9 icebergs 60 miles bearing and
distance 235° from position W at my 0400Z/31st.
Present course 060° estimated speed 15 knots
expect to reach position E at my 0100Z/1st
weather 8805 0553.
(S.55., 1239Z/31).

SALADIN.

See p. 1078

My 0418A. Left Loch Ewe 1000A/31st.
Anticipate passing Cape Wrath 1500A/31st. Will
then endeavour to maintain 18 knots in order to
arrive at 1200A/1.
(SALADIN, 1310A/31 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)
W.D.Note. See SALADIN 0418A/31 in Casualties &
Defects. *p. 1078*

Z8.

My 2122/30. *N.T.M.H.D.* Delayed 24 hours.
(F.O. Humber, 1347/31).

SCYLLA

*See previous
page p. 1087*

V.A. Gibraltar 1500/30th. Onward route from
(T) to (U) 051° 01' N., 015° 32' W. (V) 055° 25'
009° 30' thence Greenock.
(C. in C. W.A., 1445A/31 to SCYLLA).

P.55

*See previous page
p. 1074*

H.M.S/M P.55 left Lerwick 1525A/December 31st
routed through position (A) 090° Out Skerries
5 miles (B) 061° 01' N., 000° 06' E. (C) 061° 04'
N., 002° 05' E., thence patrol in area K.104 bound
by parallel of 060° 50' and 061° 20' Long. 002° 51' E., and
Norwegian Coast. Unescorted and on the surface at C/O's
discretion to position (C) thence diving by day.
(S.O. (S) Lerwick, 1527A/31 to Subs. Operating North of Latitude
51° N., (R) A.C.O.S.)

ONSLAUGHT

Sail at 0930 tomorrow Friday and proceed to
Scapa by searched channels. Carry out full
power trial on passage and adjust speed
to arrive at 1930 tomorrow. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1601A/31 to ONSLAUGHT).

S/MS

Positions at 0800/1 and movements.
(F.O.S., 1658A/31) See Lion Copy.

* CLYDE
FILLA.

CLYDE and FILLA sailed Needles 1700/31st.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1725A/31).

* *See next page*

MOST SECRET

10/4A

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

1658A/31st December

IN

FROM: F.O.S.

DATE: 31.12.43
RECD: 1714

P/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.
455.

Position of submarines at 0800/1/1/43 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) P.49, P.216, P.312, and GRAPH, on patrol in Norwegian waters east of 20 degs. east.

(B) P.55, 61degs 06' North 2 degs. 22' East proceeding dived by day to patrol in Zone K.104. *See pp 1073, 1074*

(C) UREDD escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Lerwick 1100/1 for trials in vicinity of position 59 degs 35' North 000 degs 28' West returning to Lerwick on completion. *See pp 1073, 1075*

(D) TORBAY, P.339, P.223, SOKOL, probably on the surface approaching Lerwick from north westward.

(E) H.43, escorted, exercising in the vicinity of Great Ormes Head.

(F) CLYDE, 185 degs. Lizard Head 12 miles proceeding dived by day through (B) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles (C) 000 degs 10' North 09 degs 02' West thence to westward. *See previous page.*

(G) DOLFIJN, vicinity 45 degs 49' North 12 degs 22' West.

(H) U.S.S. BLACKFISH, vicinity 45 degs. 53' North 11 degs 26' West. *See p. 1076*

/(J) ...

7074^B

2.

(J) U.S.S. HERRING, vicinity 45 degs 28' North
11 degs 39' West.

See pp 1076
1087A (K) U.S.S. BARB, vicinity 44 degs 59' North
12 degs 01' West.

(L) U.S.S. SHAD, vicinity 44 degs 58' North
05 degs 58' West.

My 1636/30th paras. (K) to (O) inclusive
these submarines leave after 1600 diving by day
direct to positions indicated above.

1658A/31.

Advance copy Duty Capt.,
D.O.B. (H), D.D.I.C., D.T.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)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.A/S.V.
D.T.D. (M)
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
U.S.N.

LAM

1075

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

UREDD Your 1505/30 Codeword "Concert".
(A.C.O.S., 1838/31 to S.O. S/Ms Lerwick)

ICARUS E.T.A. Seidisfjord Gate at 2120A/31. If? weather does not permit of entering, intend anchoring off entrance. Acknowledge.
(ICARUS, 1902/31 to A.C.I.C.)

BOADICEA,
*ORIBI.

*See p. 1080

At Kola Inlet BOADICEA at short notice. ORIBI not yet fuelled due to fog but if situation demands will be fuelled from 2000 tons retained in tanker maintenance reserve for cruiser in which case delay whilst employed in replenishing tanker would have to be accepted.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1943A/31 to Home Fleet, Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S))

STAR OF
INDIA,
OBERON,
P. 31
P. 229.

Capt. S.3., 0907/31. STAR OF INDIA is to R/V OBERON, P.31 and P.229 in 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 0830A/4 and escort to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 2207A/31 to F.O. Greenock, Capt. S.3., (R) Admty. F.O.S. Capt. S.5., Capt. S.7., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Capt. D. Greenock, STAR OF INDIA).

ABDIEL

See p. 1077

Admty. 1011/30 not to all addressees. Sailing ABDIEL on Jan. 2nd by Q.Z.L. 18 thence through (c) 180° Fastnet Rock 12 miles (d) 050° 45' 013° 01' (e) 49.01 14.46 (f) 43.02 14.45 thence as ordered by V.A. Gibraltar.
(C. in C. W.A., 2302A/31 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, N.C.X.F., R.A. (M) F.O.S. ABDIEL).

Operations.

Anti-
E-boat
patrols.

My 1154A/30 "Cadger" returned at 0549/31 engine defects in M.L.123.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0556/31).
M.G.Bs. 611 (S.O.) and 615 are to carry out patrol tonight 31st Dec./1st Jan. weather permitting between positions 50° 30' N., 00° 05' W., and 50° 31' N., 00° 35' E., during dark hours keeping

to southward of C.E.143 during its passage. Codeword Match.
Constant watch on 2450 k/cs.
(2) C.E.143, AATHERSTONE, leaves S.T. Helens 1315 and passes C.2. buoy 2100/31 Dec.

(3) CHASSEURS 10 (S.O.) and 13 patrolling South of E.A.5 Buoy.
(4) TYNEDALE at immediate notice at Yarmouth. Para. 5 follows in cypher.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1242A/31 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, (R) AATHERSTONE, X.D.O.(E) X.D.O. (W) D.1., S.5. TYNEDALE, Admty. V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, R.A.F. Tangmere, R.A.F. Thorney Island).

/S/M...

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrols off Norway. Russian submarines are now proceeding to following positions (A) entrance to Porsanger Fiord (B) 072° 00' N., 026° 30' E. (C) Within 20 miles of 072° 35' N., 025° 30' E.

2. If enemy appears to be making for Varanger Fiord following positions will be added (D) Entrance to Varanger Fiord (E) Off Harbaken 070° 40' N., 031° 00' E.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1316A/31 to Home Fleet Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S)).
Informing them as para. 1 of 1316A/31.
(F.O.S., 1834A/31 to S/MS operating N. of 51° N).

Patrol "White". C. in C. H.F., 1210/31. Intend to pass through 066° 20' N., 025° 55' W., at 0400N/1st Jan. and proceed to North East of minefield during daylight.

p. 1081 → (NORFOLK, 1423A/31 to A.C.I.C., V.A.2., CUMBERLAND (R) C. in C.H.F.)
Your 1210/31st NORFOLK proceeded to patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C., 1932A/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Biscay S/M Patrols. S/MS proceeding forthwith dive by day to reach and patrol following positions as soon as possible after dawn 1st Jan. BLACKFISH 045° 53' 011° 36' HERRING 045° 28' 011° 39' BARB 044° 59' 012° 01' SHAD 044° 58' 005° 58' D.S. DOLFIJN 045° 49' 012° 22'.
(F.O.(S) 1512A/31 to S/MS operating south of 51° N., (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

My 1512/31st. Cancel instruction re diving by day.
2. F.S.L.I. para. II amend temporarily as follows.
(a) Submarines should remain on the surface if possible taking advantage of A/C homing signal (b) It is essential to remain unsighted by enemy aircraft particularly before any enemy reports are received. Submarines must therefore make full use of Radar or R.D.F.
(F.O.(S) 2014A/31 to Sub. operating S. of lat. 51° N.
(R) C. in C. Plymouth, A.O.C. in C. C.C. Admty).

Operation "Wittisem" C. in C. Nore, 1732/30 and N.O.I.C. Portland 1050/31. Operation "Wittisem" employing M.G.Bs. (? "Witticism") 111 or 112 will not now take place before 7/8th January.
(S.O. Force J, 2059/31 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Allied Air Operations.

Air support for minelayers. My 0924/29 and A.C.O.S., 1548/30th. In view of importance and irreplaceability of converted minelayers category 2 air support will be again required (Admty. 1755/3rd Nov) on passage.
C. in C. Nore, is requested to augment the screen as far as Flamborough Head in the case of AGAMEMNON and later MENESTHEUS but apart from this consider one destroyer for each minelayer will be adequate for all passages.
(R.A.(M) 1004A/31 to A.C.O.S. N.O.I.C. Newcastle, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth (R) C. in C. H.F., R.A.(D) Admty).

/Fleet...

1077

31.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Operations. - Contd.

Fleet R/C. A.M. 1215/19 and 1236/19 are still in force.
(D.O.D. (H) 1506A/31 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., V.A.2, A.C.I.C.)
Russian air R/C may be expected any time after daylight tomorrow 1st Jan.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1934A/31 to Home Fleet. Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S))

C. in C. H.F., Your 1402/31st regret A/S air escort cannot be provided today Thursday owing to weather.
Home Fleet (R.A. 51). (C. in C. Rosyth, 1527/31 to C. in C. H.F.)
Expect A/S air escort tomorrow Friday One Whitley from 0945 to be relieved by Catalina about 0201. (Communications).
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1942/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Trondheim Trondheim R/C unsuccessful.
(D.D.I.C., 2120A/31 to C. in C. H.F., S.O. Force R).

Mining.

ABDIEL My 1011/30. On completion of operation H.U.1
comp. 1075 ABDIEL is to embark outfit Z.51.
(D.D.O.D. (H), 0012A/31 to ABDIEL)

Sheerness Details of one ground mine detonated each at 1226/30 in 220° Gunfleet Light 4.5 miles and 1302/30 in 222° Gunfleet Light 4.8 miles.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1020/31, 1025/31).

Enemy Intelligence.

Reliable fix 2325/30th 3945 k/cs one destroyer position Nord Cap (no nearer third class).
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0227C/31 to Admty. (R) Home Fleet operational.)

U-boats.

U/B reports. By D/F on 6475 k/cs at 2249Z U-boat within 60 miles of 63° N., 02° E.
(D.D.I.C., 0050A/31 to S/Ms on patrol N. of 51° N. A.I.G. 47 (R) H.Q.C.C.)
A.M. 0050A/31. Further bearings of transmission on. 6475 k/cs at 2249Z/30 indicate correct U-boat position anywhere within 60 miles of 65° N. 03° E.
(D.D.I.C., 0150A/31 to S/Ms on patrol N. of 51° N. A.I.G. 47 (R) H.Q.C.C.)
Reliable fix 0112 31st 3750 k/cs U-boat 071° 41' N., 027° 45' E.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0319C/31 to Admty. (R) Home Fleet, Operational).

1078

31.12.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

REGENT
LION. Tow slipped at 0005/31 due to weather in position 50.45 N., 09.51 W. LORD ESSENDEN ordered to join at daybreak wind force 4 from West sea 23 slight drizzle.
(MELBREAK, 0045/31 to C. in C. Plymouth).
My P.C.S. at 1000 050° 10' N., 010° 13' W., 035° 3 knots Tanker in tow ABEILLE, LORD ESSENDEN in company, ST. KILDA and ALERT parted company at 0930 in accordance with your 1651/30th. 8 officers and men ST. KILDA and ALERT on board Tanker. Weather wind force 4 from W.N.W. sea 23 maximum visibility.
(MELBREAK, 1001A/31 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Your 1621/30 tanker REGENT LION required Falmouth for repairs.
(D.T.D., 1156A/31 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Tow may proceed to Falmouth if considered more suitable. Weather outlook winds between N.W. and W. force 4.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1327/31 to MELBREAK (R) LORD ESSENDEN, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Admty).
Add MELBREAK, A/S trawler, tug and tow 50.26 N., 09.24 W. bound Lands End 4 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1803/31).
My 1327/31 REGENT LION is required at Falmouth for repairs proceed direct if weather conditions allow.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2359A/31 to MELBREAK).

ORACLE Owing to collision damage ORACLE will not sail with "STEWART" 31st.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 0209A/31).

Distress
Signals. Port Patrick Radio reports. Received 0215 G.M.T. 1650 k/cs de Clyde Light Vessel we have seen from our ship about 20 mins. to three, 2 rockets Green and White, it was to the south east of our ship. She has been showing a White Flare at 250 AM.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0315/31 B.S.T.)

SALADIN Intend intering Loch Ewe to secure top mast.
E.T.A. 0530A/31.
See p. 1074
(SALADIN, 0418A/31).

SHERWOOD Arrived.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1535A/31).
Request you will retain SHERWOOD pending your decision whether she can be repaired at Londonderry
(C. in C. W.A., 1750A/31 to Cdre. Londonderry).

NEWARK Arrived *Belfast* NEWARK with condenser defects. Estimated time to complete will be reported after examination. (F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, 1651A/31).

ORANIA 25466 Straggler from Pilot 2 with steering trouble is now 1 miles astern of Pilot 1 and has been ordered to proceed Methil independently.
(WALLACE, 1807A/31).

1079

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.S.154 Capt. (D) 3 000Z/31, 160Z/31, WOODSTOCK 1000Z/31, C. in C. W.A., 1221Z/31, Admty. 1505A/31. See A.W.I.
- S.C.113 B. Request you will sail MOLDE to position A to meet S.C.113 B escorted by PRIMROSE. S.C.113 B expected at position A at 1000Z/31.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0012Z/31 to Cmdre. Londonderry, C. in C. W.A., C.T.U.24.1.12., C.T.G.24.7 MOLDE, PRIMROSE, F.O.N.I.)
- K.M.S.6
MOOSEJAW. Your 1116A/30 parted company with K.M.S. 6 at 2000A³ in 044° 03' N., 018° 03' W. S. of A. 7.5 knots. My P.C.S. 044° 03' N., 016° 55' W., 090° 11 knots. Weather report 6270 4922.
(MOOSEJAW, 0055A/31 to C. in C. W.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Londonderry, BLACK SWAN, LONDONDERRY, Admty. V.A. Gibraltar).
- S.C.L.114 My 0615/21st BABBITT sailed at 2330Z/30th for S.C.L.114 via 063° 30' N., 024° 10' W., and 058° 57' N., 025° 01' W. Latest S.P. 02459 held is(15) (C.T.G.24.6., 0055Z/31 to Comtask 24).
- P.W.271,
P.W.D.271,
STANDELLA. Proceed with Convoy into Dartmouth to shelter from W.S.W. Gale.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0355A/31 to Escorts of odd Numbered P.W. convoys.)
My 0944/30 P.W.D.271 postponed owing to weather except STANDELLA (T). Further signal will be made.
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth, 0520/31).
Detach from P.W.271 and proceed to Plymouth. Codeword "Cloak V". Engine which might belong E-boats heard near Hope Cove 0210 to 0400.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0539A/31 to GLAISDALE).
My 0539 you are required to escort STANDELLA ready to sail 0900 to Milford Haven.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0549A/31 to GLAISDALE).
Proceed as necessary towards Eddystone R/V to escort tanker STANDELLA passing gate at 0900/31st. When GLAISDALE takes over escort on meeting return Plymouth. Codeword "Cloak 4".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0815A/31 to GRIMSBY TOWN, (R) Shore Authorities in U.K. concerned GLAISDALE).
My 0549/31st and my 0815/31st. On meeting GRIMSBY TOWN take over escort of Tanker STANDELLA and proceed Milford Haven. Codeword "Occasion".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0827A/31 to GLAISDALE).
My 0815/31 sailing delayed half an hour.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0859A/31 to GLAISDALE).
P.W.D.271 Ref. my 0520/31 STANDELLA sailed escorted by GLAISDALE codeword "Occasion".
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth 1036/31).

/Pass...

1080

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Lon 17.P.W.271,
P.W.D.271,
STANDELLA.
Contd.

Pass the Gate at 1500. Cancel para. 3 of my 1544/30th. My 0444 refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1217A/31 to MANGROVE, escorts of P.W.271, M.L.556, DEFIANCE, N.C.S.O. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, (R) CAMBRIDGESHIRE, GRIMSBY TOWN, CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, Capt. (D) Cdr., A.P).

Attack on
J.W.51 B.*For info German
report on p.1070.*

Lost touch with J.W.51 B at 0045A/29th through D.R.F. failure. After unsuccessful 24 hours search proceeded Kola Inlet independently.
HORIBI, 0710A/31 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) R.A.(D) H.F., Capt. (D) 17th D.F.) * *See p.1075*

Following read. Emergency. Two unknown enemy ships bearing 325 speed 8 knots course 240 position 73° 18' N., 30° 6' E.

(ONSLOW, 0940/31).

Three enemy destroyers in sight bearing 325.

(Ship at sea, 0941/31).

My 0940. Three unknown enemy ships bearing 325.

(ONSLOW, 0943/31).

One cruiser bearing 340.

(ONSLOW, 0944/31).

Am engaging one cruiser bearing 358° 6 miles my position is (773° 19' N) 29° 55' E.

(ONSLOW, 0950/31).

My 0940 enemy retiring.

(ONSLOW, 0950/31).

Join convoy.

(D.17 1001/31 to OBEDIENT, OB DURATE).

My 0940. One cruiser bearing 002° 7 knots course 150 position 73° 21' N., 30° 17' E.

(ONSLOW, 1009/31).

Am hit forward.

(ONSLOW, 1024/31).

(Group missed) and in engine room (corrupt group) am retiring on convoy making smoke screen.

(ONSLOW, 1030/31).

Emergency. Capital ships (groups omitted) cruisers closing convoy (corrupt group).

(D.17, 1040/31 to R.A.D.)

At 0910A German Radio informing U-boats that a convoy was approaching their patrol position.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1101A/31).

My position 73° 8' N., 30° 20' E. Will home you on Fleet wave.

(Capt. D.17, 1102/31 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

Enemy in sight. 5 unknown vessels bearing 060° from position 73° 12' N., 30° 6' E.

(OBEDIENT, 1106/31).

One large vessel (or heavy cruiser) bearing 220° from position 73° 18' N., 30° 29' E., course 160° speed 31 knots.

(SHEFFIELD, 1135A/31).

6 Russian torpedo bombers proceeding to attack. They have been warned that force R possibly in vicinity.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1140A/31 to H.F. Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S))

/Enemy...

1081

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - *cont'd.*

Attack on Enemy cruiser hit, have lost touch, enemy destroyer
J.W. 51 B. left sinking in 073° 22' 030° 34' E.
Contd. (S.O. Force R., 1202A/31 to Murmansk).
13 enemy bombers crossed Coast at 1345C.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1202A/31).
NORFOLK proceed to patrol White. *See p 1076*

(ii) V.A. 2 in ANSON with destroyers proceed Hvalfjord.
(iii) CUMBERLAND proceed Hvalfjord.
(C. in C. H.F., 1210A/31 to V.A. 2, CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK,
(R) Admty. C. in C. W.A, A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C.
Rosyth, F.O.(S)).
Emergency. An engaging enemy destroyer in 73° 21' N.,
29° 52' E. (presumably Force R).
(1227/31). W.D. Note. The above signal has been seen. It
was not circulated.
Cancel my 1140. Torpedo bombers will be ready at dawn.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1227A/31).
Capt. (D) out of action. OBEDIENT taking charge.
(Capt. (D) 17, 1228/31 to S.O. Force R).
Russian air R/C Alten Fiord 1015A/31 reports one battleship,
2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 2 unidentified ships are at anchor.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1240A/31).
ORIBI arrived Kola Inlet 1100A/31st.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1313A/31).
Your 1210 para. 3 (CUMBERLAND) arrived.
(A.C.I.C., 1330A/31 to C. in C. H.F.)
Seidisfjord 31st Dec. arrivals V.A. 2 in ANSON, *BLANKNEY,
*LEDBURY and *CHIDDINGFOLD in company at 1330. ** See p 1074*
(A.C.I.C., 1705A/31).
OBEDIENT has taken over Senior Officer of Escort J.W. 51 B.

2. P.C. and S. of convoy at 2000A/31st 72.42, 32.30 110° 8½ kts.
3. ONSLOW damaged and proceeding independently to Kola. E.T.A.
position M Z 0700A/1st.
4. Apparent situation on leaving convoy at 2000A/31st as
follows (1) ACHATES damaged. Whereabouts uncertain.
(2) Remainder of escort and 12 merchant ships undamaged.
(3) BRAMBLE and 2 merchant ships not in company since 29th.
(ONSLOW, 1958A/31).

Convoy. R.A. (?51) sailed complete except for one small
R.A. Russian ship. Full details later.
51. (Dalgleish, Murmansk, 0831A/31 to Admty).
R.A. 51. Sailed Toros Island 1000A/30 for Loch
Ewe. Codeword "Muster". S.O.A. seven knots
as routed Admty. 0045A/14 Dec. (See C. in C.

H.F., 1137/13 Dec. Special File).
(2) For U.K. British EMPIRE SCOTT, Cdre. EMPIRE GALLIARD, vice
Cdre. HOPE MOUNT, OLIGARCH, M.F., D.F., Guard.
(3) For U.S. American RICHARD H. ALVEY, Rear Cdre. JOHN WALKER,
CAMP FIRE, MEANTICUT, HUGH WILLIAMSON, Russian BELLO RUSSIA,
VOLGA, KOTLIN, (corrupt group) REVOLUTIONER.
(4) British and American ships hold 02272 (21) recoding tables
except HOPE MOUNT and CAMP FIRE which hold 02272 (20). Incon
tables 02406 (221) are held by British and American ships also
REVOLUTIONER and BELLO RUSSIA.

/All...

1082

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Convoy
R.A. 51
Contd.All other Russian ships do not hold Mersigs
volume two or recoding tables. Ocean escort.
FAULKNER S.O., ECHO, ECLIPSE, FURY, BEAGLE,
GLEANER, CAPE ARGONA, DANEMAN, CAPE MARIATA,
ST. KENAN.

(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 0925A/31 to Admty).

I anticipate that action between enemy force and Force
R will develop in easterly direction. Force R may subsequently
be able to provide some cover for R.A. 51 but may have to return
to Kola to refuel.→ 2. Intend to proceed at 1530A/31st in KING GEORGE V with
HOWE, KENT, BERWICK, BERMUDA, RELENTLESS, RAIDER, MUSKETEER,
QUEENBOROUGH, PIORUN to take up covering position for R.A. 51.
Should I decide to send KENT and BERWICK ahead C.S.1 is
requested to proceed to approx. position 072° 15' N., 011°
40' E., using his discretion as to proceeding further east to
provide closer protection depending on enemy information.3. Subject to enemy information battle fleet will remain
between latitude 070° N., and 071° 30' N., and longitude 001°
E., and 005° E., until p.m./3rd Jan. subsequently returning to
Scapa.(C. in C. H.F., 1324A/31 to Home Fleet. Admty. C. in C.
W.A., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S)).My 1324/31st. Route through Q.Z.S.15 then direct to 070°
01' N., 000° 02' E., S. of A., 15 knots.

2. Request anti-S/M air escort codeword "Cravat".

(C. in C. H.F., 1402A/31 to C. in C. Rosyth, (R) A.C.O.S.
Cdre. D. H.F., A.C.I.C., Admty).My 1324/31st para. 2. C.S.I. in KENT and BERWICK are to
proceed ahead.

(C. in C. H.F., 1634A/31 to A.I.G.47).

Scapa departure 1528 C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V,
with HOWE, BERMUDA, KENT, BERWICK, MUSKETEER, PIORUN, WORCESTER,
RAIDER, QUEENBOROUGH, MONTROSE.

(A.C.O.S., 1650/31).

Fuel oil
at Kola
Inlet.My 1944/29th and my 2045/30th. In view of
C. in C. H.F., 1147/30th and A.M. 2110/30th
cancel my (?1949)/30th. Request EMPIRE
EMERALD, KOLA and WHITE SEA consists of
EMPIRE ARCHER, R.W. EMERSON, CHESTER VALLEY,
PUERTO RICAN, JEFFERSON MYERS.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0907A/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

W.N. 78

My 1330/30 postponed owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. (K) 0930/31).

M.K.F. 5

Your 1811/31st* Ships are to proceed unescorted
and anchor off Bar L.V. WELLINGTON proceed to
Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A., 1118A/31 to *WELLINGTON)

*As decoded N.T. in W.R. * *See p. 1084*

/P.W...

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- P.W.271 P.W.271 less KONGSHAUN entered Dartmouth owing to weather at 0927/31 sailed less M.Ls. 181, 184 179, and less N.A.B. CARYANDA.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1133/31).
- K.M.S.5 The following arrived 1630/31st CIRCASSIA, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, EMPRESS OF CANADA, ARUNDEL CASTLE, ORDUNA.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1731/31).
- O.N. and O.N.S. Convoys. Cancel my 1618/18th. October. Ships which would normally sail in O.S. convoy may be sailed in all O.N. and O.N.S. convoys.
(2) Such ships should have minimum bunkers for 2,500 miles at convoy speed plus an independent voyage of (A) 3,500 miles to Freetown or (B) 4,000 miles to Recife. Ships able to bunker for destinations beyond these ports should do so.
(D.T.D., 1859A/31).
- Tankers Pass to N.C.S.Os. and for information of Commodores of convoy.
1. Agreement has been reached with M.W.T. for tankers to receive precedence for docking in U.K. ports.
- U.K. ports.
2. The following complementary measures should be taken whenever possible (berthing and anchoring).
3. Connav is requested to arrange for Commodores of Convoy who sail from New York to be informed.
4. A.M.2206/26 Nov. refers and is being repeated to all addressees.
(D.T.D., 2134A/31).
- Convoy D.F.1 A.M.1108/17 Dec. Convoy D.F.1. SS. LEINSTER
F.D.1 carrying 580 personnel will be ready to leave Clyde for Faeroes 6th Jan.
2. She will return as F.D.1.
(D.O.D. (H), 2214A/31).
- K.M.S.7 (1) AZALEA is to arrive Barry Roads before dark 3 and is to escort Bristol Channel portion to Clyde.
(2) AZALEA to Londonderry on completion.
(C. in C. W.A., 2247A/31).

/Convoy...

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.Convoy
K.M.F.7.

The following ships carrying military personnel and stores will be ready to leave U.K. on 8th Jan. for destinations stated.

(a) From Clyde. Destination Gibraltar, WAYLAND, LETITIA. Bone SS. BATORY, SOBIESKI, SS. ORBITA

SS. LEOPOLDVILLE, Algiers SS. BERGENSFJORD.

From Liverpool. Destination Oran. SS. REINA DEL PACIFICO, SS. FRANCONIA. Algiers SS. MONARCH OF BERMUDA, SS. OTRANTO. Bone SS. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.

2. WAYLAND, 13 knots, SS. ORBITA, and LETITIA, 14 knots, are slowest ships and should be placed as leaders of columns.

3. Escort will be provided by 42nd Escort Group consisting of WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, and GORLESTON.

4. Admiralty will promulgate route. *L-1082

5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide escorts as in para. 3 and to arrange sailing of both portions of convoy and escorts to R/V off Oversay.

(D.O.D. (H), 2346A/31).

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch"Area.

French Shipping. In view of your 1425/28, we agree it is better to allow French claim. M.W.T. are instructing their representative accordingly. (M. Branch 0134A/31 to N.C.X.F.)

Casablanca. Signed: Eisenhower. Just received report from Raid Patton. States Casablanca under intermittent attack since 0200Z. Damage not known but believed slight. Our G-2 estimate is that this is token raid by planes, with auxiliary tanks and small bombs, from southern France. (Algiers 1043Z/31 to Usfor and Agwar.)

C.F.10. F.O.I.C. West Africa's 1717/30. Cancel my 1220/26th. Use ^YERNE and 2 other ships of Escort Group 43. (N.C.X.F. 1105A/31 to V.A. Gibraltar. (R) F.O.C. W.A., Admty.) * See pp 1086 & 1087A

Enemy F/W A/C. Up to eight Focke Wulf 200 aircraft from Bordeaux operated in the Gibraltar area this morning, one being plotted off Cadiz. (D.D.I.C. 1801A/31 to N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar.)

Dakar exchange of Officers, Co-operation. Adm. Michelier has requested early despatch of British Naval and Signal Staff Officers from Freetown to Dakar and is prepared to send similar officers to Freetown immediately. I am waiting formal confirmation that Boisson agrees.
2. Michelier wishes to cover all forms of naval co-operation including air cover for convoys and possibility of larger French Merchant ships joining O.L. and S.L. convoys in area between Gibraltar and Freetown if these convoys were routed inside Canaries under air cover as proposed in my 0947/21 (re A/S air escort for route inside Canaries) to V.A. Gibraltar.
(3) He wishes to get British U-Boat summaries for his area. I propose to arrange for S.N.O. Casablanca to pass him daily extracts for onward transmission by landline to Dakar.
4. He is very short of A/S escorts but generally most willing to co-operate.
(N.C.X.F. 1909A/31 to Admty. (R) Cominch etc.)
Reply: Admty. 1735/5.

Spanish Morocco and Tangier. Consul Gen. Tangier, reports that on night 27/28 Dec., an American fighter landed on Tangier Aerodrome on purpose, the pilot thinking Tangier was under Allied control. 2. If this is not done already, it seems advisable to impress on all aircraft under your Command that both Spanish Morocco and Tangier are out of bounds.
(M. Branch. 2342A/31 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

MOST SECRET

1086A

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. M E S S A G E IN

From Algiers.

1610Z/31st Dec.

Date 1.1.43.

Recd. 0315Z

Addressed AGWAR Washington.

Ref.No. 3664. 31st Dec. 1942.

Interior Addresses: To: General Marshall
For: Somervell.
Signed: Eisenhower.
Reference: Your 524, 280144Z.
(Action relay to
Algiers).

To your cable this is an interim reply.

1. Composition of French Force given is agreeable to me but as equipment, training and activation must mean a very long term policy and must be influenced by United Nations strategy, the last word is not with me but with the Combined Chiefs of Staff.
2. As far as this theatre is concerned, I cannot at present sacrifice shipping space since my troop basis is already far ahead of my equipment and maintenance position and there is still a considerable backlog of units and TBA equipment before the initial build up can be regarded as reasonably complete. When the build up is sufficiently advanced to ease the strain on shipping it is for the Combined Chiefs of Staff to say whether the shipping position of the world over can cope with this new commitment.
3. The civil needs of this country must come second to my own military needs in shipping priority since if the present economic situation continues it will have serious repercussions on the political and military situation.
4. Meanwhile the need for maintenance and equipment of the French Forces already in the field must receive constant consideration. Their most urgent needs are light anti-aircraft and anti-tank equipment and any shipments to meet this need should be made as space can be found

since/.....

1085^B

- 2 -

since the pressing items are not bulky. This question has a strong influence on morale. I have a small French Inter Allied Committee dealing with this question based on French training facilities and the requirements of the troops actually fighting and we will keep you informed of the results of its detailed study, particularly as concerns priorities of individual items.

5. The requests for locomotives, cars, coal, oil and gasoline can be ignored as they are already being taken care of, either under my military demands to enable me to extract the maximum use out of the railways, or under the military cum civil needs for gasoline which are being dealt with as a whole.

6. I am obtaining information about shipping, but it will take sometime to answer your questions. A full list of ships being taken over by the Allies has already been furnished by air mail but the Dakar ships have yet to be listed.

7. I assume that the inter-Allied aspect of this question will now be dealt with by the Combined Chiefs of Staff but the phasing of an approved programme may be affected by any changes which occur in the general military situation throughout North Africa. If this answer is not sufficiently comprehensive for your immediate needs, please specify details required and with the least possible delay we will get them to you.

1st Lord.	1610Z/31	
1st S.L. (2)	Relayed to ACWAR by Sig.Gen. (ACTION).	
D.F.S.L.	Received from ETOUSA	
V.C.N.S.	D.C. (2)	at 0140/2 n.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.I.C. (2)	ETOUSA Circ:
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.N.I. (4)	Brig. Jacob.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D. of P. (2)	1st S.L.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of P. (Q)	C.6 Tols. W.O.
P.A.S. (S)	Hd. of M. (2)	A.M.C.S. (C)
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.O.D. (F) (2)	
D. of I.D.	W.D.	
Ad. Ramsey (4)	I.P. (3)	

DB

MOST SECRET

1085

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 1734Z/31st December. IN.
From: Algiers Date: 1.1.43.
Recd: 0300Z.

Addressed: AGWAR Washington.

Ref. No. 3673. 31st December 1942.

Interior Addresses: For: Combined Chiefs of Staff.
From: Spaatz.
Signed: Eisenhower.

References: Your 382 dated December 23rd. (No record).

Time Table and short term program for North Africa Airfield development follows:

1. Eastern Sector. (East of North South Line through Blida), which is divided into five areas:

1. Algiers Area. Two fields, namely Maison Blanche, all weather field ready February 1st; Blida, all weather field ready February 1st.

2. Setif Area. One field to be used only for R.A.F. installations, not in need of construction.

3. Heavy Bomber Area. Five dry weather fields in vicinity of Telergma, all ready by January 5th, Biskra now in operation but evacuation planned to Telergma by March 15th account seasonal sand storms.

4. Medium Bomber Area. Four fields namely Canrobert, Ain Baida, Oul Mene one and Oul Mene two, will be all weather fields by March 1st.

5. Fighter and Light Bomber Area. Two fields now located, namely Bone now in operation, Duzzerville all weather steel plank ready February 1st, Jomapes and Guelma all weather Sommerfield Track ready February 1st., Souk Ahras all weather now; Soul El Khemis all weather now; Souk El Krba all weather now; Youks Le Bain dry weather now, all weather March 1st; Tebossa in operational now, all weather March 1st; Thelepte dry weather now, all weather March 1st; five additional fields will be located in Area Kasserine Feriana Gafsa Maxnussy Sbeitla, all weather Sommerfield Track March 1st.

II./

10852

II. Central Sector. (Oran and vicinity), divided into two areas:

1. Heavy Bomber Area. Five all weather fields, namely La Senia and Tafaraoui ready February 1st; Lourmel number 1, Nouvion and Relixane ready March 1st. Six dry weather dispersal fields, namely four in vicinity of Mascara ready January 15th and Lourmel number 2 and Lourmel number 3 in operation now.

2. Fighter and Light Bomber Area. In vicinity of Oujda which is now ready for dry weather operation, it is planned to develop five additional fields for light bombers and two for fighters, namely Oggax and Perregaux. These fields will not be constructed until it becomes evident that heavy bomber force must be transferred to vicinity of Oran for operation to the North against Spain.

III. Western Sector, which is divided into two areas:

1. Atlantic Coast. Two dry weather fields suitable all types, namely Casablanca and Marrakech now ready. Three all weather fields suitable all types namely Mediouna, Rabat Sale CTP and Port Lyautey ready January 15th.

2. Moroccan Border. Three dry weather fields suitable for fighters, namely Meknes, Fex and Taxa ready now; two dry weather fields, namely Ras El Ma ready January 10th, and Guercif ready February 1st; surveys being made for four additional fields suitable for fighter and light bomber operations.

IV. Long Term Programme prepared and being reviewed. Will go forward within 10 days. A check is being made of arrivals of personnel and materials as well as of the possible development of local supplies. Information will be furnished as to assistance required from you as soon as the check is completed.

17342/31.

Recd. in War Registry at 0040/2.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- C.N.A.S.
- A.C.N.A.S.
- 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.C. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)

Circulation:

- Brig. Jacob
- Foreign Secretary
- First Sea Lord
- C.6. Telegrams, War Office.
- A.M.C.S. (C).

- Head of M.
- I.P. (2)
- ~~W.D.~~
- Ad. Blake
- D.A.C.D.
- D. of P. (Q)
- D.N.A.D.
- C.C.L.S.
- Hd. of Air.
- Ad. Bellairs
- D.A.M.
- Ad. Ramsey (4)

1086

31.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

K.M.S. 6. BURDOCK, DRANGEY adjust speed so as to R/V K.M.S.6 in 037° 35' N. 014° 35' W. at 0900/2nd. Onward route as in my 1852/30th.

2. HAARLEM is to R/V Freetown section in position TT. (V.A. Gibraltar, 0637A/31 to BURDOCK, DRANGEY, HAARLEM, (R) Admty., Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.6, N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada).)

Ref. V.A. Gibraltar 0637/31st. *Cancelled 1/1/43 - see p. 18*
My position 1045 G.M.T. 037° 45' N. 024° 10' W. altering 092° speed 7 knots.

(DRANGEY, 1115Z/31 to BURDOCK.)

My 1640/30th and your 0729/31st (No trace in War Reg. but 0637/31 is possibly message referred to.) X BURDOCK and X DRANGEY sailed 2300 G.M.T./30th. HAARLEM further delayed, sailing 2000 G.M.T./31st. Require TT position. *see next page* X *see p. 1087A*

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1256/31 to R.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada's 1256/31, position TT is 036° 02' 021° 05'.

(F.O.C.N.A., 2202A/31 to HAARLEM.)

Am unable to make R/V with K.M.S.6 at 0900/2nd. Very bad coal, maximum 6 knots. Request further instructions.

(DRANGEY, 1844Z/31 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) BURDOCK.)

Movements. Arrival 0830 H.M.T. IOCH OSKAIG escorting cable ship MIRROR.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0913A/31 to Admty.)

Sailed 1715, M.L. 341 and 493 escorting SS. EMPIRE GAT to Guadalquivir, thence R/V RAVENS ~~1087~~ and escort ship Gibraltar. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1825A/31.)

G.U.F. 3. Sailed 0825 ERNE escorting U.S.S. SAMUEL CHASE and Gibraltar section of convoy to R/V convoy G.U.F. 3. *see pp 1085, 1087A*

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0915A/31 to S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F., (R) Admty.) Sailed following, escorted by ERNE to join G.U.F. 3(0):- U.S. Ship SAMUEL CHASE, BULKOIL, MONMOUTH, TICONDEROGA, VILLE D'ANVERS, SAMUEL CHASE holds U.S. Naval books. All other ships holding S.P.02272 (21) and (22). Following hold one-ship pad: BULKOIL 483, TICONDEROGA 987, MONMOUTH 996. ERNE continues as additional escort.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1224A/31 to Admty., (R) Connv, S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Escorts G.U.F. 3, N.C.X.F.)

CAMPOMANES. Your 1950A/30th para. (3). Have asked Consul Bilbao if and when he was notified of sailing. Please see my 1830/30th last para viz. nothing seen of assailant.

(N.A. Madrid, 1304/31 to Admty.)

My 1304/31st. Consul Bilbao reports he issued Navicert for CAMPOMANES at 1130/24th. Vessel sailed at 1215/25th Dec. Our daily telegrams of Spanish ships North of Vigo are compiled from information daily supplied by Under-Secretary Mercantile Marine and not by Reporting Officer. General opinion that vessel was torpedoed by Axis submarine.

(A.N.A. Madrid, 1809/31 to Admty.)

/PAGAO ...

1087

31.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- PAGAO. Your 1436/29. Confirmed that PAGAO may be towed to Cadiz.
(M. Branch, 1306A/31 to V.A. Gib.)
- E.T. 7. E.T.7 arrived escorted by FLEETWOOD, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, SAMPHIRE, CONVULVULUS.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1527A/31 to N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers, (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran.)
- U.G.S. 3. VANOC sailed 1414 to join Oran section U.G.S.3 relieving BRILLIANT, BOREAS. Q.B. Message A.20.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1537A/31 to N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Oran, C.T.F.33, Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.3(O), (R) Admty.)
- BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, (O.N.S.154) Proceeding with SHEDIAC in tow out of fuel. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1900Z. Weather report.
(BATTLEFORD, 1615Z/31 to V.A. Gib., (R) C. in C.W.A) BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC arrived Ponta Delgada 1915 G.M.T./31st. HAARLEM left 2030. *See previous page*
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1835C/31 to S.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)
- MILNE, METEOR (O.N.S.154) My 1500/30th (N.T. in W.R.) not to BATTLEFORD, para 1. Intend to arrive off Ponta Delgada 1000Z/1st. C.A.F.O. ?1924 para. 4, request I may be informed earliest time MILNE and METEOR may enter.
(Capt. D.3, 1659Z/31 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) BATTLEFORD.)
- LANASER (U.G.S.3) stranded. SS. LANASER of U.G.S.3 stranded at 0010A/31st bearing 024° distant 1330 yards from El Hank Light. Master plus all crew except Chief Officer plus 15 of Naval Armed Guard taken off by boats from U.S. M/S RAVEN and U.S. Destroyer WAINWRIGHT. Ensign Harrison James plus 11 of Naval Armed Guard plus one officer from U.S. M/S RAVEN plus 3 men from U.S. Destroyer WAINWRIGHT plus Chief Officer of LANASER believed lost when U.S. WAINWRIGHT rescue boat foundered. Sea conditions and locating of ship most unfavourable for salvage of cargo or ship. Full report missing personnel for despatch to C. in C. U.S. Fleet and Bupers in preparation by N.O.B. Casablanca for personnel attached LANASER and by U.S. M/S RAVEN and U.S. WAINWRIGHT for own personnel.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1900Z/31 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.T.F.33, C.G.W.T.F., U.S. M/S RAVEN, Bupers.)
- U/B. D/F bearings on 12260 k/cs at 1157Z indicate U-Boat in approx. 28° N. 29° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1906A/31 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W.A., Opanav for 20G.)

MOST SECRET

1087A

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 1414A/31st December.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 31.12.42.
Time 1915

NAVAL CYPHER S by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT. Situation at 2002A/31st.

- (1) U.S. Sub. BARB, patrolling off Vigo. *See p.1074A*
- (2) Sub. P. 615, 025 degs. 20' 020 degs. 00' 180 degs. on surface 8½. *See p.1090*
- (3) K.M.F. 6.H.M.S. EGRET, 2 destroyers, 2 corvettes, 2 sloops, 036 degs. 01' 012 degs. 38' through 036 degs. 01' 009 degs. 58' at 0700A 1st thence through Gibraltar Straits 11½.
- (4) K.M.S. 6.H.M.S. BLACK SWAN, 2 sloops, 9 corvettes, (E) 041 degs. 06' 017 degs. 24' through 039 degs. (05') 017 degs. 12' thence 127 degs. 7½.
- (5) H.M.S. DRANGEY, H.M.S. BURDOCK, approximately 037 degs. 54' 021 degs. 22' 094 degs. 10. *See p.1086*
- (6) G.U.F. 3. Task Force 35, 035 degs. 24' 007 degs. 10' through 033 degs. 10' 009 degs. 58' thence 245 degs. 12'.

H.M.S. *ERNE, H.M.S. LEITH, H.M.S. ROCHESTER, H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH, H.M.S. SANDWICH, 035 degs. 57' 006 degs. 20' to Gibraltar 15 * *See pp.1085 & 1086*

(8) H.M.S. SCYLLA, 039 degs. (18'?) 014 degs. 43' through 040 degs. 01' (016 degs.?) 01' thence 000 degs. 20. *See pp.1073 & 1074*

(9) 2 M/L, one motor vessel, off Tarifa coastwise to Chipiona 9 thence leave Chipiona 1100/1st escorting one motor vessel coastwise to Gibraltar.

(10) ST. NECIAN, LADY DENISON-PENDER, laying cable vicinity Casablanca.

(11) Italian repatriation ships SATURNIA, VULCANIA, 35 (25?) 09 18 to Gibraltar 14.7.

1414A/31.

A.C.N.S. (UT)

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

A.C.N.S. (H)

D. of P. (2)

D.D.I.C.

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

D.A/S.W.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.T.D. (M)

U.S.N. (3)

Captain Pim

Head of M.

D.S.D.

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

W.D.

F.O.S. by Courier.

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

I.P. (2)

D.D.O.D. (M)

D.T.D. (3)

Duty Captain (2)

D.T.D. (C)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

MC.

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements.

Arrival Pointe Noire p.m. 29th. LADY ELSA, WELLARD, escorting S.S. BELGIAN FISHERMAN.
(B.N.L.O. W.A. 0835/31 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

LE FANTASQUE
LE TERRIBLE.

At Dakar. Details of repairs required.
(Radio Washington 1012/31. See American and West Indies - Lion Copy.) pp. 1102 - 1102.A & B.

French
Cruisers,
Dakar.

Admiralty pass to London addressee. My 29/1240 please correct para 3 to read "3rd. It is considered that present 37 mm and 13 mm aircraft guns be replaced with our 40 and 20 mm guns and that additional guns be installed as practicable."
(Glassfurd, 1023/31 to C.C.S. Buships (? Board) and British Chiefs of Staff, London.)
W.R. Note No trace of 1240/29 from Glassfurd but 1250/30 from Gominch re French ships refers.

Use of
A.S.V.

During defence exercise at R.A.N.S. Hastings A.S.V. R 3039 Q. 3040 was successfully used by naval defence to detect approaching infantry. Troops wearing steel helmets and full equipment were detected at 9,000 yards - this was complete surprise to the army. Request information whether further details are required.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1045Z/31 to Admty.)
Reply: D.S.D. 2029/2/1.

Dakar.

Ship repair facilities (Opnav 1409Z/31 to Admty.)
See American and West Indies - Lion Copy.

CERION
U/B
30/12.

Master of CERION reports having sighted U-Boat on surface in diving trim at 0820Z/30th. in 023° 08' S. 041° 37' W. U-boat bore (? East about) 170°. 5 miles when sighted and steering a little to port of ship's course of 284°. Ship increased to 11 knots and U-Boat after remaining in sight for 9 minutes submerged on course about 180°. No attack developed and fire not opened by ship. Distress Message sent which was picked up by local Rio de Janeiro Station. Foregoing personally witnessed by Master and Chief Officer. Visibility good, sea calm. Brazilian Air Force searched the area with negative results.
(B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro 1435Z/31 to Admiralty)

/?U/B

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 31.12.42.

Recd. 1430.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed Ships in Area "P" of South Atlantic Station North of 8 degs.
North, Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, N.C.I.C. Bathurst.

IMPORTANT

ARRAN, escorting about 013 degs. 50' 017 degs. 35' to
Freetown 9.

PORTSDOWN, escorting off Bathurst 221 8 at 2002Z/31st.

S/M P.614, patrolling submerged between 010 degs. 51' 017 degs.
(?11' or 46') and 008 degs. 15' 019 degs. 27'.

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, INKPEN, DUNKERY,
DUNTON, with F.T.T. 6 008 degs. 20' 014 degs. 25' 251 7½.

1015Z/31

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

A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
A.C.N.S. (UF).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pin.
D.O.D. (H) (2).
D.O.D. (F) (2).
D.D.O.D. (M).
Duty Captain (2).
D.D.I.C. (2).
D. of P. (2).
D.A/S.W.
D.T.D. (M).
Head of M.
~~W.E.~~
I.P. (2).
D.M.S.
D.T.D. (2).
D.T.D. (C).

abd

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.)

1041Z/31st December.
MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
From. F.O.C. W.Africa. Date. 31, 12, 42.
Naval Cypher (M) By W/T. Recd. 1408

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

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 2000Z/31st.

JETCOM(?BE) 06 10 13 10 to Freetown 18. *HOLCOMBE n/Tu 2.2.*
H.M.S. HERTFORDSHIRE, H.M.S. RUMBA, H.M.S. NORTHERN
ISLES, escorting 05 (?55) 12 (?55) to 03 53 11 18 (?2) 108 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.
H.M.S. LADY ROSEMARY, escorting, 05 01 (?09) (?30) to
Takoradi 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.
BREDON, BARFOSS, 04 05 07 01 to Takoradi 5.
W.(?S) 25 W 00 05 06 05 133 25 $\frac{1}{2}$.
H.M.S. DESPATCH, 00 20 South 05 35 133 19.
H.M.S. PICT, off Freetown to South 10.

1041Z/31

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(UT)
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

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

M E S S A G E

IN

1219C/31/December.

From C.in C. South Atlantic

Date 31.12.42.

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Time 1521.

Addressed A.I.G.125

IMPORTANT

0.19, 014 degs 30' S 000 degs 30' W to Freetown 8.
VIVIANA, escorting EMPIRE WARLOCK towing lighter,
029 degs 20' S 016 degs 00' E to Saldanha Bay 6.
H.M.S. NORTHERN CHIEF, H.M.S. SPHENE, escorting
INTEGRITY, towing crane lighter No.3, off Saldanha Bay from
the north (expected time of arrival 0900Z 1st January).
GLENROY, H.M.S. JANUS, 017 degs 30' South 011 degs 30'
East to Pointe Noire 12
~~NORTHERN DUKE~~ standing by DUNEDIN STAR, in the
vicinity 018 degs 12' South 011 degs 42' East.
H.M.S. FORTUNE, with C.D.4, 032 degs (?30') North
028 degs 50' East to Durban 9½
Royal Fleet Auxiliary ~~yas~~ H.M.S. OLWEN, 034 degs 40'
South 018 degs 50' East to Capetown expected time of
arrival 1st January.
H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY, off Mossel Bay to Capetown 10
H.M.S. FREESIA, H.M.S. NIGELLA, with D.N.10,
030 degs 02' South 032 degs 20' East to 030 degs 41'
South 038 degs 26' East 7½
H.M.S. NIZAM, about 029 degs 30' South 032 degs 20'
East to Kilindini. H.M.S. JASMINE, THYME, about 029 degs
20' South 032 degs 50' East to Durban.

1219C/31.

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

V.C.N.S.	
A.C.N.S.(H)	
A.C.N.S.(F) (2)	D.D.I.C. (2)
A.C.N.S.(UT)	I.P. (2)
N.A.1st S.L.	W.D.
Capt Pim	D.T.D. (3)
D.O.D.(H) (2)	F.O.S. by courier
D.O.D.(F) (2)	
D.T.D. (M)	
D.C. (2)	
U.S.N.	
D.A/S.W.	
Hd. of M.	

E.M.

MOST SECRET

1088D

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/29th Dec

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From G.O.C--in-C West Africa

Date 30-12-42

Recd 1525

CIPHER.

Addressed War Office.

091619.

I/52300 Cipher 29 Dec.

First. Following items of information are from various Fighting French sources. Have no confirmation from sources other than Fighting French but these reports may be of use to you for checking with your reports from other sources.

1. General Goma head of air forces has left for Algiers on unknown mission. Attitude said to be very pro-German.
2. General Falvy anti-allied.
3. Commander of cruiser MONTCALM may scuttle ship to prevent it falling into Allied hands.
4. Officers of ^{RICHELIEU} Richelieu anti-allied but seamen pro-allied.
5. Boisson has let it be known secretly to Vichyists in Dakar that they can return to France if they wish. Probably by air via Spanish territory.
6. Certain German element still at large. Gestapo agents still at work and one Schoeblin is working with French Navy at Dakar.
7. Main points of speech made by Barrau at Lome 26th Dec. Begins Petain gave Weygand document authorising resistance in French North Africa if Axis violated armistice terms. Weygand not specifically mentioned by name and therefore Darlan assumed role laid down in document. Boisson and Barrau not convinced about this document until they sent a Mission to Algiers to see original. Sight of this persuaded them to join United Nations. Pourparlers taking place between Fighting French and other French in North Africa. Ends.

/ Second. General Catroux.

1088 E

Second. General Catroux is now in Accra and is guest of Governor Gold Coast.

Third. Presume Foreign and Colonial Offices are keeping you fully in touch with their telegrams to and from Resmin since political and military factors in French West Africa cannot usually be logically treated separately in present conditions.

1330A/29

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

War Office Circulation:-

C.6 Tels.
M.I. 3(a) (for action)
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I. (I)
M.O. 1,4.
M.I. 3, 3(a), 5, 6, 14, 17.
M.I.L.
F.O. (Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck)
Admiralty (Head of War Registry)
Air Ministry (Head of A.M.C.S)
Colonial Office (Telegraph
Section).

L.

1089

War Diary.31.12 1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic-Contd.?U/B
Report.

My 1154/30. This report emanates from Catalina aircraft (2) Interrogation of Pilot I consider this report doubtful and diversion of shipping unnecessary.
(Care. Durban, 1436/31 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F.)
W.R. Note no trace in War Reg. see T.O.O. 0906/1.

C.F.10.

Admty. 1916A/19th. and my 1717Z/30th. Request information whether it is intended that convoy C.F.10 will proceed into Gibraltar or join convoy M.K.F. at sea.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1517Z/31 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. ASTURIAS.)

French
Convoys.

Your 2145/29th. Have no convoys from Freetown to Northward, but if request received from French Authorities, French Light Cruiser ESPIEGLE provide escort of one trawler for 3rd. convoy and one corvette for 4th. convoy to about 022° N., whence V.A. Gibraltar or S.B.N.O. Casablanca could possibly arrange to take over. Owing to other commitments similar arrangements would subsequently be possible only on special occasions.

2. Coastal convoy between Freetown and Takoradi run at approx. 10 day interval and arrangements could be made for ships to join them. It might not be possible for convoys to be routed close to French ports but perhaps French could escort ships joined from or leaving for such ports.

3. When convoy arrangements for French ships not possible I could arrange air cover for them providing they were routed close to coast and adequate notice were received from French Authorities.

4. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia, pass to Adm. Glassfurd.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1533Z/31 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. Casablanca, Admiral Glassfurd.)

QUANZA.

Portuguese S.S. QUANZA sailed from Loanda night of 29th. Dec. for Funchal direct without obtaining ships navicert. Very desirable if met that vessel is sent into Freetown for examination and detention pending further instructions.
(D.E.W.D. 1535A/31 to F.O.W.A., (R) V.A. Gib. Connav.)

A.S. 10.

Your 1230C/31. (N.T. in W.R.) A.S. 10 composed MARIPOSA unescorted carrying troops for Suez, E.T.A. Rio 4 Jan. for fuel and water Cominch 191456 refers. Onward route as in my 291858.
Request N.O.B. Rio inform C. in C. S.A. of logistics in sailing telegram.
(Cominch C. & R. 1641/31 to C. in C. S.A., U.S.N.O.B. Rio.)

/BIRDLIP.

War Diary.

31.12. 1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

BIRDLIP
M/V's.

Estimated time of sailing S.S. HAI LEE and S.S. JAMES TURNER escorted by H.M.T. BIRDLIP and M.L. 302 0700Z/1st Jan.. E.T.A. Dakar p.m. 1st. M.L. 302 (? returning to) Bathurst, BIRDLIP patrolling off Dakar until 0800/3rd, when she will R/V with HAI LEE and escort to Bathurst. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst (Gambia) 1747Z/31 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

P.614.

See p. 10 & 84

Keep south of 010° N. after daylight 2nd. Jan. (R.A.W.A., 1827Z/31, to P. 64)

CORINTHIAN.

F.O.C.W. Af. (R) Admty., Cominch, Comsolantfor, B.A.D., N.O. i/c Ascension from CORINTHIAN.

Your 1919Z/30 acknowledged. Departure Rio de Janeiro 2001Z/31. S.of A. 13½ knots. E.T.A. position (X) 2001Z/6. Latest messages received A 992, A.G. 424. Additional numbers missing A 976, 977, 978, 988, 989. (B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1901Z/31 to Admty.)

French
Naval
Forces
Agreement.

Following is a repetition of Admiral Glassfurd's despatch 301525 action Opnav, Combined Chiefs of Staff, British Chiefs of Staff, London. (Begins) The following understanding has been reached Vice Admiral Collinet, Commanding French Naval Forces in French West Africa, and the Mission in regard

to Naval Operations in the West African strategic area:-

- (1) The Flag Officer Commanding French West African Naval Forces is designated as Commander, French West African Naval District and is also to assume the general status of an Allied Task Force Commander under the Allied Frontier Commander.
- (2) 'Frontier Commander' for purposes of this understanding is considered to be the present Allied Naval Controlling Agency in the West African Strategic Area.
- (3) The waters of the French West African Naval District extend along the coast from a line drawn east and west through Cape Mogador, latitude 26° 10' N. to a line extending southwest from the coast Frontier between French Guinea and Sierra Leone beginning at about latitude 9° N. The seaward depth of the District is to be determined later.
- (4) These shall (group missing) is located, or change in present method of direction of Naval Operations or Control of Allied Shipping, in the West African Strategic Area.
- (5) The French West African Naval District Commander is to control and route ships retained by the French for the necessary local trade of French West Africa and Togoland.
- (6) Naval and Naval Air Forces under command of the Commander of French Naval Forces, West Africa, are to be at the disposal of the Frontier Commander when these are available.

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

French
Naval
Forces,
Agreement
Contd.

(7) Allied Naval and Naval Air Forces, when permanently stationed in French West African Naval District are to be under the District Commander for operations.

(8) The French West African Naval District Commander is to be kept fully informed by the Frontier Commander of the General Situation and of particular situations which concern the District Commander who, in turn, is to keep the Frontier Commander fully informed of all activities within his district.

(9) It is understood that inasmuch as the French Naval Authorities in West Africa have the trained and experienced personnel to operate Naval surface and Naval Air Forces required, it is preferred that the necessary material and equipment be provided as replacements for operation by French personnel, that the necessary forces be operating Units of other Allied Commands, and that the Allied Naval Commands will take due cognizance of this preference, as practicable.

(10) That French Naval and Naval Air Forces and Merchant ships be provided with necessary Allied communication facilities including current codes, ciphers and recognition signals and procedure as necessary for complete and safe co-operations with the Allies.

(11) That the French West African District Commander and the Frontier Commander will co-operate to the utmost in integrating routing, control and protection of local French convoys under the direction of the District Commander and the Overseas Convoys under direction of the Frontier Commander.

(12) That the French West African District Commander and the Frontier Commander will co-operate to the utmost with the Forces at their disposal to combat the common enemy.

(13) It is understood that Liaison Officers will be exchanged between the French West African District Commander and the Frontier Commander as necessary for the efficient conduct of war operations.

(14) It is understood that the subject under consideration deals entirely with the question of Command relations in French West Africa and in no way implies that French Naval Forces now in West Africa will be used only in such area. The ultimate use of the French Fleet in the common war effort is a matter to be decided by higher authority.

Complete text follows by mail. (Ends.) Admty. pass to British Chiefs of Staff London for action.

(Opnav, 1921/31 to Admty.)

Argentine
and South
Orkneys.

Ref. S.O. (I) Buenos Aires 1752Z 30th. Dec. (re Argentine transport PRIMERO DE MAYO coaled and ready for sea.-N.T. in W.D.) I learn from private source it is probable that PRIMERO DE MAYO will formally take possession in name of Argentine

South Orkneys and Shetlands where flag was hoisted last year. See F.O. telegram 765 Oct. 13th. and this Embassy's reply 873 Oct. 16th.

(Buenos Aires, 2024Z/31 to Admty. for D.N.I., (R) C. in C.S.A.)

1092

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Shipping
Routes.

My 1829/29th Dec. delete para. 1D and substitute Exceptions to C are ships between 12 knots and 14.9 knots inclusive unsuitable for the Cape Horn route which may sail direct Chesapeake by eastern stream provided they can complete the whole voyage either without bunkering or by bunkering at Freetown or St. Thomas.
(D.T.D.2125A/31 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Connav, F.O.C.W.A.)

1093

War Diary.

31.12.1942
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

- URSULA Your 2000A/30th Fine work, proceed through 038° 31' 010° 44' thence course 270° to cross 008° 00' E. at 2001A/1st thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 8.
(Capt. S.10, 0029A/31 to URSULA (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) S.)
Proceed diving by day to pass 038° 31' 008° 00' at 2001A 1st 038° 01' 004° 48' at 0001A/3rd thence on surface at your discretion to R/V with escort for Algiers in 037° 01' 003° 17' at 1100A/3rd.
(Capt. S.8., 1206A/31 to URSULA (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S., Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)
- P.311 Report your position before 0500A/31st, if safe to do so.
(Capt. S.10., 0101A/31 to Capt. (S) 1.)
- ALBA JULIA Following received from S.O.(I) Istanbul, T. of O. 2222C/30th Dec. (Begins):- My 1825 /30th Dec. (A) ALBA JULIA sailed at 2145C for Trieste probably via Salonika. (B) Will signal time of entry Aegean. (C) Anticipate her escort will bring up inward bound vessel to Dardanelles. (D) S.O.(I) Med. pass to Admty. and Malta. (Ends.)
(S.O.I. Med., 0135B/31 to Admty. V.A. Malta.)
My 2222/Dec. 30th and 1550 Dec. 31st. (N.T. in W.D.)
ALBA JULIA entered Aegean Sea 1115 G.M.T. Dec. 31st: Escort 2 destroyers, one seaplane. Course W.N. of Lemnos.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1605C/31 to S.O.(I) Med. S.1. S.10. D.N.I)
- SIRIUS At 1530A today 31st SIRIUS taking ASHANTI, ASHANTI STONECROP, QUALITY under her orders and sailing
*STONECROP from Algiers to arrive A.M. 1st, reporting route
QUALITY. and E.T.A. to authorities concerned before sailing.
** Report night fighters!* (P.L.) S.O.I.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection, priority one, including night fighters at dusk.
(C.S.12, 0948A/31 to S.O.I.S. SIRIUS, (R) N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bone, Cdre. Algiers, ASHANTI, QUALITY.)
C.S. 12 0948/31st. Intend to proceed through positions 18.40 and (corrupt group), E.T.A. Algiers 0400A/1st Jan.
(SIRIUS, 1311A/31 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers. (?C.S.12) S.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Bone.)
My 1311/31st. Delayed by weather, 2 hours late.
(SIRIUS, 2206A/31).
- Palermo Following to Admty. for information. (2 corrupt R/C groups) presume Palermo will be covered by P.R.U. p.m. today Dec. 31st.
(V.A. Malta 1037A/31 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O. I.S. Cdre. Algiers, S.O. Force "Q".)

/Malta

MOST SECRET

1093A

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.)

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M E S S A G E 1630Z/31st December.
IN.
MOST SECRET.

From C. in C. Middle East. Date 1.1.43.
Recd. 0945

CIPHER

Addressed War Office.

302283. I/90759 cipher 31 December 1942.

Officers only.

For D.M.I. from Airey.

Western Desert weekly review for week ending
30 Dec. 1200 hours.

1
1. General. 15 Armd. Div. withdrew from Sirte 24 Dec. before our occupation on 25 leaving only 33 and 580 Recce Units in contact. Three Recce Unit and Kasta O.B. apparently joined in Area Sedada (R.91) 25 Dec to counter our raiding forces and watch southern flank. Withdrawal to main Buerat position completed steadily as our forward patrol line was advanced. By 27 our forward elements in contact on Wadi Kebir. Enemy withdrew from south end 28 Dec. and on 29 Dec. area immediately south of Buerat found clear. Many mines and booby traps found on line of retreat, landings ploughed. No further information on Buerat position but digging and blasting observed 29 Dec. indications 164 Div. holds southern sector. Estimated present tank strength Germans 60 runners Italians 30 runners maximum.

2. German. Following from P.W. Tanks of Five Tank Regt. fighting recently as single battle group and not in sqns. Early Dec. 150 men from eight tp Two Africa Arty Regt. transferred to One Africa Arty Regt. and Eight Tp disbanded except for skeleton staff sent to Tripoli with intention to reform there. All three guns lost. On 16 Dec. Three Tp One Africa Arty Regt. had three 21 cm hows on 17 Dec. we captured three of the four five cm A Tk guns of Two Coy 33 A Tk Bn One bn 115 Panz Gren Regt. dissolved. Two Bn consists of five six and seven coys forming one coy 100 strong and Eight Coy with similar strength. During (?our) offensive One Tp 43 A.A. Regt. lost one 88 and two Tp lost all four.

On/.....

On 16 Dec. Eight Tp 25 A.A. Regt. had three 88 and three 20 mm guns. Mid Dec. Two Bn 104 pgr consisted only of five and six coys and Three Bn of Nine and 11 Coys. Other coys disbanded and personnel distributed among existing coys bringing them up to strength. 16 Dec. Nine Coy had two five cm A. Tk guns 11 Coy reinforced by PL from One Coy 609 AA/MG Bn and Pl from Two Coy 39 A Tk Bn giving it fighting strength 60 on 18 Dec. Equipment 11 Coy includes two hy mortars three five cm A. Tk guns. CD 27 Dec. gives strength Two Bn 13 plus 84 plus 217 with 15 A. Tk guns 42 MG's and 76 trucks. Following from Yorker. 15 Armd Div. tank state 29 Dec. Category A seven mark III specials eight mark IV and thirteen mark IV specials. Category B nil. Category C one mark III special one mark IV special. Suggest figures include only tanks with unit in various categories of serviceability.

3. Italian. Following from Yorker. 20 Dec. three M.G. coys of Italian Tps leaving Zuara for Ghadames, Bn H.Q. and two coys to be stationed Ghadames and one coy Tgutta or two coys to be stationed Ghadames and one coy Tgutta or Sinauer. H.Q. "CC RR beyond the frontier" addressed at Gabes apparently under Comd. G.O.C. CC RR Libya. Four Libyan Bn, at Buerat two Dec. probably moved Beni Ulid area by 25 Dec. Sahara Comd. Saharan Air Force Unit apparently now stationed Sebha under comd Col Luciano new O.C. sector to make recess and harass hostile cols reported from 24 Dec. in southern Sahara. Faint indications southern posts preparing to withdraw possibly on Sebha leaving minefields. Captured documents dated early Dec. found Agheila Area near M.13 tank identify 14 Bn and HQ 31 Tank Regt. Centauro Div.

Comment. This Bn last identified at 133 Tank Regt. Depot June 42. Document shows H.Q. Centauro Div early Dec. at PM number 11 Concentramento. Documents show 14 Bn with Ariete Battle Gp. documents same area identify three coy Young Fascist anti-tank bn and One Coy One Bn 66 Inf. Regt. Trieste Div. Suggest all above formed part Ariete Battle Gp plus 502 Bty 90/53 Centauro Div. also identified. M.13 tank found Nofilia has markings one coy 17 tank bn.

Comment. Also Bn of Centauro. Revised figures for Italian losses during withdrawal from Agheila position four offrs. 76 other ranks. Personalities. Yorker

shows/.....

~~1093c~~
1093c

MOST SECRET

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3.

shows Col. Ruta (ex chief of staff Trieste) at Superlibia 21 Dec. Gen Manca Di Moros addressed Gen. Staff Rome 22 Dec.

Comment. Unclear if on leave or transferred. Indications Gen. Sarri was O.C. Sirte Sector. Gen. Roncaglia at Tripoli since Oct. 42 possibly O.C. L. of C. and Defence Aina.

Comment. Presumably Div/Gen. Roncaglia last identified Dec. 40 as GOC Piave Div. Captured documents nine Dec. show Brig./Gen. Gaetano Cantaluppi O.C. Ariete Div. Col. Gaspare Raffo O.C. 31 Tank Regt. and Capt. Ugo Esposito O.C. 14 Tank Bn of Regt.

4. Maintenance. No noteworthy improvement M.T. fuel situation and aviation fuel position somewhat worse stocks being sufficient only for one week present level. Slight signs army ammunition being backloaded from Libya into Tunisia. Main feature past week cutting of Sousse-Sfax railway and neutralisation of Sousse port. This throws Rommel back on Tunis and Bizerta from which he must work by M.T. with rail assistance as far as Sousse and some from Sfax.

5. Conclusion. Activity in Buerat position suggests immediate intention to remain there but defence depends upon availability of an adequate mobile force to cover open southern flank and fuel to enable it to operate; priorities in reinforcement must be tanks and high velocity guns. Unless these and above all adequate supply of fuel can be assured enemy may be forced to withdraw in order both to gain a position without open flank and to ease his supply problems.

1630Z/31

Received from W.O. 1645/2.

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. (A)
N.A. 1st S.L.
A.C.N.A.S.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)

W.O. Distribution:

D.D.M.O. (O) M.I. 3, 3b, 6, 10,
M.O. 5. 14 (6 copies),
D.M.I. 17, 9, 19.
D.D.M.I. (I) Admy. (Hd.W.R.)
Lt. Col. Jago. Air Min. (A.M.C.S.)
(JIS) (W.C.O.)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2) D.N.I. (4) Ad. Blake.
D.C. (2) I.P. (2) D.N.A.D.
Hd. of M. D.P.D. D.A.C.D. W.

1094

31.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Movements. Arrival EURYALUS, PAKENHAM, JAVELIN.
(V.A. Malta 1156A/31 to Admty., (C. in C. Med.?),
N.C.X.F.) Sailed P.43. (V.A. Malta,
1413A/31 to Admty., etc.) Departure PAKENHAM
JAVELIN.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1743A/31 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Air R/C. P.R.U. Dec. 31st 0900 Taranto, 2 remaining battle-
ships appear to have steam up. Nets still in
place 1000. Messina 3 cruisers in usual berths.
(V.A. Malta, 1158A/31 to C. in C. Med., etc.)
Visuals Dec. 31st. 1420 Taranto 2 battleships. Net still
in place. 1310 Messina 3 cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 1551A/31.)
1445 Naples, no visual but photographs taken. Further
signals will be made. 1505 Taranto, 2 battleships. 1540
Palermo, 6 destroyers. 1615 Messina, 3 cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 1808A/31.)
My 1808A/31st. One damaged 8-inch cruiser only shown on
photograph of Naples.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2007A/31 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Cositrep No. 641. Air. Ref. Cositrep No.639 para. 5. American B.24s
bombing Sousse harbour on 28th Dec. set fire to two
ships at quay and caused explosion at warehouse.
Another ship in harbour seen to explode. Formation
was intercepted before reaching target by enemy fighters of which
B.24s shot down two.
(C. in C. M.E., 1240B/31.)

WELSHMAN. My 1208/30. If it appears that you will be delayed
by weather you should use your discretion as to
returning to Malta governing factor being that you
should be within 50 miles Bone or Malta by daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1252A/31 to WELSHMAN, (R) N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C.
Bone, S.O. Force Q, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S.)
Sailed WELSHMAN. (V.A. Malta, 1550A/31.)

Glassfurd & Michelier, meeting. Consider that there would be much to be gained if
Adm. Glassfurd could come to Algiers during
Michelier's stay here. Latter due to leave about
4th Jan. but would extend stay a day or two if
Glassfurd can come. Request this be taken up as
a matter of urgency with U.S. Chief of Staff. Gen. Eisenhower is
in full agreement.
(N.C.X.F., 1327A/31 to Admty.)

M.K.S. 5. N.O.I.C. Bone is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.5
at 1800A/4th routed through 96, 18, 36, 99, 92, 14,
74, ?50, 109, 93, 82, 28, 57. Lettered A to N.
Stragglers as convoy route, S. of A. 7 knots. (2) Ocean route,
all following positions are N. and W. unless otherwise indicated.
(O) 036° 30' 010° 00'. (P) 039° 58' 015° 10'. (Q) 049° 20' 014°
25'. (R) 055° 00' 010° 00'. (S) 055° 25' 008° 30'. For
stragglers letter V to Z with instructions to keep 30 miles port.
(3) Escorts. (A) Bone to Algiers ACUTE, ALARM, ALBACORE, LUNENBURG,
WEYBURN, SUMMERSIDE. (B) Algiers to Gibraltar to be signalled
later. (C) Ocean escort BLACK SWAN (S.O.), FOWEY, CAMPION, F.S.
LA MALOUINE, MALLOW, MYOSOTIS,*STONECROP, VIOLET, AUBRETIA,
GERANIUM, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, STORK.

*Repacking, L'pool/(4)

1095

War Diary.31.12.1942
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - con/5.

M.K.S.5 (4) Sections join with local escort as follows.
Contd. (A) Phillippeville position 037° 08' 006° 00' E.
at 0800A 5th. (B) Bougie in 99 at 1330A 5th.
(C) Algiers arrive about 0400A 6th anchor in Bay
and proceed 1000A 6th. (D) Out in 109 at 1500A/7th. (E) Given
positions 036° 56' 006° 33' W. at 0800A 9th or as ordered by V.A.
Gibraltar. (5) Fighter priority 2 Bone to Algiers. Priority
Algiers to Gibraltar. Codeword "Cockatoo." (6) First 2 letters
of wireless call signs W.X. (7) Outcon 325.
(N.C.X.F. 1521A/31 as amended 1428A/1/ to N.O.I.C. Bone (R)
Admty., etc.) Postponed 48 hours. See N.C.X.F 1724/1.

MEONIA \ Following for M.W.T.R. MAST 61. From M.W.T.
GEIR. Your 0900/25. It has been agreed here that
MEONIA and GEIR must be regarded as French prizes
and chartered as French ships.
(D. of S.T., 1549A/31 to Cdre. Algiers.)

Oran Cominch 1645/31 to Admty. See America and West
Indies.

NIEUW Arrived 1005GMT/31/12.
AMSTERDAM. (N.C.S.O. Suez, 1700B/31 to Admty.)

Malta Your 1430/24th Dec. M.W.T. agree to use of ships
Convoys. mentioned in P.S.T.O. Middle East's 1150/21st
Dec. with the exception of Free Norwegian TIPING
which should not be used.
(D.O.D.(F)(approved A.C.N.S.(UT), 1729A/31 to
C. in C. Med. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)

P. 48 Leave patrol at 0301CA/1st and proceed to Algiers
through (A) 037° 52' 011° 12' (B) 038° 20'
010° 52' (C) 038° 20' 008° 00' thence as
ordered by Capt. (S) 8. During night of 1st/2nd you are to
report your E.T.A. at 008° 00' E. to Capt. (S) 8.
(Capt. S.10, 1736A/31, to P.48. (R) Submarines on patrol, N.C.X.F.
Capt. (S) 8.). No answer to this. Presumed lost. (Capt. S.10,
1217A/4/1, q.v.)

Work of T.L. congratulate submarine flotillas working in
S/Ms.1942. Med. on outstanding success of their operations
in 1942 and express to all concerned their
admiration for their tenacity and ingenuity in maintaining their
offensive despite the enemy's heavy attacks and greatly improved
A/S measures. They wish all concerned continued success and all
good luck in the New Year.
(1st S.L., 1741A/31 to S.I., S.8, S.10)

1096

War Diary.31.12.1942
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.42 Happy birthday to you. Following awards have
 P.35 been made D.S.O. Mars, D.S.C. Haddow, etc. Leave
 TURBULENT. patrol tonight passing through 039° 56' 014° 20'
 thence direct G so as to arrive J dawn 3rd and
 make usual R/V at 0801A 4th. P.35 will not be
 relieving you in your Sector. TURBULENT has freedom of action
 in sector vacated by you from 0600A/1st.
 (Capt. S.10., 1830/31 to P.42 (R) S/Ms on patrol, N.C.X.F.,
 Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1.)

Supplies for 8th Army. To maintain supplies to 8th Army in Tripoli propose
 to load OZARDA, CLAN MCINDOE, AMERICAN PACKER and
 JAMES DUNCAN. 1st convoy to be followed by 4
 more vessels 12 days later. Robinson has cabled
 Washington for authority to use latter 2 vessels in 1st convoy.
 Agree Murrant. G.H.Q. Middle East.
 (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1830B/31 to Admty. for D.S.T. (R) Med Staff,
 pass to B.A.D. for British Merchant Service Mission.) Washington
 reply.0007Z/2.

E.A.C. Report. A/383 31 Dec. Opsum number 50 covering period
 1800 hours. 29 Dec. to 1800 hours. 30 Dec.
 (IV) Blida. Day dawn to dusk Patrols by
 Swordfish and Walrus over Algiers Bay. Hudsons
 were out on A/S escort and sweeps. At 0812 hrs. on 27 Dec.
 Hudson sighted fully surfaced U-Boat. U-Boat manned guns and
 put accurate and intense fire as Hudson dived to attack. When
 150 yards from U-Boat the aircraft was hit in the starboard
 engine and wing and cannon shells exploded in cockpit. 4 D/C
 dropped straddling U-Boat within lethal range. U-Boat gunners
 still firing as their craft submerged. Hudson became
 uncontrollable and ditched at 0815 hours all crew being rescued
 later.
 (E.A.C., 1852Z/31, 1910A/31.)

Malta Intelligence Summary. 2000A/30 to 2000A/31. Naval. On 28th Dec. in
 Zuara-Gabes area sunk one 100 ton schooner loaded
 with M.T. petrol from which two prisoners taken.
 Also one 1200 ton N. bound coaster on 29 Dec.
 2. on 29 Dec. one (?) sub on patrol E. coast
 Sardinia reported sinking on 2000 ton merchant vessel.
 3. On 28 Dec. one sub. on patrol North Marittimo sunk one 5000
 ton troop transport S. bound. 4. One cruiser which had been
 escorting a convoy from Malta returned at 1100 hrs. 31 Dec. and
 two destroyers sailed at 1800 to reinforce escort of convoy
 approaching Malta.
 (Govr. Malta, 1910Z/31, to A.F.H.Q., Algiers for Gen. Eisenhower)

Glassfurd Mission. To Agwar for C.C.S. To Usfor for B.C.S.
 Ref. Fan 51 (0349/28) On completion of their
 visit from Admiral Glassfurd and his staff since,
 on joint re-armament committee of A.F.H.Q., it is
 essential to co-ordinate their work with that of the U.S.A. and
 British Naval representatives.
 (Algiers, 2008Z/31 to War and Usfor.)

/Malta ...

1097

31.12.1942
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. AI. 211, 31 Dec. Night 30/31. No enemy air activity locally. Day 31 Dec. To protect Naval Units approaching Malta from S.E. 15 Spitfire sorties have been made. 8 Spitfires and 4 Beaufighters have made offensive sweeps S.E. of Sicily and 7 Spitfires have been airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. In addition ten Spitfire sorties have been made in offensive sweeps against Axis transport aircraft and shipping W. of Malta and 6 Spitfire bombers have attacked Lampedusa Aerodrome.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2022/31.)
Pt. 2. Night 30/31. 2 special Wellington 8's on shipping R/C patrolled the Messina and Taranto areas but made no sightings. 3 special Wellingtons and 3 torpedo carrying Wellingtons despatched to locate and attack enemy shipping W. and N.W. of Sicily found no suitable targets. 3 Beauforts were despatched to attack enemy shipping in Marittimo area at 0125.1 Beaufort attacked 1 large D/R in position 360°. Pantelleria 10 miles course 190° speed 15 knots, scoring near misses with 3 250 lb bombs dropped from 1200'. 0130, 1 Beaufort found 2 D/Rs in position 355° Pantelleria 10 miles course (200 or 210?) degs. (corrupt) speed 12 knots and attacked with four 250 lb bombs from 1000 ft., no results were observed. 1 special Albacore and 2 torpedo carrying Albacores of R.N.A.S. were despatched to locate and attack enemy shipping west of Sicily found at 0100 38 miles south west of Marsala 1 D/R 2 M/V 3,000 course south west speed 10 knots. 1 torpedo impact only depth setting 9 ft. was dropped from 50 ft. range 650 yards scoring hit on stern of 1 M/V followed by brilliant flash and column of smoke and steam. When last seen vessel was down by bows but still moving. Albacore saw yellow glow on water 10 minutes after leaving target. M.S.6063 Pt. 2 Sec.3. 3 enemy night fighters attempted to intercept and followed our aircraft as far as Pantelleria on return, 1 Albacore is missing. At 0115 Wellington on shipping R/C saw large fire on sea in approx. position of Albacore strike. 1 special Albacore and 2 torpedo carrying Albacores of F.A.A. despatched to locate and attack shipping in Marittimo area found at 0135 180° Marittimo 15 miles 2 probable R-boats course 240° speed 40 knots. Special Albacore dropped 2 250 bombs which burst ahead of vessel. 4 torpedo carrying Albacores of F.A.A. despatched to attack enemy shipping off North Tunisian coast made no sightings and landed at Bone to refuel. 14 Wellingtons attacked Sfax Harbour from 1804 - 2028, scoring direct hits on warehouses on phosphates quay where fires were started. Other bombs burst among railway sidings in dock area and close to power house?
(A.H.Q., Malta, 2111Z/31, 2130Z/31).

Algiers Movements.

Algiers arrival BUDE from Westward. Departure ALBACORE, ACUTE, ALARM with DINGLEDALE to Bone. FELIXSTOWE to Oran.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2042A/31 to Admty).

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War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

→ B.A. 36. Sailing telegram.
(2) 0530Z/31st December. (3) E.T.A. R/V with
Karachi portion Bombay S.C.I Buoy 1030Z/31 Dec.
(3A) Crossing 055° E. 1130 due 5th Jan. (3B) E.T.A. Aden
1430 dated 8th Jan. Escorts RANCHI to Aden and BARODA to 067° E.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0546Z/31, 0548Z/31 to Admty.)

Ship on fire. My 1028Z/30th (N.T. in W.R.) Further report
states coal cargo still on fire. Vessel
proceeding Vizagapatam.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 0615Z/31 to Admty.)

BRITTANY. Your 0616Z/31st. Request you will sail BRITTANY
as soon as possible for Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F., 0928Z/31 to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez,
(R) Admty., F.O. E.A. & Z.)
Sailed BRITTANY. Expected Kilindini 1200C Jan. 3rd. Require-
ment 1090 tons fuel oil, 90 tons fresh water.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1431Z/31 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.,
F.O.I.C. East Africa, S.O.(I) Kilindini.)

Berths for Fulmars. My 1345Z/15th Oct. and C. in C. E.F. 1238Z/8
Dec. (? 1338/8 intended). Amended position of
number 8 berth is in a direction 052° 900 feet
from N.E. buoy of number 7 berth which latter
will be laid in accordance with A.M. 1901B/3rd July 1942.
(2) Request pendant length for No. 8 berth be amended accordingly.
Your N.S.O. 014296/42/41168 para. 7 dated 7th Nov. 1942 refers.
(F.O. Ceylon, 1054Z/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

U.S. Dispositions. A.M. 1825/24.
Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces
in Pacific:-
CHENANGO, MONTPELIER, COPAHEE - at sea.
INDIANAPOLIS - Alaskan area. *NAVADO - at San Pedro. CARD - At
Seattle. LONG ISLAND - at San Diego. CHESTER - on passage
United States. NASHVILLE - South Pacific area.
(D.O.D.(F), 1111A/31 to C. in C. E.F.) *NEVADA *at sea*
See p. 1062

Movements. → Departure 0615Z RANCHI, BARODA with B.A.36.
Arrival 1113Z DIPAVATI.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1115/31 to Admty., etc.)

Air Report. Summary 291.
(C) 2 Wellingtons bombed Akyab night 30th/31st,
one making low level machine gun attack.
(A.H.Q. India, 1117Z/31.)

/MARYBOROUGH ...

1099

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

MARYBOROUGH. Colombo 31st Dec. 1030Z H.M.A.S. MARYBOROUGH, arrivals nil.
(S.O.I., Colombo, 1136Z/31 to Admty., etc.)

VALIANT. A.M. 1650/30 Dec. VALIANT will sail from Kilindini for Durban about 8th Jan. escorted by HOTSPUR, BLACKMORE with addition of INCONSTANT from latitude of approx. 20° S.
2. VALIANT is suffering from excessive vibration and should dock if possible before leaving Durban. Endeavour will be made to take her in hand there and she should be ready to sail on the required date.
3. As FOXHOUND has just completed refit it is proposed that she be replaced by INCONSTANT who is due to be taken in hand on 20th Jan. at Simonstown. This will allow one more destroyer to be available for screen of Force A.
4. It is furthermore proposed that HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT and FORTUNE all of whom are due for refit should be taken in hand in U.K.

(C. in C. E.F., 1316Z/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., Etc.)
Reply: Admty. 1618/4th January.

Note from War Registry. Message 1316Z/31st Dec. from C. in C. E.F. (circulated as Most Secret now transpires to be Part One of his 1318Z/31. This message is being circulated as Hush - Most Secret, and you have not therefore been included in circulation of complete signal.

(H.W.R., 2nd January 1943.)

Admty. 1650/30th and my (?1348/31st - ?1316/31 intended).
Before sailing in accordance with A.M. 1659/30th (1650/30 intended) VALIANT is docking for estimated 7 days to scrape and paint bottom and tighten 80 rivets in outer bottom under steering compartment. Consider this should take precedence over ship referred to in Capt. Supt. Durban 1709/28th (N.T. in W.R.)
3. Intend VALIANT to arrive Durban 13th Jan. She must be ready to leave on 23rd Jan.

(C. in C. E.F., 1324Z/31 to C. in C. S.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, etc.)

SECRET

Recd in N.D. 11.1.43

1099^A

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

S E C R E T MESSAGE 1402Z/31 December IN.

From: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Date 1/1/43.

Recd. 0111.

NAVAL CYPHER D BY W/T.

~~Addressed:~~ Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Home Fleet, C. in C. Mediterranean, F.O. Force H., N.C.X.F.

~~330.~~ A.M. 2109 15th. December. (N.T. & W.D.)

AIA
Training.

Para. One. No action experience gained in Eastern Fleet.

Para. Two. Long range tends to produce errors referred to, Pom Poms should nevertheless open fire in short bursts outside possible destructive range to produce deterrent effect.

Instruction must stress importance of liberal allowance being made for T E and increased deflections. Weapons with small magazine using tracer assisted by cyeshooting must withhold fire until effective range is reached.

(B) Concur with N.C.X.F. My experience in Force H indicated that excitement causes poorly trained men to aim at aircraft especially if latter at close range.

(C) and Para No. 3. High speed low speed targets are an urgent requirement. In Eastern Fleet F.R.U. is reduced to 4 Swordfish or Albacores and 1 Fulmar. No dome teacher is yet available. There is need for Instructional Appliance on which practice can be given in tracer assisted by eye shooting. Instructional films do not meet this fully.

(C.C.E.F.) 1402Z/31.6

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1st. Lord. | N.A. 1st S.L. |
| 1st. S.L. (2) | D. of P. (2) |
| D.F.S.L. | Ops. (3) |
| 2nd. S.L. | D.A/S.W. |
| 3rd. S.L. | Air |
| Vice Cont. | O.I.C. (3) |
| C.M.A.S. | D.N.I. (5) |
| V.C.N.S. | D. of P. (Q) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | A.M.W. |
| A.C.N.S. (S) | D.T.S.D. (2) |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | D.G.D. (2) |
| A.C.N.S. (A) | A.C.N.A.S. |
| A.C.N.S. (U.T.) | Ad. Blake |

- M. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- D.A.C.D.

Comment of C in C Home Fleet, 1839A/7/1/43, page 225 Jan.

1100

31.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Search for C. in C. W.A. 1720A/30th. On arrival commence search of area radius 50 miles for survivors or hulls of EMPIRE WAGTAIL and JASPER PARK. On completion intend that you should sweep toward Lagos thence returning to position of SCOTTISH HEATHER where I shall R/V with you at daylight 3rd, subsequently searching the vicinity MELROSE ABBEY, EMPIRE UNION and SOEKABOEMI. Report your fuel situation with reference to these intentions.
(Capt. D.3, 0002Z/31 to WOODSTOCK, (R) FIDELITY, C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., H.Q.C.C., PRESCOTT.)
My 0002Z/31st is also repeated to EMINENT.
(Capt. D.3, 0100Z/31 to WOODSTOCK.)
Your 0002Z/31st. At 1200Z/31st fuel stocks remaining 150 consumption at (corrupt group) is 13 tons per day. PRESCOTT 130 tons consumption 14½ tons. Intend searching western semi-circle. PRESCOTT eastern commencing 1200Z/31st. Position 42.28 N. 26.40 W. Weather report.
(WOODSTOCK, 1000Z/31 to Capt. D.3, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., H.Q.C.C.)

In order to search for survivors and possibly intercept U-Boats who have been operating against O.N.154, suggest MILNE METEOR and corvettes who have fuelled at Ponta Delgada should sweep through the following area before proceeding to their destinations: 43° 30' N. 44° 30' N., 28° 00' W. 29° 00' W.
(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1057A/31 to C. in C. W.A., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. H.F.)

Your 0002/31st. Instead of sweeping to eastward it is requested that corvettes may sweep through area enclosed by 043° 30' N. 028° 00' W. and 044° 30' N. 029° 00' W, before proceeding to northward. It is also desirable that MILNE and METEOR, BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC should pass through this area, the former on their way northward and the latter on their way to Newfoundland. Object the possible interception of submarines who have been operating against O.N.154. Take BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC under orders for this purpose.

(C. in C. W.A., 1221Z/31 to Capt. D.3, (R) WOODSTOCK, Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, BATTLEFORD, F.O.N.F.)

There are D/F indications of a further sinking in approx. 42° N. 28° W.

2. Ships are to search this vicinity on their way to the area given in C. in C. W.A. 1221/31.

(D.O.D.(H), 1505A/31 to D.3, WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F.)

W.D. Note - Report of this search from D.3, see 1158Z/3.

Comply with C. in C. W.A. 1221Z/31st. On route North

*BATTLEFORD and*SHEDIAC comply with Admty. 1505A/31st and keep look out for any sign of FIDELITY, NORSE KING, or SCOTTISH HEATHER. When clear of Ponta Delgada BATTLEFORD communicate expected time of arrival in area to WOODSTOCK who is to give a rendezvous. WOODSTOCK is to communicate substance of C. in C. W.A. 1720A/30th to BATTLEFORD when in company. In absence of further orders if search of C. in C. W.A.'s area is completed before Capt. D.3rd D.F. joins, BATTLEFORD and SHEDIAC are to proceed to destination, WOODSTOCK reporting the fact and complying with remainder of my 0002Z/31st.

(Capt. D.3, 1602Z/31 to WOODSTOCK, BATTLEFORD, (R) PRESCOTT, SHEDIAC, F.O. Gibraltar, Admty., F.O.C. Newfoundland, H.Q.C.C.) * See p. 1087

/Preliminary ...

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - con/31.

- Search for
→ O.N.S. 154
survivors.
(Contd.) Preliminary D/F bearings on 13768 k/cs at 1440Z
and 1511Z indicate U-Boats still in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1736A/31 to Escorts of O.N.154, (R)
Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C., C. in C.
W.A.)
- Movements. ^{b. 106712} My 1655Z/30th (situation report). Delete
THUNDER escorting 4 motor minesweepers. Amend
H.F.25, NIPIGON, French 043° 14' N. 067° 00' W.
355°, 7. Amend H.S.C.115, FENNEL, COWICHAN at 2130/30th 041° 41'
N. 065° 10' W., 052° 6 knots.
(C.O.A.C., 0100Z/31 to Admty.)
My 1655/30th. Delete SAGUENAY and tugs. Delete EYEBRIGHT
did not sail, add EDMUNDSTON vicinity 040° N. 071° 20' W. en
route Halifax 12 knots.
(C.O.A.C., 0210Z/31 to Admty.)
- T.B.1, My 0105/30.
B.T.1. These convoys are planned on an eight day cycle
and would conform to any future modification
in the general convoy system. Time of passage,
T.B. 15 days, B.T. 13 days employing 4 escort
groups.
(B.A.D., 0109Z/31 to Admty.)
- P. 512. ^{P.T. 24.3} Your 1444/28. P.512 delayed due defects, now
unable depart before 8th Jan. Further signal
will be made.
(C.O.A.C., 0121Z/31 to B.A.M.R. Washington, (R)
F.O.S., Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A.)
- O.N.S.154. C.T. 24 1425/30th. Local western escort plus
support force sailed in company to join you.
(A) Support force designated 24.12.1 CHELSEA (S.O.),
MANSFIELD. (B) Local Western Escort designated 24.18.1 ARROW-
HEAD, (S.O.), CHICOUTIMI. They will both join in about 045° W.
on 2nd Jan. Additional ship DIGBY of Western Local Force joins
in about 051° W.
(F.O.N.F., 0216Z/31 to C. Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.11, (R)
Connav, C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., C.T.24, Capt. (D) 3, N.S.H.Q.,
DALLAS, COLE, FAME.)
See also 1656Z/31 etc.
- A.T. 33, My 2147/16th. A.T. 33 delayed exact sailing date
A.T. 34. not yet known. A.T.34 delayed until January 6th.
(Cominch, 0310/31 to C.E.S.F., Cinclant, C.T.24,
Cmdt. 3rd U.S.N.D. New York, Admty., etc.)

/WITCH ...

1102

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

WITCH. When ready after trials about Jan. 6th, C.E.S.F. sail WITCH to St. Johns (N.F.). C. in C. Atlantic Fleet sail onward to U.K. until most convenient trade convoy to break off for Londonderry as required by fuel endurance. N.O.I.C. Londonderry pass to F.O.I.C. Londonderry. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0312/31 to C.E.S.F., C. in C. A.F.(U.S.), (R) C.T.24 etc.)

HILARY. This is Port Director New York's 2154/30th addressed to Alusna for action. Ref. your despatch 1904/30th (Admty. 1540Z/30th). Arrived New York in O.N.153 SS. HILARY 1838Z/30th. (Comnavu, 0947/31 to Admty.)

RED DEER, M.Ls. Am in touch with Q.099, Q.101, Q.103, 16 miles east of Chebucto Head proceeding Halifax. Cannot contact Q.098 and Q.094. Upon arrival at Inner Automatic propose turning back to find them. (RED DEER, 0950Z/31 to C.O.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B.)

~~LE~~ FANTASQUE, ~~LE~~ TERRIBLE. At Dakar. Following understanding reached with regard to repairs. (Radio Washington, 1012/31 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Movements
Summary.

1800 G.M.T. 31st Dec.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
9 L.C.Is.)	29½° N. 52½° W.	092°	10
2 Tugs)			
VICTORIOUS)	36° N. 71° W.	299°	14
3 destroyers)			
BUTTERMERE)	12½° N. 62½° W.	169°	12
WASTWATER)			
Convoy T.M.1)	16° N. 52½° W.	058°	9
HAVELOCK)			
2 Corvettes)	42° N. 53° W.	088°	19
A.T. 32)			
U.S.S.R.)	60° N. 36° W.	055°	10
S/M S.55)			
U.S.S.R.)	55° N. 47½° W.	021°	10
S/M S.54)			
U.S.S.R.)	46° N. 49° W.	077°	8
S/M L.15)			
U.S.S.R.)	45½° N. 53° W.	077°	10
S/MS S.56)			
and S. 51)			

(D.O.D.(F), 1110Z/31 to Opanav, (R) Comnavu.)

Ships working up Bermuda. Your 1647/27. Request immediate information probable number of ships per month which will require working up. (Cdre. i/c. Bermuda, 1211Q/31 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., etc.)

/Dakar ...

MOST SECRET

1102A

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

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

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1012/31st December

Date 31/12/42

From Radio Washington.

Recd. 1642

U.S. (X) by Cable

Addressed Admiralty.

Admiralty pass to British Chiefs of Staff. From
Glassford pass to CQS Buships Board, British Chiefs of
Staff, London.

LE
FANTASQUE
LE
ERRIBLE

Following understanding has been reached with French West Africa naval authorities with respect to destroyers ~~FANTASQUE~~ and ~~TERRIBLE~~ now at Dakar. Ships generally in good condition. ~~LE FANTASQUE~~ will require extensive boiler tube renewal and no spare tubes are available. Details of boiler tubes required will be furnished by ships direct. Both ships require replacement diesel emergency generators 50 kilowatt capacity 120 volt direct current. Ships do not have, and will require following - Searching Radar Echo Ranging equipment depth charge projectors degaussing and replacement present 37 and 13 mm. machine guns with our 40 and 20 mm. guns. Ships contain much inflammable material and are deficient in fire fighting equipment. 5 inch battery is not dual purpose. Stability requires that weight compensation be made for additional armament installed. Believed that adequate compensation can be effected by removal of top side weights including two forward motor launches with cranes and winches also spare torpedoes and their stowage and existing 37 and 13 mm. machine guns also miscellaneous equipage and structure. Other repairs are individual limited in nature. Recommendations follow - first that both ships be assigned availability at United States Navy Board immediately in view lack of echo ranging equipment these ships cannot act as (garbled group) submarine escort as discussed ~~Richelieu~~ despatch. Second that existing deficiencies in equipment as listed above be remedied. Third that question of removing weights for compensation essential military changes be discussed with French High Naval Command and that authority be delegated to Navy Department or French Naval Mission if assigned to authorize alterations and weight removal such as have been accomplished in our

/ destroyers

1102^B

- 2 -

destroyers. In later despatch will present proposals for routeing and escort of all naval ships which are assigned overhaul in United States.

1012/31.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
N.A. 1st S.L.
F.A.F.(3)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
Duty Captain
D.D.I.C.(2)
D. of P.(Q)
Head of M.(4) (to pass)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Admiral Blake

GMM

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Dakar. Ship repair facilities.
(Opnav, 1409Z/31 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.
- Floating Dock Escort. My 1535/30 (re arrangements for conference at New Orleans being made) is being passed to you.
(B.A.D., 1425Z/31 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.A., S.B.N.O.W.A.)
- Commander (D) Argentia. A.M. 1310/29 re title Commander (D) Argentia. Consider proposed change in title advantageous.
(F.O.N.F., 1504Z/31 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)
- U/B Positions. S/M Estimate 31st Dec. and U.S. S/M Notice.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1515/31, 1516/31, 1554/31, 1555/31, 1556/31.)
- Overdue Ships. Your 1158R/30 (re ANGLO INDIAN and LESTELOIDE overdue Trinidad.) Destination of ANGLO INDIAN is Chesapeake vide N.C.S.O. Freetown's 1526Z/17 and 1952Z/17.
(D.T.D., 1515A/31 to S.O.I. Jamaica, (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- TENACITY, EMPIRE WATERHEN. Your 0349/31. Following is a recyphered version of my 1931/25 (received undecypherable) (begins). Admty. for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. from F.O.N.F. H.M.R.T. TENACITY departed St. Johns 1304/25 to assist SS. EMPIRE WATERHEN drifting in 45° N. 41° W. 1931/25. (Ends).
(St. Johns N.F.L.D. C.C.O., 1619Z/31 to Admty.)
See 26/12 - p. 921
- Oran N.O.B. Admty. pass to N.C.X.F. (passing action being taken by W.R.) Following is Cominch 1645/31st N.C.X.F. from Cominch. It appears to me that simplification of effort will be attained if all functions of N.O.B. (? Oran) now manned by U.S.N. personnel are taken over by British and/or French. Admiral Sir Percy Noble has been informed.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1645/31 to Admty.)
- O.N.S. 154. Do you approve detaching UMGENI 14 knots, VILLE DE ROUEN, 10 knots and FANA 9 knots at 2000Z/31st? Opportunity appears to be good. P.C. and S. 043° 43' N. 038° 20' W., 270°, 7 knots. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1656Z/31 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.)
Your 1656Z/31st. Detach ships named after dark Jan. 1st (? providing) no further attacked.
(Connav, 2232/31 to C.T.U. 24.1.11, (R) C.T. 24, Admty., etc.)
W.D. Note:- This was cancelled by Connav 0115/1, q.v.

/U.S. ...

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

1409Z/31st December.

From OPNAV.

Date. 31.12.42.
Recd. 2136.

U. S. (X) by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

*Laker
facilities*

This is a repetition of Admiral Glassford despatch 291525 action OPNAV, Combined Chiefs of Staff, British Chiefs of Staff London, Buships Board Busanda Budocks. Begins. Ship repair facilities Dakar consisting essentially of naval dockyard and two principal civilian repair yards are considered adequate for docking routine voyage repairs of convoys and escorts for underwater battle or collision damage repairs to ships of six hundred feet length or less and for routine overhaul of destroyers and smaller ships if properly scheduled. Facilities are not considered adequate for extensive turbine repairs or for majority of ordnance work including fire control gun control and instrument work. Major existing deficiency is lack of supplies. Existing stocks are being used to prepare ships in harbour for active service. Present indications are that available supplies will be largely exhausted upon completion work on naval and merchant ships now in harbour. It is vital that supplies be delivered immediately in order not to critically curtail dockyard activities. I am sending via air mail lists of and details concerning essential materials which should be shipped as soon as assembled making partial shipments if this will expedite delivery. Some plant expansion is now in progress and some additional facilities may be required later as requirements are more definitely known. Ends. Admiralty pass to British Chiefs of Staff London for Action.

1409Z/31.

/ No trace.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- 3rd S.L.
- D.F.S.L.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- 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. (27) to pass.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Adml. Blake.

MC.

1104

31.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S. Movement. Departure 2100 G.M.T. 31st U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND, Roseau, Dominica 1000 G.M.T/1st P.C.626. (B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1721Q/31 to Admty.)

Russian S/MS. Estimate own and enemy forces your area. Convoy none. Independent U.S.N. and R.N., none. U-Boat none recently located your area. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1807/31 to U.S.S.R. S.54, S.55.)

French Naval Forces. Agreement with Glassford re employment in West Africa. (Opnav, 1921/31.) See South Atlantic.

D/G Defects. Your 2055/28 (Instructions for ships developing D/G defects). Are independent undegaussed ships bound for U.K. ports still to call at Belfast for orders? Your 2009/25/4/40 and 1402/30/6/40 refer. (N.S.H.Q., 1923Z/31 to Admty.)

Shipping Routes. Your 1829A/29 para. B. Request U.S. ships with speeds greater than 14.9 knots be routed via Magellan. (Cominch C. & R., 2053/30 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

U.G.F. 4, U.G.S. 4. My 2055/15th and my 1735/28th, change sailing date of convoy U.G.F.4 to Jan. 8th and of U.G.S.4 to Jan. 9th. Admty. pass to C. in C. A.F., V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca, Comnav, N.C.X.F. Com. 3 pass to Port Director New York. B.A.D. and N.M.C.J.S. Washington have by hand. (Cominch, 2107/31 to Cinclant, C.E.S.F., (R) Admty., etc.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. Sighting 0841Z/30. My 302125 PADEREWSKI torpedoed, shelled, sunk 10.52 N. 60.25 W. 0735Z/30. Surface craft attacks submarines area 43.16 N. 30.20 W. 1735Z/29; 43.06 N. 35.48 W. 2140Z/30. B.18 attacks submarine 10.37 N. 60.27 W. 1005Z/31. Para. B. Sightings 1500Z/24 and 0645Z/29 242001 and 302125 white circle outlined in black and black insignia. Para. C. Shore watchers sighting submarine 10.46 N. 61.41 W. 2240Z/29. (Cominch, 2125/31 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

ANNAPOLIS S.C.115. Mid-ocean escort documents lost overboard. Please provide ANNAPOLIS with instructions. (C. Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.4, 2130Z/31 to C.O.A.C., (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.C., C.T. 24, Connav.)

/U.S. ...

MOST SECRET

1104A

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

2211Z/31 December, IN.
MOST SECRET. MESSAGE.
From J.S.M. Washington. Date: 1.1.43.
CYpher. Recd: 0200Z.

Addressed War Cabinet Offices, London.

IZ. 3.
JSM: 640. 31st December, 1942.

At private discussions with F.M. Dill and Admiral Noble on various matters Harry Hopkins has raised the question of shipping in very similar terms with both. Gist of his views follows in para. 2 and 3.

2. His concern is that as supplies to Russia is one of main planks in our strategical platform more ships must be provided for this purpose. At present about 135 U.S. ships are engaged on aid to Russia and Hopkins believes that this must be increased by some 120 ships or 20 ships per month since Russians believe that Northern ports alone could handle this extra load. Hopkins considers that recent success of P.Q. convoy will not be overlooked by Stalin.

3. CSAB cannot hope to find these ships by getting ones and twos from here and there. Hopkins does not think CSAB is body to decide where deductions should be made from other services to meet this commitment. Rather sooner than later this problem will be put to CCOB and Hopkins hopes that all the shipping cards will be put on the table and broad recommendations made as to allocations to tasks. He is convinced that if this is not done soon there will be some sudden 'must' decision taken which would have disastrous effect on shipping allocations generally. He gave broad hint that such decision would very likely have to be at expense of British imports.

4. This whole question is of course tied up with general strategic policy for 1943 and broad allocation of shipping resources is one of the points that will have to be settled.

5. Copy of this telegram passed to Salter.

2211Z/31.

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

Circulation by Air Ministry:-

D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (UT)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (H)
Secretary.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)

Brigadier Jacob. A.M.C.S.
Foreign Secretary. C.C.O.
First Sea Lord. M. of W.T.
C.6. Tels, W.O.
D. of P. (2) W.D.
Duty Capt. Ad. Blake.
D.D.I.C. (2) D.T.D. (3)
D. of P. (Q)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)

DR.

1105

War Diary.

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and Indies - Contd.

U.S. Movements. Merco Cristobal. 31st Dec. 16 hours U.S.A.T. NANCY MORAN, Key West 5th Jan. (R.O. Cristobal, 2300/31 to Connnav, etc.) Route, etc. (2304/31.)

Fairmiles. This is my 2145/31st. British Fairmiles M.Ls 481 (S.O.P, 479, 482, 486 departed Charleston at 21(?)Z/31st Dec. for Miami. Route M.A.C.R.I. convoy speed 14. Require approx. 10,000 gallons 87 octane Miami. Guarding 2716 k/cs, 3000 k/cs at scene of action. Using cryptographic and S.P.02266 (A.S.). Calls follow: 479, Y 301, 481 Y 302, 482 Y 303, 486 Y 306. (Cdr. 6th U.S. Naval District Charleston, 2302/31 to C.G.S.F., (R) F.O.N.F., etc.)

Glassfurd and Michelier, meeting. C.O.S.(W) 420, 31st Dec. 1942. Following has been received from Admiral Cunningham: (quotes 1327A/31, see Mediterranean). (Air Min., 2345Z/31 to Britman Washington.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Timor. Washops. Timor. Estimated 1500 to 2500 enemy troops with trucks, guns and supplies landed at Laivai Dec. 24th. (J.S.M. Washington, 0159Z/31 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., War Office, Air Ministry.)

Australian Troops for Fremantle. Your 1139Z/28th. West Australian unit to be spread over QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA and ILE DE FRANCE only. NIEUW AMSTERDAM is required to embark South Australia and Victorian unit. (A.C.N.B., 0324Z/31 to P.S.T.O. Middle East, (R) D. of S.T.)

Situation. Digest Serial No. 343. Summary for 30th Dec. Slight progress towards Buna Mission. Allied pressure maintained on Soputa - Sanananda Track and against enemy position N.W. of strip. 2. General situation Portuguese Timor now as follows. Japanese with strong forces well-armed natives along coast also Hova Caminha Turiscai Mindelo Maobissa same Betano Areas. Enemy activity Maobissa - same area 28th forced allied withdrawal towards Alas. Our troops also concentrating Nova Camoja Fainia to meet Jap thrust. Supply and transport difficulties acute. Enemy natives violently hostile, others wavering. Five vessels were at anchor Laivai 30th and one passed on easterly course.

1106

War Diary.31.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. (Contd.)

3. 22 Type 97 ?Mitsubishi bombers dropped 22 1000-pound bombs and carried out strafing attacks on runway and dock area Merauke during afternoon destroying half township. Military casualties nil, no hits dock area.

4. Allied Air Operations. 2 large unidentified vessels Rabaul Harbour hit by one 500 lb. bomb apiece in raid 17 Fortresses early morning. Hits also observed on 8000 ton transport. Near miss in 10,000 ton transport St. George's Channel. Seven enemy aircraft seen over St. George's Channel but no interception. G.M. R/C Liberator strafed runway Wewak, left four trucks burning, also burnt up one bomber and destroyed several unserviceable planes on aerodrome. Saidor appeared abandoned. Another armed R/C completely destroyed three aircraft Lae, probably damaged fourth, also bomber Madang where no activity observed. Three Bostons strafed Duvira Creek Area, no activity apparent. Fortress on R/C strafed small schooner Jacquinot Bay.

5. Photographic R/C Rabaul following early morning attack again showed very strong concentration M/Vs but comparatively weak array of warships. Observations include one 4000 ton M/V with 11 barges on deck, two ships on fire, one of which reached (? beached). New A.A. positions Vunakanau Lakunai dromes. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0920Z/31 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Arrival Brisbane Dec. 29th U.S. Submarine ALBACORE. Dec. 30th, U.S. Submarine GROUPEL, Melbourne, Dec. 30th, F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, Thursday Island, Dec. 29th, CASTLEMAINE, Townsville, Dec. 30th, ARUNTA, Sydney (N.S.W.) Dec. 30th, ENGADINE. (N.B. Melbourne, 1118Z/31 to Admty., etc.) U.S. Transport BANTAM arrived Townsville 30th Dec. U.S. Store ship GOLD STAR departed Fremantle 30th due Campbelltown N.S.W. 2nd January. VSIS, MERKUR departed Townsville 30th for Palm Island. U.S. Transport BOSPHORUS departed Fall River 30th for Oro Bay. R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA departed Fall River 30th due Townsville 1st. (A.C.N.B., 1441Z/31 to Admty., etc.)

Milne Bay. Milne Bay has been established as a defence port. Port War Signal Station and 6" batteries established on north foreland in 010° 28'30" S. 150° 39'30" E. Full recognition procedure employed. Responsible officer N.O.I.C. Milne Bay.

2. War Signal Station is at Kellerton Point, harbour signal station at Giligili.

3. No port wave or ship-shore frequency is at present kept at Milne Bay. N.O.I.C. Milne Bay is in direct communication with N.Os. I.C. at Port Moresby and Townsville.

4. Examination service not yet in operation. (A.C.N.B., 1212Z/31 to all S.Os., etc.)

1107

31.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1429A/31, 1437A/31.)