

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C. W.A. today promulgated details of a new organisation of escort vessels for Mid-Ocean, U.C., O.S., Russian and Special Convoys and supporting groups.

CALEDON and COLOMBO are converting to A.A. cruisers and will not rejoin the Eastern Fleet.

Bad weather is still hindering traffic. The Thames approach channels could not be swept until early afternoon.

Operation
"Regulation".

JAMAICA sailed from Scapa at 1848A for patrol in the blockade area of the north Atlantic (see A.M. 1936A/28/1/43.)

Nothing was heard of L.C.T.326 since she was seen off the Isle of Man at 1000 today, and she was presumed lost with all hands.

Foreign Stations.

Blockade
runners.

Previous experience suggests the probability that sailings of enemy blockade runners from Far East and Biscay ports will be discontinued between about mid-March and September. The Admiralty issue today a list of ships thought likely to sail before mid-March 1943 and the route which is thought to be used.

North Atlantic.

French destroyers LE TERRIBLE and LE FANTASQUE sailed today with Convoy G.U.F.4, to recondition in U.S.A.

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

WELSHMAN
sunk.

At 1845/1 WELSHMAN on passage from Malta to Alexandria reported two torpedo hits, probably from a U-Boat, which put her main engines out of action. The ship sank between 2200/1 and 0040B/2 in 32° 12' N. 24° 52' E. (about 45 miles east of Tobruk). TETCOTT and BELVOIR picked up the C.O. and 5 other officers and 112 ratings and 6 ratings were picked up by small craft, from Tobruk.

Consequent upon the loss of WELSHMAN N.C.X.F. on 2nd February reported that fulfilment of the mining programme will be seriously hampered, and he asked that 'O' class minelaying destroyers might be sent out to operate in the no moon period of February. However, the Admiralty cannot spare these whilst the commitment of the North Russian convoys continues but they offer to exchange 3 'I' class for 3 Fleet destroyers.

M.T.Bs.

M.T.Bs 260, 264, 307 and 313, returning to Malta from attempted operation off Kuriat encountered at about 0200 today and attacked with depth charges an F lighter close to Kurist Island. They probably damaged the light. M.T.B. was hit 6 times, causing considerable damage and some casualties. The remaining M.T.Bs were undamaged and all returned to base.

M.T.Bs. 61, 77 and 82 sailed from Malta at 1644A to carry out a sweep north of Pantellaria tonight, but they found nothing.

Three cruisers have left Messina since 1400/31 January.

Convoy
M.E.16.

Convoy M.E.16, which sailed from Malta on 27th January, arrived at Alexandria today without incident.

Black Sea.

The Soviet estimate that on 1st January, the enemy had up to 80 landing craft and 200 Siebel ferries in the Black Sea.

Air
Activity.

N.C.X.F. reports that the policy of using smoke by convoy escorts during dusk and night attacks by enemy aircraft is proving of value and he is taking steps to augment the smoke making capacity of escorts.

13 Wellingtons attacked shipping and the docks at Trapani last night.

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Air
Activity.
(Contd.)

Four torpedo carrying Wellingtons, despatched to attack a merchant ship escorted by 2 destroyers and 3 M.T.B which had been sighted by Wellingtons on patrol at 1847/31 15 miles south-west of Marittimo, found the convoy at 0045 enveloped in a thick smoke screen; one Wellington released a torpedo which apparently made a hit. Five Beauforts laid mines last night in the entrance to Trapani harbour and Wellingtons bombed the docks and shipping. Seven Halifaxes last night bombed the train ferry terminus at Messina last night but cloud prevented the observation of results. Kittyhawks today bombed and damaged barges and small vessels off Zarzis. 19 B.17s of the 12th U.S.A.F. escorted by fighters attacked Tunis harbour and shipping today and report hits on a large ship tied up at the docks; they report several enemy aircraft destroyed, which attacked them during the bomb-run.

East Indies.

NORMAN and NEPAL returned to the Eastern Fleet from South Atlantic Station today.

The tanker BAHREIN (Bahrein via Bandar Abbas to Melbourne) reported at 2325 G.M.T. that she had opened fire on a suspected submarine in 20.25 N. 80.00 E.

Seven Liberators of the U.S.A.A.F. attacked shipping at Rangoon today without result but started fires in warehouses. Seven Liberators sent to attack targets at Port Blair returned on account of cloud.

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

R.C.N. minesweeper MINAS was damaged in collision with H.M.S. LISCOMB. off Halifax tonight.

C. in C. U.S. Fleet is opposed to U.C./C.U. convoys calling at Trinidad as this would expose large valuable convoys unnecessarily in a dangerous area.

Australia and New Zealand.

Seven Fortresses attacked shipping at Rabaul at dawn today but searchlights and haze prevented the results from being seen.

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CHARLESTOWN
to A.C.O.S.

Admty. 1351/31. CHARLESTOWN will be transferred to your command. Propose she should come under your administration and operational control from date of arrival Scapa. She is now at Newport changing propellers.
(R.A.M., 1212/1 to A.C.O.S.)

BADSWORTH

A.M. 1351/31st para. (B). BADSWORTH.
(C. in C. W.A., 1233A/1).

PATHFINDER,
PENN,
PANTHER.

A.M. 1656/31. On arrival in U.K., PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER will be administered by Commodore Londonderry.
(D.O.D. H., 1243A/1).

OAKLEY
for N.C.X.F.

A.M. 1351A/31. para. 1 (C). OAKLEY detailed and will be sailed to Clyde to comply with para. (A.C.O.S., 1245/1 to Admty).
Your 1313/1. OAKLEY is going foreign and will be relieved by CHARLESTOWN in Orkneys Command.
(D.O.D. H., 2345A/1 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

L.C.V.
Flotillas
for oversea.

Three Flotillas of L.C.V. (36 craft) with crews and maintenance parties but without spare crews are urgently required for combined training overseas.
(2) Request you will select suitable craft and report when they will be available to move to embarkation ports.
(C.C.O., 1935A/1 to S.N.O.C.O.N.)

Employment
of French
S/Ms.

Following personal signals exchanged between F.O.(S) and F.O.I.C. West Africa are forwarded.
1. F.O.I.C. West Africa's 1008Z/28.
2. F.O.(S) 2322A/1.
(F.O.S., 2327A/1 to Admty).

Movements.

O.19.

Your 2031/31. My 1221/24 cancel previous instruction. From position (l) proceed through position (j) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles to R/V trawler HARSTAD in position (H) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0900/2nd for escort to Falmouth.
(F.O.S., 0007A/1 to O.19).

After dark tonight report your P.C.S. and weather.
(F.O.S., 1307A/31 to O.19).

Comsubron 50 1701A/28. When BARB and BLACKFISH have been detached proceed to Falmouth and escort O.19 to Clyde. N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail SHIKARI and O.19 accordingly.
(Capt. S.3., 1419A/1 to SHIKARI).

/Intend...

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

O.19 Intend sailing DROBAK at 0500/2 to R/V 180°
 Contd. Lizard 10 miles at 0900/2 and escort O.19 to
 Falmouth.
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1426A/1).
 F.O.C.(S) 0007A/1st. DROBAK will meet you in
 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0900/2nd.
 (Capt. S.3., 1547A/1 to O.19).
 Situation 2000. O.19, 049° 50' N., 007° 30' W. bound Lizard
 Head 9. DROBAK sails Falmouth 0500/2 bound Lizard Head 6.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1659A/1).

Destroyers My 2159A/31. LAUDERDALE delayed by defect.
 to R/V (C. in C. Plymouth, 0055/1 to TANATSIDE).
 ILLUSTRIOUS. TANATSIDE, ESCAPADE, and MELBREAK are not to be
 sailed until weather moderates.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0831/1 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).
 My 2159A/31. Destroyers unable to sail owing
 to weather.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 0923A/1 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

Instructions in my 2159/31 are cancelled. TANATSIDE
 is to leave Falmouth with ESCAPADE and MELBREAK as soon as ready
 and proceed to pass North of Scilly Isles and thence through
 position (H) 050° 30' N. 012° 25' W, and subsequently as
 ordered by ILLUSTRIOUS.

2. O.19 now routed South of Scilly Isles.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1759A/1 to TANATSIDE).
 C. in C. Plymouth, 1759/1st. Sailed.
 (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1930A/1).

P.56 Clyde arrival P.56 escorted by BRYONY.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/1).

UREDD My 1039/31 as amended by my 1753/31. Sailed.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1010A/1 to A.C.O.S.)

BARB, Sailed BARB and BLACKFISH escorted by SHIKARI
 BLACKFISH. in accordance with Comsubron 50 1701A/28.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1214A/1).

A.F.D.20 My 1827A/30. Sailing of A.F.D.XX postponed 24
 hours.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1301A/1).

NEWFOUNDLAND On completion of preparation for service about
 3rd February hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND should
 proceed direct to North Africa calling at
 Gibraltar for orders.
 (D.S.T., 1405A/1 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth).

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

S/M Positions. Position of submarines at 0800A/2nd and movements for following 24 hours -
 (A) SOKOL 0.15 and SEADOG (P.216) in North Norwegian waters east of 20° E.
 (B) ULTOR (P.53) off And Fiord.
 (C) TACTICIAN (P.314) off Grip Holen.
 (D) TRIDENT 61° 30' N. 00° 26' E. probably on surface for Lerwick
 (E) JUNON off Bredsund.
 (F) DZIK entering Zone K. 104 from westward.
 (G) U.S.S. BARB and BLACKFISH escorted by SHIKARI vicinity Lundy Island due 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles at 1915/7th thence unescorted dived by day as follows -
 (1) BARB through 49° 31' N. 09° 01' W. and 49° 31' W. 12° 26' W.
 (2) BLACKFISH through 48° 10' N., 06° 01' W. and 45° 10' N. 02° 40' W. Both these submarines advance 175 in 24 hours when dived by day.
 (H) O.19 due R/V in 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0900/2nd from westward thence with DROBAK to Falmouth.
 (J) HERRING in N.E. K.55.
 (K) SHAD off Bilbao.
 (F.O.S., 1643A/1).

UREDD My 1039/31. UREDD arrived Lunna Voe 1425A/1st.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1523A/1).

DZIK S.3s 1553/28. Arrived.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1639A/1).

DAFFODIL, PRINCESS IRIS. My 0631/1st. Revert 4 hours notice for steam. Proceed 0830/2nd to R/V DAFFODIL and PRINCESS IRIS at D.1. Buoy at 1130/2nd and then in accordance with C. in C. Portsmouth's 1016/29th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1727/1 to SKATE).

JAMAICA Scapa departure JAMAICA.
 (A.C.O.S., 1848A/1).

L.23 B.A.R.M. Washington's 1552/29. Estimate L.23 will leave Clyde area 14th February arriving Philadelphia about 16 days later.
 (F.O.S., 1927A/1 to Admty).

LADY HOGARTH. STELLA CARINA. On completion of working up A/S Trawlers LADY HOGARTH and STELLA CARINA should be sailed for Milford Haven. They will be required for escort duty to Gibraltar sailing from Milford Haven on 15th February.
 (D.A/S.W., 2112A/1 to Cdre, WESTERN ISLES)

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

ILLUSTRIOUS, My 1303/30 and 1422/30. ILLUSTRIOUS, RENOWN,
RENOWN, FURIOUS and screen are due Clyde Friday 5th.
FURIOUS. (D.O.D. H., 2350A/1 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C.
W.A.)

Operations.

Nore Reference Nore operations memorandum 104 add
Command. para. two.
Inner Z 2. The following inner Z positions are
positions established, coastal forces units may also be
Z.50 to Z.60. ordered to speed between two or more inner
positions. Details.
(C. in C. Nore, 0954A/1).

Operation In accordance with my 1000/20 following patrols
"Valuable". tonight. CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE,
GOATHLAND, WENSLEYDALE, TYNE DALE to patrol to
southward Beachy Head passing E.A.5 outward 1900
inward 0600. Force B at Newhaven, M.G.Bs. 616
(S.O.), 613, 611, M.T.Bs. 243, 242, 85.
(2) KINGSTONE TURQUOISE, FYLLA, Chaser No. 14 at St. Helens.
KINGSTONE TOPAZE at Yarmouth I.O.W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1145/1 and 1805A/1).

S/M Patrol DZIK sailed from Lerwick 1843A/1st unescorted and
off Sogne on surface at C.O.'s discretion till within 60
Fiord. miles of Norwegian Coast, then diving by day.
DZIK. Proceeding through 089° Muckle Flugga 10 miles
061° 20' N. 001° 01' E. and 061° 05' N, 002° 45'
E. to patrol in area K. 104 bounded by latitude
061° 20' and 060° 50', meridian of 002° 45' E,
and Coast of Norway.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1849/1 to S/Ms).

Mining.

Thames Owing to weather the Approach Channels have
Estuary. not been swept.
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 0759A/1).
Cancel my 0759A/1.
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 1425A/1).

Operation Sailed R.A.(M) 1518/26.
D.F.9. (WELLS, 0910/1 to Admty).

Little Sank British mine 057° 31', 006° 45' 30" W.
Minch. (SOUTHERN WAVE, 1702A/1 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.Mine
damage at
Felpham
on 30th
January.

A mine was washed ashore at approx. 0645/30th. and exploded opposite R.N. School of Photography at Strand House, Felphan, Nr. Bognor. Damage details. No casualties. Temporary repairs in hand. Contractor estimates that building will be in use by 1 Feb. 43. N.A.S. R.A.F. Ford's 1201/30 Ends.
(R.A.N.A.S., 1835/1 to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.TIRPITZ,
HIPPER,
KÖLN, .

Report from Berlin states TIRPITZ on Jan. 29th was ready for sea and believed destined to proceed south. Graded B.4.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1703/1 to Admty).

Comment: Two reports both dated 28th January, have previously been received that TIRPITZ was expected to leave Trondheim shortly but destination was not stated. TIRPITZ has been carrying out firing practices in Trondheim Fiord and is considered to be in a fit state to leave if required to do so.

A report graded B.2 states on 1st January (?February) TIRPITZ in Foetten Fjord, HIPPER and KÖLN in Lo Fjord.
(D.D.I.C. 1903A/1 to A.I.G.47, S/MS on Patrol).

GRAF
ZEPPELIN.

German aircraft carrier GRAF ZEPPELIN will probably begin trials in March (B.2). Following dimensions. Details. Aircraft total 50 - 60, composed of Ju.87 dive bombers, and Me. 109s (C.3) Fitted with accelerators. (B.1) Estimated endurance 9,000 at 18 knots, 3,600 at full speed (C.3).
(D.N.I., 1951A/1. A. Message 155A B.1).

U-boatsU-boat
reported.

D/T bearings at 1758Z/1 indicate unit in approx. 44° 30' N. 7° 20' W. May be surface vessel.
(D.D.I.C., 1947A/1 to S/MS on Patrol, H.Q.C.C.)
A.M.1947A/1. Further indications show this to be a U-boat.
(D.D.I.C., 2130A/1).

Navigational.

Baltic Ice.

Ice report February 1st.

A. Gulf Bothnia. Little change since last report. In Oregrund ice breakers have cleared passage through ice.

B. Southern Baltic. No change since last report.

C. Swedish West Coast. Inner Fjords in Stromstad area closed to Shipping.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1517/1 to Admty).

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

BLOODHOUND BLOODHOUND broke adrift from her moorings at Bineleaves during the height of the gale on 31st. She is now lying on the breakwater to the Northward of Torpedo Pier badly holed and partially submerged. Salvage will be attempted as soon as weather moderates. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0005A/1).

M.M.S.141 Your 2130/31st to J.641. Following is a repetition of my 0005/1st. M.M.S. 141 repeated to TRILLIUM. Fire rocket now and at hour intervals. Transmit your call sign 5 W R V and give second dash alternatively on 385 k/cs at 15 minute intervals commencing at 0300Z to Home Corvette which is in vicinity. (C. in C. W.A., 0122A/1 to TRILLIUM).

A Sunderland Aircraft will be carrying out square search for M.M.S.141 from 0930 to 1630A/1st.

(C. in C. W.A., 0156A/1 to TRILLIUM).

Following is a repetition of TRILLIUM 1041/1st begins.

M.M.S.141 in tow proceeding Londonderry. Estimated position at 0800Z/1st 058° 15' N., 011° 15' W. course 141° speed 10 knots. Ends.

(C. in C. W.A., 1334Z/1 to C.T.U. 24.1.3).

BUSTLER's 1530/1. BUSTLER is to tow M.M.S.141 to Clyde. TRILLIUM to proceed Londonderry, parting company as soon as BUSTLER requires no further assistance.

(C. in C. W.A., 2154A/1 to BUSTLER, TRILLIUM).

PUFFIN Cancel my 1050/30 and 1027/31. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0805A/1).

BRIAN SS. BRIAN is anchored $\frac{1}{2}$ mile North of B.7 and is unable to weigh owing to broken capstan. Request assistance may be sent. (QUANTOCK, 1006A/1 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

Your 1006. Tug KENIA now leaving Harwich.

(C. in C. Nore, 1059A/1 to QUANTOCK).

Departure KENIA to assist BRIAN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1122A/1).

QUANTOCK's 1006A/1st. Ship is proceeding towards Southend. (Capt. D.21 1154A/1 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

Shipping & Convoys.

S.P.1. S.P.1. and P.S.1 cancelled.
P.S.1. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0840A/1).

/R.A....

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- R.A.52 Complaints received from Russians because H.M. Ships and Merchant Ships in convoy fire on Russian Aircraft in Barents Sea. Recent case of Hampdens engaged by R.A.52.
- (2) I naturally stressed the folly of flying menacingly near ships and promised gun-fire inevitable against A/C ignoring recognition procedure, but it would strengthen my hand if H.M. ships when practicable report to me to enable British complaint to be lodged first.
- (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0853A/1 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., R.A.D. H.F.)
- BLANKNEY with MIDDLETON proceed passing Switha 1900A/1st to arrive Seidisfjord by a.m./4th routed through positions 062° 20' N., 005° 26' W, 066° 07' N. 012° 10' W, thence via Q.Z.L. 51 and 52.
- (2) LEDBURY proceed Greenock as soon as ready Seidisfjord routed West of mine barrier.
- (3) On arrival Destroyer (complete with fuel?) and act in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 0200/10th January para. 4, amended by 0916/14.
- (4) Admiralty 1726/30 and 1513/31 passed to BLANKNEY for information.
- (R.A.D. H.F., 0956A/1 to BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON, LEDBURY).
SOKOL shift patrol position 240° 9 miles.
(F.O.S., 1007A/1 to S/Ms).
Russian visual air R/C Altenfiord at 0945A/1st shows only one destroyer (?). Other berths previously occupied now empty.
- (2) At 1200A/1st (?5) Dorniers 18 on R/C in Barents Sea.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1245A/1 to H.F.)
A.X.269 January 27th. Request details of local recognition signal for Kola Inlet to cover next 7 days.
(Air Ministry 1736Z/1 to S.B.N.O. Polyarno).
Intend to sail LEDBURY at 2000A today for Scapa, E.T.A. 2100A/2nd.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1834A/1 to R.A.D.)
AC 774 1st Feb. pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia.
Please obtain from local authorities local recognition signals for at least one week in advance. Presume local signals still operative as last year in addition to those mentioned in S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1700/31.
(18 Group 1846A/1 to Admty).
BLANKNEY, VIVACIOUS, MIDDLETON sailed for Seidisfiord.
- E.T.A. 0800A/3.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1940A/1 to A.C.I.C.)
Sailed LEDBURY in accordance with my 1834A/1st. to comply with R.A.D.'s 1809A/1st.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2108A/1 to R.A.D.)
- P.W.D.287 My 1143/31. Postponed 24 hours (owing?) to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0957/1).
- P.W.287 My 1545A/30 and 1043/31. P.W.287 cancelled.
P.W.288 Intend to sail P.W.288 on 2nd February if weather permits.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0957A/1).

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

M.K.S.6 Add to my 0301A/31 less WILLIAM FLOYD.
(N.C.S.O. Swansea, 0959A/1).

W.P.B.288 W.P.B.288 postponed for 24 hours owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1010/1) (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1059A/1).

IRISH ASH. U.K. S.A., reports that IRISH ASH sailed for St. Johns 1130/31 on route given in Admiralty 1552/15 Jan.
(N.A. Dublin, 1145/1 to D.N.I.)

Convoy Escort Groups. Organisation Programme, and Allocations. Following organization is to come into force as ships return from present duties.
(A) Mid Ocean Convoys. Groups B.1. to B.7. inclusive. Ships Names.
(B) U.C. Convoys. Groups 40, 42, 44. Ships Names.
(C) O.S. Convoys. Groups 37, 38, 39. Ships Names.
(D) Russian and Special Convoys. Groups 20, 21, 22, 23, 24. Ships Names.
(E) Supporting Groups Ship.

(1) PELICAN, SENNEN, ROTHER, SPEY, JED, WEAR.
(2) STARLING, CYGNET, WREN, KITE, WHIMBREL, WILD GOOSE, WOODPECKER.
(F) A/S Training Ship. PHILANTE.
(G) Allocated to C. Groups. C.1. ITCHEN. C.2. LAGEN.
(H) Un-Allocated. Ships Names.
(2) Groups are to based as follows.
(C. in C. W.A., 1223A/1).
Escort programme.
(1) Mid Ocean Convoys.
(2) U.C. Convoys.
(3) O.S. convoys.
(4) "Torch" convoys.
(5) (A) MALCOLM, BADSWORTH will sail with K.M.F.9 subsequently joining F.O.C.W.A.F. and N.C.X.F. respectively.
(B) WOLVERINE, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE will leave Milford Haven 15 Feb. with K.X.9. Subsequently WOLVERINE will join F.O.C.W.A.F. and corvettes will join 38th group.
(C) WITCH will join F.O.C.W.A.F. when ready.
(D) VIOLET, AUBRETIA, BALSAM will join their respective groups on return from M.K.S.8.
(E) 14th U.S. Destroyer Division will sail with U.C. One.
(F) Four ships of M/S.F. 16th will sail with K.M.S.10 and remaining four with K.M.S.11.
(G) C.3 will be required for service 11th March.
(6) Cancel my 1209 Jan. 21st.
(C. in C. W.A., 1227A/1).

Your 1815/1st. 1. Following are intended allocations for Groups B.1 - 7, A.3., and C.3 and 4. Details.
2. Return of C.3 and C.4 to Mid Ocean Escort is made possible by adjustment of "Torch" convoys. C.1. and C.2. will continue for the time being on "Torch" convoys. This revised scheme gives same lay-over for training of R.C.N. groups as that originally visualised. 3. For the purpose of training it is intended to continue long lay-over of Mid Ocean groups in U.K. for the present. (C. in C. W.A., 2141Z/1 to B.A.D.)

/H.X...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.

- H.X.223,
R.U.59. My position 1200 B.S.T. 055° 40' N. 006° 40' W. Have taken over escort of 3 Merchant Ships of convoy H.X.223 from SPENCER. E.T.A. Meledgew Island 2200A/1st. (NORTHERN SKY, 1230A/1 to N.O.I.C. Belfast). Arrived NORTHERN SKY from R.U.59. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 1945A/1 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).
- C.W.153,
C.E.151. My 1904/28. and my 1002/31. Convoy C.W.153 postponed further 24 hours and will sail 1415/2. C.E.151 will sail from St. Helens p.m./3rd arriving Southend a.m./4th. (C. in C. Nore, 1246A/1).
- H.X.224 It is believed that AMHERST's stragglers are threatened by U-boats. Unless you have reason to believe that the main Convoy is in danger instruct aircraft to escort these stragglers. (C. in C. W.A., 1250A/1 to HIGHLANDER).
- O.N.S.165 FAME, VISCOUNT are to proceed to Hvalfjord 1600A 3rd and join convoy in about 022° W. (C. in C. W.A., 1302A/1).
- K.M.S.9. A.M.1219/31.
SALVIKING. 1. Para.1. For Gibraltar add Salvage vessel SALVIKING.
2. Destination of SALVIKING is Ceylon.
3. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to sail SALVIKING onward to Freetown as convenient.
4. Endurance of SALVIKING is estimated at not less than 3,000 miles.
(D.O.D. H., 1508A/1 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock).
A.M.1219/31. Para. I. Destination of SS. AGATHA has been altered to Algiers.
(D.O.D. H., 1513A/1)
K.M.S.9. Noon R/V 7th 055° 40' N., 006° 41' W. Noon R/V 8th 055° 25' N. 011° 57' W.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1558A/1 to N.C.S.O. Mersey).
- K.M.F.9. Your 2003/31. MIAOULES will be required to
MIAOULES. leave U.K. with K.M.F.9 on 7th Feb.
2. You should afford her all possible facilities in A/S Training and sail her accordingly.
3. She will proceed to Freetown where further working up in H.A. will be carried out.
(D.O.D. F., 1826A/1 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
My 2246/31. Route as follows:- R/V in 52° N. 06° W. at 0800Z/9, then by Q.Z.L.18 to K. 180° Fastnet 10 miles. L. 50.01 N. 14.55 W. M. 45.15 N. 14.45 W. N. 39.30 N. 13.35 W. O. 36.00 N. 10.00 W.

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

K.M.F.9. 2. Stragglers route.
MIAOULES. A. 50.01 N. 14.55 W. B. 47.10 N. 16.05 W.
Contd. C. 42.20 N. 15.22 W. D. 37.30 N. 12.50 W.
E. 36.00 N. 10.00 W.
3. Speed estimated at 12 knots is to be adjusted to pass through position O at 0900Z/14.
4. Attention is called to Mari Sect. 1 para. 5, sub. para.1. for ships which straggle and return to U.K. (D.O.D. H., 1928A/1).

A/S Your 1400/31. Concur in release of a proportion of these trawlers.
Trawlers 2. A minimum of two trawlers with each convoy for Local is acceptable.
Convoy (C. in C. H.F., 1927A/1 to Admty).
Escorts. Admty. 1400/31. C. in C. H.F. 1927/1.
(1) Under present system 8 trawlers would be required to ensure 2 being available for each convoy.
(2) If long lay-over in Russia could be avoided 6 trawlers should be sufficient.
(3) I should also be glad if means could be found to avoid the long lay-over of corvettes in Russia.
(C. in C. W.A., 2238A/1 to Admty).

D.W.I. Admty. 1930/28 para. 4. It has been found that
Tanker ARCHER can stow 6 torpedoes and has H.P. air
Convoys. system for topping up air vessel. Request 6
ARCHER. aircraft-torpedoes may be supplied to ARCHER and one T.G.M. and necessary torpedo ratings drafted for maintenance duty.
(2) Request consideration be given to send 6 aircraft torpedoes in convoy U.C.1 for embarkation in ATTACKER allocated to C.U.1.
(C. in C. W.A., 2028A/1 to Admty).
A.M.1930/28th Jan. para.1. In view of nature of service request ARCHER may be equipped with six Swordfish and three Martlets and resultant congestion accepted. Request also that as many spares may be embarked as is practicable.
(C. in C. W.A., 2033A/1 to Admty).

M.A.C. Ships. Admty. letter M/T.D/D.E.M.S. 02275/42 dated 27th Jan. 1943 item 5 B.1. It is considered that M.A.C. ships must be available in Clyde not less than 48 hours before they are due to sail in convoy in order to ensure that necessary arrangements can be made to embark aircraft by crane if flying on has not been possible. Request this requirement be stipulated with all authorities concerned.
(C. in C. W.A., 2032A/1 to Admty).

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

THYSVILLE.

THYSVILLE escorted by BABBITT (S.O.) and NAPANEE departed Reykjavik at 1830Z/1st routed as in your 1346Z/29. BABBITT is to be detached on reaching 59° N.

(C.T.U. 24.6., 2045Z/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

Sailed my 1721/29 at 1932. E.T.A. 0300Z/6.

(A.C.I.C., 2122A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Convoy Cycles. Your 2000/30 para 20. This will entail M.K.S. Convoys passing Gibraltar outwards 18 days after the ships enter as K.M.S. Convoys. Thus the ships will only have a ten day turn round at Bone which is insufficient to discharge as reported in my 1744/5th Jan. Further the earlier sailing by 2 days of M.K.S. convoys must be necessarily result in efficient working of other ports as well. For instance K.M.S. convoy will not arrive at Algiers till 3 days after M.K.S. has sailed. The subsequent change in convoy programme as (?is) being considered by N.A.S.B. and A.F.H.Q. (N.C.X.F. 1240A/1 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

French Asdic Requirements. Your 1319/23 para.3A. Details of French requirements for asdic as follows:

A. Destroyers: FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE and MALIN all 110 volts with Sperry Gyro and all similar to TRIOMPHANT already fitted in U.K. TEMPETE and SIMOUN both 110 volts with Sperry Gyro and similar to MISTRAL already fitted in U.K. ALCYON already fitted British 128.

B. Sloops: GRANDIERE and DUMONT DURVILLE both already fitted French 128 and have defects which can probably be made good from station resources.

C. Minesweeping Sloops: ANNAMITE, GAZELLE, COMMANDANT BORY, LA GRACIEUSE, LA BOUDEUSE, COMMANDANT DELAGE all 110 volts with Sperry Gyro. All now fitted French 119. Technical report on LA BOUDEUSE in F.O.C. Gibraltar's 1229/30. All are same class as COMMANDANT DUBOC already fitted in U.K. Recommend installation type 127.

D. Survey Sloop: ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ already fitted type 127.

E. Local escort Trawlers and Yachts considered suitable for A/S escort duties. SERGEANT GOUARNE, Chasseur 3 and SETOISE all adequately fitted types 123A, 119 and 123 respectively, have been modernised at Algiers. ASPIRANT BRUN already fitted 123 and can be modernised from station resources. VICTORIA and Chasseur 2 already fitted French 119 and require conversion to 123A. ALGEROISE, SERVANNAISE, SABAISE, GCELAND and GIRUNDIA SECOND all 110 volts without Gyro and require 123A. AJACCIEUNE, TOULONAISE and BONNOISE all fitted 123 but sets will require renewal after salvage of vessels. Remainder of 21 local escort vessels quoted in N.A.F.105 para. 3 are considered too old or too small to justify fitting.

2. Details of dimensions asked for by C.C.S. 2111/22 are being obtained and will be forwarded to Admiralty if required.

3. Propose equipment for fitting be despatched as follows.
(1) FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE to Boston (2) SIMOUN and TEMPETE to Casablanca. (3) Subject to remarks of F.O.C. W.Af. all remaining new installations to Dakar.

4. On account of acute dock congestion in all ports between Algiers and Casablanca it is very desirable that all possible French fitting in North Africa should be done at Dakar and this would also simplify work of supervisory staff.
(N.C.X.F.1801A/1 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A., B.A.D.)

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders and Blockade Runners.

Intelligence Previous experience suggests probability that sailings of enemy blockade runners from Far East and Biscay ports will be discontinued between about mid-March and September.

2. Majority of following ships therefore thought likely to sail before mid-March 1943. All ships German or Italian except where stated.

(A) From Far East. Tankers. HERBERG (EX Norwegian). UCKERMARK, CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN, MADRONO (ex Norwegian) BRAKE, WINNETOU.

Merchant vessels. SPEYBANK (ex British), PIETRO ORSEOLO, BURGENLAND, KOTA NOPAN (ex Dutch) HAVELLAND, ERMLAND, RIO GRANDE, SILVA PLANA (ex Norwegian) REGENSBURG, URSULA RICKMERS and possibly NANKIN (ex British) and EUGENIE LIVANOS (ex Greek). Some of above ships probably already on passage.

B. From Biscay. Merchant vessels. ORSONO, PORTLAND, NORDVARD (ex Norwegian) HIMALAYA, KULNERLAND.

The following are reported to have been damaged and may not be repaired in time:- TANNENFELS, DRESDEN, ELSA ESSBERGER.

3. Following was approx. route used by a recently intercepted blockade runner. A generally similar route is thought to be used by most inward and outward blockade runners but ships may also proceed via Cape Horn.

A. 07° S. 104° E. B. 28° S. 75° E. C. 45° S. 30° E.
 D. 44° S. 20° E. E. 06° S. 22° W. F. 37° N. 43° W.
 G. 43° N. 38° W. H. 46° N. 22° W. thence zigzagged in an easterly direction for the North coast of Spain.

U-boats joined as escort from position (G). All inward and outward bound enemy vessels probably receive similar escort. (D.D.I.C., 1859A/1 "A" passage 154 A).

North Atlantic.

QUADRANT, My 1508/31st, sailed.
 RELENTLESS. (S.N.O.C.A., 0017/1 to F.O.I.C. Gib. N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty).
 Sailing 0030A/1st Punta del Este. RELENTLESS to join a.m./2nd. Admty 1811A/31 received.
 (QUADRANT, 0035A/1 to QUIBERON (R) WAYLAND, VA. Gibraltar).

LOCH OSKAIG E.T.A. with NORTHERN FOAM, 3 Merchant ships and
 NORTHERN 2 trawlers 1200A/1st. Weather report.
 FOAM. (LOCH OSKAIG, 0800A/1 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Capt. (D) S.O.T.)

/Situation...

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- Situation Area Y. Situation 2001A/1st.
Report. 1. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR, approx. 38.53
25.50 054° 1.
2. ERNE, SCARBOROUGH 1 tanker sails Ponta
Delgada 1030A/2nd through 37.30 25.01 thence
079° 13.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0946A/1).
- Situation at 2002A/1st.
G.U.F.4. T.F.34 035° 09' 008° 51' through 035° 40' 010° 01'
and 036° 01' 015° 01' thence 305° 13½.
(2) VENOMOUS 2 destroyers 5 corvettes 035° 09' 007° 31' to
Gibraltar 12.
(3) U.G.S.4. T.F.38 034° 18' 008° 55' to Casablanca 7½.
(4) U.G.S.4 (0) RHYL 035° 02' 008° 48' through 035° 55' 006°
01' through strait 9.
(5) REGENT 030° 01' 018° 02' 059° on surface 11.
(6) ADRIAS 032° 43' 011° 15' through 029° 10' 017° 20' thence
194° 18. (see amendment 1836A/1).
(7) 3 Fleet units 9 destroyers. (E) 040° 21' 012° 48' through
043° 40' 015° 01' thence 000° 17.
(8) ST. NECTAN (E) 034° 41' 009° 24' 067° 10½.
(9) K.M.S.8 LANDGUARD (E) 040° 56' 014° 14' 146° 4½.
(10) W.S.26 QUIBERON (corrupt group) 029° 30' 016° 38' through
029° 10' 017° 20' thence 194° 12½.
(11) G.S.1. ROCHESTER 029° 03' 014° 59(049° 7½.
(12) 1 tug 2 ferry steamers 042° 03' 016° 01' through 042°
01' 016° 01' thence 159° 6¾. (see amendment 1712A/1).
(13) Spanish training ship GALATEA leaves Ferrol 1st for
Las Palmas.
(14) 3 Portuguese submarines exercising off Sezimbra.
(15) LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON-PENDER 032° 37'
014° 50' 080° 8.
(16) Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO leaves Funchal 2nd for
Lisbon 12.
(17) Spanish training Schooner left Cadiz 1st arrives Teneriffe
6th.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1050A/1).
My 1050A/1st para. 12 amend position and speed to read
043° 15' 016° 01' 5.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1712A/1).
My 1050/1st para. 6. Amend P.C. and S. to read 32.32 10.10
through 29.10 17.20 thence 194° 18.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1836A/1).
Situation 1959A/1st.
2. 9 L.C.I.(L)s 027° 00' 038° 31' 090° 10.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1110A/1 to A.I.G. 65).

REGENT Cable vessel sighted 2 trawlers estimated
position 2000/1st 32° 37' 14° and thence
(? 080°) 8.
(V.A. Gib. 0958A/1 to REGENT).

ADRIAS, Cancel my 1520/31 (circulated under T.O.O.1522/31)
W.S.26. Convoy W.S.26 estimated 2200A/1st position at
Point (P) 029° 10' 017° 20' thence point
(Q) 023° 00' 019° 00' thence course 175° S. of A.
12.5 knots. Sail Casablanca rejoin convoy at

/best...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ADRIAS, best speed proceeding Freetown. Guard Gibraltar
W.S.26. F. C.T.U. 26.7.3 provides escort through
Contd. minefield.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to WAYLAND.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1031Z/1 to ADRIAS, C.T.U.
26.7.3. (R) Admty. etc).

ESSO S.N.O. Casablanca's 1106Z. N.C.S.O. Ponta
GETTYSBURG, Delgada has been requested to sail ESSO
G.U.F.4. GETTYSBURG to R/V you in position (c) 37.40 N.
25.40 W. at 1030/2nd thence pass through the
following positions (d) 37.36 N. 25.29 (e) 37.30
N. 25.01 (f) 38.18 N. 19.10 W. S.O.A. 13 knots.
adjusting speed to R/V convoy in position (f) at 1330/3rd.
(2) Pass route of G.U.F.4 to ESSO GETTYSBURG.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1206A/1 to ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, (R) C.T.F.
34, S.N.O. Casablanca).
G.U.F.4. Ships sailed as in my 1501A/28th Jan. less
HERANGER. Details of S.Ps. held.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1242A/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc).
Your 1355/1st. Following is a repetition of text my
0533/1st (begins):- VENOMOUS and HAYDON have sailed to rejoin
convoy. (Ends).
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1605A/1 to BADDECK (R) Escorts of
Convoy G.U.F.4).

Repatriations My 1300 Jan. 31st. I am now informed French
from Tunisia. Naval Hospital ship SPHINX will be used.
(N.A. Madrid, 1305/1 to Admty etc).

HOLCOMBE, Arrival.
ILEX. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1423A/1 to Admty).

Water Following information received from Admiral
Supplies, Afrique, Casablanca, regarding water supplies.
Africa. Casablanca. Delivery per hour from quay 170 tons.
Delivery per hour from water boat 50 tons.
Total delivery per day from water boat 200 tons.
Supplies from town stocks. Reservoir capacity
30,000 tons. Dakar. Delivery per hour from quay 210. From
water boats 550 tons. Total delivery per day plus water boats
1000 tons. In exceptional cases 2000 tons per day during 2 days.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1636A/1, to Admty. N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af.
S.N.O.C.A.)

SENDEJA Swiss chartered Spanish SENDEJA leaves Genoa
4th for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D. 1707A/1 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.Ex-German
ships,
Seville.

My 1430 Jan. 31st. Remaining ex German ships at Seville, RIA DE ARES and RIA DE EL FERROL to Sail Feb. 3rd.
(Seville, 1736/1 to B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib. Admty. (Dir. of N.I.))

Movements

Arrivals. 0810 PORT ARTHUR ex G.U.F.4.
0823 PUCKERIDGE, CALPE from West. 1140 M.Ls. 280, 238 from Oran. 1352 LOCH OSKAIG, NORTHERN FOAM, with SS. MIRIAM, EMPIRE USK, KINGSLAND, PORTOBELLO, PORTRUSH, from Lisbon. 1406 VANOC, TEST ex G.U.F.4.
Departures. 0025 VANOC, TEST with Gibraltar Section GU.F.4
1935 BIRDLIP escorting EMPIRE USK to Almeria and back.
1925 PUCKERIDGE, HOLCOMBE, ILEX, to Mers el Kebir.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2002/1 to Admty etc).

Movements,
Casablanca.

Warships, ADRIAS departed Casablanca rejoin W.S.26, French destroyers TERRIBLE, FANTASQUE and C.T.F.34 sailed with G.U.F. 4 I.P.C. escort COLORADO.
(S.N.O.C.A., 2130Z/1 to Admty. N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Cominch).

U.G.S.4,
G.U.F.4.

Following reports from aircraft.
At 1800A/1, U.G.S. 4 Oran section 17 ships 7 escorts, Casablanca section 23 ships 4 DDS 2 AMS at point (R).
G.U.F.4 both sections joining up position 34.50
08.08 at 1800A, Casablanca section 9 ships 1 BB 1 CL 9 DDS.
Oran section 20 ships 7 escorts, 2 DDS. Task Force 38 to R/V
Task Force 34 not sighted near R/V position.
(C.S.F. W.D.F., 2321Z/1 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) A.H.Q. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, C.T.U. 26.7.2, Admty, N.C.X.F., Cominch, C.T.F. 34, C.T.F.38).

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- CARNATIC. Departure 31st Jan. H.M. CARNATIC.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0140/1 to Admty etc.)
- D.C.4. Expect to sail D.C.4 0500Z 2nd consisting of 8 ships speed 8 knots. ZYPENBERG, LORETO, INTENT (tug) FORT PEMBINA, CITY OF TOKIO, OLGA E EMBIRICOS, WARFIELD, GRIQUA for Capetown E.T.A. p.m. 6th Feb.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0236Z/1 to Admty etc.)
- EKMA. EKMA in CM. 38 sailed from Durban 1st Feb. and is due Bombay about 13th Feb. See my 1039 26th Jan. Your 0556 30th Jan. refers. Ship will require at least 5 days to turn round. Expect to sail for Suez 18th Feb.
(P.S.T.O.I. 0851Z/1 to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) D.S.T.)
- Shipping Diversions, Bunkers. Your 1943/28. My 1415/26 was made as a result of representations by Ports allocation executive of which M.W.T.R. is a member.
2. Signals are not being received in respect of few cases is any information available here in regard to such vessels now on route for Cape Ports except that contained in route signals. Agreed M.W.T.R.
(C. in C.S.A. 0907Z/1 to Admty.)
- SPHENE. Arrived SPHENE.
(Cdre. Durban 0919Z/1 to Admty etc.)
- U/Bs. U.S. Aircraft reports sighting U.Boats in 002° 10' North 011° 45' West at 1445Z/31st and in 005° 45' North 010° 30' West at 1610Z/31st. Both Submarines steering West before diving.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1019Z/1 to S. and A., W.A. Command.)
- HOGGAR. Your 2230A/31st. HOGGAR left Dakar 21st Jan. to embark U.S. troops at Marshall.
Comar Dakar informed me on 27th Jan. U.S. troops would not be ready to embark for one week.
Comar Dakar then arranged for HOGGAR to proceed Port Bonet to embark Ab(i?)djan battalion for Dakar.
On 31st Jan., U.S. authorities requested arranged programme of embarking U.S. troops at Marshall be adhered to but Comar wished HOGGAR to embark Ab(i?)djan battalion as now arranged.
HOGGAR arrives Port Bonet 2nd Feb.
Recommend adhering to Comar Dakar's programme but if you consider HOGGAR should proceed Marshall to embark U.S. troops, request you will inform Comar Dakar, repetition F.O.C.W.A.F.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1115Z/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty etc.)
Concur (N.C.X.F. 1110A/3)

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - cont.

M.N.B.D.O.2 Request Lambert travelling in MALOJA may be given a copy of following Admty message:-
"Addressed C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.X.F.
On arrival in Middle East, R.M.Group, M.N.B.D.O.2, will come under your operational control.

2. Owing to the exceptional circumstances at the time M.N.B.D.O. No. 1 was broken up into various detachments, it is desired that No. 2 should be kept complete for use operationally.

3. As No. 2 has been largely equipped by War Office and has been re-organised on Army lines, request you will arrange with C. in C. M.E., for the maintenance and supply of the force. War Office agree. 1923A/22 (ends)
(D. of L.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 1133A/1 to F.O.C.W.A.)

BRITISH DESTINY. Your 1302Z/30th. BRITISH DESTINY, sailing orders from Matadi would entirely depend on the U Boat situation at the time of departure. This cannot be gauged so far ahead.
F.O.C.W.A. 1148Z/1 to R.N.O. Lagos, (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty., B.N.L.O. W.A.)

Dispositions. ROCKROSE, LADY ROSEMARY about 032 degs. 50' south 017 degs. 30' east to Capetown 10 knots.
STANDERTON, VEREENIGING, TURFONTEIN with D.C.3. 034 degs. 55' south 020 degs, 37' east to Capetown 8½.

Convoy C.A.8 034 degs. 05' south 026 degs. 20' East to Durban 7.
CHESHIRE 043 degs. 35' south 022 degs. 00' east to Montevideo 13½ knots.

CARTHAGE on patrol in area M 3B.
VALIANT, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with C.F. 11, 023°. 30' south 012 degs. 35' east to Freetown 13.
(C. in C.S.A. 1153C/1 to A.I.G. 125.)

Situation 2001Z 1st.

BRIDGEWATER escorting about 06.02 32.20 082 Degs. 11.
CARNATIC escorting 04.15 13.55 174 degs. 11¾.
French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES about 05.01 25.59 075 degs. 20.
Allied naval unit on patrol Ascension St. Paul's Rock area.
BELLWORT escorting 03.25 06.58 083 degs. 9½.
PICT escorting 03.27 06.57 to Port Bouet 9½.
DRANGEY escorting 03.58 09.45 102 degs. 10.
ST. WINSTAN BARDELL 03.55 07.20 082 degs. 6.
COPINSAY MERCATOR from Lagos to Takoradi 8.
P.614 07.25 South 09.20 East to 10.01 South 06.59 East of Pescadores Is. 167 degs. 8½.

1 M/L escorting from Freetown to Sulima 7½.

(F.O.W.A. 1319/1 to Area P.)

Situation at 1959Z/1st. French Battleship RICHELIEU French Cruiser MONTCALM 4 destroyers 15.45 27.50 301 degrees 12½.
BURDOCK PORTSDOWN escorting 13.15 17.29 to 14.40 17.40 thence 002 degrees one. To Bathurst 7. BREDON escorting off Bathurst to join BURDOCK 9. French S/M Parent Ship Jules Verne French Sloop Minesweeper GAZELLE, H.M.S. PETUNIA 18.35 17.25 to Port Etienne 12½.
DUNKERY patrolling off Port Etienne. LA GRACIEUSE escorting 23.20 16.30 coastwise to South 8.

(F.O.W.A. 1413Z/1 to A.I.G. 149.)

/ Tankers...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Cont.

Tankers.

My 1301Z 29th.
Request information if onward escort can be provided to KANA, MACGREGOR LAIRD and JENNY. (F.O.C.W.A. 1216Z/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. V.A.Gibraltar. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

WAGOGO
WAMERU
GERUSALEMME

R.O. LOBITO believes German ships WAGOGO and WAMERU have been sold to Portuguese Government, (graded by me B.3.)
2. This may have some bearing on possible sale of Italian ship GERUSALEMME referred to in my 1439/23 and my 0904/21. (S.O.I. Capetown 1232C/1. to D.N.I.)

MELISKERK.

Your 0740/30th Jan. not to Durban. Confirmed that MELISKERK is a casualty. Cdre I/C Durban is requested to inform you of details of cargo salvaged. (C. in C.S.A. 1304C/1 to R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, (R) C. in C.E.F. Admty, Cdre I/C Durban.)

U/B damaged
by Catalina.

My 1509/30/1. Catalina G270 surprised U-Boat on the surface in haze visibility 3 miles. At 1355 attack carried out on opposite courses from 30° on bow of U-Boat which took no avoiding action. 6 depth charges with 25 foot setting dropped from 50 to 100 feet with interval 35 feet.
2. Number 4 very near miss Port Side, number 5 struck hull between conning tower and stern, and number 6 near miss starboard side under stern.
3. U-Boat submerged leaving no bubbles and surfaced again immediately when Catalina fired 45 rounds 0.5 inch before U-Boat submerged the second time on even keel almost stopped. No bubbles but oil patch clearly visible 100 feet by 40 feet.
4. At 1412 U-Boat surfaced at steep angle 50 yards from original position having altered course 100° to Port, speed 2 knots. U-Boat remained on surface for 6 minutes during which time none of her crew were seen and Catalina took photographs and fired 100 rounds .5 inch plus 60 rounds 0.3 inch. U-Boat then submerged again on even keel leaving oil trail but no bubbles.
5. At 1404 10 feet of bows of U-Boat appeared at angle 55° 800 yards from original position and remained visible for 7 minutes before disappearing leaving small amount wreckage.
6. No further air contact and search by the only surface vessel available on 31st Jan. proved negative. (F.O.W.A.1407Z/1 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival 1st Feb. Simonstown BLACKMOOR. Capetown RANCHI. (C. in C.S.A. 1448C/1, to Admty. etc.)

/ Arrival...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements
Cont.

Arrival p.m. 1st Feb. CORINTHIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1749/1 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R)
Admty.)

THEODORE
SEDGWICK
("Q" Report
31/1)

Repeat in (code ?) your plain language cancellation
your QQ QQ made 1630 31st Jan.
(C. in C.S.A. 1513/1 to THEODORE SEDGWICK.)

C.M.38.

Sailing telegram. Route, etc.
ARONDA ASCANIUS PULASKI EKMA E.T.A. Bombay a.m.
19th Feb. "Chop" 045° 4th Feb.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1517Z/1 to Admty etc.)

Escort of
A.F.D. 24
Alcantara.

B.A.D. Washington's 1559A/23rd para. 2.
Propose one of following.
1. Eastbound tanker fitted for fuelling at sea to
sail in T.R.Convoys and be detached to overtake
dock about 10 days out.
2. FORTOL or suitable Westbound tanker to be
ready to sail from Freetown with escort in event of
 mishap to ALCANTARA.
4. Para. 3 is much preferred.
(R.A.W.A. 1731Z/1 to B.A.D. Admty. (R) MILFORD, ALCANTARA,
S.B.N.O.W.At.)

BIRMINGHAM
C.M.38,
CATTERICK

Sailed BIRMINGHAM escorting convoy C.M.38 routed as
N.C.S.O Durban 1517/1. A/S escort until 38° E.
CATTERICK.
3. BIRMINGHAM shifts to group NU at 2200/4.
4. C. in C.E.F. is requested to instruct escort
when to shift to group V.
(Com 1/c Durban 1812C/1 to Admty, C. in C.E.F.
C. in C.S.A.)

BENJAMIN
SMITH
(sunk 23/1)

B.N.L.O. Dakar reports BENJAMIN SMITH (U.S.)
torpedoed and sunk on 23 Jan. in approx. 50 miles
off the Ivory Coast. 68 survivors landed at
Sassandra.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1831Z/1 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I)
Jamaica Connav.)

Movements,
Takoradi.

Arrivals 1st Feb. ORFSAY DUNCTON.
Departure M.L.263 escorting S.S.DAVID STONE till
1900Z/1 then returning.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1835Z/1 to Admty etc.)

/ BRIDGEWATER...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Cont.

BRIDGEWATER. Your 1131Z 27th Jan. Not met. Maximum visibility 10 miles.
My P.C. and S. at 2030Z/1st 005 degs. 53' North 035 degs. 04' West 092 degs. 10.5 Fuel endurance permits BRIDGEWATER remain at sea until Monday 8th Feb.
(BRIDGEWATER 2031Z/1 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Connav.)

JULES VERNE, Sailed FR. S/M Parent ship JULES VERNE escorted by Fr. M/S GAZELLE and PETUNIA for Port Etienne.
Coastal route speed 12½ knots E.T.A. 0800/3rd.
(Comar Dakar, 2239Z/1 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

W.S 26. Request your W.S. 26.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2239Z/1 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Employment of French S/Ms. Your 1008Z/28. Do not think what you suggest would do, so am referring matter to Admiralty as it is rather a question of high policy. I will keep in touch with it.
(F.O.S. 2322A/1 to F.O.I.C. West Africa.)
W.R. Note F.O.(S). 2327/1 refers.

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Reports. One medium vessel two destroyers 37° 48' N. 11° 57' E., course 080°, speed 8.
(A/C CYS/U, 0020Z/1.)
P.C. and S. of 7 E-Boats 35.46 N. 11.05 E., 200°, 6 knots, also 2 E-Boats 35.50 N. 10.40 E., 270°, 5 knots.
(A/C FDH/A, 0840A/1 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

TETCOTT. F.O. 15th C.S's 1629B/30 (N.T. in W.D.) Parted company with "Curly" at 0400B/1 in position 031° 59' 017° 12'. Proceeding with BELVOIR through "Rain" 1230/1st, "Hail" 1800/1st, "Home" 1300/2nd, S. of A. 20 knots. Request arrangements with reference to re-provisioning of both ships on arrival.
(TETCOTT, 0429B/1 to R.A. Alexandria.)

CESSNOCK. Arrival.
(Cdre. Aden, 0541^Z/1 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Port Said. 31st Jan. Port Said arrivals PANTHER (Greek), DELPHINIUM, CUMBRAE, KLO. Departures PANTHER (Greek), SKUDD V.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0827B/1 to Admty., etc.)

M.T.Bs. Cancel my 1737/31st (re M.T.B. operating from 31st until 0100/4.)
(Capt. (S) 10, 1035/1 to Subs. on Patrol.)

Destroyers. A.M. 1654/31. Request these six destroyers be sailed for Gibraltar as early as possible.
2. A.M. 1702/31 and 0243/1 (presumably C. in C. W.A's 0243/1 intended re despatch of documents in an escort of K.M.F.9.) request documents may be sent out in one of these destroyers.
(N.C.X.F., 1129A/1 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Greenock, Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
W.R. Note: Plymouth destroyers unable to R/V as arranged to relieve Gibraltar destroyer escort.

Hospital Ships. 309228. MOV.I/03848 cipher 1st February.
Your 95878 (Q.(M).2a) 21st Jan. (not circulated to Admty.)
Personal Hewer to Gen. Holmes.

1. Experience in Eastern Med. during past two years has shown necessity for small hospital ships similar to RAMB IV.
2. Apart from conditions at Benghazi and Tripoli if future operations are envisaged consider two such vessels essential.
3. Large vessels have delayed embarkation of casualties and port working.
4. If two such vessels provided am prepared to take one large hospital ship out of Mediterranean.
5. Agreed Navy, Army and Medical authorities.
(C. in C. M.E., T.O.O./1150B/1 to W.O., (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)

/Air ...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air R/C P.R.U. Feb. 1st. 1040 Messina visuals.
3 cruisers left. Photographs taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1158A/1 to C. in C. Med., etc.,
1214A/1 to Cdre. Algiers etc.)

P.R.U. 1st Feb. 1600 Messina, visuals only. 3 cruisers have
left. Departure at 1040/1 confirmed by photographs. 1515
Taranto, visuals. 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, photographs
taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1655A/1 to C. in C. Med., etc., 1730A/1 to
Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

P.R.U. 1st Feb. Visuals. 1530 Naples, 1 cruiser arrived.
1615 Palermo, 14 destroyers, photographs taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1755A/1 to C. in C. Med., etc., 1800A/1 to
Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

P.R.U. 1st Feb. Photograph interpretation. 1515 Taranto
1 E-class cruiser, 1 D-class cruiser, 2 Cavours. Second E-
class cruiser departed Messina since 1040/1st, anchored cruiser
reported at Naples 1530/1st but photographs did not develop.
(V.A. Malta, 2209A/1 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Bi-Weekly A.685.
Opsum No. (1052Z/1st Feb.) 31st Jan., 2 or 3 formations
96 Part 2. totalling 18 B.27s despatched to attack railway
ferry terminus installations Messina. 2 aircraft
returned early. First formation 7 B.24s bombing
in early afternoon scored several hits and near
misses on terminus, hits on northern quay and railway sidings.
Second formation 9 B.24s bombing at dusk was intercepted by 5
Me.109s of which B.24s probably destroyed 3. 4 aircraft landed
Malta. 1 forced landed in sea near Malta about 5 of crew being
subsequently seen in dinghy. Reports these aircraft not
available. Remaining 4 B.24s scored 3 hits several near misses
on terminus. Early morning R/C by 4 Kittyhawks reported 2
vessels each 500 tons anchored near Pisida. 12 Kittyhawk
bombers escorted by 12 Kittyhawks subsequently despatched saw
no shipping off coast between Pisida and Gulf of Gabes and
returned. Further 12 Kittyhawks with escort 12 Kittyhawks
later found 4 two-masted schooners near jetty south of Zarzis and
scored 2 near misses with 500 lb. bombs also machine-gunned all
vessels scoring many hits.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1218Z/1.)

Section 2 of A.685, 1052Z/1st Feb.

2 Marauders on R/C for enemy shipping in Aegean Sea attacked on
8000 ton ship escorted by 2 destroyers near Melos Island with
2 torpedoes. Results unobserved but ship later seen apparently
undamaged.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1238Z/1.)

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs 260, 307, 313, 264 returned from
operations.

P. 44. Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 1504A/1 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

1.2.1943.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs. 3 M.T.Bs leaving Malta at 1700/1st to operate North of Pantellaria during night.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1545A/1 to C. in C. Med., 201 Group, H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., Advance 247 Wing, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)
Sailed M.T.Bs 61, 77, 82 on operation.
(V.A. Malta, 1644A/1 to Admty., etc.)

Personnel in C. in C. E.F. 0747/31st Jan. and A.M. 0336/28th Unescorted Ships. Jan. para. 5. Naval personnel in excess of 250 are not to be sailed in unescorted ships.
(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1629A/1 to C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O.M.E., (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.S.F.)

M.K.S.7. Tact. M.K.S.7. My 1606/29th add French ships: EL BRIAR, 10 U.K. JANINE, 8, Gibraltar for G.C. Convoy. CAP PINEDE, 7½, Gibraltar for G.C. Convoy. U.S.A. Ships: FRED LYKKES, 16½. Gibraltar. EXAMINER, 16, Gibraltar. SANTA MARIA, 15, Gibraltar. Request permission to sail CAP PINEDE.
(F.O. Oran, 1716/1 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. Algiers, Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Black Sea. (1) No fleet activity to report. Tuapse (? Bay most likely) used by fleet.
(2) Air. (a) Attacks being made on enemy occupied points, particular attention being paid to Kerch, Anapa, Taman. Torpedo A/C attacked 3000 tons M/V near Pierpatorik which broke in two and sank. (b) 12 enemy aircraft carried out ineffective raid on Geltonkingjik. 4 Ju.88s brought down.
(3) Land. (4) Although Kerch, Taman, Temryk, are frozen it is unlikely that the Straits will freeze as it is a comparatively mild winter. Assume enemy intends making a stand from Anapa to Temryk and holding Teman peninsula.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1717C/1 to Admty., etc.)

Smoke by Policy of using smoke by convoy escorts during convoy dusk and night attacks by enemy aircraft as escorts. described in my 1046/13 is proving of value.
(2) To augment smoke-making capacity of escorts it is desired to fix C.S.A. smoke apparatus in certain escort vessels.
(3) Request following gear be despatched to Algiers at the first opportunity. (A) Twelve sets C.S.A. smoke apparatus M.T.B. type 'B'. (B) Six sets filling gear. (C) 48 feet discharge piping. (D) 12 Union joists and nets. (E) 12 copies of C.B. 3076.
(N.C.X.F., 1820A/1 to Admty., (R) Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (F).)

/M.K.F. 8. ...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.F.8. Tact. M.K.F.8. Intend sailing STRATHNAVER, 18 knots. 153 feet. (F.O. Oran, 1745A/1 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., Cdre. Algiers, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Black Sea. Soviet estimate on Jan. 1st enemy had up to 80 landing craft and 200 Siebel ferries in Black Sea. 2 detailed locations by bag. (Adm. Miles, 1751C/1 to Admty.)

TURBULENT, P. 211, intelligence. Three cruisers have left Messina since 1400 31st Jan. (Capt. S.8, 1754A/1 to TURBULENT, P.211.)

CAIRO CITY. CAIRO CITY ex Aden about 9th Feb. after disembarkation Fighting French battalion Tamatave, should be sailed to Kilindini to embark A.A.P.C. personnel for Suez. Agree G.H.Q.M.E., S.T.O. Tamatave pass to Movements. Kilindini pass to E.A. Command. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 1810/1 to S.T.O. Tamatave.)

Situation Report 55. ABDIEL sailed Philippeville p.m./31st Jan. but was unable to lay mines owing to being shadowed by aircraft and contact with E-Boats. Will try again tonight.
2. Bone. Minelaying by E-Boats night 29th/30th and 30th/31st. On second occasion eight were engaged in gun action by four M.T.Bs. Mines were jettisoned. Chase lasted for 15 miles. No damage to M.T.Bs.
3. T.E.14. BICESTER now reported one aircraft crashed during air attack after close range fire from ZANZIBAR and NASTURTIUM, four German airmen picked up by INCHCOLM off Cape Sigli.
4. Bougie. POZARICA now in harbour and grounded. Leaks under control. Major stern damage. Main machinery intact. Salvage in hand. AVONVALE fore end completely destroyed before bridge. (? Fore) magazine exploded. Aft about 52 (? feet) undamaged. Capable of being steamed stern first. Temporary bow will be required for passage to U.K.
5. S.M.F.S. arrived Algiers 1400/1st without incident. EMPIRE PRIDE and ferry service sailing tonight Monday for Bone. (N.C.X.F., 1850A/1 to Admty.)

MACTRA. On completion of discharge sail oiler MACTRA to Haifa to load full cargo furnace oil thence Port Said to discharge and complete D.E.M.S. work. (C. in C. Med., 1904B/1 to N.O.I.C. Port Said, (R) S.N.O.L.A., etc.)

Malta Intelligence Summary. 2000A/31 to 2000A/1. Naval. M.T.Bs last night damaged 1 F-Boat. 1 M.T.B. was slightly damaged and another more seriously. All four returned safely today.

/Air. ...

1.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Intelligence Summary. (Contd.) Air. (iii) Strikes. Night 31st Jan./1st Feb. 0045 hours Wellington aimed one torpedo at C/V 1 medium M/V, 2 D/Rs, 3 M.T.Bs sighted 1847 hours 15 miles S.W. of Marittimo, course 080°, 8 knots. Smoke screen prevented accurate observation of results, but orange flash and mushroom of smoke seen. 5 Beauforts laid mines at entrance to Trapani harbour. (Govr. Malta, 1910Z/1 to A.F.H.Q. Algiers.)

P. 43. Do not go south of a line 070° from Zarzis (034° 30' N. 011° 07' E.) (Capt. S.10, 1947A/1 to P.43, (R) S/Ms on Patrol)

Movements, Bone. Bone arrivals AURORA, SIRIUS, LIGHTNING, LOYAL (2245A/31st), ROTHESAY, BUDE, CLACTON, FELIXSTOWE, ABDIEL. Departure ROTHESAY, BUDE, CLACTON, FELIXSTOWE, NASTURTIUM, PENTSTEMON. (S.O.I.S. Bone, 1954A/1 to Admty., etc.)

Attacks on U/Bs. Ref. A.M. 1916/9th July 1942, para. 9.

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)
410	0925/12th Dec. 1942	PRIMULA	032° 39' 034° 50'.	(I)	Blank
411	1545/9th Nov. 1942	P. 247	038° 34' 012° 09'.	(A)	Italian
412	1326/14th Jan. 1943	PAKENHAM, HURSLEY & BEAUFORT	034° 08' 016° 04'.	(A)	NARVALO
413	2330/19th Jan. 1943	M.T.Bs.	Off Tripoli.	(A)	^{Sunk.} Probably SANTA ROSA.

(C. in C. Med., 2001B/1 to Admty.)

E.A.C. Opsum No. 82. 1800 hours Jan. 30th to 1800 hours Jan. 31st. A. Operations night 30th/31st. Blida - 6 Wellingtons of 150 Sqdn. and 4 of 142 Sqdn. bombed docks at Bizerta. Weather over target and on route was excellent with good moon and no low cloud. The 4000 lb. bomb was seen to burst in North-east part of town. Most others reported as having fallen alongside docks near goods station or in south-west part of the town. A large number of bursts were seen but no fires. F. 12th U.S. Air Forces. 26 escorted B.17 attacked shipping and North Quay at Bizerta Harbour. Numerous hits observed in Eastern portion of town along the channel. P.38 escort reported that a large vessel was seen to sink just outside the inner harbour as the result of bombing. (E.A.C. Africa, 2003A/1.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Algiers arrivals EGRET, BANFF, FISHGUARD, ENCHANTRESS, D.19 in LAFOREY, LOOKOUT with K.M.F.8. BICESTER, SHETLAND from Bone. FOULA. F.S. ENGAGEANTE escorting two French M/Vs from Oran. Departures MISOA, POLRUAN, VILLE DE QUEBEC to West. Dutch Submarine DOLFIJN. French Submarine CASABLANCA to patrol. (Cdre. Algiers, 2009A/1 to Admty.)

Axis Shipping. Arrivals 1st SEBASTIAN, Marseilles in ballast, BARTOLO, Segunto with 3800 tons of iron ore for Caronte to load oranges here. Departure 30th ENRIQUE ILLUECA, Sete in ballast. Burriana arrival 28th, departure 29th, German formerly French ROMAIN from Marseilles in ballast for Marseilles with oranges. Gandia arrival 29th REUS, Sete in ballast. (Valencia, T.H.I. 2100/1 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.573, 1st Feb. Offensive, night 31st Jan./1st Feb. 3 special equipment Wellingtons on shipping R/C patrolled in Cape Bon - Marittimo Area. L Wellington sighted 1847 15 miles S.W. of Marittimo 1 medium M/V, 2 D/Rs, 3 M.T.Bs., course 080°, speed 8 knots. 4 torpedo carrying Wellingtons were despatched to attack and at 0045 found convoy enveloped in thick smoke screen. 1 Wellington released torpedo and on orange flash was observed in centre of smoke screen followed by large mushroom of smoke. 1 Special and 3 strike Albacores sent to search for and attack enemy shipping in the Sousse Area found no suitable target. 5 Beauforts laid mines in entrance to Trapani Harbour to cover our offensive operations. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2157Z/1.)

Movements, Benghazi. Following arrived: Z.2, L.C.T.9, L.C.T.18, Tug ST. MONANCE, M.Ls 354, 349, 359, 1159, AMBER, ZINGARELLA. Departure GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN ISLE, WOLBOROUGH, SOUTHERN SEA, LANGLAAGTE, Arrived and left M.T.B. 309. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2351B/1 to Admty.)

War Diary.1.2.1943,
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

KOSCIUSZKO,
EL MADINA
SMOKE. My report of 0905/26th and A.M. 1835/29th.
Request you will obtain details and report direct to
Admty.
(C. in C.E.F. 0834Z/1 to P.S.T.O. Bombay (R) Admty.)

Anti-
Sabotage
Guards. Arrangements for anti-sabotage guards at R.N.A.S.
Ceylon and India.(Details)
(Com. N.A.S. Ceylon 0857Z/1 to Admty. (R)
R.A.N.A.S.I.O. Capt. Supt. Ceylon. F.O.Ceylon.)

WANDERER. Sailed WANDERER 0900Z/1 E.TA.posn. 029° 26' 22" 031°
50' 10" A.M. 8th.
(N.O.I.C.Tamatave 0945Z/1 to Admty, C. in C.E.F., C.
in C. S.A., (R) N.C.S.O.Diego Suarez.S.O.I. Colombo,
B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Durban.)

VITA. Intended programme for Hospital Ship VITA. (Details.)
Leaves Mombassa 8th.
Arrives Bombay 27th, to refit.
2. Coal will be required at Durban and Mauritius.
(C. in C.E.F. 0949Z/1 Durban C.S.Durban N.O.I.C.
Diego Garcia F.O.Ceylon F.O.E.Africa and Zanzibar
N.O.I.C.Mauritius N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll Commodore
R.I.N. Admty.)

O.21. Arrived Dutch S/M O.21.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Saurez 1001Z/1 to C. in C.E.F.
(R) Admty.)

India Air
Report. Daily Intelligence summary No. 323.
A. Jan. 31st. 6 plus Hurricanes attacked small
craft Kalachaung. Night Jan. 31st. 9 Wellingtons
attacked Akyab town and villages Fakir Point.
C. Jan. 30th. 9 Hurricanes ?damaged ?small
?steamvessel Akyab Jetty. 1 Wellington search
for reported submarine off Cape Calimere - N.E.M.S.
(Air H.Q.India 1102Z/1 to Air Min.)

Movements. Arrival Jan. 31st NORMAN, NEPAL, RANPURA.
(F.O.E.Africa 1201Z/1 to Admty.)

M/Vs and
Warships
Identifi-
cation. Reports are received both from warships and merchant
ships identification procedure is not being properly
carried out.
2. Investigation shows that warships are not always
free from blame and a complaint has occurred where
officer of watch of a warship was in ignorance of the
procedure, used wrong challenge, and very nearly
drew offensive fire from M/V as a result. A quick offensive spirit
is encouraged on the part of merchant ships and it is therefore
essential that warships give no cause for unfortunate incidents.

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M/Vs and
Warships
Identifi-
cation
Cont.

3. Failure on the part of merchant ships are often due to inefficient signalling apparatus but are also due in many instances to ignorance or slackness of watch in master's absence. The Enemy when simulating the character of a merchant ship take advantage of such deficiencies and a warship must therefore always be suspicious of any vessel which fails to act promptly and

correctly, increase her vigilance, and unless there are strong reasons to the contrary make a checkmate signal.

4. A round fired from the challenge ship (vide E.F.W.O.12 Para. (9)) will often bring the master to the aid of an ignorant officer of the watch as well as stimulate alertness generally.

In use this means of strengthening the challenge it must be realized that merchant ships, unless convinced of the warship's friendly character, should make a Q.Q.Q.Q. message. Attention is called to the action required by friendly warships if they are the cause of the message being signalled (E.F.W.O.12 Para. No. (1)).

5. C/Os are to ensure their officers fully understand;

(A) The proper precautions in force,

(B) The merchant ship's point of view, in particular the caution merchant ships must exercise to avoid giving away identifications to an enemy and their duty in immediately reporting to the shore any suspicious vessels seen.

6. Pass to N.C.S.Os for information.

(C. in C.E.F. 1246Z/1 to E.I.Stn.)

Dockyard
Priority.

Para. 4 C. in C.S.A. 1355/28 Jan. (M.T. in W.D.)
Consider dockyard priority Diego Suarez before Mauritius so former can take cruisers and merchant ships.

2. 8 inch cruisers can fuel from shore at Port Louis with existing arrangements. However recommend extension of flexible fuelling line to improve berthing for fuelling. Priority low.

(C. in C.E.F. 1339Z/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A. F.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar. Capt Super. Simonstown. Capt Super. Durban. Cmdre. Durban. N.O.I.C. Mauritius.

SUSSEX,
KENYA.

A.M. 0043/9th Dec. para. 5.

SUSSEX and KENYA will leave U.K. during latter half of February. A.M.1936/28th Jan. refers. (See Home Commands).

2. SUFFOLK completes refit on 31st March and NEWCASTLE 6th March.

3. CALEDON and COLOMBO are converting to A.A. Cruisers and will not rejoin the Eastern Fleet. (D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1627A/1 to C. in C.E.F.)

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Jan.31 arrivals Nil. Departures WITCH, LOBELIA to S.C. 118. BRANDON, STRATFORD to J.H.34.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 0003Z/1 to Admty.)
Departure 31st Jan. U.S.A. Transport PEGOS to sea. (Aruba, 0909Q.R./1 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
Bermuda departures U.S.S. BERNADOU and DALLAS. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 1902Q/1 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.I.Jamaica.)
Departure 30th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI, U.S. Destroyer JOUETT.
(R.O. Recife, 1940Z/1 to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro S.O.(I) Freetown.)
31st departures H.M.C.S. MONCTON, NANAIMO, LACHINE escorting HON 160, H.M.C.S. BROCKVILLE to Louisburg.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/1 to Admty.)
Following is Port Director San Juan's 1345/1 "Arrived base J. 31st M.T.B. 333, 343, 339, 341."
(Cominch, 1553/1 to Admty.)

FRISKY My 1535/31 and 2103Z/31 (N.T. in W.D. FRISKY sailed 0230Z/1.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 0254Z/1 to Admty.)

W.L.E.F. Personal from First Sea Lord. Your 1646/22. For the time being we agree to cancel para. 4(a) of A.M. 1745/21 but it is requested that paras. 4(b) and (c) may be implemented.
(Sec. 1st S.L. 0255A/1 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

FAIRWATER. Your 2121/31. Unless other orders are received from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa FAIRWATER should be towed to U.K. If MAYFLOWER is unable to provide escort tow should proceed unescorted until C. in C. W.A. is able to provide.
(D.O.D.(H), 0325A/1 to F.O. N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. W.A.)

TENACITY 1800/31. Cancel A.M. 0325/1. FAIRWATER should be towed to Ponta Delgada Azores passing South and West of 44° N. 32° W.

(D.T.D. 1244A/1 to F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

F.O.N.F. 2121/31. Suggest H.M. Trawler DOCHET and PORCHER now at St. John's N.F. be sailed as escort to U.K. for TENACITY and FAIRWATER. F.O. N.F. reports:-

(a) how soon these ships can be ready to sail.

(b) best speed at which they can safely make trans-Atlantic crossing. (c) Economical speed and endurance at this speed.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1403 G.M.T./1 to B.A.M.S.lA. Admty. (R) F.O.N.F., TENACITY, MAYFLOWER, C. in C.W.A.)

Escort TENACITY and FAIRWATER toward Azores to Prudent limit of endurance then proceed to fuel at Ponta Delgada. Return St. Johns, N.F. direct on completion of fuelling at best prudence speed.

(F.O.C.N.F., 1430Z/1 to MAYFLOWER (R) C.T.F.24. TENACITY, Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. C. in C. W.A. Admty. V.A.Gibraltar.)

/FAIRWATER...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

FAIRWATER Contd. FAIRWATER. My 1244/1. Due to changed U-Boat appreciation, every endeavour should be made to tow ship to St. John's. (D.T.D., 1617A/1 F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C.W.A.)
Cancel my 1430/1st. Every endeavour is to be made to tow ship to St. Johns N.F. (F.O.N.F., 1825Z/1 to MAYFLOWER, TENACITY (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C., C.T.F.24, C. in C.W.A., Admty., V.A.Gibraltar)
Your 1403/1. Presume this is cancelled by Admiralty's 1617A/1. Information required in your signal (A) February 4th (B) 10 knots (C) 12 days. In view of Admiralty's 1617A/1 is any action required.
F.O.N.F. 1932Z/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa., (R) MAYFLOWER, TENACITY.)
Your 1616/1 acknowledged. Connected tow at 1740. Position at 2130 045° 00' N. 035° 30' W. course and speed 273° 2 knots. Wind N.W. force 6 sea 5. (TENACITY, 2200/1 to F.O.N.F. MAYFLOWER.)

U/S (Cominch, 0455/1, 1527/1, 1528/1, 1546/1, 1547/1, S/M 1548/1 to Admty.)
Notices
S/M Estimates
1st Feb.

PLYMOUTH My 1217/29. Master and his crew arrived BELLE. St. Vincent report vessel damaged in bad weather. (S.O.I.. Jamaica 0857R/1 to Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

L.S.T. Bermuda arrivals 31st Jan. L.S.T. 402, 363, 362, 303 and 304, U.S.S. DALLAS and BERNADOU. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 0909Q/1 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.I.C Jamaica, V.A. Gibraltar.)
My 0909/1. L.S.T. experienced moderate E.N.E. gale with rough and confused sea with heavy swell. (2) Landing mats and steel rails stowed in four of L.C.T. and on tank decks and main decks were insufficiently secured. Wire and chain lashings parted. Owing to pounding of ships consider cargo stowed in L.C.T. should be held down with welded steel battens at frequent intervals in place of lashings. (3) L.S.T.362 reports heavy roll 25-30° still experienced but jerkiness renewed by carrying deck cargo. (4) Steering gear modifications proved satisfactory. (5) No major defects have developed. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 1242/1 to B.A.D.(R) Admty.)

Movements At 1800 G.M.T. 1st.
Summary. Ship position Course Speed.
9 L.C.Is. 27° N. 38° W. 090° 10
BRIDGEWATER 06° N. 32½° W. 081° 11½
F.S. GEORGES N.E. of St. Patrol Blank.
LEYGUES Paul Rocks.
(D.O.D.(F), 0930Z/1 to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)
Arrival 31st U.S.Navy tanker PECOS Dep. 1st. U.S.tanker PUMPER for Trinidad in G.A.T. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1002Q.R./1 to Admty., (R)(I) Jamaica.)

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.NEWBRUNDOC,
LAWRENDOC.

Sailed H.M. Tug BUSY to assist NEWBRUNDOC reported aground in 9° 4' N. 60° 37' W. and H.M. Tug CONFIDENT to assist LAWRENDOC reported anchored and out of fuel in 10° 3' N. 61° 36' W. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1102Q/1 to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) Admty., S.O. (I) N.O.B. Trinidad.)

ALCANTARA.

Your 1232/31. It is obviously undesirable to risk ALCANTARA proceeding to Kingston for sole purpose of 100 tons coal. Cannot coal be embarked in Roads? If other means cannot be improvised para. 3 of F.O.C. W.A.'s does not prohibit use of ship's derricks. It is my view that sufficient bags only for coaling trawlers at sea will be required and coal in bulk can be stowed on ALCANTARA's upper deck, timber pens being used if necessary. S.B.N.O. Trinidad pass to ALCANTARA. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1122Q/1, to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, (R) Admty. etc.)

N.O.i/c Trinidad 1232/31 and C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1955/31. Since C. in C. U.S. Fleet has now acted on A.M. 2246/30th consider it most undesirable to divert ALCANTARA from anti blockade runner in order to embark a small amount of coal. (2) If southern route for dock is selected trawlers will require about 200 tons coal each between Trinidad and Freetown. This is assuming they start from Trinidad with 50 tons additional deck cargo. (3) Am investigating possibility of arranging 400 tons coal at Belem Para. to which port trawlers could be detached one at a time. (4) Suggest in any case ALCANTARA should carry some deck cargo of coal and that baggage should be sent to Trinidad from Jamaica or elsewhere to arrive by 1st March. (B.A.D. 1451Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.B.N.O. W. At. Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Kingston, F.O.C. W.Af. ALCANTARA, MILFORD.)

H.X. 244
U/B.

D/F bearings at 1013Z/1 indicate U-Boat in approx 52° 30' N. 31° W. (D.D.I.C. 1203A/1 to Escorts of H.X.224, AMHERST, (R) C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., Cominch, C.T.G.24.7.)

A.M. 1203A/1. Further bearings at 1044Z/1 indicate convoy or stragglers have probably been reported. (D.D.I.C. 1242A/1 to Escorts of H.X.224, AMHERST, (R) C. in C. W.A. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C. Cominch.

Rescue
Tugs.

My 2121/31. (1) It is hoped C. in C.W.A. 1818/8th Jan. may soon be in effect. Rescue Tug with O.N.160 would have been invaluable as FAIRWATER might now have been safe at St. Johns.. (2) Since FRISKY left this Command TENACITY who is now with FAIRWATER is our only Rescue Tug. 2 Rescue Tugs can be kept fully employed here in Winter. TENACITY urgently requires repairs and docking. (3) We may also expect heavy drift ice abnormally far South this Winter which will lengthen voyage of Mid.Ocean Escorts and Western Support Escorts with possibility of exhaustion of fuel and requiring towage. (4) There are no ships in Newfoundland force suitable Escorts for long range salvage operations. (F.O.N.F., 1239Z/1 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

/Provision...

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Provision of "Q" Information. Giro new chapter three section A para. 11 indicates that B.R.L.O.'s are to remain responsible for providing U.S.R.O.'s with all necessary Q information for areas outside U.S. Strategic area. 2. Following information is requested: (A) is this arrangement permanent? (B) If not, what is intended method by which U.S.R.O.'s will receive Q information for areas outside U.S. Strategic area? 3. Intend to continue WIMRI until other arrangements are working adequately. (4) My 1132/14th Nov. 1942 refers. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1252Q/1 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

A.T. 36 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND) Sail A.T. 36 to R/V 56° 15' N. 09° 01' W. at 0800Z/11 via J. 41° 10' 61° 50' K. 41° 10' 50° 15' L. 44° 40' 36° 35' M. 50° 15' 25° 30' N. 56° 15' 14° 45' O. 56° 15' 08° 30' Chop 1200Z/9. (Cominch (C. & R.) 1329/1 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) Cinclant, Comtask for 24. Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F..)

Isles Class Trawlers. Admiralty have agreed to allow the first eight R.N. Isles Class Trawlers to remain temporarily under R.C.N. Control. Para. 4 A. of Admiralty's 1745/21 Jan. has been cancelled. 2. Take necessary action on Para. 4 B. and C. reporting dates on which the remaining five trawlers will leave Halifax and St. John's respectively. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1404Z/1 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., B.A.D.)

Tanker Convoys Curacao U.K. Following is Comcarib's 291913 (begins): Action C.A.F.A.C. info. N.O.B. Trinidad, Cominch, from Comcaribseafon. C.A.F.A.C. and N.O.B. Trinidad will make minor voyage repairs all escorts Admty. 1930A/20, Cominch C. and R. 272020 and Cinclant 262218. Curacao U.K. tanker convoys will commence about 13th Feb. sailing from U.K. and every 20 days thereafter, first eastward sailing from Curacao about 6th March. Tankers from Aruba and Trinidad may join escorts British and U.S. Destroyers plus Carrier. Escorts will fuel Curacao, top off fuel Trinidad. Escorts and tankers water and provision Trinidad. T.O.O. 1913/29. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1406/1 to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) Admty.)

O.T., T.O., Tanker Convoys. Following is Comcarib's 291711 begins:- Action Cafac info. Cominch N.O.B. Trinidad Cinclpob from Comcaribseafon. Cafac and N.O.B. Trinidad will make minor repairs to escorts. Aruba-Africa OT/TO Tanker convoys will commence 5th Feb. sailing from Aruba and every 25 days thereafter, normally 6 tankers and 3 U.S. Destroyer escorts each convoy. Destination first Convoy Dakar. East bound escorts will fuel Curacao - Aruba, top off fuel Trinidad. Escorts and tankers water and provision Trinidad 29/1711. (Ends.) (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1436/1 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

/Routeing...

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- Routeing instructions not observed. Following received from C. in C.S.A. (Begins). It has been observed that several U.S. ships bound Cape ports from Balboa have not been adhering to their routeing instructions and have been cutting corners after passing longitude 22° E. Request it may be represented to Connav that these routeing instructions are designed to give maximum air and surface cover to ships making South African ports and that Masters may be advised accordingly (ends). Request you will take such action as you consider desirable.
(D.T.D., 1531A/1 to B.A.D.(R) C. in C. S.A.)
- ST. SUNNIVA St. SUNNIVA, rescue ship in O.N. 158, has not arrived at Halifax. Ship was last seen 1830Z/21st, approx. position 042° 27' N. 061° 17' W. (N.S.H.Q., 1645/1 to Admty.) W.R. Note: T.O.O. of this was wrongly circulated as 0307/2 A.M. 2205A/5 which referred to N.S.H.Q.'s 0307/2 has now been corrected to all addressees.
- U/B. S/M reported on surface vicinity of 047° 45' N. 053° 12' W. at 1630Z/1st.
(C.O.A.C., 1653Z/1 to G.B.7 A. (R) A.I.G.302.)
- GUNNEL GURNARD reliefs. Request you will find out date on which reliefs for U.S. S/MS GUNNEL and GURNARD will arrive U.K.
(D.O.D.(F), 1706A/1 to B.A.D.(R) F.O.S.)
- North Atlantic Convoy Cycle. Your 1818/30. Cominch requests information of basis on which these proposals are made. They intend taking no action pending receipt of full details of additional escort groups to be employed.
(B.A.D. 1815Z/1 to Admty.(R) C. in C.W.A.)
- Convoy diversions. Continual diversion westbound Convoys just prior "Chop" effects all routeings Western area confuses escort Commanders hampers assumption operational control nullifies purpose "Chop". Would appreciate C. in C.W.A.'s recommendations regarding onward routeing to enable Cominch C. and R. assume control and responsibility at "Chop". O.N.S. 158, O.N.159, O.N. 162, O.N.163 are recent examples.
(Cominch 1858Z/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.)
- H.H.X. 225 H.H.X.No. 225 sailing telegram. (2) Gate 2000Z/1st (3)H.O.M.P. 1500Z/2nd.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1939Z/1 1941Z/1, to Admty.)
- O.N.S.160. E.T.A. Halifax, 2345Z/1st P.C. and S. 043° 47' N. 063° (26') W. 015° 7 knots MATAPEDIA REDDESPEND, (?RED DEER) in company escorting 7 merchant ships boiler hours. REDDESPEND (? RED DEER) urgent engine room defect MATAPEDIA defect A/S dome radio D/F and D/F Weather.
(ORILLIA, 1946Z/1 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) Extended Defence Officer M. (corrupt groups.)

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.SS. FORT
GASPERAU.
Information
refused.

Owners report Naval Authority, Vancouver refused information as to length of voyage for SS. FORT GASPERAU routed across Pacific. This refusal is said to have handicapped loading owing to ignorance of bunkers required. If confirmed request you will take such action as you consider desirable with a view to Masters being given sufficient information to enable them to calculate bunkers. (D.T.D. 2023A/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

C.T.U. 24

(3 corrupt groups) P.C.S. at 2000Z/1 54° 00' N. 047° 18' U. 215° 9 knots to 051° 20' N. 050° 20' W. Weather report. (C.T.U.24, 2046Z/1 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24 Admty., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.D.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7.H.Q.C.C., C.O.A.C., Halifax (Corrupt in part))

Sub
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para C. Sub sighted on surface 47° 45' N. 53° 12' W. 1630Z/1. Para. D. C.G.R. 3020 makes Hydrophone contact 40° 19' N. 75° 27' W. 2145Z/31 (Cominch, 2126/1 to Admty.)

Sailing of
British
Ships
independently
to U.K.

Your 1500/31st. Sailing of British ships independently to U.K. is limited to those of 15 knots and over. 2. Instruction to refer to Admiralty special cases of ships below 15 knots is hereby cancelled. 3. Voyage of British ships below 15 knots to New York for convoy to U.K. should be expedited to every extent possible within the U.S. rules including independent sailing when practicable. 4. Requests and submissions should always be made to Cominch C. and R. through U.S.R.O. but if any difficulty arises signal should be made to B.A.D. Washington repeated Admiralty.

(D.T.D., 2216A/1 to B.R.L.O. Cristobal, (R) S.O. (I) Jamaica, B.A.D.)

MINAS
LISCOMB,
Collision.

Following has been read by Burnham W/T. Am in collision with H.M.S. LISCOMB off outer automatic buoy. Badly holed starboard side forward LISCOMB standing by. Am returning to port all CBs. and SPs safe. (MINAS, 2315Z/1 to Halifax W/T.)

War Diary.

1.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

MAURETANIA. Departure Wellington 0107Z/1 MAURETANIA Fremantle E.T.A. 0400Z/8 routed Coastal to (q)(?a intended) 48° 22' S. 167° 00' E. thence (b) 47° 28', 149° 59' (c) 45° 30' 140° 01' (d) 42° 35', 129° 28', (e) 38° 31', 120° 02' (f) 35° 56', 114° 33' (g) 34° 11', 113° 11' (?) (h) 33° 07', 113° 17'. Knots (a) 19.5, (b) 20.0. Days 11½, fuel required Fremantle 1800 tons water 2,000 tons (22) (23) S.P. 02413 (1002) H/F) Q.F.A. 132 S. Pacific 2300Z/2. (N.Z.N.B. 0214Z/1 to Admty., A.C.N.B., Comsopac, Connav, C. in C. E.F. Comwest, Australia.)

Treatment of French warships.

This is Cominch's 1912/31 amending his 1501/24 Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) Add: In the Pacific Area of U.S. Strategic responsibility in the area North of Latitude 9 South and West of Longitude 142 east, French merchant ships should be treated as under enemy control. (Commaveu, 0851/1 to Admty.)

Digest serial No.385 Jan.31st.

One destroyer two medium transports arrived Buka passage during afternoon from N.W. Also two small cargo vessels of which one with two schooners and barges manoeuvring along west coast. Destroyer and two transports departed evening. Large number aircraft passing over Buka from N.W. early 30th joined by others taking off from Buka. Seven bombers some fighters on aerodrome next morning 31st. (2) Seven Fortresses attacked shipping Rabaul approx. dawn Feb. 1st but results unobserved due searchlights and haze. Very few ships Simpson Harbour. Some bombs dropped dock installation Vunakanau Drome and township. (3) Catalina strafed buildings Finschaffen waterfront after dark thirtieth and at midnight saw vessel off Arawe. Probably same ship described seven five foot camouflaged cargo vessel bombed by morning Recce Liberator. Nil hits. Deck loaded boxes kegs. (5) Two cargo ships (8 - 10,000) with patrolling escort vessel bombed by Fortress off Wewak morning 31st with unobserved results. Same aircraft saw destroyer probably damaged in harbour also dropped three bombs Wewak runway. (6) Four Beaufighters conducted morning sweep Lae to Kumusi River. (8) Three Liberators unsuccessfully bombed one possible cruiser two possible destroyers one large transport one smaller transport anchored forenoon Ambon Bay. Also saw 5,000 ton merchant vessel one smaller ship moored inner harbour one four engined flying boat two possible zero float-planes on water. Four fighters ineffectively intercepted. (11) One enemy float-plane harmlessly dropped two bombs south of Merauke at noon. (12) AMERICAN BUILDER sighted periscope 1205Z/30 and signalled S O S at 1625Z/31 in 30° 38' 108° 38' E. (G.H.Q. S.W. P.A., 0910Z/1).

/U/B...

War Diary.1.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

U/B destroyed by KIWI and MOA. One Japanese I Class Submarine with troops on board was attacked and destroyed by H.M.N.Z. Ships KIWI and MOA off Guadalcanal Island during night 29/30 Jan. (2) U-Boat sighted on surface and engaged by gunfire. KIWI rammed and drove U-Boat ashore to become a burnt out wreck. One Jap Officer captured. (3) Casualties in both MOA and KIWI one fatal (4) KIWI damaged and returning for repair. (5) Comsopac has released information to press but wishes the names of the ships to be kept Secret.
(N.Z.N.B., 1203M/1 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 30th Jan. Sydney U.S. Storeship GOLD STAR. 31st Brisbane hospital ship MANUSDA. 1st Feb. Townsville U.S. transport BONTEKOE. MELBOURNE U.S. transport ROCHOMBEAU. Hired transport DUNTROON arrived and departed Townsville 31st due Sydney 4th. U.S. transport TASMAN departed One Bay 29th due Townsville 2nd. RAFAQUAASE MAERSK departed Brisbane 31st due Townsville 4th.
(A.C.N.B. 1436Z/1 to Admty., Connnav.)
Departure Guadalcanal 0230Z/31st. U.S.S. PRESIDENT ADAMS, U.S.S. PRESIDENT HAYES, U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY, U.S.S. LARDNER, U.S.S. GANSEVOORT, U.S.S. CRAVEN, U.S.S. JENKINS. (A) 11° 00' S. 163° 00' (B) 18° 00' 162° 00' (C) 29° 15' 166° 25' (D) 39° 25' 173° 20' S. of A. 15.3 knots. U.S.S. CRAVEN and U.S.S. JENKINS to be detached latitude Noumea and proceed that port of Task Group E.T.A. Wellington 0330Z/6. U.S.S. MAHAN departed Nandi p.m. 1st Feb to R/V with M.S. KLIPFONTEIN in 22° 30' S. 177° 00' E. at 0400Z/2 and escort to Noumea E.T.A. 1800Z/3.
(D.N.I. Wellington 2115Z/1 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1231A/1, 1233A1)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly Summary. My 1059/22/7/42. 1. On the 30th off Freetown a Catalina attacked a U-Boat with 4 depth charges. Wreckage reported but not confirmed. 2. On the 21st West of Corsica a British submarine sank U.301 and captured one junior officer.
(D.A/S.W., 2015Z/1 to Cominch, B.A.D., Comnav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
D.F.9.

PORT QUEBEC reported this morning minelaying operation D.F.9 near 58.03.30 N. 5.58.00 W. (North Minch) completed.

Between 2030 and 2105 today a few aircraft approached the Humber, possibly engaged in minelaying.

North Atlantic.

A ship apparently incorrectly reported as SS. JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER (see A.W.I.) (New York to U.K.) reported being torpedoed by a U-boat in the early hours of today in 31.49 N. 22.09 W.

A U-boat was sighted off Ponta Delgada at 1500 today.

South Atlantic.

The air situation as regards the French in West Africa is described by the Admiralty in a message to N.C.X.F. today.

C. in C. S.A. reports that Argentine transport PAMPA left Buenos Aires at noon yesterday with relief for South Orkneys and building material. (c.f. 26 Jan).

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

M.T.Bs. from Bone carrying out a sweep near Cagliari last night sank a fishing smack off Punta Lavorra manned by 15 Italians, including 6 naval ratings in plain clothes, and took 2 prisoners.

The first storeship entered Tripoli (L) today.

The 9th Australian Division has left Suez.

TIGRIS reports that at 1413 ^{21st Jan} ~~today~~ in 40.32 N. 18.45 E she torpedoed and sank a 4,000 ton camouflaged unescorted steamship.

Air Operations.

Twelve enemy aircraft, possibly mainly H.E.111 bombed Bone Harbour last night but no damage was caused. A.A. destroyed two of the enemy.

At 2134 today torpedo carrying Wellingtons from Malta attacked a convoy consisting of a 6,000 ton tanker and a merchant vessel escorted by two destroyers in 39.17 N. 17.13 E. (near the entrance to the Gulf of Taranto) and hit the tanker which was left beached and listing to port with bows awash.

East Indies.

On return from a visit to Mauritius and the Seychelles G.O.C. in C. East Africa reports that the troops available are not sufficient to defend more than selected points of particular importance. He has selected a main defence area in each of the two areas, but even those limited areas can only be defended against raids.

War Diary.

2. 2. 1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

N.W.
Atlantic
Convoy
escorts.

At the request of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Cominch proposes that a conference should be held in Washington at the earliest practicable date, to discuss the operational control of the north-west Atlantic trade convoy escort forces. One proposal which C. in C. U.S. Fleet will make is that Task Force 24 shall be withdrawn from the trade convoy set-up, in order to put an end to the confusion of mixed forces in the Canadian area. He also considers the entire Atlantic convoy scheme should be explored in the light of many pending recommendations.

H.X. 224
attacked.

H.X. 224 was attacked by a U-boat about 0213Z today in 55.13 N. 28.52 W. and SS. JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER was torpedoed and had to be sunk by SHERBROOKE. Loss of life was heavy in bad weather which rendered rescue operations most difficult. D/F bearings this evening indicated that 3 U-boats were in contact with the convoy and about 1930N an attempted attack was made, during which SS. EMPIRE GLADE struck a submerged object shortly after depth charges were fired (see 3 Feb).

ST. SUNNIVA
(O.N.158).

British ST. SUNNIVA, rescue ship in O.N.158, has not arrived Halifax. She was last seen in approx. 43.27 N. 61.17 W. at 1830Z/21. A strong gale was blowing in this position. Area was searched by aircraft on 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 28th, without result.

Australia & New Zealand.

The U.S. Navy Department stated today that during the past several days there have been a number of surface and air actions between the U.S. and Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands. The increased activity on the part of the Japanese indicates a major effort to regain control of the entire Solomons area. Both the U.S. and Japanese forces have suffered some losses. (The Japanese yesterday claimed to have sunk 2 U.S. Battleships and 3 cruisers and damaged another battleship and a cruiser, their own losses being only 10 aircraft off Rennell Island. It is understood that the claim bears no relation to actuality).

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- CUMBERLAND. Scapa departure 0936 CUMBERLAND.
(A.C.O.S. 1007/2 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
- RENOWN,
TANATSIDE. C. in C. Plymouth's 1759A/1. From position (H)
pass through position (K) 050° N. 015° W. and
then steer 180° until met.
(RENOWN 1011A/2 to TANATSIDE.)
Your 1011A/2. My P.C.S. 050° 16' N. 008° 57' W.
274°, 9. Unable to make R/V.
(TANATSIDE, 1600A/2 to RENOWN.)
Your 1600/2nd. From (H) pass through position (L) 050° 14' N.
013° 40' W. and then steer 199° until met.
(RENOWN 1832A/2 to TANATSIDE.)
- DAFFODIL.
PRINCESS
IRIS. Sailed in accordance with C. in C. Portsmouth
1016/29. DAFFODIL and PRINCESS IRIS. E.T.A.
1100/4th.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1152A/2.)
- A.F.D. 20. My 1301A/1st. Sailing of A.F.D. XX postponed till
further order.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1335A/2.)
- O.19. Intend sail O.19 escorted by SHIKARI at 1000/3
for Clyde. E.T.A. 1200/5th.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1514A/2.)
- TRIDENT. Arrived TRIDENT.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 1519A/2.)
- EMPIRE NED,
EMPIRE FRED,
SAMSONIA,
MORAY. Your 1123/31. Route is the same as in A.M.
1909/22.
(D.O.D. H. 1524A/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- BERWICK. Sailed BERWICK to Scapa. E.T.A. 1330A/3rd.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1558A/2.)
- S/M
Positions. Positions of submarines at 0800A/3rd and movements
for following 24 hours.
(A) O.15 SOKOL and SEADOG (P.216) in North
Norwegian waters east of 20° E. (B) ULTOR (P.53)
off And Fiord. (C) TACTICIAN (P.314) off Gripholen. (D) JUNON
off Bredsund. (E) DZIK in zone K.104. (F) BARB in 49° 35' N. 08°
20' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W., 49° 10' N. 12°
54' W. thence to southward. Advance 150 miles in 24 hours.
(G) BLACKFISH 47° 22' N. 05° 12' W. dived by day through 45° 10' N.
02° 40' W., to patrol off Bilbao. Advance 175 miles in 24 hours.
(H) HERRING in zone K.505. (J) SHAD off Bilbao. (K) O.19
escorted by SHIKARI leaves Falmouth 1200/3 for Holy Loch. (L)
TRIDENT see 1234A/3.
(F.O.S. 1714A/2, 1858A/2, 0744/3.)

/RENOWN...

War Diary.

2.2.1943.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

RENOWN. WISHERT, VELOX and WIVERN detached at 1900A/2 from position 045° 08' N. 014° 52' W. proceed Plymouth. Intend detaching BRILLIANT, BOREAS and ANTELOPE at 1200A/3. (RENOWN, 1910A/2 to C. in C.W.A.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. Searchlight Wellingtons may be operating in your vicinity between 2359A/2nd and 0300A/3rd. (C. in C.W.A. 1922A/2 to ILLUSTRIOUS.)

MONTROSE, Your 1749. Following is a repetition of my WALPOLE, 1023/2. Begins: Addressed: C. in C. Nore. VIVACIOUS. MONTROSE, WALPOLE are rejoining you in accordance with R.A.D.'s 0955/1. (2) Propose to retain VIVACIOUS if you concur. (3) The assistance of these destroyers has been invaluable. (4) It is requested that a total of four Nore Destroyers may be available at Scapa on 14th February. T.O.O. 1023/2. Ends. (C. in C.H.F. 2118A/2 to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation 1. Patrol tonight. My 1000/20th refers. "Valuable". CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, TYNEDALE, Force A., Pass E.A.5 outward 1900 to patrol Southward of Beachy Head, returning pass E.A.5 0600. S.V.B. Motor gunboats 616 (S.O.), 613, 611, M.T.Bs. 243, 89, 85 at Newhaven. 2. At St. Helens UNST, ASIE, Chaser 13. At Yarmouth KINGSTON, TOPAZ. 4. Weather permitting Portland patrol M.L. rescue M.L., 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W. and 002° 05' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1200/2.)
Individual repetition of Force "B" for February. Motor gunboat 616 - 3 N.Z.I. motor gunboat 613 - 3 N.Z.X. motor gunboat 180 - 3 N.Z.L. M.T.B. 243 - 5 K.F. M.T.B. 89 - 2 E.T.X. M.T.B. 85 - 2 W.G.M.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1838A/2 to CLEVELAND.)

Biscay (1) SHAD leaves patrol off Bilbao 0700/5, thence S/M. keeping West of Longitude 002° 59' proceeding Patrol. diving by day through position W. 045° 25' 003° 01' W. X. 048° 10' 006° 01' to R/V with HERRING and escort in position V.180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1000/8 as ordered by Captain (S) 3. (2) BLACKFISH is to pass through position Y 045° 10' 002° 40' at 0800/4, thence keeping east 002° 50' until after 0800/5 to patrol off Bilbao. (3) HERRING is to leave patrol a.m. 4th, dive by day so as to pass through position T.045° 01' 012° 26' at 2000/5, thence by route red to R/V at position V. at 1000/8. (4) BARB on route green passes through position Q. 045° 01' 012° 54' at 2100/5 for Zone K.505. Is to keep South of line joining position Q and position 044° 01' 010° 01' until 0800/6.

/(5)...

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay (5) Estimated S.O.A. HERRING and SHAD 175 miles
S/M and 140 miles per day respectively.
Patrol (F.O.S., 1314A/2.)
(contd.) Estimated P.C.S. 2100A/2nd, 049° 51', 006° 00',
260°, 10 knots.
(BARB, 2116A/2 to F.O.S.)

Allied Air Activity.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Expect to see 3 U.S. Liberators and 3 Whitleys
carrying out sweep from 1100A/2 to 1400A/2.
(C. in C.W.A. 0238A/2 to ILLUSTRIOUS.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber Area. Between 2320/1 and 2345/1, a small number of
unidentified aircraft were plotted in Humber area.
Considered that three of these aircraft may have
been hostile and were flying at so low a height
that few plots could be obtained. No incidents were reported
but the possibility of minelaying cannot be excluded but no
position of any such possible minelaying can be given.
(F.O. Humber, 0122A/2.)

Between 2030 and 2105/2 approximately 8 A/c approached
Humber from the East. These were plotted as unidentified and
they crossed convoy route between 62 D.buoy and H.3 buoy. They
did not cross the coast. Two circled the Mouth of the River.
Heights mainly below 2000 feet. No incidents reported. Three
of the above A/c later identified as hostile. Possible
minelaying raid.

(F.O. Humber, 2228/2.)

Shetlands. Enemy A/C plotted at 1516 thirty miles east of
Lerwick. At 1531 it was about seventy miles
070° from Flotta, and then faded. Below 1,000
feet and course 190° throughout. Fighters went up 1520 but
failed to intercept.
(A.C.O.S. 1555/2 to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation R.A. M. 1518/26.
D.F.9. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0516/2)(R.A.M. 0846/2.)
Operation D.F.9. (A) Area within radius of one
mile from 058° 03' 30" N. 005° 58' 00" W.
(B) PORT QUEBEC. (C) 1249 B.S.T./1st Feb.
(PORT QUEBEC, 1004Z/2 to Admty.)

Sweep of Iona. SIR LANCELOT has been recalled to Ardrossan
leaving HATANO and THOMAS ALTOFT at Oban. SIR
GALAHAD is being prepared for Dan laying and will
be sailed from Ardrossan when you require her.
(Capt. M/S Clyde, 1150/2 to M/S 16.)

/Faroes...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Faroes. My 1403/1 para. (2). Local L.L.'s now considered unsuitable at this time of year. Request consideration whether HOUND could be made available.
(A.C.O.S., 1209A/2 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

Humber Area. One mine detonated at 1634/2 in 230° 62 bouy 1¼ miles. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1818/2).

North Channel. My 2259/23/12. Many mines have also been reported in North Channel Area.
(C. in C.W.A., 2053A/2 and 0936A/3, to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy M/Vs. Following from A/C using call sign F.C.5 M. 6 Enemy merchant vessels 60° 24' N. 05° 05' E. Nil Fiord.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1302/2 to Admty.)

NURNBERG. NURNBERG in Bogen reported to be only main unit in Narvik area on 31st January. (Graded B.2.)
(D.D.I.C., 1312A/2 to A.I.G.47.)

TIRPITZ, HIPPER, KÖLN. A report graded B.2. states on 31st January TIRPITZ in Foetten Fjord, HIPPER and KÖLN in Lo Fjord.
(D.D.I.C., 1903A/1 to A.I.G.47.)

GRAF ZEPPELIN. A.G.M. 155A of 1st Feb. J.U.87 dive-bombers will probably be adaptable as torpedo-bombers.
(D.N.I., 1916A/2: A. Message 161A.)

U-Boats.

?BAHREIN. Received at 1609 G.M.T. from Galleon Head Radio (begins): Intercepted at 1600 G.M.T. from unknown station (begins): 2230/1 from Unread North Unread East, suspect submarine trailing, have opened fire. Weather wind W.3 sea smooth overcast 2230. Rest unread. Strength of signals Q.S.A.1/2.
(Wick Radio, 1713/2 to Lyness.)

U-Boats Attacked. Your 1059B/22 July. January 28 U.S.S. BABBIT reports attack off Iceland as probably successful. No further details. 29 attacks reported week ending 2400Z/31.
(Cominch, 2119Z/2 to Admty.)

2.2.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

M.M.S.141. Towing connection now made good. Towing toward Clyde. Request destination for M.M.S.141. (BUSTLER 1115A/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Your 1115. Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1225A/2 to BUSTLER.)
Arriving Clyde pilotage-area daybreak tomorrow with present weather. (BUSTLER, 1835A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

WAR My 1940/27. R.F.A. WAR NIZAM delayed for repairs, now expected Harwich about 13th February. (D. of Stores, 2002A/2 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
NIZAM.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.224. H.X. 224 attacked. 1 ship torpedoed. (HIGHLANDER, 0345Z/2.)
JEREMIAN sunk (JEREMIAH VAN W.A.C.I. article 39 para. 5. (A) 0213Z/2. 055° RENSSSCLAER) 13' N. 028° 52' W. (B) One on the surface. (C) Port Beam. (D) and (E) One ship. (F) SHERBROOKE and AMHERST observant (corrupt Group). AMHERST now rejoining. SHERBROOKE with rescue ship remaining in position. Suspect one U-Boat still shadowing. (H) Weather, wind N.W. 5, sea 44, overcast, dark. (HIGHLANDER, 0653Z/2 to C. in C. W.A.)
U-Boat has made first sighting report at 0945Z of a convoy or important unit, probably H.X.224. (D.D.I.C., 122A/2 to Escorts H.X.224.)
W.A.C.I article (J) para. 5 (2D). JEREMIAN 24 survivors on rescue ship ACCRINGTON. One still on board. Rescue ship is endeavouring to take him off. 53 missing, 9 known to be dead. Ship has been hit in number one hold causing fire which is now nearly extinguished. Engineer from rescue ship states boiler burned out and ship which is on even keel is considered a towing job. Fuel remaining 50 per cent. Request instructions for rescue ship and myself. (SHERBROOKE, 1231Z/2 to C. in C.W.A.)
My 1231Z/2nd. Fire in number 1 (one) hold spread aft. At 1600Z decided to sink her by gun-fire and depth charges. Remaining members of crew rescued. Bad weather conditions made rescue effort (?most) difficult. Searched the area with ACCRINGTON for 9 hours. Am escorting ACCRINGTON to comply with your 1716A/2nd and leaving ship on fire and in sinking condition. My P.C.S. at 1700Z, 054° 50' N. 028° 22' W. 066° 10'. (SHERBROOKE 1709Z/2 to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 1231/2nd. When all survivors have been accounted for and C.Bs destroyed escort ACCRINGTON to join convoy route in 020° W. Can you account for large number missing. (C. in C.W.A. 1716A/2 to SHERBROOKE.)
D/F Bearings at 1811Z, 1825Z, and 1831Z indicate three U-Boats in contact with convoy. (D.D.I.C. 2012A/2 to Escorts H.X.224) See also Cdre. Londonderry 1818A/6.

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.W.P. 288
W.P. 289.W.P. 288 cancelled. W.P. 289 will sail at
scheduled time weather permitting.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0932/2.)

TJALDUR.

Intend to sail at 1600/3rd. TJALDUR kite balloon
(troop) escorted by FORFEIT, speed 9 knots, for
Aberdeen. E.T.A. 1600/4th. Routed by my

1125/14/1.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 0955A/2.)

My 1222/31. Sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1348/2.)

O.N.164.

O.N.164. Following ships did not sail.

PUNDIT (13) DUNSTER GRANGE (84) VINGA (64)

NORLOM (83) GLITTRE (41). Following additional

sailing:- CARONNE (Nor.) (74) New York. Following amended
destination:- MARIJA PETRINOVIC (113) Recife.

(C. in C.W.A. 1141A/2 to Escorts O.N.164.)

Am proceeding with LOOSESTRIFE and SNOWFLAKE in accordance
with C. in C.W.A. 1146Z/2. S.O.A. 13 knots. Take charge of
convoy until WOODPECKER joins.

(B.7 1530/2 to ALISMA.)

My 1535. TAY's endurance is 5000 miles at 10 knots. TAY
is remaining with convoy in anticipation of your approval.

(B.7 1635A/2 to C. in C.W.A.)

If considered desirable another corvette may be detached to
fuel at 28 (C) in your place.

(C. in C.W.A. 1742Z/2 to TAY.)

Your 1742Z/2. PINK detached at 2100.

(B.7 2107/2 to C. in C.W.A.)

P.S.2.
S.P.2.My 1757A/1. P.S.2 and S.P.2 cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1031A/2.)FENRIS.
FORMOSA,
BARDALAND,
MONGABARRA.Pass to Admiral, Western Approaches. Greek
Relief Vessels eastbound: FENRIS, FORMOSA,
BARDALAND and MONGABARRA. No positions received.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1101/2.)P.W.D.287
P.W.D.288.My 1143/31 and 0957/1 sailed as P.W.D.288 for
Plymouth, less M.L.s 118 and 304.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1143/2.)Channel
Convoys.Paras. (1), (4) and (5) follow in cypher with
T.O.O. 1234/2:- (2) It is intended that, where
timetables permit, the destroyer escorting the
C.W. convoy returns the following day with theC.E. convoys. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to signal in
advance the estimated times of departure of C.E. convoys in order
that arrangements may be made accordingly. (3) 16th and 21st
Flotillas will provide destroyer escorts alternatively the
16th Flotilla providing for C.W. 154 and C.E. 152. Destroyers

/detailed...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Channel detailed from 16th flotilla are to be sailed to
Convoys. arrive Southend p.m. the day before convoy sails.
Contd. All destroyers detailed are to be reported 48
hours before sailing. (6) In order to

facilitate buttoning by Q.B.M.Z. S. Beuyn N.C.S.O.
Thames is to request approval, on receipt of C.E. Timetables,
to delay the sailing of the appropriate F.N. convoy up to 0930,
having regard to the 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.
(C. in C. Nore, 1236A/2.)

Following is forecast of sailing dates for Channel convoys
for February 1943. Details. Following is para. 4 and 5 of my
1236/2nd. 4. N.C.S.O. Thames is requested to promulgate
time-tables for C.W.154 to C.W.159 inclusive as under, giving
times at C.2 Buoy and arriving E.A.5. Buoy not earlier than
0900 unless subsequently authorized by C. in C. Portsmouth.
(5) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to promulgate C.E. time-tables
so that Dumpton Buoy is passed at 0715/8th. 0705/12th.
0700/16th and Sand Head Buoy at 0650/20th. 0645/24th, 0635/28th.
(C. in C. Nore, 1234A/2)

R.A. 52. Destination on completion of present duties.
V.A. 2 in ANSON with SHEFFIELD to Hvalfjord.
Force "R" to Scapa. 2. After fuelling in Iceland
OBEDIENT to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1243A/2.)

R.A.52 consisting of 11 ships sailed from Kola Inlet 29th
January as follows:- For U.S.A. - EL OCEANO, WINDRUSH,
EL ALMIRANTE, GATEWAY CITY, BEAUREGARD, DYNASTIC, GREYLOCK,
USSURI. For U.K. - DALDORCH, EMPIRE METEOR, BRIARWOOD.
E.T.A. Loch Ewe 9th February..

(D.T.D. 1852A/2 to Cominch.)

Air Ministry's 1736Z/1st and 18 Group's 1846A/1st. Russians
state emphatically that no additional local recognition signals
are required.

S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1853A/2 to Air Ministry, H.Q.C.C.
18 Group.)

P.W.288. My 1521A/1. Owing to weather no M.Vs will sail
in P.W.288. Escort less M.L.s will sail as
signalled E.T.A. Plymouth 0800/3 and Falmouth
1000/3.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1245A/2 to C. in C. Plymouth)

2. Anticipate LAUDERDALE will complete repairs p.m. 3rd at
Falmouth. Intend to sail her as extra escort to P.W.288 (?p.m.)
3rd to Milford Haven and then independently to Clyde.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1319A/2 to C. in C.W.A.)

Pass the Gate at 1130/3 and proceed to join P.W.288 as
escort to off Milford Haven, proceeding thence independently to
Liverpool for refit. Route from Milford Haven.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1643A/2 to SLAZAK.)

/Leave...

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- P.W.288
Contd. Leave convoy forthwith and proceed to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1537A/2 to SLAZAK.)
- W.P.M.
288. W.P.M.288 cancelled on account of weather.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1251A/2.)
- R.U.60. R.U.60 sailing postponed 24 hours. Add for
Loch Ewe BAXTER GATE, for Clyde Fort LA AGEAUNE.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1416A/2.)
- O.N.166
O.N.S.167. My 1336/25. Amend sailing dates as follows
O.N.number 166 sailing 10th February. O.N.
number S.167 sailing 11th February.
(C. in C.W.A.1416Z/2.)
Cancel my 1416/2.*
(C. in C.W.A. 1416/2, 1205C/3.)* Outbound convoys
from Mersey.
- O.N.S.165. O.N.S. 165. Intend to sail FAME and VISCOUNT
1600A/3 for Hvalfjord in accordance with C. in C.
W.A. 1302A/1. E.T.A. 1000A/6.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1506A/2.)
Cancel my 1302/1st. FAME and VISCOUNT are proceed
Hvalfjord 1200A/3rd at best speed. They will be required to
escort O.N. S.J. 165 from Iceland (C) to I.C.O.M.P.
(C. in C.W.A. 1527A/2 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
O.N.S. 165. Amending my 1506A/2 in accordance with C. in C.
W.A's 1527A/2. In effect best speed to Hvalfjord. E.T.D.
1200A/3.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1745A/2 to A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A.)
- F.N.34.
GALACUM. GALACUM Straggler arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1641/2.)
- Convoy
Tankers. If for any reason either of the two escort
tankers allocated by Admiralty for a convoy should
be prevented from joining the convoy, immediate
steps should be taken to fit another tanker of
convoy with emergency gear. Admiralty should be informed of
action taken in order that provision of gear may be expedited.
(D.T.D., 1648A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.116 S.C.116 Average speed 6 knots. Arrived off
Oversay 1500Z/28th Jan. CULEBRA damaged in bad
weather and towed to Iceland. BAXTERGATE
arrived Iceland damaged by weather. EXMOUTH put into Iceland
for fresh water. Remainder arrived.
(D.T.D. 1649A/2 to Connnav.)

/North...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.North
Russia
Convoys.
Delay of
Corvettes
and
Trawlers.

C. in C.W.A. 2238/1. There have been occasions when Corvettes and Trawlers have been delayed in North Russia but this has been unavoidable owing to the varying intervals between convoys. 2. Whereas it has been possible to bring back destroyers independently of convoys during light periods, I have not considered this desirable in the case of Corvettes and Trawlers. 3. Corvettes arriving with eastbound convoys have returned to

U.K. at first opportunity as escort of westbound convoys and the only exceptions were the two who sailed with J.W.51A. Their place with R.A.51 was taken by Trawlers overdue for relief.

4. Four Corvettes is the minimum required for each convoy and I regret I cannot see how these can be provided from less than a total of twelve. 5. It is hoped that it will be possible to provide the two Trawlers required from a total of six. 6. Whilst neither Corvettes or Trawlers have been left in North Russia specially for the purpose, various essential movements between White Sea ports and Kola Inlet could not have been carried out without them.

(C. in C.H.F. 1654A/2 to Admty.)

P.S.3.
P.S.4.

P.S.3 will not sail due to tidal conditions. Ships waiting passage will sail in P.S.4 at 0730/4. S.V.3 leaving Newhaven 0900/3 S/S TOR T.O. Cowes Roads, M.M.S. 57 for Portsmouth.

From Shoreham S/S JULIA and SOUTHGATE to Southampton. S/S EMPIRE CAPE and S/S TILLY for Cowes Roads, Escorts CHASSEUR 11 and M/Ls 190, 191.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1800/2.)

K.M.F.9.

A.M. 1928/1st. Cmdre. R/V: noon G.M.T. 10th 050° 09' N. 014° 24' W. Noon G.M.T. 11th 045° 33', 014° 46'.

(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1800A/2 to N.C.S.O. Clyde.)

Admiralty 2246/31, 1928/1st. (1) A/S escort. (a) From Clyde SHIKARI proceed Londonderry when main escort join (b) MALCOLM (S.O.), OAKLEY, BADSWORTH, MIAOULES are arriving Milford Haven before darkness 8th and are joining convoy in 052° N. 006° W. at 0800Z/9th.

(C. in C.W.A. 2237A/2.)

U.C. and
C.U. Convoys.

C. in C. W.A. 1404/22. Masters of Merchant Ships sailing in U.C./C.U. convoys should be advised that they should bunker for a voyage of 5,000 miles in convoy maintaining a speed of 9 to 10 knots.

The usual margin should be added to the quantity calculated as above.

(D.T.D. 1853A/2) See amendment 2228A/3.

A.T.35.

Keep good lookout for southbound traffic tonight. On reaching 55° N. alter course for new L.5525, 0825 thence to Clyde.

(D.O.D. H. 1913A/2 to A.T.35.)

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- K.M.S. 9 A.M. 1937/31. Amend time of R/V in position V. to read 0900Z.
 (D.O.D. H. 1945A/2.)
 A.M. 1937/31. A/S Escort (A) from Clyde.
- BLACK SWAN S.O. to arrive Clyde in time conference. (B) to join from Londonderry at Oversay R/V CARNATION, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, CAMPION, VIOLET, AUBRETTIA, BALSAM.
 (C. in C. W.A. 2236A/2.)
- Tingeyri Clearance facilities. Your 1523/1. Arrangements have been made for clearance facilities at Tingeyri for British Trawlers to continue until further notice.
 (A.C.I.C. 2001A/2 to Admty.)
- K.M.S.11. BARHILL. Request on completion of working up BARHILL Boom Vessel may be sailed in K.M.S.11 for onward routing to Freetown and Cape and as directed by C. in C.E.F.
 (D.B.D. 2003A/2, 2129A/3, to C. in C. W.A.)
- GLITTRE. Reference instructions to N.C.S.O. Mersey telephoned at 1850/1 ordering GLITTRE to be brought back to Mersey request present position. Owing to doubt as to whether GLITTRE is returning another tanker is being held in reserve in U.K. for special service.
 (D.T.D. 2005A/2 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
 Your 2005A/2. GLITTRE in Swept Channel at 2000A/2.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2054A/2 to Admty.)
- H.X.223. Mid Ocean Escort Task Units 24.1.3 in SPENCER plus CAMPBELL, ROSTHERN, HELIOPOLIS, DAUPHIN, DIANTHUS arrived from H.X.223. NANPANEL standing on to Londonderry from Iceland (C).
 (C.T.G. 24.7 2200Z/2.)

War Diary.

2.2.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch"Area.

Air Forces, Your 1247/26 para 1. Following information from
W. Africa. Air Ministry. (Begins) " The air situation
is now as follows. Two Sunderlands are being
sent to Port Etienne and 4 Hudsons diverted to West
Africa with object of beginning training during course of operat-
ions. This impromptu measure taken at request of A.O.C. is in-
tended as token of good faith and will allow French to feel they
are fighting the war and is hoped to develop French co-operation
with us.

2. Collinet has agreed that exercise of operational control of
all air forces should be centralised in A.O.C. W. Africa.
We have however authorised establishment of a small operations
room on lines of Coastal Command station operations Room at Dakar.
Although not strategically essential we feel it inevitable to
allow French some form of headquarters and semblance of operation-
al control.

3. Provided all goes well and trainees prove
their worth we are prepared to hand over one Catalina plus one
Wellington squadron of the programme planned for W. Africa.

4. With this view it will be necessary to put the training and
equipment of French units on a stable basis. Therefore we have
also asked A.O.C. W. Africa to suggest to the French that they
should a representative to London to discuss details of training
and equipment with Air Ministry and Coastal Command.

5. A.O.C. W. Africa duly approached Admiral Collinet who stated
that he would have to refer to Admiral Michelier.

A.O.C. has asked to be informed of Michelier's reply. (Ends).

6. This is how things stand at the moment. Although on purely
naval grounds there seems no great need at present for French
Naval Mission in London we are seeking Foreign Office agreement
to such a Mission in case you are again pressed on this point or
it is needed to cover Naval Air Mission.

(Approved A.C.N.S. (F) Hd. of M. 1716A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.
W.A.)

Supply of Freedom, Algiers, has requested 150 tons H.C.E.
Generators. generators in each convoy after K.M.9.

2. Ref. Admty. 1032A/6th Jan. para 3. War Office
have not yet taken over supply, but subject to
your concurrence no objection is seen to demands from N. Africa
being passed by Army if this is more convenient.

3. Propose arrangement in Admty. 1055A/1/1 should stand and
extra 50 tons be provided from Malta shipment already off-loaded
Gib. and N. Africa ports.

4. Ref. Admty. 1304A/26/1, report if you require extra supplies
for Malta. Shipments sent Alexandria cannot arrive before early
May.

(Approved by 4th S.L. D.L.D. 1917A/2 to N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 2007A/26th Jan.
 1. No further reports of German or Japanese raiders
 2. Report graded B.2 states PORTLAND will leave Biscay in near future for Japan. Several blockade runners probably now on passage from Far East.
 3. Following vessels previously reported possibly raider prizes and suitable for blockade running are now known to have been sunk by raiders - KATTEGAT, PATELLA and CONNECTICUT.
 (D.D.I.C. 1941A/2 to A.I.G.13)

North Atlantic.

ERNE,
 ESSO
 GETTYSBURG. My 1206/1st. You are to R/V with ESSO GETTYSBURG close off harbour entrance. Acknowledge forthwith. (V.A.Gib. 0105A/2 to ERNE (R) SCARBOROUGH, Admty.) Evasive alteration to starboard is to be made tonight Tuesday.
 (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1027A/2 to ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, (R) Admty.)

JEREMIAH VAN
 RENSSELAER. Following received on 385 K/cs S.S.S.S. S.O.S. Torpedoed Port Side. (A.C.O.S. 0211/2 to Admty.)
 SS SS JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER (U.S.) (?bearing by D/F Is.) 258 degs. class. (Sheigra Radio, 0212G.M.T. /2 to Admiral Lyness.)
 SSSS JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER 31.49 N. 2209 Torpedoed = 0211G.M.T. DE GYW. No Bearing obtained. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0354 G.M.T.)
 Intercept 0336 G.M.T. DE Gibraltar Radio S S S S 31.49 N. 22.09 unread torpedoed 0211 G.M.T. 0330/2. (Port Patrick Radio 0436/2 to Navy Charge Greenock.)
 W.D. Note - U.S. 7177 G.T., New York to U.K.

German
 Shipping,
 Seville. Your 0949A Feb. 1st. (W/R signal calling for repetition.) Following is repetition of my 1130 Jan. 29th.
 3 ex German ships are to sail Seville shortly and are to be escorted from Bonanza by Spanish Warships to Cadiz.
 (Seville 1040/2 to Admty.)

/U.G.S.4. ...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Cont.

U.G.S. 4. Amend onward route from Gibraltar position 57 to pass through 70, 109 to Oran,
(N.C.X.F. 1035/2 to RHYL. Escorts of U.G.S.4.
(R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. S.O. Force H. Capt. (S)8.
N.O.I.C. Oran. Capt. F. Air H.Q. Gibraltar.
C.G.12th Air Force. Cmdre. Algiers.)

Following is a repetition of my 2020A/1 (Begins) -
Addressed N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C. Oran, Connav, Admty - From F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. U.G.S.4. Arrivals WM. C. CLAIBORNE, DANIEL BOONE. Intend to sail in order to rejoin convoy at Gibraltar R/V as in N.C.X.F.'s 1827/27th Jan.

(Gibraltar C.C.O. 1055A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C. Oran, Connav, Admty.)

U.G.S.4. arrival ESSO BAYONNE.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1813A/2 to N.C.X.F.)
U.G.S.4, ships sailed as in my 2020/1.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1838Z/2 to N.C.X.F.)

Air Patrols. Request information as to what air patrols are being flown to cover area between Cape Juby and Canary Islands.

(D.T.D. 1044A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A.Gibraltar. S.N.O.C.A.) (Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T.))
Replies S.S.F., W.T.F. 1018Z/3.
F.O.C.Gib. 2236A/3.

Re Admty 1044/2nd. Request you will reply.

(N.C.X.F. 1801A/2 to S.N.O. Casablanca. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) Reply 1018Z/3.

Situation at REGENT 032° 10' 013° 49' 059° on surface 11.
2002A/2nd. 2. K.M.S. 8 (E) (?LANDGUARD) 37.57 11.38 through 036° 00' 010° 00' thence 092° (?).
3. G.U.F. 4 (T.F. 34) (E) 36.06 13.51 through 036° 00' 015° 01' thence 305° 13½.
4. Gibraltar convoy 1 (E) 031° 32' 011° 43½ 049° 7½.
5. One tug 2 ferry steamers 041° 18' 015° 39' 159° 5.
6. LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON PENDER 033° 10' 011° 05' to Casablanca 8.
7. One tanker ERNE, SCARBOROUGH 037° 39' 152° 45' R/V G.U.F. 4 in 038° 18' 019° 10' at 1330/3rd. ERNE, SCARBOROUGH then return Gibraltar.
8. IDRI(?AS) 028° 57' 017° 23' (?through) 022° 01' 019° 01' thence 175° 18.
9. 3 Portuguese (?S/Ms) exercised off Sezimbra.
10. Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO 034° 06' 014° 46' 044° 12.
11. Spanish Training Ship GALATEA left Ferrol 1st for Las Palmas.
12. Spanish Training Schooner left Cadiz 31st under sail for Tenerife. E.T.A. 6th Feb.
13. MOOSEJAW BARFOIL 2 M/Vs. (E) 39.03 11.38 to Lisbon .6
14. G.C.10 one A.M. 2 P.C.'s TAPAGUESE sailing Casablanca 0830/3rd through 34.10 thence 036° 7.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1100A/2 1438A/2 0116A/3 0404A/3 to A.I.G. 63.)

/BIRDLIP...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Cont.BIRDLIP
BUTSER.

Trawler BIRDLIP patrolling off Almeria is waiting to escort M/V to Gibraltar.
2. Trawler BUTSER with M.L. and 2 M/V sailing Gibraltar p.m. 2nd for Almeria through 36.15 04, 54 36.37 02.30 speed 8.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1559A/2 2215A/2 to S/M P.35.)

Shipping
Reports.

B.A.D. Washington's 2141/29, (reports from U.S. source re shipping movements at Lisbon.) It is not clear whether Connav still requires reports from British source.
2. Can reply now be given to paras. 3 and 5 of my 1603/15/1. (re movements neutral vessels.)
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 1715A/2 to Admty.)

K.M.S.8
BARFOIL.

1. Left K.M.S.8 with Lisbon Section at 1000A 2nd, BARFOIL, VOLTURNO, BARON FORRES.
2. BARFOIL now in tow of VOLTURNO owing to fuel shortage.
3. BARFOIL requests Lloyd's Surveyor re boiler and arrangement for coal on arrival. (?No) Tug required.
4. K.M.S.8 P.C. and S. 1000A/2nd 38.54 North 12.30 West 153° 7 knots.
5. Lisbon Section, P.C. and S. 1600A 2nd (?38) 57 North 12.18 West 098° 5 knots. E.T.A. Lisbon 2000A/3rd.
6. Weather report.
(MOOSEJAW 1835A/2 to F.O.C.Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F. LANDGUARD, Admty.)

K.M.S. 8
INGERFIRE.

K.M.S. 8. My 1442 31st Jan., add: INGERFIRE for North Africa. Request N.C.X.F. indicates destination.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1841A/2 to E.C., K.M.S.8., for Commodore. (R) N.C.X.F. Connav, Admty, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre Algiers.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

Warships. U.S.S.RAVEN and OSPREY, Destroyers GLEAVES PLUNKETT, BENSON arrived with U.G.S.4. Destroyer MAYO, PC 475 en route to Safi with two merchant vessels, NIBLACK and KENDRIAK en route with Task Force 34.
(S.N.O.C.A. 2000Z/2 to Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch.)

FULGOR.

Your 1736 Feb. 1st (N.T. in W.D.) FULGOR has not yet been moved. Present position is approx. T 697 462 on sheet (corrupt group.)
I will report immediately any movement.
(Cadiz 2024/2 to N.A. Madrid (R) Admty., V.A.Gib.)
Reply 1829/3.

/Movements...

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Cont.

Movements.

Arrivals 0915 BADDECK ALBERNI SUMMERSIDE
LUNENBURG VENOMOUS HAYDON VERITY ex G.U.F. 4.
ST. NECTAN from escorting Cable Ship LADY
DENISON PENDER. Departures 1530 HAYDON VENOMOUS
to R/V U.G.S.4. thence Mers el Kebir 1630
(?Bunson) motor launch 307 escorting S.S.
KINGSLAND GRODNO to Almeria and back.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 2025A/2. to Admty.)

KMS 8.

E.T.A. position X 1200A/3rd and E.T.A. Cape
Spartel 2300A/4th. Cdre. intends sending following
ships to Gibraltar for repairs:
ORIENT CITY, steering engine badly damaged,
COOMBE HILL, winches and degaussing damaged,
DERWENTHALL, degaussing, and
OCEAN FAME, winches damaged unable to effect heavy
lift necessary for unloading.
EMPIRE FOAM, Cam ships, intend landing aircraft
at Algiers.
My P.C. and S. at 2000A/2nd 037 degs. 40' North
011 degs. 36' West 149 degs. 8.
(LANDGUARD 2042A/2. to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A.
Gibraltar, MOOSEJAW.)

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Convoy D.C.4. sailed 0500Z/2nd consisting of 9 ships. My 1236 1st refers, add GHARINDA for Capetown. Route coastal. Cmdre. Master CITY OF TOKYO, Vice Cmdre. Master LORETO. Convoy W/T call sign B.T.D. 1 to 9. Q.G.A. 127. (N.C.S.O. Durban 0622Z/2 to Admty etc.)

BRIDGEWATER. My 2031Z/1st Feb. (NORSOL to R/V with BRIDGEWATER.) Not met. Maximum visibility. Intend turning to 272° at 0900 G.M.T. in 005° 47' N. 032° 56' W. and steering this course until 1300 G.M.T. when shall alter course to 092° and proceed through position S. towards Freetown. Speed throughout 11 knots.

(BRIDGEWATER 0745Z/2 to F.O.C.W.A.)

BRIDGEWATER's 2031Z/1st. Request NORSOL be instructed to signal P.C. and S.

(R.A.W.A. 0923Z/2 to Connav (R) BRIDGEWATER, S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

NORSOL has been instructed by Connav to signal position. If no position received or R/V is impracticable return Freetown in accordance with your 0745Z/2nd, not to Admiralty.

2. NORSOL may have been in position (W) 005° 40' N. 029° 35' W. at 1200Z/2nd proceeding to (S) 005° 35' N. 025° 35' W.

(N.O.I.C. West Africa 2214Z/2 to BRIDGEWATER (R) Connav, Admty.)

Movements. Arrived INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA, Tug INTEGRITY, Tug PRUDENCE with crane lighter. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0817Z/2 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy C.N.4. Sailing Telegram. 1300Z/2, from 33° 13' S. 17° 36' E. 3. Group A. in 29° 00' S. 16° 10' E. Group B. in 27° 40' S. 15° 00' E. 4. 8 knots. 5. Coastal, passing through Y. 30° 00' S. 16° 50' E. Z. 27° 40' S. 15° 00' E. GENISTA, ST. ZENO. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 0834Z/2 to Admty etc.)

Aircraft for French in W. Africa. A.X.706 2 Feb. 43. Personal for A.O.C. from A.C.A.S.(P). Regret your D.M.69 of 25th Jan. not answered earlier. There is no immediate question of giving French more than the two Sunderlands and four Hudsons. But Chiefs of Staff have approved Glassford's 251600 and Combined Chiefs of Staff have approved arrangements and agreed that "in the

/French...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Aircraft for French sub-area the intention will be to enable French in W. French air units to take over air duties as rapidly Africa (Contd.) as equipment and training permit". You should be clear that there is no question of delivering Wellingtons and Catalinas to French in West Africa. The French will have to send aircrews and maintenance personnel for training and to form squadrons in U.K. for despatch to West Africa when operationally fit. It is true that we have insufficient aircraft immediately available to meet our full programme in West Africa. These two French squadrons will form part of our target programme and will be formed in their due order of priority as soon as aircraft are available and personnel adequately trained.

Para. 2. Meanwhile ref. your D.M.58 of 24th Jan. Michelier has asked N.C.X.F. whether proposal for despatch of French Naval Officer to Air Ministry to settle questions of training and equipment has been approved and has suggested an Admiral Amarich accompanied by an aeronautical engineer. Apparently the French have also submitted a proposal for re-armament of Naval Air Forces to Allied Force H.Q. Algiers. We have undertaken this commitment in West Africa because that is an area of British strategical responsibility but there is no question of our undertaking further commitments for equipment and training of Naval Air Forces elsewhere.

Para. 3. I am asking Eastern Air Command to explain situation to N.C.X.F. and ask him to get Michelier to expedite decision as to despatch of Mission.

(Air Min. 0836Z/2 to A.O.C.W.A. (R) E.A.C. Africa.)

PAMPA Argentine transport PAMPA left Buenos Aires Noon Feb.1st with relief for South Orkneys and building material. Reported to be proceeding via Bahia Blanca.
(C. in C.S.A. 1101C/2 to CARNARVON CASTLE (3 corrupt groups.)

Dispositions. LADY ROSEMARY off Saldanha Bay to Capetown 5 knots. Convoy C.A. 8 032° (?00') S. 029° 40' E. to Durban 7.

CHESHIRE 045° 00' S. 199° 30' E. to Montevideo 13½.

CARTHAGE on patrol in Area M.3.B.

VALIANT, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with C (?F) 11,018° 30' S. 011° 00' E. to Freetown 13.

D.C.4 031° 44' S. 029° 44' E. to Great Britain 8.

JASMINE, NIGELLA 030° 30' S. 033° 00' E. to Durban 12.

GENISTA, ST.ZENO with C(?G or W) 4 032° 15' S. 017° 00' E. to North (8).

(C. in C.S.A. 1115C/2 to A.I.G. 125.)

Situation at 2000/2.

BRIDGEWATER 005° 44' 032° 21' 092° 11.

French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 006° 30' (?021°) 01' to Freetown 20 (?). Allied Naval unit on patrol Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area.

Tug CHARON M/L 305, 279, 007° (?26) 013° 20' 124° 8.

PICT French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY screening off Port Bouet.

F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU off Cape Lopez to Duala 12½ (?).

ST. WINSTAN, BARDELL, (?CO) 004° 20' 004° 30' 082° 6.

2. 2. 1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions DRANGEY escorting about (7156°) (7007°) (729')
 Contd. (727') 007° 01' to Takoradi (75).
 CARNATIC, 000° 21' S. 013° (730') 174° 11 $\frac{3}{4}$.
 (R.A.W.A., 1331Z/2 to A.I.G.150).
 Situation at 2000Z/2nd.

French Battleship RICHELIEU French Cruiser MONTCALM 2 destroyers
 18.18 32.15 301° 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

BURDOCK, PORTSDOWN, BREDON escorting 16.15 17.36 001° 8.
 French Sub. P.S. JULES VERNE, French Sloop-Minesweeper GAZELLE,
 PETUNIA about 18.30 17.30 to Port Etienne 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 DUNKERY patrolling off Port Etienne. ARMERIA, CORINTHIAN,
 CYCLAMEN escorting 12.15 17.50 to 11.49 18.00 thence to BEGONIA
 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. SOLOTRA 2 M/Ls escorting 10.09 16.01 to Freetown 9.
 French Sloop-Minesweeper LA GLACIEUSE GRANDIERE, SERGEANT
 GOUARNE escorting about 20.00 17.31 180° 7.
 CANTON, CILICIA, QUIBERON, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUALITY, QUICK-
 MATCH, QUADRANT, WAYLAND with W.S. 26 24.02 N. 18.45 W. 194° 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 M/L 296 off Bissagos Islands to Freetown 10.
 (F.O.W.A., 1631Z/2 as amended 1851Z/2 to A.I.G.149).

W.S. 26 Your 2239Z/1. A.M.1904/15 Jan. para 4 amended by
 route. A.M.1811/31 Jan. refers.
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1149A/2 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R)
 Admty). W.R. Note - 1904/15 Jan. was passed to
 F.O.C.W.Af. at 2210/17 Jan. Delay in passing
 1811/31 Jan. to F.O.C.W.Af. is being investigated.
 F.O.C.W.Af.'s 1051Z/2. (N.T. in W.D.)
 Further bearings indicate U-boat was reporting H.X.224.
 (D.D.I.C., 1634A/2 to Escorts W.S.26).
 My 1631/2nd. (Situation Report). Correct position of W.S.
 26 024° 02' N. 018° 45' W.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 1851Z/2 to ?A.I.G.149).
 Your 1531/2nd. Estimated P.C. and S. of W.S.26 at 2000A/2nd
 is 24° 40' N. 18° 35' W. 193° 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots passing through (Q)
 23° N. 19° W. (N) 11° N. 18° W. thence Freetown F.O.I.C.
 Gibraltar's 0046/2nd Feb. and A.M. 1811/31st Jan. refer.
 (D.O.D. (F) 2139A/2 to R.A.W.A.)
 Convoy W.S.26 consists of 14 transports escorted by CILICIA,
 CANTON and 7 destroyers, arrives position Q 023° N. 019° W.
 at 0100Z/3rd thence to N. 011° N. 018° W. thence to Freetown.
 Estimated S.O.A. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 2233Z/2 to Comar, Dakar, (R) Escort W.S.26,
 Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

EMPRESS OF Your 1221C/25. Is endurance of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ days for
 RUSSIA. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA due to bad coal only or must it
 be worked to for onward voyage?
 (F.O.C. W.Af. 1501Z/2 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty).
 Reply: 1215C/3.

/Flying boat...

War Diary.2.2 1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Cont.

Flying Boat Facilities, Lagos, Libreville, Banana Creek, Pointe Noire. A. 692 2nd Feb. Your AX. 260 19th Dec. From A.O.C. Further my A.357 31st Dec. Survey now completed.

1. Lagos. Confirm suitable for operation Catalina squadron only from Agapa Creek immediately existing personnel accommodation is thrown up by 177 M.U. Air Ministry Signal AX. 967 11th Jan. refers.
2. Libreville entirely suitable for detachment as necessary of up to three flying boats using existing B.O.A.C. accommodation near alighting area.
3. South of Congo, excellent conditions in Banana Creek, no accommodation at present available but could be constructed from local material and military labour in 6 weeks.
4. Point Noire, accommodation available for small detachment, Consider alighting area not adequate for fully laden flying boats.
5. Depot ships not required for any of these detachments.
6. Comprehensive report will be submitted when W/Cdr. Thewles returns to Freetown.

(A.H.Q. W.A., 1510Z/2 to Air Min. etc.) See also 1250Z/9/2.

Convoy C.F. 11. From (D) 005 degs. 30' south 011 degs. 00' East at 0300/5th to (E) 002 degs. 28' south 007 degs. 50' east (F) 002 degs. 35' north 012 degs. 10' west (G) 007 degs. 40' 014 degs. 30' thence Freetown. Estimated S.O.A. 13 knots. (N.O.I.C.W.A. 1521Z/2 to VALIANT, (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi etc.) My 1521Z/2nd. Request information what orders have been given for Destroyers to refuel. (N.O.I.C.W.A. 1533Z/2 to C. in C.S.A. (R) VALIANT etc.) Reply: C. in C.S.A. 1041C/3.

Air Forces, West Africa. Admty 1716A/2 to N.C.X.F. See "Torch" Area.

HILARY. A.M. 2119/29th Jan. para.3 and D.S.T.O. W.Africa 1611/31 Jan. Should it prove practicable to escort HILARY throughout her return voyage from West Africa to U.K. Service and civilian personnel up to life saving capacity may take passage.

2. First priority should be given to R.A.F. tour-experienced personnel ex Middle East awaiting passage from Lagos.
3. No delay to HILARY can be accepted.

(D.O.D.(F) 1851A/2 to F.O.C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

C.F. 11. 1. Propose INDRAPGERA and EMPRESS OF RUSSIA join convoy C.F. 11 leaving Freetown about 13 Feb. for U.K. This may reduce S.O.A. to 11½ knots.

2. Large number service personnel waiting passage can then be embarked.
3. QUALITY and REDOUBT can reinforce escort to limit of endurance.
4. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA's endurance is limited to 12½ days at 12½ knots. Intend her to join convoy off Dakar.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1858Z/2 to Admty (R) C. in C.S.A. etc.)

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Cont.

MONTE
NARANCO.

A.M. 1930A/28th. (1939A/28th intended re interception of Spanish Ship MONTE NARANCO.) Request information if Consolantfor has been informed.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1859Z/2 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

Movements,
Pernambuco.

Arrival 31st Jan. U.S. Transport MUNARGO arrival 2nd Feb. Brazilian Minelayer CARIOCA and Survey Vessel RIO BENSUCO.
(R.O.Pernambuco 1935Z/2 to Admty.)

RANGITIKI
MATAROA

Request you will divert RANGITIKI and MATAROA to Montevideo for instructions.
(D.T.D. 2016A/2 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Connav, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

UNA Withdrawn 036° 10' 011° 20'. A.B. small shell splinters in upper arm etc. some pain, unable open hand. Medical advice please.
(UNA, 0458A/2 to Capt. S.10).

Return to Malta by reverse of outward route. Clean wound with water and disinfectant. Apply splint to whole arm and outstretched hand. Morphia if necessary and keep as still as possible.

(Capt. S.10., 0725A/2 to UNA (R) P.44).

There is one M.T.B. within 50 miles N.W. of Malta trying to find the Island. A.S.V. A/S are searching for her tonight and know of your route. M.T.B. will not attack S/M north of 036°.

(Capt. S.10., 1645A/2 to UNA).

BARNET, DEVENSHIRE. Departure B.D.V. BARNET 1430Z/1. Arrival DEVONSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0505Z/2 to Admty etc).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 1st Feb. DULVERTON, EXMOOR, BURRA, ANTWERP, SKUDD V, Greek Destroyers PINDOS, KANARIS, PANTHER, French Sloop LA MOQUEUSE, departures 1st Feb. ERICA, SOUTHERN MAID, M.L. 356, 1012.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0914B/2 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 96, Part 3. Night 31 Jan/1st Feb. 7 Halifaxes bombed train ferry terminus Messina 1 small fire started but no other results observed owing to low cloud. 1 Feb. 6 Kittyhawks bombed 2 motor barges off Zarzis damaging both by near miss. Vessels left listing and not seen by later Sortie. 12 Kittyhawks with escort 10 Kittyhawks subsequently bombed 5 small vessels off Zarzis, scoring near misses. Damage unknown.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1019Z/2).

S/MS Arrived RORQUAL P.46.
(V.A. Malta, 1038A/2, to Admty. etc).

M.T.Bs. Arrived M.T.Bs. 61, 77, 82 from operations.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1041A/2 to Admty. etc).

WELSHMAN sunk. Regret to report WELSHMAN sank between 2200 and 0040B 2nd Feb. in 32° 12' N. 24° 52' E. At 1845 WELSHMAN reported two hits aft by torpedoes probably from U-boat which put main engines out of action. Corrupt signal received indicates possibility of mines.
2. TETCOTT and BELVOIR have on board six Officers (including C.O.) and 112 ratings, M.C. T.Ls. and aircraft continuing search for survivors.
3. WELSHMAN was on passage Malta to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med. 1108B/2 to Admty. (R) R.A.(M) N.C.X.F. Com (D), C.S.15, R.A. Alex. V.A. Malta).

/Mining...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Mining
Programme.

Consequent upon loss of WELSHMAN fulfilment of mining programme will be seriously hampered. Request consideration be given to sending out O class minelaying destroyers to operate in no moon period of February.
(N.C.X.F., 1132Z/2 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med).
Reply: Admty. 0151A/5.

UNA, P.43

UNA has returned to Malta. After dark tonight P.43 shift patrol to Gulf of Hammamet between 036° and 036° 40'. Keep East of 12° between 035° and 036°.
(Capt. S.10., 1143A/2 to S/Ms on patrol).

SOKOL,
DZIK.

With concurrence of Polish Naval Authorities it is under consideration to send Polish S/Ms SOKOL and DZIK to Mediterranean for approx. six months. They should be ready to leave Dundee early March 1943.

In view of possibility that submarines then based on Malta will be maximum number which can conveniently be accommodated, would you prefer the two Polish submarines to be based at Algiers rather than Malta?

(Head of M. II 1206A/2 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.(R) Cpts.(D) 3,
(S) 9, (S) 10). Reply N.C.X.F., 1212/4

BELRAY.

My 1745/18 Jan. and subsequent signals stressing importance BELRAY arriving Middle East as early as possible. Vessel required most urgently for shipping Lighters and Harbour Craft to Tripoli. Until she arrives our ability meet Eighth Army requirements seriously affected.
2. Military can accept postponement shipping Locomotives and cistern wagons Safaga until end of March to arrive latest by mid April.
3. In order to ensure present operations Eighth Army are not held up for want of supplies request approval BELRAY proceed now Middle East in ballast. Understand vessel due to sail in convoy from Persian Gulf within next 48 hours for Port Okha so immediate decision is necessary. Agreed Mideast and M.W.T.M.E.
(P.S.T.O. M.E., 1301B/2 to Admty for D.S.T.)

P.217,
P.54.

Intend sailing P.217 1730/3rd routed through 038° 21' 004° 01' 038° 28' 009° 23' at 0001/6th 039° 10' 009° 44' thence course 66° to patrol off Naples.

(ii) Intend sailing P.54 1800/3rd through 038° 08' 004° 04' 038° 09' 008° 30' at 0600/6th. 038° 26' 012° 38' at 0400/8th to patrol in area between latitudes 038° and 039° between longitudes 011° 40' and 013° 20'.

(iii) All positions North and East.
(Capt. S.8., 1308A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S. S/Ms on patrol
Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers).

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Material
for Turkey.

Personal for 1st S.L.

(A) During discussions on supply of material to the Turks held at Adana on 31st Jan. great stress was laid by Prime Minister on equipping the Turks to the utmost of our capacity.

(B) (?We are) much in arrears of ships and gear already promised. These include 2 destroyers, 2 submarines, 6 boom working vessels and several small craft such as trawlers and motor launches.

(C). Amongst the extra items now asked for are 6 merchant ships of 4000 to 5000 tons. They would probably be glad to receive as many as 4. The Turks agree that these vessels would be used for carrying war supplies from the canal area to Turkey. They have hitherto objected to movements of their ships South of Iskenderun. It is nevertheless likely that the shipping will also be used for normal trade partly with enemy controlled countries.

(D) My Chief of Staff pointed out the great difficulties in finding ships to transfer but the Prime Minister was insistent that every endeavour should be made and thought that Lord Leathers could produce what was required.

(E) Turkish representatives are now preparing full lists of all war material they hope to obtain, but these will not reach London for some time. I have thought it advisable to warn you beforehand of the more difficult items.

(C. in C. Med., 1314B/2 to Admty).

M.K.F.8

Tact. Intend to sail VILLA DE QUEBEC with M.K.F.8 to Gibraltar.

(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1441A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers).

W.D. Note - ?N.T. in Lloyds.

Treatment
of French
Ships.

A.X. 739 2 Feb. Ref. A.X.548 of 19th Jan. para. 2 (b).

Following instructions regarding treatment of French warships and merchant ships in Western Mediterranean have been issued by N.C.X.F. to come into force forthwith and are forwarded for your

information:-

(A) French ships encountered in free area of Western Mediterranean basin (T.S.G.O. 31 para. 1 (b)) are to be treated as friends unless they commit hostile acts.

(B) Within this sink at sight zone (T.S.G.O.31) French ships south of 038° 00' N. and W. of 009° 00' E. are to be treated as friendly unless they commit a hostile act: outside these limits they are to be treated as hostile.

Please confirm that above instructions are understood.

(Air Min. 1500A/2 to H.Q. 8th Air Force (R) Admty).

Tunisia
Situation.

Linrep 17. Op. Sum. 28 Jan. to 1 Feb. 1 - Military.

3. Air forces of both sides active in support of ground troops in Southern Tunisia. Enemy air attacks made on Bone Airdrome and Algiers harbour, little military damage. A convoy was attacked by aircraft and submarines between Algiers and Bone, 3 escorting Naval ships hit but all convoy vessels arrived safely at

/destination...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Tunisia
Situation.
Contd. destination. Our air force made heavy attacks on Gabes, Sfax, El Aouina, Ferryville and Bizerta. Day and Night attacks made on enemy lines of communication. Attacks made on enemy shipping. (Algiers, 1536Z/2 to Usfor).

Air R/C P.R.U. 2nd Feb. 1110 Palermo photographs show departure of 8 destroyers and 3 merchant ships 5 - 8,000 tons since 1st. 1110 Trapani visuals only, 6 destroyers. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1545A/2 to C. in C. Med etc.).

Tunisia
Evacuees. B.N.A. Madrid 1300/31st Jan. (ships carrying Women and children of French Military Personnel in Tunisia to Marseilles). Suggest that arrangements should be made for these ships on the same basis as that on which any form of safe conduct is extended in Mediterranean. The French in Occupied Tunisia have certainly done nothing to deserve particular consideration. (N.C.X.F., 1727A/2 to Admty) See also Admty. 2240A/2.

Movements,
Port Said. 2nd Feb. Port Said arrivals ERICA, SOUTHERN MAID, departures ERICA, SOUTHERN MAID L.C.T.112. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1732B/2 to Admty etc).

ABDIEL
destroyers. ABDIEL and 2 destroyers leaving Bone 1630/2nd passing 038° 06' 010° 53' at 2300 to operate to Eastward Skerki Bank. ABDIEL either proceed to Malta after operation or proceed Westward through 037° 30' 008° 30' at 0630/3rd. (Capt. S.8. 1748A/2 to 8th S.F.)

OCEAN
ATHLETE. K.M.S. 8, your 2202/31. OCEAN ATHLETE returned Clyde. (D.T.D., 1829A/2 to N.C.X.F.)

Movements,
Tripoli. Feb. 2nd arrival HURSLEY, CROOME, BURGONET, L.C.Ts. 13, 17 and M.L. 1051 (SHA 96 N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya) 1901B/2 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med).

Situation
report
No. 332. Western Desert. Zuara occupied 31st Jan. Eight wrecks in entrance and numerous others among Northern Mole, all schooners. Preliminary R/C shows gap 150 feet wide with 15 foot depth in entrance. Northern Mole beached but will not affect shipping except in gale weather. Four schooners left intact.
2. Tripoli (L). First storeship entered today 2nd Feb. Gap now 50 feet wide 15 foot depth. 1600 tons of cargo

/discharged...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation report No. 332. Contd. discharged 1st Feb. Repairs to oil pipe line on Karamanli Mole have begun.

3. Tobruk. Explosions took place in hold of cased petrol carrier PAHANG 0505/31st Jan. Ship still on fire and feared total loss.

4. My 2035/29th Jan. para. 4. U-boat was Italian probably SANTORRE SANTAROSA wrecked in 31° 55.8' N. 13° 14' E. with all fitting removed. (amended 2130B/4 q.v.)

5. Malta. Four M.T.Bs. met one F lighter close to Kuriat Island at about 0200/1st Feb. and attacked with depth charges. F lighter probably damaged, M.T.B. 264 hit six times causing considerable damage. One rating killed and C.O. slightly wounded. Remaining M.T.Bs. undamaged and all returned to base.

6. Convoy M.E.16 (A.M.1839/27th Jan) arrived Alexandria 1st Feb. no incidents.

7. Levant. Submarine shelled coastwatch outpost close to Cape Andrea (Cyprus) on 30th Jan.

8. Red Sea. Admty. 1537/19th Dec. 9th Australian Division has left Suez.

9. My 1108/2nd Feb. not to all addressees. WELSHMAN sunk about 2140/1st Feb. Weight of evidence points to U-boat. Six ratings were picked up by small craft from Tobruk in addition to 6 officers and 112 ratings by TETCOTT and BELVOIR.

10. Admty please pass to R.A.M. (C. in C. Med., 1916B/2 as amended 0905B/3 to Admty).

Malta Air Report. A.I. 589 2 Feb. Part 1, offensive (no incidents) Part 2. Enemy air activity, nil. Part 3. Reconnaissance. Part 4. Movements. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1941Z/2).

Movements Oran. Arrival SPEEDWELL, CADMUS, PUCKERIDGE, POLRUAN, VILLE DE QUEBEC, HOLCOMBE, ILEX. Departures, ARNOLD BENNETT. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/2 to Admty etc).

Movements, Algiers. Algiers departures QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, BICESTER, ZETLAND, LAMERTON to Bone, D.19 in LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, EGRET, BANFF, FISHGUARD, ENCHANTRESS with M.K.F.8 RONALDSHAY, STONA, SALVESTOR, EMPIRE GAWAIN to Bougie. FIULA L.C.I.(L)s 7, 162, 210 to Arzeu. (Cdre. Algiers, 2011A/2 to Admty etc).

E.A.C. Report. Opsum No. 83. Parts 1 and 2. 1800 hrs. Jan. 31 to 1800 hrs. Feb. 1. A. Operations. Night Jan. 31 - 1 Feb. Blida 7 Wellingtons of 150 Sqdn. and 6 of 142 Sqdn. attacked shipping and Docks at Trapani. All crews report bombing target area, but results generally not observed. Bursts seen along docks on each side of Harbour and in neighbourhood of Gasworks, Railway station and Naval Barracks. 1 fire reported east of Gasworks and 2 near Seaplane Base.

/Day 1st...

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

E.A.C. Report. Contd. Day 1st. F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 19 B.17s escorted by 13 (7P.38s) attacked Tunis Harbour and Shipping dropping 60 x 1,000 and 116 x 500 lb. bombs. Bursts seen to cover target area. Hits claimed on large ship tied up at docks. Fires seen in target area after bombing and 1 ship left burning.
(E.A.C. Africa, 2011A/2).

Enemy Reports. P.C. and S. of one large M/V, one medium M/V and 2 destroyers 38.59 N. 17.10 E. 010° 8 knots.
(A/C CXV/X 2015A/2 to Air H.Q. Malta).

Movements, Bone. Bone arrival QUEEN EMMA, H.M.S. PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, LAMERTON, ZETLAND, Departure ABDIEL, LIGHTNING, LOYAL.
(F.O.I.S. 2016A/2 to N.C.X.F. etc).

KINGSTON
CRYSTAL. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2113B/2 to Admty).

Tunisia Evacuees, transport to Marseilles. N.A. Madrid's 1300/31 which has been repeated to C. in C. Med. We do not altogether care for this proposal as it provides no guarantee against abuse. We should not oppose it, however, provided Gen. Eisenhower agrees and your operational requirements are fully met.
2. There is obviously great objection to any arrangement that would embarass you in attacking enemy shipping. We accordingly suggest the following conditions.
(a) Names of hospital ships employed to be notified and ships fully marked and illuminated in accordance with the Convention.
(b) Date, approx. time of sailing from Marseilles, route and S. of A. to be notified not later than 48 hours beforehand.
(c) Place of embarkation to be specified and ships to arrive and leave again during daylight on the same day.
(d) Ships to carry no cargo or passengers of any kind on voyage to Tunis other than neutral observer from International Red Cross who presence on board should we think be insisted upon.
(e) Number of sailing should be strictly limited to prevent any possibility of serious abuse.
3. You may have definite requirements as to time and route and place of embarkation. Presumably there is no chance of Axis agreement to call at Algiers for examination. You will, no doubt, communicate your requirements together with Gen. Eisenhower's decision, to N.A. Madrid.
(Hd. of M.I. Approved 1st Lord and Deputy Prime Minister, 2240A/2 to N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

BAHREIN Intercept at 2325 G.M.T. from Bahrein (Begins)
"S" Report. S S S S de KCDJ lat. 20° 25' N., long. 88° 00' E.
suspected S/M unread trailing, have opened fire.
Weather wind W.S.W.3, sea smooth, overcast.
2230 G.M.T. Strength one from BAHREIN. (Ends).
(Wick Radio, 0028/2 to Adm. Lyness, and 1816/2.)

QUIBERON. Your 1655/28/1 (see North Atlantic). Para. 3
first sentence is obscure request it may be
clarified. If intention is to replace MUSCERON's
(QUIBERON's intended) crew with R.N. personnel at Kilindini
regret this will be impracticable owing to acute shortage of
ratings.
(C. in C. E.F., 0846Z/2 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib.,
F.O.C.W.Af.)

Landing In order to train the forces required for ANAKIM
Craft, it appears that one L.S.I.(L) will be required
training. in addition to YING CHOW. 2. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE
can be made available in India about mid-May for
these duties. She would be fitted out in U.K.
but would have to be supplied with landing craft from India.
Ships would be manned by R.I.N. 3. If this date is not early
enough DILWARA, DUNERA or DEVONSHIRE could be made available
without conversion on a red ensign basis until LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE
arrives. 4. Request your remarks.
(Admty., 0942A/2 to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) N.A.C.O.(I), C. in C. E.F.,
P.S.T.O. India.)

India Air Enemy scale of effort Jan. 25th to 31st.
Report. (c) Attacks - 24 K.H. 1 F. on hospital ship.
26th Rangoon total 15 F attacked P.R.U. R/C and
U.S.A. bombers.
(A.H.Q. India, 1021Z/2 to Air Min.)

No. 324 Int. Summary Feb. 2nd.
(A) Feb. 1st. 3 Hudsons Arakan Coast damaged small craft
Kyaukpyu and Kyaukpyu L/G.
(A.H.Q. India, 1152Z/2 to Air Min.)

B.M. 40. Convoy B.M.40 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1051Z/2 to Admty.)

KOSCIUSKI, (1) Following received from Admty. (begins).
EL MADINA. Request information on KOSCIUSKI and EL MADINA
stating why each is dangerously smoking whether
due to coaling method of firing or some other
cause. If due to coaling state where it is bunkered and by
whom. T.O.O. 1835/29th Jan. (Ends.)
(2) Particulars required should be obtained from above ships
and reported direct to Admty. repeated C. in C. E.F.
(C. in C. E.F., 1212Z/2 to Cdre. R.I.N., F.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

GAMBIA.

2nd Feb. departure.
(F.O.I.C. E.A. and Zanzibar, 1302Z/2 to Admty.)

Mauritius,
Seychelles,
scale of
defence.

1. Have just returned from a visit to Mauritius and Seychelles which confirmed my views on their defence. The troops available are not sufficient to defend more than selected points of particular importance. 2. Mauritius. (Requirements) Have ordered (A) that first priority for defence shall go to area Plaisance-Grand Port which embraces naval anchorage and airfield and that (B) area Port Louis-Tombeau Bay which includes site of proposed flying boat base shall have 2nd. priority. In effect defence of (B) can only be of a light nature. 3. Seychelles. Situation similar. Have ordered that main defence area shall be at Victoria to include cables and wireless Station with subsidiary areas at the C.D. bty. at N.E. point and on St. Anne Island. 4. Until the garrisons of both islands have been substantially increased even the above limited areas can only be defended against raids as envisaged in present scale of attack.
(G.O.C. in C. E.A., 1735C/2 to W.O.)
Reply: 1830A/4.

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

FAIRWATER. Following received from TENACITY to F.O.N.F. (R) MAYFLOWER. (Begins): Connected tow at 1740 P.C. and S. at 2130/1 47° 00' N. 35° 30' W., 273°, 2 knots. Wind W., 46 sea 5.

T.O.O. 2200Z/1. (Ends.)

(F.O.N.F., 0035Z/2 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., (R) C.T.F.24, Cominch, C. in C. W.A.)

F.O.N.F. 1932/1 is being repeated to Admty. who is requested to reply. In view of the very long tow to St. Johns (N.F.) against prevailing wind additional escort will be required which is not available from Canadian sources.

2. Suggest therefore DOCHET and PORCHER be sailed from St. Johns (N.F.) on 4th Feb. to relieve MAYFLOWER.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1406Z/2 to F.O.N.F., Admty., (R) MAYFLOWER, TENACITY.)

Your 1932/1. Weather conditions should improve. It is still considered preferable to tow ship to St. Johns.

(D.T.D., 2301A/2 to F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., MAYFLOWER.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Feb. 1st arrivals: FENNEL, DUNVEGAN, COWICHAN, TRURO ex S.C.118, THREE RIVERS ex assisting SS. FAIRWATER. Departures nil.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0346Z/2 to Admty.)

Departure 2nd Feb. U.S. Naval Transport PECOS Colon 4th.

(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0935RA/2 to Admty.)

Arrival 1st Feb. U.S.A. Transport EL LIBERTADOR.

(B.R.O. Aruba, 1108QR/2 to Admty.)

Arrived 2nd U.S. Transport STATE OF MARYLAND.

(Dominica, 1405/2 to S.O.I. Jamaica.)

U.S. Cutter MARION arrived 1st left 2nd.

(Navyres Grenada, 1445Q/2 to Admty.)

Departures NIAGARA to escort H.X.225, CHELSEA direct to Cape Cod thence New York, U.S.S. NUTMEG, HIBISCUS for Argentina, DRUMHELLER, NIPIGON for Newfoundland.

(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S., 2101Z/2 to C.E.S.F., Com.3, Admty., etc.)

PRESIDENT GRANT (U.S.) arrived San Francisco 30th Jan.

EUGENE SKINNER (U.S.) sailed San Francisco 31st Jan. for Noumea. (U.S. A.Ts.)

(N.S.H.Q., 2104Z/2 to Admty.)

ST. SUNNIVA. ST. SUNNIVA rescue ship in O.N.158 has not arrived at Halifax. Ship was last seen 1830Z/21 approx. position 043° 27' N. 061° 17' W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0307/2 to Admty., (R) B.R.L.O. New York, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., Connav.)

French rearmament. Opnav 222100 and Radio Washington 222111, Asdic information requested will be forwarded by latter when compiled. Armament. Two complete sample rounds ammunition as requested will be in

/French ...

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French rearmament. (Contd.)
French Naval ships when they proceed U.S. Ammunition on hand as estimated requirements will be forwarded by letter. All A/A batteries except that of RICHELIEU were removed prior departure Dakar. Lack of time preventing removal. Operations. Submarines are expected to leave within 10 days. Above is Glassfurd's O11207. (Radio Washington, O450/2 to Admty.)

G.A.T. & T.A.G. Convoy routes. Your 1808/1 following is repetition of my O931/20th Jan. Your 1228/18 report called for necessitated information re convoy route and was sent by bag and not by air. Bag was sent aboard BRITISH PRESTIGE due to sail 25th Nov., this ship had repeated breakdowns and bag was finally transferred to AE MAERSK (? AASE MAERSK intended) sailed 29th Dec. No previous suitable opportunity. (Willemstad, O925QR/2 to Admty.)

Your 1808/1st. Your 1957/21st Nov. re G.A.T. and T.A.G. Convoy was replied to by letter. The following is summary:
(A) Vessels are sent under local escort vessel to join main Convoy and same escort brings back ships breaking off.
(B) Yes.
(C) Diverse routing some North, some South. South preferable for local escort vessels and air coverage but cramps diverse routing.
(D) Between 8 and 36 hours.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1017QR/2 to Admty.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary at 1800	9 L.C.Is.	27° N. 33½° W.	090°	10
G.M.T./2nd.	BRIDGEWATER	06½° N. 31° W.	082°	11½
	F.S. RICHELIEU)	18° N. 32° W.	301°	12½
	F.S. MONTCALM)			
	U.S. Escort)	N.E. of St. Paul Rocks	Patrol	Blank
	F.S. GEORGES)			
	LEYGUES)			

(D.O.D.(F), O955Z/2 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)

ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF blockade runner patrol. ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF ready for sea a.m./4th and for duty in accordance with Cominch 1955/31 January. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1012Q/2 to N.O.B. Trinidad, (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., Cominch, B.A.D., C. in C. Lant, Comcarib, F.O.C.W.Af., Comsolant, ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF.)

L. 23. Your 1552/29. L.23 expected to leave Clyde area 14th arriving Philadelphia about 16 days later. (D.O.D.(H), 1106A/2 to B.A.M.R. Washington, (R) F.O.S.)

/Curacao ...

75

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Curacao - This is Cominch 2245/01 Feb. addressed to C. in
U.K. oil C. Lant for action and to C.E.S.F., B.A.D.,
convoys. Comnavfor Aruba, Comnav, N.O.B. Trinidad and
Admiralty for information.

C.C.S.F's 1913/29th. Intended that oil convoys
(Curacao - U.K.) sail direct without calling at Trinidad from
Curacao to the U.K. C.C.S.F's 2215/01 and C.A.F.A.C. 2045/09
state that convoy can be handled at Curacao on the following
basis: That tankers will be loaded with sufficient food
supplies for the round trip, and with the maximum water
capacity in the U.K.

Routeing via Trinidad would expose large valuable convoy
unnecessarily in dangerous area. Not necessary to fuel (top-
off) escorts at Trinidad.

(Comnav, 1151/2 to Admty.)

DOCHET, N.S.H.Q's 1404/1 para. 2.
PORCHER, Only four Western Isle trawlers arrived Halifax
PROSPECT, before freeze up. DOCHET and PORCHER now at
CAMPOBELLO. St. Johns N.F. Anticipate PROSPECT and
CAMPOBELLO will be ready to proceed from Halifax
7th and 20th Feb. respectively.

My 1401/18 Jan., 1910/28 Jan. and 0131/1 refer.
(C.O.A.C., 1326Z/2 to Admty., (R) F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., N.C.X.F.,
B.A.D.)

S/M Estimate (Cominch, 1452/2, 1453/2, 1529/2, 1531/2 to
2nd Feb., U.S. Admty.)
S/M Notices. The patrol line west of the Azores appears to
have shifted to the eastward with approx. 16
patrolling between Azores and Canary Islands.
(Cominch, 1530/2 to Admty.)

NORSAL. This is Connav's B.A.M.S. 2B 1525/02 transmitted
to NORSAL (Nor.) "Report immediately your
bearing and distance from nearest lettered
position, have you received my 1616/29 Dec. directing new R/V
at 005° 50' N. 033° 45' W." Suggest that in event vessel does
not acknowledge my 1616/29 it may be proceeding to position W
contained in N.O.B. Trinidad 1523/26 as instructed by U.S.S.
GREENE.
(Connav, 1553/2 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

S.C.117. Cominch C and R desires to congratulate Commodore
and Escort Command S.C.117 on their excellent
performance in getting convoy through. Duty
well done.
(Cominch C and R., 1553/2 to Admty., (R) C.T.F.24)

GUNNEL, Your 1706/1 present estimate early May.
GURNARD (B.A.D., 1835/2 to Admty., (R) F.O.S.)
reliefs.

/ATTACKER ...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ATTACKER, Your 1702/27.
programme. Present intention is for ATTACKER to sail from Norfolk (Virginia) a.m./24th Feb. arriving Kingston (Jamaica) about 20th, fly off 2 aircraft and 3 spare pilots to embark aircraft in accordance with A.M.2059/7th Jan. Embark aircraft stores and 6 torpedoes complete with associated spares at Palisadoes. Depth charge outfit is complete. Ship will require stay of 4 complete days at Palisadoes to carry X R T and A routine to bring torpedoes to action condition. Allowing a spare day for flying on aircraft. Leave Kingston (Jamaica) for Port of Spain 5th or 6th March. (B.A.D., 1843Z/2 to Admty., (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.I.C. Kingston, S.B.N.O.W.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.B.N.O. Curacao, R.N. Air Stn. Palisadoes, ATTACKER.) See 20052/3 + 07552/4

Atlantic At request of N.S.H.Q. I propose that conference
Convoy be held Washington earliest practicable date to
Escorts, discuss operational control of North Western
Conference. Atlantic trade convoy escort forces. One
proposal which I shall make is withdrawal of
Task Force 24 from trade convoy set up in order
to put an end to the confusion of mixed forces
in Canadian area. Agenda also should include exploration of
whole Atlantic convoy scheme in light of many pending recommend-
ations. If action addressees concur please suggest date.
B.A.D. informed.
(Cominch, 2013Z/2 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., (R) Cinclant, C.T.F.24,
B.A.D.)

NEWBRUNDOC, My 1102/1. NEWBRUNDOC refloated herself and
LAURENDOC. proceeded Port of Spain under her own steam.
LAURENDOC taken in tow by CARTIERDOC and
proceeding Port of Spain. BUSY and CONFIDENT
returned to Harbour.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 2032Q/2 to S.B.N.O.W.At.,
(R) Admty., S.O.I. Jamaica, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

Landing A.M. 1532/29 para. 2. Completion date of first
Craft. 5 vessels in order 59, 55, 58, 60, and 71 is now
given as Feb. 16th, 17th, 21st and March 6th
and 16th respectively.
2. In case of need M. of W.T. can at least
temporarily man the first two, which are to go to Solomon Island,
Chesapeake Bay as tenders to Landing craft. B.A.M.R. message
1850/29/12 and para. 5 of A.M. 1935/7 Jan. refer.
3. Next six will be sent to C. in C. Med. Request I may be
informed of subsequent allocations as early as possible.
(B.A.D., 2105Z/2 to Admty.)

G.U.Convoy. My 2247/11 Jan. Due to the inclusion of British
managed ships in G.U. Convoys reference CORRALES
and ELIZABETH BAKKE in G.U.S. It is requested
that N.S.H.Q. may be informed of ports of destination all ships
in G.U. Convoys and dispersal point of convoys.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2109Z/2 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.2.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Shipping
Casualties.

REGENT LION Serial 17 (corrupt group) salvaged now in U.K.
ST. SUNNIVA rescue ship O.N.158 overdue Halifax since 23rd Jan.
(Cominch C and R, 2112/2 to Comnav.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

(A) HIGHLANDER sights sub. on surface 55° 13' N. 28° 52' W. 0213Z/2.
(B) JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER torpedoed Area 56° N. 29° W. 0320Z/2.
(Cominch, 2120/2 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Shipping
diversions.

Your 1858/1st. The objections to diversions just prior to "Chop" are fully appreciated but the occasional necessity for such diversions is inherent to the existing system of dual control.
2. Changes in appreciation of U/B dispositions frequently require immediate action and it is considered that where such action involves the disadvantages to which you refer these should be accepted by both Controlling Authorities and should not be permitted to interfere with timely diversion from danger.
(D.T.D., Approved V.C.N.S., 2235A/2 to Cominch, (R) C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy
U.C. 1
Air cover.

My 0100/6th Jan. para. 3. Is any action being taken by Americans to provide long range shore based air cover for convoy U.C.1.
(D.A/S.W. Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 2246A/2 to B.A.D.)

Revised
sailing
dates trans-
Atlantic
convoys.

My 1818A/30 is cancelled. Question of closing trans-Atlantic cycle is receiving further consideration.
(D.T.D. Approved V.C.N.S., 2250A/2 to Comnav, (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., A.C.I.C.)

Convoys,
vessels
joining and
departing.

Following has been received from Navy Dept.
"Occasions have arisen of late where vessels joining and departing Convoys have become intermingled with the resultant danger of collision. In order to keep entirely separate vessels joining and vessels departing convoys, it is suggested that the below should be added to Chapter 1, para.73, sub-para. (B) of C.B. 04024 (41). 'If vessels departing convoy are breaking off to starboard, vessels joining convoy should be arranged in advance of the Port side in order to join port columns. If vessels breaking off are in port columns the reverse procedure should be followed'. It is proposed that this para. should be inserted in both C.B. 04024 (41) and C.B. 04234.
(B.A.D., 2335Z/2 to Admty.)

/VICTORIOUS ...

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

VICTORIOUS. VICTORIOUS is due to sail today 2nd Feb. with 36 Martlets and 15 T.B.Fs.
(2) On arrival at operational base it is intended to operation 21 T.B.F.
(3) State of squadrons on leaving. T.B.F. squadron, full training in deck landing but not otherwise operationally trained. Fighter squadron, only deck landing trained in carriers but not complete, 15 more pilots still required for ship landing to finish. The T.B.F. has been found satisfactory for deck landing but lacks Navigational facilities. These are being improved by local modification. Alterations carried out at Norfolk (Virginia) are being reported separately.
(B.A.R.M. Washington, 2359Z/2 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

PETER H. Ref. N.C.S.O. Newcastle 0701Z/20? Jan. arrival
BURNETT PETER H. BURNETT 0037Z in tow result enemy
torpedoed action.
22nd Jan. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 0039Z/2 to Admty., Connav,
A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q., N.Z.N.B.)

Movements. Departure Wellington U.S.S. TREVER and U.S.S. ZANE escorting U.S.S. FULLER to Noumea E.T.A. 0500Z/6 route direct S. of A. 13.5 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0420Z/2 to Admty.)

Arrivals 1st Townsville U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA.
Sydney (N.S.W.) U.S. Store Ship M(?AGE)AR.
Brisbane U.S. Transport MAUI.
(A.C.N.B., 1102Z/2 to Admty., Connav.)

Digest Serial No. 376 Feb. 1st. Seven Fortresses attacked Lakunai and Rapopo Aerodromes early morning first starting many fire at both places. R/C aircraft reported one destroyer St. George's Channel heading Rabaul from South during afternoon.
(2) One Liberator bombed small stationary cargo vessel in open bay midday without scoring hits. Another dropped bombs on village and runway Finschaffen forenoon without observing results.
(6) Single enemy aircraft over Darwin early afternoon first. Interception attempted without success.
(7) Reference my serial number 375 January 31st para.12. AMERICAN BUILDER sighted early morning first serious distress signal cancelled.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0745Z/2.)

War Diary.

2.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Solomons
Action.

Navy Dept. issued following official report
tonight (Feb.2):

"South Pacific - During the past several days
there have been a number of surface and air
actions between the United States and Japanese
forces in the Solomon Islands.

The increased activity on the part of the Japanese indicates a
major effort to regain control of the entire Solomons area.
Both the United States and Japanese forces have suffered some
losses. To reveal at this time details of these engagements
would endanger the success of our future operations in this
area".

This announcement is made the day after the Japanese had
claimed to have sunk two American battleships and three cruisers
and damaged another battleship and cruiser for the loss of only
10 aircraft off Rennell Island, in the Solomons.

A Washington Navy Department spokesman said today that-
"Japanese claims of United States losses are grossly exaggerated
and their own losses understated".

(The Times, 3rd February, 1943.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1348A/2, 1349A/2.)

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

R.A. 52.

Convoy R.A.52 was attacked by U-Boats at 1417A and SS. GREYLOCK was torpedoed in 70.52 N. 00.21 W.

H.X.224.

Convoy H.X.224 was attacked by a U-Boat again, at 0200Z today, in 56° 35' N. 23° 30' W. and the tanker INVERILEN was torpedoed. At 0542A HIGHLANDER reported that at least two other U-Boats were still shadowing. There were 11 stragglers this morning.

At 1245A HIGHLANDER reported that SS. EMPIRE GLADE now reports striking a submerged object at 2330Z/2 shortly after a depth charge attack by H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD, and that possibly a damaged U-Boat may be near 56.27 N. 24.29 W. ASPHODEL was damaged in unsuccessful attempts to induce the survivor of INVERILEN to leave the wreck, and was compelled for this reason and shortage of fuel to leave the sinking wreck at 1956Z today. She reported the survivor on the wreck died.

LONDONDERRY late this evening attacked a U-Boat in about 56.32 N. 17.45 W. and damaged it. The premature explosion of a depth charge damaged LONDONDERRY: her steering gear is out of order and on HIGHLANDER's instructions ASPHODEL took her in tow at 1910Z/4 until the arrival of a tug (BUSTLER was sent, escorted by COREOPSIS) whilst CLARE screened her. Air escort was also sent and was over LONDONDERRY by 1352Z/4. At 1443A/5 COREOPSIS reported that BUSTLER had taken LONDONDERRY in tow and ASPHODEL had been detached to Londonderry. CLARE reported at 1404A that she had turned over the escort to COREOPSIS and intended returning to harbour with defects (arrived Londonderry 0809A/6), LONDONDERRY arrived at Moville at 2138A/6.

After LONDONDERRY was damaged CLARE carried out two attacks on the U-Boat. Between the attacks, men were heard shouting in the water, and it is not thought they came from LONDONDERRY. There was no further contact after the second attack, and Cdre. Londonderry considers the U-Boat was probably destroyed.

Enemy
destroyers.

At 0755 today aircraft reported a cruiser and 3 destroyers steering 340° at 15 knots in 59.15 N. 05.01 E. (coast of Norway) and 4 destroyers steering 350° at 15 knots in 58.51 N. 05.20 E. It was thought that both reports referred to a single enemy formation of 4 destroyers. Coastal Command aircraft attacked the enemy, but no success is reported.

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

U/Bs
attacked.

Coastal Command aircraft today attacked U-boats in 60.00 N. 46.40 W. (100 miles west of Cape Farewell) in 28.08 N. 13.26 W. (off the Canaries) in 56.35 N. 22.49 W. (mid-Atlantic) near H.X. 224, and in 46° 52' N. 08° 55' W.

Tanker
LISETA
damaged.

A severe explosion occurred today in the Dutch tanker LISETA which was lying alongside the oil jetty at Preston. The fore part of the ship was completely wrecked and the master and several members of the crew were killed.

Coastal
Command
activities.

A.O.C. in C. C.C. sends the following message today:- As an indication of the far-flung activities of Coastal Command. We have today 3rd February, attacked German destroyers with torpedoes on the Norwegian coast, attacked a U-boat in 60° 00' N. 46° 40' W. (100 miles W. of Cape Farewell), attacked a U-boat in 28° 08' N. 13° 26' W. (off the Canaries), attacked a U-boat in 56° 35' N. 22° 49' W. (in mid-Atlantic) in the neighbourhood of a convoy. Sighted two U-boats, one in 46° 52' N. 08° 55' W. attacked and the other in 46° 45' N. 16° 07' W. (Bay of Biscay Area). Tomorrow we are proposing to escort a convoy in 69° 20' N. 06° 15' W. (in the vicinity of Jan Mayen) we have also searched for a raider and a blockade-runner, and have attacked a convoy off the Dutch coast. During the course of the day, we have flown 50 operations, involving 115 aircraft, together with 21 P.R. sorties, exclusive of 140 Squadron.

North Atlantic. and South Atlantic.

Freetown/
Gibraltar
convoys.

It appears that an increasing traffic on the route Freetown/Gibraltar is arising. On 31 Jan. F.O.C.W. Africa made proposals for regular convoys between Freetown and Gibraltar (S.G. - G.S.) To provide the necessary escorts an addition of 4 destroyers and 8 corvettes to those which are at present available or due to join his command shortly would be required. Should these additional escorts become available it would also be possible to organize escort groups in this danger area which the scarcity of his forces and numerous small and varied commitments (such as troop movements, escorting W.S. convoys and returning transports, and screening ships at surf ports) unfortunately never permitted him to put into effect.

/This...

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North & South Atlantic - Contd.

Freetown/
Gibraltar
convoys.
Contd.

This message was not passed to N.C.X.F. until 4 Feb. and meanwhile the latter today made similar proposals and suggested that a regular 16 day cycle should be instituted, commencing on 6 Feb. and F.O. Gibraltar intends (4 Feb) to sail Convoy G.S.1 on 8 Feb. The Admiralty concurred (8 Feb) but they warned N.C.X.F. that they can spare no extra escort vessels for the convoys. When K.M.S. convoys revert to a maintenance basis of 30 ships a month after the sailing of K.M.S.12 on 26 March the intention of the Admiralty is to run combined K.M.S./O.S. convoys on an 18 day cycle.

V.A. Gibraltar points out that the restricted anchorage and difficulty of maintaining supplies demand that no considerable additions should be made to the number of ships using Gib. and he suggests a limit of 8 should be imposed on ships bound to or from the U.K. being diverted via Gibraltar for inclusion in M.K.S. or K.M.S. convoys.

Mediterranean.

ABDIEL laid mines successfully last night near Skerki Bank.

Air
Operations.

Four Albacores and two Beauforts from Malta laid mines last night off the entrance to Sfax harbour.

Fighter bombers carrying 500 lb. bombs today attacked small coastal shipping west of Pisida and in Mount Souk harbour on north coast of Jerba Island, destroying 3 schooners and another small vessel and causing damage ashore.

Thirty-eight B.24s were despatched to attack shipping in Palermo harbour at dusk. Ten bombed Palermo but could not see the results; and 16 unable to reach Palermo before dark bombed Messina and report hits and near misses on a large merchant vessel and on the quay.

A Hudson aircraft from Blida attacked a U-boat on the surface at 1000 today in 37.00 N.

(?01).16 E: 2 depth charges exploded within 15 ft. of the stern and the conning tower was gunned before the U-boat submerged.

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air
Operations.
Contd.

11 Wellingtons from Blida attacked Bizerta from 2037 to 2049 in clear weather and saw their bombs burst along the quay and in the town.

Seven enemy aircraft bombed Tripoli harbour last night; no damage was caused.

East Indies.

Convoy
"Pamphlet".

Force A (WARSPITE, RESOLUTION, REVENGE, MAHRITIUS and 6 destroyers) left Kilindini about noon today, to cover an eastbound Australian troop convoy (QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA, ILE DE FRANCE, NIEUW AMSTERDAM, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, escorted by DEVONSHIRE).

America & West Indies.

Tanker
convoys.

Revised proposals were made today from U.S.A. for imports of oil to U.K. It is proposed that the present arrangements for U.C.- C.U. convoys be abandoned and a fast (14.5 knot) tanker shuttle service of twelve 15,000 ton capacity tankers be inaugurated in lieu. This will eliminate the risks involved in convoying 40 slow tankers between Curacao and the U.K. whilst bringing across slightly more oil, and the escorts for the U.C. - C.U. convoys will be released for service elsewhere. However the adoption of the scheme depends upon whether the Admiralty can provide escorts for the proposed fast convoys.

S.C.119

Cominch has given orders that on account of the general submarine situation Convoy S.C.119 is not to consist of more than 60 ships beyond Westomp. F.O.N.F. is holding two M/S -A/S trawlers as extra escorts.

/Convoy...

3. 2. 1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - Contd

Convoy
S.G.19

Convoy S.G.19 (Sydney C.B. to Greenland) was attacked by submarines at 0400Z today in 59.22 N. 48.42 W. (about 140 miles W.S.W. of Cape Farewell) and SS. DORCHESTER was torpedoed.

SS. RHEXENOR reported being torpedoed in 24.52 N. 43.58 W. at 0949 or 0945 G.M.T. about 1200miles E.S.E. of Bermuda.

M/V NEWBROUGH reported being torpedoed at 1010 in 5 N. 43. W.

VICTORIOUS

VICTORIOUS sailed from Norfolk today, (see A.M. 1435A/6 Dec. 42 to N.C.X.F., Hush M/S).

Australia & New Zealand.

Reconnaissance showed 50 ships in Rabaul harbour today: incomplete photos show an unidentified vessel, two tankers and 36 merchant vessels totalling 164,000 tons.

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE.

It is intended to make use of her in India as L.S.I.(L) for training duties only. Re fitting out.
(D.N.E., 1442A/3.)

MIAOULES.
Unsatis-
factory
B.L.O.

Your 2003/31. From information in hand of P.N.L.O. it is not clear that Sub.-Lieut Foxwell R.N.V.R. was by any means entirely to blame for the recent unsatisfactory incident.
(N.A.2 S.L., 1942A/3 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

VIVACIOUS.

Your 1023/2. Concur retention VIVACIOUS, further signal will be made regarding your para. 4.
(C. in C. Nore, 2118A/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

WISHART,
VELOX,
WIVERN.

My P.C.S. are 047° 03' N. 012° 14' W. 043°, 12½. VELOX, WIVERN in company. Intend to pass through 048° 52' N. 009° 38' W. and 180° Bishop Rock 20. Request fighter protection and codeword.
(WISHART, 0800A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Your 0800A/3. Fighter protection arranged codeword "Silent I".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1053A/3 to WISHART.)

TRIDENT.

Intend to sail TRIDENT escorted by ANCHUSA 1700A/3 from Holy Loch (route) via the Minches, E.T.A. 1200A/5.

(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection, S. of A. 11 knots. Help message on 385 k/cs.

(3) Communications.

(S.O S/Ms Lerwick, 0949A/3 to A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Greenock, (R) Admty., A.O.C. in C. C.C., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. Subs., Capt. S.9, Capt. S.3.)

My 0949/3 sailed.

(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 1734A/3.)

BRILLIANT,
BOREAS,
ANTELOPE.

Route to Plymouth through 049° 50' N. 011° 00' W. 180 Bishop 10, 180 The Lizard 13, then by Q.Z.S. 278 to Plymouth.

BARB estimated in 049° 30' N. 009° 48' W. at 0800A/3rd diving by day through 049° 30' N. 012°

26' W. thence south-west.

Codeword "Silent 2".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1041A/3 to BRILLIANT, BOREAS, ANTELOPE, (R) F.O.S., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Admty., RENOWN, C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. W.A.)

My 1041A/3rd. Amend position of U.S.S. BARB to read 049° 35' N. 008° 20' W. at 0800A/3rd.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1231A/3 to BRILLIANT, BOREAS, (R) ANTELOPE, F.O.S., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Admty.)

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

BRILLIANT, My P.C.S. 051° 34' N. 011° 33' W. 111°, 20 knots.
BOREAS, BOREAS in company E.T.A. 1245A/4th. Request
ANTELOPE. fighter protection acknowledge following.
(Contd.) Weather report 4280 2274.
(ANTELOPE, 2200A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R)
Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C.S. are 049° 50' N. 011° 00' W. 092°, 15. E.T.A. Plymouth
1500A/4th. Weather report 5481 1664 acknowledge.
(BRILLIANT, 2201A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty.)

BARB. U.S.S. BARB 2116/2nd not to all addresses.
Now estimate U.S.S. BARB's S. of A. 150 miles per
day passing through position (Q) at 0600/6th.
My 1314/2nd refer. Amendments to my 1739/31st follow.
(F.O.S., 1139A/3 to Submarines operating south of lat. 51°
N., (R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)
Estimate following positions at 2000A/3.
(A) WISHART, VELOX, WIVERN 48° 52', 009° 38' bound Lizard 12½
knots.
(B) BRILLIANT, BOREAS, ANTELOPE 49° 50', 011° 00' bound Lizard.
(C) Surface forces informed of your P.C. and S.
(F.O.S., 1257A/3 to BARB, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty.)

TANATSIDE. My position is L course and speed 019°, 20.
(TANATSIDE, 1145A/3 to RENOWN.)

Positions My 1714/2. Para. (K) for 1000 read 1200.
of S/Ms at Add new para. (L) TRIDENT escorted by ANCHUSA
0800/4 and leaves Lerwick 1700/3 for Holy Loch. Para. (F)
movements Amend to read advance 150 miles in 24 hours.
for following (F.O.S., 1234A/3.)
24 hours. (A) U.S.S. HERRING (as 1314/2.)
(B) U.S.S. SHAD (as 1314/2.)
(C) U.S.S. BLACKFISH 45° 15' N. 02° 45' W. dived
by day for patrol off Bilbao.
(D) U.S.S. BARB 49° 30' N. 12° 12' W. dived by day through 49°
30' N. 12° 26' W. 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W. thence to southward.
(E) O.19 escorted by SHIKARI 51° 51' N. 05° 50' W. for Holy
Loch.
(F) TRIDENT (see S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 0949A/3.)
(G) DZIK on patrol in zone K.104.
(H) JUNON on patrol off Bredsund.
(J) TACTICIAN (P.314) on patrol off Gripholmen.
(K) UNSPARING (P.55) on patrol off Andfiord.
(L) O.15, SOKOL, SEADOG (P.216) vicinity 71° 01' N. 15° 02' E.
proceeding probably on surface for Lerwick. Detailed positions
follow.
(F.O.S., 1752A/3.)

/Disposition ...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.

Disposition of operational Units in North Atlantic. Operating in Northern Waters - ANSON, SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA, GLASGOW, KENT, 12 destroyers. Area Iceland- NORFOLK. Area Scapa - KING GEORGE V, HOWE, MALAYA, KENYA, SUSSEX, BERWICK, 7 destroyers. Passage to U.K. - RENOWN, FURIOUS, ILLUSTRIOUS, 3 destroyers. On Patrol - JAMAICA. Operational Area - NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, SIRIUS, 9 destroyers. (D.O.D.(H), 1542A/3 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

RENOWN. E.T.A. Force "Z" 1600A/4th acknowledge. Message passed by ANTELOPE. (RENOWN, 1806A/3 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

L. 15. A.M. 1353/2. Intend to sail L.15 at 1600/4 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR.

(2) Route to Greenock.

(4) Should submarine and escorts lose and be unable to regain touch they have been ordered to proceed to 090° Tiump Head 3 miles where S/M is to wait arrival of BUTE and FETLAR.

(6) Total submarine bombing restrictions will be asked to cover voyage from Iceland to entrance of Minches.

(A.C.I.C., 1809A/3 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

EMPIRE ROACH, N.C.S.O. Milford Haven's 1024A/27. Information received that EMPIRE ROACH left Rosslaire Feb. 1st. after sheltering and EMPIRE CHUB with EMPIRE TITAN left Queenstown Feb. 3rd also after sheltering. My 1715A/23 and 0927A/24 refer. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1825A/3 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

BERWICK. Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S., 1858/3.)

NEWARK. My 1908A/3* For Tobermory read Port ZA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2104A/3.) * re sailing of NEWARK.

Your 1814/3rd (N.T. in W.D.) If still in the area recommence search at daylight provided you consider there is reasonable chance of success. Otherwise return to Port ZA.

(R.A.(M), 2211/3 to NEWARK, (R) N.O.I.C. Greenock, Capt. (D) Greenock, CARDIFF.)

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

JUNON.

My 0903/3* There is no indication whether enemy will or will not use inner leads but you may patrol off or in Vanelv Gabet if you wish. (F.O.S., 1107A/3 to F.S.JUNON, (R) Admty., C. in C. H.F.)
* P.C. and S. of two enemy forces (See Enemy Intelligence.)

Operation
"Valuable".

Individual call signs of Force B (composition as 1120A/3) for February. (Details).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1134A/3 to Force A, (R) N.O. I.C. Newhaven, Admty., V.A. Dover, H.Q. 16 Group.)

(1) CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, TYNEDALE are to form Force A tonight 3rd/4th Feb. in accordance with my 1000/20th Jan. not to all addressees and are to patrol southward of Beachy Head passing E.A5 outward 1900 inward 0600. M.G.Bs 616 (S.O.), 611, 613, M.T.Bs 242, 89, 85 at Newhaven to form Force B.

(2) Chaser 13, UNST, ASIE at St. Helens. LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) three other movements. C.E.151 escorted by GARTH passing E.A5 buoy 1700/3rd Feb. D buoy 0145/4th Feb.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1120A/3 to N.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, Capt. (D) 1, X.D.O. East, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C. Dover, GARTH, H.Q. No.16 Group, Tangmere Thorney Island, Force A.)

My 1600/3rd para. 3. 5 destroyers patrolling to southward of Beachy Head passing E.A.5 buoy at 1900/3rd and 0600/4th.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1603A/3 to Admty.)

SEADOG
(P.216).
O. 15,
SOKOL.

Recall SEADOG (P.216), O.15 and SOKOL to Lerwick after dark tonight. Route "Orange" and "Black" are to be used.

(F.O.S., 1447A/3 to Capt. S.9, (R) Admty., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

(1) SEADOG (P.216) to leave patrol at 1800A/3rd through 071° 12' N. 016° 15' E. thence by route

"Black" to Lerwick.

(2) O.15 to leave patrol at 2300A/3rd through 071° 04' N. 015° 45' E. thence by route "Black" to Lerwick.

(3) O.R.P. SOKOL to leave patrol at 1800A/3rd through 070° 47' N. 016° 15' E. thence by route "Orange" to Lerwick.

(4) On the surface at C.O's discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast.

(Capt. S.9, 1611A/3 to S/Ms operating North of Lat. 51° N.)

Allied Air Activity.

Trondheim.

In operation P.R.U. Trondheim.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1009A/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Bomber ...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Bomber Command Report. Day 31st Jan. to night 1st/2nd Feb. inclusive. There were no operations except for 8 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. on A/S patrol on Feb. 1st, which completed patrol without making any sightings. Day 2nd Feb. Night 2nd/3rd Feb. Cologne. 161 A/C detailed, 137 A/C attacked. 5 A/C are missing from the night's operations which included 13 Halifax of 6 Group detailed for minelaying. 5 of these were successful in their allotted area. (W.D. Note: Kattegat.) (H.Q.B.C., 1215A/3.)

Airmen in distress. Received 1126 G.M.T. de R.A.F. 16 Group Chatham and being broadcast. S O S British airmen in distress at 51.00 N. 01° 50' E. (N.F. Radio, 1226/3 to Adm. Chatham, R.A.F. 11 Group Uxbridge, F.O.I.C. Dover.)

FURIOUS's aircraft. On arrival in Clyde 807 Squadron is to be disembarked to Machrihanish. (D.N.A.D., 2011A/3 to FURIOUS.) 817 Squadron is to be prepared for temporary embarkation in FURIOUS at Scapa on 9th or 10th Feb. (D.N.A.D., 2033A/3 to R.A.N.A.S., (R) C. in C. H.F., FURIOUS.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Lerwick. At 1530A/3 a Ju.88 passed over Lerwick Harbour south to north at about 50 ft. and disappeared eastwards. Guns opened fire. Plane not hit. (A.C.O.S., 1732A/3.)

Yorkshire coast. Four hostile aircraft dropped H.E. and Incendiary bombs north of Driffield East Yorkshire during air activity between 2025/3 and 2135/3. A small number of unidentified aircraft were plotted to East of searched channels. Minelaying not suspected O. (F.O. Humber, 2250/3.)

Mining.

Faroes. A.C.O.S. 1209/2nd not to F.O.C.(D) H.F. concur. It is expected that ships of 1st M.S.F. will also be available. (C. in C. H.F., 0957A/3 to Admty., (R) A.C.O.S., F.O.C.(D) H.F., N.O.I.C. Faroos.)

/Humber ...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Humber
Area.

Details of two mines detonated today.
1st mine: A. 1151/3. D. LOCH ERIBOLL 175° 62 Buoy 17½ cables. H. Suspect 5th Jan. possible 18th/19th Jan.
2nd mine: A. 1417/3. D. ALAFOSS 181° 62 Buoy 12½ cables. H. Suspect 5th Jan. possible 18th/19th Jan.
(F.O. Humber, 1951A/3.)

Enemy Intelligence.4
destroyers.

P.C. and S. 4 destroyers 58.51 N. 05.20 E. 350,
15 knots at 0753.
(A/C DR9/S, 0755A/3.)

P.C. and S. of one cruiser three destroyers
59.15 N. 5° 01' E. 340°, 15 knots Atsea.

(A/C DR9/X, 0755/3.)

Aircraft reports P.C. and S. of one cruiser, 3 destroyers
059° 15' N. 005° 01' E. 340°, 15 knots at 0755/3 and at 0753/3
4 destroyers 058° 51' N. 005° 20' E. 350°, 15 knots.

(F.O.S., 0903A/3 to Subs. operating N. of 51° N., (R)
C. in C. H.F.)

My 0903. Cancel reference to the cruiser and 3 destroyers.
Now considered that there was only one formation which consisted
of the four destroyers.

(F.O.S., 1304A/3 to Subs. operating N. of 51° N., (R)
C. in C. H.F.)

Channel.

Movements plotted by Portsmouth R.D.F. night 2nd/
3rd Feb. 2037 - 2346 U.61 Q unidentified plot
of one unit in 211° St. Catherines Pt. 30 miles.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1049/3.)

Seven vessels (class unknown). Position 60.05 N.
5.12 E.

(A/C 5 Sqdn./V, 1703/3 to 18th Gp. C.C.)

Le Havre.

Air R/C report 6 torpedo boats in Le Havre on
3rd Feb.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1749A/3 to Capt. D.15,
Cdr. Aux. Patrol, Admty., F.O.I.C. Portland,
C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.S., N.O.I.C. Dartmouth,
Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcast HD and
port wave in Plymouth Command.)

Sound
traffic.

Sound traffic today Feb. 3rd. Following observed
at Helsingborg during day.

(a) 2 small armed vessels and one armed merchant
cruiser 2000 tons passed northward.

(b) 4 northbound merchant vessels have been detained at anchor
all day though weather has been suitable for navigation. A.2.

(2) This suggests slight implication of some enemy naval
movements.

(N.A. Stockholm, 1812/3.)

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U/B attacked. Am over enemy in 56.35 N. 22.49 W. S/M on surface, when first sighted was on course 180 estimated speed 10 - 1108.
(A/C IZT/N, 1113/3.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges - 1109.
(A/C IZT/N No.2, 1135/3.)
S/M has dived in 56.35 N. 22.49 W.
(A/C IZT/N, 1140/3 to 15 Gp. H.Q.)
Attack enemy submarine which was in 56.35 N. 22.49 W. Continue sortie until prudent limit of endurance.
15 Group H.Q., 1155A/3 to A/C IZT/B, A/C IZT/R.)

U/B reported. Am over enemy submarine in 46.52 N. 8.55 W.
(A/C 103 Sqdn., 1148/3 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Technical.

Use of smoke by convoys. N.C.X.F's 1046A/13th Jan. not to C. in C. Med. or C. in C. E.F.
N.C.X.F. reports that policy of using smoke by convoy escorts during dusk and night attacks by enemy aircraft is proving of value.
Further details will be promulgated when available.
(D.T.S.D., 2025A/3 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., (R) N.C.X.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

M.M.S.141. Hull undamaged engine and windlass out of action. Will under steam berth alongside. E.T.A. boom 1500/3rd.
(See 31st January)
(BUSTLER, 0910A/3 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Arrived Clyde BUSTLER with M.M.S.141 in tow.
BUSTLER sailed for Campbeltown E.T.A. 2130A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1743A/3.)

Dutch tanker LESITA. R.N.O. Preston reports severe explosion occurred in Dutch tanker LESITA lying alongside oil jetty Preston a.m. today Wednesday. No fatal casualties to D.E.M.S. personnel, but several members of crew including Master killed. Efforts are being made to clear vessel from oiling berth p.m. today. Explosion presumed due to ignition of fumes from empty tanks. Fore part of ship reported completely wrecked.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1523/3.)

PREMIER. H.M. Drifter PREMIER, 22 tons, collided with No. 10 Hole Hook Buoy (off Killingholme oil jetty) in River Humber at 0835 hours today and sank 10 minutes later in 146° 6½ cables from buoy.

/Collision ...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.PREMIER.
(Contd.)Collision caused by jammed steering gear in strong ebb tide. No casualties.
(F.O. Humber, 1621/3.)

BLACK SWAN.

During A/A firing practice at about 1600/1 two projectiles from BLACK SWAN struck a house and (? in) vicinity of causeway at Portrush Northern Ireland. No casualties but some damage to house.

Board of Inquiry at Londonderry not possible as this would have entailed delay to BLACK SWAN on Operational Convoy duty. Capt. D. Liverpool to arrange Board of Enquiry when BLACK SWAN next becomes available.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 1856A/3.)

ONSLow.

Proceed passing Switha 1600/4 to Hull for refit. Report E.T.A. to me before sailing.
(2) Fighter protection arranged codeword "Farthing".
(R.A.(D), 2158A/3 to ONSLOW.)SS. LORD
COCHRANE.Returned from O.N.165 with collision damage at 1824/3.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2254/3.)Shipping and Convoys.H.X.224,
Tanker
INVERILEN
torpedoed,
U/B sunk,
LONDONDERRY
damaged.Intercept 0205 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de GCK SSSS CY 85* torpedoed 0201. Not rebroadcast should this be done.
(North Foreland Radio, 0305/3 to Adm. Chatham, R.A.F. 11 Group, F.O.I.C. Dover.)
* ALCOA CUTTER (W.D. Note: INVERILEN.)
H.X.224 attacked one ship torpedoed.
(HIGHLANDER, 0328A/3 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)
Atlantic Convoy Instructions Article No.39 para. No.5.

- (A) 0200Z 056° 35' N. 023° 30' W.
- (B) One on the surface.
- (C) Starboard quarter.
- (D) and (E) INVERILEN. ASPHODEL ordered to report.
- (F) LONDONDERRY, ASPHODEL.
- (G) At least 3 other U-Boats still shadowing.
- (H) (? Weather*) wind force H sea 32 showery.
(HIGHLANDER, 0542A/3 to A.I.G.303, (R) F.O.I.C.Londonderry)
* or Hazy.

Ref. A.M. 2140A/2nd. These ships can be received in Clyde but it is requested arrival of remaining ships of Clyde portion H.X.224 be deferred until after departure of K.M.S.9.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1038A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Inform Commodore and ships concerned that with the following 5 exceptions the destination of Clyde ships is altered to Belfast for orders.

The following 5 ships are to continue to Clyde: CORDELIA, KAIA KNUDSEN, ATHEL REGENT, MORENA and ACCRINGTON.

(C. in C. W.A., 1047A/3 to Escorts of H.X.224, (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Glasgow, F.O.I.C.N.I., A.B.O. Greenock.)

/H.X.224 ...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.224,
Tanker
INVERILEN
torpedoed,
U/B sunk,
LONDONDERRY
damaged.
(Contd.)

H.X.224. Following ships not present.
Straggling TESTBANK, FORT CONCORD, SALAWATI, FORT
HALKETT, CORDELIA, B.T. WASHINGTON, PALEMBANG,
T. SCOTT, CITY OF OMAHA, W. BREWSTER, ALCOA
CUTTER have not received changes of destination
in A.M. 1700/29th.
Torpedoed: J.B. RENSSELAER, INVERILEN.
Return to St. Johns (N.F.): EL COSTON, NORVINN.
Request broadcast if necessary.
(HIGHLANDER, 1120Z/3 to C. in C. W.A., (R) H.Q.C.C.
Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

D/F bearing on 6675 k/cs at 0938Z indicate U-Boat has
reported you.

(D.D.I.C., 1124A/3 to Escorts H.X.224, (R) C. in C. W.A.,
A.C.I.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.)
Is INVERILEN salvable.

(C. in C. W.A., 1153A/3 to ASPHODEL, HIGHLANDER, N.O.I.C.
Greenock, Admty.)

EMPIRE GLADE now reports striking submerged object at
2330Z/2nd shortly after depth charge attack by H.M.C.S.
COLLINGWOOD. Possibly a damaged U-Boat may be in the vicinity
056° 27' N. 024° 29' W.

(HIGHLANDER, 1245A/3 to C. in C. W.A., (R) A.C.I.C.,
ASPHODEL, Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7, H.Q.C.C.)

Your 1153A/3. INVERILEN is not salvageable, one man on
board. Am trying to rescue him.

(ASPHODEL, 1305Z/3 to C. in C. W.A., (R) HIGHLANDER, N.O.I.C.
Greenock.)

My 1305Z/3rd. Have suffered damage to hull and possibly
fuel tanks in unsuccessful attempts to induce survivors to
leave wreck. In view of this and shortage of fuel intend
leaving wreck at 1900Z. Wreck is a danger to navigation and is
(? just) held by forward bulkhead. Position 056° 17' N. 022°.

(ASPHODEL, 1536Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

By D/F on 6675 k/cs at 1557 U-Boat estimated anywhere
within 45 miles of 56° 20' N. 19° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 1800A/3 to Escorts of H.X.224, (R) C. in C. W.A.,
A.C.I.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.)

My 1536Z. Wreck has been damaged by gunfire and left in a
sinking condition for short period. My fuel tank has been
damaged, am returning to harbour in company with SHERBROOKE and
rescue ship. Survivors on wreck died.

(ASPHODEL, 1956Z/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

Attacked three times then D.C. premature destroying my
steering gear main and auxiliary. Steering compartment flooded.
Both shafts have not bearings and ends stopped investigating
shaft defects. Request tug. Three seaman torpedo ratings
missing. CLARE still attacking.

(Originator not given = LONDONDERRY, 2319Z/3 to C. in C.
W.A., Admty., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, (R) HIGHLANDER,
CLARE.)

U-Boat was picked up by R.D.F. loud clapping effect heard,
was chased and dived. Evasive tactics submerged (? snaking)
the line at high speed. Contact easily held delivered 3 attacks
and when damaged handed over to CLARE.

(LONDONDERRY, 2358Z/3.)

See also Cdre. Londonderry, 1818A/6 to Admty.

/R.A.52

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- R.A. 52
GREYLOCK
torpedoed. There are D/F indications that R.A.52 has been reported by U-Boat. (D.D.I.C., 0951A/3.)
My P.C. and S. 069° 02' N. 011° 24' W. 240°, 15 knots, detaching OBEDIENT to Seidisfjord at 1459. 5872 1213.
(F.O.2 H.F., 1202A/3 to H.F. Operational.)
My P.C.S. 070° 52' N. 000° 21' W., 260°, 8 knots. Altering to 233° at 1600. GREYLOCK torpedoed. 2 U-Boats in contact. Weather report 3872 0672.
(ONSLAUGHT, 1417A/3 to H.F. Operational.)
My P.C.S. 063° 32' N. 004° 43' W. 175°, 17 knots. E.T.A. Scapa 1615A/4. Request boom 1700. A.C.O.S. acknowledge.
(2) Cancel my 1012A/30th Jan. para. 2.
(3) Weather report 4470 0322.
(S.O. Force K, 2230A/3 to A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C., (R) C. in C. H.F., V.A.2.)
- J.W.53,
R.A.53. Request submarine cover as follows (A) for J.W. 53 from 20th Feb. to 25th Feb. (B) for R.A.53 from 28th Feb. to 5th March.
(C. in C. H.F., 1007A/3 to F.O.S., (R) Admty.)
- K.M.S.9. Amend my 1558A/1 to read K.M.S.9 noon R/V 7th 055° 38' N. 007° 21' W. Noon R/V 8th 055° 06' N. 012° 17' W.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1129A/3.)
- D.F. 2
LEINSTER. D.F.2. Intend to sail LEINSTER passing Clyde boom 0800/4 rendezvousing with CHIDDINGFOLD in 270° Cape Wrath 18' at 0800A/5 Feb. thence in accordance with A.C.O.S. 1520A/30 Jan. para. 2. E.T.A. Sorvaag day 6th Feb. Codeword "Profit".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1254A/3 to C. in C. W.A., Admty., A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Faroes, (R) H.Q.C.C., Group 15, CHIDDINGFOLD.)
- O.N.169,
O.N.S.169. Cancel my 1416/2.
(C. in C. W.A., 1205C/3.)
- North Russia
Convoys.
Firing on
Russian A/C. Following order is being inserted in N.R.C.I.
In the event of ships firing on Russian aircraft due to mistaken identity it is important that a brief report of the circumstances should be signalled to S.B.N.O. North Russia at the first suitable opportunity. Report should state -
(A) Whether or not aircraft employed correct recognition procedure and (B) Whether or not aircraft approach was suggestive of attack.
(C. in C. H.F., 1433A/3 to H.F.)

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.- Contd.

U.C./C.U. Convoys. Request details of operational control, "Chop" positions and probable route for U.C./C.U. convoy may be communicated as quickly as possible in order to facilitate production of orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 1510A/3 to Admty.)

K.M.F.9. My 2237/2nd not to EASTON para. 1 (B) for BADSWORTH read EASTON.
(C. in C. W.A., 1541A/3.)
A.M. 2246/31.

Para. 5. BADSWORTH and OAKLEY are destroyers designated in para. I. (B) and (C) of A.M. 1351/31.
2. Due to weather damage BADSWORTH will not be ready to sail with K.M.F.9 and further signals will be made.
3. EASTON will provide escort in her place.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange accordingly.
(D.O.D.(H), 1726A/3.)

INGHAM, C.T.U. 24.6.4 in INGHAM sailed at 1530Z/3rd
LEARY, speed 17 knots (corrupt group) your 1426Z/2nd.*
O.N.S.165, U.S.S. LEARY will sail to follow as soon as
S.C.118, emergency repairs are completed probably (to-
T.G. 99.2. night?). INGHAM and U.S.S. LEARY hold S.P.
02255/ but do not hold effective editions of
S.P.02459.*
(C.T.G.24.6, 1646/3 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, Admty.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Comtask 24, C.T.G. 24.7, C.T.U.
24.6.4, C.T.U. 24.1.16, FAME.)
* Re O.N.S.165 and S.C.118. / Naval Syko Card. / W.A. Code Out.
This is Cominch's 032110 action Comnav information
Comtaskfor 24, Cinclant, Admty. In order to provide additional
support of S.C.118 during next few days would it be practicable
for Task Group 99.2 to accept a 48 hour delay in arrival U.K.
(Comnav, 032325 to Admty.)
Your 032110 affirmative.
(Comnav 032359 to Cominch.)

Mid-ocean Convoys. My 1227/1st sailing dates of mid-ocean convoys
are revised as follows:
O.N.166, 11th Feb. O.N.S.167, 12th Feb.
O.N.168, 21st Feb. O.N.S.169, 22nd Feb.
O.N.170, 3rd March. O.N.S.171, 4th March.
O.N.172, 13th March.
(C. in C. W.A., 1721A/3.)

SS. ANDRE At the request of Rear Admiral Kharlamov (Russian
MARTI, Naval Attache) the Russian ships ANDRE MARTI and
MOSSOVIET. MOSSOVIET have been sailed for Iceland (C) in
U.R.61 for subsequent independent sailing at 24
hours interval to Murmansk.
Route is being prepared by N.C.S.O. Reykjavik in conjunction
with local Russian representative.
A.C.I.C. is requested to signal proposed route and sailing date
to C. in C. H.F. for concurrence.
(D.O.D.(H), 2016A/3.)

/K.M.S.9 ...

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.M.S.9.

A.M.1219/31, not to all addressees.
The following ships are to provide additional
escort for K.M.S.9.

ESPIEGLE and CIRCE, R.I.N.S. KATIAWAR and KUMAON.

2. ESPIEGLE and CIRCE will join 12th M.S.F. at Gibraltar. A.M.
1232/11 not to all addressees refers.

3. Destination of KATIAWAR and KUMAON is Bombay. V.A. Gibraltar
and F.O.C.W.Af. are requested to arrange onward passage as
requisite.

4. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to pass to ships referred to
and to sail ships as requisite.

(D.O.D.(H), 2021A/3.)

U.C. & C.U.
Convoys.

A.M. 1853/2 for Merchant ships read oil-burning
merchant ships. Add para. (2) Bunkers required
for coal-burning ships proceeding beyond Curacao
are as in para. 1 plus a minimum of sufficient
for the voyage from Curacao to (a) Panama or (b)

Trinidad depending on destination.

3. Coal-burning ships should however when possible without
cutting out cargo, bunker for destination.

(D.T.D., 2228A/3.)

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

R.A.F. Personal from 1st.S.L. A.M. 0025/25 Dec. and your
Gib. 1946/26 Dec. As the result of enquiries I made
Control. at Gib., I think that from the operational point
of view there would be little difference whether
R.A.F., Gib., remains part of "Torch" organisation
or returns to Coastal Command. From administrative point of view
however, it is more advantageous for R.A.F., Gib, to be under
Coastal Command. In view of this and importance of Gib. in hunt-
ing U/B's in Atlantic, I am in agreement with C.A.S. that on
balance it is preferable that control of R.A.F. Gib., should now
revert to Coastal Command. We have, however, agreed to defer
raising matter with Gen. Eisenhower until the new command arrange-
ments in the Med. area have been promulgated.
(1st. S.L. 0006A/3 to N.C.X.F.)

Freetown, Increasing traffic on coastal route Freetown-Gib.,
Gib. is arising. I feel it is unsatisfactory and un-
Convoys. economical in escorts to deal with this traffic
piecemeal. A regular cycle is required.
2. Suggest a regular 16 day cycle be instituted
commencing with sailing from Gib. on 6th Feb. of a 7½ knot convoy
of about 8 ships for Takoradi. (W.D. Note; Amended to 9th Feb.,
see 1031A/4.) 3. Northbound convoy from Freetown or Dakar to
meet in approx 24° 00' N. where escorts would change convoys.
4. By this means ships for W. Africa from K.M.S. and M.K.S.
convoys would be collected at Gib. and sailed Southward regularly.
Northbound ships would catch next M.K. and K.M. convoys.
5. F.O.C.W.Af. and F.O.C. Gib. are requested to remark.
(N.C.X.F. 1843A/3 to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty.,
S.N.O.C.A.)

Reply: F.O.C.W.Af. 1936/6, page 225; 1203/4, page 144
F.O.C. Gib. 1516/4, page 142.

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 35.50 N. 01.14 W. 472°, 3 knots. (A/C 9 H Y/A 0940A/3 to Gib. Call Sign TD8.)
- U/B. U/B sighted off Ponta Delgada 1500Z/2. (D.D.I.C. 0958A/3 to S. and A, Areas X Y and Z.)
- Air Patrols, Cape Juby Canary Is. Areas. Admty. 1044A/2 and N.C.X.F. 1801A/2. None under my control. (S.S.F. Western Task Force. 1018Z/3 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gib. A.O.C. Gib.) Detachment of Wellingtons and Hudsons from Gib. operating from Agadi provide air cover for convoys in this area. A/S Patrols and Sweeps are also being flown as necessary. (F.O.C. Gib. 2236A/3 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., S.N.O.C.A.)
- Situation Report. Area X, 2002A/3rd. K.M.S.8, LANDGUARD, 35.58 09.04 092°. 5.7. 2. Gib. convoy 1 ROCH-ESTER, 33.28 09.03 through 34.01 07. 49 thence 034° 7½. 3. One tug, 2 ferry steamers, 39.26 14.44 through 38.01 14.01 thence 112° 5. 4. ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, 37.47 17.37 109° 12. 5. REGENT, 34.19 09.20 059° to 35.57 05.57 at 1330/4th thence Gib. on the surface, 11 knots. 6. Three Portuguese S/MS off Sezimbra exercising. 7. Portuguese sloop GONGALVES ZARCO 37.35 10.34 to Lisbon 12. 8. Spanish training ship GALATEA left Ferrol 1st for Las Palmas. 9. MOOSEJAW off Tagus to Gib. 12. 10. C.E. 10, one A.M., 2 P. C. (?P), one French escort, 34.40 07.09 through 35.52 06.01 to arrive Gib. 1730/4th. 11. M.K.F.8, EGRET passes Europa Point 0330/4th through 036° 01' 006° 15' N. 0700/4th thence 277° 13. 12. Spanish training schooner left Cadiz 31st under sail to arrive Tenerife 6th Feb. 13. G.U.F. 4, T.F. 34, 038° 35' 019° 32' through 041° 15' 024° 30' thence 271° 13½. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 1031A/3.)
- W.S.26. Your 1531/2 (N.T. in W.D.) Last aircraft sighting W.S. 26 1800A/31 Jan. position 31.53 N. 11.35 W., speed 12.5 course 200°. (C.S.F. W.T.F. 1043Z/3 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.etc)
- GENEROSO. Swiss GENEROSO leaves Genoa "about 6th" for Gib. (D.E.W.D. 1138A/3 to F.O.I.C. Gib.(R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

- U/B
attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 28.08 N. 13.26 W. sighted on surface and seen to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C L. 30/R, 1153/3 to C/S TD8.)
- Am over enemy submarine in 28.10 N. 13.01 W. 080° 4 knots.
(A/C L. 30/R, 1350/3 to C/S T.D. 8.)
- BARFOIL. My 1835A/2 para 3. BARFCIL now requests tugs to berth.
(MOOSEJAW 1245A/3 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F. LANDGUARD, Admty.)
- U.G.S. 4. Casablanca section arrived 1030Z/2. 22 ships as follows (List) escorted by Task Force 38, PLUNKETT, BENSON, leaves Asafi section, NEW ORLEANS, ALCOA BANNER, arrived 1000Z/3. Escorted by MAYO and P.C. 475. Preceded convoy S.S. stragglers AMERICAN PRESS, DANIEL BOONE and W.C. CLAIBORNE. Sailed accordance my 311733 D.D. NIBLICK and KENDRICK returned U.S. in Task Force 34.
(S.N.O.C.A. 1535Z/3 to Cominch, Admty. etc.)
- VETCH
PENSTEMON
JENNY,
etc. F.O.C. West Africa's 1216/1. On arrival of M.K. 3. 7 at Gib. request you will sail VETCH and PENSTEMON for Port Etienne to escort JENNY, KANA, and MACGREGOR LAIRD to Gib. leaving about 12th. Feb.
(N.C.X.F. 1601A/3 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. S.N.O. C.A. Admty.)
See also 1031A/4.
- NASTURTIUM. On arrival at Gib. NASTURTIUM is to transfer from Escort Group 62 to Escort Group 36.
(N.C.X.F. 1603A/3 to F.O.I.C. Gib. Capt.(D) Gib. (R) S.O. Escort Group 36. NASTURTIUM.S.O. Escort Group 62.)
- U/B. Following has been read. Suspect was in 36.22 N. 01.53 W. Boston dropped 2 depth charges. No results observed.
(A/C C. 80/w, 1755A/3.)
- FULGOR
(Italian) Your 2024/2nd Ministry of Marine informs me FULGOR was taken into La Carraca Dockyard at 1300 yesterday Feb. 2nd. Please confirm.
(N.A. Madrid 1829/3 to R.O. Cadiz (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Gib.)
- K.M.S.8. My 1442/31st Jan. and 1841/2nd Feb. delete INGERFIRE add ESSO BAYONNE for Oran, GALLIUM for Algiers.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1900A/3 to Escort of convoy K.M.S.8 for Cdre. (R) N.C.X.F., Connav. Admty. F.O. Oran Cdre. Algiers.)

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Requejada. One or two of the small ships in Bilbao ore trade appear to be calling at Requ(?) jada. Please ask master of VAL DE LA HAYE for full details of loading procedure and habits of sailing etc. and send me by bag also amount of German supervision and possibilities of obtaining extra fuel.
(British Consul, Madrid. 1913/3 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) D. of N.I.)

Routing Information for Connav. 1. Your 1715A/20th Jan. Para. 1. Yes. 2. Your 1603/15th Jan. Para.3. Yes. Para. 5. No. See N.I.D. memo dated 23rd. Jan. on this subject. (D.T.D. 1947A/3 to S.O.(I) Gib.)

War Diary.

3.2.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATION.South Atlantic.

ALLER,
DORTMUND,
WAMERU,
WAGOGO,
RUFIDJI,
GERUSALEMME.

Your 1232/1. Negotiations are in progress for purchase by Portuguese of German vessels ALLER and DORTMUND at Lourenco Marques, WAMERU and WAGOGO at Lobito, and the RUFIDJI at Beira. The conclusion of the deal, however, depends upon the acceptance of certain conditions imposed by H.M.G., which have so far not been agreed. 2. GERUSALEMME is not, however, included in this deal.
(Hd. of M.(1), 0058A/3, to S.O.I. Capetown.)

Employment
of French
Submarines .

Your 1008A/28 should have been addressed to Admiralty.
(1st S.L. 0155A/3 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) F.O.S.)

Escort
for KANA
etc.

Can reply now be given to my 1216Z/1st Feb. (N.O.I.C., W.A., 0925Z/3, to N.C.X.F.) See N.C.X.F. 1601A/3, North Atlantic.

C.F.11.

Your 1533/2nd. Destroyers oil in pairs at Pointe Noire as arranged direct with B.N.L.O. W.A. (C. in C. S.A., 1041C/3 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) B.N.L.O. W.A. VALIANT, Admty.)

JEREMIAH VAN
RENSSELAER.

U.S. JEREMIAH VAN RENSSLAER reported torpedoed at 0210Z/2nd. Request latest movement of vessel. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1106C/3 to S.O.(I) Kingston, S.O.(I) Callao, (R) Admty.)
Your 1106C/3. Ship was in H.X.224.
(D.T.D., 2234A/3 to S.O.I. Capetown.)

HOGGAR.

Your 1115/1 Concur. F.O.C.W.A.F. pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar.
(N.C.X.F., 1110A/3, to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib., B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

RANCHI,
BLACKMOOR.

Capetown departure RANCHI for Freetown. S. of A. 14 knots. E.T.A. Position O. 006° 00' South 007° 00' East 1700Z/8th Feb. E.T.A. Freetown 0800Z/14th Feb. Shift to W/T organization for area P. at 2300Z/7th Feb. Requirements on arrival Freetown 1400 tons fuel. Escort to 028° South BLACKMOOR.
(C. in C.S.A., 1112Z/3, to Admty., etc.)

Disposition.

CHESHIRE about 042° 30' South 013° East to Montevideo 12.

CARTHAGE on patrol in area M.3 B.

VALIANT, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with C.F.11, 013° 20' S. 011° E. to Freetown 13.

D.C.4 off Port Alfred to Capetown 8.

GENISTA, ST. ZENO with C.N.4, 029° 30' S. 016° 30' E. to North 8.

/RANCHI...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions RANCHI, BLACKMOOR 031° 55' S. 016° 50' E. to
Contd. Freetown 14.
FRITILLARY, THYME, with C.A.9, 034° 45' 019° 30'
to Durban 8.
ROCKWOOD 034° 55' S. 021° 37' E. to Durban 20.
CATTERICK, 029° 25' S. 032° 40' E. to Durban 18.
SONDRA, SPHENE, with D.N.14, 031° 10' S. 032° 45' E. to 033° S.
036° E. 8.
P. 614 013° 15' S. 007° 40' E. to 030° S. 012° E. 8½.
(C. in C. S.A. 1151C/3 to area Q.)

Raft. Large life raft sighted at 0630Z/31st Jan. in 36°
29' S. 28° 45' E. dangerous to navigation.
(C. in C.S.A. 1159C/3 to B.A.M.S. 3B, 3C, 7B.)

EMPRESS Your 1501/2. Reduction of endurance is partly
OF RUSSIA. due to quality of coal and partly to somewhat
unsatisfactory firing coupled with general engine
condition of ship. Master considers that with
welsh coal 14 knots could be maintained with consequent slight
increase in ship's range.
(C. in C.S.A., 1215C/3 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) Admty.)

Saldanha A.M. 1941/25 Sept. 1942. M.W.T.R. has shown me
Bay copy of M.W.T. telegram 7267 asking if HALVDAN can
facilities. be released before arrival of Commodore. Have
replied that I cannot agree as consider it
essential that coal should be available at
Saldanha so that port can be used to fullest extent in event of
S/M attacks in this area. (2) Port is already being used for
assembly of certain ships of C.N. Convoys as a holding port for
Capetown and for bunkering of trawlers.
(C. in C.S.A., 1218C/3 to Admty.)

PRIMERO Transport PRIMERO DE MAYO has not yet sailed.
DE MAYO. Reported B.2 sailing postponed until further orders
She has however shipped her sea plane.
(S.O.(I) Buenos Aires, Argentine, 1261Z/3 to Admty)

RICHELIEU, Alter course forthwith for new position Q.018° 11'
MONTCALM, N. 043° 31' W. thence to new position Z 032° 01' N.
Destroyers. 063° 01' W. E.T.A. position Z p.m. 9th Feb.
From Z.P. Cruiser MONTCALM and U.S. Dr. SOMERS
proceeds Philadelphia. Remaining ships to New
York as previously ordered. Destroyers to refuel Bermuda as
necessary. U.S.D. MOFFETT pass to ships in company.
(F.O.W.A. 1421Z/3 to F. Cruiser MONTCALM, U.S.D. MOFFETT, (R)
C. in C.U.S.Fleet, B.A.D., Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A., F.Bs RICHELIEU.
Comar Dakar.)

RANCHI. Capetown departure 1112Z/3:- RANCHI for Freetown
routed (1) 30° 00' S. 16° 10' E. (m) 25° 00',
13° 30'. (n) 18° 00', 11° 00' (o) 06° 00' S. 07°
00' E. Thence as routed by F.O.C.W.A.F.

/S. of...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

RANCHI S. of A. 14 knots. S.F.T. to W/T Organisation
Contd. for Area P. at 2300Z/7. E.T.A. position (o)
1700Z/8. E.T.A. Freetown 0800Z/15.
(C. in C.S.A. 1447C/3, to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F.)

Movements. Arrival 2nd U.S. Aircraft tender HUMBOLDT.
(R.O. Para. 1503/3 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. Rio
de Janeiro.)
Simonstown departure 1140C/3rd ROCKWOOD for Durban S.of A.
18 knots E.T.A. 1000C/5th, shifting to W/T vicinity J. at
0200C/5th.
(C. in C.S.A. 1523C/3 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959/3rd.
MONTCALM, RICHELIEU 4 destroyers 020° 18' 036° 48'
252° 12½.

DUNKERY on patrol off Port Etienne.
CORINTHIAN, ARMEDIA, CYCLAMEN escorting 008° 59' 015° 17' to
Freetown 12.
French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE, GRANDIERE, SERGEANT GOUARNE,
escorting, about 17.17 17.30 to Dakar 7.
CANTON, CILICIA, QUIBERON, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH,
RELENTLESS, WAYLAND, QUALITY, QUADRANT with W.S.26, 019° 02'
(018°) 40' 175° 12½.
BURDOCK 018° 01' 017° 32' to Bathurst 12½.
PETUNIA, PORTSDOWN, BREDON escorting 019° 19' 017° 30' to 020° 01'
017° 30' thence Port Etienne 8.
M.L. 296 about 009° 01' 014° 01' to Freetown 10.
ADRIAS 021° 48' 018° 55' 175° 18.
(F.O.W.A. 1545Z/3 to area P. North.)

NORSOL. NORSOL 0120/G.M.T./3 passed as received.
"Received your 1525/2 Feb. bearing and distance
(T) 279° 100 plus six miles at 2359 G.M.T. 2 Feb.
Repetition of my 0242/30 Jan to Admty. acknowledged. Message
has been read, understood E.T.A. R/V 1900 G.M.T. 31 Jan."
Estimate vessel in 05.02 North 21.27 West at 1200Z/3 proceeding
to U.
(Cominch C. and R. 1550/3 to F.O.C. West Africa (R) Admty.)

Troop Movements W.A. to M.E. Following requirements for movement of troops
from West Africa to Middle East have to be
provided for:- (a) 7,000 West African Labour
Corps from Lagos. (b) 8,000 of Belgian Brigade
from Lagos. (2) To provide for (a) it is
proposed to use BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE and ORBITA on
completion of movement of Sierra Leone Brigade to Lagos. After
embarkation ships would be sailed from Lagos to join W.S.27 which
is due to leave Freetown 10/3. Ships will proceed through to
Middle East. (3) To provide for (b) it is proposed to turn
round at Capetown three ships to be nominated ex. W.S.26. These
ships would proceed to Lagos for embarkation and then as in
para. (2) above. (4) F.O.C. W.A. is requested to confirm that

/above...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Troop
Movements,
W.A. to M.E.
(Contd.)

above proposals can be implemented so far as local escorts are concerned.
5. D.S.T.O.W.Af. is requested to report date by which ships in para. (3) must arrive Lagos from Capetown.
6. G.O.C. in C. West Africa's Q.M.45803 cipher 31st Jan. also refers.
(D.S.T., 1634A/3 to D.S.T.O.W.A., F.O.C.W.A.)
Reply: D.S.T.O.W.A. 1329Z/6.

ROCKWOOD.

Simonstown departure ROCKWOOD for Durban 18 knots. E.T.A. 1000C/5th Feb. Shifting to W/T organisation for area T for Kilindini at 0200C/5th Feb.

(C. in C. S.A., 1721C/3 to Cdre. Durban, (R) N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London, C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., Admty., ROCKWOOD.)

Movements,
Takoradi.

Arrivals 3rd BELLWORT, ST. WISTAN, BARDELL.
Departure CROCUS, DUNOON, ORFSAY, COPINSAY, M.L.261, M.L.256, F.S. ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ escorting T.S.30 including MERCATOR, all Freetown Feb. 8th. M.L.263 Lagos 4th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1721Z/3 to Admty., etc.)

LEWES.

Your 1805/28 Oct. 1942 (re no objection to substitution of LEWES for LUDLOW). Request information when LEWES may be expected.
(C. in C. S.A., 1725C/3 to Admty.)
Reply: About mid-April.
(D.O.D.(H), 1453A/6.)

Movements,
Dakar.

Arrived Sloop CALAIS and MUSA.
(Comar Dakar, 1754Z/3 to R.A.W.A.)

WOLVERINE.

My 1924/13th Jan.
WOLVERINE has been delayed and will not sail with K.M.F.9. She will probably accompany W.S.27.
(D.O.D.(F), 1804A/3 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) C. in C. W.A., etc.)

MONTE
NARANCO.

(?A.M.) 1939/28th.
(1) On assumption that MONTE NARANCO will approach Las Palmas on course 26 approx. from St. Pauls Rock at 7½ to 8 (? knots), rearrange to carry search with air and surface forces alongside this track from a.m./17th Feb. to p.m./21st Feb.
(2) Search with air and surface forces will be carried alongside alternative approach route (about 045°) on 20th and 21st Feb. and possibly by surface forces only West of Verde.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1829Z/3 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

/French ...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.French
Communications.

Ref. Admty. 1507/27th Jan. It is not intended to issue French Warships in West Africa with R.A.F. Syko until Liaison Staffs are provided. (F.O.C.W.A. 1839Z/3 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)

BURDOCK,
PETUNIA,
PORTSDOWN
escorting
KANA etc.

Relieved by PETUNIA in 018° 59' N. 017° 32' W. at 1624Z/3rd. PORTSDOWN had not then rejoined. My E.T.A. Bathurst 0900Z/5th. Request 50 tons water on arrival. Weather report. (BURDOCK, 1842Z/3 to F.O.C. W.A. N.O.I/C. Bathurst.)

PETUNIA, PORTSDOWN, BREDON with KANA, MACGREGOR LAIRD and JENNY are to remain Port Etienne until further instructions. Anti-submarine screen is to be maintained. DUNKERY is to return to Bathurst.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1949Z/3 to PETUNIA, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, Admty., N.O.I.C., Bathurst Comar Dakar, S.N.O., Casablanca.)

Freetown.
Gibraltar
Convoys.

N.C.X.F. 1843A/3. See Torch Area.

MEMPHIS

Arrival 3rd Feb. U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS. R.O. Recife, 1919Z/3 to Admty.)

Ships
for
S.L.126.

Ref. Admty. 1824A/15th Jan. Request I may be informed whether accommodation is available in S.L. 126 for (A) EMPIRE GIANT, (B) NAGARA, (C) THEOMITOR. (Details.) (S.B.N.O. Rio De Janeiro, 1920Z/3 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.) Reply: Yes. (F.D.C.W.A. 1926Z/4.)

EMPRESS
OFF RUSSIA.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA due 8th Feb. destination Liverpool. (D.T.D. 1925A/3 to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

Reports of
Shipping
Losses from
Lourenco
Marques.

Your 1135/9th Jan. Censorship Authorities here have no power to stop items in Press cables to South Africa when items are already available to enemy from other sources. In certain circumstances however, the Press do agree not to publish names of ships reported as sunk in messages coming from abroad. Name of LLANDAFF CASTLE was not suppressed because it came to U.K. from South Africa with a Johannesburg date-line and indicated that there had been few casualties. 2. Name of ship had in fact been previously suppressed on similar reports from Lourenco Marques. Impracticable, however, to stop news to South Africa by this means when news is allowed elsewhere, because information soon gets back to South Africa through another channel, e.g. U.S.

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Report of
Shipping
losses
from
Lourenco
Marques.
Contd.

3. While measures in your para. 1 are a step in right direction, only completely effective action would be strict censorship within the Union itself and surrounding territories, which is politically out of the question.
(Head of M.(1) 2035A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

O.S.43
Combined
K.M.S./O.S.
Convoys.

Your 0955Z/31. O.S. 43 sails 14th Feb. Anticipated Escort beyond Gibraltar 5 Sloops, estimated number of ships 40-45. 2. When K.M.S. Convoys revert to a Maintenance Basis of 30 ships a month after sailing of K.M.S.12 on 26th March it is intended to run combined K.M.S./

O.S. Convoys on an 18 day cycle with Gibraltar joiners and leavers under local escort from Gibraltar. 3. Until these combined convoys are instituted it will be necessary to make best use of O.S./S.L. convoys for shipping between Freetown and Gibraltar.

(D.T.D., Approved by A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 2347A/3 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) C. in C. S.A., Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)

French
Re- armament.

My 1801/1 not to N.C.X.F. (N.T. in W.D., but N.C.X.F. 1801/1, see Torch Area.) Para 2 (A) should read GAZELLE and ANNAMITE and with reference N.C.X.F. 1801/1 it is agreed Type 127 would be suitable for the 2 vessels. 2. In view of heavy docking programme of French vessels at Dakar which will preclude the use of the dock for next three months it is hoped that the suggestion in N.C.X.F. 1648/22/1 to fit out some smaller vessels in U.K. may be approved.

(F.O.C.W.A., 2359Z/3 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

3.2.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- P.51. Proceed with despatch to investigate position 039 degs 20', 017 degs 09' where aircraft report tanker beached after torpedo attack at 2300 tonight. (Capt. S.10 0003A/3 to P.51.)
- Movements Aden. Arrivals - (D) 12 in PAKENHAM with PETARD and QUEEN OLGA in company 0500Z. Departures IPSWICH 0345Z. (Cdre Aden 0418Z/3 to Admty etc.)
- MARIPOSA. Your 1105/31/1. (Requesting confirmation of number of personnel that MARIPOSA may carry) Confirmed. MARIPOSA has been agreed as one of the ships permitted to embark full numbers even though unescorted in view of her high speed. (D.S.T. 0439A/3 to P.S.T.O.M.E.)
- Movements Alexandria. Arrival 2nd Feb. TETCOTT, BELVOIR, M/L 361. (S.O.(I) Alexandria. 0920B/3 to Admty etc.)
- K.M.S. 8. Onward route from position X to Y 035 degs. 55' 006° 01' West adjusting speed to pass Europa Point position 57 at 0600 5th thence 22, 109, 39, 100, 036° 52' 003° 05' E. letter C to H to Algiers, E.T.A. 0600/7th. Onward section anchor in Bay and sail at 1300/7th routed through H then 92, 91, letters J and K to Bone E.T.A. 1530/8th. Stragglers as convoy, S.O.A. 9 knots.
2. Sections join and detach as follows: Oran in 035° 52' 000° 45' West at 0700 6th. Bougie in 037° 07' 005° 00' East at 2330 7th. Phillippeville in 037° 11' 006° 44' East at 0900 8th.
 3. Escort LOUISBURG, ALGOMA, MOOSEJAW, KITCHENER, REGINA, WOODSTOCK, CAMROSE. Escort to Algiers only LAFOREY and LOOKOUT.
 4. Escorts are to be detached to fuel as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and Cdre. Algiers.
 5. Fighter protection priority 2 codeword ("Untrue").
 6. All times "A".
- (N.C.X.F. 1057A/3 as amended 1150A/4 to F.Os.I.C., etc.)
- S/Ms. Arrival UNA, departure TROOPER. (N.A. Malta 1221A/3 to Admty., etc.) TROOPER leaves Malta p.m. today routed south of you through 035 degs 12' N. 016° E. then N.E. UNA leaves Malta p.m. today routed south of you through 035° 12' N. 015° 40', then Northbound. Both warned of your route southward. Do not attack submarines West of longitude 016°. (Capt. S.10 1253A/3 to ?TIGRIS. (R) Subs. on patrol.) Sailed UNA. V.A.Malta 1801A/3 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.P.211
TURBULENT.

P.211 leave patrol so as to pass 038° 32' N. 012° 15' E. at 0500 5th and 038° 18' N. 008° 46' E. at 1200 6th onward route to Algiers 539.
2. TURBULENT patrol between 013° E. and (?014°) E. S. of 039 N. after 2000 4th. TURBULENT will be ordered to leave patrol on 8th.
(Capt. S.8, 1228A/3 to P.211, TURBULENT, (R) 8th S/F.)

DERNA.

Following is an extract from a message from Barcelona T.O.O. 1241A/3rd Feb. Arrived 2nd DERN, Italian.
(M.W.T., No T.O.O./4)

Air R/C.

P.R.U. 3rd Feb. 1000 Naples, one cruiser, photographs taken,
(V.A. Malta, 1315A/3 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
P.R.U. 3rd Feb. 1000 Naples, photograph interpretation, single cruiser present is 6 inch E Class departed Messina since 1315 31st Jan.
(V.A. Malta 1726A/3 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

TRIBUNE
P.217.

Intend sailing TRIBUNE 1730/4th routed through 038° 21' N. 004° 01' E. at 0330/5th 038° 28' N. 009° 23' E. at 0001/7th 039° 01' N. 009° 44' E. thence 080° to patrol off Naples.
(Capt. S.8. 1326A/3 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cmdre. Algiers etc.)

My 1326. TRIBUNE is to pass 039° 01' N. 009° 44' E. at 0400/7th and then proceed through 039° 27' N. 013° 04' E. to patrol South of a line 225° from Carena Light at an early date. P.217 is to patrol North of a line 225° from Carena.

(Capt. S.8. 1346A/3 to TRIBUNE P.217 (R) N.C.X.F.
Capt. (S) 10th S/F, 8th S/F.)

TAKU.

Admiralty's 1455/27th Jan. W.R. Note should be 1206, No trace. C. in C's 1206/2nd Feb. Intend to sail TAKU at 1300/6th Feb. for position H. E.T.A. position H 2200/7. Capt. (S) 8 is requested to route her thence to Algiers to disembark spare gear and personnel and then to Gibraltar. F.O. Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward routing to U.K., TAKU will carry four Mark 2 torpedoes only. (S.10 1415A/3 to C. in C. Med. S.8. F.O. Gibraltar. (R) S.1. Admty. V.A. Malta. N.C.X.F. F.O.S. TAKU.)

M/Ls.

Request reply to para. 4. of my 1945/20 in respect of 31st M/L Flotilla.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 1450A/3 to N.C.X.F. (R) R.A.C.F.)

/E.A.C. Report...

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd

E.A.C. Report MS. 7302.
Opsum Number 84. 1800 hours Feb. 1st to 1800 hours Feb. 2nd.
Night 1/2.
A. Bone, 12 E/A possibly mainly HE 111 attacked Harbour but no bomb damage resulted. Beaufighters made contacts but without results 2 E/A destroyed by Ack Ack.
Day 2/2. Maison Blanche, Continuous patrols flown by Hurricanes for protection of Algiers and convoys. 1 escort mission carried out. Sectif. 25 sorties flown by 253 Squadron Hurricanes for protection of Philippeville. Bole (Tingley.) Continuous Harbour and Base patrols carried out. At 1340 6 E/A flew over harbour at 18,000 feet but E/A turned east before fighters could make contact.
(E.A.C. Africa 1505A/3.)

Enemy M/V. P.C. and S. of one medium sized M/V 38.55 N. 17.00 E., 270° 6 knots.
(A/C BUG/A 1510A/3 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements, Port Said. 3rd Feb. Port Said arrival DULVERTON, HURWORTH, DELPHINIUM, CUMBRAE KLO. Departure Z lighter number 528, FALK, DULVERTON, HURWORTH.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1639B/3 to Admty. etc.)

M.T.B. 309. Arrived.
(V.A.Malta 1655A/3 to Admty. etc.)

U.G.S.4. Oran section arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1715A/3 to N.C.X.F.)

Malta Intelligence Summary 2000A/2 to 2000A/3. 2. No enemy air activity.
3. Strikers. Night 2nd/3rd Feb. Albacores and Beauforts laid mines off entrance to Sfax Harbour. 2134 hrs. torpedo carrying Wellingtons attacked convoy one tanker 6000 one M/V 2000 tons two D/Rs 39° 17' N. 17° 13' E. course 010°. Tanker hit in bows and left beached listing to port and with bows awash.
Day 3rd Feb. Spitfires bombers attacked railway station and warehouses at Pozzallo and power station North of Avola Sicily.
(Govr., Malta 1910Z/3)

Movements. Departures AURORA, (?SIRIUS), BICESTER, LAMERTON, ZETLAND, QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN.
(S.O.I.S. 1948A/3 to N.C.X.F. Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/S/Ms...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

S/Ms. Sailed P.217, P.54.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1957A/3 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Arrivals HAYDON, VENOMOUS, RHYL, STORNOWAY,
Oran. FLEETWOOD, VETCH, WEYBURN, HUSSAR, CONVULVULUS.
Departures VILLE DE QUEBEC, CADMUS, SPEEDWELL,
POLRUAN.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/3 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Algiers arrivals ROTHESAY, CLACTON, BUDE,
Algiers. FELIXSTOWE, PENTSTEMON, NASTURTIUM with M.K.S.7.
ARNOLD BENNETT, with two L.C.Ms from Arzeu.
C.S.12 in AURORA, SIRIUS, ABDIEL, LIGHTNING,
LOYAL from East.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1959A/3 to Admty., etc.)

Malta Air A.I.501, 3rd Feb. Part 1, offensive.
Report. Night 2nd/3rd Feb. 2 special equipment
Wellingtons and 4 Torpedo carrying Wellingtons
were sent to attack convoy of 1 tanker 6000 tons
1 small M/V, 2 D/Rs sighted 1125 hours (see Part
3.) At 2134 hours 1 Wellington sighted convoy 39° 17' N. 17°
13' E. course 010°, 8 knots and aimed 2 torpedoes at tanker
scoring hit on port bow causing an explosion and dull glow.
Tanker was left beached with bows awash and considerable list
to port. Intense flak was encountered from D/Rs and 1 Wellington
is missing. 1 special equipment Wellington, 3 torpedo carrying
Wellingtons and 3 torpedo carrying Beauforts sent to search for
and attack enemy shipping in the Bizerta area found no suitable
targets. 4 Beauforts and 2 Albacores laid mines off the entrance
to Sfax Harbour. 4 Mosquitoes were airborne on intruder patrol
to cover our shipping strikes.
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Nil.
Part 3. Reconnaissance. Day 2nd Feb. 4 Spitfire photo R/Cs.
First, Italian aerodromes, no photos. 1125 hours, 220° Point
Stilo 15 miles 1 tanker 6000 tons, 1 M/V 2000 tons both seen
in roads.
Messina 1st Feb. two D/Rs coast crawling north-east 8 knots.
Second, Reggio di Calabria, three M/Vs 1/2000 tons, one train
ferry (? in pen).
Villa San Giovanni, no shipping.
Third, Pantellaria. 19 Ju.88, 5 He.111, 1 S.M.79, 9 Ju.52s, 2
Me.323, 1 F.I 156, 1 F.W.200, 30 Me.110 or 210s, 20 Monoplane
fighters, 1 large, 6 medium, 4 small aircraft.
Borrizzo 8 Ju.88s, 10 S.M.79s or 84s, 1 S.M.81, 1 U/S Ju.52, 36
Monoplane, 14 Bi-plane fighters, 2 medium, 1 small aircraft.
C. Stelvetrano 18 C.Z.1007 Ts, 2 S.M.84 or 79 B.I.Y., 1 Ju.88,
23 S.M.82, 10 Ju.52s, 2 Me.109 Fs., 10 Monoplane, 2 Bi-plane
fighters.
Sciacca 5 Cant ?Z.1007 Ts., 1 S.M.79 or 84s, 25 S.M.82s or
Fiats 12s, 4 S.M.81s, 15 unidentified and 1 Bi-plane fighters,
2 medium, 10 small aircraft.

/Palermo ...

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air
Report..
(Contd.)

Palermo 44 S.M.79 or 84s, 3 C.A310 or 311s, 1
Me.323, 26 Ju.52s, 2 S.M.81s, 1 Caudron 445, 21
fighters, 4 medium aircraft.
Harbour since 1st Feb. 8 D/Rs, 1 M/V 7/8000,
2 M/Vs 4/5000, 1 M/V 2000 tons have departed.
4th, Catania airfield.
(H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 2051Z/3.)

P.51.

Aerial R/C today shows your target about 3
miles south of Alice Point with small coasters
alongside probably unloading her cargo. Also
much steamer traffic coast crawling.
(Capt. S.10, 2213A/3 to P.51.)

HERO.

In view of report from C.O. HERO it appears
that ship cannot make passage to U.K. unless
she proceeds direct. This implies she is not
available for escort duty. Would you prefer I
inform C. in C. Med. and R.A.(D) Med. to this
effect?
(Capt. D.12, 2223C/3 to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) HERO.)

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shuttle Service. Can reply now be made to A.M. 2045^A/14 Jan. (D.T.D., 0317A/3 to C. in C. E.F.)

B.P.67¹/₂. Sailing telegram.
(2) 0400Z/3rd Feb.
(3) Crossing 062⁰. 1200Z/6th Feb.
(3A) E.T.A. West of Quion Is. 0400Z/8th.
Route etc. Escorts MADRAS, BENGAL.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0420Z/3, 0422Z/3 to Admiralty.

DEVONSHIRE. Transports DEVONSHIRE and EASTERN PRINCE sail EASTERN PRINCE. from Bombay 2/2 E.T.A.yours 0330Z/4th and 0430Z/4th respectively Numbers order 2nd Class 2 troop deck B O R 88 Government. (P.S.T.O. India, 0513Z/3, to S.T.O. Karachi.)

BELRAY (P.S.T.O. Middle East) 1301/2 BELRAY sails 4th Feb. for Suez in P.A.23. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0734Z/3 to D. of S.T. (R:- C. in C. Med., C.in C. E.F. 472. D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf.)

Your 0048/3 N.T. in W.D. and P.S.T.O., M.E. 1301/2 Mason has no steel lighters to offer but has in Bombay a certain number of Indian dhows built of timber of 30 to 50 tons capacity each. He is negotiating these with Trincomalee and Basra and cannot say whether any can be spared for Mideast. Would these be of any use to P.S.T.O., M.E.? In view of above BELRAY proceeds to Port Okha but now reports that drydocking is required soonest possible in order to maintain speed of 11 knots and that heel piece which was recently made in Bombay is giving trouble due to softness of steel. Drydocking presumably could be arranged later at Massawa.

(P.S.T.O.I. 1103Z/3 to D.S.T. (R)P.S.T.O., M.E. C. in C. Med.)

P.S.T.O. M.E's 1301/2 has crossed my 0048/3.

2. As early arrival of BELRAY in Middle East is evidently of greater importance than delivery of lighters request you will sail her in ballast to Middle East as soon as possible unless immediate loading of lighters at Bombay or Karachi can be arranged.

3. Understand ship left Persian Gulf for Port Okha on 30th Jan. (D. of S.T. 2333A/3 to P.S.T.O. India, R. P.S.T.O. M.E. D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf., C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F.

Ceylon Movement Summary No.36 3rd Feb. (1) FALMOUTH, JUMNA, ASTER and GAWLER escorting C.42, leave Colombo 3/2 due Addu Atoll 7/2.
(2) SUTLEJ and PUNJAB escorting P.B. 25 leave Bandar Abbas 4/2.
(3) MARGURITE escorting C.41 left Colombo 1/2 due Diego Garcia 4/2 Addu Atoll 7/2 thence Colombo.

War Diary.3.2.1945.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Ceylon Movement Summary No. 36 3rd Feb. (Contd.)

(4) TULIP leaves Colombo 4/2 to R/V VICIA by Cochin, thence return to Colombo.
 (5) VERBENA escorting BM(5?) leave Bombay 4/2.
 (6) LISMORE left Diego Garcia 1/2 due Addu Atoll 3/2.
 (7) BATHURST escorting P.A.22 left Bandar Abbas 29/1 due Aden 5/2.
 (8) MADRAS and DENOAL escorting B.P.67 $\frac{1}{2}$ leave Bombay 3/2 due Khor Kwai 9/2.
 (9) GERALDTON escorting P.A.23 leaves Khor Kwai 4/2.
 (10) BOMBAY escorting B.P.67 $\frac{3}{4}$ leave Bombay 3/2.
 (11) HIRAVATI escorting A.P.16 left Aden 27/1.
 (12) RATNAGIRI escorting A.P.14 left Aden 22/1 due Khor Kwai 28/1.
 (13) KONKAN arrived Calcutta 1/2 and leaves 3/2 for Madras escorting one M/S.
 (14) RAJPUTANA escorting one M/S left Calcutta 1/2 arrive Madras 4/2.
 (F.O. Ceylon 0800/3. to Admty, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Comrin, S.N.O. P.G.)

B.P.67 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Sailing telegram.
 (2) 0830Z 3rd Feb.
 (3) E.T.A. R/V with Karachi portion position (c) 0500Z 6th Feb.
 (3A) Crossing 062°. 1400Z/7th Feb.
 (3B) E.T.A. west of Quoin Is. 0800Z/9th Feb.
 Escort BOMBAY.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0846Z/3 0850Z/3)

TALMA

One personnel ship TALMA your 2020/1st refers. Expect to sail 19th Feb.
 (P.S.T.O.I. Bombay 0906Z/3 to P.S.T.O. M.E.)

TANDA

Following refers to your 2320/18th July para.No.3. 300 Indian passenger crews and 12 saloon passengers await shipment per TANDA 10 knots from Madras to Australia unescorted sailing end February. Propose approval be granted for this sailing subject to number allowed by passengers certificates not being exceeded.
 (C. in C. E.F. 0928Z/3 to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon, A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C. Calcutta.

Troop Moves and Polish Personnel.

Para. E of my 0929/29th Jan for VARSOVA read TAKLIWA.
 Intend sailing KAROA 9th Feb. to Suez via Aden with mercantile crews 250. Speed 13 knots.
 (P.S.T.O. India 0957Z/3 to C. in C., E.F., F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, Cdre. Aden, D.S.T., N.C.S.O. Bombay.)

/Movements...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies (Contd.)

Movements.

Arrival 3rd QUILLIAM.
(F.O. East Africa 1101Z/3 to Admiralty).
Feb. 3rd WARSPITE, MAURITIUS, FOXHOUND, RESOLUTION,
ROTHERHAM, REVENGE and QUILLIAM, NEPAL, NORMAN,
NIZAM departure. (F.O.I.C. E.Africa & Zanzibar,
1102Z/3 to Admiralty, (R) F.O. Ceylon).
Arrival 0936Z ORISSA and SONAVATI with P.B.24. Departure 0631Z
BENGAL and MADRAS with B.P.67 $\frac{1}{2}$. 0951Z BOMBAY with B.P.67 $\frac{3}{4}$.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1136Z/3 to Admty, C. in C. Eastern Fleet,
F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, S.N.O.)
Colombo arrival 3rd Feb. 0100Z WORCESTSHIRE. Departures 3rd
Feb. 0530Z POONA. 1200Z JUMNA. FALMOUTH, ASTER, GAWLER.
(F.O. Ceylon 1138Z/3. to Admty, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.,
F.O.C.W.A.F.)

KEDAH.

Provided KEDAH's speed can be restored propose
she reinforces vessels working on escort duties
at Kilindini. Your 1518/15th Jan. refers.
2. I am in need of such a vessel to provide escort to important
Auxiliaries supplying Madagascar and Island Bases and passenger
carrying capabilities could be usefully employed clearing Naval
Personnel from Durban.
3. It would be necessary to fit KEDAH with proper cold storage
space since requirements of fresh provisions cannot be met
locally.
(C. in C. E.F., 1201Z/3 to Admty (R) F.O. Ceylon, R.A.T.E.)

Routeing
Instructions.

Amendment number 6 to Heiri (? Meiri) sect. V.
Cancel para E and substitute:- Route etc.
instructions for entering Persian Gulf.
(C. in C. E.F. 1237Z/3 to E.I. Stn. 134C All S.O's
Ships, Establishments, W/T Stations and other
N.A's and Civil Establishments which may be
concerned, ashore and afloat (including R.I.N. R.M.
N. on East Indies Station). (R) Opnav, Admiralty,
N.C. Melbourne, Air C.S.A. N.L.O. Durban, F.O.R.C.
A. N.Z.N.B. Wellington.)

GENERAL
MICHIELS.

Your 1204 of 29th January urgent representations
have been made by M. of W.T. to Government of
India through High Commissioner in London for
termination of existing charter of GENERAL
MICHIELS and transfer of this vessel to naval
service as salvage vessel for Ceylon area. Our
Mast 6330 to Masson refers.
(Admty 2026A/3 to C. in C. Ceylon, (R) F.O.
Ceylon, S.T.O. Colombo, C. in C.E.F., P.S.T.O.
India.)

Cables.

My 2212/9th Dec. Free French National Committee
in London see no objection subject to agreement of
General Legentilhomme and have referred matter to
him.
Request arrangements at Reunion be settled locally.
(Admty. 2036A/3 to C. in C. E.F. (R) East African
Command, N.O.I.C. Tamatave., N.O.I.C. Mauritius.)

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S.G.19,
DORCHESTER
(Am).
torpedoed.

Convoy S.G.19 attacked by submarines 059° 22' N. 048° 42' W. 0400Z. DORCHESTER torpedoed. (C.T.U. 24.8.3., 0442/3 to C.T.F.24 (corrupt group) (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

S.G.19 reported attacked by S/M 059° 22' N. 048° 42' W. at 0400Z DORCHESTER torpedoed. (C.O.A.C. 0631Z/3 to G.B.7 A (R) C.T.F. 24. Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)
Attack on S.G.19 at 0400Z/3 59° 52' N. 48° 42' W. and heavy D/F traffic in area and southerly to 55 North indicate Wolf pack forming along your route.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1000/3 to C.T.U. 24.1.13, C.T.24. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet).

RHEXENOR
torpedoed.

The following has been read SSSS GDXB (RHEXENOR) torpedoed Lat. 24.52 N. Long. 43.58 W. at 0949 G.M.T. (GZZ de WSL No T.O.O./3 Recd. 1045 F.O.C.W.Af. 1219Z/3).
Kingston 0635R/3 and S.B.N.O.W.A. 0949Q/3 give time 0945. W.R. Note. F.O.C.W.Af. 1219Z/3 is being repeated to S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D. and Comar Dakar.

Movements

Left 2nd Feb. U.S. transport STATE OF MARYLAND St. Lucia 3rd. (Treasurer Dominica, 1345/3 to S.O.(I) Jamaica).
U.S. Cutter MARION REPULSE 2nd left 3rd. (Grenada 1435Q/3 to Admty).

CERINTHUS
survivor.

Trinidad passes report from U.S. Ship KENTUCKIAN that William Colbon, survivor British CERINTHUS torpedoed 2230/9th Nov. 180 miles from Cape Verde Islands, was picked up 1430Z/24th Jan. in 011° 22' N. 038° 55' W. from lifeboat which originally contained 20 men but when found contained only Colbon and six bodies. Colbon too ill to interrogate. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0908R/3 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Movements
Summary
at 1800
G.M.T./3rd.
Feb.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
BRIDGEWATER	05½° N. 30° W.	092°	11
F.S. RICHELIEU	21° N. 37° W.	301°	12½
F.S. MONTCALM			
U.S. Escort	27° N. 29° W.	090°	10.
9 L.C.Is.			

(D.O.D. (F) 1000Z/3 to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.NEWBROUGH
torpedoed.

Received 1017 G.M.T. de Tiree Radio heard alarm signal de unknown station at 1010 SSSS (NEWBROUGH) (unread) torpedoed Lat. (unread) 5 N. long. 43 (unread) W. rest unread. Strength of signals O/1 and Q R M. Controlling Station Port Patrick Radio. (Port Patrick Radio 1117/3 to Navy Charge Greenock).

POLLUX

Kingston arrival U.S.A. T. POLLUX. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1121R/3 to Admty. Opanav, N.O.B., Guantanamo Com. Gulf, Comcarib.

L.S.T.

New York departure 2nd for Norfolk L.S.T. 368. (N.S.H.Q. 1200Z/3 to Admty (R) B.A.D.)

30th M.L.
Flot.

Arrivals M.Ls. 481, 479, 482, 486 completing 30th M.L. Flot. (B.S.N.O. Trinidad 1202Q/3 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica, Cdre. Sea Frontier, Carib. B.R.O. St. Lucia, N.O.B. Trinidad).

ROXBOROUGH

Your 2100Z/2 ROXBOROUGH will not be able to arrive Charleston till 13th Feb. (F.O.N.F., 1336Z/3 to B.A.M.R. (R) C.T.F. 24. C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q. ROXBOROUGH, Admty).

Tanker
Convoys to
Curacao
crated A/C
Shipment.

Desired to ship crated reserve aircraft maximum weight 4 tons as deck cargo in Tanker Convoys to Curacao. Request information as to unloading facilities available and whether aircraft can be uncrated and erected before transfer to airfield by road. (D.N.A.D. Admty. 1405A/3 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, C. in C. W.A.)

U.S.
dispositions.

Cominch's 2000/02 (Serial No. 59) informs as follows:- This refers to my 2125/26 (changes) Pacific DENVER at sea CHENANGO in South Pacific. Atlantic BROOKLYN, TEXAS and CARD, RANGER and TUSCALOOSA at Norfolk. MASSACHUSETTS at Casco Bay. ARKANSAS at New York. (Comnavu 1431/3 to Admty) Amended 1034/4.

STATE OF
VIRGINIA.

Departure 3rd Feb. (U.S.A.T.) STATE OF VIRGINIA Trinidad 4th embarkation. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 1435/3 to Admty etc).

/Motor...

War Diary.

3. 2. 1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Motor Intend to sail Feb. 4th H.M.M.S. 107, 102, 103,
Minesweepers, 105, 106 escorted by H.M. Trawlers BUTTERMERE
BUTTERMERE, and WASTWATER to Recife thence to Freetown.
WASTWATER. Route in accordance with Cominch 1912/3rd Jan.*
E.T.A. Recife 1200Z/16 Feb. E.T.A. Freetown 28th
Feb. S. of A. 8 knots to Recife, 9 knots
thereafter. Senior Officer H.M.M.S. 107.

(2) Communications.

(3) Minesweepers require total 25,000 U.S. gallons Diesel Oil
and Escorts 200 tons Fuel Oil on arrival Recife.

Comsolant pass to S.O.(I) Recife.

(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1502Q/3 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc)
See 1202Q/4.

*re route of H.M.S. BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER.

S.C.119 Due to general submarine situation S.C.119 is
not to consist of more than 60 ships beyond
West O.M.P.

(Cominch C. and R. 1518/3 to C.O.A.C. (R)
N.S.H.Q. F.O. Newfoundland C.T.24, Admty.
C.E.S.F.) See also 1720Z/3.

S/M
estimate
Feb. 3rd.
U.S. Sub
Notices.

Cominch, 1530/3, 1531/3, 1602/3, 1603/3,
1604/3, 2355/3 to Admty.

WATCHMAN

E.T.A. St. Johns 2359/3 with STUART PRINCE.
Request Cape Clear Light.
(WATCHMAN, 1600Z/3 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.
(R) C. T. 24, C.T.U. 24.1.15).

L.S.T. (2). Ref. C.O.S. (W) 447. The additional 19 L.S.T.
(2) to complete to 68 will be delivered to
us at New Orleans between 24th Feb. (?and) 11th
April.

(2) Early delivery can be taken over with skeleton crews until
(?full) crews are available. Takeover, passage New York,
making good defects storing and loading will take approx.
5 weeks. These ships should therefore be ready to sail New
York from mid April to mid May.
(B.A.D. 1635Z/3 to Admty).

G.U.S. Convoys. Admty. pass to C. in C. Africa and N.C.X.F. for
information (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
Your 1246A/29. Ships from M.K.S. convoys
destined for United States will be accepted in

G.U.S. convoys up to a limit of 10 provided they have speeds
of at least 9 knots. These are in addition to limits prescribed
in my 1802/27th Dec. B.A.D. informed.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1647/3 to Admty).

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B Following is recoded version of 24.8.3's
1427/3 begins - Plane sighted U-boat in 60° N.
46° 40' W. at about 1255Z and dropped bombs on
same at about 600 feet. C.T.F.24 pass to A.I.G.
302 and Cinclant. TAMPA screening BISCAY 30 miles 335°
from U-boat position. LUTZ 345° 9 miles from TAMPA. C. in C.
W.A. pass to C.T.G.24.7.
(C.T.U. 24.8.3., 1709Z/3 to C.T.F. 24 and S.O.P.A. Greenland.)

S.C.119, My 1815Z/30 Jan. In view of very large number
DOCHET, of ships in S.C.119 propose to hold DOCHET and
PORCHER. PORCHER as extra escorts for this convoy.
(F.O.N.F., 1720Z/3 to Admty. (R) C.T.F.24.,
C. in C. W.A. Cdre. Londonderry, C.T.G.24.7.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C., Cominch, PORCHER,
DOCHET)

Storage Your 1631/5th Jan. Free French Naval Authorities
Tanks except offer to provide storage tanks at St.
St. Pierre. Pierre on Free French financial account and
are instructing their local representatives
accordingly.
(Admty. 1746A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) B.A.D.
F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

U.G.F.5 Admty. deliver to C. in C. Africa N.C.X.F. for
information (passing action being taken by W.R.)
Convoy U.G.F.5 will sail New York Feb. 8th as
follows. For Mediterranean ports U.S.S. LAKEHURST
A.Ps. (?DIX) NIGHTINGALE, SLOTERDIJK, LYON, THURSTON, ALEXANDER,
ANTHONY, STANTON, ACADIA. For West African ports, SEATRIN
TEXAS, A.Ps. ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, URUGUAY, BARRY, SIBONEY,
HAWAIIAN SHIPPER, PARKER, ATHLONE CASTLE, A.Os. OKLAHOMA,
(?COLINA) ESSO PHILADELPHIA, plus French naval tanker LOT if
ready. U.S.S. SALAMONIE will accompany to fuel escorts. Total
24 ships. B.A.D. Washington has by hand.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1842/3 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R)
C.E.S.F., Cdt. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, Admty.
Comnav, N.C.X.F., B.A.D. C. in C. Africa, C.T.F.29, C.T.F.36.
U.S. Port Director N. York, S.N.O. Casablanca).

U/B A/C attacked S/M in 060° 00' N. 046° 40' W.
at 1255Z/3.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1843Z/3 to G.B.7 A. C.T.F.
24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G.24.7
H.Q.C.C.)

/U.C/C.U...

War Diary.

3. 2. 1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.C./C.U. Your 1017/31st Jan.
O.T./T.O. 1. Cominch 2245/1st Feb. refers to C.A.F.A.C.
convoys. 2045/9th Jan. and is opposed to U.C./C.U. convoys
calling Trinidad.
2. Comcarib 1711/29th Jan. (Tanker message) to
C.A.F.A.C. gives reasons why O.T./T.O. convoys
will call Trinidad.
(D.T.D., 1921A/3 to S.B.N.O. Curacao).

A.T.- T.A. Ref. your QO/336 of 19 Jan. (1500Q/19).
convoys. Agree your proposals.
ANDES and EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND are continuing on
trans-Atlantic service as T.A.35 sailing 14 Feb.
to Halifax to return as A.T.37 late Feb. and as
T.A.36 sailing 19 Feb. to New York to return as A.T.39 mid
March. Latter to New York vice Halifax for essential
repairs but intended for R.A.F. and Canadians as in your
programme. Q.E. will return to service as A.T.38 early March.
(Troopers 1950A/3 to Milstaff Washington).

A.T.36 Pre-sailing telegram Admty. 2250/30th Jan.
Cominch C. and R. 1329/1st. Codeword "Deuce".
(C.O.A.C., 2001Z/3 to Admty etc).

ATTACKER Your 1843/2. Unless there are particular reasons
for ATTACKER to visit Trinidad she should proceed
direct from Jamaica to Curacao.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2005A/3 to B.A.I
(R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.I.C. Kingston,
S.B.N.O.W.At. N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.
Curacao, R.A.N.A.S. Palisadoes. ATTACKER.)
See 1755Z/4.

CHICKADEE This is paraphrase of my 1845/3 action
Comsevforslant repeated Cominch, Cosamphorslant,
Comtaskfor 32, Comtask Group 26.7 (begins)
Direct CHICKADEE report Comtask force 32 for
duty XI (I) will issue her preliminary movement orders when
she reports. On arrival Task Force 32 at Gibraltar CHICKADEE
detached Task Force 32 and assigned Northwest African Sea
Frontier for duty (Ends).
(Cinclant, 2016Z/3 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Shipping Connav Serial 3. OCEAN COURAGE torpedoed sunk
Casualties. 15th Jan. 10.52 N. 23.28 W. Six survivors landed
Norfolk 2nd Feb.
SAMUEL GOMPERS torpedoed sunk 29th Jan. 24.21 S.
166 12 E.
OROPOS serial 16 presumed lost in Lieu (?).
(Connav, 2102/3 to Comnaveu).

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B Coast watcher reports sighting S/M on surface in 047° 36' N. 053° 02' W. at 2030Z/3. Headed in easterly direction.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 2114Z/3 to G.B. 7 A. C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

MONTGOMERY. Charleston sailed 1530Q/2nd MONTGOMERY destination St. Johns N.F. speed 16 knots due approx. 8th.
(N.S.H.Q. 2153Z/3rd to Admty etc).

U.C.-C.U. Convoys. B.M.S.M. and W.S.A. have examined the operation of Tanker tonnage resulting from the institution of convoys of 40 Tankers each on a 20 day cycle. The outcome of these discussions is that provided suitable escorts can be made available a group of 12 fast American Tankers can be put into direct D.W.I. - U.K. service about mid March.

2. Revised proposals have therefore been made as follows:
(A) Present arrangements for U.C. - C.U. convoys to be abandoned
(B) A fast (14.5 knot) Tanker shuttle service of 12 15,000 ton capacity Tankers to be inaugurated in lieu.
(C) The Tankers intended for allocation to U.C. - C.U. Convoys to remain in service as at present.

3. Advantages of these proposals are the following:
(A) The import figure of oil to U.K. will show a slight improvement over U.C. - C.U. convoy proposals.
(B) The risk involved in convoying 40 slow Tankers between Curacao and U.K. will be eliminated.
(C) Ocean going escorts suitable for 10 knot convoys will be released for service elsewhere.

4. Before proceeding with further development of these proposals Admty. is requested to state whether suitable escorts can be made available to escort a convoy of 12 15,000 ton capacity tankers speed of advance 14.5 knots on a minimum turn-round between D.W.I. and U.K.

5. If these escorts cannot be made available it is appreciated that oil import position required that arrangement for U.C - C.U. convoys must proceed as at present.
(B.A.D. 2159Z/3 to Admty) Reply Admty 0040A/6. See B.A.D. 1659/6 to Admty.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. Plane attacked S/M 60° 00' N., 46° 40' W. approx. 1255Z/3. Plane attacked S/M on surface 56° 35' N., 22° 49' W. (?10)08Z/3. Surface craft sighted S/M on surface (?64°) 35' N. 23° 30' W. 0300Z/3.
Para. D. C.G.R.473 makes sound contact 34° 20' N. 76° 30' W. 1400Z/2.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2200/3 to Admty).

/U.C/C.U...

War Diary.3.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd

U.C/C.U. A.M. 1108/24th Jan. Masters of oil-burning ships
convoys, sailing in U.C/C.U. convoys should be advised
bunkers. that they should bunker for voyage of 5,000 miles
in convoy maintaining a speed of 9 to 10 knots.
The usual safety margin should be added to the
above.

(2) Bunkers required for coal burning ships proceeding beyond
Curacao are as in para. 1 plus a minimum of sufficient for the
voyage to (a) Panama or (b) Trinidad depending on destination.

(3) Coal-burning ships should, however, when possible without
cutting out cargo, bunker for destination.

(D.T.D., 2226A/3 to C. in C. Rosyth, (R) C. in C. Nore, C. in C.
W.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements Arrivals. Sydney (N.S.W.) 1st KAPUNDA
Rockhampton 2nd F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, Geraldton
2nd Dutch Ship TJERK HIDDEN. Newcastle 1st WAGGA.
Departures. Brisbane 1st U.S. (D) HENLEY for
Sydney (N.S.W.) Port Moresby, 1st BENDIGO on
escort duty.

(A.C.N.B. 0631Z/3 to Admty etc).

U.S. Transport BONTEKOE arrived Bowen 2nd Feb.

U.S. Transport HERMITAGE departed Brisbane 2nd due Sydney (N.S.W)
3rd.

Hospital ship MANUNDA departed Brisbane 2nd due Port Moresby 6th.
(A.C.N.B., 1133Z/3 to Admty. Connav).

Digest Medium transport and unidentified vessel in Buka
Serial No. Passage afternoon 1/2.
377 Feb. 3. Morning Liberator photographed two 130 foot
2nd. vessels beached open bay. Bombed and strafed
3 motor landing barges off shore nearby, causing
casualties. Later saw 700 ton camouflaged vessel
south open bay near Lolobau Island. Probably

same vessel towing two barges to mainland bombed and hit by
afternoon Liberator.

4. Barge activity Lae 31st.

7. 3 Hudsons bombed and strafed Harbour Toeal (Kai Islands)
during forenoon causing extensive fires.

8. Same time two Liberators dropped explosives incendiaries
also strafed stores on beach near Kaukenau, refer Digest No. 374
para. 9.

9. Unidentified aircraft over Darwin Derby Broome 1 Feb. and over
Batchelor, Broome, 2 Feb.

10. PETER H. BURNETT arrived Sydney 2 Feb. under tow, refer
Digest No. 368 Part 14.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0805Z/3).

/Air...

War Diary.

3.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Air Requirements. My 1100Z/11th July 1942. Naval air requirements. State of progress as follows: (details).
(3) If scheme is to be developed without delay it now appears necessary to appoint experienced naval air staff to Australia to settle further details of maintenance and operational organization as they arise. This matter is closely concerned with operational requirements concerning which separate message will be sent. R.A. Ralph Wood now established at Brisbane as Cdr. U.S. Naval Aircraft S.W. Pacific Area.
(N.B. Melbourne, 0900Z/3 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc).

PETER H.
BURNETT.

My 1131/23rd Jan. PETER H. BURNETT arrived Sydney 2nd Feb. under tow. Torpedoed starboard side No. 5 hold, bulkheads held, shaft probably carried away. Wool cargo took concussion and prevented further damages. Visibility 2 to 3 miles, submarine or torpedo track not observed. Casualty, 1 seaman died of head injuries.
(A.C.N.B., 2216Z/3 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1340A/3, 1351A/3).

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Re-organis-
ation of
Convoy
escorts.

The Admiralty estimate that there is a deficiency of 65 in the number of escorts required for our ocean convoys; they are examining the available resources, with the Americans, with a view to each providing half of the deficit. N.C.X.F. is to give up 17 R.C.N. corvettes which will be replaced by short endurance vessels, and Rosyth, the Nore and Plymouth Commands have all to surrender ships whose places will have to be taken by lower category vessels. The Admiralty recognise that these measures seriously deplete resources for important commitments in Home Waters. M.Ls provide the only source for reinforcements, and C. in C's concerned are asked to report if these can be usefully employed. The need for a simple classification of the many different types of convoy escort vessels is apparent and the Admiralty today asked B.A.D. Washington to discuss with the U.S. Naval Authorities 3 classifications - Long (L), Medium (M), and Short (S) - which it is proposed should be adopted throughout the United Nations' Forces.

Home Commands.

RENOWN and FURIOUS (Western Mediterranean Fleet) and ILLUSTRIOUS (from temporary service in South Atlantic, to refit) arrived at the Clyde this evening.

V.A.2 in ANSON with SHEFFIELD and 3 destroyers arrived at Hvalfjord this evening and Force R (KENT, GLASGOW, BERMUDA) arrived at Scapa this evening, from covering convoy R.A.52.

Air
Operations.

An aircraft of Coastal Command attacked a submarine at 1208 today in 45.30 N. 12.32 W. and estimates one hit. 263 aircraft of Bomber Command set out last night to bomb Hamburg. Owing to severe icing many crews had to turn back, but 126 attacked. Results could not be accurately observed but it is thought the attack was scattered. 16 aircraft are missing. During operations today Fortresses of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command claim 25 ; 8 : 6.

A mine was detonated off Orfordness and one off Harwich, today and other explosions are reported.

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Axis
Shipping.

R.O. Seville reports that the Spanish RIA DE EL FERROL (formerly the German PORTO) left at 1615/4 for an unknown destination, probably Cadiz. The Spanish RIA DE ARES (formerly the German SEVILLA) has taken on board 6 cases of material.

A Hudson from Gibraltar attacked a suspicious wake today in 36.52 N. 00.22 W.; depth charges brought some objects of unknown nature into the air.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE reports that she found evidence at Deception Island, South Shetlands of assertion of Argentine Sovereignty. This she obliterated and substituted British.

Mediterranean.

The boom defences of Malta are found to be in a most unsatisfactory state and V.A. Malta asks for early consideration.

M.T.Bs 307, 313 and 315 sailed from Malta at 1618A today to operate south of Marittimo.

The French S/M IRIS left Valencia this morning for Cartagena, escorted by the Spanish gunboat DATO.

Tripoli (L).

Two merchant ships of the first Tripoli (L) convoy entered harbour at 1700 today.

H.M. S/M UNSEEN (P.51) torpedoed and sank a 1500 ton merchant vessel in tow unescorted in 39.36 N. 17.11 E. at 1733 today.

/On ...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

On return from patrol P.46 reports sinking a large schooner off Hammamet on 23rd January, a small tanker off Hammamet on 25th January, gunned a caique and left it waterlogged on 26th January and sank an escorted 2000 ton merchant vessel off Sousse on 31st January.

Air
Operations.

Two Malta Beauforts laid mines last night off Ras Kaboudia (42 miles N.N.E. of Sfax.) Halifaxes and Wellingtons bombed shipping in Palermo last night under difficult conditions; fire and explosion were seen in the harbour and another fire south of the harbour, and other bombs burst in the harbour area, but the damage caused is not known. 8 Wellingtons from Blida bombed Bizerta from 1956 to 2015 without loss to themselves.

East Indies.

A scale of priority for defence areas in Mauritius and Seychelles is laid down in a War Office message today to G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

Convoy "Pamphlet" sailed from Perim today (see Mediterranean 3rd February.)

America and West Indies.

The S.O. of escort of S.C.117 reports that the area between 49° N. and 55° N. and west of 48° W. is dangerous to escorts on account of extra top weight caused by icing, and in addition the fighting efficiency of the escort vessels is severely handicapped by icing.

/S.C.118 ...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C.118
U.187 sunk.

BEVERLEY one of the escort of S.C.118 sighted a U-Boat at 1100 today; VIMY dropped depth charges and the U-Boat (U.187) sank at 1347. 3 officers and several ratings were picked up. The position of the convoy at 2130Z was 51.39 N. 36.13 W.

As Curacao is unsuitable for the turn round of A.C.Vs escorting U.C. - C.U. convoys Cominch suggests that San Juan, Puerto Rico should be used by the A.C.Vs. San Juan is a full carrier operating base.

Australia and New Zealand.

20 Japanese destroyers were sighted today N.W. of Vella Lavella Island, Solomon Islands, and were attacked by aircraft. One was sunk and 2 damaged.

A Liberator made a hit and near misses on a small vessel on a reef off Arawe today.

On 17th February it was reported in the press that the U.S. Navy Dept. on 16th February issued a communique stating that the Japanese losses in Air/Sea fighting in the Solomons between 29th January and 4th February were 2 destroyers, one corvette and 2 large supply ships sunk, 4 other destroyers probably sunk and 6 others damaged. They lost 60 or 61 aircraft. The U.S. losses were the 8-inch cruiser CHICAGO, one destroyer, 3 M.T.Bs and 22 aircraft. (Per 619)

4. 2. 1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Flag of R.A.M. The Flag of Rear Admiral A.M. Peters D.S.C. is to be hoisted in AGAMEMNON at 0900/5th Feb. and transferred to TRELAWNEY at 0900/6th. The Flag of Vice Admiral T.B. Drew O.B.E. is to be struck at sunset 5th. (V.A.M. 0945/4).

TRIDENT P.315. Intend (1) TRIDENT to proceed Med. at end of Feb. (2) P.315 to be retained in her place in U.K. for service with 3rd Sub. Flot. (F.O.S., 1646A/4 to Admty).

13th Aux. A/S Group. The 13th Auxiliary A/S Group consisting of A/S Trawlers BONITO, GRAYLING, MULLET, and WHITING are allocated to the Mediterranean Command. 2. On completion of fitting out trawlers should be sailed for Milford Haven. 4. On arrival at Gibraltar these trawlers are available for temporary employment under N.C.X.F. who is requested to sail them for the Eastern Mediterranean by the first suitable opportunity. (V.C.N.S. 1746A/4 to C. in C. Rosyth).

STELLA CARINA. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1745A/19 Jan. Intend to sail STELLA CARINA to arrive Greenock 10th February for D/F calibration and thence Milford Haven. Vessel is required to sail from Milford Haven on 15th February for foreign service. Admty's 2122A/1 refers. (WESTERN ISLES, 2009A/4).

Movements.

S/M My 1752, Para. L.
Positions. 0.15, 71° 03' N., 18° 50' E. thence through 71° 04' N. 15° 45' E. to Lerwick.
P. 216, 71° 15' N. 17° 01' E. through 71° 12' N. 16° 15' E. for Lerwick.
SOKOL, 70° 47' N., 16° 15' E. for Lerwick.
(F.O.S., 0019A/4).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/5 and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) 0.15 69° 30' N. 10° 20' W. speed 8 knots for Lerwick.
 - (B) SEADOG (P.216) 68° 30' N. 09° 05' E. speed 9 knots for Lerwick.
 - (C) SOKOL 68° 23' N. 09° 58' E. speed 9 knots for Lerwick.
- Above submarines are proceeding probably on the surface.
- (D) TACTICIAN (P.314) off Grip Holen.
 - (E) JUNON off Bredsund.
 - (F) DZIK in Zone K. 104.
 - (G) TRIDENT escorted by ANCHUSA vicinity Mull of Kintyre due Holy Loch 1200/5th.

/(H)...

War Diary.4. 2. 1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Positions. Contd.

(H) O.19 escorted by SHIKARI vicinity Ailsa Craig due Holy Loch 1200/5th.

(J) BARB 47° 20' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day through 45° 01' N. 12° 54' W. thence to Zone K. 505 daily advance 150 miles.

(K) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.

(L) SHAD 44° 12' N. 02° 01' W. dived by day through 43° 20' N. 03° 01' W. and 48° 01' N. 06° 01' W. daily advance 140 miles.

(M) HERRING 44° 45' N. 11° 35' W. dived by day through 45° 02' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. daily advance 175 miles.

(N) UREDD leaves Lerwick 1400/5th probably on surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles 62° 01' N. 000° 38' W. at 67° 06' N. 05° 56' W. speed 9 knots.

(O) L.15 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR 61° 36' N. 18° 14' speed 9 knots through 60° 10' N. 13° 10' W. and 58° 50' N. 08° 01' W. (F.O.S., 1727A/4 to Admty).

L.15 Your O330. Following is repetition of my 2258/3. Following for R.A. Kharlamov from Cdre Brykin. Begins. L.15 due to sail noon tomorrow 4th. Request your permission to sail her. Friedman and myself sail in escorts. Ends. (A.C.I.C., 0705A/4 to Admty).

L.15 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR sails from Hvalfjord at 1200 today.

(A.C.I.C., 1215A/4 to V.A.2).

Your 0705/4. Following for Commodore Brykin from Rear Admiral Kharlamov.

Begins. Permission granted Kharlamov. Ends.

(D.N.I. 1310A/4 to A.C.I.C.)

L.15 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR will be off Skagi at 1900A/4, proceeding through Reykjanes passage to U.K. unprotected

(A.C.I.C., 1530A/4 to LOOSESTRIFE, PINK, SNOWFLAKE).

Sailed my 1809/3 at 1455/4. E.T.A. Clyde 2359/8.

British signalman and Canadian Liaison officer and telegraphist on board.

(A.C.I.C., 1710A/4 to F.O. Greenock).

ONSLOW

Scapa arrival ONSLOW.

(A.C.O.S., 0857A/4).

Sailed ONSLOW to Hull. E.T.A. 1300A/5th.

(R.A.D., 1714A/4).

P.31,
O.19,
P.225,

Intend sailing P.31 and O.19 escorted by PENNYWORT from Clyde at 1600A/6 for Scapa, E.T.A. 0800/8.

2. Thence PENNYWORT escorting P.225 to Lerwick, E.T.A. 2000/8.

4. A.C.O.S. is requested sail P.225 and a vessel to escort O.19 to Dundee so as to meet H.M.S. PENNYWORT outside Swift Gate.

(Capt. S.3., 0959A/4).

4.2.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

P.31 Capt. S.3. 0959A/4. It is not intended to sail
 O.19 P.225 for Lerwick until 0800A/9th.
 P.225. (2) Trawlers from Scapa will R/V with O.19 out-
 Contd. side Switha at 0800A/8 and escort her to Dundee.
 (3) Capt. S.3. is requested to order PENNYWORT
 to enter Scapa with P.31 and provide escort for
 P.225 to Lerwick on 9th.

(A.C.O.S., 1630/4).

In view of A.C.O.S. 1630A/4 amend my 0959A/4 as follows.
 Cancel para. (2) and substitute (2) thence PENNYWORT, P.225 at
 0800A/9 to Lerwick, E.T.A. 2000A/9. Para. (4), delete P.225.
 (Capt. S.3., 2131A/4).

THRUSTER My 1636A/1 amended by my 1254A/2. Sailed
 THRUSTER.
 (F.O.I.C. N.I. 1020A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
 THRUSTER arrived.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1718A/4).

P.49, Intend to sail P.49 escorted by CUTTY SARK from
 SHAD, Clyde at 0800A/6 for 360° Round Island 7 miles,
 HERRING, E.T.A. 0800A/8.
 SEVERN. 2. Thence P.49 to westwards. CUTTY SARK to 180°
 Bishops Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 1000/8.
 3. Thence CUTTY SARK, SHAD, and HERRING to 270°
 Wolf Rock 8 miles, E.T.A., 1130/8.
 4. Thence CUTTY SARK, SHAD, HERRING and SEVERN Clyde, E.T.A.
 1600/9.
 5. Speeds in (2), (3) and (4) 15 knots.
 (Capt. S.3., 1051A/4).

Intend sail SEVERN escorted by Chaser 15 and Chaser 13
 from Needles at 1300/7 for position (A) 270° Wolf Rock 8
 miles by standard convoy route, E.T.A. 1130/8.

2. After diving exercises in Q.Z.S. 386 SEVERN will pass
 Portland Bill at 1900, speed nine knots.

3. From position (A) SEVERN proceed Holy Loch escorted by
 CUTTY SARK.

(Capt. S.5., 1750A/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

A.F.D.20 My 1827A/30. Intend sailing A.F.D. 20 passing
 Gate at about 1600/5.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1329A/4).

ANTELOPE, Arrived ANTELOPE, BOREAS, BRILLIANT.
 BOREAS, (C. in C. Plymouth, 1603A/4).
 BRILLIANT A.M. 1354A/4 and N.C.X.F. 1858A/3. Intend sailing
 WIVERN, ANTELOPE, BOREAS, WIVERN p.m. tomorrow.
 VELOX, (2) VELOX and WISHART are being taken in hand for
 WISHART. urgent repair, anticipate sailing them 11th Feb.
 (3) Document will be embarked in ANTELOPE.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1755A/4 to Admty, N.C.X.F.,
 F.O.C. Gibraltar).

My 1755/4. BOREAS, ANTELOPE, WIVERN leave Plymouth 1400/5
 routed through A. 180° Bishop 10 B. 049° 02' N. 010° 08' W.
 C. 046° 59' N. 011° 58' W. D. 043° 01' N. 011° 58' W. F.O.I.C.
 Gib. is requested to signal onward route from D. Codeword "Scent"
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 2029A/4 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

/RENOWN...

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

RENOWN, Clyde arrivals RENOWN, ILLUSTRIOUS, FURIOUS,
ILLUSTRIOUS, PENN, PATHFINDER, PANTHER, ESCAPADE, TANATSIDE,
FURIOUS. MELBREAK.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1718A/4).

ILLUSTRIOUS is to proceed to sea as necessary tomorrow and re-embark A/C, subsequently remaining at 24 hours notice for sea.

(R.A.A., H.F., 2006A/4 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

Request you sail RENOWN as convenient p.m. tomorrow to Rosyth escorted by BOADICEA and LAUDERDALE.

(C. in C. W.A., 2130A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.

Intend M.L. 247 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 523 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.

2. Leave Portland at 1745 by Q.Z.S. 382, leave patrol-line at dawn/5.

3. Object. Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1100A/4).

Patrol tonight.

2. M.G.B.8 (S.O.) and 7.

3. Patrol 10 miles 069° and 249° of a position 142° Start 12'.

4. Object to intercept E-boats attacking convoys.

5. Information own. P.W.289 escort KRAKOWIAK, E.T.A. Dart Buoy 0600/5. W.P. 289 escort LIMBOURNE, E.T.A. Start Point 2130/4. Aircraft cross-over patrols 1A and 2 A in accordance with D.C.155. Enemy E-boats may be in Cherbourg. Torpedo boats in Le Havre.

6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1800 today and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight/5 and return to Harbour.

Speed to and from patrol is not to exceed 20 knots. Q.Z.X. 834 is not to be entered unless chasing enemy.

7. Codeword "Obstacle".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1322A/4).

M.Ls. 143, and 140 patrolling between D and One buoys
M.Ls. 102, 210, 213, 128, 101 with M.T.Bs. 38, 219, 35,
221 supported by M.G.Bs. 110, 113, 108, 109, 329, 324, and
M.A.S.Bs. 32, 23 carrying out operation N.L. 29 (A).

E.T.D. Dover 1845, E.T.R.2200.

M.Ls. 102, 210, 213, 128, 101 supported by M.G.Bs.329, 324
and M.A.S.Bs. 32, 23 carrying out operation N.L.9 (A) E.T.D.
Dover 0230/5, E.T.R. 0600/5.

(V.A. Dover, 1726A/4).

Operation
"Valuable".

Tonight my 1000/20. CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE,
ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE are to proceed
as Force A to patrol southward of Beachy Head.
E.A., 5 buoy to be passed 1900 outward, 0600
inward.

/At...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Valuable".
Contd. At Newhaven as Force B M.G.B. 616 S.O., 611, 613, M.T.B. 243, 89, 85.
(2) KINGSTON, TURQUOISE, FILLA, Chaser 15 at St. Helens. LORD WAKEFIELD, at Yarmouth (I.O.W.)
(3) Portland patrol on 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W. and 002° 05' W. M.L. 247 and rescue M.L. 523.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1155A/4).

Following is a repetition of my 1532/4 addressed as in my 1155/4. My 1155/4. TYNEDALE is to join Force A. Amend escort in para. (4) to read WENSLEYDALE, KRAKOWIAK, W.P. LIMBOURNE, BRILLIANT Ends.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1658A/4 to GOATHLAND, ESKDALE, CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE).

Allied Air Activity.

Coastal Command operations. AC 80 4 Feb. Personal from A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command to C.N.S. As an indication of the far-flung activities of Coastal Command. We have today 3rd Feb. attacked German destroyers with torpedoes on the Norwegian coast, attacked a U-boat in 60° 00' N. 46° 40' W. (100 miles West of Cape Farewell), attacked a U-boat in 28° 08' N., 13° 26' W. (off the Canaries), attacked a U-boat in 56° 35' N. 22° 49' W. (in Mid-Atlantic) in the neighbourhood of a convoy. Sighted two U-boats, one in 46° 52' N. 08° 55' W. attacked, and the other in 46° 45' N. 16° 07' W. (Bay of Biscay Area). Tomorrow we are proposing to escort a convoy in 69° 20' N. 06° 15' W. (in the vicinity of Jan Mayen). We have also searched for a raider and a blockade runner and have attacked a convoy off the Dutch coast. During the course of the day, we have flown 50 operations, involving 115 aircraft, together with 21 P.R. sorties, exclusive of 140 squadron.
(H.Q.C.C., 1040A/4 to Admty).

Patrols. D.C.I.55. Patrols 1 A and 2 B will be carried out by Whitley and Sunderland aircraft respectively from 2000/4th till dawn 5th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1305A/4 to Escorts W.P.289, P.W.289).

Bomber Command operations. On night 3/4 126 A/C bombed Hamburg.
(H.Q.B.C., 1515A/4) See also H.Q.B.C.1700/5.

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.PORT FAIRY
attacked.46° 52' N. 17° 00' W. PORT FAIRY, 09 R 33/4.
(North Foreland, Radio, 1046/4).
Following from PORT FAIRY. Enemy aircraft
beaten off (?disappeared).
(Burnham Radio, 1120Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

4 A/C

Four Ju.88s position 47.28 N. 08.22 W.
(A/C 428 Sqn. 1400/4 to 19 Group).
Am still in touch with enemy. No change in the
situation since my report indicated. May be
forced to land without further signal.
(A/C 428 Sqn. No T.O.O./4 to Plymton M/F D/F)

EMPIRE ROACH.

Intercept at 1320 G.M.T. de Valencia Radio.
Begins A A A A 47.38, 14.59 W. EMPIRE ROACH
1317/4 de G C K. Ends.
(Wick Radio 1421/4 to Lyness).

Unknown A/C.

Have sighted 15 unidentified planes. My position
is 53° 14' N. 00° 57' W.
(Convoy Guard "Result" 1605/4 to Grimsby W/T)Iceland
R/C.R/C over Reykjavik and Hvalfjord Areas carried
out by Ju.88 at 1430/4. Aircraft approached
from South over Reykjavik, Eastward of
Hvalfjord, and disappeared course east. Cloud
one tenth, 3000 feet visibility 20 miles.
(A.C.I.C., 1823A/4 to Admty).CAPETOWN
and
MIKASA
attacked on
28th Jan.Trawlers CAPETOWN and MIKASA both report when
fishing 20 miles W.S.W. of Fastnet at 1045A/28/43
being machine gunned by He.111 K. No damage,
no casualties. At 1145A/28 another German
Plane approached from East but made no attack.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2043A/4 to Admty).Mining.Harwich
TOCSIN
slightly
damaged.One ground mine detonated by LL Trawlers at
1009 in 51° 55.4' N. 01° 29' 02" E. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1152A/4 and 1552A/4).
One mine detonated by LL trawlers at 2218 in 52°
04' N. 01° 48.7' E. M/S P patrols report other
explosions east of 51 Buoy at 2205 and 2230.
TOCSIN shaken by explosion and tubes leaking
Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2319A/4 and 1204A/5).

War Diary.4. 2. 1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Search off Iona. M/S 16 2355A/30. Should clearance of Skerryvore area be continued by available ships of 16th M/S Flotilla when their boiler cleaning is completed.

2. In view of C. in C. W.A. 1227A/1 para. 5 (F), first four ships are required in Londonderry from 10th to 22nd February and remaining four ships from 1st to 10th March for Group training.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1154/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

U-boats.

U-boat reported. By D/F on 7640 k/cs at 0733Z, U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 45° 30' N. 26° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1133A/4 to JAMAICA).

U-boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 45° 30' N. 12° 32' W. (A/C VM7A, 1201/4 to 19 group).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate 1 hit.
(A/C 16 group, 1208/4 to 19 Group).
2 S/Ms sighted at 1200, one steering 290° the other 040°.
(A/C 16 Group 1340/4 to 19 Group).

Casualties & Defects.

VELOX, WISHART. E.T.A. 1100/4. VELOX and WIVERN in company. VELOX has serious leakages in oil-fuel tanks and will require docking. WISHART is overdue for docking and has leak in A/S Dome affecting (?covering) at higher speeds. Suggest WISHART also docks at Plymouth.
(WISHART 0530A/4 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Dinghy Lowestoft departure M.A.S/B 33 to recover dinghy reported 3 miles N.E. Southwold. A/C co-operating.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0938A/4).

M.M.S. 141 M.M.S. 141 with Merchant service crew onboard arrived Greenock 1530/3. Hull below upper deck is undamaged but main engine is broken down and she has lost her anchor cable and masts. It is requested a yard for her completion and repair may be allocated as early as possible.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1007/4 to Admty).

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

NAPANEE NAPANEE E.T.A. Merville 1600Z/4. Urgent defects new 2000 volt transformer required for 271. Not strictly urgent but required boiler cleaning and repairs to main condenser which is leaking badly.
(NAPANEE, 1015Z/4 to Cdre. Londonderry).
Arrived NAPANEE.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1720A/4).

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Request you take steps to ensure priority to completion of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE now refitting with Harland & Wolff.
2. She is a "named" ship and the completion date required is 6th March.
(Vice-Controller, 1526A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 224, U-boat sunk. LONDONDERRY, INVERILEN, JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER (HIGHLANDER, 0022Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.) CLARE, LONDONDERRY have put one in the bag. LONDONDERRY damaged by premature depth-charge explosion requires towing. CLARE screening. Estimated position 056° 32' N. 017° 45' W. Request tug be sent, cannot spare another escort. CLARE report situation to C. in C. W.A. My 2319Z/3. Following compartments flooded after steering flat, after ballast tanks, plumber block space, and winestore. Both shafts out of line. Capable of slow (?speed word omitted) on port screw but ship will not steer. Lower deck badly buckled at 88 Station. Consider towing is essential. My position 247° Rockall 160. For three ratings missing read four. Weather 6370 1474.

(LONDONDERRY, 0043Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

Close to LONDONDERRY in estimated 056° 32' N. 017° 45' W. taking her in tow while CLARE screens, until tug arrives or P.L.E. reached.

(HIGHLANDER, 0141Z/4 to ASPHODEL).

N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail rescue tug BUSTLER at 0900A/4 to R/V off Lough Foyle with COREOPSIS at 1400A/4. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail COREOPSIS accordingly to escort BUSTLER at best speed to assist LONDONDERRY stopped in 56.32 N. 17.45 W.

(C. in C. W.A., 0327A/4).

Request you sail BUSTLER in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 0327A/4.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0555A/4 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).

My 0043Z/4. Both shafts now turning 130 revolutions. Steering by engines am making good 6 knots eastward. Anticipate similar progress whilst present favourable weather continues. Approx. position at 0900Z, 056° 30' N. 016° 34' W. CLARE in company. Weather 4852 1155.
(LONDONDERRY 0935Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Sailed...

War Diary.4. 2. 1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 224. Sailed BUSTLER. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1400/4.
U-boat (N.O.I.C. Campbelltown 1015A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
sunk. D/F fix at 0336 - 0805 - 1020Z indicates that
LONDONDERRY, LONDONDERRY being reported and threatened.
INVERILEN, Request immediate air support. LONDONDERRY
JEREMIAH VAN report your P.C.S.
RENSSELAER. (HIGHLANDER, 1031Z/4 to C. in C. W.A. (R)
Contd. LONDONDERRY, CLARE, A.C.I.C.)
My P.C.S. at 1200Z/4 approx. 56.24 N. 16.10 W,
130° 6 knots. Weather 4852 9956.
(LONDONDERRY, 1203Z/4).

My starboard propeller shaft broken or propeller off.
Upper and lower deck between 82 and 92 stations are now
buckled, opening up ship's side at upper deck level and seems
at lower deck. Weather having deteriorated (corrupt group)
pump hold water in aft cabin flat. Have jettisoned all weight
aft. Sunderland met. My P.C.S. at 1300Z, 056° 20', 016° 01'
125° 2 knots. Am homing ASPHODEL. CLARE screening.
Weather 4852 0757.

(LONDONDERRY, 1352Z/4).
Your 0329A/4. Sailed COREOPSIS.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1410A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1031Z/4. Air escort should have arrived over
LONDONDERRY at 1445A/4.
(C. in C. W.A., 1618A/4 to HIGHLANDER).
ASPHODEL connected tow at 1910Z/4 in approx. 056° 18' N.
015° 20' W. Tow proceeding well in moderate weather, course
100° speed 5 knots. Will home COREOPSIS and tug at daylight
tomorrow Friday. CLARE screening.
(LONDONDERRY, 2146Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
H.X. 224. My 1905/30. Cancel INVERILEN and JEREMIAH VAN
RENSSELAER.
(D.T.D. 2335A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

R.A. 52 Proceeding 0500A/4, east of mine barrier to
Scapa. S.O.A. 20 knots.
(OBEDIENT, 0200A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)
D/F transmissions at 0113Z, 0130Z, and 0156Z,
indicate that at least three U-boats remain in vicinity of
convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 0324A/4 to Escorts R.A. 52).
Request destination of BEAGLE and BULLDOG.
(ONSLAUGHT 0801A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)
C. in C. H.F. 0200A/10 para. 4. My P.C.S. 067° 19' N.
010° 02' W. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1600A/4. Weather. 6612 0362.
(FORESTER, 0859A/4 to A.C.I.C.)
P.C.S. R.A. 52 at midnight 3/4th 070° 18' N., 003° 08' W,
226° 8 knots. Probably 2 U-boats in contact.
(ONSLAUGHT 0925A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)
Proceed with VIVACIOUS, MIDDLETON to meet R.A. 52 at
daylight 5th.
(2) Estimated P.C.S. of convoy at 0800A/5 067° 30' N. 013° 18'
W. 233° 8 knots.
(C. in C. H.F., 1048A/4 to BLANKNEY).
Following received from FORESTER. C. in C. H.F.'s 0200A/10
Para. 4. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 1600A/4. My position 067° 19' N.
010° 02' W. T.O.O. 0913A/4.
(A.C.I.C. 1515A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Following...

War Diary.4. 2. 1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

R.A. 52
Contd. Following received from FORESTER to ONSLAUGHT, repeated C. in C. H.F. A.C.I.C., C. in C. Rosyth. By Landfall at 1140A/4 your position at midnight 3/4 was 070° 21' N. 066° 57' W. T.O.O. 1215A/4.
(A.C.I.C., 1610A/4 to ONSLAUGHT).
Scapa arrivals KENT, GLASGOW, BERMUDA.
(A.C.O.S. 1646A/4 to A.C.I.C.)
VIVACIOUS is to arrive Hvalfiord p.m./8th and join ANSON's screen. Detach her accordingly.
(C. in C. H.F., 1751A/4 to BLANKNEY).
E.T.A. 0830A/5.
(OBEDIENT, 2105A/4 to A.C.O.S.)
Arrivals 1610/4 FORESTER at Seidisfjord.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2200A/4 to C. in C. H.F.)

A.T. 35
(ANDES). A.T. 35 arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0226A/4).

EMPIRE ROACH My 1825A/3. Air authority reports vessel presumed EMPIRE ROACH in 048° 50' N. 010° 45' W, course 255° at 1730A/3.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0315A/4 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

D.F. 2
(LEINSTER). My 1254A/3. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0758A/4).

F.S. and
F.N.
convoys. Operational requirements necessitate following convoys sailing with only one Rosyth escort each, F.S. 30 F.S.31, F.S.32, F.N.38, F.N.39, F.N.40. Request if possible you will provide second escorts south of Flamborough Head.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0928A/4 to C. in C. Nore).

H.X. 224 F. ERIN and EMPIRE MIGHT for Belfast, together with ships for Mersey capable of arriving at Bar Light Vessel before 1100A/6, are to be detached with one escort.
(2) Portion detached to be designated H.X. 224 (F).
(4) All ships are to proceed independently from 007° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 1001A/4 to Escorts H.X. 224).

THYSVILLE Detaching THYSVILLE independently for Mersey on reaching 007° W. about 1330Z/4. THYSVILLE E.T.A Barbados 1200Z/5.
(NAPANEE, 1015Z/4 to Cdre, Londonderry).

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- C.U. and U.C. convoys. Your 1510/3. Operational control will be exercised east of "Chop" line by Admty. through you as with North Atlantic convoys.
2. "Chop" will be estimated date of crossing "Chop" line described in M.A.R.I. Section I, para. 9.
3. Operational control west of "Chop" will be exercised by Comtask 26.3.
(D.T.D., 1121A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
- W.N.92 Propose postponing W.N.92 24 hours to include H.X.224.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1126A/4 to A.I.G. 187).
- O.N.164 E.T.A. Reykjavik 0700Z tomorrow.
Intend proceed rejoin O.N.164 immediately on completion oiling.
(PINK 1229Z/4 to A.C.I.C.)
My 1229/4th. Request early instructions. Whether to proceed Havlfjord of Reykjavik.
(PINK 1528Z/4 to A.C.I.C.)
- S.C.118. This is Comnaveu 041207 addressed to Cominch and repeated Cinclant, Comtaskfor 24, Admty. Have not diverted Task group 99.2 because additions already arranged for escort of S.C.118. Admiralty concur and do not consider further reinforcements necessary.041309.
(Comnaveu 1309/4 to Admty).
INGHAM reports gears inoperative. BABBITT has been directed to join S.C.118. On reporting of BABBITT request INGHAM be detached to return to Iceland.
(2) LEARY repairs not yet completed and in place of LEARY am sailing SCHENCK this afternoon.
(3) Task Unit 24.6.4 will then be composed of SCHENCK (S.O.O.) and BABBITT. On detachment of S.C.L.118 BIBB will be S.O.
(C.T.G.24.6., 1640Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
E.T.A.1800Z/5. My P.C.S. at 1500Z/4, 59.50 N. 28.17 W. 200° 16.2 knots. If not met will cruise your vicinity and join following morning.
(C.T.U. 24.6.4., 1710Z/4 to C. in C. W.A., C.T.24.1.16).
FAME, and VISCOUNT P.C.S. at 2000Z/4. 60.18 N. 15.22 W, 315° 20.
(FAME, 2037Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1640Z/4. In view of number of U-boats in contact it is requested INGHAM remains with convoy until situation clarifies.
(C. in C. W.A., 2330Z/4 to C.T.G.24.6)
- BEACONSTREET. My 1937/19 Jan. Request BEACONSTREET be sailed for Messrs. Greenwell's Sunderland for repairs.
(D. of Stores, 1357A/4 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

War Diary.

4. 2. 1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

TJALDUR

Your 0955A/2 and 101CA/3 and escort arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1448/4 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

M/Vs in
North Russia.

S.B.N.O. Archangel's 0721A/25. Have ships arrived
yet in Kola Inlet.
(D.T.D., 1603A/4 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

Freetown
Gibraltar
Convoys. My 1843/3, para 2. (Suggesting a 16 day cycle be introduced for convoys sailing between Freetown and Gib.) Amend date to 9th Feb. If scheme is agreed ships now at Port Etienne could join North-bound Convoy and my 1601/3 (Requesting ships be sailed for Port Etienne to escort JENNY, KANA, and MACGREGOR LAIRD to Gibraltar.) would be cancelled.
(N.C.X.F., 1031A/4, to F.O.C.W.A., F.O.C. Gib.)

Casualties,
from
U.G.S.4. CITY OF FLINT and JULIA WARD HOWE of U.G.S.4 were torpedoed. Lisbon reports 48 saved from former and 70 from latter. Distress signal was intercepted from CHARLES C. PINCKNEY reporting her torpedoing. Ships were stragglers.
(N.C.X.F. 1540A/4 to Admty. (R) Comnaveu, M.W.T.)

French
Naval air
Force. Your 1716/2. H.Q.E.A.C. have also received notification from Air Ministry that visit by a French Naval Air Force Mission to London would be welcomed. 2. Intend informing Adm. Michelier accordingly and at same time I will suggest that Amanrich himself should only go for a short visit and then leave behind some staff officers to obtain details of British training and equipment. 3. Many other questions affecting possible supply from American sources and French training now in progress on American Catalinas in Casablanca area make it desirable that Adm. Amanrich himself should not be away from N. Africa for too long.
(N.C.X.F. 1815A/4 to Admty. (R) Cominch etc.)

War Diary.

4.2.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. This is Cominch 1317/02 for information: Cominch Raider and Blockade Runner Summary No.12. Raider H also known as 28 considered ex German CAIRO reported patrolling in Indian Ocean vicinity 13 S. 66 E. middle last Nov. German raider E also known as 10 and believed to be SANTA CRUZ in Yokohama last Oct. refitting. Motorship TOGO possible new German raider built in 1938, 5,042 tons, fitted out last year now in the Baltic. Raider J also known as 23 and believed sistership of raider H has not been located recently and may have been raider sunk in S. Atlantic last Sept. by STEPHEN HOPKINS. Norwegian survivors from AUST and KATTEGATT rescued from sunk runner RHAKOTIS report runner departed Batavia Nov. 5th and proceeded via 28 S. and 75 E., 45 S. 30 E., 44 S., 20 W., 06 S. 22 W., 37 N., 43 W. 43 N., 38 W., 46 N. 22 W. thence zigzag for Biscay. 10 knots average speed. Norwegians also report raider attack S. Atlantic last spring included initial attack by aircraft trailing a hook which carried away ship aerial. At same time dropping two bombs and strafing with machine gun. Raider then opened fire. This raider identified as E. This raider had a telescopic funnel, aftermast and aft sampson posts. Two crows nest on foremast. Funnel same height as bridge when lowered. Arado 196 seaplane with two one C.M. guns, 2 M.G., 1 turret gun, and two bombs smaller than 250 pounds, carried by raider. Attacks were made during daylight. Blockade runners, SPICHERN at Brest 15th Jan., REGENSBURG repairing in Singapore. HOHENFELS in summary 10 is probably HOHENFRIEDBERG. Reported German runner, Chinese source, would leave Saigon 18 Jan with rubber, tungsten and tin. By 27 Feb. this runner could reach vicinity Ascension Island.
(Comnavcu, 1423/4 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

Air Report.

4 Feb. W.X. 6173. Op. Sum. 94, for 24 hours, ended midnight 3rd Feb.

(G) Sightings and attacks Hudson R 233 operating from Agadir on A/S sweep west attacked U/B with

D.C's at 1153/3 28.08 N. 13.26 W. No further details received. Hudson R 233 on the same sortie sighted a U/B on surface Co. 080° 4 knots. At 1350/3 28.10 N. 13.01 W. No further details. Catalina A. 210 on escort to U.G.S. 4 sighted U/B periscope below at 0940/3 35.50 N. 01.14 W. Periscope disappeared almost immediately, Co. and speed unknown, not attacked.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gib., 0140Z/4).

/Movements ...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.Movements,
Casablanca.

Warships Feb. 3, U.S.S. RAVEN, 2 P.Cs French TAPAGEUSE departed for Gib. P.C. 475 en route from Safi. HUGO arrived Safi.
(Comseafon W.T.F., 0517Z/4 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. Cominch.)

TORBAY.

1. Intend sailing TORBAY p.m. 5th Feb. for work up patrol in area between A. 40.06 N. B. 00.15 E. C. 38.50 N. D. coast of Spain.
2. TORBAY routed through P. 180° Cape Calaburras 5. Q. 180 Cape de Gata 5. R. 135 Cape Palos 5. S. 090° Cape (?Tri) (ao) 5. T. 39.02 N. 00.15 E. 3. Estimated time of passing T at 2300/7th. 4. Communications Gib. broadcast until 1500/7th then Algiers broadcast, shift to read M.S. routine.
5. Capt. (S) 8 is requested assume operational control at 1500/7th. 6. S. of A. 150 miles per day.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 0929A/4 to Capt. (S) 8. (R) N.C.X.F., P. 339, V.A. Malta, TORBAY, 8. S.F.)

LANDGUARD
K.M.S.8.

When off Gib. Bay I will detach Gib. section of convoy with one escort. This escort will see ships are in touch with examination service and will then rejoin the convoy.
(LANDGUARD 1006A/4 to N.C.X.F.)
My 2042/2nd. K.M.S. 8 OCEAN FAME heavy winch now repaired. Will not be detached to Gib.
(LANDGUARD 1315A/4 to V.A. Gib.)

REGENT.

Arrival.
(F.O.C. Gib., 1042A/4 to Admty.)
REGENT reports damaged propellers rendering her unfit for patrol. Propellers were repaired in Bermuda where it was considered that no further repairs can be made.
2. Docking is required to change propellers and paint bottom, last docking mid Sept. 3. Engine defects can be made good to enable passage to Algiers in about 5 days time and spare propeller despatched for fitting there. 4. Request instructions.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1623A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.S., V.A.M, S. 8 S.1. REGENT.)

NASTURTIUM.

My 160/3* being passed to Admty.
(N.C.X.F. 1053A/4 to Admty. etc.)
*? 1603/3. On arrival at Gib. NASTURTIUM is to transfer from Escort Group 62 to Escort Group 36.

P.49.

P. 49. leaves Scilly Isles at 0800/8th Feb. diving by day by route to 043° 01' 012° 54' E.T.A. 2200A/13th Feb. thence as routed by you, S. of A. 120 miles per day. 2.3. Communications.
4. P.49 is painted grey with light grey numbers on C.T.
(Capt. S. 3, 1131A/4 1747A/5 to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) F.O.S. N.C.X.F. etc.)
Cancelled by 1104A/6.

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Gib. Shipping Congestion. A/T 1824/15/1. F.O.C.W.A. 0955/31. N.C.X.F. 1843/3/2. Restricted anchorage and difficulty of maintaining supplies demand that no considerable additions made to the number of ships already using Gib. Consequently suggest a limit of say 8 should be imposed on ships to or from U.K. being diverted via Gib. for inclusion in M.K.S. of K.M.S. convoys as proposed. 2. Period of cycle would be chiefly a matter of escorts which are controlled by N.C.X.F. 3. At present there is a number of French ships whose speed being less than 7 knots prevents their being included in any regular convoy, for these special arrangements should be made.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1516B/4 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

LOUISBURG. Amend E.T.A. to 1730Z/4th.
(LOUISBURG 1615Z/4 to F.O.C. Gib.)

RIA DE EL FERROL RIA DE ARES. A. 1 ex German ship RIA DE EL FERROL left 1615 Feb 4th. Destination unknown, probly Cadiz. RIA DE ARES has taken aboard 6 cases (corrupt group material.
(R.O. Seville, 1630/4 to N.A. Madrid, (R) S.O.(I) Gib.)
W.D. Note: RIA DE EL FERROL is ex-German PORTO RIA DE ARES is ex-German SEVILLA.

Convoy G.S.1. Your 1843/3 (see "Torch" Area.) and 1706/3 (N.T. in W.D.) Presume ships from Algiers for Takoradi will arrive in M.K.S.7. Intend sailing G.S.1. convoy Feb. 8th. to include them.
(F.O.C. Gib., 1820A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.W.A. Admty., S.N.O.C.A.)

War Diary.

4.2.1943.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dakar
Communi-
cations.

A.G.M. 143A of 2216/29th Jan. In order to avoid delay propose para. F should be amended to read 'B.N.L.O. Dakar holds signal publications corresponding to a Naval Officer in Charge on shore vide S.P. Form A2C.(3). Messages for Comar Dakar or B.N.L.O. Dakar should be cyphered in current British or Anglo-U.S. publications and either passed to Freetown W/T with delivery instructions to pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar or passed by cable direct addressed Mailbag Dakar.' (F.O.C.W.A. 0045Z/4 to Admty.)

MATAROA
RANGITIKI

MATAROA and RANGITIKI are en route from South Africa to New York via Magellan Straits. They have now been diverted to Montevideo to load meat in Plate for U.K.

2. They each have on board 100 German P.O.W. destined for Canada and 50 Service personnel as guard.
3. To overcome difficulties involved by these P.O.W. it is proposed that RANGITIKI should load meat in Montevideo, her P.O.W. remaining on board. There is insufficient meat available in Montevideo to load MATAROA there also. It is therefore proposed that she should transfer her P.O.W. to RANGITIKI at Montevideo and then continue to Buenos Aires to load. P.O.W. would remain on RANGITIKI for passage to U.K. Onward conveyance to Canada will be arranged from U.K.
4. Request confirmation that you anticipate these arrangements can be carried out. The diversion of these ships to the Plate has only been arranged because of the urgent necessity for finding replace ships to fulfil the Plate meat programme.

(D.of S.T. 0235A/4 to N.A. Montevideo (R) C.in C.S.A., etc.)

W.S.26.

S.O. escort detached LEOPOLDVILLE for Bathurst. LEOPOLDVILLE to be escorted by QUALITY or REDOUBT unless necessary for other destroyers to be detached to refuel. Escorting destroyer report E.T.A., draught of LEOPOLDVILLE on arrival and essential requirements before reaching Freetown. (R.A.W.A. 0925Z/4 to Escort W.S.26. (R) N.O.I.C Bathurst, QUIBERON, Admty.) Your 0925Z/4th. E.T.A. Gambia light vessel at 0001Z/5th, LEOPOLDVILLE in company. Draught of LEOPOLDVILLE 28 feet. Essential requirements 900 tons water. Request pilot may be available Gambia light vessel on arrival. (REDOUBT 1515Z/4 to R.A.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, QUIBERON, Admty.)

B.T.3.

Following ships sailed Tortola 1800Z/2nd in convoy B.T.3. (list.) (A.S.O. (I) Recife (Pernambuco) 1001Z/4 to Admty etc.)

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

S.G.- G.S.
Convoys.

My 0955/31st Jan. has also been repeated to N.C.X.F.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1047Z/4 to Admty.)

ARCHIMEDE
AMAZONE.

Intend to sail French S/Ms ARCHIMEDE and AMAZONE
p.m. 8th Feb. for Bermuda. ARCHIMEDE 12½ knots
AMAZONE 7 knots. Both Ships routed South of Cape
Verde Is. thence direct to Bermuda subject to
latest R/C received. S.B.N.O. W.A is requested to
arrange onward route to Philadelphia.
2. S/Ms each armed with 2 torpedoes only. Minor war
vessels recognition signals until end of February.
No flares.
(Comar, Dakar, 1057Z/4 0907Z/6 to F.O.W.A.,
S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

Freetown
Coastal
Defence.

Your RA/26530 24/1 (Not circulated in Admiralty.)
1. Having regard low scale of attack and shortage
other types equipment consider naval 12 pdr.
H.A./L.A. gun satisfactory A/M.T.B. defence
Freetown.
2. No other types A/M.T.B. equipment available.
3. In view non-completion A/S and A/B boom on
Bullom Shore side suggest two equipments sited
Aberdeen covering boom gate sufficient.
4. Suggest remaining two equipments held in reserve.
(W.O., 1130A/4 to G.O.C. in C.W.A.)

JENNY,
etc.,
escort.

Your 1601A/3rd. To avoid delay to tanker JENNY and
as Port Etienne is undefended, intend JENNY, KANA
and MACGREGOR LAIRD to proceed Gibraltar escorted
by PETUNIA, PORTSDOWN and BREDON.
Escorts will require to fuel at Gibraltar.
(R.A.W.A. 1203Z/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, Admty. PETUNIA, S.N.O. Casablanca.)

1. With PORTSDOWN and (?BREDON) escorting JENNY, KANA, MACGREGOR
LAIRD, to Gibraltar. Route -
A. 021° 10' N. 017° 33' W. B. 028° 19' N. 016° 01' W.
C. 035° 56' N. 006° 01' W.
thence to Gibraltar. Estimated S.O.A. 8 knots. E.T.A. p.m. 10th
Feb.

2. Escort shift to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 2000Z/4th
February.

3. Stragglers route.

X. 024° N. 016° W. Y. 028° N. 015° W. Z. 031° N. 013° W.
thence Casablanca.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1231Z/4 to PETUNIA (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, Admty, S.N.O. Casablanca, Com. Dakar.)

Sailed with MACGREGOR LAIRD, KANA, JENNY at 1800, DUNKERY,
BREDON, PORTSDOWN in company. M/L 302 and (corrupt group) keeping
A/S screen, both short of fuel, stores and water, have supplies of
emergency stores, endeavouring to obtain fuel and water from PINTO.
Estimated date of completion for PINTO 15th Feb. Suggest that
DUNKERY who is short of (?fuel) proceed Gibraltar, refuel,
replenish stores and return forthwith for PINTO. Request
instructions.

(PETUNIA 1801Z/4 to R.A.W.Af. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca, Comar, Dakar.)

/Your...

*Convoy
Sib. 2,
attacked
on Feb. 8,
p. 279)*

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.JENNY,
etc.,
escort.
(Contd.)Your 1801Z/4th.
Comply with my 1231Z/4th, DUNKERY remaining in company to prudent limit of endurance.
(F.O.W.A. 2110Z/4 to PETUNIA. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca, Comar, Dakar.)Convoy
D.C.5.D.C.5. expected to sail 0500Z/5 consisting of 9 ships speed 8 knots. EMPIRE SUCCESS, BARON JEDBURGH, NESTOR, EMPIRE BOWMAN, BELLEROPHON, RICHMOND HILL, GRANICOS for Capetown, CITY OF AUCKLAND for Port Elizabeth MARINA to (?U.S.) E.T.A. Capetown p.m. 9th, Port Elizabeth a.m. 7th.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1252A/4 to Admty. etc.)
Addition, see 1242Z/5.Situation
Reports.CHESHIRE about 042° 30' S. 007° 00' E. to Montevideo 13 knots.
CARTHAGE patrolling in area M.3.B.
P.614 016° 20' S. 008° 30' E. to Simonstown 8½.
Convoy D.C.4, 034° 45' S. 021° 45' E. to Capetown, 10.
GENISTA, ST. ZENO 029° 10' S. 015° 45' E. to Capetown 10.
RANCHI 027° 00' S. 014° 40' E. to Freetown 14.
BLACKMOOR 029° 00' S. 015° 25' E. to Simonstown 18 knots.
FRITILLARY, THYME with C.A.9.B. 036° 30' S. 023° 10' E. to 037° 10' S. 025° 00' E., 9.
Convoy C.A.9.A 034° 20' S. 022° 30' E. to Durban, 8.
ROCKWOOD 032° 40' S. 029° 04' E. to Durban (?18).
SONDRA SPHENE with D.N.14, 033° S. 036° E. to 033° S. 038° E. 9.
(C. in C.S.A. 1314C/4)

Situation at 2000Z/4th.

CILICIA, CANTON, REDOUBT, RACEHORSE? RELENTLESS, QUADRANT, QUALITY, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, WAYLAND with W.S.26, 14.05 18.16 to 11.01 18.01 thence Freetown 12.5
One destroyer from W.S.26 proceeding Bathurst escorting MORANT ADRIAS about 15.30 18.25 175° 18.
PETUNIA, PORTSDOWN, BREDON, DUNCTON, escorting 21.18 17.35 011° 8.
MONOWAI off Cape Verde to Bathurst 10.
INKPEN, ARRAN, escorting 08.35 13.42 295° 7.
VICTORIA escorting off Dakar to Port Etienne, 7.5.
(R.A.W.A. 1339Z/4 to Area P. North.)

Position at 1959Z/4th. BRIDGEWATER about 06.14 22.50 to Freetown 12. Allied Naval Units? (on patrol) ?(bound) St. Paul's Rocks Area. CROCUS, DUNCTON, ORFSAY, COPINSAY, PICT, ?(and) MOUCHEZ two M/Ls escorting T.S. ?(30), 04.02 05.10 to 03.39 07.45 thence? (281) 8. HYDRANGEA, ARMERIA escorting off Freetown to 07.50 14.21 thence? (125°) 12.5. Tug CHARON, M/L 305, M/L 279 off Cape Palmas to Eastwards 8. DRANGHEY escorting about 04.22 03.06 to Takoradi. (corrupt group) Fleet Unit HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with convoy C.F.11, 07.08 S. 11.00 E. to 05.30 S. 11.01 E. thence 313° 13.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1417Z/4 to Area P. South.)

/HYDRANGEA...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

HYDRANGEA,
ARMERIA.

1. Intend to sail HYDRANGEA and ARMERIA escorting BERGENSFJORD and ORBITA for Takoradi at 1745Z/4th Feb. Route A. 007° 50' N. 014° 21' W. B. 003° 10' N. 007° 45' W. C. 004° 35' N. 002° 01' W. thence (?030°) S.O.A. 12.5 knots, E.T.A. a.m. 8th Feb.
2. On arrival ARMERIA must be sailed to Boma to dock.
3. BERGENSFJORD and ORBITA are to be escorted from Takoradi to Freetown by HYDRANGEA and COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1437Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi. (R)
Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, HYDRANGEA, ARMERIA.)
Departure 4th Feb. ARMERIA, HYDRANGEA.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1941Z/4 to Admty.)

KELT,
DRANGEY.

- My 1746Z/28th. KELT will not be ready until 21st Feb. Can DRANGEY be spared until then?
(F.O.C.W.A. 1543Z/4 to C. in C.S.A. (R) R.N.O. Lagos etc.)
Concur (C. in C.S.A. 1552C/5.)

QUALITY,
REDOUBT,
INDRAPOERA,
ORESTES,
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Your 1858/2nd Feb.
QUALITY and REDOUBT are to remain at Freetown until departure of W.S. 27. Admty 1655/28 Jan. para. 4 refers.

2. INDRAPOERA may therefore be included in C.F. 11.
3. If ready to sail, store ship ORESTES may also be included.
4. In view of known presence of U-Boats in Azores area, Eastern Fleet destroyers should, if possible, be fuelled at sea rather than at Ponta Delgada. QUALITY and REDOUBT should in any case remain with convoy until it is well clear of Azores.
5. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. In view of her limited endurance and dangerous tendency to make smoke EMPRESS OF RUSSIA should not be included in C.F.11. Suggest you consider escorting her to Gibraltar for return to U.K. in suitable convoy in order to avoid delay to ship and danger to personnel involved in unescorted sailing via U.S.A. Unless, however, her speed without excessive smoke is found to be at least 14 knots, she cannot join M.K.F., and numbers carried should not exceed 250 of each service other than prisoners of war.

(D.O.D.(F) 1640A/4 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C.S.A. FO.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F. C. in C.W.A. Connav.)

Wingfield.

Your 1144/22 Jan. Following accommodation has been and is being provided at Wingfield (details).

3. Before proceeding further request I may be informed A. whether it is intended to accommodate marines on the strength of the station, B. whether numbers W.R.N.S. likely to be increased from six. C. Distribution of personnel quoted in your signal between the two camps.
4. Request confirmation 20 Lt. Commanders in two Squadrons disembarked and one pool squadron. Number excessive unless ten officer instructors included.

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Wingfield - 5. Ref. C. in C.E.F. 0831/16 Jan. Item 3 request
(Contd.) I may be informed if six disembarked squadrons are
to be accommodated Wingfield eventually.
(C. in C.S.A. 1652/4 to Admty. etc.)

M/L Escort My 1439Z/4th. (Escorts of EMPIRE WHALE for Dakar
to M/Vs. and FANA and PINZON for Bathurst. N.T. in W.D.)
M/L No. 1141 and M/L No. 1209 sailed as additional
escorts to Bathurst. FANA did not sail.
(F.O.W.A. 1705Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty.
INKPEN, ARRAN.)

CARNARVON Your telegram No. 1945 Jan. 30th. At Deception
CASTLE, Island on Jan. 30th found one Argentine Flag, one
Visit to brass plate attached to flag staff inscribed
Deception "PRIMERO DE MAYO Argentine Navy Feb. 1942", one
Island. document "Re affirming that" Argentine rights
over Antarctic Lands between 25° and 68° 34' West
South of 60° South and recording visit of ship
8th Feb. 1942, also Argentine Flag painted on oil
tank, Flag, document and plate were brought away,
flag on tank obliterated.

2. ? (Our) Union Jacks were hoisted on flag staffs. Boards
inscription "British Crown Lands" erected. Broad arrow painted
on tank, certificate of visit buried at foot of principal flag
staff. No evidence has been found of visits by enemy here or in
other islands.

Expect to arrive South Orkneys Feb. 6th.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 1800Z/4 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Port
Stanley, C. in C.S.A. B.N.A. Buenos Aires.)

Ships for My 1920Z/3rd. Request accommodation for following
S.L. 126. ships,
1. HARBERTON 8.5 knots. 2. GRANIOOS (Greek) 9 knots,
both bound for U.K. and expected to be ready to
sail Rio de Janeiro 24th and 22nd Feb. respectively.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1851Z/4 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)
Admty, C. in C.S.A.)

Movements, M/Ls 277 and 290 Eastern Ticonderoga arrived and
Dakar. left with VICTORIA escorting OUED FES to Port
Etienne. Coastal route 7½ knots E.T.A. a.m. 7th.
(Com. Dakar 1916Z/4 to F.O. West Africa, (R) Admty,
S.N.O. Casablanca, N.C.X.F.)

CAPE CAPE DECISION overdue.
DECISION. (Comar, Dakar 1926Z/4 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.
N.C.X.F. Cominch, Comsolantfor.)

S.L.126. Your 1920Z/3rd Feb. Yes.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1926Z/4 to B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro, (R)
Admty, C. in C.S.A.)

/GEORGES LEYGUES...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

GEORGES LEYGUES. Arrival 3rd Feb. Fr. Cruis. GEORGES LEYGUES. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1935Z/4 to Admty, (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

Movements, Freetown. Arrival 4th Feb. CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN. Departure INKPEN and ARRAN, M/Ls 1141, 1209. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1951Z/4 to Admty.)

French Warships. It is requested that Allied shipping may be warned that (?nine) French warships may be encountered in South Atlantic who will not be familiar with M. Ships identification procedure. (?F.O.W.A. 2003Z/4 to Admty, N.C.X.F.)

Movements Recife. Arrival 31st Jan. departure 4th Feb. U.S. Corvette SAUCY. Departures 4th U.S.D. ELLIS, U.S. Corvette SURPRISE, U.S. Submarine chasers Nos. P.C.488 and 492. (R.O. Recife (Pernambuco) 2015Z/4 to Admty.)

Freetown-Gibraltar Convoys. Your 1843A/3. Concur that regular convoys between Freetown and Gibraltar are desirable. This was suggested in my 0955Z/31 addressed Admty. which I regret was not passed to you until today. They would however only be practicable if my forces are increased as suggested in Para. 6 of my message, as escort vessels are at present overworked and convoys between Freetown and Gibraltar would be an additional commitment.

2. In order to avoid delays it is important that the Gibraltar-Freetown cycle should fit in with the S.L. - O.S. and M.K. - K.M. cycles and it is suggested that Admty. should be asked to adjust cycles accordingly.

3. In order to overcome any difficulties which may arise due to change of escort it would appear preferable for a nucleus escort group from Freetown to accompany the convoy for the whole distance.

4. Ref. para. 2 of your 1843/3, amended by your 1031A/4, arrangements to escort this convoy from 24° N. can be made as a special case but this cannot be done regularly as my other numerous and varied commitments such as troop movements, escorting W.S. convoys and returning transports and screening ships at Surf ports will not be reduced by the introduction of these convoys.

(F.O.C.W.A. 2020Z/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Convoy S.T.55. Sailing telegram. BERGENSFJORD, ORBITA, Takoradi 7th Feb. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 2317Z/4 to Admty.)

War Diary.

4.2.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Reports. P.C. and S. of one enemy M/V and two vessels (type unknown?), 38.38 N. 13.37 E., course 050° speed 10 knots.
(A/C GJK/B, 0115/4.)

PC. and S. of one destroyer and one medium vessel with escort of one Ju.88 A/C - 38.00 N., 16.10 E., 040°, 8 knots.
(A/C BUG/L, 1210A/4 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one destroyer and one tanker with one Ju.88 A/C - 37.58 N. 16.08 E., 180°, 10 knots.
(A/C FAC/L, 1340A/4 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Following has been read by Malta W/T.

One M/V position 38.24 N. 12.00 E., course 090°, speed 12 knots.
(A/C ANY/X, 2112A/4 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements, Aden. Arrival ROMNEY, 0330Z departure DEVONSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0806Z/4 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 3rd Feb. L.C.T.112. Departures 3rd Feb. BURRA, DULVERTON, HURWORTH, French Sloop LA MOQUEUSE. Arrived and sailed 3rd Feb. ERICA, SOUTHERN MAID.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0922B/4 to Admty., etc.)

M.T.Bs. 3 M.T.Bs leave Malta at 1530/4th to operate south of Marittimo.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1000A/4 to C. in C. Med., No. 201 N.C. Group, F.O.I.S., H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 247 Wing (Advance) (R) N.C.X.F., Admty., H.Q.E.A.C.)

TIGRIS. Arrived TIGRIS.
(V.A. Malta, 1010A/4 to Admty., etc.)

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 97, Part 1. Night 2nd/3rd Feb. 7 enemy aircraft bombed Tripoli Harbour no damage.
3rd Feb. Fighter bombers carrying 500 lb. bombs made 2 attacks on small coastal shipping west of Pisida and 2 attacks on shipping in Mount Souk Harbour on North Coast Djerba Island. 3 schooners about 150 and another small vessel destroyed by bombs and machine gunfire. Direct hit on warehouse in harbour and 2 fires started. 2 near misses on 2 barges. Total sorties 47 Kittyhawks. 38 B.24s despatched in 3 formations to attack shipping in Palermo Harbour at dusk. 9 aircraft returned early owing to technical trouble and 1 landed Malta. 2 B.24s unable to reach objective bombed railway bridge and town at Plati in Southern Italy respectively. Results unobserved. Of remainder 10 bombed Palermo, results obscured by cloud. 16 B.24s unable to reach Palermo before dark bombed Messina claiming hits and near misses on 1 merchant vessel 8/10,000 tons. Other bombs burst on northern quay causing black smoke and near railway sidings.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 1026Z/4.)

/M.L. ...

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.L. Flotillas. Your 1945/20 and 1450/3 to certain addressees only. Intend to base 31st M.L. Flotilla at Oran as A/S striking force.
2. 22nd M.L. Flotilla will be based temporarily on Algiers and similarly employed until opportunity occurs to pass through the Eastern Mediterranean.
(N.C.X.F., 1115A/4 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- Polish S/Ms, Ref. A.M. 1266/2 (1206/2 intended) It would be preferred subject to concurrence of C. in C. Med. that the two Polish submarines be based on Malta where they have had previous experience, and that D.S. DOLFIJN and one of T class now working up here be retained in Western Mediterranean instead.
(N.C.X.F., 1212A/4 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- P.211. My 1228/3rd. Passing 038° 18' 008° 46' at 1200/6th, 038° 13' 004° 33' at 2230/7th thence on surface to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 59' 003° 19' at 0730/8th.
(2) S/Ms are not to be attacked West of 010° E. unless definitely identified as hostile.
(Capt. S.8, 1216A/4 to P.211.)
- P.212. Intend to sail P.212 1800/5th routed through 038° 25' 003° 52', 038° 30' 008° 53' at 2230/7th, 039° 01' 012° 08', 039° 10' 014° 15', thence patrol in vicinity Lipari Island.
(Capt. S.8, 1232A/4 to N.C.X.F.)
- NEURALIA. Request NEURALIA, E.T.A. Suez 16th Feb. may be allocated temporary service Eastern Med. until about end of April. Vessel urgently required for operational moves. Agreed G.H.Q.M.E.F.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 1410B/4 to P.S.T.O.I., (R) Admty., etc.)
Agree. (P.S.T.O.I., 0836Z/6.)
- Malta Boom Defences. Report being forwarded under my 97/00140 and 71/00140 of 4th Feb. reveals boom defences Malta are in a most unsatisfactory state. Request it may receive early consideration.
(V.A. Malta, 1530A/4 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)
- ABDIEL minelaying. Your 2020/3rd. Intend to sail 0001/5th complete and arrive off Bone at 1600A/5th in all respects ready to lay on night 5th-6th Feb. Defects will have been made good.
(ABDIEL, 1541A/4 to N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Oran, (R) S.O. Force H, S.O. Force Q, F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers.)
Arrival ABDIEL.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/4 to Admty., etc.) See also 1810A/4.

/M.T.Bs. ...

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs. Sailed on operations: M.T.B. 307, 313, 315.
(V.A. Malta, 1618A/4 to Admty., S.O.I.S., C. in
C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Situation (1) Bone. M.T.B. sweeping vicinity Cagliari
Report night 1st/2nd sank fishing smack off Zavora
No. 56. Point. 2 prisoners taken boat manned by 15
Italians including 6 Naval ratings in plain
clothes. L.S.(?I) ferry service with troops ex
K.M.F.8 arrived 2nd Feb.
(2) ABDIEL carried out successful laying night 2nd/3rd vicinity
Skerki (corrupt group). Now reloading mines at Mers-el-Kebir
before returning to Bone.
(3) Hudson aircraft from Blida made an attack on a U-Boat on
surface at 1000/3rd in 37.00 N. (?01).16 E. (W.D. Note:- See
E.A.C. 2105A/4) 2 depth charges exploded within 15 feet of
stern, conning tower machine-gunned, U-Boat then submerged.
(N.C.X.F., 1810A/4 to Admty.)

P.37. Amend 4th position on your route to 037° 30'
018° 16'.
(Capt. S.10, 1820A/4 to P.37.)
Sailed P.37.
(V.A. Malta, ?A/4, Recd. 1833/4.)

Malta Air A.I.512, 4th Feb. Part. 1. Offensive.
Report. Night 3rd/4th Feb. 2 special equipment Wellingtons
and 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons sent to search
for and attack enemy shipping in the Marittimo
Palermo area found no suitable targets. 4
intruder Mosquitoes were airborne to cover our shipping strike.
2 Beauforts laid mines off Ras Kaboudia.
Day 4th Feb. 31 Spitfire sorties were made in offensive sweeps
over south-east Sicily but no enemy aircraft or shipping was
seen.
Part. 2. Enemy air activity. Day 4th Feb.
4 Spitfires were airborne for raid which turned back before
reaching Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1906Z/4.)

Movements, Bone arrivals SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, LOYAL.
Bone. (S.O.I.S., 1942A/4 to N.C.X.F., Admty., F.O.I.C.
Gib.)

Movements, Algiers arrivals QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX,
Algiers. ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LAMERTON, ZETLAND,
BICESTER and M/V from Bone. STROMA, RONALDSHAY
escorting KING SALVOR and M/V from Bougie. CADMUS
SPEEDWELL, POLRUAN escorting MISOA, BACHAQUERO and 3 M/Vs from
Oran. Departures ABDIEL to Oran. SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LOYAL,
LIGHTNING to Bone. QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, LAMERTON,
WHEATLAND to Philippeville.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2002A/4 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

TRIBUNE.

Algiers departure S/M TRIBUNE to patrol.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2008A/4 to Admty., etc.)E.A.C.
Report.A.397, 4th Feb. Op. Summ. No.85 1800 hours 2nd
Feb. to 1800 hours 3rd Feb.U/B
attacked.Day 3rd. (F) A.C.H.Q. 3 Hudsons on escort to
convoy "Christine". 10 Hudsons and 1 Swordfish
on A/S sweep. 1 Hudson on this sweep sighted
wake of U-Boat from 18 miles. On U-Boat surfacing

Hudson attacked dropping two 250 lb. D.Cs from 60 feet just as U-Boat commenced to submerge. The bursts were within 15 feet of stern well inside the bow wave. One 250 D.C. hung up. U-Boat opened fire with M/G as A/C dived to attack and A/C fired 800 rounds with front guns in dive scoring definite hits on conning tower and hitting one enemy gunner. A/C was not hit. Baiting tactics adopted for 3 hours with no further sightings. (F) Twelfth U.S. Air Force. 12 P.38s escorted by 12 B.26s on a counter shipping mission between Tunisia and Sicily sighted a convoy consisting of a cargo liner, several smaller boats, and an escort of 4 naval vessels with 10 to 12 A/C overhead off Cap Bon. 7 500 lb. bombs were dropped from 100 feet. 2 or 3 near misses on cargo liner reported. Formation was attacked by E/A bombers, claim one Me.109 probably destroyed and 5 other E/A damaged. Fighters claim 2 Me.109s and 1 Ju.88 destroyed. 1 P.38 shot down.
(E.A.C. Africa, 2105A/4, 2145A/4.)

P.211
information.

Northbound and southbound shipping from 40.34, 14.19 bearing approx. 150 some time before daylight. Also coast crawling. Northbound convoy passed 40.32, 14.12. Suggest coverings both journeys. E-Boats inshore at night.
(P.211, 2130A/4 to Capt. S.8, (R) P.217, TRIBUNE.)

Situation
Report 333.

Western Desert. Tripoli (L). Gap now 90 feet wide and 18 feet depth. A few enemy aircraft approached on 2nd and 3rd Feb. but were driven off by fighters and barrage. No damage.

(2) Danish ship SOPHIE ran aground a.m. 31st Jan. in 32° 28' N. 20° 27' E. and considered total loss.

(3) Malta. 3 M.T.Bs operated North of Pantellaria night of 1st/2nd Feb. but found nothing.

(4) Submarines. RORQUAL reports at 1503/29 Jan. in 38° 41' N. 17° 34' E. bombarded railway bridge scoring 3 certain hits. Coastal battery retaliated and its third round hit RORQUAL's forward periscope as she was diving, making it unworkable.

(5) P.46 at 1054/23rd Jan. off Hammamet gunned large schooner scoring ten hits, on being forced to dive by shore battery sank it with one torpedo. At 1403/25th Jan. sank small tanker off Hammamet with torpedo.

(7) At 0422/26th Jan. gunned Caique, nine hits, left it waterlogged. At 1602/31st Jan. two miles North of Sousse torpedoed and sank two thousand ton merchant vessel escorted by one torpedo boat.

War Diary.

4.2.1943.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report 333.
(Contd.)

(8) My 1916/2nd* Feb. para. 4 amend latitude to read 32° N. 55.8' E. (sic).
(9) Turkey. D. of S.T's 0338/14th April 0255/3rd June 1942 para. (2). Greek ship EKATERINI COUMANTOROU has arrived Iskanderun with final batch of horses (25) from Australia.
(C. in C. Med., 2130B/4 to Admty.)
* 1916/2 (U/B SANTORRE SANTA ROSA.)

Axis
Shipping.

Arrival 4th LEZARDIEUX Marseilles in ballast.
Arrival 3rd departure 4th ROSA N. ILLUECA from Sete in ballast to Sete, oranges.
Departure 4th SEBASTIAN Marseilles, oranges.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2250/4 to Admty.)

Movements,
Benghazi.

Arrived and left HURSLEY, CROOME, KINGSTON CRYSTAL, sailed AMBER.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2352B/4 to Admty.)

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

HAWKINS. Departure HAWKINS S. of A. 17 knots. Reference 117C of 29th Jan. latest messages held (list). Messages missing (list). (S.O.I. Bombay, 0316Z/4 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, Com. i/c Aden.)

Movements. ETHIOPIAN left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0430Z/4 to Admty., etc.)

M.E.I.R.I. Amendment No. 7. Amendment No.7 to M.E.I.R.I. Section 4B. Delete sub-para one and 2 and substitutes (1) Authorities sailing convoys and monsters to Gulf of Aden are to include following information in sailing telegram. (1) Estimated time crossing 010° N. or 055° E.

Section 4D. Cancel and substitute. Daily Report Plot. C. in C. E.F. now making daily plot report signal to N.O.I.C. Aden and S.N.O. Persian Gulf for all ships approaching Gulf of Aden and Persian Gulf.

(2) The information is given for 4 days in advance and gives estimated position at 0900 G.M.T. in following form. Date, latitude and longitude, name of ship, next days run.

(3) The signal will be also passed to any warship who will be in the area.

Section (75)D. Delete sub-para one and two and substitute (1) (? Authorities) sailing convoy to Persian Gulf are to include following information in sailing telegram.

(2) Estimated time of crossing 022° N. or 062° E.

Section 5 add new para. 4 (repetition of Section (74)D.) (C. in C. E.F., 0925Z/4 to E.I. Station 135C, (R) Admty., N.Z.N.B. Wellington, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations.)

INCONSTANT, attack on U/B. A.M.1845/9th July, 1942. (A) E.F.5. (B) 1032 - 1351 (2 - (73)) on 15th Nov. 1942. (C) ?INCONSTANT. (D) 030° 46' S. 031° 56' E. (E) F. (F) U-Boat was most probably at maximum depth. (C. in C. E.F., 0947Z/4 to Admty.)

U.S. Dispositions. A.M. 1552/28th Jan. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific:- DENVER - at sea. CHENANGO - in South Pacific. (D.O.D.(F), 1119A/4 to C. in C..E.F.)

Air Report. Intelligence Summary No. 326 for 4th Feb. B. Night 3rd/4th. 8 Wellingtons attacked Akyab town and villages several fires started. Night 2nd/3rd. 4 Blenheims attacked Akyab Island villages. E. Feb. 1st. U.S.A.A.F. Operations. 7 Liberators started fires in warehouses Rangoon but missed shipping in river. 7 Liberators on Port Blair returned as target overcast. (A.H.Q. India, 1200Z/4.)

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

KHYBER.

Sailing KHYBER E.T.A. Addu Atoll 0900C/12.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1741Z/4 to Admty., (R)
C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A., N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll,
S.O.(I) Kilindini.)

Mauritius,
Seychelles,
scale of
defence.

- Your 81329 of 2nd Feb. (1735/2.)
1. Reply to your E.A.C. 926/G(O) dated 28th Oct. sent by Air Mail 26th Jan.
 2. Likely scale of attack remains unchanged.
 3. Reinforcements unlikely to be available.
 4. Military area Diego Suarez to be made strong as possible but remainder of Island not to be disregarded.
 5. Withdrawal of troops from remainder of Island to Diego Suarez will not take place without War Office sanction.
 6. Priorities as follows:- A. Seychelles. (i) St. Anne Island. (ii) Victoria. B. Mauritius. (i) Grand Port (with airfield at Plaisance). (ii) Port Louis. (iii) Inland Depots. Midlands- Armament Depot. Floreal - Torpedo Depot. Rose Belle - Explosive Store.
 7. Reunion considered no strategic value. (W.O., 1830A/4 to G.O.C. in C. E.A.)

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U.G.F.5.
JAMES
PARKER.

My 1935/11. U.S. Transport JAMES PARKER speed 17½ knots is ship concerned. Dates not materially altered.
(B.A.D. 0001Z/4 to F.O.C.W.A.F.(R) Admty, N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Escort
Vessels,
proposed
classification.

The need for a simple classification of the many different types of convoy escort vessels is apparent. 2. It is proposed to adopt the following classifications:- (i) Long (L): Vessels with an endurance of over 3500 miles at convoy speed. These would include sloops, cutters, twin-screw corvettes, modern destroyers, etc. which are capable of escorting long-distance convoys such as U.C./C.U., O.S./S.L. (ii) Medium (M) Vessels with an endurance of less than 3500 and more than 2000 miles at convoy speed. These include Flower class corvettes, converted destroyers etc., capable of escorting H.X., O.N. and other North Atlantic convoys. (iii) Short (S): Vessels with an endurance of less than 2000 miles at convoy speed. These include Hunt Class destroyers, unconverted old destroyers etc., and are capable of escorting O.G./H.G. and J.W./R.A. convoys. 3. Request you will discuss this with the U.S. Naval Authorities. If they concur, it is proposed that this classification should be adopted throughout the United Nations Naval Forces.
(D.O.D.(H) Approved V.C.N.S., 0004A/4 to B.A.D.(R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A., C. in C.H.F.)

U.S. S/M.
Notices,
S./M.
estimates
4th Feb.

(C. in C. C.S. Fleet, 0101/4, 1535/4, 1536/4, 1602/4, 1603/4, 1604/4 to Admty.)

Atlantic
Convoy
Escorts,
Conference
at
Washington.

Personal for 1st S.L. 1. With reference to Cominch 0220/3 (N.T. in W.D. 2013Z/2 refers.) Navy Dept. have recently appeared to be somewhat perplexed over the number of authorities over this side who have to do with administration of convoy system. I have not been consulted in the matter. 2. This conference seems a suitable opportunity to review afresh the line of demarcation between U.S. and U.K. Convoy Administration Areas. As you know I have never liked the present arrangement. Supposing the "Chop" Line should run from the Canadian Frontier to some point in N.W. Africa with the British taking care of everything North of that line, or at any rate as far as the Westomp, and U.S. taking charge of everything to the south of that Line. Would discussion in this direction be agreeable to you? 3. Ref. your 0132/8. For your information a combined committee on a lowish plane has just produced a report giving the best use of available escorts, irrespective of nationality. I am favourably impressed with this report and am awaiting Cominch's reaction.
(B.A.D., 0123Z/4 to Admty.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy Your 2246/2. Air coverage may be expected
U.C.I. within 400 miles of Bermuda, Usan, Juan and
air Antigua.
coverage. (B.A.D., 0301Z/4 to Admty.)

M.V. Your 1950/3. KING LUD. Overdue and presumed
KING LUD, lost. Sailed Capetown 31st May 1942 for Bombay
(British 23rd June.
5224 tons) (D.T.D. 1021Z/4 to Connav.)
presumed
lost.

Movements. Arrival 3rd. U.S. A.T. EL LIBERTADOR .
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1025Q.R/4 to Admty., (R) S.O.
(I) Jamaica.)

Departure Feb. 1st from San Francisco, for Honolulu
ANTICUA (U.S.) A.T.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1355Z/4 to Admty.)

U.S Armed Yacht S.C. 655 left Harbour P.M. 3rd.

(R.O. Barranquilla, 1559/4 to D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Tanker Your 1405/3. suggest following arrangement.
Convoys Tanker carrying crates will be put under sheer leg
to where crates can be lifted from tanker and placed
Curacao, in lighter. Lighter to be taken to No. 4 wharf
shipment and crates lifted by crane direct on to suitable
of crated trolley which is available and taken to Hato Field
A/C. for erection. Space on wharf for erection not
practicable. Maximum draft for sheer leg berth 18ft. Request

name of tanker or tankers in advance also dimensions and number of crates.
If tanker can lift these crates discharging into lighter can be
done at any berth and thus avoid possible delay.

(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1047/4 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. N.O.I.C.
Trinidad, B.A.D. C. in C.W.At.)

Your 1619/23rd to S.B.N.O. W.At. and 1405/3 to Curacao.

(1) Cominch is in communication with Com. Carib. Sea Frontier
on these proposals. (2) Com. Carib. Sea Frontier has already
stated that Curacao is unsuitable for your requirements due to
(a) Almost complete lack of repair facilities (b) Air field
and harbour will be saturated with present commitments.

(3) Cominch is suggesting to Com. Carib. Sea Fron. that A.C.V.'s
escorting U.C.-C.U. convoys should turn round at San Juan
Puerto Rico, the convoy proceeding in Caribbean Sea under land
based air cover. (4) San Juan is a full carrier operating
base, that is, there is a carrier berth alongside a taxi strip
to air field. Full maintenance and repair facilities there are
at present of little use. The removing and repair of crashed
aircraft is comparatively simple and there may be opportunities
for reserve crews to train with a S/M. (5) Air transport to
Aruba and Curacao is available five times weekly for A.C.V.
Officer to attend the convoy conference. (6) If convoy is
routed close to Puerto Rico a local escort could meet A.C.V. as
necessary. (7) Request your remarks.

(B.A.D. 2235Z/4 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.Os. Curacao, Trinidad,
S.B.N.O. W.At. C. in C. W.A.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T.4th.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
	F.S. RICHELIEU } F.S. MONTCALM } U.S. Escort)	19° N., 41½° W.	248°	12½
	(D.O.D.(F), 1114Z/4 to Opanv.(R) Commaveu.)			

Motor Mine-sweepers, BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER. Sailed BUTTERMERE escorting H.M. M/S 107, 102, 103, 105, 106 in accordance with my 1502/3. 2. WASTWATER prevented sailing by boiler defect delay four days and will be sailed independently when ready by similar route to overtake group at Pernambuco. 3. Add my 1502/3 para. (2). W/T guard for escort in areas F. and P. in accordance with A.F.O.(S) 1/1942 section A.F. table 3(2) line one table 4 (1) lines one and two and Admty. 770A/25th Nov. 1942. (N.O.I.C. Port of Spain 1202Q/4 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. etc.)

STATE OF MARYLAND. Departure Saturatux Fort 2100Z/4. STATE OF MARYLAND U.S. A.T. Trinidad 5th Feb. knots. (A)11.2 (B) 12.5 5½ oil requirement uncertain. (B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1314Q/4. to Admty. (R) Navy Dept. Washington, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Com. Sea Frontier, Carib.)

U/B attacked. Aircraft sighted submarine in 054° 17' N. 049° 14' W. at 1310Z/4. A/C attacked with all depth charges. (C.O.A.C., 1332Z/4 to G.B.7 A. (R) C.T.F. 24, Connv, Admty., C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C.) Amended 1454Z/4.

JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER, torpedoed 2nd Feb. H.X.224. Ref. Jamaica's 1632/3 JEREMIAH VAN RENSSELAER (U.S.) sailed New York Jan. 22nd H.X.224 for U.K. reported torpedoed 2nd. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1333Z/4 to S.O.(I) Capetown.(R) S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, S.O.(I) Callao, Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

U/B Aircraft sighted sub. in 048° 36' N. 047° 53' W. at 1320/4. Lighting doubtful no attack made. (C.O.A.C., 1335Z/4 to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F.24., Connv Admty., C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7., H.Q.C.C.) Amended 1457Z/4.

G.U.3. Your 1212/13 Jan. (Repeats N.S.H.Q's. 2247/11) route G.U. 3 not yet received. Various ships dispersing but dispersal position not known. Request route and dispersal point. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1404Z/4 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)

/Icing...

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Icing. S.O. Escort of S.C.117 reports that the area between 49°N and 55° N. and West of 48° W. is dangerous to escorts due to extra top weight caused by icing, and in addition that the fighting efficiency of escort vessels are severely handicapped thereby.
(C. in C.W.A. 1412Z/4 to Admty. (R) C.T.24.)
- A.T.36. Your 2250A/30th Jan. para. 4. Request allocation of fighter protection callsign for code word "Deuce".
(C.O.A.C., 1429Z/4 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- B.Y.M.S. My 1755Z/25/1. B.Y.M.S. 23430 sailed at 1430Z/4 (F.O.N.F., 1529Z/4 to Admty. (R) Cominch, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., C. in C.W.A., B.A.D. C.O.A.C.)
- S.C.118 My 1236/4 and 1338/4 later bearings move sightings
U.187 considerably east of you however you may be
sunk by shadowed although no sighting reported.
VIMY. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 1600/4 to C. in D. Ocean
Escort T.U.24.1.16. (R) Com. Task 24, C. in C.Lant)
U/B estimated in your area by D/F has made a
sighting of a convoy at 1515Z/4.
(Cominch, 1627/4 to C.M.O. Escort T.U. 24.6.16 Comtask 24,
C. in C. Lant.)
U.Boat number 187 sunk by VIMY. 3 Officers 31 ratings
prisoners of war in BEVERLEY 5 ratings (two corrupt groups).
Evidence of probably 3 other U.boats still in vicinity which
have made first sighting report. S.C.118, P.C. and S. at
2130Z/4 51° 39' 36" 13' 038" 7.5 knots weather report.
(M.O.E.T.U.24.1.16, 1900Z/4 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24,
Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.
Halifax, C.T.G.24.7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., INGHAM, LEARY.)
U/Boats in your vicinity are now shadowing and reporting on
series 7.
(D.D.I.C.2211A/4 to Escorts of S.C.118. (R) Cominch,
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C., C.T.G.24.7.)
U.S. Desr. SCHENCK departed 2130Z/4 to augment escort
convoy leaving S.C.118.
(C.T.G.24.6. 2221Z/4 to Comtask 24 (R) C. in C.W.A., Connav,
INGHAM, BABBITT, C.T.U. 24.1.(.)16.)
U.Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting
report of a convoy of important unit 2019/4. Kc/s. Anglo U.S.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 2257/4 to C.M.O.E. T.U. 24.1.16, (R)
Comtask 24 C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet.)
Asking that INGHAM may remain with convoy until U.boat
situation clarifies.
(C. in C.W.A. 2330Z/4) (see Home Commands.)
- FANTASQUE, Your 1341Z/30 advise following regarding French
TERRIBLE. destroyers FANTASQUE and TERRIBLE. (A) Orders
given to ships (B) Whether U.S. Liaison Officer on
board. (C) Codes cyphers recognition signals on
board. (D) Communication facilities.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1653/4 to S.N.O.C.A., (R) C. in C. At. Fleet,
Admty., N.C.X.F., Comeastseafon, F.O.C.W.Af.)

/G.U.S...

War Diary.4.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- G.U.S. Convoys. Your 1100A/4th (N.T. in W.D. Proposal to sail additional ships in G.U.S.4 instead of M.K.S.7.) see my 1647/3rd. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 1701/4, to N.C.X.F. etc.)
- ATTACKER. Admty.'s 2005/3. Amend last sentence of my 1843/2 to read "Leave Kingston (Jamaica) for Curacao 5th or 6th March." (B.A.D., 1755Z/4 to Admty. (R) C. in C. U.S.Fleet, N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica, S.B.N.O. W.At., N.D.I.C.Trinidad, S.B.N.O. Curacao, R.N.A.Stn. Palisadoes, ATTACKER.)
- ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF. Departure 4th ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1802Q/4 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.O.I. Kingston, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) Departure Port of Spain 04200 ALCANTARA escorted by WOODRUFF. Route (A) Boca de Navios, (B) 10.57 N. 62.2 W. (C) 10.54 60.51 (D) 10.44 60.26 (E) 08.37 59.17 (F) 07.08 57.50 (G) 06.16 53.55 (H) 05.15 51.17. (J) 00.17 S 44.18 W. (K) 04.55 34.45 (L) 07.35 34.35 thence Recife E.T.A.121200 Knots 12. (R.O. Port of Spain, 2238/4 to Admty.)
- H.X.225 SALISBURY. SALISBURY will sail to overtake H.X.225 as support unit designated to 24.12.1. with orders to detach about 30 West direct to St. Johns. (F.O.N.F. 1807Z/4 to C.T.F.24 C. in C.W.A. Admty. C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, SALISBURY.)
- Rescue Tugs. Your 1239/1. H.M. Rescue Tug DEXTEROUS will be sailed for St. John's N.F. by first opportunity. She will be manned by Dutch Civilian crew. (Admty. 1926A/4 to F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C.W.A.)
- DOCHET, PORCHER. Your 1720/3*. Concur. (Admty., 1933A/4 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.T.F.24, C. in C.W.A., Cdre. Londonderry, C.T.G.24.7. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, Cominch, PORCHER, DOCHET.)* (Propose to hold DOCHET and PORCHER as extra escorts for convoy S.C.119.)
- A.C.V.'s ferrying demand. My 2253/29th Jan. para. 3 and 4, request reply. A formal application from U.S. Army Air Corps has now been received requesting that we route these 4 A.C.Vs via Casablanca and make available maximum flight deck and cargo (presumably hangar) space for transport of assembled fighter aircraft to African theatre where they are urgently required. (B.A.D. 2035Z/4 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 0301A/6.

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. A. Plane attacks Sub. 59° 21' N. 45° 27' W. 1357Z/03 and 54° 17' N. 49° 14' W. 1310Z/04. Plane attacks Sub on Surface 60° 05' N. 47° 22' W. 1305Z/03. Para C. Coast Watcher sights Sub. on surface 47° 36' N. 53° 02' W. 2030Z/03 course E. Plane sights Sub. 48° 36' N. 47° 53' W. 1320Z/04. Para D. Sound Contact 1400Z/02 my 032200 read 1400Z/03 Sub. sighted 18° 09' N. 63° 03' W. 2100Z/03. S.C.1024 Sound Contact 34° 11' N. 76° 46' W. 0150Z/04. C.G.C. 453 Sound Contact Area 34° 35' N. 76° 30' W. 0959Z/04. (Cominch, 2120/4 to Admty.)

G.U.F.4. S.N.O. Casablanca 1341Z/30 total number of ships in convoy G.U.F. 4 exceeds number specified in my 1802/27th Dec. If it is desired to exceed prescribed number in any future convoy request each case be referred to C. in C. U.S. Fleet in advance for approval. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2133/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C.U.S.At. Fleet, S.N.O.C.A., C. in C.A.F., Admty., Comnavu, B.A.D.)

Atlantic Convoy Escorts, conference. Your 2013/2. Conference is welcomed and date our representative will be available will be signalled as soon as possible. (1st S.L., 2249Z/4 to Cominch, (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Number 378 Feb.3rd. 2. Troops and material recently arrived Buka Passage where large number aircraft seen 3/2 many from South damaged. 3. Dawn attack Rabaul aerodromes by three Fortresses. Target area closed in but bombs dropped both sides harbour near Lakunai Malaguna strips. Another Fortress unable find target bombed Gasmata runway. Morning R/C saw 50 ships Rabaul Harbour. Incomplete photos show one unidentified vessel 2 tankers (1 medium 1 large) 36 merchant vessels totalling 164,000 tons. 3 medium and 3 light bombers 50 fighters Lakunai Aerodrome. Fortress encountered fifteen Zeros sustained considerable damage but probably shot down two Zeros. 6. Afternoon Liberator saw possible cruiser wide bay course south. Bombs fell short. One zero ineffectively intercepted. Liberators later bombed Cape Gloucester Runway. 7. Evening R/C reported destroyer St. Georges Channel course 200° and later 1 destroyer 2 cargo vessels approaching 1 in from west. 8. Increased activity and preparation with special inspection blast bays Lae Aerodrome where 3/2 show only 2 serviceable aircraft. 10. Same time 4 Beaufighters made coastal sweep of Salamaua to Kumusi River 12. Nightly barge activity reported Waria River area also Kumusi River over mouth.

War Diary.

4.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest number 378
Feb. 3rd.
Contd.

13. After dawn 1 Beaufighter attacked 2 float-planes Dobo. Attacked by another but escaped. 3 Hudsons later bombing barracks Dobo intercepted by one Zero Float-plane which was shot down. Same target bombed later by 2 B.25s, destroying buildings.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0855Z/4 to Admty. etc.)

Movements.

Arrival Thursday Is. 2nd SWAN, Townsville 2nd BALLARAT, Darwin 3rd KALGOORLIE, Sydney (N.S.W.) 3rd U.S. Dest. HENLEY. Departure Melbourne 2nd WARRAMUNGA for Sydney (N.S.W.) Townsville 2nd KATOOMBA for Milne Bay, Thursday Is. 2nd SWAN for Port Moresby 2nd. CASTLEMAINE for Thursday Is. Sydney (N.S.W.) 3rd ROCKHAMPTON, BOWEN, KAPUNDA, for Brisbane and MILDURA Townsville on escort duty.
(A.C.N.B. 1316Z/4.)
Arrival Auckland U.S.S. DELPHINUS.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2310Z/4 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions (D.D.I.C. 1258A/4, 1325A/4.)

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Rear Admiral A.M. Peters D.S.C. today took over the duties of R.A.(M).

Suspicious
Ship.

At 1330 G.M.T. SS. SUSSEX reported sighting a suspicious cargo vessel 70 miles west of 44° 30' N. 21° 58' W. (about 600 miles west of Finisterre) course 85°; the vessel reversed her course on being sighted. C. in C. Plymouth ordered JAMAICA, on Biscay patrol to investigate, and ANTELOPE and ARGUS were also informed. The former had sailed from Plymouth for Gibraltar at 1651A today, in company with BOREAS and WIVERN and ARGUS left Gibraltar at 0300/4 to join Convoy M.K.F.8 for U.K.

At 0031A/6 F.O.S. on the assumption that the vessel was an inward bound blockade runner and could be in 44.30 N. 17.40 W. at 0800/6 diverted U.S. S/MS HERRING and SHAD who are returning from patrol, to move to patrol position near 46.05 N. 14.15 W. and 45.25 N. 03.01 W. respectively. BARB and BLACKFISH are to proceed to their patrol positions already assigned, the former in Zone K.505 and the latter off Bilbao. The suspicious vessel was not sighted again.

German
main units.

It is reported (B.2) that a battlecruiser, and a cruiser with 3 destroyers (possibly HIPPER and KÖLN) passed Floro (61.36 N. 05.01 E) at 1100Z/5, course south, on 7 Feb. a B.2 report stated that TIRPITZ was in Lo Fiord and HIPPER and KÖLN appeared to have left.

It is reported that the movement of enemy merchant vessels in North Norway and Finland has very much increased, both ways, during the last few days. The Soviet Staff is asking for any information which may explain these movements.

Lorient
attacked.

120 out of 128 aircraft attacked Lorient last night in excellent weather. Both the town and docks were well hit.

There was some enemy aircraft activity in the Thames Estuary last night and some minelaying seems to have been suspected.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Agreement has been reached to allow tankers in Gulf - Casablanca - Gibraltar convoys (O.T. convoys) to enter the Mediterranean. U.S. escorts will not, however, enter the Mediterranean (See 25 Jan).

The French S/M IRIS was towed into Alicante by a Spanish gunboat this evening.

Three out of 4 Lancasters of Bomber Command from U.K. reported attacking Spezia in excellent weather last night. The town was not blacked out. (N.C.X.F. learnt of the attack from the local French Press) and he asked (6th Feb). in view of the effect such actions usually has on the movement of the Italian Fleet, that in future he may be forewarned, to enable submarines to be re-disposed and reconnaissance to be arranged. The Royal Air Force, however, can rarely give advanced notice of bombing attacks on Italian ports, owing to rapidly changing weather conditions, particularly at this time of year. N.C.X.F.'s telegram raised important points regarding co-ordination and policy which are being examined (10 Feb.)

There were air raids on Tripoli (L) at dawn and dusk today but no damage was caused.

M/S - A/S trawler STRONSAY was sunk by explosion off Philippeville harbour at 2045 today. It is uncertain whether mine or torpedo caused the explosion.

Western
Desert.

SS. HENRIK (Norwegian) was torpedoed and sunk by U-boat at 0922 in 32.11 N. 24.46 E. (about 30 miles east of Tobruk) whilst in convoy from Alexandria to Benghazi. SS. CORONA (Norwegian) was also torpedoed and was taken in tow by ERICA for Tobruk (arrived on 8 Feb).

Gulf of
Aden.

In view of escort commitments in the Mediterranean C. in CMed. is compelled to withdraw all destroyers from the Gulf of Aden, and he has instructed Commodore, Aden, to sail the destroyers to comply on completion of operation "Pamphlet".

5.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Six Liberators last night attacked the Athlone wharves and sidings, Rangoon.

4 escorted enemy medium bombers attacked Chittagong today.

America & West Indies.

SS. ELLENOR sighted a torpedo in 29.56 N. 81.13 W. at 0800 G.M.T.

S.C.118

VANESSA reported at 1445Z today that there were 7 stragglers from Convoy S.C.118, of which SS. WEST PORTAL reported that she was torpedoed at 1300Z today in approx. 53. N. 33 W. (about 800 miles West of Galway Bay (Ireland)). Three U-boats were sighted during the night and all were attacked; there were no attacks on the convoy. During the forenoon BEVERLEY sighted and attacked 2 U-boats 20 miles astern of the convoy, VIMY assisting. Evidently at least 3 other U-boats are in the neighbourhood. Oiling at sea was not possible and the destroyer escort fuel situation is causing some anxiety.

Australia & New Zealand.

1st Naval Member, Australian Commonwealth Naval Board, asks C. in C. Eastern Fleet if he can spare a good night torpedosquadron of Albacore or Swordfish aircraft, of which excellent use could be made working from Buna against Lae, Salamoia Gasmata and Finschaffan. Progress against Japanese shipping in this area, he says, is not as good as it ought to be, C. in C. E.F. could not, however, spare any T.B.R. aircraft (9 Feb).

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

9 Liberators bombed Ambon today, setting on fire a 10,000 ton transport and scoring direct hits or near misses on 2 medium merchant ships.

9 B.25s attacked Dobo, hitting the jetty and a possible ammunition store.

A Japanese force of 4 battleships, 2 carriers, 6 heavy cruisers and 12 destroyers was sighted today 400 miles S.E. of Truk, steering 210°.

R/C A/C bombed and probably hit one medium cargo vessel accompanied by a tanker, 16 miles S.W. of Buka Passage (Solomon Is). A R/C aircraft also bombed and probably sank a 1500 ton cargo vessel and 3 barges off Talasea, New Britain.

5.2.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

R.A.M. Rear Admiral A.M. Peters D.S.C. has taken over the duties of Rear Admiral (M) today.
(R.A.M 1001/5 to Admty.)

Movements.

A.F.D.20. My 1329/4. Sailing of A.F.D. XX postponed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1007A/5.)
My 1215/31. 2 M/Ls of 19th Flotilla are to escort A.F.D.20 from Milford Haven to Rothesay in lieu of 3 M/Ls of 8th Flotilla. Their primary duty is to keep look out for floating mines in track of dock. N.O.I.C. Holyhead is requested to sail 2 M/Ls to arrive Milford Haven p.m./6th.
(C. in C.W.A. 1146A/5 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

S/M. My 1727/4. Add new para. (P) ULTOR (P.53) off
Positions. And Fiord.
(F.O.S. 1151A/5 to Admty.)
Position of submarines at 0800A/6th and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. ULTOR (P.53) off And Fiord.
- B. O.15.66° 20' N. 59° E. probably on surface speed 8 knots for Lerwick.
- C. SEADOG (P.216) 63° 54' N. 02° 23' E. probably on surface speed 9 knots for Lerwick.
- D. SOKOL 65° 02' N. 04° 55' E. probably on surface speed 9 knots for Lerwick.
- E. UREDD 62° 58' N. 00° 32' E. probably on surface through 67° 06' N. 05° 56' E. speed 9 knots.
- F. TACTICIAN, (P.314) off Grip Holen.
- G. JUNON off Bredsund.
- H. DZIK in zone K.104.
- J. ULLSWATER (P.31) and O.19 escorted by PENNYWORT leave Clyde 1600/6th through Minches due Scapa 0800/8th speed 10 knots.
- K. UNRULY (P.49) escorted by CUTTY SARK leaves Clyde 0800/6th due 360° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 0800/8th.
- L. Russian S/M L.15 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR 59° 48' N. 12° 01' W. speed 9 knots through 58° 50' N. 08° 01' W. 360° Butt of Lewis 6 miles, thence through Minches to Greenock.
- (M) U.S.S. HERRING 47° 24' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. daily advance 175 miles.
- N. U.S.S. BARB 44° 55' N. 12° 42' W. dived by day for patrol in zone K.505.
- O. U.S.S. SHAD 45° 29' N. 03° 03' W. dived by day through 48° 10' N. 06° 01' W. daily advance 140 miles.
- P. U.S.S. BLACKFISH off Bilbao.
(F.O.S. 1709A/5 and 2153A/5.)
My position 1400A/5, 066° 22' N. 005° 55' E. E.T.A. 0700A/7.
(SEADOG 1825A/5 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

O.19. Arrived O.19 escorted by SHIKARI.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1338A/5)

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday,

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

- TRIDENT. Arrived TRIDENT escorted by ANCHUSA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1344A/5.)
- FURIOUS. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail FURIOUS from Clyde p.m. 8th for Scapa. C. in C.H.F. is requested to provide escort.
(R.A.A.1503/5.)
Proceed to Scapa as ordered by C. in C.W.A. My 1503/5 refers. Embark 817 squadron on 9th or 10th February. Inform Hatston of R/V for 817 squadron and time of embarking stores. Be ready for Service p.m. 10th.
(R.A.A.H.F. 1539Z/5 to FURIOUS.)
- ANTELOPE, BOREAS, WIVERN. Sailed ANTELOPE, BOREAS, WIVERN. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200A/8. S.O.A. 20 knots until 1600A/6th, then 17.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1651A/5.)
- RENOWN. Sailed RENOWN, BOADICEA, LAUDERDALE in accordance with my 1306A/5th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1746A/5.)
- ILLUSTRIOUS. My 2006/4. Remain 24 hours' notice for sea. Squadrons will be disembarked about 18th February before ship refits.
(V.A.A. 1901/5 to ILLUSTRIOUS.)

Operations.

- Coastal Patrols. No patrol tonight Friday.
(C. in C. Nore, 0958A/5.)
1. Weather permitting intend M.G.Bs. 56 (S.O.), 52 and 55 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W. 2. Leave Weymouth at 1830 and proceed via Q.Z.S. 382. Leave patrol line at dawn/6.
3. Object. Anti-E Boat patrol. Code-word "Device."
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1107A/5.)
M.Ls.137, 138 near inner Lade Buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 1636A/5.)
Cancel my 1107A/5 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1620A/5.)
- Operation "Valuable." Tonight Force A. consisting of CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, TYNEDALE, LIMBOURNE is to pass E.A.5 buoy at 1700/5 and 0600/6. Patrol south of Bear as in para. 4 my 1000/20*. Force B. at Newhaven to be at immediate notice by 1800/5 and to consist of M.G.Bs. 616, 611, 613 and M.T.Bs. 89, 242. (2) KINGSTON TURQUOISE, KINGSTON TOPAZ, Chaser No. 10 at St. Helens (I.O.W.). LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1215A/5, 1405A/5, 1650A/5)* Re operation "Valuable"

/Norwegian...

War Diary.5. 2. 1943
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Norwegian
Coastal
S/M
Patrol
UREDD.

UREDD sailed from Lunna Voe 1412A/5 unescorted and on surface at C.O. discretion well within 80 miles of Norwegian coast, thence diving by day. Routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence by route Pink to latitude 067° 06' N. thence direct to patrol in vicinity of 067° 06' N. 012° 32' E.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1429A/5.)

Suspicious
ship
Search by
JAMAICA.

British S.S. SUSSEX reported sighting at 1330Z/5th a merchant ship in 044° 23' N. 032° 36' W. on an Easterly course. Ship behaved in a suspicious manner. Description. Proceed to investigate. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2144A/5 to JAMAICA, (R) C. in C. H.F. ANTELOPE.)

Following received from British S.S. SUSSEX. Begins - "At 1330 G.M.T. position 70 miles 270° from S. have sighted cargo vessel 7 miles to South, steering similar course. She has now altered to an opposite course and causing suspicion. Description grey Maer-form bow, flush forward, well-deck aft, cruiser stern, 2 masts, funnels close to bridge, no guns visible. T.O.O. 1330Z/5th February." Ends. Comment. Position S. is 44° 30' N. 21° 58' W. The course of SUSSEX at time of sighting was approximately 085°. (D.D.I.C., 2201A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A., F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)

My 2144/5. Insert ARGUS in the ships repeated in the address.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 2357A/5 to JAMAICA, ARGUS, ANTELOPE, C. in C.H.F., Admty.)

Exercises.Battle
Fleet
on 11th
February.

My 1139/5. Intend following exercise programme for 11th February. 1400A V.A.2 in ANSON with SHEFFIELD pass through 270° Sule Skerry 30 miles steer within 15° of 060°. KING GEORGE V and a cruiser to be between north and east from Sule Skerry, steer to intercept. On conclusion V.A.2 to take charge. 1800A, A.L.T. in 090° Sule Skerry 15 miles, course southern. 2030A, night-encounter as arranged by V.A.2, returning to harbour on completion.
(C. in C. H.F. 1209A/5 to V.A.2.)

Allied Air Activity.Clyde
precautions.

Important Naval Untis will be berthed in Clyde W.E.F. today until 10th February and at Rosyth W.E.F. today until 25th February. 2. Request any special precautions be taken which you may consider necessary.
(Air Ministry 1310A/5 to H.Q.F.C.)

/Bomber...

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Bomber
Command
operations.

On night 4th/5th 151 A/C bombed Turin, 120A/C
bombed Lorient, and 2 A/C bombed Spezzia.
(H.Q.B.C. 1700A/5.)

M.A.C.
Ships.
Instruction
of Masters.
ACTIVITY.

1. It is desired that Masters of Merchant
Aircraft Carriers should undergo the following
courses accompanied by their Air Staff Officers:
(a) In a Naval Aircraft Carrier - 2 weeks - to
study all aspects of the operation of aircraft.
(b) At Western Approaches Tactical Unit - one
week - to study the tactical employment of M.A.C.
Ships and their Aircraft. (c) At a Naval Air Station - one
week. 2. It is proposed course (a) be carried out in ACTIVITY.
Master of the first M.A.C. ship and his Air Staff Officer will
be available to join ACTIVITY for course starting 15th
February. Request confirmation that course can be arranged.
3. Course at Western Approaches Tactical Unit forms the subject
of a letter. Visit to Naval Air Station is dealt with in
Admiralty's 2227A/28 and 1537A/30, both to R.A.N.A.S. only.
(A.C.N.S.A., 1701A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal
Command.
Relief
of Sir
P. Joubert
by Air-
Marshal
Slessor.

On your relief by Air Marshal Slessor we wish to
express to you our deep appreciation of the
magnificent contribution which the Coastal
Command under you has made in keeping open our
sea communications and interrupting those of the
enemy.
(1st S.L. 2353/5 to Sir P. Joubert.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy
A/C.

15 Enemy Aircraft in sight steering 290° height
2000 feet. My position 48° 21' N. 07° 53' W.
(A/C. T.5 G.A. 1135A/5 to 19 Group.)

Thames
Estuary.

There was some aircraft activity in the Thames
Estuary on night 4/5th. At about 2015 a low
flying plane was picked up by SKIDDAW's R.D.F.
coming westward from near B.1 buoy and passing in
over Thames Gate Area. At about 2022 two heavy explosions were
heard to the westward (it is believed that one was known to have
been a mine falling ashore) and at about 2040 a plane crossed the
Boom from West to East at a very low altitude and apparently
having passed through the Balloon Barrage. This plane was
engaged by a patrol-vessel near the East Spile - but without
apparent effect. Friendly Bombers and Fighters were also known
to have been over the area during this period. The night was
very dark but clear. At about 2030 there was activity by one
or two unidentified planes, one of which crossed the middle of
Barrow Deep, and at 2157 an unknown plane circled the Northern
End of the Black Deep.
(S.O. T.L.D.F., 1618/5 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Raid...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Raid on Bognor. Following received from EXCELLENT begins:-
 A. 1402/5/2/43 rain cloud 100 feet.
 B. 4 Single-engine fighter bombers, possible Me. 109, approached from west, dropped 4 bombs, and retired to south. C. H.E. Bombs. D. 4 impact bombs size unknown dropped on town. Nearest bomb 200 yards from shore end of pier. E (1) 35 windows broken in building at north end of pier facing town. These do not affect accommodation or instruction and can be boarded up. (2) Nil. F. 53 rounds oerlikon fired. G. (H) (K) Blank.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1736/5 to Admty.)

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. A/C observed North of Beenenberg 10.10 course N.W. and returning E. 10.40 E., probably F.W.
 (A.C.I.C., 2351Z/5.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Cancel my 1518A/24. Area now cleared.
 (N.O.I.C. Southend, 0904A/5.)

Search off Iona. Intend sailing SHIPPIGAN, TADOUSSAC, and ILFRACOMBE 0300A/9 to Skerryvore area to continue clearance. DORNOCH will follow when ready about Feb. 13th. My 1154A/4 refers.
 (Cdre., Londonderry 1509A/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Altafiord. Soviet visual air R/C Alta Fjord 1145C/4 observed North Norway, and Finland. one cruiser, three destroyers, three escort (?vessels) 2 (corrupt group) ships. 2. Movement of enemy merchant vessels in North Norway and Finland has very much increased last few days. Ships apparently suggested (?to be) in both directions. 12 motor vessels in Kirkekt a.m. today, and 5 or 6 on the way. Movement of troops on land also increased. Yesterday 400 men cleared road south of Titovka. Soviet staff requests any information which may explain these movements.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1020A/5 to Admty.)

HIPPER Report, graded B.2, that 1 battlecruiser, and KÖLN. 1 cruiser with 3 destroyers passed Floro (61° 36' N. 05° 01' E.) at 1100Z/5, course South, speed 20 knots. Comment. This may be HIPPER and KÖLN on passage south.
 (D.D.I.C. 1430A to A.I.G.47, A.I.G.21, S/Ms on patrol.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat Attacked. On day 4th February one A/C attacked a S/M with six depth-charges without indication of success.
 (H.Q.B.C. 1700A/5.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

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 (H.Q.B.C. 1700A/5.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats. - Contd.

U-Boat sighted. On day 4th February one A/C sighted a S/M but, having expended depth-charges, was unable to attack (H.Q.B.C. 1700A/5)

Technical.

ST. CROIX armament. Request you will reply to Cdre. Londonderry's 1145/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1257A/5 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

VEGA. VEGA grounded close to Mackintosh Rock at entrance to Rosyth sustaining damage to starboard shaft, which cannot be turned. Ship now at Rosyth. (Capt. D. Rosyth, 1110A/5 to Admty.)

BONITO, GRAYLING, MULLET, WHITING. A.M. 1746/4 to C. in C. Rosyth only. Request completion dates for these Trawlers. They are urgently required for service in the Mediterranean. (D.A./S.W. 1307A/5 to A.S. Rosyth.)

HARLEY. S.S. HARLEY from Peterhead has arrived and is proceeding to Inverness. Ship grounded in Burgh Head Bay during dark hours a.m. today. (N.C.S.O. Invergordon, 1430/5 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Greenock, Ships under minor repair. The following ships not otherwise reported have been taken in hand for minor repairs at Greenock. ACONIT, RENONCULE, ROSELYS, PRESIDENT HOUDOUS, ISLE OF SARK, MALCOLM, NARCISSUS, and ESPIEGLE to complete by February 9th. ESCAPADE, M.M.S.141, 6 Drifters and L.C.T.'s. 301 and 525 are waiting to be placed. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1651/5 to Admty.)

M.F.V. 2014. M.F.V. 2014 refloated P.M. today. Leaking badly but now safely moored alongside old pier St. Marys Pool. (C.S.O. Scillies, 1715A/5 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

BOERTIND. BOERTIND damaged by British merchant vessel FINLAND this afternoon. (Cdre. M/S Dundee, 1725/5 to Royal Norwegian Naval Command, Port Edgar.)

M.L.491. Minor fire occurred night of 3rd February in M.L. 491 refitting at Brixham. Thought due to electrical short-circuit. Mast and mess deck hatch charred and other minor damage. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1800/5 to Admty.)

War Diary.5. 2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

L.C.T.326. Nothing has been heard of L.C.T.326 since she was last seen at 1000/1st in position Chicken Rock 0450 12 miles. Report if any of crew have been picked up by other ships or the L.C.T. herself sighted. (C. in C.W.A. 1815A/5 to all F.O.I.C's.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.224. Ships for Loch Ewe are to be detached at Uist, thence to proceed independently.
(C. in C.W.A. 0107A/5 to Escort, H.X.224.)
Request you sail KIRKELLA to R/V H.X.224 escort by HIGHLANDER H.X.224 expected at position (A) 1800A/5th.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0846A/5 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
Suffering from condenseritis due to depth-charge attacks. Request permission to return to harbour when COREOPSIS and BUSTLER join. LONDONDERRY and ASPHODEL in company. Towing proceedings slow. My P.C.S. at 1200A/5 were 56.17 N. 12.33 W. 095° 5 knots.
(CLARE 1209A/5 to C. in C.W.A.)
My 1209/5. Party handed to COREOPSIS. In view of adverse weather report in Admiralty 0051/5 intend returning to harbour now as condenseritis is becoming serious and may have to shut down one engine. LONDONDERRY now being taken in tow by BUSTLER. E.T.A. Lough Foyle. 0900A/6.
(CLARE 1404A/5 to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 1209/5. Approved.
(C. in C.W.A. 1441A/5 to CLARE)
BUSTLER has taken LONDONDERRY in tow. Am proceeding course 113° speed 8 knots. ASPHODEL detached to Londonderry. My position 1440, 056° 05' N. 011° 57' W. Weather 4866 9544.
(COREOPSIS 1443A/5 to C. in C.W.A.)

R.A.52. Seidis Fjord departure your 1048/4 para 1 at 2035A/4. (BLANKNEY, VIVACIOUS, MIDDLETON.)
(A.C.I.C. 0556A/5 to C. in C.H.F.)
Your 0801/4. Destination of BEAGLE and BULLDOG is Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 0828A/5 to ONSLAUGHT.)
Scapa arrival 0803 OBEDIENT.
(A.C.O.S. 0914/5.)
Request you sail NORFOLK for Scapa p.m. today.
(C. in C.H.F. 1029/5 to V.A.2.)
Intend following movements. 2. P.M. 7th February C.S.(1) in KENT, HOWE, and BERWICK leave Scapa for Hvalfjord. R.A.(D) is requested to detail 3 destroyers to screen. 3. 9th February (?V.A.2.) in ANSON with SHEFFIELD, ORIBI, INGLEFIELD, VIVACIOUS leave Hvalfjord for Scapa. 4. V.A.(2) report intended time of sailing in order to comply with exercise programme which follows.
5. C.S. One report intended time of sailing and E.T.A.
(C. in C.H.F. 1139A/5.)
As soon as ICARUS has completed with fuel sail her independently to Scapa with despatch.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1320A/5 to ONSLAUGHT)
Your 1139/5 para. 2. FURY, ECLIPSE, ORWELL detailed.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1610A/5 to C. in C.H.F.)

/Proceed...

5.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

R.A.52
Contd. Proceed passing Hvalfjord Boom 1840A/5. Route through 060° N. 013° W. to arrive Scapa 1030A/7. S. of A. 18 knots. (V.A.2. 1633A/5 to NORFOLK.)
E.T.A. Seidis Fjord 2030A. HONEYSUCKLE in Company. (SEAGULL, 1810A/5 to A.C.I.C.)
Your 1029. Sailed at 1915. (NORFOLK)
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1929A/5 to C. in C.H.F.)
Seidisfjord arrival ONSLAUGHT, BULLDOG, PIORUN, OFFA, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, ICARUS and BEAGLE in company at 1655. (A.C.I.C. 2350A/5 to C. in C.H.F.)

K.M.S.9. K.M.S.9. Intend sailing convoy escorted by S.O. Escort Group 37 in BLACK SWAN, ESPIEGLE, CIRCE, KATHIAWAR and KUMAON passing Clyde Boom 1600A/6, to R/V with Liverpool portion and escorts from Londonderry in position (V) at 1000A/7. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1054A/5)

Provision of additional Atlantic Escorts. In order to provide additional long-endurance escort vessels for use in the Atlantic, it is necessary to replace the seventeen R.C.N. corvettes at present allocated for duty with N.C.X.F. with short-endurance vessels. 2. Eight trawlers will leave U.K. by 21st February to relieve the first eight of these corvettes. 3. The remaining nine will be relieved as soon as it can be arranged by nine Type I Hunt class destroyers. 4. In order to provide these nine destroyers it will be necessary to replace seven of the close escorts of C.E./C.W. and F.N./F.S. convoys by Duck-class corvettes and to take 2 Type I Hunts from the Plymouth Command. 5. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to detail four Type I Hunts and C. in C. Nore 3 type I Hunts, reporting when ships can be ready to leave U.K. 6. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detail TYNEDALE and CLEVELAND and report when they will be ready to leave U.K. 7. C. in C. Rosyth and C. in C. Nore are requested to arrange for the replacement of the Hunts by Duck-class corvettes in the convoy organisation. 8. It is recognised that these measures seriously deplete resources for important commitments in Home Waters. M.Ls. provide the only source for reinforcements and Cs. in C. concerned are requested to report if these craft can be usefully employed.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1055A/5 to A.I.G.21, V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)

ST. MAGNUS. Intend to sail S.S. ST. MAGNUS Kite Balloon at 1630/6 escorted by SWITHA, speed 11½ knots, for Aberdeen. E.T.A. 1130/7. Routed by my 1125/14th January.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1115A/5.)

/O.N...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.,
O.N.S.,
and
O.S.
Convoys. Vessels in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys for destinations other than New York are frequently detached by Cominch C. and R. to proceed direct to to first port of call omitting New York. (2) It is important that sailing telegrams should only state "New York" in cases where ships must proceed to that port. (3) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa and Authorities on the other side will then have a clear indication of which ships have to proceed to New York and which ships have no reason for calling there and so can be detached. (D.T.D., 1144A/5 to A.I.G. 21)
- Certain Southbound ships in O.N., O.N.S., and O.S. convoys whose margin of bunkers is narrow have an optional bunkering port on the route. On leaving the convoy these ships are to report to Commodore who will pass message to Admiralty whether or not they intend calling at the intermediate port. (D.T.D., 1550A/5 to C. in C.W.A.)
- F.S.
and
F.N.
Convoys. My 0928/4. Arrangements stand for F.S.30 and F.N. 38. Two escorts will sail with each of remainder. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1204A/5 to C. in C. Nore.)
- MONGABARRA,
FENRIS,
BARDALAND,
FORMOSA. Following was position of Greek relief vessels eastbound at 2200/4. MONGABARRA, FENRIS, BARDALAND and FORMOSA, 31° 01' N. 43° 22' W. (N.A. Stockholm, 1212/5 to Admty.)
- U.R.62
BUTE. My 1809/3 and 1958/3. Request that BUTE may be sailed as additional escort to U.R.62. (A.C.I.C., 1236A/5 to F.O.I.C. Greencok.)
- M.K.F.8. Ships, Cargoes, Destinations. (D.T.D., 1732A/5 and 1737A/5.)
- O.N.166,
O.N.S.167,
O.S.43. A.M. 2133A/22, para. 3 (c). Ships for the East Coast of South America south of Cape Orange ready to sail in O.N.166 and O.N.S. 167 are to be sailed in those convoys and not in O.S.43. (D.T.D., 2005A/5 to A.I.G.21.)
- O.N.164E. P.C.S. at 2000 G.M.T., 64.2??, 23.45, 210°, 12.5. Intend altering at 0800 G.M.T./6 in 61.51 26.27 to 249°, thus carrying out sweep astern of Barry Roads 164 and rejoining 1200 G.M.T. 6th. LOOSESTRIFE and SNOWFLAKE in company. (PINK, 2021Z/5 to TAY.)

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Air Report.

A.I. 119 Opsum 95.
For 24 hours ended midnight 4 Feb. G. Sightings and attacks. Hud. G.48 on A/S sweep E attacked suspicious wake course $030^{\circ}/3$ at $15\ 4/4?$ in position U.B.X.P. 5238 indecypherable - ?L.B. = 36.52 N. 00.22 W. with D/C. 2 D/C exploded in position of feather. After explosion rear gunner saw large block hoop like object shoot 50 ft. in air estimated 3 times size of D/C. After disturbance subsided many black lumps size of tennis balls seen on surface.
(H.Q., R.A.F. Gibraltar 0005Z/5)

CLIONA,
VANJA.

Request destination Tankers CLIONA and VANJA. CLIONA has leaking rivets on both sides of ship which require attention at destination before loading.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0754A/5 to Admty.)

ALBULA.

Swiss ALBULA, 1220 G/T, National Colours and Switzerland painted on Hull, speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots, sailed 0900/5th for Genoa by approved route, not to be interfered with this voyage.
2. N.C.X.F. pass to E.A.C. and V.A. Malta to A.O.C. Malta.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0910A/5 to S. and A. in Area G., V.A. Malta etc.)

P.339

My 1002A/5th Part 1.
1. Intend sailing P.339 p.m. 6th for working up patrol in area bound by
A. Meridian of Greenwich.

B. $038^{\circ} 00'$ N. C. Coast of Spain.
2. P.339 routed through P. 180 Cape Calaburras 5.
Q. 180 Cape de Gata 5. R. 135 Cape Palos 5.
X. $038^{\circ} 00'$ N. $000^{\circ} 28'$ W.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0941A/5 to Capt. S.8 (R) N.C.X.F. TORBAY, etc.)

Movements.

Arrival 0815 LEITH, SANDWICH, ROCHESTER escorting S.S. MATADIAN, TREFUSIS, CHATEAU ROUX.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1112A/5 to Admty.)

MIRROR,
KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE.

Cable ship MIRROR arrived 0900 G.M.T. 5th. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE entering a.m. 6th for Bunker. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1115/5 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)
MIRROR now in Ponta Delgada. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE refuelling tomorrow, Saturday. Weather report.
(KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE 1200Z/5 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) S.O.T.)
W.D.Note Damaged. See 24th January.

War Diary.5.2.1945.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

K.M.S.8.

Ships sailing to join as in my 1442/31st Jan. my 1842/2 and my 1900/3 Feb.: - GALLIUM, EMPIRE LORENZO, has 15 service personnel, MEDIE II, troops, JAMAIQUE, about 1000 troops and passengers. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1125A/5 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.8 for Cmdre. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. Connnav, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cmdre. Algiers.)
Following is repetition of my 1712A/5 (Begins) - K.M.S. 8 Gibraltar section arrived less OPALIA plus ASHANTIAN. (Ends.)
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2353A/5 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. Connnav, Cmdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Situation
2001A/5th.

1. Portuguese naval tanker SAMBRAZ 030° 22' 029° 30' 063° 11.
2. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR (Corrupt Group) 39.05 25.26 on cable repair. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE holds incorrect (recognition signal?).
3. 9 L.C.I. (L) 28.40 20.53 through 28.40 20.01 thence 056° 10.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1130A/5 to Area Y.)

Movements.

Following is a repetition of My 2030A/4* (begins); - Addressed Admty., N.C.X.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., Cominch, from F.O.C. Gibraltar. Arrivals 0600 LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, VILLE DE QUEBEC ex M.K.F. 8 1238 P.35 from Algiers. 1415 LORD NUFFIELD with EMPIRE TRENT from Melilla. 1902 U.S.S. RAVEN, P.C.'s 471, 474, F.S. TAPAGUESE with Convoy C.G. 10. 1850 LOUISBERG, ALGOMA, PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK ex K.M.S. 8 Departures 1900 LOCH OSKAIG escorting S.S. FORT CHIPEWAYAN to Melilla and back. (Ends.)

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1137A/5 to Admty. etc.)

* Received undecypherable.

Arrivals 0950 BIRDIP, M.L.307 escorting S.S. KINGSLAND from Almeria. 1630 LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, HASTINGS ex K.M.S.8. Departures - 0215 LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, WOODSTOCK, LOUISBERG, 0400 ALGOMA, PRESCOTT, with Gibraltar section K.M.S. 8 1300 TORBAY for patrol. 1635 U.S.S. P.C. 471, RAVEN to Casablanca. 1815 U.S.S. P.C. 474 escorting S.S. VAL DE LA HAYE to Casablanca. (F.O. Gibraltar 2150A/5 to Admty. etc.)

OPHIR.

Swiss chartered Spanish tanker OPHIR leaves Savona 6th Feb. for Barcelona approved voyage.
(D.E.W.D. 1145A/5 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F.)

U/B.

A.1. Submarine sighted on surface 033° 02' N. 017° 14' W. at 1250 G.M.T. 5th Feb.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal 1221/5 to Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar.) (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1803A/5 to S. and A., N.A.)

Submarine sighted 33.17 N. 16.55 W. on surface steering east 1000 G.M.T. At 1250 G.M.T. S/M sighted 32.55 N. 17.10 W. steering West. A/O.

(N.A. Lisbon 1935/5 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

/BOREAS...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.BOREAS,
WIVERN.

To avoid northbound friendly S/M and subject to concurrence of C. in C. Plymouth from position (C) proceed through E. 043° 01' 014° 01' F. 039° 01' 014° 01' G. 036° 01' 010° 01' H. 035° 51' 006° 01' thence Gibraltar omitting (D).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1311A/5 to BOREAS, WIVERN, (R) Admty. H.Q.C.C, C. in C. Plymouth, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A. F.O.(S)).
Cancelled by 1935A/6, q.v.

GENEROSO

Swiss ship GENEROSO leaves Genoa "about 5th February" for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D. 1423A/5 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F.)

ARIGUANI.

Your 1820/4. My 1615/29 Jan. and N.C.X.F.'s 1400/30 refer.
2. It is desired to sail ARIGUANI at first favourable opportunity.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1818A/5 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

K.X.9.

To reduce entries for O.S. 43 which are already above number approved we should like to take advantage of Gibraltar - Freetown convoy by including in K.X. 9 leaving Milford Haven on 15 February, five small ships all 8½ knots. Four of these are loaded with aircraft and one petrol tanker all for West Africa. If acceptable what is probable length of stay at Gibraltar.
(D.T.D. 1928A/5 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.A.)

Intelligence
Area,
Boundary.

A.G.M. 143A/29 Jan. It is proposed to amend the southern boundary of Gibraltar Intelligence Area, and the northern boundary of Freetown Intelligence Area from 20° N. to 26° 10' N. to agree with the new operational limits. Do you agree?
(Section "O" for D.N.I. 1958A/5 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar F.O.C.W.A.)
Concur.(F.O.C. Gib. 1231A/8)
Concur.(F.O.C.W.A. 1730Z/8)

P.35.

Intend to sail P.35 p.m. 7th Feb. for U.K.
2. P.35 passes 43.01 N. 13.50 W. at 2300A/12 shifting W/T watch at that time, thence as ordered by F.O.(S).
3. W/T watch. 4. P.35 is painted blue.
5. F.O.(S) 1149/8/1/42 (A) 3 mark 4, 1 mark 8 (B) 7½ knots (C) ready for patrol 100% fuel (D) (2) 13.
(F.O.C. Gib., 2240A/5 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SILVERMAPLE, S O S. Intercept 0237 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de Z.S.C. (Simonstown) S O S (SILVERMAPLE) 36.46 unreadable T.O.R. de Z.S.C. 0223/5. (C. in C. Nore, 0337/5) W.D. Note SILVERMAPLE Matadi - Hampton Roads and U.K.

ROCKWOOD Arrived. (Cdre. Durban, 0745Z/5 to Admty. etc).

Dispositions. Situation 2001/5th. Convoy W.S.26 009° 46' 015° 48' to Freetown 12½.
PETUNIA, DUNKERY, PORTSDOWN, BREDON escorting 023° 53' 017° 00' 011° 8.

VICTORIA 2 M.Ls. escorting Dakar to Port Etienne. (?QUERCY) off Dakar to (?Falkland Is).

INKPEN, ARRAN 2 M.Ls. escorting 009° 46' 016° 19' to 009° 56' 016° 42' thence 328° 7.

BRIDGEWATER 007° 36' 018° 52' to Freetown 11. (R.A.W.A., 1043Z/5 to A.I.G.149).
Fleet Unit HOTSPUR, (?EXPRESS), FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with (?C) F. 11 002° 57' S. 008° 20' E. to (?002°) 28' S. 007° 50' E. thence 284° 13.

HYDRANGEA, ARMERIA escorting 005° (?30') (?011°) 06' 125° 12½.
CROCUS D(?O)CTON (?OR)FSAY, COP(?IN)SAY, MOUCHE(?Z), MERCATOR, PICT, 2 M.Ls. 003° 56' 008° 16' 300° (?8).

ST. WISTAN 2 M.Ls. Tug CHARON off Ivory Coast. H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER 007° 36' 018° 52' (?to Freetown 11).

CARSTAVATIC about 003° 40' S. 001° 15' to Pointe Noire 12.
Allied naval units on patrol in Ascension and St. Pauls Rocks area. (R.A.W.A., 1045Z/5 to A.I.G.150).
CHESHIRE 044° 40' S. 004° 40' W. to Montevideo 13½.
CARTHAGE patrol area M 3 B.
P.614 019° 40' S. 009° 25' E. to Simonstown 8½.
GENISTA, ST. ZENO off (?Santo) Capetown 9.
RANCHI 022° 00' S. 012° 20' E. to Freetown 14.
FRITILLARY, THYME 035° 50' S. 022° (?00') E. to Capetown 12.
Convoy C.(?A) 9 A, 034° 00' S. 026° 40' E. to Durban 8.
Convoy D.C.5, 031° 40' S. 029° 50' E. to Capetown 8.
STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY with C.N.5 032° 30' S. 017° 30' E. to North 8. (C. in C. S.A., 1127C/5 to Area Q).

SS. NESTOR, THYME. My 1159/2nd not to F.O. West Africa. It is now intended to sail (GPYX) NESTOR to St. Helena and thence to Freetown for inclusion in S.L.126. Ship will be escorted to Freetown by THYME. (C. in C. S.A. 1114C/5 to Admty).

GEORGES LEYGUES. (1) Intend to sail French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES for Dakar at 1300Z/6th route.
(A) 008° 30' N. 014° (?33') W.
(B) 009° (?59') 017° 17'. (C) (?012°) 25' 017° 51'. (Q) 014° (?26') 017° (?33').
thence Dakar. E.T.A. position Q 1700Z/7th.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

GEORGES LEYGUES. Contd. S. of A. 20 knots.
(2) GEORGES LEYGUES maintain watch on group F.T. and holding current minor war vessels recognition signal.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1131Z/5 to Comar (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. GEORGES LEYGUES).

D.C.5 N.C.S.O. Durban's 1252Z/5/4th (D.C.5 expected to sail 0500/5 consisting of 9 ships). Intend sailing WEST CHESWALD (U.S.A.) to join D.C.5 at 1100Z/6th for Capetown, expected time of sailing 0930Z/6th.
(N.C.S.O. East London, 1242Z/5 to Admty etc).

S.R. - R.S. convoys. Your 1658/31st Jan. title S.G. - G.S. has already been allocated C.A.F.O. 1470 and 2088/42 refer. Suggest S.R.-R.S.
(D.T.D., 1311A/5 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. S.A.)
N.T. of former but 0955Z/31 refers. (folder amended).

Movements. Arrival 0900Z/5th BURDOCK.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1442/5 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) Admty).
Arrival a.m./5th Feb. REDOUBT escorting SS. LEOPOLDVILLE.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1446/5 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar.)

Docking situation in South African ports as at 4th. (a) Capetown. Present occupants H.A.M. dredgers to be followed by CADUCEUS, floating dock COCHRANE and tug LUDWIG WEINER, MASUDU and floating crane DALFRAM.
(b) Durban. Floating dock. Present occupants CATTERICK and INTEGRITY to be followed by FANEROMENI TANGO harbour craft NAPIER. Graving dock. Present occupants RESOURCE and INDIA to be followed by MOONCREST, GOLD RANGES, ADVISER, ETHIOPIAN, EMPIRE TROOPER, ATLAS.
(c) Simonstown. Present occupants COMMANDANT DUBOC, PACHECO and LE TIGRE to be followed by BALUCHISTAN, LADY ELSA and HERTFORDSHIRE, CHITRAL, BENAKAT, ST. DOGMAEL and yard craft NORMAN and BLACKMOOR, COLOMBIA, NEPAL and CATTERICK.
(d) Diego Suarez. Present occupants BRITISH LOYALTY and NEW CAISSON. Future programme not fixed.
(C. in C. S.A., 1445C/5 to Admty).

COLOMBIA. Your 1103/6th August. Berth at East London at present occupied by COLOMBIA is required by C.S.R. Berth could be made available at Port Elizabeth if it is considered that future S/M movements justify retention of COLOMBIA in South Africa waters. Request your remarks.
(C. in C. S.A., 1450C/5 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. Capt. S.4.)

/DRANGEY...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- DRANGEY. Your 1543/4. Concur.
(C. in C. S.A., 1552C/5 to F.O.W.A.)
- S.L. E.T.A. Freetown together with probable fuel
convoys. and water requirements should be included in
signal requesting accommodation in S.L. convoy.
Endurance required leaving Freetown: 30 days at
8 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Sierra Leone, 1647Z/5 to Admty).
Additions to Address (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1416Z/12
to Admty).
- Comar, A.M. 2216/29 Jan. Amend para. (a) last sentence
Dakar. to read "This Flag Officer, at present Admiral
Collinet, will be known as Comar Dakar".
Para. B. for F.A.C.D. read Comar Dakar.
(Hd. of M. Branch II 1757 A/5 "A" message 184A)
- GAZELLE, My 1446/3rd and my 1804/3rd both to N.O.I.C.
QUERCY. West Africa and N.O.I.C. Bathurst only. Arrival
French sloop minesweeper GAZELLE and sailed
escorting French Aux. cruiser QUERCY to (?Port
Elizabeth) E.T.A. a.m./7th.
(Comar, Dakar, 1831Z/5 to N.O.I.C. West Africa,
(R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. N.C.X.F.)
- Fairmiles, Your 1333/18th Jan. (re correspondence between
H.D.M.Ls. First Lord and Mr. Waterson regarding M/S and A/S
Vessels for South African Ports - N.T. in W.D.)
and my 1248/23 Jan. While I do not consider "B"
type Fairmiles to be suitable for South African
Waters yet 72 feet harbour defence motor launches
are necessary for harbour defence of Union Ports and your
appreciation that 28 of these vessels are needed is concurred in.
(2) Union Authorities have accordingly been asked if they will
agree to H.D.M.Ls. being manned and operated by S.A.N.F. person-
nel and to state present existing authorised programme.
D.S.A.N.F. has asked whether it is intended that H.D.M.Ls. will
remain property of Admty. and only be manned and maintained
and operated by S.A.N.F. Request early decision on this.
(3) If Union Authorities agree to man H.D.M.Ls. and to proposed
allocation request eight in number 72 feet M.Ls. building at
Durban may be earmarked for South Africa.
(4) High Commissioner has been informed. Further Signal will
be made including reply to A.M. 2045/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) on
which no action is being taken until position re H.D.M.Ls. is
clarified here.
(C. in C. S.A., 1913C/5 to Admty).
- RANCHI. A.M. 1725/15th Jan. Destination in U.K. for
RANCHI is Clyde.
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship
as soon as convenient for Southampton to be
taken in hand for conversion to M.O.W.T.
3. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to RANCHI on arrival.
(D.O.D. (F) 1933A/5 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.
etc).
/RANGITIKI...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.RANGITIKI,
MATAROA

RANGITIKI and MATAROA E.T.A. Montevideo 10th and 15th Feb. respectively.

2. MATAROA transfer Prisoners of War to TANGITIKI then former to Buenos Aires.

3. Both ships to load meat then to Freetown for Convoy S.L. 126.

(D.T.D., 1946A/5 to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro (R) Connav, R.A.W.Af. C. in C. S.A., B.A.D.)

Your 0235/4th. Uruguayan Govt. has agreed to transfer of prisoners of war in Montevideo and to RANGITIKI remaining in port with P.O.W. on board.

(N.A. Montevideo, 2355Z/5 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. S.A., B.A.D. etc).

Movements
Pernambuco.

Departure 4th Feb. U.S. Transport MUNERGO.

Arrival 4th Braz. Light Cruiser BAHIA, Brazilian Minelayer CABEDELZO, Brazilian S/M Chaser C.S.1 and 2.

CARAVELA and S/M Chaser C.S.1.

Arrival 5th U.S. Destroyers KEARNEY, GREENE, U.S. Destroyer Tender MELVILLE U.S. Patrol vessel CARNELIAN and S/M Chaser P.C. 489 and 576, U.S. Aircraft Tender THRUSH.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1949Z/5 to Admty).LEOPOLDVILLE. Your 1831Z/4th para. 6. (N.T. in W.D.) Expected time of sailing LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by REDOUBT, BURDOCK and ALDENHAM 1600Z/7. BURDOCK has dynamo and distiller trouble but can reach Freetown. Request E.T.A. ALDENHAM.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 2130Z/5 to F.O.W.A.F. (R) S.O. of Escort W.S.26, Admty).

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Minelaying Destroyers. N.C.X.F's 1132/2. Regret that "O" Class cannot be spared whilst we have the commitment of the North Russian Convoys.
2. Suggested that if N.C.X.F. could send 3 Fleet destroyers as reliefs to arrive Scapa in time to sail with J.W.53 on 15th Feb. 3 "I" Class might be sailed to Gibraltar as soon as they have embarked minelaying equipment.
3. Request your remarks.
(1st S.L., 0151A/5 to N.C.X.F., C. in C. H.F.) Reply 2120A/6.

FORMIDABLE defect. Your 0329/5th. Following is a repetition of my 1948/4 (begins) Addressed N.C.X.F. (R) FORMIDABLE from S.O. Force H. FORMIDABLE reports metallic noises occurred in centre high pressure turbine at inlet end whilst turning engine this morning 4th Feb. Indications are that the impulse blades are being fouled. Cruising nozzles are being removed to enable thorough examination to be made. Further signals will be made as soon as cause of noise has been ascertained. Until this has been done centre unit is out of action. Maximum of ship is estimated at 22 knots T.O.O. 1948/4th (ends). (S.O. Force H., 0511A/5 to N.C.X.F.)

Movements Arrival BATHURST. (Cdre Aden, 0644Z/5 to Admty etc). Arrivals 4th Feb. FALK, DULVERTON, HURWORTH, GLOXINIA, WOLBOROUGH, LANGLAAGE, SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA, Departure 4th Feb. Greek Destroyer PANTHER. (S.O.(I) Mediterranean, 0908/5 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

M.T.Bs. Returned from operation M.T.B.307, 313, 315. (V.A. Malta, 1016A/5 to Admty. C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S. Bone).

REGENT. Your 1623/4. REGENT should be docked in No.3. dock after FARNDALE. (N.C.X.F., 1045A/5 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) S.8. REGENT, F.O.S., V.A. Malta S.1).

R.C.N. Corvettes. Withdrawal of 17 R.C.N. corvettes from X Force and replacement by 8 trawlers and 9 Type "I" Hunt-class. (Admty. 1055A/5 to A.I.G.21 etc). See Home Commands. Shipping.

IRIS French S/M IRIS left Valencia a.m./4th for Cartagena escorted by Spanish Gunboat DATO. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1111A/5 to Admty. S.O.(I) X.F)

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Bi-weekly
Opsum No.
97.

Night 3/4 Feb. (16 or 6?) Halifaxes 11 Wellingtons despatched to bomb shipping in Palermo. Haze and possible smoke screen rendered identification of targets and observation of results difficult. 1 fire, 1 explosion caused in harbour, another fire south of harbour, other bombs burst in harbour area, but damage unknown. Further 3 Wellingtons unable to locate Palermo bombed other targets in Sicily. Report from another Wellington awaited. 4th Feb. 11 Kittyhawks carrying 500 lb. bombs made offensive R/C over roads between Pisida and Djerba Island. Few targets seen. Bombs dropped on Ben Garden Town and landing ground. Small number M.T. on road and Pisida? harbour. Results unobserved. 2 Schooners near Pisida machine-gunned. 11 Kittyhawks bombed 7 Schooners in Houmt Souk, Djerba Island. No hits scored but several bombs fell on wharves ES Type schooner destroyed, machine gun fire. 12 Kittyhawks despatched to attack 2 vessels each 2,000 tons off Zarzis did not locate. 12 Spitfires 10 Hurricanes protection of shipping Delta and Misurata areas.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1143Z/5).

ARETHUSA

My 1850/30. Programme for ARETHUSA postponed about 48 hours. Further signal follows.
(C. in C. Med. 1149B/5 to R.A. Alexandria, F.O.R.S.C.A., F.O.E.A.Z., Admty. Com. Aden, ARETHUSA, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. Simonstown C.S.15).

Cositrep
No. 680.

3. Air Night 3/4 Feb. Halifaxes and Wellingtons bombed shipping in Palermo. Two fires one explosion caused harbour area but damage obscured by haze. Malta Beauforts laid mines off Tunisian coast.
4. Feb. Kittyhawks attacked small coastal shipping in harbour at Djerba Island destroying one schooner.
(C. in C. M.E., 1200B/5).

ADVENTURE

Do you wish to retain ADVENTURE?
2. If not or if you wish her to bring out another outfit of mines, request you will sail her as convenient for Milford Haven.
(D.D.O.D. (M) Approved V.C.N.S. 1220A/5th to N.C.X.F.)

Your 1220/5. ADVENTURE is expected to arrive Gibraltar p.m./8th and sail for U.K. on completion of fuelling.
(N.C.X.F., 1710A/5 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar).

/Enemy...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Reports. P.C. and S. one enemy M/V. 270° 6 ALBERTO, presumed Spanish 3,000 tons. (A/C 3XF/R, 1340/5).
P.C. and S. 1 enemy M/V 43.30 N. 08.30 W. 090° 5, CASTILLO MONTIEL, presumed Spanish, 4,000 tons. (A/C 3XF/R, 1345/5).

TURBULENT. Try and be close off Cape Callo by 2000A tonight Friday but do not proceed on surface in daylight. Withdraw as necessary after 0200 tomorrow. (Capt. S.8., 1416A/5 to TURBULENT).

E.A.C. Report. Opsum 86 1800 hrs. 3 Feb. 1800 hrs. 4 Feb. Night 3/4. (E) Blida. 6 Wellingtons of 150 Squadron and 5 of 142 Squadron attacked Bizerta from 2037 to 2049 hrs. Weather en route was perfect and the target itself was clear though dark. 6 aircraft saw their bombs burst along the Quay and in town. 1 aircraft reported a fire. 3 aircraft bombed the Zarzouna shore. Heavy flak was reported for the first time between Bizerta and Cape Bizerta along the coast. All aircraft landed safely. (E.A.C. Africa, 1430A/5).

TAKU. Onward route through G to pass 038° 22' 010° 39' at 0600/8th 038° 15' 003° 22' at 0001/11th thence on the surface at C.O's discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 00' 003° 12' at 0730/11 2. You will be clear of other friendly submarine after crossing 008° E.
3. Capt. (S) 10th S.F. pass to TAKU. (Capt. S.8., 1514A/5 to TAKU (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S. Capt. (S) 10. S/Ms on patrol Cdre. Algiers.)

M.K.S.7 Sailing telegram. (2) and (3) 1330A/5. (4) 7 knots (5) and (8) as in N.C.X.F.1217A/2. (6) FLEETWOOD, ROCHESTER, SANDWICH, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, HASTINGS. (7) Includes Algiers and all ports east also Oran. (Cdre. Algiers, 1533A/5 to Admty. etc).

Convoys. Sailed by inshore route A DUX, PENSHURST, EMPIRE DACE, BACHAQUERO, MISOA for Philippeville E.T.A. position H 1800/6 STAR and DORSET COAST (K.B.) for Bone E.T.A. 0100/7th. Speed 7, codeword "Redruth". Escort ROTHESAY (S.O.) FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN, BRIXHAM, S.S. HILDUREI Join from Bougie in position E at 0500/6th for Bone. (Cdre. Algiers, 1537A/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc).

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- THUNDERBOLT. Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 1620A/5 to Admty etc).
- G.U.S.5 Your 1707/3 Cominch 1647/3.
M.K.S.7. JOHN G. WHITTIER, DANIEL HUGER, ALEXANDER HAMILTON, DEL NORTE, ST. OLAF, Z. B. VANCE, HORACE BINNEY, JOHN SARGENT, UTAHAN, JOHN P. POE are to be sailed for U.S.A. in G.U.S.5.
- M.K.S. 7.. My 1650/2 is cancelled as these ships are now to be included. MERS EL KEBIR and PENOLVER are too slow and are not to sail.
(N.C.X.F., 1655A/5 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. Connnav, Com. Algiers).
- Black Sea. N.L.O. Black Sea Reports Naval Staff at present located (A) Tuapse C. in C. C.O.I.S. and Skeleton Staff (B) Poti C.O.S. and remainder of Staff (C) Sukhum Naval Air Staff and Captain Garwood.
(Adm. Miles, 1728C/5 to Admty).
- Polish S/Ms. Ref. your 2015/4 (Proposes to base 2 Polish subs. on Malta and retention of D.S. DOLFIJN and 1 T class sub in Western Med). Concur in proposals in N.C.X.F.'s 1212/4.
(Capt. S.10., 1809A/5 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.S. etc).
- M.L. Your 1115A/4. 31st M.L. Flotilla Maintenance staff and spares will be sent straight to Oran, 22nd M.L. Flotilla Maintenance Staff to Algiers for onward routing with Flotilla. Spares direct to Alexandria in accordance with C. in C. Med. 1245B/25 Jan. C. in C. Med., 1849B/3 also refers.
(R.A.C.F., 1821A/5 to N.C.X.F.(R) C. in C. Mediterranean, Admiralty, C.C.F. Mediterranean, C.F.W., C.F.E., F.O.I.C. Gib. N.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.I.C. Algiers, MOSQUITO, C.F.M.S.O. HORNET).
- P.247, Intend sailing P.247 1800/7th routed through 038° 01' 004° 59' at 0530/8th 041° 23' 007° 35' at 0030/10 to patrol in an area North of latitude 041° 23' N. between longitude 005° E. and 009° 30' E.
(2) All positions North and East.
(Capt. S.8., 1824A/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S. Capt. (S) 10, 8th S.F., Cdre. Algiers).
My 1824, keep south of 041° N. after 0600/9th.
(Capt. S.8., 1832A/5 to DOLFIJN).

/Malta...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 529 5th Feb. Part 1. offensive. Night 4/5th Feb. 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons were despatched to locate and attack shipping located by Wellington at 2110 hours northwest of Palermo but did not find target owing to bad visibility. 3 Intruder Mosquitoes were airborne to cover shipping strike. Day 5th Feb. 16 Spitfires carried out offensive sweeps over southeast Sicily as diversion for bombing attack on Palermo by Eastern Air Command. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 4/5th Feb. nil. Day 5th Feb. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back without approaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1827/5).

Movements Philippeville. Arrived and sailed QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, WHEATLAND, LAMERTON. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1950A/5 to Admty).

Destroyers from Aden. In view of escort commitments in Mediterranean I am compelled to withdraw all destroyers from Gulf of Aden. Request you will sail destroyers to comply on completion of "Pamphlet". (C. in C. Med., 1958B/5 to Com. Aden. (R) C. in C. Eastern Fleet, F.O.R.S.C.A., Com. D. Admty. N.C.X.F., D.1).

ABDIEL Bone arrival ABDIEL. (F.O.I.S. 2014A/5 to N.C.X.F., Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Situation report No. 334. Western Desert. Tripoli (L). 2 merchant ships of first Tripoli convoy entered harbour 1700/4th Feb. 2. Norwegian ship HENRIK torpedoed and sunk by U-boat at 0922/5 Feb. in 32.11 N. 24.46 E. whilst in convoy Alexandria to Benghazi. Norwegian ship CORONA also torpedoed now in tow of ERICA to Tobruk. 73 survivors picked up including both masters. HURSLEY and CROOME hunting U-boat. 3. Malta. 3 motor torpedo boats operated South of Marittimo night 3/4 Feb. but found nothing. 4. Submarines. TIGRIS reports at 1413/21 Jan in 40° 32' N. 18.45 E. torpedoed and sank 4,000 ton camouflaged steamship unescorted. 5. At 1213/24th Jan. attacked vessel resembling Italian naval auxiliary NIOBE escorted by torpedo boat in Gulf of Drin, result unobserved. 6. My 1108/2 Feb. Naval casualties in WELSHMAN killed and missing 9 officers and 143 ratings (including some passengers). There were in addition some R.A.F. and military personnel on board My 1157 and 1158 4th Feb. refer. (N.I. 24B) 7. FLAMINGO in tow has left Alexandria for passage to Bombay. (C. in C. Med., 2015B/5 to Admty).

/R/C...

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

R/C of
Spezia,
Genoa,
etc.

540 Squadron P.R. Sortie C/980 dated 5th Feb.
time 1315 hours. (details) (P.R.U. Benson,
2345/5 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

5.2.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movement (1) GAMBIA left Kilindini 2nd due Addu 7th.
 Summary (2) HAWKINS left Bombay 4th due Aden 8th.
 No. 39 (3) WOOLGONG left Kilindini 4th for Diego Suarez.
 Feb. 5th. (4) KHYBER left Diego Suarez 4th due Addu 12th
 thence Colombo. (5) ETHIOPIAN left
 Seychelles 4th (? routed) East of Madagascar to Durban.
 (6) TOOWOOMBA leaves Dante 5th due Aden 7th. (7) BRITTANY
 leaves Addu 6th due Seychelles 10th thence Kilindini.
 (8) (? FROBISHER) leaves Kilindini 6th for Diego Suarez thence
 R/V C.M. 38 relieving BIRMINGHAM and escorting convoy to Bombay,
 on relief BIRMINGHAM to Kilindini. (9) Netherlands S/M 021
 leaving Diego Suarez 9th due Addu 16th.
 (C. in C. E.F. 0744Z/5 to E.F. (1997) (R) Admty.)

INTEGRITY As tug INTEGRITY has developed defect and will not
 BOLD. be ready for sea until end of Feb. I intend to
 allocate tug BOLD to C. in C. Med. until relieved
 by tug DONAU. Tug INTEGRITY will be allocated
 to F.O. Ceylon in lieu of tug BOLD. Tug BOLD due to leave Durban
 en route for Med. 3rd Feb. My 1221 28th Jan. to F.O. Ceylon
 only refers.
 (C. in C. E.F., 0934Z/5 to C. in C. Med. F.O. Ceylon. (R) N.O.I.
 C. Durban, C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.A. and Z.)

L.S.I.(L). In reply to your 0942/2 we prefer DILWARA and she
 should arrive Bombay as early as possible to en-
 able training to start.
 (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1115Z/5 to Admty. (R) A.I.G. No. 96, P.S.T.O.
 India (Bombay).)

India (A) Night 4th 5th Feb. 6 Liberators attacked
 Air Athlone wharves and sidings Rangoon. (C) Feb. 2nd.
 report. 6 plus Hurricanes damaged 3 steamers Sapyogya Creek
 (A.H.Q. India 1151Z/5, 1245Z/5.)

MAGNOLIA. Arrived.
 (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1201Z/5 to C. in C. E.F.
 (R) Admty. etc.)

DRAGON. Request whether it is intention that DRAGON should
 rejoin Eastern Fleet.
 (C. in C. E.F. 1307Z/5 to Admty.)

QUIBERON. Your 0846/2. It is not intended to replace
 QUIBERON's crew with R.N. personnel.
 2. QUIBERON reports following adjustments in
 complement are required:- (Details.)
 3. It is considered desirable that QUIBERON should join your
 Fleet at an early date so that all practicable adjustments can be
 made when an opportunity arises for sending the ratings referred
 to in para. 2, back to Australia.
 4. Although QUIBERON is at present carrying her own accounts,

/she ...

War Diary.

5.2.1943.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

QUIBERON.

she carries no Writer rating.

(D.O.D. (F) 1313A/5 to C. in C. E.F. (R) N.C.X.F.
V.A. Gib. F.O.C.W.A.)

Shuttle
Service.

Concur in proposals contained in A.M.2045, 14th Jan

(Termination of shuttle service.)

(C. in C. E.F., 1551Z/5 to Admty.)

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U.S. San Francisco arrival Jan. 31st U.S.A.T.
Movement. FREDERICK FUNSTON.
(N.S.H.Q., 0040Z/5 to Admty.)

U/B. Preliminary D/F bearings on 3920 k/cs at 0002Z
and 0006Z/5th indicates U-Boats may have sighted
you.
(N.S.H.Q., 0115Z/5 to Ships escorting H.X. Convoy 225, C.O.A.C.,
F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., U.S.C.N.O.)
Cancel my 0115/5th. Further bearings place unit far to eastward.
(N.S.H.Q., 0351Z/5 to Ships escorting H.X.225, C.O.A.C., etc.)

Frigates. Personal from 1st S.L.
Your 1650Z/23 Jan. After all I think it would
be a good thing to call the twin-screw corvettes
Frigates and I am asking authority to do this.
(1st S.L., 0149A/5 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

Escorts Personal from 1st S.L.
for Ocean (1) We have estimated that there is a deficiency
Convoys. of 65 in number of escorts required for our
ocean convoys. Americans and ourselves are
examining available resources with a view to each
providing half of the deficit.
(2) As a possible contribution, it has been suggested that large
A/S trawlers might be transferred to you and thus enable you to
release an equal number of corvettes from local escort forces
for mid-ocean work.
(3) We are willing to reduce A/S trawler escort with North
Russian convoys and thereby make 6 trawlers available for
transfer in near future. It is hoped to find a further 6
later on.
(4) We are also arranging to relieve the 17 R.C.N. corvettes
in Western Mediterranean with trawlers and "Hunts" and propose
to use the corvettes as reinforcements for Trans-Atlantic and
Gibraltar convoy escorts. In view of the urgency of making
these redispositions, necessary action is being taken as I felt
sure you would agree.
(5) Request your remarks on suggestions in para. 2 above.
(1st S.L., 0200A/5 to C.N.S. Canada.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. Feb. 4th.
Arrivals: DRUMHELLER, NIPIGON escorting SS. LADY
RODNEY ex Halifax.
Departures: WAVENEY, LAGAN, SHERWOOD, POLYANTHUS, MORDEN,
DRUMHELLER to H.X.225 by M.S.2, 3, 4 and 30 to United Kingdom.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0235Z/5 to Admty.)

Air Report. Ops. 4th Feb. Times G.M.T. Canso 'A' 5 Sqn.
attacked U-Boat 1307 position 53.17 N. 49.12 W.
Canso 'A' 5 sqdn. sighted U-Boat 1320 48.36 N.
47.50 W., no attack.
(A.O.C. E.A.C. Halifax, 0243/5.)

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N.158, ST. SUNNIVA. ST. SUNNIVA rescue ship in O.N.158 has not arrived at Halifax ship was last seen 1830Z/21 approx. position 043° 27' N. 061° 17' W. (N.S.H.Q., 0307/2 to Admty.)

S/M Estimates, U.S. S/M Notices. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0332/5, 1502/5, 1503/5, 1531/5, 1532/5, 1533/5.)

A.T. 36 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.) A.T.36 sailed 0800Z/5th in accordance with my 2001/3rd. (C.O.A.C., 0805Z/5 to Admty., etc.)

ELLENOR. Intercept from Amagansett W/T (begins): From ELLENOR. Torpedo sighted 29.56 N. 81.13 W. at 0800 G.M.T. (ends). (Valentia Radio, 0859/5 to Admty.)

S.C.118. A.M. 2211A/4. D/F bearings on series 7 up to 0739Z indicate some U-Boats still in contact and others probably trying to intercept. (D.D.I.C., 0910A/5 to Escorts S.C.118, U.S.S. INGHAM, WITCH, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., etc.) Add U.S.S. SCHENCK and BABBITT to ships addressed in my 0910/5. (D.S.O., 1040A/5.)

T.A.G.40. List, all for New York. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0920QR/5 to Admty.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. This is Cominch 2120/4th
Para. A. 1357Z/03 plane attacks sub. at 59.21 N. 45.27 W. and at 1310Z/04 54.17 N. 49.14 W. 1305Z/03 plane attacks sub. on surface 60.05 N. 47.22 W.
Para. C. Coast watcher sights sub. on surface 2030Z/03 47.36 N. 53.02 W. on course East. 1320Z/04 plane sights sub. 48.36 N. 47.53 W.
Para. D. 1400Z/02 sound contact. My 2200/03 read 1400Z/03. Sub. sighted 18.09 N. 63.03 W. 2100Z/03. 0150Z/04 sound contact 34.11 N. 76.46 W. by S.C.1024 0959Z/04 sound contact area 34.35 N. 76.30 W. by C.G.C.453. (Comnaveu, 0926/5 to Admty.)

STATE OF MARYLAND. Departure Vieuxfort 4th STATE OF MARYLAND, U.S. Army Transport, Trinidad 5th. (B.R.O. Saint Lucia, 1001Q/5 to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T./5th Feb.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
F.S. RICHELIEU)	20° N. 46° W.	308°	12½
F.S. MONTCALM)			
U.S. Escort)			

(D.O.D. (F) 1043Z/5 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)

PROSPECT. My 0131/1. (PROSPECT to proceed to U.K. with S.C. 119.) 1100Z/5 sailed PROSPECT to St. John's, Nfld. through A. 44.25 N. 62.20 W.
 B. 44.30 N. 57.00 W. C. 46.10 N. 52.45 W.
 D. 47.30 N. 52.10 W., speed 10, W/T 105, E.T.A. 2200Z/7.
 (C.O.A.C. 1148Z/5 to F.O.N.F., (R) Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrival 5th Feb. U.S. Netlayer LARCH.
 (Harbour Master Barbados 1535/5 to Admty.)
 Los Angeles arrival Feb. 1st TEXAS (U.S.)
 Honolulu arrival Feb. 1st U.S. Ships PERMANENTE, JAMES MCNEILL, WHISTLER, BENJAMIN R. CURTIS, JAMES B. MCPHERSON, MAUNALEI, MANULANI, PHILIP S. SHERIDAN, JOSEPH JEFFERSON, Pearl Harbour arrival Feb. 2nd H.T. HARPER (U.S.). Departure San Francisco Feb. 2nd U.S. Ships PATRICIA SKAKEL, WAIMEA, HINTON HELHER, SAMUEL D. CHAMPLAIN, MAHIMA, W.S. MILLER, S.C.T. DODD, PHOEBE A. HEARST, MAUNAWILI due Honolulu Feb. 13th. Departure Los Angeles Feb. 2nd U.S. Ships DEROCHE, J. FLETCHER, FARRELL due Honolulu Feb. 13th.
 (N.S.H.Q. 1648Z/5 to Admty.)

St. Johns N.F. Re-development of base, remarks on proposed scale of complement, and necessity for release of GREENWICH.
 (B.A.D. 1527Z/5 to Admty.)

CAPE DECISION 41 survivors ex CAPE DECISION U.S. arrived Barbados (torpedoed 27/1) 1015Q/5th. 1 lifeboat still missing with remaining 37 crew. Vessel torpedoed 0451 zone time 27th Jan. 022° 57' N. 047° 28' W. seen sinking 0532Q.
 Submarine on surface 0540 Q about 1250 tons camouflaged with white cross in front of C/T, paint in new condition, 2 guns, larger forward C/T about 3 inches calibre, smaller gun abaft C/T. Believed German. Interpreter spoke English with French accent and states salvo of 4 torpedoes was fired initially. 2 of these hit aft, a 5th torpedo hit abreast engine room after vessel was abandoned. Sub crew said to be of poor physique bearded and sun burned. Secret documents in locked iron box went down with ship, no possibility compromise.
 (Harbour Master Barbados 1230/5 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A. etc.)
 Ship's survivors Ex. CAPE DECISION U.S. last seen afloat 022° 57' N. 047° 28' W. after enemy submarine abandoned attempts to sink by gun fire. Possible danger to Navigation.
 (Harbour Master Barbados 1401/5 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

U.C. - To facilitate direction of stragglers propose that
 C.U. all ships shall be given instructions for entry to
 Convoys. Dakar, Bermuda, Guantanamo, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Curacao and Aruba.

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U.C.- 2. Request your early remarks.
C.U. (D.T.D. 1239A/5 to Connav, (R) B.A.D. C. in C.W.A.)
Convoys. Concur your 1239/5.
(Contd.) (Connav 1819/5 to Admty.)

Straggler It has been reported by Commodores that ships in
Route east bound convoys are being instructed not to
Instructions. open secret envelope containing Straggler Route until
separated from convoy. This instruction renders
amendments to Straggler Route signalled by
Commodore unintelligible to Masters. Request you will ask for
instructions to be amended whereby Masters open envelope containing
Straggler Route when ship has put to sea.
(D.T.D. 1312A/5 to B.A.D.)

Suspicious Report by S.S. SUSSEX.
Vessel. (St. John's N.F. 1330Z/5.)
See A.M. 2201A/5 in Home Commands.

WEST PORTAL My P.C. and S. at 1430Z/5th 53.02 N. 32.55 W. (X)
torpedoed. 056° 7.5.
S.C. 118. 7 stragglers one of which S.S. WEST PORTAL reports
as follows (begins): Been torpedoed approx.
position 53 N. 33 W. 1300Z/5th. Not located and
damage unknown. 3 U/Boats sighted during the night all attacked,
no attacks on convoy. BEVERLEY has sighted attacked 2 U/Boats 20
miles astern of convoy during fore noon, (?VIMY) assisting.
Evidently at least 3 other U/Boats in vicinity.
Oiling at sea impracticable. Destroyer escort fuel situation
causing some anxiety. Weather report.
(T.U. 24.1.16 1445Z/5 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, H.Q.C.C.
A.C.I.C. U.S.S. BABBITT, U.S.S. SCHENCK, INGHAM.)
Following received 1316 G.M.T. from WEST PORTAL. S.S.S.
53° N. 33' W.
(Halifax W/T No T.O.O./5, Recd. 1802/5, 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, H.Q.C.C.)
Since 1710Z several transmissions from U/Boats on 7640 kc/s
probably near or to Eastward of you.
(D.D.I.C. 1941A/5 to Escorts S.C.118 U.S.S. INGHAM,
SCHENCK, BABBITT.)
My 1941A/5. Considerable U/B traffic from your vicinity on
3920 Kc/s since 1835Z.
(D.D.I.C. 2325A/5 to Escorts S.C.118, U.S.S. SCHENCK,
U.S.S. BABBITT.)

St. Johns Re financial aspects of new Canadian proposals for
Naval Base. St. Johns and possibility that Canadian Naval
Authorities hope that we will allow them to take
over the base as Canadian property.
(B.A.D. 1531Z/5 to Admty.)

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

T.B.4. Following ships sailed Trinidad Feb. 3rd in T.B.4. (list.)
(N.S.H.Q. 1648Z/5 to C. in C.S.A., S.O.I. Freetown).
Amended 1647Z/12.

QUEEN ELIZABETH Immediate decision is required on future policy of carrying aircraft in QUEEN ELIZABETH as the (?H.M.S.) catapult is not being removed in U.S.A.
(B.A.M.R. 1656Z/5 to Admty.)

R.D/F Your 1923/22. Concur in paras. (1) (A) and (2).
Maintenance A Radio Mechanic is being sent.
Organization 2. Arrangements have been made for shipment of
at Curacao. following spares, (list).
3. Of these following will be despatched in first
convoy and remainder in second (list).
(Head of M. Branch II 1753A/5 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

MEXICO. Army transport MEXICO (U.S.) arrived Port of Spain 3rd.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1930Z/5 to Admty.)

ANNA My 1439/3rd not to Admiralty. ANNA KNUDSEN
KNUDSEN. reported having bent starboard shaft which should be repaired before loading. Upon arrival request you determine from Master whether ship can proceed Curacao load and return to New York for Ceylon into Admiralty hired storage. If negative then ship should join first G.K. or G.N. Convoy to repair at Galveston or Newport News. Galveston is preferred. Inform Cominch G.S.R. of your decision.
(Connav 2015/5 to N.O.B. Guantanamo. (R) Admty.)

Sub. Attack Para. B. Surface craft sights sub. on surface
and Sighting area 50.40 N. 36.20 W. 1101Z/04.
Summary. Para. C. Sub sighted 49.30 N. 48.53 W. 1340Z/04.
Para. D. S.C. - 1024 sound contact 33.57 N.
76.57 W. 1400Z/05. U.S.S. BEATTY attacks
sound contact 37.20 N. 73.56 W. 2035Z/03.
(Cominch 2106Z/5 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Shipping Connav Part 4 and 5. SILVER MAPLE ran on wreck
Casualties. today entrance Chesapeake, off with serious damage
forward. BERWINDALE damaged in collision off New
Port 4th Feb.
(Connav 2115/5 to Comnav.)

/Tankers...

War Diary.5.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Tankers, Admiralty pas* to C. in C. Allied Forces for action
O.I. Convoys. and N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar,
to enter Med. for information.
My 2126 12th para. D. and my 1455/25th. Agreement
has been reached to allow tankers in Gulf -
Casablanca/Gibraltar convoys as well as tankers
in U.G. convoys to enter Mediterranean. U.S. escorts will not
enter Mediterranean. Attention is invited to the fact that only
6 days lay over in "Torch" area is schedules for Gulf of -
Casablanca/Gibraltar convoys (designated O.T. convoys). Any
delay in departure of all tankers beyond 6 days period will
result in decreased total deliveries to "Torch" area since
additional tankers are not allowed. Unless compelling reasons
exist for delay no tankers in O.T. convoys should be held in
"Torch" area beyond specified turn around time. B.A.D. has
for information.

(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 2201/5 to C. in C. Allied Forces. (R)
N.C.X.F., Admty., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.G.S.F.,
B.A.D., S.N.O. Casablanca, V.A. Gibraltar.)
*(Passing action being taken by W/R.)

ST. SUNNIVA. Your 1645/1. Request information as to possible
cause of loss of ST. SUNNIVA and what steps
have been taken to search for survivors.
(D.T.D. 2205A/5 to N.S.H.Q. (R) F.O.N.F.,
C.O.A.C. Connav, C. in C.W.A.)
Reply 1720Z/6.

ZWARTE My 2216/28/1 H.M.R.T. ZWARTE ZEE reported
ZEE. arrived Norfolk 27th Jan. departed 3rd Feb.
for New Orleans due Feb. 10th.
(N.S.H.Q. 2206Z/5 to Admty.)

Explosive Ref. Admty. 1813 of 18th. Sept. Montevideo
Ships, reports M.W.T. New York that vessels containing
Montevideo. more than 25 tons of explosives are not permitted
to operate within the harbour. Desirable that
if a ?ship routed there is carrying explosives
B.R.L.O. Montevideo should be specially notified
of fact so necessary arrangements may be made.
(N.S.H.Q. 2209Z/5 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

H.X. 225. My 1401Z/3rd Para. 2. PRIMROSE further delayed.
Sailed a.m. 6th to overtake.
(F.O.N.F. 2235Z/5 to C.T. 24, M.O.E.U. 24.2.12.
etc.)

War Diary.5.2.1945.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Espirita Santa, 900Z/3 U.S.S. HENRY T. ALLEN and U.S.S. PREBLE for Wellington. All E.T.A. 1900Z/8 route direct 14 knots. Departure Suva 4th U.S.S. COPANEE for Noumea. Departure Vila 1700Z/4 U.S.S. SOLACE for Auckland (M) 19°02' S. 173° 02' W. (N) 21° 57' S. 174°03' W. E.T.A.0200Z/8. (D.N.I. Wellington 0342/5 to Admty.)

Arrivals Port Moresby 3rd SWAN Fremantle 4th ATHENE (? ECHUCA) 3rd WARREGO, INVERELL, Sydney N.S.W. 4th U.S. S/M Tender SUMNER. Departure Port Moresby 3rd LATROBE for Milne Bay 4th SWAN for (?Townsville), Geraldton 4th TJERK HIDDIES for Fremantle, Port Hedland 3rd U.S.S. HERON for Exmouth Gulf. (N.B. Melbourne, 0757Z/5. to Admty. etc).

U.S. T. MAETSUYCKER arrived Onslow 3rd Feb. Hospital Ship MAUNGANUI arrived Fremantle 5th. U.S.T. TASMAN departed Townsville 3rd due Brisbane 6th. H.T. TAROONA arrived and departed Port Moresby 4th due Townsville 6th. (A.C.N.B. 1123Z/5. to Admty., Connav)

Arrival Wellington 1826Z/5 SS. MONTICELLO departure Auckland 1643Z/5 U.S.S. TALAMANCA E.T.A. Noumea 0300Z/8. (D.N.I. Wellington 1935Z/5 to Admty.)

Digest No.379 6. During afternoon Fortress photographed Wewak Feb. 4th. showing one destroyer one small merchant vessel and two launches in harbour. Also three fighters on aerodrome where rapid construction continues. Later strafed two small boats Lorengau sinking one damaging other.

7. One destroyer two medium merchantmen observed afternoon approaching St. George's Channel from south.

8. Photos Kavieng taken on morning 4th show two heavy cruisers one medium merchant vessel one small tanker one patrol craft.

13. serviceable medium bombers three light bombers four fighters visible. Runway camouflaged new dispersal lane possible new runway all under construction. Fighter blast pens completed.

13. Liberator scored direct hit and near misses on small vessel on reef off Arawe before dusk. Vessel listing to port when first seen but to starboard after attack. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 0905Z/5 to Admty. etc.)

Request for Personal from 1st Naval Member.
Night T/B If you can spare a good night torpedo squadron of
Sqn. Albacore or Swordfish we could make excellent use of it working from Buna against Lae - Salamoia - Gasmata Finschaffien etc. They are handier than Beauforts for this sort of work. We are not so far making as good progress against Japanese shipping in this area as we ought to be. We have 4 or 5 expert Fleet Air Arm observers already here. Provision of a squadron as proposed would assist us in the preparation of organization desired by Admty. vide 2224A/17th March. I have not yet approached General MacArthur on the subject pending your reactions and those of Admiralty. (A.C.N.B. 1130Z/5, to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty. for 1 S.L.)

War Diary.

5.2.1943.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1339A/5, 1358A/5.)

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

General.

It is proposed to revise the British rules governing numbers of passengers that may be carried in ships in trade convoys and sailing independently, to lessen the present dangerously high numbers allowed in ships of 12 to 15 knots and to approach more nearly the U.S. rules. Except in the Atlantic, it is proposed to give C.s in C. discretion to approved exceptions for local movements within their own stations. Details of the proposed new rules are in A.M. 1605A/6 and 1701A/6.

Home Commands.

LONDONDERRY, whose after part from 82 station broke away and was sunk by COREOPSIS at 0314A this morning in 55° 42' N. 9° 18' W. arrived safely at Moville at 2138A.

At 1506 or 1516 today a B.24 attacked a U-boat in 54.33 N. 29.27 W. 680 miles west of Ireland. One of 6 depth charges dropped from 40 ft. was seen to hit and exploded on impact. After the attack large bubbles and underwater disturbances were seen, large objects of unknown nature came to the surface, and the U-boat surfaced twice before becoming stationary after 40 minutes.

Murmansk and the Kola Inlet were bombed on a small scale between 1300C and 1900C yesterday, but no British damage or casualty was caused.

Bomber Command aircraft laid 56 mines off the Frisian Islands last night.

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A message from C. in C. S.A. today gives the composition of the South Atlantic Escort Force. The force will be administered by C. in C. S.A.

U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS left Pernambuco today for patrol.

Mediterranean.

Convoy
K.M.S.8
attacked.

Convoy K.M.S.8 whilst on passage between Oran and Algiers was attacked by bombers and torpedo bombers in 36.15 N. 00.15 E. (about 60 miles N.E. of Oran) The Canadian corvette LOUISBURG / U was sunk at 1924. SS. FORT BABINE was torpedoed at 1915 and was taken in tow by H.M.S. STORNOWAY (arrived at Oran 0907A/8).

Operation
M.H.4.

A convoy of 12 ships (six storeships for Tripoli (L) one personnel ship, 2 tankers, and 3 store ships for Malta) left Alexandria this morning, escorted by 3 fleet destroyers, 8 Hunt class, and Greek destroyer KONDOURIOTIS.

Aircraft sank a small sailing vessel, believed to be Egyptian, 60 miles south of Cyprus.

Air
Operations.

Three Wellingtons and 9 Halifaxes bombed Palermo harbour last night. Bad weather prevented the results from being seen.

Enemy Aircraft laid mines off Tripoli last night.

East Indies.

Force A (WARSPITE, RESOLUTION, REVENGE, MAURITIUS and 6 destroyers) which left Kilindini on 3rd Feb. to cover the eastbound Australian troop convoy, arrived at Seychelles a.m. today and left p.m.

201

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Convoy
O.T.1.

Convoy O.T.1 (4 tankers escorted by U.S.S. NELSON MADDOX, and GLENTON) sailed from Aruba at 0030 today for Dakar via Trinidad. This is the first of the fast tanker convoys from Gulf or Caribbean to West Africa. The former series of O.T. convoys ran from Curacao/Aruba to Trinidad and was abolished when W.A.T. convoys started. The convoy arrived at Trinidad at 1740/7.

At 1544 G.M.T. today a Liberator on passage from the U.K. to Gander sighted a suspicious ship in 55.00 N. 28.20 W. with 6 submarines 2 to 10 miles from her.

An aircraft attacked a U-boat at 1715 in 49.08 N. 50.27 W. (120 miles N.W. of St. Johns N.F.) and estimates 2 hits.

AGIOS GEORGIOS, Greek, 4248 tons, reported she was broken down and in need of tugs in 52.48 N. 49.32 W. BITTERSWEET was ordered to stand by.

It has been approved to remove the catapult from H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH, now refitting in U.S.A. on her return to U.K.

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

H.F. Destroyers. Your 0151/5. Concur in transfer of INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, ICARUS provided that three other Fleet destroyers can arrive Scapa by 15th Feb.
(C. in C. H.F., 0001A/6 to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M Positions. My 1709/5. Amend as follows -
Para. (M) to read HERRING on patrol in vicinity of 46° 05' N. 14° 15' W.
Para. (O) to read SHAD on patrol in vicinity of 45° 25' N. 03° 01' W.
(F.O.S., 0033A/6 to Admty.)
My 1051A/4. Sailing postponed. (P.49).
(Capt. S.3, 0424A/6.)
My 1709/5. Cancel para. K.
(F.O.S., 0427A/6 to Admty.)
Recall JUNON and P.314 to Lerwick after dark tonight.
(F.O.S., 1219A/6 to Capt. S.9.)
My 1709/5. Paras. (F) and (G). These two submarines leave patrol after dark 6th for Lerwick.
(F.O.S., 1256A/6 to Admty.)
My 1709/5. Para. (A). This S/M leaves patrol after dark 6th for Lerwick.
(F.O.S., 1347A/6 to Admty.)
My 1219/6. After P.314 add "and ULTOR (P.53)".
(F.O.S., 1358A/6.)
(1) F.O.C. Gibraltar 2240/5. Onward route from 043° 01' N. 013° 50' W. at 2300A/12, proceed to dive by day by route "Blue". Thence through (X) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles to R/V in (Y) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at dawn 19th.
(2) Estimate your daily advance 115 miles and speed during the night 12th/13th, 7½ knots.
(F.O.S., 1416A/6 to UMBRA (P.35).)
Sailed P.31 and O.19 escorted by PENNYWORT in accordance with Capt. (S) 3 0959A/4.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1644A/6.)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/7th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) ULTOR (P.53) 69° 05' N. 11° 10' E. probably on the surface speed 9 knots through 68° 40' N. 07° 18' E. thence to Lerwick.
(B) O.15, 63° 12' N. 01° 48' E. probably on the surface for Lerwick 9 knots.
(C) SOKOL 61° 40' N. 00° 24' E. probably on the surface for Lerwick.
(D) SEADOG (P.216) arriving Lerwick from north-eastward.
(E) TACTICIAN (P.314) 62° 26' N. 02° 42' E. probably on the surface speed 10 knots for Lerwick.
(F) JUNON 61° 22' N. 01° 08' E. probably on the surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence to Lerwick speed 9 knots.
(G) DZIK in zone K.104.
(H) Russian S/M L.15 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR North Minch from north-westward proceeding to Clyde speed 9 knots.

203

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Positions. (Contd.) (J) UREDD 66° 10' N. 04° 42' E. probably on the surface through 57° 06' N. 06° 04' E. to patrol off Vest Fiord.

(K) O.19 and ULLSWATER (P.31) escorted by PENNYWORT 56° 34' N. 97° 13' W. expected time of arrival Scapa 0800/8th.

(L) SEVERN escorted by two Chasers leaves Needles 1300/7th for Falmouth.

(M) BARB in zone K.505.

(N) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.

(O) HERRING vicinity 46° 05' N. 14° 15' W.

(P) SHAD vicinity 45° 25' N. 03° 01' W. (F.O.S., 1707A/6 to Admty.)

My 1750/4. SEVERN delayed 48 hours. Amend para. one last sentence to read E.T.A. 0600/10. Amend para. 2 last sentence to read speed 13½ knots. Request your 2200A/5 may be amended accordingly.

(Capt. S.5, 1915A/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

My position at 1800A/6, 063° 10' N. 002° 00' E. E.T.A. 1600A/7.

(O.15, 1939A/6 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

My 1707/6 amend to read:

Para. (O) HERRING 46° 30' N. 13° 50' W. through 49° 10' N. 13° 50' W. 50° 10' N. 12° 40' W. speed of advance 170 miles in 24 hours.

Para. (P) SHAD 46° 01' N. 03° 37' W. through 48° 08' N. 06° 01' W. thence to 180° Lizard 8 miles speed of advance 140 miles in 24 hours.

(F.O.S., 2021A/6.)

My 1053A/6. Time of sailing postponed 12 hours.

(Capt. S.3, 2121A/6.)

My 1707/6. Cancel para. (L).

(F.O.S., 2141A/6.)

My 1707/6. Amend para. (B) to read O.15 61° 30' N. 00° 20' W., probably on the surface. E.T.A. Lerwick, 1600/7.

(F.O.S., 2354A/6.)

FURIOUS. My 1539 and 1503/5. Add two days to all dates. (V.A.A.H.F., 1052/6.)

BEAGLE, Seidisfjord departure BEAGLE, BULLDOG. E.T.A. BULLDOG. Greenock 0800/8th. (A.C.I.C., 2020A/6.)

Operations.

Search for Suspicious Ship. F.O.C. Gibraltar 1311/5 is not concurred in as regards omitting position D. Destroyers are to proceed through position D as previously ordered. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0003A/6 to ANTELOPE.)

/(A) ...

War Diary.

6.2.1943.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Search for
Suspicious
Ship.
(Contd.)

(A) Sighting at 1430/5 indicates ship possibly inward-bound blockade runner which at 15 knots could be in 044° 30' N. 017° 40' W. at 0800/6.
(B) BARB and BLACKFISH proceeds to patrol position already assigned.
(C) HERRING patrols in vicinity 046° 05' N. 014° 15' W.

(D) SHAD patrols in vicinity 045° 25' N. 003° 01' W.
(F.O.S., 0031A/6 to S/Ms, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., ANTELOPE.)

Speed of advance 10 knots on account of weather.

(ANTELOPE, 0400A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 0031/6. Add JAMAICA to repeated.

(F.O.S., 0432A/6 to S/Ms.)

Operations F.D. para. 9. Four Liberators will search westwards from 015° W. to about 023° W. between latitudes 043° 30' N. and 045° 30' N., crossing 015° W. at about 1200 today.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1019A/6 to JAMAICA.)

(1) JAMAICA very approx. position at 1200/6 044° 30' N. 022° 00' W. is joining in search.

(2) 4 Liberator aircraft are searching from 015° W. to 023° W. between 043° 30' and 045° 30'.

(3) My 1124/5. Estimated position at 1200/6 049° 01' N. 010° 01' W., speed reduced to 10 knots owing to weather.

(F.O.S., 1307A/6 to S/Ms.)

A/C report enemy submarine in 45° 24' N. 17° 29' W., course 300°, speed 10 knots, at 1330/6. S/M subsequently dived.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1435/6 to JAMAICA.)

My 2144A/5 and A.M. 2201A/5. If no contact or further information by 2000A today discontinue search for this ship and resume operation F.D.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1643A/6 to JAMAICA.)

By D/F at 1752Z U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 44° 00' N. 21° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 2135A/6 to JAMAICA.)

Coastal
Patrols.

1. Intend M.L.247 (S.O.), R.M.L.532 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.

2. Leave Harbour at 1745 to proceed via Q.Z.S.382. leave patrol-line at dawn/7th.

3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1041A/6.)

Night of 6th/7th.

M.Ls 137 and 138 sailing to patrol between D and C one buoys after passage of C.W.154.

(V.A. Dover, 1658A/6.)

My 1041/6 cancelled on account of weather.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1712A/6.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Valuable". Patrol for tonight. CLEVELAND S.O., ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, TYNEDEALE, LIMBOURNE composing Force A are to pass E.A5 buoy at 1700/6 and 0600/7. Force A patrol south of Beachy Head as in para. (4) of my 1000/20.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1240A/6.)

CLEVELAND (S.O.), ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, TYNEDEALE, LIMBOURNE composing Force A are to pass E.A5 buoy at 1700/6 and 0600/7. Force A patrolling south of Beachy Head as in para. (4) of my 1000/20. M.G.B. 616 S.O., 613, 611 and M.T.B. No.89 S.O., 85, 242 composing Force B at Newhaven to be at immediate notice by 1800/6.

(3) UNST, ASIE, Chaser 10 at St. Helens, and FYLLA at Yarmouth (I.o.W.)

(4) M.L. No.247 S.O., rescue M.L.532 patrol 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W. and 002° 05' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1255A/6.)

Norwegian Subs. to leave patrol at 1800A/6th as follows:

Coastal S/M Patrol.

(1) ULTOR (P.53) through 068° 40' N. 007° 18' E. thence by route "Grey" to Lerwick.

(2) TACTICIAN (P.314 (? through) (a) 062° 50' N. 003° 30' E. (b) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence Lerwick.

(3) JUNON ?through position (b) to Lerwick.

(4) On surface at C.O's discretion when clear of Norwegian coast.

(Capt. S.9, 1431A/6.)

Biscay S/M Patrol.

(1) HERRING leave patrol so as to pass through position (f) 046° 30' N. 013° 50' W. at 0800A/7, thence by route "Blue" to R/V in position (V) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800A/10.

(2) SHAD leave patrol so as to pass through (g) 046° 01' N. 003° 37' W. at 0600A/7, thence through (h) 048° 08' N. 006° 01' W. to R/V position (J) 180° Lizard Head 8 miles at 0800A/9, thence Falmouth.

(3) It is vital that HERRING does not proceed north of 046° 30' N. before 0800A/7 on account of own anti U-Boat aircraft operations.

(5) Estimated daily advance of HERRING and SHAD 170 and 140 miles respectively.

(F.O.S., 2026A/6 to S/Ms.)

Exercises.

Battle Fleet Exercise. (Exercise C.F.)

C. in C. H.F. 1203A/5.

X.C.F. V.A.2's (? force) ("Blue") is attempting to break out through the Denmark Straits.

Earliest time of crossing latitude 065° N. is (?09)00A/9.

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Battle Fleet Exercise. (Exercise C.F.) (Contd.)

2. Ice prevents navigation west of 030° W.
3. Exercise commences 1100A/9th at which time C.S.1's Force ("Red) is to be south of 062° N.
4. A.C.I.C. is requested to provide maximum air R/C and striking force to locate, shadow and attack "Blue" during daylight 9th.
5. If weather prevents flying or if unlocated by 1300A/9th, ANSON will originate A/C reports and simulate A/C carrying out homing procedure for ships.
6. "Red's" object is to bring "Blue" to action in daylight early 10th.
7. Maximum speeds of battleships 21 knots, cruisers 24 knots.
8. Lettered co-ordinates. 60° to 067° N. "Able" "Able" to "How" "How". 25° to 030° W. "Queen" "Queen" to "Victor" "Victor".
9. All signals referring to enemy are to be prefixed for exercise and are not to be passed to shore W/T station other than Reykjavik.
(V.A.2, 0212A/6 to C.S.1, A.C.I.C.)

Allied Air Activity.

Codeword "Patrick". Your 1905/25 Jan. Agree
(H.Q.C.C., 0946A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

M.A.C. Ships. A.M. 1701/5 para. 2. Request you will report if this can be arranged.
(C. in C. W.A., 1157A/6 to ACTIVITY.)
Your 1701/5 and your 2227/28 as amended by your 1537/30 have been passed Machrihanish and Stretton. Former is considered most suitable station subject to consideration given para. one of your 2227/28.
(R.A.N.A.S., 1816A/6 to Admty.)

East Coast Air Patrols. H.Q.F.C. 1845/5. Request following temporary amendments may be made to 12 Group Operation Order No.50 Roadstead. Details.
(C. in C. Nore, 1232A/6 to 12 Group.)

M.A.C. Ships. Instruction of Masters. Your 1701/5th. Machrihanish is considered the most suitable station subject to consideration given in para. one of your 2227/28th.
(R.A.N.A.S., 1816A/6 to Admty.)

Murmansk Balloon Barrage. Your 1319/23 January.
1. If vessels in anchorage are to fly their balloons regularly during whole period of their stay local replenishment of their hydrogen supplies is essential. Even if hydrogen is available locally problem of servicing and repair of balloons remains. Continuous flying of ships' balloons not possible without local servicing facilities requiring skilled personnel. Russians presumably unable to undertake servicing and establishment of R.A.F. depot would therefore be necessary for anchorage barrage to be operationally effective.

/2. Piano ...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Murmansk
Balloon
Barrage.
(Contd.)

2. Piano wire cannot be used because -
 (a) K.B.1. A essential for only satisfactory method of arming.
 (b) Prohibitively high balloon losses result.
3. Ceiling with piano wire only 2000 feet not 4000 feet.

4. Having regard to foregoing difficulties essential you should make maximum use Russian balloon facilities. Meanwhile replies to following points are requested:-

(i) Quantity of local hydrogen available for ship balloons after Russians' own requirements implemented and pressure at which deliveries are made.

(ii) Whether facilities are available locally for handling and recharging ships' hydrogen bottles of capacity 575 cubic feet at 3000 lbs. per square inch.

(iii) Alternatively if recharging pressure bottles impossible whether ships' balloons could be topped up ashore from "nurse" balloons which would be sent out with vessels to be filled from Russian stocks and kept ashore as virtual gasometers. This method requires skilled personnel.

(iv) Whether any local repair/servicing organisation could be provided by Russians.

(A.C.N.S.H., 1840A/6 to N.O.I.C. Murmansk.)

Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk and
Kola Inlet
bombed on
5th Feb.

Some small scale raids on Murmansk and Kola Inlet between 1300C and 1900C/5th February. No British damage or casualties. Russian balloons not flying although weather calm. One burnt out on ground.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 1202/6 to Admty.)

Mining.Search
off Iona.

Your 2245A/4. Cdre. Londonderry's 1509A/5, and my 1533/4. HATANO and THOMAS ALTOFT will remain at Oban. Intend to sail GUNNER and SIR GALAHAD from Ardrossan to Oban as weather permits. Please give trawlers necessary orders to join you through

N.O.I.C. Oban.

(Capt. M/S Clyde, 1141/6 to M/S.16.)

Capt. M/S Clyde 1141/6 and your 1355/6. THOMAS ALTOFT will remain Oban to work under your orders.

(N.O.I.C. Oban, 2058A/6 to M/S.16.)

Enemy Intelligence.North Norway
and Finland.
Shipping
movements.

Your 1020A/5 para. 2. Admty. have at present no information concerning or explaining this activity.

(D.N.I., 1830A/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Your 0047Z/6 to C. in C. W.A. This U-Boat transmission was D/F'd near S.C.118. (D.D.I.C., 0953A/6 to EGLANTINE.)
Am over enemy S/M in 46° 36' N. 17° 15' W. (A/C U of 88 Sqdn., 1316/6 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 45° 24' N. 17° 29' W. (A/C N of 88 Sqdn., 1330/6 to 19 Group.)
At 1316/6 A/C sighted S/M in 046° 36' N. 017° 15' W., course 090°, 10 knots. S/M dived on being sighted. (F.O.S., 1412A/6 to HERRING.)
Am over enemy S/M in 48° 12' N. 17° 35' W. (A/C 1530/6 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 54° 06' N. 29° 27' W. position NGYE 0633 S. (A/C 1610/6 to Artunshofdi.)
Am over enemy submarine in 46.59 N. 16.42 W. (A/C 1620/6 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 54° 30' N. 29° 48' W. (A/C 1625A/6 to Artunshofdi.)
6th February. Ferry Liberator westbound reports sighting two surfaced submarines position 55° N. 29° W. course and speed of submarines not stated. Position is nine miles and eleven miles respectively from a corvette. Further information request from aircraft. Time of aircraft report 1652A. (T.A.I. Prestwick, 1714A/6.)
My A.706 6th Feb. Liberator now reports sighting 6 submarines. All submerged at once. Position 55° N. 29° W., approx. course 120°, and speed SFC 10 knots. 10 miles from a corvette. Time of aircraft report 1720A. (T.A.C. Prestwick, 1753A/6.)
Am over enemy submarine in 54° 51' N. 29° 00' W. (A/C, 1840A/6 to 15 Group.)
My 1753A/6. Liberator corrects report to read medium SFC Vessel instead of corvette. Also number of submarines to read four or more. Time of correction 1840A. (T.A.C. Prestwick, 1902A/5.)
Am over enemy submarine in 54° 00' N. 29° 03' W. (A/C 1940A/6 to C7N.)

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 54° 27' N. 29° 58' W. (A/C 279 Sqdn. Duty 'X', 1144A/6.)
Am over enemy submarine in 53° 50' N. 30° 35' W. (A/C 279 Sqdn. Duty 'W', 1158A/6.)
Am over enemy S/M in 53° 50' N. 30° 11' W. (A/C 279 Sqdn. Duty 'W', 1208A/6.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C NX7 Duty 'W', 1225/6.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 279 Sqdn. Duty 'W', 1235A/6, 1241A/6.)
Am over enemy submarine in 54° 33' N. 29° 27' W. (A/C NX7 Duty 'X', 1506A/6.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C NX7 Duty 'X', 1507A/6 to 15 Group.)

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

OMEGA. Following received from Iceland.
S O S SS. OMEGA nine miles north-west (Oversay) Island. Total breakdown of engines.
(A.C.O.S., 0016/6 to Admty.)
Am standing by steamer OMEGA 275° 08 miles N.W. of Oversay ? Light. Await further instructions.
(ACCRINGTON, 0210Z/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Proceed forthwith to assist OMEGA reported total engine breakdown nine miles N.W. Oversay at 0112A/6. Tow or escort her to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 0253A/6 to SHERBROOKE.)
Received 0208 G.M.T. de OMEGA. OMEGA position 268° 15 miles from Oversay Island Light. Both anchors down and holding meantime. Request tug.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0308/6 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 0253. OMEGA position 0308 268°, 15 miles Oversay Island Light.
(C. in C. W.A., 0317A/6 to SHERBROOKE.)
Your 0210Z. On relief by SHERBROOKE proceed to Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0553A/6 to ACCRINGTON.)
C. in C. W.A.'s 0253/6 and 0317/6. Sailed SHERBROOKE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1000A/6.)
My 0253/6. Assistance not now required, return to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1423Z/6 to SHERBROOKE.)
Arrived SHERBROOKE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1810A/6.)

L.C. 326. Your 1815A/5. Escort COTILLION reports L.C.326 last seen in company at 1830A/1st in 053° 00' N. 004° 58' W.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0319A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
C. in C. W.A. 1815/5. L.C.T.375 reports having communicated with craft presumed to be L.C.T.326 by V/S at approx. 0600/2 in approx. 52° 15' N. 05° 16' W. Craft flashed fleet number nine which was L.C.T.326's number at that time. Southbound convoy was in the vicinity at the time.
(N.O.I.C. Appledore, 1600A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Unknown Ship. Following received S O S de GPK. Following heard on R/T Mayday from unknown station (unread) engines broken down. 0706/6.
(Port Patrick Radio, 0706/6.)

CLARE. Arrived CLARE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0809A/6.)

ZAREBA. Departure H.M.R.T. DANUBE 5 to assist ZAREBA.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0953A/6.)
Arrival DANUBE 5 and ZAREBA.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1037A/6.)

/H.M.T. ...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- ZAREBA. (Contd.) H.M.T. ZAREBA suffered bottom damage and subsequent flooding after fouling sunken wreck during night. Ship now alongside with pump in control.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1617A/6 to Admty.)
- VEGA. Admty.'s 2310/5. Sail at 1200 today and proceed by searched channels by Humber for repairs by Brigham and Cowan, Hull. Adjust speed to arrive Humber L.V. at 0800/7.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1024A/6 to VEGA.)
Sailed VEGA. Expected time of arrival Humber L.V. 0800/7.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1313A/6.)
- INVERILEN. Keep a lookout for a derelict tanker INVERILEN torpedoed 0200Z/3rd in 56.35 N. 23.30 W. and sighted by aircraft in approx. 56.13 N. 20.35 W. on 4th. Ship abandoned with bow under water. There may also be one boat load of survivors in the vicinity. If ship is sighted report possibility of salvage.
(C. in C. W.A., 1042Z/6 to Escorts S.C.118.)
- M.F.V.2014. My 1950A/21. As M.F.V.2014 has now been salvaged LADY SOUTHBOROUGH is to be routed direct from Swansea to Southampton on completion of present operation.
(D.D. Salvage, 1217A/6 to N.O.I.C. Swansea.)
- WREN. Cancel my 0516A/6. WREN delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1348A/6.)
- King George V Dock at Glasgow. During gale last night one of the cranes on west side of King George V Dock, Glasgow, was dragged into the river by a vessel which had broken adrift, and one berth on west side is now completely blocked. Passage in and out of dock is clear. Obstruction will have to be blown up and lifted.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1625A/6 to Admty.)
- MYOSOTIS (K.M.S.9.) Fracture in oil fuel high suction filling line. Proceeding to Londonderry now. Request immediate assistance. E.T.A. 2030.
(MYOSOTIS, 1825/6 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

/CADUCEUS ...

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

CADUCEUS.

CADUCEUS dragged ashore at Lamdash during gale last night. Attempt to refloat today unsuccessful. Further attempt will be made tomorrow after lightening the ship. Salvage Officer has been requested to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1833A/6 to Admty.)

SAN
CIPRIANO.

SAN CIPRIANO damaged as result of collision in Molotovsk Bay with WEST GOTOMSKA. Stern plating set in along centre line from deck to about six feet above water-line. Associated decks and framing locally buckled. Steering engine canted forward but steering satisfactory on passage (corrupt group). Unable to attempt repairs here but vessel is considered seaworthy for homeward passage in ballast.
(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 1835A/6 to Admty.)

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- U.C. and C.U. Convoys. B.A.D. 2159/3rd. Request I may be informed maximum anticipated seagoing speed of tankers to be employed in fast tanker convoys taking into account present state of bottoms. (C. in C. W.A. 0020A/6 to Admty.)
Your 0020/6. The only indication as to speed is in B.A.D. 2159/3 para. 2 (B)
(D.T.D., 1522A/6 to C. in C.W.A.)
C. in C.W.A.'s 0020/6. Request you will obtain and pass required information.
(D.T.D., 1528A/6 to B.A.D. Washington.)
- R.A.52. Seidis Fjord arrival, SEAGULL, HONEYSUCKLE at 2145.
(A.C.I.C., 0055A/6 to C. in C.H.F.)
Intend leaving Seidis Fjord with HONEYSUCKLE on completion repairs and fuelling about 1530A/6, proceeding along route of R.A. 52 until met. S.O.A. 12 knots.
(SEAGULL, 1215A/6 to A.C.I.C.)
Seidis Fjord departure ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, MATCHLESS, MUSKETEER, FORESTER and PIORUN in company at 1025.
(A.C.I.C., 1321A/6 to A.C.O.S.)
My 1321/6. E.T.A. Scapa 1355/7.
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 1438A/6 to A.C.O.S.)
Sailed ICARUS at 0955/6.
(A.C.I.C. 1808A/6 to R.A.D. H.F.)
Your 1320A/5. E.T.A. Scapa 0200A/7.
(ICARUS, 1954A/5 to R.A.D. H.F.)
Departure Seidis Fjord at 1645/6 HONEYSUCKLE, SEAGULL to rejoin.
(A.C.I.C. 2015A/6 to BLANKNEY.)
Expect A/S escort by 2 Sorties of single Catalinas from 1st to last light February 7th. You may see Whitleys flying A/S patrol during daylight hours on 7th.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2124A/6 to Escorts R.A.52.)
- H.X.224. My 1352Z/4. Situation has worsened owing to LONDONDERRY. weather. Whole After section from 88 Station now working badly, in danger of break. Consider Port shaft now remaining principal supporting strength. Aft of 88 Station battered and isolated. Following compartment flooded: Hold, Wardroom, Store and Fresh Water Pump rooms, 82 to 88; Stern Gland compartment 88 to 92. Lower deck; Cabin numbers 84 to 92; Steering compartments 105 (?to) 117. Dry Compartments between Holds, 92 to 107. Lower deck 92 to 105 now liable to flooding. Have instructed Tug to proceed slowest speed to maintain steerage way. My P.C.S. 055° 35', 010° 00', 115°, 3. Weather 5671 9666.
(LONDONDERRY, 0158A/6 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
My 0158A/6. Stern from 82 station broke away at 0314A position 55.42, 9.18, and was sunk by COREOPSIS. Am not making water. All bulkheads and doors are shored up. Tow parted at 0557 is being connected now. Towing difficult due to very heavy yawing and rolling. My P.C.S. are 055° 40', 008° 55', 100°, 3 knots. Weather 6471 9863.
(LONDONDERRY, 0615A/6 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

/Arrived...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 224, Arrived ASPHODEL.
LONDONDERRY. (Cdre. Londonderry, 0700A/6.)
(Contd.) In view of LONDONDERRY's 0615A/6 request port for
docking and repairs. Propose that ship be towed
directly to port allocated.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1051A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 0615. As there is now water in wardroom flat consider
aftermost bulkhead (station 84) is no longer sound. Engine
room bulkhead is tight. In view of this and following sea
intend to proceed to Moville. Unless otherwise ordered.
My P.C.S. are at 1200A, 055° 38', 008° 22', 090°, 6. My 2151.
Break occurred at 84 station.
(LONDONDERRY, 1222A/6 to Admty.)
Your 1222/6. Proceed Moville.
(C. in C. W.A., 1507A/6 to LONDONDERRY.)
Arrived LONDONDERRY, COREOPSIS, and H.M. Tug BUSTLER.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2138A/6.)

ORONTES. ORONTES is now required to be fitted as an
L.S.I.(L), completion date being not later than
28th February.
(D.S.T., 0518A/6.)

DERBYSHIRE. DERBYSHIRE is now required to be taken in hand
for fitting as an L.S.I.(L) completion date being
not later than 30th April.
(D.S.T., 0519A/6.)

ASCANIA. ASCANIA at present being prepared for service as
a troop transport has now to be fitted as an
L.S.I.(L) completion date being not later than
25th April.
(D.S.T., 0520A/6.)

LLANSTEPHAN LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE is now required to be fitted as
CASTLE. an L.S.I.(L) completion date being not later than
6th March.
2. She will be required to sail from Clyde on
15th March.
(D.S.T., 0521A/6.)

Request necessary priority to the completion of LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE now refitting with Harland and Wolff.
2. She is a "named" ship and the completion date required is
6th March.
(Vice-Controller, 1151A/6 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
Cancel my 1526/4.
(D. of P., 1228A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Provision ...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Provision of additional Atlantic Convoy Escorts. A.M. 1055/5, C. in C. H.F. 1023/2, and my 2118/3. Owing to VESPER being converted to 2 boiler ship without relief, extended refit of WORCESTER and CAMPBELL, in addition to normal forthcoming refit and boiler cleaning, and 2 Duck class corvettes in hand for indefinite damage repairs, the provision of 4 destroyers on 14th Feb. will reduce the available destroyers running in this command to 10 plus 4 corvettes.

2. Observing that I am called upon to provide extraneous escort and to reinforce the available force in channel from time to time in addition to normal commitments of trade protection and escort for east and south coast convoys which is aggravated by reduction of Rosyth Escort Force, I do not consider 4 destroyers can be spared, but I concur in retention of VIVACIOUS for the time being.

(C. in C. Nore, 1016A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 1055A/5 para. 5.

Anticipate four type one "Hunts" ready to sail a.m. 13th.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1153A/6 to Admty.)

A.M. 1055/5. PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL and ATHERSTONE detailed.

2. Intend to remove bow pom-poms owing to risk of weather damage during passage. Pom-pom can be stowed below for remounting on arrival at destination if desired. Alternatively pom-pom can be landed and twenty extra depth charges embarked. A.L.D. 023444/411 of 3rd June 1942 refers. Request early decision.

3. Destroyers will be ready to sail on 8th February with boilers clean.

(C. in C. Nore, 1636A/6 to Admty.)

J.W. 53. As it is understood a rescue ship will not be included in this convoy, rescue operations will devolve on the minesweepers and trawlers in the rear. It is essential that a doctor should be available in one of these ships and request one be appointed temporarily to JASON to join at Scapa by p.m./12th.

(R.A.D.H.F., 1036A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

The tanker BRITISH GOVERNOR with 9500 tons of black oil will be included in convoy.

2. She is fitted with emergency oiling at sea gear and has some experience of using it.

3. She is expected to arrive at Loch Ewe a.m./12th Feb. when she will be available for oiling at sea trials if desired.

4. Two white oil tankers, the BEACONHILL (Panamanian) and the MARATHON (Norwegian), will also be included. Each of these will carry about 10,000 tons white oil and will have respectively 1,600 and 1,200 tons black oil in their bunkers, but neither is fitted for oiling at sea.

(D.O.D.H., 2015A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

K.M.F.9. Your 2237/2. MALCOLM's H/F D/F aerial is defective and is in hand for replacement. Observing ship's future employment it is considered essential to complete calibration should be carried out. Ship should be ready to leave Clyde 1600/8th and may be a few hours late at R/V. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1048A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Intend ...

215

6.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.9.
(Contd.) Intend sailing Clyde portion escorted by SHIKARI passing Clyde boom 1000A/8 to R/V Liverpool portion and escort from Milford Haven at 0900A/9 in 052° N. 006° W.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1114A/6.)
My 2237/2nd. For SHIKARI read EXE.
(C. in C. W.A., 1303A/6.)

Endurance of Convoy Escort Vessels. Your 0004/4. Escort vessels normally proceed at not less than 12 knots and quotations of their endurance at convoy speed is liable to be misleading.
(C. in C. H.F., 1049A/6 to Admty.)

E.N. Convoys. Dates. Cancel my 1654A/25th January and substitute:
E.N.94 (M) 0400/9 Feb. E.N.95 (F) 2100/11 Feb.
E.N.96 (S) 0530/14 Feb. E.N.97 (M) 1300/19 Feb.
E.N.98 (S) 1115/23 Feb. E.N.99 (S) 1315/26 Feb.
E.N.100 (M) 0830/1 March. E.N.1 (F) 1400/3 March.
E.N. 2 (S) 1000/7 March. E.N.3 (M) 1630/11 March.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1123A/6.)

O.N.S.165,
O.N.S.J.165. EGLANTINE 0850/5. O.N.S.J.165 is to return to Iceland if considered desirable. FAME to report intentions.
2. EGLANTINE report progress as soon as weather moderates and is to recommend tentative Icomp in vicinity position (B).
(C. in C. W.A., 1142Z/6 to FAME, EGLANTINE.)

F.S. & F.N. Convoys. Admty. 1055/5.
Propose (1) to sail F.S./F.N. convoys escorted by one WAIR each and to retain 8 running WAIRS for this purpose.
(2) that C. in C. Nore should provide second close escort for F.S./F.N. convoys South of Flamborough Head and that the WAIRS over and above those required for (1) should be lent to C. in C. Nore to assist in providing this second escort.
(3) that SLEIPNER should be loaned to N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne and that all turbine contingent of F.S. convoys should be escorted by turbine escort.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1150A/6 to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 1150/6. Concur.
(C. in C. Nore, 1831A/6 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

R.U. 61.
CELEROL. A.M. 2001/5. Intend to sail CELEROL in R.U.61.
(A.C.I.C., 1151A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

/K.M.S.9 ...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.9. My 1606/4. Sailed "Peacock One".
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1300A/6.)
My 1054/5. Sailed codeword "Peacock".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2118A/6.)
- K.M.S.9 sail 46 ships at 2118/6. Pendants. The following 11 ships did not sail. Pendants. One ship returned with engine defects. Pendant.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2330A/6.)
- CONTRAMAES. 1 M/V Spanish CONTRAMAES in 43° 38' N. 07° 10' W.
(A/C 1437/6 to 19 Group.)
- CASTILLO. Spanish CASTILLO in 43° 25' N. 08° 42' W.,
course 050°, 8 knots.
(A/C 1444/6 to 19 Group.)
- 5 M/Vs. One merchant vessel - name unknown, Spanish,
approx. 5000 tons, position 43.48 N. 07.48 W.
course 090°, 8 knots.
- Two merchant vessels - name and nationality unknown, approx.
3000 tons, approx. 3000 tons, position 43° 45' N. 07° 52' W.
hove to.
- One merchant vessel, Spanish, approx. 2000 tons, position 43°
49' N. 07° 54' W., course 090°, approx. speed 5 knots.
- One merchant vessel, Spanish, approx. 1000 tons, position 43°
46' N. 07° 47' W. course 090°, approx. speed 5 knots.
(A/C 1445/6 to 19 Group.)
- AMSTERDAM. Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM from Cromarty
at 2304/9th, speed 17 knots, routed A.M. Q.Z.S.
150, 352 to No. 35 Buoy, thence 5 miles east
Fair Island. E.T.A. Lerwick 1004/10th.
Request escort and fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1615A/6.)
- ALBAREDA. P.C.S. of ALBAREDA (Spanish) (indecypherable).
(A/C of 50 Sqdn., 1625/6 to 19 Group.)
- MUSSOVIET,
ANDRE MARTI. A.M. 2016A/3rd. After consultation with Russian
Liaison Officer following is proposed route for
MUSSOVIET and ANDRE MARTI.
(A) 066° 30' N. 022° 20' W. (B) 070° 01' N. 005°
10' W. (C) 074° 04' N. 009° 10' E. (D) 074° 04'
N. 022° 15' E. (E) 074° 58' N. 030° 01' E. (F) 072° 10' N. 042°
20' E. (G) 070° 01' N. 040° 02' E. thence to arrive Cape
Teriberski at daybreak.
2. Ships will enter and follow thin ice edge. Masters using
their own discretion.
 3. Propose sailing MUSSOVIET on 8th Feb. followed by ANDRE MARTI
24 hours later.
 4. Speed in both cases 8 knots.
- (A.C.I.C., 1712A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

/ M/Vs ...

217

6.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.M/Vs in
North
Russia.

Your Mast 368, received very corrupt.
Group One arrived here after ten days passage.
RICHARD BASSETT requires propellor repair before
proceeding with others.
2. Group Two consisting of EMPIRE EMERALD, EMPIRE
ARCHER, RICHARD BLAND, and CHESTER VALLEY sailed

Archangel 5th.

3. Sailing date of remainder composing Group Three not yet
known.4. Group One's icebreaker escort was (?KRKSSIN) KAGANO ETCH
and LIDKE. Group Two's LENIN and MIKOYAN.
(Dalgliesh, Murmansk, 1809A/6 to Admty.)H.X. 224.
JEREMIAH VAN
RENSSELAER,
INVERILEN.
U-Boat
possibly
sunk by
LONDONDERRY.

(A) U-Boat tactics when shadowing.
(1) H/F D/F bearings indicate that U-Boat
shadowed from windward quarter moved in astern to
report then quickly resumed shadowing position to
windward. Inference is that U-Boats will shadow
from windward then come in ahead or astern to
check course of convoy and report by W/T changing
position immediately afterwards.

(2) Illumination by convoy produced crop of W/T
signals from U-Boats shadowing. It is important
that H/F D/F ships are ready at this moment to
take advantage of bearings to fix U-Boats.

(3) U-Boats waiting to attack took station broad on bow and
quarter, possibly to allow for evasive alteration by convoy.(4) Both successful attacks appeared to be arranged just before
heavy rain squall came down to provide cover to leeward and
hamper escorts.

(B) First attack about 0200N/2.

SS. RENSSSELAER rear ship of port wing column torpedoed. Half
"Raspberry" carried out nothing sighted. Illumination cancelled
owing to delay in reporting attack and no rockets fired.(C) Attempted attack about 1930N/2 and possible damage to U-Boat.
Probably five U-Boats in contact. H/F D/F bearings indicate
one on starboard bow closed and was forced to dive by screen.
COLLINGWOOD carried out attack on doubtful contact. EMPIRE
GLADE (now at Liverpool) reported next morning striking
submerged object shortly after depth charges were fired.

(D) Second attack about 0100N/3.

SS. INVERILEN rear ship of centre column torpedoed. Survivors
report sighting submarine passing at high speed going away
astern of convoy. "Raspberry" well carried out except for
delay in illumination from convoy which did not begin until
escorts fired starshell. Only one rocket fired. Submarine not
detected by escorts.

(E) Starshell Sortie.

Starshell sortie was carried out at 0245N/3 after attack.
Though nothing sighted considered to have frustrated further
attack that night.

(F) Probable sinking of U-Boat.

Shadower caught astern at 2200Z/3 picked up on H/F D/F., R.D.F.
and then Asdic by LONDONDERRY. LONDONDERRY carried out three
attacks, then disabled by premature depth charge explosion or
torpedo. CLARE confirmed LONDONDERRY's contact before latter's
third attack. On LONDONDERRY reporting damage CLARE carried
out two attacks. Contact was not regained after last attack.

/Between ...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 224.
JEREMIAH VAN
RENSSELAER.
INVERILEN.
U-Boat
possibly
sunk by
LONDONDERRY.
(Contd.)

Between CLARE's two attacks men were heard shouting in the water. It seems unlikely these men came from LONDONDERRY. Two heavy explosions heard about five minutes after second attack. Consider U-Boat probably sunk as no further W/T signals were heard that night.
(G) German use of plain language R/T.
Germans were heard using plain language R/T on a frequency near 2410 k/cs.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1818A/6 to Admty.)

Russian
Convoys.
Use of
White Sea.

Following from M.W.T. and Harriman for Dalgleish, Frankel, and Roullard. Mast No. 375.
1. Our Mast No. 348. Soviet Ambassador has been pressing for further ships to enter White Sea. He called on 5th February on Lord Leathers who explained to him instructions contained in Mast No. 348 and told him he was not prepared to override discretion of British and American civil and Naval Representatives on the spot. The Minister thought views of those representatives might be affected by fact that seven ships were still in the White Sea and we have received no indication of their coming out. Nor had we any further news of the four ships which were reported to have sailed from Molotovsk on January 25th. He added that he could not escape conviction that Soviet interest in the ships ceased when cargo had been landed. Such an attitude was neither in the interests of Russia nor of the countries concerned with the ships. The Minister said that the best way for Russians to influence the situation was to produce the eleven ships from White Sea plus the EMPIRE BARD.
2. The Minister promised the Ambassador to telegraph making it clear that instructions in our Mast 348 still stood and that discretion might be exercised on the spot if our Representatives were satisfied that it was safe for up to five or six ships to enter the White Sea.
3. Please report your present views and any action.
(Admty., 2334A/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

218

6.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Limits on
Numbers of
Passengers.

It is proposed to revise British rules governing numbers of passengers that may be carried in ships in trade convoy and sailing independently. 2. These revisions are designed to lessen present dangerously high numbers allowed in ships of 12 to 15 knots, to approach more nearly U.S. rules, disparity between which the present Admty. regulations give rise to confusion, and to reconcile, as far as possible, risks to personnel at sea and essential traffic requirements. Except in Atlantic, it is proposed to give Cs. in C. discretion to approve exceptions to them for local movements within their own stations.

3. Proposed new rules are as follows: (a) Combined number of crew and passengers is not to exceed Passenger Certificate or 75% of boat capacity of ship, whichever is higher, except in case of ships of 20 knots and over. (b) In no case are persons not essential to the War effort to take passage if Service or Government personnel are thereby displaced. (c) Passengers sailing in unescorted ships are to be limited as follows: the ship to be capable of making designated speed through the water on the voyage in question. (i) 10 knots or less, 12 passengers. (ii) More than 10 knots but less than 15 knots, 100 passengers. (iii) 15 knots and over but less than 20 knots, 250 of each category (as at present defined). Prisoners of War - In Atlantic Waters, 500. (iv) 20 knots and over, Service or other personnel to the limit of life-saving capacity of ship. (d) Ships in trade convoy which will remain in convoy throughout their entire voyage to be limited to 250 of each Service, regardless of speed of ship, but maximum numbers not to exceed those in para. (a) above.

4. Limitations as set out in C. in C. E.F.'s 0906/19th Sept, to stand in principle.

C. in C. E.F. is requested to put forward proposals for any alterations which he wishes, to bring into line with those above.

5. This signal is exploratory and present rules remain in force until further orders.

6. Request your concurrence or remarks.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved 4th S.L., 1605A/6 to C. in C. E.F., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

See also Admty. 1701A/6. America and West Indies.

North Atlantic.ST. ALBERT
(French)

Arrival 5th SAINT ALBERT Marseilles in Ballast expected sailing 6th Marseilles oranges. (Valencia, 0340/6 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival ERNE, SCARBOROUGH.

(F.O.C. Gib., 0916A/6 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)

Arrivals 0925 BUTSER, SS. GRODNO from Almeria

1150, LOCH OSKAIG, SS. FORT CHIPEWAYAN from Melilla. Departure 1636, P.339 for working up patrol.

(F.O. Gib., 2005A/6 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

/Situation ...

229

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic Contd.

Situation Area X, 1958A/6th. (1) 9 L.C.I (L) 030° 26' 016°
Reports. 59' 056° 10. (2) 3 Portuguese submarines exer-
cising off Sezimbra. (3) Gib. convoy 2, PETUNIA
026° 44' 016° 22' through 028° 19' 016° 01' thence
048° 8. (4) 1 P.C. 1 merchant ship 034° 54' 007° 57' through
034° 01' 007° 49' to Casablanca 6. (5) Spanish training ship
GALATEA left Corunna 5th for Las Palmas. (6) Spanish training
schooner under sail left Cadiz 1st due Tenerife 6th.
(7) LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON-PENDER working cables
vicinity of 32.26 16.05. (8) P.35 sails 1400A/7th through 35.
57 05.57 at 1900/7th thence (? 118° or 225°) on surface 7½.
(8) NORTHERN GIFT, (? NORTHERN FOAM) sail Gib. 0300A/7th direct
(? St. Vincent Cape Verde Is.) thence Lisbon.
(F.O. Gib. 1044/6.)
Area "Y". 3AMBRAZ Portuguese Naval Tanker 32.20 24.56 63.11.
Situation 2004A/6th.
(F.O. Gib., 1124A/6.)
Situation Report Z. 1955A/6th. (2) G.U.F.4, T (F) 34.041°
33' 039° 38' 274° 13½. (3) 4 Swedish relief ships 038° 00' 037°
12' through 038° 01' 032° 32' thence 096° 12.
(F.O. Gib., 1306A/6.)

P.49. Cancel my 1131A/4th Feb.
(Capt. S. 3, 1104A/6.)

DERNA DERNA now discharging in Tarrajong is expected to
(Italian) sail 6th probably for Valencia.
(F.O., Gib., 1131A/6 to TORBAY, (R) Capt. (S) 8th,
P.339.)

G.S.I. Your 1820/4. My 1843/4. Convoy G.S.I. should
be sailed on 9th. Feb. escorted by 36th E.G. (less
CONVOLVULUS and ALBACORE) to Momp and return.
BUTSER and BIRDLIP to Freetown. 2. If however F.O.C. West
Africa has no northbound ships to be met G.S.I. should be deferred
and sailed.
(N.C.X.F. 1228A/6 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) F.O.C. W.A. S.N.L.C.A. Admty)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 27.46 N., 16.16 W., sighted on
surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted
sighted was on course 080° speed 10 knots.
(A/C L 302/1, 1235/6 to Gib. TD 8.)
U.Boat sighted by aircraft in 027° 46' N. 016° 16' W. at 1235A/6.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1315/6 to N.A.S.)

K.M.S.8. Oran Section arrived.
(F.O. Gib. 1700A/6 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.,
Cdre. Algiers.)

M.K.S.7. Your 2220/5. (N.T. in W.D.) Destination
HERANGER and WILLIAM WIRT is U.K. Both ships
should be included in M.K.S.7. Admty. 1033/2 refers
(N.C.X.F. 1825A/6 to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty. convoy)

221 ~~222~~

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Movements,
Casablanca.

Warships Feb. 6th. U.S.S. RAVEN 1 P.C. arrived
Casablanca from Gib.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1850Z/6 to F.O.C. Gib. Admty.,
Cominch, N.C.X.F.)

ANTELOPE
BOREAS
WIVERN.

Cancel my 1311/5th. From position (D) proceed
through (R) 038° 01' 011° 59' (S) 035° 30' 009°
01' (T) 035° 51' 006° 01' thence Gib.
F.O. Gib. 1935A/6 to ANTELOPE, BOREAS, WIVERN. (R)
Admty, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

S/M,
Alicante.

My 1111/5 . Alicante reports unidentified Spanish
gunboat entered harbour 2000/5 towing apparently
not Spanish S/M.
(S.O.I. Gib. 2159A/6 to Admty. S.O.I.X.F.)

222

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic

W.S.26. Further to A.M.1555/28/1 para. (11). Proposed division of W.S. 26 between Capetown and Durban and destinations of remainder. Use of accommodation.
(D.S.T. 0516A/6 0517A/6 to D.S.T.O. W.A.)

ROCKWOOD. Sailed ROCKWOOD to Kilindini routed through:
A. 027° 20' S. 034° 10' E.
B. 015° 34' S. 041° 12' E.
C. 011° 00' S. 041° 00' E.
D. 004° 20' S. 040° 10' E.
S.O.A. 17 knots.
E.T.A. 1600Z/10.
2. Shift wireless telegraphy organization to group V at 0245Z/9th.
(N.C.I.C. Durban 0741Z/6 to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. F.O.E.A. S.N.O. Afloat Kilindini.)

Movements. Arrival and departure Pointe Noire p.m. 5th INCONSTANT, EXPRESS.
(B.N.L.O. West Africa 0815/3 to F.O.W.A.)

Situation Area "p".
Reports. Situation at 2000Z/4th.
French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 08.(?33) 15.23 through 09.59 17.17 thence 346° 20.
PETUNIA, DUNKERY, FORTSDOWN, BREDON escorting 26.35 16.26 through 28.19 16.01 thence 048° 8. QUERCY, ANAZELLE off Cape Verga to Konakri. VICTORIA 2 M.Ls about 18.30 17.40 to Port Etienne. INKPEN, ARRAN escorting 11.58 17.45 022° 7.
(R.A.W.A. 0953Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

Area Q. CHESHIRE 045° 00' S. 012° 00' W. to Montevideo 13½ knots.

CARTHAGE on patrol about 045° 00' S. 027° 30' E.
P.614 023° 00' S. 010° 15' E. to Simonstown 8½.
RANCHI 016° 40' S. 010° 25' E. to Freetown 14.
Convoy C.A.9 A.032° 00' S. 029° 20' E. to Durban 8.
Convoy D.C.5 033° 40' S. 027° 30' E. to Capetown 8.
STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY with C.N.5 029° 40' S. 016° 40' E. to 027° 40' S. 015° 00' E. 8.
VEREENTGING, TURFFONTEIN with C.A.10 034° 55' S. 019° 30' E. to the East 8 knots.
SONDRA, SPHENE 030° 45' S. 033° 10' E. to Durban 9.
ARCTIC EXPLORER, JASMINE with D.N.15 leaving Durban 0400Z/6 for the East 8.
ROCKWOOD 027° 30' S. 034° 30' E. to Kilindini 18.
HILDASAY 028° 15' S. 035° 35' E. to Durban 8.
(C. in C.S.A. 1044/6.)

Area P. Fleet Unit, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with C.F.11 001° 20' S. 003° 28' E. (?011°) 13.
HYDRANGEA, ARMERIA escorting 003° 27' N. 006° 50' W. 076° 12½.
CROCUS, ORFSAY, DEPUTY MOUCHEZ, PICT, MERCATOR 2 M.Ls 005° 36' N. 011° 04' W. 300° 8.
DUNCTON, COPINSAY off Marshall patrolling.
ST. WINSTAN 2 M.Ls, tug CHARON, Ivory Coast.
BRIDGEWATER about 008° 30' N. 015° 01' W. to Freetown 10.

/CARNATIC...

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Situation CARNATIC 004° 02' S. 003° 30' S. to Pointe
Reports. Noire 12.
(Contd.) Allied Naval units on patrol in Ascension St.
Pauls Rocks area.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1055/6 to Ships in Area P of S.A.
Station N. of 8° N., Admty. C. in C.S.A.
N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

WEST Cancel my 1242Z/5th not to U.S. Naval Attache.
CHESWALD. (CHESWALD (U.S.A.) joining D.C.5.) WEST CHESWALD
D.C.5. did not sail, crew difficulties.
(N.C.S.O. East London 1104Z/6, to Admty. etc.)

South Atlantic Composition of S.A. Escort Force is now as follows:
Escort Force, Destroyers CATTERICK, BLACKMOOR,
composition. Corvettes FRITILLARY, GENISTA, JASMINE,
NIGELLA, ROCKROSE, TYHME.

2. South Atlantic escort force orders remain in
force. Ships will be administered by C. in C. S.A.S. and all
reference to Capt. (D) 2nd are to be deleted.
(C. in C.S.A. 1131/6 to S.A. Station G604)

DESPATCH. Intend to sail DESPATCH at 1000 7th Feb. to
(?patrol between) position
Z. 008° 51' N. 023° 23' W. and
X. 008° 26' N. 027° 23' W.
returning to Freetown at Prudent limit of duty. S.C.A. 20,
knots. DESPATCH keeping W/T watch in accordance with A.F.O.
51/42. Sec. (corrupt group). Reports of immediate importance
will be broadcast to Comsolant on 4295 k/cs.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1147Z/6 to Admty.)

MATAROA. My 1946/5 amend MATAROA E.T.A. 13th Jan.
(?Feb. intended.)
(D.T.D. 1155A/6 to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janerio,
(R) Connav, R.A.W. Africa, C. in C.S.A.)

D.60 Arrived Convoy D.60 consisting of Merchant Ships
VENDOME and DUNKERQUE French Sloop LA GRANDIERE
French Sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE and French
Aux. Patrol Vessel CYRNOS, 0800.
(S.S.T.O. Freetown 1211Z/6 to E.O.W.A.)

Weekly state M.3.B. CARTHAGE M.35.B. CHESHIRE
South Atlantic J.2.C. RANCHI X.2.A. S/M P.614
Station 6th. Cape Area:-
(?A/S Trawler) STELLA POLARIS.
Durban Area:- SONORA, SPHENE, ARCTIC EXPLORER,
JASMINE.

Sim onstow:- M.Ls 829, 380, 381 S/MB52, DAUNTLESS, CHITRAL,

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Contd.

Weekly state F.S. COMMANDANTE DUBOC, CERES, ROCKROSE,
 South Atlantic BLACKMOOR H.D. M.L. 1150 LE TIGER, PACHECO,
 Station 6th. LADY ELSA, HERTFORDSHIRE, BALUCHISTAN.
 Capetown:- NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN
 DUKE, WELLARD, LADY ROSEMARY, ST. ZENC, M.L.
 381, 383, BARCROSS, GENISTA, FRITILLARY, THYME.
 Durban:- EREBUS, RESOURCE. ALBATROSS, FREESIA, CATTERICK,
 INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA, PRUDENT, NIGELLA, EMILE BAUDOT, MEAD,
 INTEGRITY, BOLD.
 Port Elizabeth:- STORMWACK, KHETI, NORWICH CITY, E.LONDON.
 Colombia:- SARKA, SATSA, CECILE, MAPLESON, NORTHERN CHIEF,
 ST. LOMAN.
 Walvis Bay:- NORTHERN ISLES. Saldanha Bay:- SPINDTHRIFT,
 FERMOOR, MANCHESTER CITY, BARBRAKE.
 (C. in C.S.A. 1233C/6.)

Troop D. of S.T's 1634/3rd para. 3. Absolute maximum
 Movements draught acceptable in Lagos is 26 feet.
 W.A. to 2. It appears necessary for vessels to proceed
 M.E. to Freetown for water and fuel and (?tp) join
 W.S.27. Date of arrival at Lagos will therefore
 have to be 1st which appears (?impossible.)
 3. Am exploring possibility of fuelling and watering and
 joining from Takoradi. Then date of arrival Lagos could be
 5th.
 (D.S.T.O.W.A. 1329Z/6 to D.S.T. P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

W.S.26. Arrival 6th CILICIA, CANTON, QUADRANT, QUALITY,
 QUICKMATCH, QUIBERON, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE,
 ADRIAS, WAYLAND with W.S. 26.
 (S.O.(I) Freetown 1331Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

AMAZONE,
 ARCHIMEDE. Following from Glassfurd to Opnav priority
 061000. From Glassfurd pass to Cominch for
 action and S.O.P. Bermuda. C. in C. Atlantic
 Fleet (U.S.). All H.M. Ships, Eastern Sea
 Frontier, Navy Yards (?Philadelphia) for information. Ref.
 2044/4th Cominch, French Submarines AMAZONE, ARCHIMEDE sailing
 independently from Dakar for (?Bermuda) 1830Z/8th Feb.
 proceeding normally on surface day and night except to avoid
 contact. S.O.A., AMAZONE 7 knots, ARCHIMEDE 12½ knots. Both
 sailing same route through following positions:
 A. 13.35 N. (?24).20 W. B. 13.40N. 35.00 W. C. 30.50 N.
 61.10 W. course 297° true from position A. No Liaison Officer
 embarked.
 No (?escort). Submarines will maintain track and respective
 speeds of advance through positions A. B. and C. and will report
 only if necessary to alter progressive bombing restriction
 area. Each submarine will expect escort at position C. failing
 which they will continue for 100 miles towards Bermuda and
 then request instructions. C.O. AMAZONE, Lieut. Verdavain,
 C.O. ARCHIMEDE Lieut. Petit. Both will execute orders from
 Allied Naval Cmdre, in area (?through) which they pass and from
 higher Allied Authorities. AMAZONE should arrive Bermuda with
 fuel remaining for 500 miles. ARCHIMEDE should not require
 fuel Bermuda. Request submarines receive complete re-routeing
 and communication instructions and L.O. with necessary
 publication Bermuda to Philadelphia.
 (Comar, Dakar 1430/6 to F.O.W.A..S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
 /LEWES...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.

LEWES. Your 1725/3 (When LEWES may be expected.) about mid April.
(D.O.D. (H) 1453A/6 to C. in C. S.A.)

Weekly state 6th Feb. Cape Blanco Area - PETUNIA. Bathurst - REDOUBT, BURDOCK. Freetown Area - CILICIA, CANTON, WAYLAND, QUIBERON, RACEHORSE, QUALITY, QUICKMATCH, QUADRANT, RELENTLESS, ADRIAS, BRIDGEWATER, CROCUS, MERCATOR, HYDRANGEA, ARMERIA.
Freetown - DESPATCH, CORINTHIAN, CYCLAMEN. Takoradi - BELLWORT. Duala - Commandant DROGOU. Pointe Noire Area - VALIANT, EXPRESS FORTUNE, FOXHOUND, INCONSTANT, CARNATIC. Pointe Noire - COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES. Detached - CARNARVON CASTLE, MILFORD, MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, AMARANTHUS, LOBELIA, AUBRETTIA SNOWDROP, VIOLET, ROCKROSE, TAMARISK, PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE, SOUTHERN PRIDE, SOUTHERN GEM.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1616Z/6.)

QUALITY QUICKMATCH. QUALITY has bad vibration in starboard shaft. Propose she shall proceed with W.S.26 to Cape for docking and that QUICKMATCH shall remain Freetown in lieu.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1703Z/6 to Admty. (R) QUIBERON, QUALITY, QUICKMATCH, C. IN C. S.A.)
Approved (D.O.D. (F) 1035A/7)

GEORGES LEYGUES. Departure 6th Feb. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1849Z/6 to Admty., Comar.)

French W.Africa Command. Ref. A.G.M. 143A of 29th Jan. (2216A/29) Delete (F) and substitute "A British Naval Liaison Officer is resident at Dakar and holds Signal Publications correspondingly to a N.O. in C. on shore, vide S.P. Form A.2.C. (3). Messages for Comar, Dakar or for B.N.L.O. Dakar should be cyphered (Coded) in current British or British - United States publications and either passed to Freetown W/T with delivery instructions to pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar or passed by cable direct to Mailbag Dakar. Communication exists between Dakar, Freetown and Bathurst".
(N.I.D. 10 for D.N.I. 1918A/6 "A" Message 195A)

Freetown Gibraltar, Convoys. Your 1843/3rd and Admty. 1640/4th.
1. Propose R/V in 024° N. be postponed to A.M. 17th Feb. 2. A combined 8 knots convoy of 6 ships from Freetown for U.K. and 2 ships with 5,000 troops and one ship with war material from Dakar for Casablanca could then be sailed to R/V. Inclusion of Dakar section subject confirmation of Comar, Dakar.
3. Propose EMPRESS OF RUSSIA should be sailed with escort to R/V also in 024° N. 17th Feb. with Gib. escort. Speed 12½. She cannot arrive earlier.
4. Fully realize this is heavy escort commitment but it appears only solution to number of separate escorts.
(F.O.W.A. 1936Z/6 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., etc.)
Date amended, See F.O.W.A. 1651Z/7 Movement cancelled, see F.O.W.A. 2023Z/7.

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic Contd.

S.L.126. My 1851Z/4th. Request accommodation in S.L.126 for DEEBANK 10 knots due Freetown 5th March JANETA speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots due 11th March, both priority cargo goes from Rio De La Plata. (B.N.L.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1958Z/6 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

HOGGAR Your 2000/3rd Feb. Anticipate HOGGAR will arrive Dakar 12th Feb. In this case can convoy D.66 be ready to sail A.M. 14th Feb? My 1926 (1936/6) refers. (F.O.W.A. 2011Z/6 to Comar, Dakar, (R) N.C.X.F.)

Routing Pass to F.Os I.C. and N.C.S.Os. All ships for Saldanha, S. African ports are to be routed coastwise to Bay. Saldana Bay for onward routing. See M.A.R.I. Section 4 para 8a sub. para.3 (H). (D.T.D. 2026A/6 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 5th Feb. Greek Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. Departures 5th February GLOXINIA, FLAMINGO, ANTWERP. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0907B/6 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Beirut. 5th Feb. arrivals AETOS, M.L.s 355, and 358. Departures AETOS. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0915B/6 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Spezia Genoa, R/C. Photographic R/C Feb. 5th. Spezia. Three LITTORIO class battleships, cruisers BOLZANO, TARANTO and one damaged REGOLO class berthed as on Jan. 16th. In addition 3 destroyers, 7 torpedo boats, 11 escort vessels, 13 submarine and one target ship, Merchant shipping present - MARCO POLO type liner, 520 foot tanker and eight ships 200/250 feet. Genoa. One 6" cruiser in dry dock, 1 torpedo boat, 3 escort vessels and 4 submarines. Merchant shipping present - 470 foot tanker, 3 tankers 450/500 feet, 2 liners, 1 hospital ship, 9 ships over 400 feet and 34 ships over 200 feet. Liners ROMA and AUGUSTA berthed as on Jan. 28th. (D.D.I.C., 1005A/6 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., V.A.Malta, C. in C. Med.)

P.44. After dark tonight, unless in pursuit of the enemy withdraw to vicinity of 036° N. 012° E. and at your discretion make brief report on volume of shipping sighted. Return subsequently to your area. (Capt. S.10., 1131A/6 to P.44, (R) P.43.) Reply P.44, 0101A/7.

Force H. Force H. leaving Mers-el-Kebir a.m. 7th proceeding N.E. turning to West after dark 7th to arrive Gibraltar a.m. 8th. (Capt. S.8., 1210A/6 to TORBAY, P.339, (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

DARCIA, TUZLA. Following from Adml. Kelly, My 1153/30th. General Asim Gunduz informs me by telephone that Marshal agrees to retention of these 2 vessels. (N.A. Ankora, 1215C/6 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. H.M.Ambassador.)

Landing Craft. 06049 T.O.O., 1241 Feb. 6th. Landing Craft state 1st Feb. 1943.

Type.	Effective.	Non Operational
L.C.T.	16	11
L.C.M.(1)	4	7
L.C.A.	31	5
L.C.S.(M)	1	1
L.C.P.(L)	13	5
Light L.C.A.	15	9

(D.C.O. Mid East, 1241/6 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., D.C.O. India.)

228

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositrep
No. 681. 310345. O/06024 cipher 6th February.
3. Air. Night 4/5 Feb. Enemy made small scale
bombing attack on Tripoli. No damage.
(C. in C.M.E., 1250B/6.)

TORBAY,
P.339. Admty. 1206/2. Concur with N.C.X.F.'s 1212/4.
Suggest whichever of TORBAY and P.339 completes
working up first should join 8th S.F. and the
other 1st S.F. Request the latter be sent to
Malta to operate under (S) 10 temporarily.
(C. in C. Med., 1344B/6 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

ABDIEL. ABDIEL and two destroyers leave Bone 1700/6th to
operate? in vicinity and to eastward Kieth Reef.
On completion operation ABDIEL proceed to Malta
or Algiers and destroyers return to Bone to arrive 0800/7th.
(Capt. S.8. 1352A/6 to S/Ms.on patrol.)

Stragglers,
M.K. Convoys. Your 1928/1 para. 2 and my T.N.C. 17 of 25th
January to D.T.D. Should stragglers from M.K.
convoys be similarly routed?
(N.C.X.F., 1359A/6 to Admty.)

E.A.C.
Report. 6 Feb. A. 38 Opsum 87, 1800 hours 4 Feb. - 1800
hours 5 Feb. A. Operations night 4/5. (E)
Blida. 8 Wellingtons 4 each from 150 and 142
Squadrons bombed Bizerta from 5,000 to 15,000
feet between 1956 and 2015 hours. All crews found target
though darkness made it difficult to observe results. Bursts
seen near working cranes along railway line west of goods station
and in town alongside docks, fires were started. 1 A/C reported
a particularly heavy gun firing from the vicinity of the Naval
Yard. All aircraft landed safely.
(E.A.C.Africa, 1430A/6)
Part 3 and final my 1430A/6 A. 38. F. 12th U.S. Air Force
11 P.40s and 6 P.39s on a R/C mission in (?Gafsa) - Kaknassy
area attacked a transport which was left burning. 4 other
transports were attacked at Djebel Chemis but results were not
(? observed).
(E.A.C. Africa, 1607A/6.)

Air
R/C. P.R.U. 6th Feb. 1145 Taranto visuals, 2 battle-
ships, 2 cruisers. Photographs taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1435A/6 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

TAKU. Sailed TAKU.
(V.A. Malta, 1537A/6 to Admty. etc.)

Air attack
on Spezia,
N.C.X.F. not
informed. I observe from local French Press that Spezia
was attacked by R.A.F. on night 4th/5th. I
welcome the attack but considering the effect such
action usually has on the movement of Italian

/Fleet...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Air attack
on Spezia,
N.C.X.F. not
informed.
Contd.

Fleet it is requested that in future I may be forewarned of such intention, to enable submarines to be redispensed and R/C to be arranged. This information is evidently of equal importance to C. in C. Med. (N.C.X.F., 1602A/6, 1210/7, to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.) Reply: Admty. 1041A/10.

E.T.11.

F.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy E.T.11 at 1800/9th escorted by 58th Division and 27th Escort Group routed through 91, 51, 36° 52' N. 03° 05' E. 100, 39, 109, 29, 50, 16, to given triangles J. to R. stragglers as convoy. S. of A. 6½ knots. E.T.A. 0130/14th. (2) Sections join and leave with local escort as follows. Philippeville in 37.11 N. 06.51 E. at 0200/10th Bougie in 37.04 N. 05.08 E. at 1500/10th Algiers in 36.52 N. 03.05 E. at 0630. (?11th) Oran in 35.52 N. 00.46 W. at 1430/12th. (3) First 2 letters of W/T Callsign W.X. (4) Fighter protection priority 1 until 0800 11th, then priority 2, codeword "Hankey". (5) 58th Division are to be detached with Algiers Section. (6) All times A. (N.C.X.F. 1611A/6, as amended 0050A/7 to F.O.I.C's and N.O.I.C's.)

M.K.S.7.

M.K.S.7 sailed as my 1606/29 and 1716/1.
(F.O. Oran, 1612/6 to N.C.X.F.)

P.54
TURBULENT.

P.54 is to keep South of 038° 31' and West of 013° E. until 2000/8th. 2. TURBULENT passing 038° 50' 013° 00' at 2000/8th thence through 038° 34' 010° 01' at 2100/9th. 038° 20' 003° 42' at 2300/11th to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 00' 003° 05' at 0730/12th. 3. TURBULENT on passing 008° E. will be clear of own submarines. (Capt. S.8, 1658A/6 to P.54 TURBULENT (R) N.C.X.F. Submarines on Patrol, Cdre. Algiers.)

Movements
Famagusta.

Arrival and departure 6th Feb. ISLAY. Departure 6th Feb. NORSE.
(N.O.i/c Famagusta, 1702B/6 to Admty., etc.)

T.E.15.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail convoy T.E.15 at 2300/9th routed through 16, 70, 109, 44, 89, 7, (?36°) 52' N. 03° 05' E. 51, (?99^b) 36' to Bone, letters L. to V. S. of A. 7½ knots. E.T.A. 1700/13th, stragglers as convoy. (2) Sections join and leave with local escort as follows: Oran in 35.55 N. 00.35 W. at 0700/11th. Algiers in 36.52 N. 03.05 E. at 0900/12th. Bougie in 99 at 2230/12th. Philippeville in 37. 13 N. 06.55 E. at 1000/13th. (3) 1st 2 letters of convoy call sign H.A. (4) Escort Gibraltar to Bone Escort Group 62. (5) All times A. (6) Fighter protection priority 2 codeword "School!" (N.C.X.F., 1715A/6 to F.O.I.C's., N.I.I.C's etc.)

230

6.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.K.S.(?8) M.K.S. Oran Section arrived plus LWOW.
(F.O. Oran, 1730/6 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone.)

Movements Port Said. 6th Feb. Port Said arrivals DELPHINIUM, KLO, GLOXINIA, FLAMINGO, ANTWERP, H.M. Tug NEPTUNE.
(N.O.i/c Port Said, 1732B/6 to Admty. C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. R.A. Alexandria.)

Enemy Units. Following read from Alexandria W/T. P.C. and S. of 1 medium sized M/V, 1 small M/V and three destroyers is 37.08 N., 11.03 E., 250° 10.
(A/C B.T.P./L., 1750/6.)

TOOWOOMBA defect. Request tug off Elephant Back at 0500Z/7th. Crown wheel of steering engine stripped. Essential steering engine repairs to be commenced on arrival.
(TOOWOOMBA, 1800Z/6 to Cdre. i/c Aden, (R) F.O.i/c E.A. and Z.)

Smoke Generators. Your 1901/25 Jan. and V.A. Malta's 1957/24 Jan., smoke generators in question are Naval Stores not Naval Armament Stores and should not normally be stored in magazines with or near Naval Armament explosives.
(D.A.S., 1838A/6 to A.S. Malta, (R) N.A.S.O. Malta, S.N.S.O. Malta.)

Malta Air Report. AI 543 6 Feb. 5/6 Feb. 5 Mosquitoes carried out intruder patrols over Sicily and Tunisia to cover operations of our Wellingtons on shipping R/C and of Middle East aircraft attacking Palermo.
1 Mosquito patrolled from Gabes to Tunis, and 4 patrolled over Trapani Castelvetro Comiso and Catania. Bad weather was experienced in all areas and no enemy aircraft or shipping was encountered. Part 2. Enemy air activity nil.
(H.Q.R.A.F. Malta, 1857Z/6.)

Movements Bone. Departure (-?) ABDIEL, LIGHTNING, LOYAL, NEGRO, ELBURY, FILEY BAY.
(F.O.I.S., 1947A/6 to N.C.X.F., Admty., Admiral Gibraltar.)

Movements, Oran. Arrivals: BUDE, CLACTON, departures: FLEETWOOD, HUSSAR, WEYBURN, CONVULVULUS, VETCH, STORNOWAY, RHYL.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/6 to Admty., N.C.X.F. Admiral Gibraltar, QUESNEL.)

/Movements...

231

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Algiers arrivals, PRINSES BEATRIX from
Algiers. Philippeville. French Trawler from East.
Departures ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN to
Oran, ACHROITE, TERVANI, ARNOLD BENNETT and
French Trawler PETIT PIERRE to Bone.
(Com Algiers, 2011A/6 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Arrivals MISAO, BACHAQUERO, NEGRO, ELBURY,
Philippeville. FILEY BAY.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2020A/6 to Admty., (R)
N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Situation Western Desert. Tripoli (L) Harbour. Gap now
report 100 feet with depth of four fathoms. Tripoli (L)
No. 335. raided dawn and dusk on 5th. by Seven and five
aircraft respectively. No damage. (2)
Operation M.H.4. Convoy of 12 ships (six
storeships for Tripoli (L), one personnel ship two tankers and
3 stores for Malta) left Alexandria a.m. 6th escorted by three
Fleets, eight Hunts, and KONDOURIOTIS.
(C. in C. Med. 2022B/6 to Admty.)

EMPIRE Understood here that EMPIRE PRIDE is not included
PRIDE. in convoy M.K.F.8. As this vessel is urgently
U.K. request report of date vessel is due to
sail for U.K. and E.T.A.
(D. of S.T., 2034A/6 to P.S.T.O.X.F.)

Tobruk Arrived M.L. 349, 354, and 1012 AMBER. Arrived
movements. and sailed ERICA, BURRA, SOUTHERN MAID M.L.
(?356) Sailed M.L. 351.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2103B/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Med.)

Minelaying Your 1853/6. (W.R. message.) Following is
Destroyers. repetition of my 1106/6, undecypherable. (Begins)
Your 0151/5. Fleet destroyers cannot be spared.
This proposal will evidently have to be dropped.
(Algiers C.C.O., 2120A/6 to Admty.)

Tripoli (L) Arrival 6th SAKTOURIS G.S., M.T.B. No. 65.
movements. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli (L), 2141B/6 to Admty. (R) C. in
C. Med.)

NEURALIA. Your 1410/4. Request further information as
to moves in question. Are you likely to require
any further troopships.
(D. of S.T., 2142A/6 to P.S.T.O. M.E., (R)
P.S.T.O. E.I., C. in C. Med., G.H.Q. M.E.F.
F.O.R.S.C.A.)

/Situation...

232

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation K.M.S. 8 attacked by bombers and torpedo
Report bombers in 036° 15' N. 000° 15' E. LOUISBURG
No. 58. sunk at 1924/6. FORT BABINE torpedoed 1915 now
in tow of STORNOWAY.
(N.C.X.F., 2230A/6 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.
N.O.I.C. Malta, B.A.D., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O.
Force H., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, A.F.H.Q. London.)

P.R.U. 540 Squadron P.R. Sortie C/982 dated 6 Feb. time
1400 hours shows. Marseilles:- Large M/Vs and
liners show comparatively little change apart
from internal movement since 16 Jan., but considerable change
noted in smaller M/Vs including departure of approx. ten
vessels. One tanker 510 feet is new arrival while one M/V
SAN ANTONIO type departed leaving two of this type still
present. Etang de Berre:- Since 29 Dec. four tankers departed
previous anchorages but only part of anchorage photographed.
Five liners and one M/V now seen representing little change
since last cover..
(P.R. Benson, 2359/6 to Admty., Air Min.)

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

BRITTANY. Departure 0130Z/6th Feb.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0139Z/6 to Admty.)

B.P.67 $\frac{3}{4}$. Karachi portion sailed 0115Z/6th to R/V.
0850Z/3rd from N.C.S.O. Bombay refers.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 0403Z/6, S.T.O. Karachi 0521Z/6)

Shuttle Service. Your 2045A/14 Jan. Discontinuance shuttle
service date 15th Feb. considered suitable.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0525Z/6 to Admty., (R)
D.E.M.S. Calcutta.)

B.M. 41. Departure VERBENA with B.M.41.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0558Z/6 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.,
F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F.)

KONKAN. Arrival KONKAN escorting FORT ALEXANDRIA.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 0644Z/6 to Admty., etc.)

NEURALIA. Your 1410/4th Feb. Agree.
(P.S.T.O.I., 0836Z/6 to P.S.T.O.M.E., (R) F.O.R.
S.C.A., D.S.T.)

DEVONSHIRE. Transport DEVONSHIRE sailed 6th Feb., E.T.A.
yours 22nd Feb. Numbers, requirements.
(S.T.O. Karachi, 0927Z/6 to D.S.T.O. Durban.)

FROBISHER. Departure 6th Feb.
(F.O. E.Africa, 0941Z/6 to Admty.)

Operation "Pamphlet",
QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Cdre. Aden reports S.O.A. "Pamphlet" 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
Presume this is due to inclusion of QUEEN OF
BERMUDA. If this confirmed on arrival Addu I
should prefer QUEEN OF BERMUDA to proceed
independently when well clear of Addu and be
routed before arrival Fremantle clear of any
suspected U-Boat position. Request your remarks.
(C. in C. E.F., 1229Z/6 to A.C.N.B., (R) F.O.
4 C.S., etc.)

P.B. 26,
P.B. 24,
P.B. 27. Intention for escort BENGAL and MADRAS P.B.26
LAUNCESTON and IPSWICH P.B.24 sail 0230Z/11 (? 4)
route No. 3.
(2) PANGKOR and BOMBAY P.B.27, CESSNOCK P.A.24
sail 0430Z/18 (? 4) No.2.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 1232Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz,
(R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Force A. Arrived a.m., left p.m.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1345Z/6 to S.O.I.Kilindini,
Admty., S.O.I. Colombo, S.O.I. Bombay, S.O.I.Aden.)

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. San Francisco 1st WILL. H. POINT (U.S.) with barge for Honolulu 15th.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0007Z/6 to Admty)
PORT CHENEME IV, DAYSTAR (U.S.A.T.) for Espirito Santo.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0025Z/6 to Admty).

St. Johns N.F. 5th Feb. Arrivals ARROWHEAD, NIAGARA, CHICOUTIMI, NEW WESTMINISTER, CHEDABUCTO ex H.X.225, ST. CLAIR ex Halifax. Departures SALISBURY to H.X. 225, GEORGIAN to assist A/C TRINITY BAY.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 0231Z/6 to Admty).

U.C. - C.U. Your 2159Z/3. Revised proposals should prove convoys. a great help.
2. Suitable escorts can be made available but we would like to use Desdiv. 14 for U.C. and C.U.1.
3. Detailed proposals will follow.
(D.O.D. (H) Approved V.C.N.S. 0040A/6 to B.A.D.
(R) C. in C. W.A.)

Personal from 1st S.L.
Please confirm that the 4 U.S.A. destroyers which Adm. King allocated to slow D.W.I. - U.K. tanker convoys would be available for proposed fast tanker shuttle service referred to in para. 2 B of your 2159Z/3.

(1st S.L., 0125A/6 to B.A.D.)

Following is Comnavew's 061041. On arrival Londonderry Comtask Group 99.2 (Desdiv 14) report to C. in C. W.A. for duty in connection escort U.C. - C.U. convoys. Operational control of Task Group 99.2 hereby passes to C. in C. W.A.

(Comnavew, 061044 to Admty).

My 2159/3. Cancel para. two (C) and substitute -
"Re-allocation of slow tankers least suited to trans-Atlantic voyages so as to provide substitute transportation for cargoes scheduled for movement by American fast tankers Gulf of Caribbean to North of Hatteras Ports".

(B.A.D. 1659Z/6 to Admty).

A.C.Vs. Your 2253Z/29. Jan. A.C.Vs are urgently required on Atlantic trade routes and our view is strongly that this need should be met before A.C.Vs. are assigned permanently for ferrying duties. They are already badly behind programme and any further delay is so serious that it should only be accepted if need elsewhere can be shown to be more vital.

2. Your 2035Z/4. If use of HUNTER, FENCER, STALKER and TRACKER for ferrying on passage on this occasion will result in avoiding permanent allocation of A.C.Vs. to U.S. Army Air Corps, we would be prepared to agree to their being used for this purpose, provided resulting delay in date of arrival is reduced as much as possible.

3. We consider therefore, that programme for each A.C.V. should be considered separately so that the delay and its effect on Atlantic trade protection may be assessed.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved 1st S.L. 0301A/6 to B.A.D.)

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary, 1800 G.M.T. 6th Feb.	F.S. RICHELIEU) F.S. MONTCALM) U.S. Escort) BUTTERMERE) WASTWATER) 5 M.M.S.) ALCANTARA) WOODRUFF) A.T. 36.	23° N. 50° W. 08° N. 54½° W. 05½° N. 52° W. 41° N. 52½° W.	308° 115° 118° 090°	12½ 8 12 19
	(D.O.D. (F) 1025Z/6 to Opnav (R) Comnav).			

U/Bs S/M sighted 53° 50' N. 30° 35' W. at 1058
G.C.T./06. S/M sighted 54° 27' N. 29° 58' W.
at 1044 G.C.T./06. 061451 Cominch.
(Cominch, 1511/6 to Admty).

CAPE DECISION, Your 1926Z/4. CAPE DECISION torpedoed sunk 27th
(U.S.) Jan. 22° 57' N. 47° 28' W. 41 survivors landed
Sunk 27 Jan. Barbados yesterday. 37 reported still afloat.
survivors. (Connav, 1526/6 to F.O.C.W.Af. Comar Dakar,
(R) Comsolant, Admty).

O.N.S.160 O.N.S.160. Following ships arrived New York 5th
(list).
(B.R.L.O. New York, 1538Z/6 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa).

S/M estimates (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1538/6 1539Z/6, 1559/6,
6th Feb. 1600/6, 1601/6, to Admty).
U.S. S/M
Notices.

U/B attacked A/C attacked S/M 049° 25' N. 050° 30' W. at
by A/C. 1530/6.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1636Z/6 to G.B.7 A. C.T.F.24
(R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,
F.O.N.F., C.T.G.24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

Limits on Revised Rules for personnel in unescorted ships
Numbers of proposed in A.M. 1605/6 (see FOREIGN STATIONS -
Passengers. General) brings British policy into line with
that of U.S.A. except in instances shown below.
(A) Our total numbers for ships of 15 to 20 knots
is much greater than the 250 allowed by U.S.

rules. Our limits have been found by experience to be the
minimum possible without affecting our war effort to an
unacceptable extent.
(B) For ships in Trade convoys our limits proposed in para. 3
(d) are lower than those of U.S.A. which are governed by life
saving capacity only. Ships able to carry large numbers of
personnel are, owing to their size, liable to be picked out
as the most attractive targets in a convoy. Moreover, escorting

/vessels...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Limits on
Numbers of
Passengers.
Contd.

vessels would be unfairly embarrassed by the presence of hundreds of men in the water. Therefore we consider that numbers should be limited to those for whom there is a reasonable chance of boats being available. Limitation is not placed on troop convoys as they are normally faster and therefore safer.

(C) We have added words "or 75% of the boat capacity, whichever is the higher" as an alternative to the Passenger Certificate for top limit. Some ships have a peace time p.c. which is too low owing to addition of extra boats. As, however, some boats are liable to be damaged and others may be stowed in places from which they cannot be easily got out, 75% has been taken to make it reasonably certain that boats are available for all. Rafts, etc. are not to count as long periods may elapse before rescue.

2. Obviously desirable that difficulties experienced where ships pass from British to U.S. waters or vice versa should be eliminated by one combined set of rules. By our proposals we have gone some distance towards conforming to those of U.S.A. Request you will ask U.S. authorities if they can conform to above exceptions. If they do not wish to do so in the case of their own ships, it would be of great advantage if they would agree in the case of British and other Allied ships passing in and out of their strategic zones.

(D.O.D. (F) Approved 4th S.L. 1701A/6 to B.A.D.)

Shipping
P/Plot.
efficiency.

Your 1704/6th June, 1942, C.N.S. letter 1023 - 5 - 18 of 15th Jan. and A.M.1220/29th Jan.

Information received continues inadequate for efficient maintenance shipping plot.

Following cases indicate where improvement necessary if purpose of plot not to be defeated

consequences of which might be serious and contribute to escape of a raider or blockade runner.

Case 1. Neutral ships are still leaving Gibraltar area for these shores (particularly Spanish Tankers for Caribbean) without advice of routes or pertinent information to N.S.H.Q. Latest examples are MAR CANTABRICO (Span). CABO DE BUENA ESPERAN ZA (Span). MONTE ILMAN ZAR (Span). GAR ROJO (Span). MASTER ELIAS KULUKUNDIS (Gr.). In this connection N.S.H.Q. is unable to understand contention in A.M.1937/4 Feb. that furnishing on route MAR ROJO (Span.) Ceuta to New Orleans is not necessary.

Case 2. Admty. does not furnish N.S.H.Q. with routes of ships from O.N. convoys for South Atlantic Ports in British zone (A.M.1221/21 Jan) Seven ships from O.N. 162 are now proceeding from vicinity Cape Race and will be for some days in Ottawa Area, their positions being entirely conjectural.

Case 3. Route of convoy G.U.3. This convoy due New York very shortly but N.S.H.Q. still ignorant of position.

Case 4. Route of VICTORIOUS not furnished because ship in U.S. Task Force (B.A.D. 1607/4, not to Admty).

(2) With no wish to lose a sense of proportion of the relative importance of this work, it must be pointed out that the Task was assumed at Admiralty's suggestion. Experience to date however suggests that N.S.H.Q. may have been inclined to overstress Admiralty's view of its importance in this Area.

B.A.D. pass P/L copy to N.M.C.S.

(N.S.H.Q.1712Z/6 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D., N.M.C.S.)
/ST. SUNNIVA...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.ST. SUNNIVA,
loss.

Your 2205/5. Cause of loss of ST. SUNNIVA unknown. On 21st strong gale was blowing in her position. Area was swept by Aircraft on Jan. 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 28th and O.P. 161 passed through position of last sighting on Jan. 28th. No trace of ship was found.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1720Z/6 to Admty. (R) Connnav, C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

U/Bs

Transit aircraft reported 2 submarines on surface in 055° N. 029° W. at 1652A/6 9 miles and 11 respectively from a corvette.
(C. in C. W.A., 1757Z/6 to C.T.U. 24.1.16).

U/B attacked
by A/C.

A/C attacked S/M in 049° 08' N. 050° 27' W. at 1715/6 estimate 2 hits.
(C.O.A.C., 1801Z/6 to G.B.7 A. C.T.F. 24 (R) Connnav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7. H.Q.C.C.)

QUEEN CITY
(British)
sunk by
U/B 21st Dec.
1942.

Attack by submarine. QUEEN CITY Dec. 21st 1725 S.A.T. position 000° 49' S. 041° 34' W. course 312°. Submarine first seen ¼ mile on starboard beam submarine last seen steering about north 070° east on surface. Ship sunk all crew saved: one taken prisoner (name) Master recognizes submarine as Italian MARCELLO Class from diagram letter M now painted over seen faintly on conning tower, attacked with 2 torpedoes both hits followed by gun fire. Confidential books jettisoned in heavy perforated metal boxes.
(B.R.O. Baltimore, 1830Z/6 to Admty. Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH,
(?H.M.S.)

Your 1656/5. It has been approved to remove the catapult from QUEEN ELIZABETH on her return to U.K. Aircraft will not be supplied to ship in U.S.A. for passage home.
(D.N.A.O. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1902A/6 to B.A.M.R)

CHURCHILL

CHURCHILL sailed St. Johns at 1900Z/6. (route) to Londonderry, speed 13 knots. E.T.A. 12th.
(F.O.N.F., 1908Z/6 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Comdr. Londonderry, C.T.G. 24.7. C.T.F. 24 Cominch, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q. Admty).

H.S.C.119

(1) H.S.C.119 sailing telegram.
(2) Gate 1900Z/6. (3) HLMP 1300Z/7.
(C.O.A.C., 1939Z/6 1941Z/6 to Admty).

War Diary.6. 2. 1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

S.C.118 Heavy D/F activity on Series seven continues from vicinity of convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 1950A/6 to Escorts of S.C.118
SCHENK, BABBITT (R) Cominch, A.C.I.C., C. in C.
W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, H.Q.C.C.)

Pacific operations. Solops 1.
(B.A.D., 1955Z/6) See Australia.

WARRINER Your 1739/9. Jan. B.M.S.M. are in negotiation with W.S.A. for S.D. WARRINER now at New Orleans for use as coal hulk at Bahia. Understand tow would be required.
(2) In view of possible reduction of South Atlantic traffic entering this port as a result of restarting O.S. - S.L. convoys will Admiralty please say whether hulk is still required at Bahia or at some other port.
(B.A.D., 2013Z/6 to Admty).

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. Surface craft attack three submarines area 51° 45' N. 34° 30' W. 4/5 Feb. and two submarines area 52° 25' N. 33° 15' W. 5th.
Para B. Planes sight submarines on surface, one 54° 27' N. 29° 58' W. 1044Z/6 course 242° speed 10, one 54° 06' N. 29° 27' W. 1500Z/6 course 60° speed 18 and one 53° 50' N., 30° 35' W. 1058Z/6 course 60° speed 15.
Planes attack submarines one 53° 50' N. 30° 20' W. 1105Z/6 course 09° speed 15, one 49° 25' N. 50° 30' W. 1530Z/6 and one on surface 54° 33' N. 29° 27' W. 6th course 110° speed 6.
Para. C. Surface craft attacks submarine 09° 10' S. 34° 45' W. 2030Z/5.
Para. D. CGR 30 49 sound contact 40° 38' N. 71° 02' W. 2345Z/5.
CGR 30 20 sound contacts 40° 21' N. 73° 26' W. 2152Z/5 and 40° 26' N. 73° 35' W. 0650Z/6. Surface craft area 37° N. 74° 25' W. 1800Z/5.
(Cominch 2030/6 1930/7 to Admty).

ALCANTARA, MILFORD. Your 1731/1st. Comsolant will be asked to assist when final decision has been taken as to onward route from Trinidad.
(B.A.D., 2057Z/6 to F.O.C.W.Af.(R) Admty.
MILFORD, ALCANTARA.)

U/B Submarine sighted 54° 51' N. 29° W. at 1740Z/6.
Navcom.
(Connav, 2100/6 to Admty).

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

M.T.Bs. When ready about 11th sail British M.T.B.s 332, 333, 343, 349, 399 to New York. Sail M.T.B. 335 to Nassau. R.N.O. Nassau has this for information in another system.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2112/6 to C.G.S.F.)

Shipping. Connav Serial 6. DORCHESTER Serial 3 sunk.
Casualties. CHARLES C. PINCKNEY Serial 29 not overdue.
Request any further information.
(Connav, 2116/6 to Connaveu).

AGHOIS AGHIOS GEORGIOS completely broken down and
GEORGOIS required tugs in 052° 48' N. 049° 32' W. I have
(Greek). ordered BITTERSWEET to stand by as long as fuel
permits and to keep you informed of situation.
(BURNHAM, 2204Z/6 to F.O.N.F.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements Arrival Wellington U.S.S. PRESIDENT JACKSON,
U.S.S. PRESIDENT ADAMS U.S.S. PRESIDENT HAYES,
U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY U.S.S. (?LARDNER) U.S.S.
GAMSE OORY (as received).
(D.N.I. Wellington 0159Z/6 to Admty).
Brisbane 5th U.S. transport THOMAS JEFFERSON, ARCTURUS,
JOSEPH DICKMAN, Noumea 1200Z/7 knots 14, route direct. Escorted
by U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY and U.S. Destroyer HELM.
(A.C.N.B., 0736Z/6 to Admty. Connav).
U.S. Transport TASMANVEER Brisbane 5th U.S. Fleet Oiler
VICTORIA departed Townsville 4th arrived Cairns 5th. Hospital
ship WANGANELLA departed Sydney 5th due Fremantle 12th.
(Corrupt group) AASE MAERSK arrived and departed Townsville 5th
for Palm Island.
(A.C.N.B., 0737Z/6 to Admty. Connav).
Arrivals Sydney (N.S.W.) 4th ?(BUNGAREE) MORESBY Fremantle
4th TJERK HIDDES Milwade Bay 5th LATROBE. Departures
Townsville 4th STUART for Port Moresby Brisbane 5th AUSTRALIA
for cruise.
(A.C.N.B., 0551Z/6 to Admty. N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F.,
C.O.I.S.)

/Digest...

War Diary.6.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest Afternoon R/C saw one medium cargo vessel, one
 Serial No. medium Tanker, 16 miles S.W. of Buka Passage
 380 Feb. 5th. headed thereto. Bomb possible hit former.
 Observations indicate 40 Aircraft on Buka Aerodrome.
 (2) Harassing Fortress over Rabaul 3 hours from
 midnight 4th dropping bombs Lakunai Aerodrome which
 was attacked 2 hours later by 3 more Fortresses starting
 fires while another 3 bombed Unakanau hitting probable fuel dump.
 Searchlights strafed. Two night Fighters seen but no interception.
 (3) Morning R/C Liberator saw 500 ton cargo vessel stationary
 off Talasea and three Barges ashore. Probably same vessels
 bombed and sunk by afternoon R/C Plane which later bombed
 Gasmata strip. This target previously bombed midnight 4th by
 Catalina and again by Liberator mid forenoon causing large
 flames. Several craters shown Gasmata runway by photos.
 (4) Photographs same date show Ale Ishafen Aerodrome unserviceable
 but extended. Madang Runway serviceable and constructional
 activities dispersal areas. Finschaffon Strip unserviceable.
 (5) Allied activity Wlu (?Wau) area limited to offensive patrols.
 (6) Three Bostons conducting morning coastal sweep Salapua
 to Kumusi bombed and strafed enemy positions near Mought Waria
 River.
 (7) Four Beaufighters made sweep Markham Valley from Lae during
 morning.
 (8) Unconfirmed reports possible submarine Milne Bay.
 (9) Nine Liberators bombed Ambon Township Waterfront and Shipping
 scoring direct hit and setting afire 10,000 tons transport also
 direct hits or near misses two medium Merchantmen. Two hits
 scored end Main Wharf left burning. Large fires including
 possible petrol elsewhere in Town. Encountered about ten
 Zeros shot down five plus one damaged. Prior to attack saw five
 medium to ten thousand ton ships in Bay.
 (10) Nine B.25s attacked Dobo during morning hitting jetty and
 possible ammunition store and starting other large fires.
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0845Z/6).

Solops 1.
 Japanese
 destroyers
 attacked by
 A/C.

Solops 1. 20 Japanese Destroyers sighted N.W.
 of Vella Lavella Island on 4th steering S.E.
 were attacked from air, one sunk and 2 damaged.
 On Feb. 5th 4 battleships 2 carriers 6 Heavy
 cruisers 12 Destroyers were sighted 400 miles
 S.E. of Truk steering 210°
 (B.A.D., 1955Z/6 to Admty. Naval Member Canadian
 Joint Staff Washington, C. in C. E.F., F.L.O.
 Delhi, (R) Chief of Staff Kilindini Concentric
 Colombo.) Vella Lavella 14 miles N.W. of Kolomban-
 gara Island, Kula Gulf, Solomons about 7.50 S.
 156.50 E.

War Diary.

6.2.1943.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1305A/6 1314A/6).

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Escort
Carriers
in Tanker
Convoys.

It is intended to sail Convoy U.C.1 (U.K. to Curacao tanker convoy) on 13th Feb., and that the escort shall return with C.U.1, consisting of 12 fast tankers and ATTACKER. It is improbable that U-Boats can develop pack tactics against convoys of this speed, and it may be that escort carriers can be more usefully employed elsewhere, particularly as their speed is insufficient to operate aircraft in a fast convoy, with winds abaft the beam, without manoeuvring the convoy as a whole. The question of including escort carriers is under consideration.

S.C.118
attacked.
6 ships
torpedoed.

Air cover arrived over S.C.118 yesterday. The convoy was attacked at 0250 and by 0400 7 ships had been torpedoed (the names of six ships only are known).

TOWARD, British, 1571 tons, (rescue ship) was sunk in 55.13 N. 26.40(?) W. VANESSA asked C. in C. W.A. for the assistance of a H/F D/F ship to replace TOWARD; but none was available. C.T.U. 24.1.16 reported at least 5 U-Boats are in the vicinity. BEVERLEY has only 5 depth charges remaining. U.S.S. BABBITT is being detached at midnight to return to base on account of fuel shortage.

U.S. Tanker ROBERT E. HOPKINS was torpedoed at 0340Z in 55° 14' N. 26° 39' W. and sank almost immediately.

M.V. AFRIKA was torpedoed at 0340Z in 55.16 N. 26.31 W. and sank ten minutes later. U.S. HENRY R. MALLORY was torpedoed at 0400Z/7 in 55.18 N. 26.29 W. and sank quickly. SS. HARMALA was torpedoed at 0315Z today in 55.14 N. 26.37 W. and sank later. Greek SS. KALLIOPI was torpedoed at 0600Z/7 in 55.27 N. 26.08 W. and is presumed sunk. Norwegian tanker DAGHILD, a straggler about 60 miles astern of the convoy was reported to have been torpedoed at 0350Z today and to have sunk at 1535Z/7 in approx. 55.14 N. 26.37 W.

A Fortress aircraft escorting S.C.118 straddled a U-Boat today in 56° 18' N. 24.43 W. with 2 depth charges. The U-Boat submerged very slowly and a rounded object 12 ft. long rose out of the water about 5 ft. Black oil welled up in the centre of the explosion and pieces of wood 2 ft. long were seen. *considered destroyed (H 11 1578/16)*

There was a minor air attack on the Torpedo School, Eastbourne at 1457 today; superficial damage was caused to naval property.

51 out of 72 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 111 mines last night off the Frisian Islands and Biscay ports.

/Operation ...

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Operation
N.L. 24A.

This minelaying operation was abandoned on account of the weather. Whilst covering the operation M.G.B.109 was damaged off the South Foreland by a surface mine and was towed to Dover. There were 2 casualties.

Two ground mines were detonated in the Humber approaches.

Convoys P.S.8 and S.P.8 are postponed 24 hours owing to suspected enemy minelaying off Portsmouth tonight.

North Atlantic.

The fresh water situation at Gibraltar is still deteriorating, and the V.A. and the Governor are both gravely concerned. The latter today sends recommendations for dealing with the matter.

South Atlantic.

DESPATCH left Freetown today for patrol in the Atlantic narrows.

U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE and destroyer WINSTONE arrived at Pernambuco today from patrol.

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

M.K.S.7.

MARY SLESSOR and BALTONIA in the Gibraltar portion of Convoy M.K.S.7 were sunk in 35.55 N. 06.01 W. (on the Ridge Bank of the Straits of Gibraltar) at 2359 today probably by mines, though it was at first thought that the convoy had been attacked by U-Boats. EMPIRE MORDRED was also mined or torpedoed but remained afloat in approx. 35.58 N. 05.59 W. with SCARBOROUGH standing by her; a tug was sent from Gibraltar, but the ship sank later.

K.M.S.8
2 more
ships sunk.

*Both ships
sunk by U 77
Reb Fox*

It is reported that EMPIRE WEBSTER in K.M.S.8 was torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat at 0205 today, 80 miles west of Algiers, and that EMPIRE BANNER was torpedoed by a U-Boat at the same time and was sunk by aircraft torpedo at 0612. EMPIRE WEBSTER was an A.N.D. ship, but F.O.I.C. Glasgow reported on 15th February that at sea neither side of her net defence was in action owing to defects, and it appears that EMPIRE BANNER's net defence was also defective. The remains of the convoy reached Algiers.

L.C.I.(L) 162, sailing from Arzeu for Algiers company with L.C.I.(L) 7 and 210, exploded and sank at 1700 today, 4 miles off the coast. There were 7 survivors.

H.M.T.
TERVANI
sunk.

H.M.T. TERVANI, whilst searching for the missing French water boat MORY AZGUT blew up and sank about 2200 today off Bougaroni.

GENERAL
SANJURJO.

At 1431 TORBAY sighted a submarine resembling Italian S/M ARCHIMEDE flying Spanish colours in 38.15 N. 00.05 E. and brought her to in 37.51 N. 00.06 E., causing some damage by 4-inch H.E. shell in so doing. The submarine proved to be the Spanish GENERAL SANJURJO. There was no sign of her escort and contrary to the agreement made by the Spaniards early in the war, her sailing had not been notified.

At 1700 GENERAL SANJURJO whilst searching, independently of her escort the Spanish gunboat EDUARDO DATO, for a German aircraft down in the sea east of Cape Palos reported a suspected belligerent submarine in the neighbourhood, and was instructed to return to harbour, when, she reports, a submarine of French type and with clearly French complement opened fire on her without previously communicating and damaged her hydroplanes. This was TORBAY, the French S/M, she states, then rammed the GENERAL SANJURJO and submerged, and was not seen again. The GENERAL

/SANJURJO ...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.GENERAL
SANJURJO.
(Contd.)

SANJURJO was clearly marked as Spanish. The EDUARDO DATO proceeded to her assistance and she reached Cartagena at 2200. Later, she reported that her original signal was in error and that the submarine which attacked her was British. TORBAY reports that she did not ram the Spaniard, but caused a small dent in his after casing when closing. The damage is not serious.

ABDIEL carried out a minelaying operation last night from Bone and left again from Bone for Gibraltar today. At 2330/7 she was missed by 2 torpedoes from a U-Boat in 37.28 N. 06.18 E. ABDIEL and ADVENTURE are to return to U.K., to bring out to the Mediterranean further outfits of mines.

Air
Operations.

Eight Wellingtons were despatched to mine Heraklion harbour, Crete, last night with 4 Wellingtons providing a diversion by bombing, but owing to low cloud only one Wellington was able to find the harbour, and laid 2 mines off the entrance.

Four torpedo carrying Wellingtons from Malta at 2135 attacked a 6000 and a 3000 ton merchant ship escorted by 2 destroyers in 39.30 N. 12.3 E., course 80°. A smoke screen prevented observation of results, but one ship appeared to have been hit.

20 U.S. Liberators bombed shipping at Naples today, dropping 180 x 500 lb. H.E., and obtaining 3 direct hits on merchant ships at the moles. Fires were started on the moles. Elmas Aerodrome and the seaplane base at Cagliari were successfully bombed today by 51 escorted bombers of the 12th U.S.A.F.

America and West Indies.

LUCCELLUM and COPTIC in O.N.162 were in collision at 0205Z today in 43.01 N. 62.39 W. The former had not rejoined the convoy by 2230Z and BUCKITE was detailed to search for her. There are 3 stragglers from the convoy.

/EMPRESS ...

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND.

Connav asked today for destroyer escort for A.T. 36 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND), bringing troops to U.K., on account of U-Boat concentration ahead, but the Admiralty cannot provide escort and recommended diversion.

ST. SUNNIVA.

Rescue ship ST. SUNNIVA (1368 tons) in Convoy O.N.S.158 has not been seen since 1830Z/21/21 in 43.27 N. 61.17 W. and is thought to have capsized through loss of stability caused by weight of ice; if this happened the temperature precluded the possibility of there being any survivors. LEAMINGTON escorting the convoy, arrived at Halifax on 22nd January carrying ice on front of the bridge structure and type 271 varying from 2 ft. in thickness at the top to 10 ft. at forecastle level.

SS. FAIRWATER which was damaged by weather on 24th January in Convoy O.N.S.160 arrived at St. Johns N.F. today. On 1st Feb. F.O.N.F. pointed out how invaluable a rescue tug would have been with O.N.S.160. On 8th January C. in C. W.A. stated that he intended to include an ocean tug for salvage purposes, accompanied by a trawler for escort, with North Atlantic trade convoys; but this has not yet been put into effect. There is only one rescue tug and no ships in the Newfoundland Force suitable as escorts for long range salvage operations.

Australia and New Zealand.

At 1735 today 19 Japanese destroyers south of Rendova Island (8° 24' S. 157° 19' E., New Georgia Group, Solomon Is.) steering south-east were attacked by aircraft and 2 ships were hit.

The British SS. IRON KNIGHT whilst in convoy escorted by H.M.S. TOWNSVILLE was torpedoed at 1530Z today in 36.05 S. 150.38 E. (off the coast of New South Wales) and sank in 2 minutes. Fourteen survivors were picked up.

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.BREAM,
HERRING,
GRILSE,
POLLOCK.

A/S Trawlers BREAM, HERRING, GRILSE and POLLOCK will form the 17th Auxiliary A/S Group and are allocated to the Mediterranean Command.

Completion dates are February, March, August or earlier and September or earlier respectively.

2. On completion they should be sailed for Tobermory to work up and thence for Gibraltar

as directed by Admiralty.

3. On arrival at Gibraltar these Trawlers are available for temporary employment under N.C.X.F., who is requested to sail them for the Eastern Mediterranean by the first suitable opportunity.

(V.C.N.S. 1527A/7).

Movements.RENOWN,
BOADICEA,
LAUDERDALE.

When no longer required instruct escorts to proceed in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 2130A/L (C. in C. Rosyth, 0029/7 to RENOWN).

E.T.A. 1300A/8. S.O.A. 10 knots.

(BOADICEA, 0901A/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Arrived RENOWN. Escort proceeded in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 2130/4.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 0941/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

JED.

(1) JED who sailed with C.3 is at Reykjavik with defects and should be ready to sail p.m./9th.

(2) JED is due to return with H.X.226.

(3) N.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to sail JED

to arrive St. Johns N.F. February 13th. Failing this JED should be sailed to join H.X.226 as far west as endurance will allow.

(C. in C. W.A., 0910Z/7 to A.C.I.C.)

EMPIRE CHUBB.

My 1024A/27 Jan. EMPIRE CHUBB returned to Milford Haven 7th February owing to continual bad weather.

(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 0952/7).

S/M
Positions.

Cancel my 1053A/6. Intend sailing CUTTY SARK from Clyde 2200A/7 by standard route 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 0800A/9, speed 13 knots.

(2) Thence CUTTY SARK and SHAD to Falmouth, E.T.A. 1200/9.

(3) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail CUTTY SARK and SHAD to meet SEVERN and escort in 270° Wolf Rock 8 miles at 0600/10 and HERRING in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/10.

(4) Thence CUTTY SARK, SHAD, HERRING and SEVERN to Clyde, E.T.A. 1400/11, speed 15 knots.

(Capt. S.3., 1031A/7).

/Intend...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Positions Contd. Intend to sail SICKLE, O.15, JUNON, and SOKOL, escort LOCH MONTEITH 1200A/8 for Dundee routed
(A) 091° Sumburgh Head 5 miles
(B) 089° Fair Isle 6 miles (C) 058° 44' N. 002° 52' W, thence by searched channel. E.T.A. 1700A/9.

2. Captain (S) 9 is requested to arrange onward passage for SICKLE as necessary.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1037A/7).

P.224 leave Lerwick 8th Feb. for Rosyth. It would be appreciated if C. in C. Rosyth could arrange berth and accommodation for H.M. Sub. P.224 at Rosyth to facilitate visit by Russian Officers and personnel to herself.

(2) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail P.224 with an F.S. No. convoy so as to arrive Chatham about 15th Feb. for fitting of R.D.F.

(F.O.S., 1217A/7 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Your 2128/6. P.216 cannot be accepted at Ardrossan until 0800/15th. Request you sail ship accordingly.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1352/7 to Capt. S.3)

E.T.A. Lerwick 2130A/7.

(TACTICIAN 1437Z/7 to A.C.O.S.)

Arrived O.15.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1437A/7).

ULLSWATER, P.31, and O.19 escorted by PENNYWORT Northbound. L.15 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR southbound in Minches tonight.

(C. in C. W.A., 1529A/7 to BOADICEA, BUTTERCUP, etc).

My 1037/7. Amend time of sailing to 0600A/9. Cancel E.T.A. Cancel para. 2. and substitute; on arrival at 23 buoy at 0930A 10th O.15, JUNON and SOKOL to proceed into Dundee and LOCH MONTEITH to escort SICKLE to Rosyth, E.T.A. 1630A/10.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1601A/7).

(1) E.T.A. 0730A/8. (2) My position 061° 23' N. 001° 10' E.

(JUNON, 1503A/7 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/8th and movements for the following 24 hours:-

(a) UREDD off Vestfjord (b) DZIK in Zone K.104.

(c) O.15, SOKOL, JUNON and SICKLE (P.224) escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leave Lerwick 1200/8th for Dundee.

(d) O.19 and ULLSWATER (P.31), escorted by PENNYWORT arriving Scapa from West ward.

(e) SIMOOM (P.225) escorted by PENNYWORT leaves Scapa 0800/9th for Lerwick.

(f) Russian Submarine L.15 escorted by BUTE and FETLAR vicinity Ailsa Craig for Greenock, speed 9 knots.

(g) HERRING 49° 20' N. 13° 32' W. dived by day through 50° 10' N. 12° 40' W. and 50° 10' N. 09° 02' W. daily advance 170 miles.

(h) SHAD 47° 52' N. 05° 43' W. dived by day through 48° 08' N. 06° 01' W. to R/V in 180° Lizard Head 8 miles at 0800/9th.

(j) BARB in Zone K.505.

(k) BLACKFISH off Bilbao. (1) ULTOR (P.53) 66° 50' N. 04° 38' E. probably on surface speed 9 knots for Lerwick.

(F.O.S., 1641A/7 to Admty).

/Intend...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Intend sailing O.19 escorted by LORD LLOYD at
Positions. 1300/8 by searched channel to Dundee, speed
Contd. 10 knots. E.T.A. 0800/9.
(A.C.O.S., 1743A/7).
SEADOG arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1830A/7).
My 1641/7. Para. (f), read Oversight.
(F.O.S., 1916A/7).
My 1437A/7. Will be 2 hours late.
(TACTICIAN 2041A/7 to A.C.T.S.)
My 1641/7 para. (C). For 1200/8 read 0600/9.
(F.O.S., 2131A/7).
My position (162° or 120°) (Yell or Noss Head) five miles,
visibility zero. Will enter Lerwick at 0930A/8.
(TACTICIAN 2349A/7 to A.C.O.S.)
My 1641/7. Add new para. (M) O.19 escorted by LORD LLOYD
leaves Scapa 1300/8. E.T.A. Dundee 0200/9.
(F.O.S., 2352A/7).

A.F.D. 20 My 1007/5. Intend to sail A.F.D. 20 passing
breakwater at 1600 today.
(1) Escort SKATE S.O., SARDONYX, ELLESMERE, and
NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE plus minesweeper outward
bound KINGSGREY and SEDDON to the Lizard and 5 M.Ls. with S.O.
in M.L. 118 to Norgships.
(2) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail STAR OF INDIA
as additional escort when tow passes Milford Haven and to take
S.O. of escort when destroyers part company.
(3) ELLESMERE and NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE proceed Milford Haven
when STAR OF INDIA joins.
(4) SKATE and SARDONYX leave tow on reaching latitude 055° N.
and proceed Londonderry.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1153A/7).
Sailed A.F.D. 20 in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN, EMPIRE LARCH,
and ABETOREE 4 in accordance with my 1153/7.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1625A/7).
Tow has probably been sighted by enemy aircraft.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1751/7 to SKATE).

L.15 L.15 U.S.S.R. Sub. will arrive Clyde tomorrow
for repairs to Scotts. She has on board British
signalman and Canadian Liaison Officers.
Necessary interpreters are now in escort vessels.
Request you will detail officers to meet L.15
on my behalf on arrival.
(F.O.S., 1204A/7 to Capt. S.3).

DASHER Sailed DASHER in accordance with my 1626A/6.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1816A/7 to A.I.G.189).

MIAOULES Sailed. E.T.A. 1200A/8. Amend my 1112A/5
accordingly.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2111A/7 to F.O.I.C. Milford
Haven).

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrol. 1. Intend weather permitting M.G.Bs. 52 (S.O) and 55 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Harbour at 1745 to proceed via Z.S.382. Leave Patrol line at dawn/8.
3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Jovial".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1055A/7).
My 1055A/7. "Jovial" sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1925A/7).

Operation "Regulation". My memorandum H.F. 01 325/130 dated 30th January 1943 and my 1431/29. Cancel title Biscay cruiser of this operation and substitute operation Patrols. "Regulation".
(C. in C. H.F., 1232A/7).

Operation "Valuable". (2) Force A. consisting GLAISDALE S.O., ESKDALE, BLEASDALE, WENSLEYDALE, GOATHLAND patrol south of Beachy Head pass E.A.5 Buoy at 1700/7 and 0600/8 see my 1000/20th Jan. Force B at Newhaven consisting M.G.Bs. 616, S.O., 613, 611 and M.T.B. 89 S.O., 85, 242 at immediate notice from 1800/7.
(3) UNST, ASIE, CHASER 10 at St. Helens, and FILLA at Yarmouth.
(4) M.G.Bs. 312, 317, 326 and L.C.N.154 and 201 operating South of Isle of Wight passing F Buoy outwards at 1800/7th and inward at 1830/8th.
(7) M.G.Bs. 52 S.O., 53 patrolling 050° 20' N. between 001° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1305A/7 and 1534A/7).

Exercises.

Battle Fleet Exercise. V.A.2 0212A/6. Intend to proceed in KENT with HOWE and BERWICK passing Hoxa gate 1800 today, thence through 00° Butt of Lewis 15, then making good (corrupt group) 16 knots.
E.T.A. Hvalfjord a.m./11th.
(C.S.1 1140A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)
C.S.1's 1140/7. Request A/S air escort from daylight 8th.
(C. in C. H.F., 1731A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
Scapa departure C.S.1 in KENT with HOWE, BERWICK, INTREPID, FURY, ECLIPSE in company. E.T.A. a.m./11th.
(A.C.O.S., 1805/7 to A.C.I.C.)
My 0212A/6, para. 8. For 25 read 20. For QQ read LL.
(V.A.2., 2052A/7 to C.S.1 A.C.I.C.)

Allied Air Activity.

Air Patrol. P.R.U. Trondheim and leads to Stadlandet in operation 2 S to Grimstadt and Grimstadt to Kristiansand S. Norway later.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1009A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

M.A.C. ships. Your 1157/6. A.M. 1701/5 para. 2. Confirm this can be arranged.
(ACTIVITY 1318/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Bomber Command operations. On night 6/7 51 A/C laid mines.
(H.Q.B.C., 1445A/7).

Flying Trials UNICORN has not yet completed engine trials. in ILLUSTRIOUS. Intend ILLUSTRIOUS proceed to sea 1130A/8 and that Admiralty flying trials be commenced in her instead of UNICORN.
(R.A.A., 1728A/7 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

JUMBO. Following received from BZ 7F2. begins JUMBO in position 12.34 N. 56.09 W. course 039° at 1555 is being shadowed by 2 enemy aircraft.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1558/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Eastbourne Torpedoed School attacked. Following received from MARLBOROUGH begins. Enemy air attack of short duration by small force took place 1457/7. Superficial damage to naval property. No naval casualties. Ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1725/7 to Admty)

Mining.

Search off Iona. Capt. M/S Clyde's 1552/6. Sailed GUNNER and SIR GALAHAD. E.T.A. 1400/7.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 0010/7 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

Operation Q.V.3. Prepare to carry Q.V.3 on 10th Feb.
(C. in C. Nore, 1106Q/7 to PLOVER, BLYTH, EASTBOURNE).

Humber Following 2 mines exploded by Sweepers today. At 0935/7 in 172° H.8 Buoy 3½ cables, and at 1024/7 in 246° H.5 Buoy 13 cables. Details.
(F.O. Humber 1733/7 and 1735/7).

Faeroes. My 1209/2 and C. in C. H.F.'s 0957A/3. In view of N.O.I.C. Faeroes 1137A/5. I no longer consider that minelaying has taken place.
(2) Propose that my request for HOUND is cancelled.
(A.C.O.S., 1837A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

7.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

E-boats. Suspected E-boat activity N.
(C. in C. Nore, 0045A/7).

TIRPITZ, Report Graded B.2 dated 7th February.
HIPPER, TIRPITZ in Lo Fiord. HIPPER and KÖLN appear to
KÖLN. have sailed.
Comment: Confirm comment in A.M.1430A/5.
(D.D.I.C. 2337A/7 to A.I.G.47, A.I.G.21, S/Ms
on Patrol).

Unknown One SS 225° three miles UN 056° 24' 022° 54' U.
Ship. (N.G.C.S. Block 3 2239Z/7).

U-boats.

U-boats Am over enemy submarine in 47° 00' N. 22° 06' W.
reported. (A/C 1150/7 to 19 Group).
By D/F at 1156 G.M.T. U-boat in 46° 30' N. 16°
30' W. Radius 60 miles.
(D.D.I.C., 1412A/7 to Escorts M.K.F.8).

Am over enemy S/M in 47° 13' N. 16° 48' W. Periscope
only sighted.
(A/C 1510/7 to 19 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 55° 41' N., 26° 17' W.
(A/C 1812A/7 to 15 Group).

Casualties & Defects.

M.L. 250, M.Ls. 250 and 255 taken in hand Holyhead for
M.L. 255. repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1010A/7).

VEGA Your 1313A/6. Arrived at 1047.
(F.O. Humber, 1110A/7 to C. in C. Rosyth).

SOUTHERN E.T.A. Inishowen Head 1630. SOUTHERN WAVE will
WAVE. require immediate assistance by B.M.E.O. if
required for duty. Defect a fractured scupper
pipe leading through stockhold to waterline.
Can be repaired in still water, estimated time
4 hours.
(SOUTHERN WAVE 1240A/7 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

L.C.T.326. My 1815/5. After search no trace has been
found of L.C.T. 326 which is presumed lost
with all hands due to weather or floating mine.
(C. in C. W.A., 1815A/7).

CADUCEUS My 1833A/6. Ship not yet refloated but is in no
danger, and apparently undamaged. Salvage
Officer hopes to refloat her tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1825A/7).

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

LANAHRONE

LANAHRONE (Eire) sailed Swansea 2000A/6th for Huelva routed from Fastnet Rock through
 (a) 049° 15' N. 012° 10' W. (b) 047° 00' N. 013° 15' W. (c) 044° 20' N. 012° 40' W.
 (d) 040° 10' N. 011° 30' W. Speed 8 knots,
 E.T.A. a.m./13th.
 (F.O.S. 0002A/7 to S/MS).

K.M.S.9

My 2330/6. J.84 sailed at 0010/7th.
 J.83 did not sail.
 (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0730/7).
 Convoy sailed as in A.M. 1219A/31 Jan. as amended
 A.M. 1508A/1st Feb. and 1513A/1st Feb. Following ships did not sail ALEXANDRE ANDRE, RONAN, BENEDICT, TRADER, EMPIRE FLAMINGO, CONAKRIAN, FORT RUPERT, FORT LAC LA RONGE, ALOA, PILOT, WELLINGTON COURT, OCEAN VICTORY, CLEARPOOL, GENERTON, BRITISH FORTITUDE.
 Cdre. in MANCHESTER CITIZEN, Vice Cdre. FANADHEAD, Rear Cdre. MAHOUT and MANCHESTER COMMERCE.
 Escort as in C. in C. W.A., 2236A/2nd Feb. and Admty. 2021A/3. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1044A/7).

R.A.52

My 2124/6. A/S escort delayed.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 0815/7 to Escorts R.A.52).
 Scapa arrival 0140/7 ICARUS.
 (A.C.O.S., 0905/7).
 Scapa arrivals NORFOLK.
 (A.C.O.S., 0949A/7).
 My 1610/5. Delete ORWELL add INTREPID.
 (R.A.D. H.F., 1150A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)
 D/F at 1100A/7 indicates enemy aircraft down in 061° 52' N. 012° 15' W. Sweep through this position provided this does not unduly delay your contact with convoy.
 (C. in C. H.F., 1214A/7 to SEAGULL HONEYSUCKLE)
 Scapa arrival ONSLAUGHT, PIORUN, OFFA, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, FORESTER.
 (A.C.O.S., 1433/7).
 My 2124/6 and 0815/7. Catalina escorts cancelled owing to weather.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1517A/7 to Escorts R.A. 52).

S.C.118.
 ROBERT E.
 HOPKINS,
 AFRIKA,
 HENRY R.
 MALLORY,
 DAGHILD
 torpedoed.

S.C.118. My 0250Z/7. Following have been also torpedoed JOHN E. HOPKING at (703)00Z, SS. AFRICA at 0540Z.
 If available in the vicinity suggest assistance of H/F D/F ship to replace TOWARD.
 (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 0850Z/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
 Your 0850/7. No H/F D/F ship is available.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1404/7 to C.T.U. 24.1.16).
 My 0250Z and my 0850Z/7. HENRY R. MALLORY now reported torpedoed during night in approx. 55° 27' N. 26° 07' W. CAMPANULA, BIBB, and INGHAM picking up survivors tanker DAGHILD torpedoed at 1350Z/7 whilst straggler about 60 miles astern of convoy in 55° 25' N. 26° 12' W. LOBELIA has survivors and has reported DAGHILD sinking. BABBITT being detached midnight to return to base due to fuel shortage.

/Intend...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.118. Intend to detach Iceland portion with BIBB,
ROBERT E. INGHAM, SCHENCK dawn 8th. My P.C.S. 1500Z/7,
HOPKINS, 56° 07' N. 24° 36' W. (?070°) 7.5 knots.
AFRIKA, Weather 5872 8954.
HENRY R. (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 1502Z/7 and 1740Z/7 to
MALLORY, C. in C. W.A.)
DAGHILD S.C.L. portion must be kept in company until U-
torpedoed. boat situation improves and if necessary S.C.L.
Contd. may have to proceed to U.K.
Request information whether in this event BIBB,
INGHAM, and SCHENCK can be available to escort
S.C.L. 118 to Iceland.
(C. in C. W.A., 2051Z/7 to C.T.G.24.6)
SSSS M N Z V torpedoed. SSSS D E X 31 41 Torpedoed 2300.
(Humber Radio, 2301/7 to Immingham).
Your 2051Z/7. Affirmative.
(C.T.G.24.6., 2350Z/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.165. Your 1738/6. If there is any doubt as to the
EMPIRE MORN. sea worthiness of EMPIRE MORN she is to be
detached to Reykjavik independently. Report
situation.
(C. in C. W.A., 0939Z/7 to EGLANTINE).

MUSSOVIET, Your 1712/6. Concur in route and dates of
ANDRE MARTI. sailing.
(C. in C. H.F., 1035A/7 to A.C.I.C.)

TJALDUR Intend sailing at 1600/9 TJALDUR kite balloon
for Lerwick with troops escorted by DULCIBELLE,
routed by my 1535/19th Jan. E.T.A. Lerwick 1600/
10.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1101A/7).

U.C.1 By Q.Z.L. 18 to A. 180° Fasnet 10 miles
B. 50.01 N. 14.55 C. 45.15 16.01 D. 37° 18°
E. 35° 30° F. 32° 39° G. 25° 53° H. 17° 61°
J.14° 67°.

2. Stragglers Route LL. 50.01 14.55 MM. 43.01 15.25.
NN. 36.20 17.10. OO. 35° 25°. PP. 33° 33°. QQ. 31° 39°
RR. 28° 45°. SS 25° 51°. TT. 20° 57°. UU. 17° 61° VV. 14° 67°.

3. "Chop" 0800Z/25.

4. Attention is called to M.A.R.I. Section 1 Para. 5. sub
Para. 15 for ships which straggle and return to U.K.

5. Ships which straggle before crossing 48° N. are to return
U.K.
(D.T.D., 1109A/7).

/J.W...

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

J.W.53,
R.A.53.

My 1204A/20th Jan.
(1) Operational requirement for J.W.53 is 9 T.B.R. and 6 fighters.
(2) In order that alternative requirement of 12 fighters and 3 T.B.R. may be available for R.A.53 6 reserve fighters dismantled if necessary with crews should also be embarked.
(C. in C. H.F., 1152A/7).

Stationing
of Escort
Carriers.

One suggested station for an Escort Carrier in convoy is second ship of the commodores. Column 1. In order that the carrier may be free to assume this station without prolonging the column request instructions be issued on the following lines. When an escort carrier is attached to a convoy the convoy is to be so formed that the commodores column contains one ship less than adjacent columns. On occasions when the carrier stations herself immediately astern of the commodore, M/Vs in that column will not change their numbers. First convoy affected will be C.U.1.
(C. in C. W.A., 1910A/7 to Admty).

P.S.8
S.P.8.

My 1705A/7. P.S.8 and S.P.8 postponed 24 hours owing to suspected enemy minelaying.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2314A/7).

W.S.27,
STRATHMORE.

SS. STRATHMORE will be ready to leave Barrow on 21st February. She is required to sail from Liverpool in W.S.27 leaving U.K. on 23rd February.
(D.O.D. H., 2350A/7).

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS."Torch" Area.

French Navy Requirements. For your information, following policy on material requirements for French Navy and French Merchant Shipping in North Africa is under consideration by C. in C. Allied Forces.

2. Fuel and Petroleum requirements for North Africa to be handled as a whole by Petroleum Division, African H/Q. French Naval Fuel requirements in "Torch" Area to be furnished by French Authorities through N.C.X.F. Requirements in Dakar Area to be co-ordinated with F.O.C.W.A and transmitted through N.C.X.F. to Petroleum Division, African H/Q. French to draw from Allied Pool as practicable.

3. All Dakar Naval Commitments except Fuel to be handled separately since Dakar is in British Naval Strategic Zone controlled by F.O.C.W.A. and is not part of "Torch" Naval Area under N.C.X.F.

4. Following paras. apply to "Torch" Area only. (Details for demands).

9. Pending final decision Naval Authorities in "Torch" Area have been authorised to make issues from available Allied stocks to meet emergency requirements of French Vessels.
(N.C.X.F. 1052A/7 to Admty. Cominch.)

North Atlantic.

M.K.S.7. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, sailed 0320 to R/V Lisbon Section M.K.S.7 thence join main convoy. Escorts return Gibraltar.
(F.O.C. Gib. 0725A/7 to Admty. C. in C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)

MIRROR, Cables. Arrived and left same day 6th 1130 2330 G.M.T. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE; departure 2350 Cable Ship MIRROR.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0925/7 to V.A.Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

U/B, PETUNIA, Gibraltar Convoy 2. Escorting Wellington aircraft crashed in 28.04 N. 16.04 W. at 1000Z/7th. Have crew of 6 on board. They reported U-Boat in 28.06 N. 15.54 W. at 1000/7th. Weather report.
(PETUNIA 1005Z/7 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. R.A.F. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.)
(V.A.Gib. 1721A/7 to Areas X and Z.)

My 1806/7. (N.T. in W.D.) D/F bearings on 12260 kc/s at 1333Z, 1340Z 1545Z and 1745Z indicate you are still being shadowed.
(D.D.I.C. 1912A/7 to Escorts of PETUNIA Convoy, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.W.A.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Situation 2004A/7th.

- Dispositions. Gibraltar convoy No. 2, 28.43 15.28 048° 8.
2. P.35 35.55 06.05 to 35.53 06.15 at 2100/7th
and 36.37 07.24 at 0630/8th thence 099° diving
by day 2½, surfacing by night 7½.
3. 7 L.C.I. (L) 32.58 12.35 through 35.01 09.01 thence Gibraltar
10.
4. Spanish training Ship GALATEA left Corunna 5th for Las Palmas.
5. LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON, PENDER working cable
vicinity 32.26 16.05.
6. Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAZ 34.20 20.63 11.
7. Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 44.37 12.58 163° 14.
8. BOREAS, ANTELOPE, WIVERN 37.10 11.02 through 35.30 09.01 to
Gibraltar 17.
9. Portuguese destroyer VOSGA leaves Lisbon 8th for Ponta
Delgada 1810. M.K.S. 7 PENTSTEMON pass Europa Point approx.
0130A/8th westbound through 35.56 06.27 to 36.29 10.01 7.
11. Gibraltar Section M.K.S. 7 ROCHESTER sailing 1830A/7th to
R/V in 35.56 06.27 at 0930A/8th. After R/V PENTSTEMON and 7
escorts return Gibraltar.
12. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM 36.26 08.17 through 36.50 09.08
thence R/V Lisbon Section M.K.S.7 at 1530A/8th off Cape Espichel
and escort 201° 6.
13. JAMAICA leave patrol between 43 and 46 N. and 18 and 35 W.
during 8th through 36.01 12.01 thence (?Gibraltar) 17.
14. ALBACORE, EMINENT, Tow (?MARNE) sail 1700/7th Westbound to
R/V M.K.S. 7 day 8th.
15. 2 L.C.I.(L) approx. 30.46 16.26 056° 6½.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1140/7 to A.I.G. 63.)
Situation 1956A/7th.
2. 4 Swedish relief ships 37.52 31.10 096° 12.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1144A/7 to A.I.G. 64.)

M.K.S.8. Your 1936/6th. Concur if this date cannot be
anticipated by any means but it is very desirable
to avoid 16 day delay. Ships for U.K. should
catch M.K.S.8 expected to pass Gibraltar on night 20th/21st.

2. V.A.Gibraltar is requested to reinforce escort of G.S.1 from
(? 13th M/S Flotilla) as requisite to enable 2 escorts to proceed
ahead with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
(N.C.X.F. 1209A/7 to F.O.C.W.Af. V.A.Gibraltar, (R) Admty.
S.N.O. Casablanca, Comar, Dakar.)

G.S.2. Your 1928/5. If system outlined in my 1843/3
proves workable, G.S.2 should leave Gibraltar
on 25th Feb.
(N.C.X.F. 1211A/7 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.
F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

JAMAICA. On leaving patrol proceed through position
(X) 36.01 N. 12.01 W. thence Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1251A/7 to JAMAICA. (R) Admty.)

/Gibraltar...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Gibraltar, Personal from Chief for Chiefs of Staff.
Water 1. Fresh water situation is still deteriorating.
Supply. Due to lack of rain since late December our stocks now total only 11½ million gallons. This is 4 million gallons below expectation. Deficit is being increased at the rate of about 800,000 gallons per week.
2. At present rate of consumption if lack of rain continues I will be reduced to total stock of 6 million gallons below which I cannot allow stocks to fall in about 7 weeks. Merchant shipping is still major drain.
6. Admiral and I endorse strongly recommendation of my local water committee to press for immediate provision of a second distilling ship and a tanker or two water boats of thousand tons capacity to bring water from Spain.
7. I wish to stress that Admiral and I are gravely concerned at the present situation.
(Govr. Gib. 1325A/7 to W.O.)

ST. ALBERT. German controlled French ST. ALBERT expected sailing from Valencia night of 6th for Marseilles.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 1327A/7 to S.O.I. Malta, S.O.I.X.F)

TORBAY, One enemy S/M bearing 180° distant 5 miles course
firing on 180° 38.15 N. 00.05 E.
SAN JURJO (TORBAY 1430A/7 to Gib. W/T.)
(Spanish). 1 U-Boat flying Spanish colours in 038° 15' N. 000° 05' E. course 190°, am giving chase. .
Resembles Italian S/M ARCHIMEDE.
(TORBAY 1431A/7 to V.A.Gibraltar, (R) Capt. (S) 8.)
My 1431. S/M stopped in 037° 51' N. 000° 06' E. and proved to be Spanish S/M SAN JURJO. Scored one hit on fore plane with 4 inch high explosive shell whilst bringing her to and a small dent in her after casing while closing to investigate. No sign of her escort. She is proceeding South West.

(TORBAY 1645A/7 to V.A.Gibraltar.)

Your 1431. Do not continue chase after dark tonight, proceed to patrol area. Own surface forces informed accordingly.

(Capt. S.8 1652A/7 to TORBAY.)

V.A.Gibraltar please pass to N.C.X.F.

S/M apparently French attacked and destroyed by fire Spanish S/M 50 miles east of Cape Palos at 1730 Feb. 7th. My immediately following signal.

(N.A.Madrid 2232/7 to V.A.Gibraltar (R) Admt. V.A.Malta.)

W.D.Note:- Report of French S/M made in error. S/M was TORBAY. See later signals and especially N.A.Madrid 1329/8.

Please pass to N.C.X.F. My 2232/7th.

Interned French Sub. IRIS en route Cartagena in tow with our knowledge and agreement arrived Alicante Feb. 6th escorted by Spanish Gunboat EDUARDO DATO. Spanish Sub. SAN JURJO returning to Cartagena after exercise also arrived Alicante to charge batteries French Sub. IRIS.

Because Captain of IRIS had been talking wildly of arranging rescue, tow only proceeded in daylight.

/At...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.TORBAY,
firing on
SAN JURJO.
(Spanish.)

At 0040 S.O.S. received from German aircraft down at Sea east of Palos Cape. EDUARDO DATO and SAN JURJO proceeded independently to search. Aircraft also went out but found nothing.

At 1700 SAN JURJO reported believed belligerent sub. in vicinity and was instructed to return to harbour. At 1700 Sub. on surface of French type and with clearly French complement opened fire without communicating and damaged hydroplanes. French sub. then rammed right aft, then submerged and was not seen again. When fired on SAN JURJO which carries every distinguishing mark attempted communication, then closed and spoke by megaphone. She made no attempt to retaliate. EDUARDO DATO proceeded to her assistance and she reached Cartagena at 2200. Damage is not serious. Ministry of Marine believe present French Sub. had some connection with passage of French Sub. IRIS and request guarantee that no one will be allowed to interfere with remainder of voyage.

Request instructions.

(N.A. Madrid 2233/7 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc.)

Spanish S/M SAN JURJO sighted by TORBAY in position 037° 51' N. 000° 06' E. at 1645 7th and was proceeding south west without escort.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 2330A/7 to P.339 (R) Capt. (S) 9th S.F. N.C.X.F.)

Following is a repetition of my 2310/7th to B.N.A. Madrid. (Begins.) Addressed B.N.A. Madrid from F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. TORBAY sighted U-Boat flying Spanish flag 38.15 N. 00.05 E. steering (corrupt) at 1431/7th unescorted and gave chase. At 1645/7th TORBAY reported U-Boat had proved to be Spanish submarine SAN JURJO and that TORBAY had damaged her by one hit H.E. shell on fore plane. After TORBAY had closed Spanish submarine SAN JURJO latter then proceeded south westerly direction. T.O.O. 2310/7th (Ends.)

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 2342A/7 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H.)

TORBAY reports interception of U-Boat resembling Italian ARCHIMEDE flying Spanish colours in 37° 51' N. 00° 06' E. at 1645/7. U/Boat overhauled and identified as Spanish SAN JURJO. TORBAY previously informed by F.O.C. Gibraltar on advice of N.A. Madrid that SAN JURJO would keep within territorial waters between 5° W. and 2° W. and be accompanied by torpedo boat 7. Escort was not present when intercepted. TORBAY reports following damage to SAN JURJO. One hit on fore plane 4 inch high explosive whilst bringing her to, and small dent in after casing when closing to investigate. SAN JURJO proceeded to South West.

(N.C.X.F. 2337A/7 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.8.)

P.35.

My 2240/5 H.M. submarine P.35 sailed 1408. (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1636A/7 to Admty. F.O.S. (R) S.3. S.5. S.8. N.C.X.F. C. in C. Plymouth. C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Tugs...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Tugs
EMPIRE NED,
EMPIRE FRED,
SAMSONIA.Ref. Admty 1950A/19th and my 1123A/31st Jan.
Sailing Code Word "Taboo". Air Authorities
informed.
Routed through Q.Z.L. 18 and thence as in Admty
1909A/22nd Jan. Communication SAMSONIA 500 k/cs. 2
Operators periods. EMPIRE NED and EMPIRE FRED 1650k/cs. R/T only. E.T.A. 16th Feb.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1743A/7 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

REGENT.

As REGENT is presumably no longer required to
carry stores to Malta, proposed that she should
temporarily reinforce Bay of Biscay Patrol. With
return of two U.S. submarines to U.S.A. there are now only four
submarines available for interception of raiders and blockade
runners. U.S. reliefs will not arrive until early May.2. Proposed that REGENT should be based on Gibraltar and be
operated when on patrol by F.O.S.

3. Request your views.

(D.O.D.(F) 1758A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.S.)
Concur (N.C.X.F. 1040A/8.)

Force 'H'.

Force 'H' passed 037° 25' N. 000° 30' E. at
2000/7th thence through 036° 26' N. 002° 01' W.
to Gibraltar.

(Capt. S.8 1816A/7 to TORBAY, P.339.)

Submarine reported by TORBAY is Spanish submarine SAN JURJO and
was in 037° 51' N. 000° 06' E. at 1645 proceeding South West
unescorted flying Spanish colours.(Capt. S.8 2150A/7 to S.O. Force 'H'. (R) N.C.X.F. P.339
TORBAY, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

U/B.

Am over enemy S/M in position 28.58 N. 15.32 W.
(A/C Duty Q 1931A/7 to T.D.8.)Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on
surface and observed to submerge. Course and Speed
unobserved.

(A/C Duty Q 2000/7 to T.D.8.)

M.K.S.7.

Following sailed to join convoy M.K.S.7:-

1700 MARNE towed by tug EMINENT, 1815 ROCHESTER,
LEITH, ERNE, SANDWICH, SCARBOROUGH, LANDGUARD,

LULWORTH, HASTINGS with Gibraltar Section. Local escort ALBACORE.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1953A/7 to Admty. C. in C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements. Sailed EMILE BAUDOT to Diego Saurez escorted to approx. 28° 00' S. 36° 04' E. by NIGELLA. Route as in my 0452/27 Jan. (0452Z/26 intended?) S. of A. 7 knots. E.T.A. 1500Z/17 Feb. (Cdre., Durban 0732Z/7 to Admty. etc.)
Departure from Pointe Noire P.M. 6th COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES (B.N.L.O.W.A. 0815/7 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
Departure from (corrupt group) 0900Z/7th COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting S.S. HAI LEE through position (b) 001° 000° S. 003° 000° E. E.T.A. Takoradi dawn 11th. (B.N.L.O.W.A. 1205/7 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, B.N.L.O. Dakar.)
Departure 7 Feb. H.M.S. DESPATCH (Patrol). (S.O.I. Freetown 1405Z/7 to Admty.)

GEORGIC. Intend sailing GEORGIC independently to U.K. at 1100Z/8, speed 16 knots. She has no H.F. W/T. (W.C.S.O. Capetown 0855Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

QUADRANT, As QUICKMATCH has Australian crew with service equivalent to QUIBERON, substitute QUADRANT for QUICKMATCH in my 1703Z/6.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1017Z/7 to Admty. (R) QUIBERON, QUALITY, QUICKMATCH.)
Your 1017/7th, which has been passed to C. in C. E.F. Concur. (D.O.D. (F) 1551A/7 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1958Z/7th.
DESPATCH about 08.36 16.24 to westwards 20.
M.L. 271 escorting 13.30 17.01 through 12.40 17.22 from Eastward 178°. REDOUBT, BURDOCK escorting 12.23 17.24 200° 12.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1031Z/7 to A.I.G. 149.)
SARABANDE, RUMBA escorting 05.34 N. 02.07 E. 257° 9.
CROCUS, PICT, ORFSAY. ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, MERCATOR and 2 M.Ls. sailed escorting 06.56 13.22 through 10.36 14.30 thence to Freetown 8.
COPINSAY, DUNCTON, off Marshall, patrol tug CHARON, ST. WISTAN and 2 M.L. off Ivory Coast. Fleet Unit HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE INCONSTANT with C.F.11 00.31 S. 00.10 E. 284° 13.
HYDRANGEA, ARMERIA escorting 04.35 02.02 to Takoradi. Allied Naval Unit on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area.
CARNATIC 04.24 S. 08.20 E. to about 05.00 S. 10.55 E. to Takoradi 11. Situation at 2001Z/7th.
(R.A.W.A. 1047Z/7 to Area P.)
Add to my 1047Z/7th. RELENTLESS passes Boom Freetown outward about 1930Z/7th through 007° 50' 014° 01' thence 122° 22'.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1925Z/7.)
CHESHIRE 045° 00' S. 019° 30' W. to Montevideo 13½ knots.
CARTHAGE on patrol about 045° 00' S. 027° 00' E. P. 614 026° 20' S. 011° 00' E. to Capetown 8½ knots. RANCHI 010° 50' S. 008° 30' E. to Freetown 14 knots.

/Convoy ...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic Contd.

Dispositions. Convoy D.C. 5 034° 25' S. 023° 50' E. to Capetown 8 knots. STELLA POLARIS (?COVENTRY CITY) 029° 40' S. 016° 00' E. to Great Britain 9 knots.
VEREENIGING TURFONTEIN with C.A. 10 B. 036° 30' S. 023° 30' E. to 037° 10' S. 025° 00' E. 9 knots. Convoy C.A.10-A.034° 15' S. 023° 00' E. to Durban 8 knots. HILDASAY with DEMODOCUS off Durban from the E.
(C. in C. S.A., 1059C/7 to A.I.G. 125.)

QUALITY. Your 1703/6th Feb. which is being passed to C.in C. E.F. Approved.
(D.O.D. (F) 1035A/7 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Argentine Commission, S. Orkneys. Your 2120/5th. Following intercepted on 8290 k/cs at 1415 G.M.T. L.R.W. from L.O.B.V. (begins) (translation) Despatch 8. Chief of Orkneys Commission, 1100, inform definitely whether Bahia Uruguay will be only place where ships can enter. Vice Commandant, PAMPA (ends).
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 1431Z/7 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Note: L.R.W. is the call sign of the Argentine METEOROLOGICAL Station in Laurie Island. L.O.B.V. is the call sign of the Argentine transport PAMPA.
Bahia Uruguay is in Laurie Island, South Orkneys.

Freetown-Gibraltar Convoys. My 1936/6th Feb. paras. 1 and 3. Amend date to 18th Feb. in view of Dakar's 1009/7th
(F.O.W.A., 1651Z/7 to N.C.X.F.)
Cancel my 1936/6th and my 1651/7th in view of N.C. X.F. 1020/5th and 1209/7th. Regret French ship must await another opportunity. Intend northbound convoy from Freetown to arrive in position 024° 00' N. 017° 30' W. at 0900Z/16th February.
(R.A.W.A., 2023Z/7 to N.C.X.F., Com. Dakar, (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Gib. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

RANCHI. RANCHI from position (O) 006° S. 007° E. proceed to (P) 007° 40' N. 014° 30' W. thence Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1717Z/7 to RANCHI, (R) Admty, C.in C. S.A.)

CHESHIRE. On account of defective R.D.F. and frequency of traffic intend to steer 294° after crossing 020°. West until reaching latitude 042°. Thence 279° to rejoin route.
(CHESHIRE 1806Z/7 to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.L.O. (Capetown?).

S.L. 126. Ref. your 1958Z/6th. (requesting accommodation in S.L. 126 for DEEBANK and JANETA.) Yes in both cases but JANETA must reach Freetown by 10th March to allow bunkering.
(N.C.S.O. Sierra Leone 1936Z/7 to Admty.)

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

P. 614.

B.N.L.O. West Africa 1815/31st. My position 024° (745') South 010° 40' E., S. of A. 6 knots. Expect to be (33?) hours late at position F. (P. 614 2003Z/7 to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

RELENTLESS.

Sailed (? RELENTLESS) for Lagos orange, route, S. of A. 22.5 E.T.A. 0800Z/10th. RELENTLESS is to be docked on arrival for fitting new A/3 dome which is on board. Port A/3 officers assistance required. RELENTLESS will be required to sail p.m. 12th Feb. (R.A.W.A. 2200Z/7 to N.O.I.C. Lagos. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi Admty. RELENTLESS, QUIBERON.)

BRIDGEWATER.

7th. Feb. arrival BRIDGEWATER (From Patrol). (S.O.I. Freetown. 2359Z/7 to Admty.)

War Diary.

7.2.1943.

Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

P.44 Your 1131A/6th. Absolutely nothing sighted between 035° 00' and 035° 48'.
(P.44 0101A/7 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) P.43.)
Your 0101/7th acknowledged. Do not neglect Sousse.
(Capt. S.10 1140A/7 to P.44, P.43.)

Movements Alexandria. Arrival 6th Feb. Greek Destroyer IERAX. Departure 6th Feb. JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN, BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, TETCOTT, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, BELVOIR, T.L.C. No. 104.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0911B/7 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 98 Part 1. Night 5th/6th Feb. 9 Halifaxes 17 Wellingtons despatched to attack shipping at Palermo. 4 Halifaxes 1 Wellington returned early owing to bad weather with icing over Sicily. 3 Halifaxes 9 Wellingtons bombed Palermo Harbour. One fire started west of town other results obscured by low cloud. 3 Wellingtons 1 Halifax unable to locate Palermo bombed other targets in Sicily. 3 Wellingtons landed Malta 1 Halifax crashed near Barce on return. Reports awaited. 1 Wellington missing. Enemy aircraft laid mines off Tripoli. 6 Feb. Bad weather hampered operations.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 1027Z/7.)

Situation Report 57. 1. Philippeville. STRONSAY sunk 2000 yards from shore to east of harbour 2045/5th. Uncertain whether explosive which caused sinking was mine or torpedo. No casualties.
2. M.K.S.7. Enemy aircraft dropped flares over convoy night of 5th/6th but no attack developed.
(N.C.X.F. 1040/7 to Admty.)

E.A.C.Report. A.464. Opsum No. 88 1800 hours 5 Feb. 43 to 1800 hours 6 Feb. 43.
(No Naval Incidents.)
(E.A.C.Africa 1117/7.)

P.54. Be in position 108° focal point C 83 miles by? 1600/?7th 060° 25 miles Sector 2.
After dark today proceed your patrol area.
(Capt. S.8 1130A/7 to P.54.)

TRIBUNE. My 1130 to P.54. Try and be at 074° focal point C 93 miles by 2000 tonight Sunday, proceeding Naples patrol area after 0001/8th.
(Capt. S.8 1154A/7 to TRIBUNE, (R) P.54.)

P.217. Be in position 254° focal point A 29 miles by 0430/8th (?through) 095° 25 miles sector 2, withdraw as requisite after daylight 8th.
(Capt. S.8 1158A/7 to P.217.)

/"Hunts"...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- "Hunts"
Replacing
R.C.N.
Corvettes. A.M. 1055/5. The seven Type I "Hunts" to be transferred your command from Nore and Rosyth are fitted with Pom Poms in the eyes of the ship as anti E-Boat armament.
2. These weapons must be unshipped for passage but can be stowed below for remounting on arrival on your station. Alternatively pom poms can be landed and 20 extra depth charges embarked.
3. Request an early decision.
(D.O.D.(H) 1310A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth.)
- Transports
for
Tripoli. Propose that MALAYAN PRINCE, OZARDA and V.S. JAMES DUNCAN be allocated for further voyage to Tripoli. Vessels already fitted for proposed service and will be loaded immediately they return. Agree Robinson M.W.T. M.E. G.H.Q. Middle East.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 1602/7 to Admty for D. of S.T.
(R) B.A.D. B.M.S.M.)
- Marseilles
R/C. P.R.U. Marseilles 6/2.
Little change since 16/1 in number of liners and large merchant vessels but considerable change in smaller merchant vessels including departure of about 10 vessels. One tanker 510 feet is new arrival and one vessel SAN ANTONIO Class has left leaving two of this type still present. ETANG DE BERRE only partially covered.
(D.D.I.C. 1605A/7 to N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force 'H', C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, B.A.D. Comnavu.)
- T.E.15. INGERFIRE to be included in convoy for Bougie as in my 1147/2. SELVIK for Algiers in first instance.
(N.C.X.F. 1635A/7 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Cmdre. Algiers, Admty.)
- DOLFIJN. Leave patrol pass 038° 54' 008° 10' at 2200/10th 038° 12' 003° 55' at 2130/12th to R/V with escort for Algiers in 037° 00' 003° 10' at 0730/13th.
(Capt. S.8 1704A/7 to DOLFIJN (R) Cmdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F. 8th S.F.)
- IRIS. French S/M IRIS was towed into Alicante by Spanish Gunboat at 2000/5th.
(Capt. S.8 1706A/7 to P.339 (R) TORBAY.)
- Air R/C. P.R.U. 7th Feb. Visuals. 1430, Taranto, 2 Battleships 2 Cruisers. 1440, Naples, 1 Cruiser. Photographs taken.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1710A/7 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

/M.K....

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K. Convoy Stragglers. Your 1359/6 to Admiralty only. Stragglers from M.K. Convoys should be given stragglers route when west of Gibraltar in accordance with normal practice for trade convoys. See M.A.R.I. Sec. I. para. 4.
(Admty. 1729A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.C.S.O. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
Reply N.C.X.F. 2052A/8.

27 Escort Group. Following ships are to form 27th Escort Group: WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT, ALGOMA, CALGARY, CAMROSE, KITCHENER, MOOSEJAW, REGINA.
(N.C.X.F. 1735A/7 to G.M. Western Med. 278K. (R) Admty.)

Movements, Port Said. 7th Feb. Port Said arrivals L.C.Ts 104, 112, 117. Departures Tug NEPTUNE, DELPHINIUM, SPETSAI, PANTHER, KLO, ANTWERP, GLOXINIA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1801B/7 to Admty. etc.)

TROOPER. Keep South of 039° 20' tonight while P.37 and THUNDERBOLT pass Strait of Ontranto Northbound.
(Capt. S.10 1819A/7 to TROOPER (R) Submarines on patrol.)

ENDEAVOUR. Intend leaving Port Safag 0600B/8 Feb. E.T.A. Suez 1400B/9 Feb. R.N. Camp Port Said arrange transport with C.T.C. for 4 Officers and baggage from Suez. Ratings remain in ship until arrival Kabret.
(ENDEAVOUR 1825B/7 to F.O.C.R.S.)

Movements, Bone. Bone 2300A/6th arrivals ROTHESAY, POLRUAN, FELIXSTOWE, BRIXHAM, 7th Feb., arrivals ABDIEL, LIGHTNING, LOYAL. Departures ROTHESAY, POLRUAN, FELIXSTOWE, BRIXHAM, ABDIEL.
(S.O.I.S. 1922A/7 to N.C.X.F. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Attacks on U/Bs. The attacks by Hudson J of 500 Squadron on 15th Nov. and by Hudson L of 500 Squadron on 2nd Dec. 1942, probably destroyed a U-Boat in each case. 2. Please give our congratulations to those concerned with these successes.
(D.A.S.W. 1926A/7 to Air Ministry (R) H.Q. Coastal Command.)

/Malta...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta Air
Report.

A.I.551. 7 Feb. Offensive 7 Feb. 4 Spitfires made offensive sweep Lampedusa Area but sighted no enemy aircraft or shipping.
Part 2. Enemy air activity day 7 Feb. 9 Spitfires were Airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta 1927/7.)

VENOMOUS,
attack on
U/B.

Your attack on 12th Nov. 1942, probably destroyed a U-Boat. We congratulate VENOMOUS on this success.
(D.A.S.W. 1934A/7 to VENOMOUS, (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

Movements,
Oran.

Arrivals. ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, WHEATLAND, STORNOWAY?, LAMERTON.
Departures. ASHANTI, ESKIMO, VENOMOUS, HAYDON, FORMIDABLE, ADVENTURE, RODNEY, NELSON, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, BLYSKAWICA, HOLCOMBE, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1959A/7 to Admty. etc.)

Movements
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals: WOODSTOCK, CAMROSE, KITCHENER, REGINA, ALGOMA, MOOSEJAW, PRESCOTT, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, RHYL with K.M.S.8. Departures LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, ZETLAND, BICESTER, WOODSTOCK, ALGOMA, MOOSEJAW, PRESCOTT, KITCHENER with K.M.S.8, M.Ls 273, 444, 336, 295 to Bougie.
(Cmdre. Algiers 2001A/7 to Admty. etc.)
Algiers departure S/M P.247.
(Cmdre. Algiers 2004A/7 to Admty.)

TORBAY,
incided with
Spanish S/M
SAN JURJO.

See North Atlantic.

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of 2 medium M/Vs. and 2 destroyers
39.30 N. 12.08 E. 080° 10 knots.
(A/C G.K.Z/U 2235A/7 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 2 M/Vs 3 destroyers 39.20 N. 12.00 E. 090° 10 knots.
(A/C A.N.F/L 2300A/7 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean and Levant Commands.

- Boundary: At an early date which will be promulgated
duties of separately the Mediterranean will be divided into
Cs. in C. two Commands by the line running from the Tunisian -
Tripolitanian border to position 35° N. 16° E. thence
to Cape Spartivento (Italy.)
2. A. The area to the West of this line will be the Mediterranean Command. B. The area to the East of the line will be the Levant Command which will include the Red Sea.
 3. The Flag Officer Commanding the area in 2 A. above will be known as Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean; the Flag Officer Commanding the area in 2 B. above will be Commander-in-Chief, Levant.
 4. The C. in C. Mediterranean as designated above will be Admiral of the Fleet Sir A.B. Cunningham. The C. in C. Levant will be Admiral Sir H.H. Harwood.
 5. The C. in C., Mediterranean, will co-ordinate all movements and matters affecting the Mediterranean as a whole and will be responsible for the distribution of forces between the Mediterranean and Levant Commands.
 6. The C. in C., Levant, will assume the responsibilities at present carried out by C. in C. Mediterranean subject to the limitations given in para. 5.
 7. Until such time as Malta and the Middle East Military Forces at present in the Middle East Command can be supplied from the West the C. in C. Levant will be responsible for organising their sea-borne supplies.
 8. The date on which the change will be made and details of W/T and general message organisations will be promulgated separately.
 9. No publicity will be given to the change until an announcement is made embracing the new arrangements for Naval, Military and Air Command in the Mediterranean area.

(Hd. of M.Br. 2253A/7, ~~to~~ A.G.M. 198A.)*WD. Note - Changes announced in House of Commons by Prime Minister,*

11.2.1943.

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. ATHELMONARCH, BUCCINUM, BROOMDALE 7th arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0340Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, F.O.I.C. E.Af., S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Aden.)

Arrival 0356Z/7 GAMBIA.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0359Z/7 to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 7th 0930Z LISMORE.
(F.O. Ceylon, 1520Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.C.W.Af.)

VASNA Arrival 6th VASNA, Cape of George, Carabao.
(Hospital Ship) (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0514Z/7 to M. of W.T., C. in C. E.F., S.O.I. Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, Connav.)

VITA C 05Z 8th. VITA Durban 15th. Knots 11.5.
(Hospital Ship) Days 10. Coastwise.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0517Z/7 to Admty., (R) S.O. (I) Colombo, Cdre. i/c Durban, Connav, S.O.(I) Bombay, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)

BRITISH GENIUS. Fleet oiler BRITISH GENIUS 6th left for P.B. convoy for Trincomalee.
(N.C.S.O. Abadan, 0552Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, Cdre. R.I.N., Cdre. Aden.)

Eastern Fleet weekly disposition. Signal No.22 (B) Battleships no change. (C) 8" Cruiser DEVONSHIRE left Aden 4th. (D) 7.5" and 6" Cruisers, HAWKINS left Bombay 4th for Aden. FROBISHER left Kilindini 6th for Diego Suarez. Others no change. (E) Nil.
(C. in C. E.F., 0701Z/7 to C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A., Admty.)

CAP ST. JACQUES, ISLAMI. 1. Transport CAP ST. JACQUES sailed 6th Feb., personnel on board. 2. Transport ISLAMI sailed 7th Feb., personnel on board.
(D.S.T.O. P.G., 1007Z/7 to S.S.T.O. Bombay.)

PULASKI, C.M. 38. 1. Breakdowns in PULASKI have necessitated diversion of C.M.38 into Diego Suarez E.T.A. 11th where all ships must replenish water owing to delays already sustained.
2. It appears PULASKI will require considerable repair which will necessitate her calling at Kilindini.
3. Intend remaining ships to continue to Bombay in C.M.38 from Diego Suarez.
4. Most desirable that troops and stores should be transhipped at Kilindini to another ship which can then join next C.M. convoy.
5. After consultation with D.S.T.O.Mombasa suggest using EASTERN PRINCE due 15th. Request your concurrence.
6. P.S.T.O. Capetown has been requested to give intended programme for C.M.39.
(C. in C. E.F., 1640Z/7 to D. of S.T., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. India, D.S.T.O. Durban, D.S.T.O. Mombasa.)

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Fast
Tankers
Convoys
U.C.I.

Subject to confirmation that fast tankers will be available in mid-March, it is intended to sail convoy U.C.I., consisting of about 20 slow tankers, on 13th, escorted by 4. U.S. destroyers (Desdiv 14) and 5 or 6 sloops or twin-screw corvettes.

2. This escort to return with C.U.I. consisting of 12 fast tankers and ATTACKER. 3. The escort of subsequent convoys to consist of 3 or 4 destroyers and 2 or 3 sloops or twin-screw corvettes. 4. It is improbable that U-Boats can develop pack tactics against convoys of this speed, and it may be that escort carriers can be more usefully employed elsewhere, particularly as their speed is insufficient to operate aircraft in a fast convoy, with winds abaft the beam, without manoeuvring the convoy as a whole. The question of including escort carriers is under consideration. 5. Request that arrangements to fit two tankers in each convoy for oiling escorts at sea may be put in hand at once, as whatever escort is provided, this will be necessary.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved, V.C.N.S./to B.A.D.(R) C. in C. W.A.)

AGHIOS
GEORGIOS.

AGHIOS, GEORGIOS completely broken down in position 52° 48' N. 49° 32' W. BITTERSWEET standing by to limit of fuel endurance only available rescue tug now towing FAIRWATER and cannot reach this position before February 10th.
(F.O.N.F. 0020Z/7 to C.T.F.24 (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., Admty., C. in C. W.A? Cominch.)

U.G.S.5

(1) Sailing telegram. (2) 1800Z Feb 7. Point Z seaward end of swept channel. (3) 0400Z/9 9 knots. (5) K. 36.40 N. 63.50 W. L. 33.40 N. 58.35 W. M. 34.55 N. 51.25 W. N. 35.45 N. 43.01 W. O. 36.01 N. 33.20 W. P. 35.15 N. 21.30 W. Q. 33.40 N. 11.30 W. R. 34.25 N. 09.45 W. S. 33.50 N. 08.08. W. (6) T.F. 35. U.S.S. PARKER, S.O. BOYLE, U.S.D. LAUB, U.S.D. MACLEISH, U.S.D. MCCORMICK, U.S.D. OVERTON, For 24 hours, EMMONS, MACOMB.
(Port Director, New York, 0144Z/7, 2200/7 to Connav.)

U/B's
sighting
report.

Following received from R.C.A.F. Gander Control begins:- Supplementary report on submarine sighting reported by Capt. Rudd of Lib. 627 en route Gander from U.K. at 1544 CD ED at position 55° 00' N. 28° 20' W. sighted surface vessel 4000-6000 tons course 120 MAG. speed 5 knots. Came over vessel flashed recognition signal but received no answer. Vessel had two funnels forward and the aft flat. Sighted two subs. about 5 to 8 miles behind ship on same course. Flow over them. Both dived. Sighted two more subs. two miles further back these remained on surface. Returned over vessel and saw two more subs. about two miles from vessel on port side. These also remained on surface. Ship grey camouflage subs. large even larger than TRITON class with conning tower aft. Action of vessel suspicious as apparently undamaged but speed slow. (Ends.)
(F.O.N.F., 0155Z/7 to Admty., (R) A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
(E.A.C. H.Q. Halifax, 0234/7.)

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C.118
attacked. Convoy attacked TOWARD sunk. My position course and speed are 55 (-) 13 N. 26 (-) 22 W. 053° 7.5 knots at least 5 U-Boats in the vicinity. (?BEVERLEY) 5 depth charges remaining further information follows. Weather report.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.6, 0250/7 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)

O.N.163
FENNEL,
DUNVEGAN. O.N. 163 FENNEL, DUNVENAN will sail at 1230Z/7 to reinforce you.
(F.O.N.F., 0703Z/7 to C.M.E.T.U.24.1.13 (R) Comtask 24, C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C.W.A. Cominch.)

Movements. NORFOLK departed Cape Henry 1909Z/6 LSJ/367 (as received.)
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0455Z/7 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)
New York arrived 5th CHELSEA.
(N.S.H.Q. 0750Z/7 to Admty.)

Arrival 6th MARBLEHEAD, DAVIS.

(R.O. Bahia, 1240Z/7 to Admty.)

Arrivals Vieuxfort 7th U.S. Ship S.C.503 with U.S. Army

Tug IONIAN.

(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1451Q/7 to Admty.)

Cristobal 5 U.S.A.T. SPOOL New Orleans Feb. 13.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1829Z/7 to Admty.)

Cristobal 5 U.S. A.T. KING New Orleans 13.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1830A/7 to Admty.)

Kingston (Jamaica) departures U.S. C.G.C. LOTUS for Ciudad Trujillo E.T.A. 1900Z/9.

(S.O.I. Kingston 2003R/7 to C.C.S.F.)

O.N.163. Transmissions at 0114 0117 and 0121 indicate you are still being reported on 4600 kc/s.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1715Z/7 to BURNHAM (Senior Escort O.N. 163) C.O.A.C. Halifax, F.O.N.F. (R) Opnav, Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A.)

U.G.S.5A.
T.F.37.

This is C. in C. Lant's 2100/6th February (addressed to Comdesdiv 34 and (R) Comdesron 31, etc.) Convoy U.G.S.5A consists of 9 A.Ks ready New York 15th Feb. and 11 A.Ks. ready Hampton

Roads 16th Feb. destined to N. Africa. Ships bound for Mediterranean will be turned over to British escort at point designated initially by Cominch (C. & R.). Escort New York section to Hampton Roads. Escort entire convoy when ready from Hampton Roads in accordance with routing prescribed by Cominch (C. & R.). Operational control shifts to Admiralty at 40° W. then to C. in C.Af. at 10° W. GHERARDI, DUPONT, SIMPSON, JEFFERS, BROOME, MURPHY and CHEMUNG, Cdr. Rooney, hereby constituted Task Force 37. In accordance with Secnav ltr (S.C) P.17-1 of July 18, 1942, Cdr. Rooney commands escort plus CHEMUNG and convoy. When ordered by C.T.G.26.7 (at Casablanca) escort convoy G.U.S.5A in accordance with Admiralty routing to New York. Fuel destroyers at sea from CHEMUNG.
(Commaveu, 0859/7 to Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 7th Feb.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
	F.S. RICHELIEU } F.S. MONTCALM } U.S. Escort }	26°N. 54½°W.	308°	12½
	BUTTERMERE } WASTWATER } 5 M.M.S. }	07°N. 52°W.	115°	8
	ALCANTARA } WOODRUFF }	02½°N. 48°W.	128°	12
	A. T. 36.	43°N. 43°W.	072°	19

(D.O.D. (F), 0940Z/7 to Opanav (R) Comnav.)

WILLIAMBURG. U.S.S. WILLIAMBURG (Medium frequency D/F) is sailing to join as additional escort destination Boston. (C.T.C.24.6, 1118Z/7 to FAME.)

U.C. Convoy Directions. Pass to N.C.S.Os. U.C. convoys. To facilitate direction of convoys all ships are to be given instructions for entry to Dakar, Bermuda, Guantanamo, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Curacao and Aruba. (D.T.D., 1210A/7 to C. in C.W.A.(R) Connv.etc.)

U.G.S.5. This is Cinclant's 2115/04 addressed to Comdersron 16; In my 2246/24 (circulated under 1437/25) for "Desdiv" 14 substitute LAUB, MACLEISH, MCCORMICK, DECATUR. (Comnav, 1256/7 to Admty.)

C.R. No. 324. This is Cinclant's 0042/7th Feb. addressed to Comdesron 16. My 2115/4th* substitute OVERTON for DECATUR. (Comnav, 0901/7 to Admty.) *Circulated in Admiralty under T.O.O. 1256/7 from Comnav.

S/M estimates Feb.7th. U.S.S/M Notices. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 1337/7, 1544/7, 1545/7, 1546/7, 1547/7 to Admty.)

S.C.119 BLAIRNEVIS. S.C.119 arrived Halifax 6th Feb. BLAIRNEVIS - heavy weather damage - lost convoy. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1350Z/7.)

O.N.158 ST. SUNNIVA loss. Icing. My 1504/31/1. To N.S.H.Q. only and A.M. 2205/5/2 gale was freezing temperature approx. zero. All ships in this vicinity suffered severe icing and loss of stability. LEAMINGTON arrived Halifax from same convoy on 22nd Jan. carrying ice on front of bridge structure and

/type...

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- O.N.158
ST. SUNNIVA
loss. Icing.
(Contd.)
- type 271 varying from 2 feet in thickness at top to 10 feet at forecastle level. Most probable cause of loss is capsizing due to weight of ice. If this happened temperature precluded possibility of any survivors.
(C.O.A.C. 1401Z/7 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty., C. in C.W.A., Connav.)
- A.T.36
(EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND)
- Due concentration submarines ahead recommend destroyer escort A.T.36.
(Cominch C. and R. 1420/7 to Admty.)
A.T.36. Your 1420/7. Regret destroyer escort not available. N.K. Recommend alter course forthwith to pass through 44° N. 23° W. then to 54° N. 20° W.
(For D.O.D.(H) 2125Z/7 to Connav.)
- U/B
EMPIRE
BRUCE.
- Subs. sighted 049° 59' N. 050° 26' W. at 1501 G.M.T.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1517Z/7 to G.B.7A, C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C.)
My 1517/7. At 1710/7 EMPIRE BRUCE reports submarine attack evidently finished.
(C.O.A.C., 1945Z/7 to G.B.7A, C.T.F.24. (R) C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., C.T.G.24.7, Connav, Admty., H.Q.C.C.)
- H.X.225.
- Anticipate my P.C.and S. 1200Z/9 054° 56' 032° 44' 037° 9 knots.
(C.T.U.24.1.12, 1547Z/7 to PRIMROSE.)
- O.T.1.
- Following arrived in convoy O.T.1. AMERICAN (U.S.) CHERRY VALLEY (U.S.) ESSO NORFOLK (U.S.) ESSO WASHINGTON (U.S.)
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1602Q/7 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. W.At., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
- O.N.S.163
U/B.
sighted.
- Submarine sighted on surface 050° 06' N. 050° 29' W. Not with convoy.
(BURNHAM, 1636Z/7 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24 Admty., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)
My 1636 submarine dived.
(BURNHAM 1645Z/7 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24 Admty., C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C.)
My 1645 no contact obtained, search abandoned, returning to convoy.
(BURNHAM, 1754Z/7 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24 Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

WASTWATER. In accordance with instructions from Cominch WASTWATER sailed to comply as in my 1202/4. S. of A. 10½ knots. E.T.A. Recife 1200Z/16. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1642Q/7 to Com Carrib.(R) Admty. etc.)

LEARY. LEARY sailed independently at 1430Z/7 toward Boston in accordance with your 1931Z/6 (N/T in W.R. routed via (A) 63° 32' N. 27° 31' W. (B) 57° 09' N. 41° 17' W. (C) 48° 31' N. 51° 35' (D) 44° 02' N. 53° 03' W. speed 15 knots. (C.T.G.24.6 1700Z/7 to C.T.F.24.(R) C.T.G.26.3 Connav. Admty., C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C. LEARY.)

S.C.119. Ocean Escort. S.C.119. C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15 in KALE plus WATCHMAN, WALLFLOWER, DAHLIA, MONKSHOOD, MEADOWSWEET, ROCKINGHAM, DOCHET, PORCHER designated ocean escort of convoy for S.C.119. KALE and WATCHMAN fitted with high frequency D/F. (Comtask 24 1905Z/7 to Cominch C. and R.)

Escort Vessels, proposed classification. My 0004/4. In these classifications convoy speed is taken to be 12 knots which is the estimated average speed of warships escorting a normal convoy. (D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) B.A.D.(R)N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A. C. in C.H.F.)

B.Y.M.S. 2,3,4,30. Fuel permits arrange to sweep through 053° N. 031° W. and look out for torpedoed ship or survivors in boat or raft. Then sweep through 055° 27' N. 036° W. on route to destination and look out for further ships or survivors. (C. in C. W.A., 2034Z/7 to B.Y.M.S. 2,3,4,30 (R) Admty.)

U/B attacked. Submarine attacked 55° 41' N. 26° 17' W. at 1712 G.C.T./7th. (Connav. 2100/7 to Admty.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. Plane attacks sub. 49° 08' N., 50° 27' W. 1725Z/06. Plane sights sub. on surface 54° 51' N. 29° W. 1740Z/06, Course 20, Speed 10. Para. B. Planes sight 4 subs. area 54° 43' N. 27° 33' W. period ending 1840Z/06. BURNHAM sights sub. on surface 50° 06' N. 50° 29' W. about 1635Z/07. Para. C. EMPIRE BRUCE sights sub. 49° 59' N. 50° 26' W. 1501Z/07. Para. D. Civilian air patrol plane sights sub. on surface 32° 41' N. 79° 06' W. 1256Z/07, Course 120. Surface craft sights periscope area 27° 19' N. 79° 44' W. 2223Z/26th Jan. S.C.658 attacks sound contact 32° 42' N. 79° 05' W. 1743Z/07. (Cominch, 2103/7 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.O.N.162
LUCELLUM
and COPTIC
Collision.Information just received LUCELLUM and COPTIC
of O.N.162 in collision at 0205Z/7th at position
43° 01' N. 62° 39' W. LUCELLUM has not rejoined
convoy. BUCKITE detailed to search.

3 stragglers.

(TRAIL, 2230Z/7 to Cmdre. E.S.F. (R) C.O.A.C.
Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Comtask 24 Commandant
3rd U.S. Naval District New York Connav.)

U.G.F.5.

1. Sailing telegram Part 1. 2. 1500Z Feb. 8
point Z seaward end of swept channel.3. 1100Z/9 13½ knots. 5. (B) 37.55 N. 68 (?12
or 30) W. (C) 36.27 N. 55.05 W. (D) 36.59 N. 45.30 W. (E) 36.40
N. 34.15 W. (F) 35.40 N. 25.30 W. (G) 36.12 N. 16.30 W.
(H) 36.10 N. 09.50 W. (J) 34.03 N. 07.56 W. 6. Task Force 36
All U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA. ARKANSAS, DAVISON MERVINE, QUICK
(?BEATTY) TILLMAN, COWIE, KNIGHT DORAN, (?SPARKLE).
(Port Director New York 2254Z/7 to Connav.)Ice
Report.Newfoundland Area. North of 47° N. along East
Coast patches light scattered ice extending
seaward 50 to 1000 miles. St. Lawrence Area.
Limit pack ice Scatari Island South to 45° 15' N.
thence 45° 15' N. 57° 50' W. thence to vicinity Port Basque
Harbour.

(Comtask 24 2255Z/7 to Admty.)

Ice Bulletin 7th Greenland area. Patches Storis present
between Farewell and 47° W. about 15 miles off coast. Reported
2nd ice edge Denmark Straits passes through 067° (53')? N.
027° 04' W. and 068° 20' N. 020° 35' W.

(Comtask 24, 2305Z/7 to Admty.)

THREE
RIVERS.My P.C. and S. at 2230 046° 26' N. 055° 07' W.
212° eight knots. S.S. NORTHTON engine defect
presumably returning to Argentia 046° 48' N. 054°
46' W. Argentia portion close vicinity. NIPIGONJ.H.35 046° 05' N. 055° 31' W. 212° seven knots seven merchant
ships. WASAGA in vicinity. R.D/Fs. NIPIGON, THREE RIVERS
out of action. Weather report.(THREE RIVERS, 2300Z/7 to F.O.N.F.(R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.F.24
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

War Diary.7.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

MONOWAI. Departure Wellington MONOWAI, Noumea, 1930Z/10 route B. 39.30 S. 172.25 E. C. 34.39 S. 169.24 E. D. 29.26 S. 166.25 E. E.23.51 S. 166.18 E. S. of A. 15 knots. (D.N.I. Wellington 0311Z/7 to Admty. (R) Comsopac.)

Movements. Arrival Wellington U.S.S. ROCHAMBREAU. (D.N.I. Wellington 0345Z/7 to Admty.)
Departure Wellington U.S.S. PRESIDENT JACKSON, U.S.S. PRESIDENT HAYES, U.S.S. PRESIDENT ADAMS, U.S.S. GANSEVOORT E.T.A. Noumea 10th. (D.N.I. Wellington 0516Z/7 to Admty.)

Arrival Exmouth Gulf 5th U.S. Seaplane tender HERON Milne Bay 5th KATOOMBA Sydney (N.S.W.) 5th WARRAMUNGA 6th AUSTRALIA. 6th SWAN Brisbane 5th ROCKHAMPTON. Departure Sydney 6th MORESBY, WAGGA on escort duty (? Adelaide)* 6th ATHENE for Melbourne Townsville 6th COLAC for Port Moresby Brisbane 5th U.S.D. BAGLEY and U.S. Destroyer HELM for Noumea. (A.C.N.B. 0658Z/7 to Admty.) * Could also be (? Fremantle)
Arrival 6th Feb. Fall River U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT, BANTAM. Townsville hired transport TAROONA. Albany U.S. Fleet oiler TRINITY. Hospital ship MANUNDA arrived Port Moresby 6th and departed 6th due Fall River 7th. Dutch naval store ship SOEDOE departed Brisbane 6th due Cairns 12th. U.S. Fleet oiler VICTORIA departed Cairns 6th due Townsville 7th. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Bowen 7th due Gladstone 8th. (A.C.N.B., 1023Z/7 to Admty., Connav.)

Digest Serial No. 381 Feb. 6th. During early hours one Catalina bombed Buka Passage where four small cargo vessels seen later. (2) One Fortress harassed Rabaul four hours about midnight 5th. (3) Morning Liberator bombed and destroyed one 500 ton cargo ship off Finshhafen. Later strafed two motor barges carrying 150 men west coast Willaumez Peninsula causing considerable casualties. Subsequently bombed another 500 ton vessel. Open bay. Photos show damaging near misses. Ship not seen by afternoon recce. (6) Four Bostons bombed Mubo Komiatum and strafed Salamaua Track also Coastal sweep to Kumusi River. One Boston lost. (9) Photographs Ambon during raid 5th refer Digest No. 380 para. 9 show one submarine chaser 9 merchantmen totalling 34,000 tons in Bay. (10) Two enemy Recce. Aircraft over Darwin noon 6th. One shot down by fighters. (G.H.Q. S.W. P.A., 0915Z/7.)

MONTICELLO. Departure Wellington U.S.S. MONTICELLO for Fremantle E.T.A. 2100Z/16. Route coastal. Speed 15.5 knots no space available passengers or cargo. Vessel requires 3000 tons fuel. No water required. Q.F.A. 132 Chop S.W. Pacific 0900Z/10. (N.Z.N.B. 2304Z/7 to Admty. A.C.N.B. Comsouwespac C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Com. W. Australia.)

War Diary.

7.2.1943.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1419A/7, 1510A/7.)

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

S.C.118
9 ships in
all
torpedoed.

Attacks on Convoy S.C.118 by U-boats continue and SS. NEWTON ASH was torpedoed at 0043Z today in 56.25 N. 22.26 W. and an unknown tanker very shortly afterwards. SS. ADAMAS was damaged in collision with BEVERLEY at 0140Z today and had to be sunk in 56° 35' N. 22° 23' W. (500 miles west of Malin Head) by BEVERLEY who is proceeding independently to Moville. (Note A.C.I.C. 2131A/10 states that part of the crew of ADAMAS abandoned ship after collision with BEVERLEY in 56.26 N. 22.15 W. at 2200/7: the Master and 16 men remained on board: the vessel was not seen to sink). LOBELIA is broken down in 56.23 N. 21.34 W. (350 miles west of Malin Head); VANESSA sent VIMY to her assistance and the latter took LOBELIA in tow. At 1800Z the convoy was in 56.41 N. 18.22 W. BUTTERCUP, SOUTHERN WAVE, PROSPEROUS and SCHELDE were sailed at 0910A/9 to pick up survivors and assist LOBELIA; and CHURCHILL which sailed from St. Johns N.F. for Londonderry on 6 Feb. is also to search.

A merchant ship, closely resembling a potential raider, escorted by a Sperrbrecher, 4 M class minesweepers and 3 trawlers was reported at 1145A in 52.40 N. 04.38 E.

323 aircraft were detailed to attack Lorient last night. The weather was clear over the target and a concentrated attack was made, the town and docks being left a blazing mass amongst which 4 very large explosions occurred.

About 10 hostile aircraft operated over the Straits of Dover between 1918 and 2027 today. Minelaying in Dover harbour is suspected but not confirmed and traffic was not diverted. A.A. defences claim one aircraft destroyed.

North Atlantic.

JAMAICA left Biscay patrol today for Gibraltar.

/Convoy...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic - Contd.Convoy
Gib. II
attacked.*(Coastal Convoy
from Freetown,
etc., see
page 97)*

Convoy Gibraltar No. II was attacked this morning by U-boats possibly up to 12 in number and A/S trawler BREDON, one of the escort, was torpedoed and sunk at 0703Z in 29.49 N. 14.5 W. (50 miles north of Lanzarote I., Canary Is). Only 2 survivors were picked up. Air escort is being given to the convoy and Hudsons are sweeping the area. A Hudson attacked a U-boat near the convoy at 1225A. Additional surface ship escorts were sent from Casablanca and Gibraltar. PETUNIA reported at 1800 that 2 U-boats were shadowing the convoy. At 2019Z a U-boat was attacked in 30.49 N. 12.41 W. and forced to submerge. Another U-boat was attacked at 2112Z in 30.48 N. 12.36 W. and again at 2150Z.

South Atlantic.

U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD and U.S. destroyer DAVIS left Bahia today.

Mediterranean.

M.T.Bs. 313 and 309 sailed from Malta at 1636A to carry out a sweep off Hammamet near Cani Rocks. Nothing was sighted.

Operation
M.H.4.

EURYALUS, NUBIAN and PALADIN sailed from Malta at 1846A to reinforce the escort of the westbound combined Malta/Tripoli (L) convoy.

Fourteen mines were cut by sweepers today in 33.05 N. 13.00 E. (approaches to Tripoli (L)).

S/M
AVORIO
sunk.

H.M.C.S. Corvette REGINA escorting stragglers of Convoy K.M.S.8 attacked a U-boat at 2340 today in 37.10 N. 06.42 E. (about 20 miles West of Philippeville) The U-boat surfaced and surrendered. A tug took it in tow, but it sank at 0510/9. 27 prisoners were taken.

/ROTHESAY...

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ROTHESAY, escorting L.S.Ts. attacked a U-boat in 37.10 N. 06.01 E. The result of the attack is not known.

U/B sunk.

Dutch S/M DOLFIJN reports that she attacked and sunk an Italian U-boat today. No details are known (c.f. 9 Feb).

S/M UNISON (P.43) at 1028 today gunned three small southbound motor auxiliaries in 36.12 N. 10.31 E. (Gulf of Hammamet): two were sunk and the third beached herself, probably a total loss.

L.C.M. 61 sank in Benghazi harbour today in rough weather. L.C.M. 80 stranded in the Benghazi area on 6 Feb. and is considered a total loss.

Air
Operations.

15 B.24s of the 12th U.S.A.F. today bombed the railway ferry terminus at Messina obtaining hits on and near it.
42 escorted B.17s attacked the docks and shipping at Sousse today, dropping 186 x 1000 lb. bombs. Two ships were hit and bursts were seen among small ships in harbour and on buildings and jetties.
Six aircraft attacked Tripoli (L) at dusk today but caused no damage. Two of the enemy were shot down.

East Indies.

SS. KINDAT this morning reported a very fast ship closing her in 0° 49' N. 68° 59' W. She cancelled the message shortly afterwards.

Seven Liberators attacked Rangoon last night. 18 U.S. Liberators attacked targets at Rangoon today.

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

A 2,000 ton vessel off shore was hit and believed destroyed by two Catalinas bombing Kahila Aerodrome last night.

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PATHFINDER, A.M. 1656/31 and 0020/7. Do you now concur
PENN, in extending refits of these three destroyers
PANTHER. until March 15th.
(D.O.D.H. 1245A/8 to C. in C.W.A.)
Admiralty 1245/8. Concur provided original
scheme of U.C. convoys intended by Admiralty 1108 of 24th
January 1943 is not re-introduced.

(C. in C.W.A. 1716A/8 to Admty.)

My 1716/8. If refits of PATHFINDER, PANTHER, and PENN
are extended, request two of them may be fitted R.D.F. type
272 aft and one with H/F D/F. The fitting of this equipment
is considered to be of vital importance in view of the escort
duties they are required to perform.

(C. in C.W.A. 1923A/8 to Admty.)

PHILANTE. Request authority may be given by signal for
PHILANTE to be treated as an escort Group
Leader, with regard to complement and stores.
(PHILANTE, 1340/8 to Admty.)

PHILANTE's 1340/8. Consider this desirable and request
authority may be given.

(C. in C.W.A. 1830A/8 to Admty.)

Classification Your 0004/4 and 1931/7. (See A. and W.I.).
of Convoy Russian convoy speed varies between 7 and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Escort knots and the shortest route is 1750. (2) It is
Vessels. thus necessary for HUNTS and older unconverted
destroyers to be fuelled on passage and this
may be impossible in bad weather. These ships
cannot therefore be regarded as suitable escort for J.W./R.A.
convoys.

(C. in C.H.F. 1922A/8 to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M My 1641/7. Add new para. (n) TACTICIAN
Positions. (P.314) arrives Lerwick 0930 from N.E.
(F.O.S., 0114A/8 to Admty.)
JUNON arrived Lerwick.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 0949A/8.)

Arrival TACTICIAN.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0955A/8.)

My 1031A/7, Para (1). For Bishop Rock 10 miles read
Lizard Head 8 miles.

(Capt. S.3. 1025A/8 and 1027A/8.)

SOKOL arrived.

(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 1201A/8.)

Scapa arrivals 0.19, P.31, escorted by PENNYWORT.

(A.C.O.S. 1208/8.)

CUTTY SARK will meet you in 180° Lizard Head 8 miles at
0800A/9 and escort to Falmouth.

(Capt. S.3., 1431A/8 to SHAD.)

Cancel my 1416/6 and 1418/6.

(F.O.S. 1628/8 and 1801A/8, to P.35.)

/Positions...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

S/M Positions. Contd. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/9 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) ULTOR (P.53) 63° 27' N. 00° 12' E. probably on surface through 62° 02' N. 01° 28' W. thence to Lerwick. (B) UREDD off Vestfiord. (C) DZIK in zone K.104. (D) SICKLE (P.224) SOKOL O.15 and JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH vicinity Sumburgh Head due 23 Buoy 0930 10th. (E) P.225 (SIMOON) escorted by PENNYWORT leaves Scapa 0800/9th E.T.A. Lerwick 2000/9th. (F) O.19 escorted by LORD LLOYD arriving Dundee from Northward. (G) SHAD R/V in 180° Lizard Head 8 miles with CUTTY SARK. Thence escorted to Falmouth. (H) SEVERN escorted by two CHASSEURS leaves Needles 1100/9th for Falmouth. (J) SHAD and SEVERN escorted by CUTTY SARK leave Falmouth so as to arrive position 180° Bishop Rock 0600/10th to R/V with U.S.S HERRING. Thence these three S/Ms and CUTTY SARK to Clyde. (K) HERRING 50° 10' N. 10° 03' W. dived by day through 50° 10' N. 09° 00' W. thence to R/V with CUTTY SARK in 180° Bishop Rock. 10 miles at 0800/10th. (L) BLACKFISH off Bilbao. (M) BARB in zone K.505. (F.O.S. 1641A/8.)

Intend sailing KINGS GREY, SEDDON at 0400/9 to 180° Lizard Head 8 miles R/V SHAD escorting her to Falmouth. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2244A/8.)

KATHIAWAR, KUMAON. My 1810A/7. KUMAON sailed. (Cdre. Londonderry, 0901A/8.) Sailed KATHIAWAR and KUMAON for Gibraltar for onward routeing to destination. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1036A/8.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. My 1901/5. Disembark aircraft on 18th February and cease to be at 24 hours notice from that date Disembark petrol and ammunition in accordance with N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1106/6, and after 18th February. Be ready sail Liverpool 22nd February. (R.A.A.C. H.F. 1350A/8 to ILLUSTRIOUS)

A.F.D.20 C. in C.W.A. 1146A/3 and C. in C. Plymouth's 1153A/7. Sailed to make R/V STAR OF INDIA. M.Ls. 257, 203 sailed and returned owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1415A/8.)

Your 1629. Remain with A.F.D.X.X. at Clovelly until the weather moderates and then carry out programme in C. in C. Plymouth's 1153/7th. (C. in C.W.A. 1755A/8 to SKATE.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Disposition of operational units in North Atlantic. Scapa: KING GEORGE V, MALAYA, BERMUDA, GLASGOW, KENYA, NORFOLK, SUSSEX, 7 Destroyers. Passage to Scapa: ANSON, SHEFFIELD, 2 Destroyers. Passage to Iceland: HOWE, BERWICK, KENT, 3 Destroyers. Clyde: FURIOUS, ILLUSTRIOUS, 1 Destroyer, 4 U.S. Destroyers. Rosyth: RENOWN, 1 Destroyer. On Patrol: JAMAICA. On Passage to U.K: ARGUS. Gibraltar Area: NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, ABDIEL, ADVENTURE, 8 Destroyers. (D.O.D. H. 1547Z/8.)

/CLOUD...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

CLOUD. Arrival CLOUD for conversion to Torpedo Recovery Vessel.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1610/8.)

JED. Sailed JED at 2025/8 routed through (a) 60.00 N. 34.30 W. (b) 55.00 N. 43.50 W., thence to St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 1300/13.
(A.C.I.C., 2037A/8 to F.O.N.F.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1055A/7. "Jovial" returned 0318.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0844A/8.)

1. Intend M.L.247 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 522 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Portland 1745 via Q.Z.S.382 to patrol-line adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. convoy. M.Ls to be at western end of patrol-line at dawn, thence returning to Portland.
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1120A/8.)
1 Motor Launch leaves Blyth 1830 to patrol to seaward 20 R Buoy returning daylight.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1426A/8.)
Cancel my 1120A/8 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1638A/8.)
My 1000/20. Tonight CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, TYNEDALE, BLEASDALE form Force A and proceed at 1300/8 via Needles to patrol southward of Beachy Head returning to pass Needles inward at 0730/9. Force B at Newhaven M.G.Bs 616 S.O., 611, 613, M.T.B.85, 89, 242.
(2) LORD WAKEFIELD, KINGSTON TOPAZ, M.L. 14 at St. Helens.
FYLLA at Yarmouth (I.o.W.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1207A/8 and 1930A/8.)

North Norway S/M Patrol. One Soviet submarine will occupy zone II until 2359/16.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1607A/8 to C. in C. H.F.)

Exercises.

Battle Fleet Exercise. V.A.2's 0212/6 para. 8. As aircraft may be shadowing from westward a further lettered co-ordinate is required for 031° W. This will be WW.
(A.C.I.C., 1756A/8 to C.S.1, V.A.2.)

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.A/C in
ILLUSTRIOUS.Your 1804/7. Approved.
(C. in C. H.F., 1044A/8 to V.A.A.)Copenhagen
R/C.P.R.U. Copenhagen in operation.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1127A/8 to C. in C. H.F.)Bomber
Command
operations.On day 7th 323 A/C bombed Lorient.
(H.Q.B.C., 1230A/8.)Convoy
U.C. 1.

S.O. Escort Group 5 has reported that in Caribbean area air escort by day and night may be expected from U.S. aircraft bases at Trinidad, Aruba, and Curacao. No recognition procedure has been carried by these aircraft nor has any signal been made warning ships of arrival of air escort. (ii) As air escort from these sources may be operative on convoy U.C.1 request authorities concerned may be instructed inform S.O. Escort of any air escort arranged. Also request information regarding recognition procedure and radio telephony wave length used between these zone plus and ships. (C. in C.W.A., 1831A/8 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Orkneys.

At 1643/7 enemy A/C was plotted 30' E. of "A" Buoy 2,000 ft. course E. Tracks faded at 1757 when 125° Sumburgh Head 62 miles. Fighters failed to contact. (A.C.O.S., 1045/8 to Admty.)

Biscay Area.

Am being attacked by Ju.88 in 46° 31' N. 08° 20' W. (A/C L3Z1, 1228/8 to 19 Group.)

Mining.

Harwich.

1 mine detonated by LL trawlers at 0930A/8 in 51° 55.4' N. 01° 27.9' E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1116A/8 and 1203A/9.)

M.G.B.109
damaged.

My 1656A/7. N.L.24A was abandoned owing to weather. While covering this operation at 2207/7 M.G.B.109 struck a surface mine in 100° South Foreland 16 miles. Following damage and casualties sustained in M.G.B.109. Bow cut away forward of wheelhouse, 2-pounder gun forced over side, and she was flooded forward of tank space bulkhead. One rating missing presumed killed, and one rating wounded. M.G.B.109 was towed stern first to Number 3 Buoy by M.G.Bs 110 and 108, and then to Dover by M.G.B.324. (F.O.C. Dover, 1229A/8.)

/Clearance ...

8.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Clearance of Q.Z.X.887. Intend sailing LYDD, SELKIRK and ALBURY tomorrow to continue clearance of Q.Z.X.887.
(M/S.4, 1420A/8 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Humber. Your 1106/7. Intend to lay South to North. Following is proposed programme.
(PLOVER, 1130A/8 to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 1130/8 approved.
(C. in C. Nore, 1632A/8 to PLOVER.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHARNHORST, My 1728/28.
PRINZ EUGEN. (a) SCHARNHORST and HIPPER cruiser passed Great Belt proceeding northwards at 1700/24 in company with 2 destroyers. One of these ships was sighted later off Aarhus. Graded A.2.
(b) Both vessels passed southward through Great Belt Jan. 26th. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1231/8 to Admty.)
Comment:- SCHARNHORST and PRINZ EUGEN and 5 destroyers were sighted in the Skaggerak at 1415/25th January, westward bound; at 1435/25th they were seen returning to the eastward.

Enemy Convoy. Convoy reported in 52° 40' N. 04° 38' E. at 1145A/8 seen from photographs to consist of merchant ships 415' long closely resembling potential raider illustrated in W.I.R.148 page 71, escorted by a SPERRBRECHER, 4 'M' class minesweepers, and 3 trawlers.
(D.D.I.C., 1751A/8.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Am over enemy S/M in 56° 32' N. 19° 06' W.
(A/C RF5K, 1415A/8.)

Technical.

Oiling at Sea. Admty. 2015/6, para. 3. This trial is desired.
(2) R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail BLANKNEY and LEDBURY to arrive Loch Ewe a.m. 12th Feb.
(BRITISH GOVERNOR). (C. in C. H.F., 0052A/8 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

VISCOUNT. Proceeding Hvalfjord to carry out repairs Asdic. E.T.A. 1630Z/8th.
(VISCOUNT, 1045Z/8.)
VISCOUNT arrived Reykjavik for repairs to sound gear.
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1700Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Proceeding ...

287

8.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- VISCOUNT.
(Contd.) Proceeding 2100N/8th, estimated speed of advance 18 knots.
(VISCOUNT, 2002Z/8.)
Cancel my 2002/8. Sailing delayed by jammed steering engine.
(VISCOUNT, 2351Z/8 to A.C.I.C.)
- BELGOL. My 1151/6. BELGOL has sustained slight damage by grounding. It will be necessary to retain CELEROL in Iceland for about 7 days until BELGOL is made serviceable.
(A.C.I.C., 1119A/8.)
- CULEBRA Intend sailing CULEBRA in tow of HORSIA escorted by
(Broke down THIRLMERE at 1400/9. Routed before leaving
22nd Jan.) Reykjanes to (Q) 061° 20' N. 015° 00' W. (R) 058° 50' N. 008° 35' W. (S) 360° Butt of Lewis 6 miles thence to Scrabster for onward routeing to the Tyne. Estimated speed 3 knots.
(A.C.I.C., 1346A/8 to N.O.I.C. Thurso.)
- Your 1652/30. It had been hoped a more powerful tug than HORSIA would have been provided to tow CULEBRA whose dead weight tow is approximately 10,000 tons. She has no rudder but her trim has been improved since she was towed in by DEXTEROUS. No other rescue tug being available in Iceland to assist request approval to sail her tomorrow escorted by THIRLMERE subject to favourable weather forecast.
(A.C.I.C., 1809A/8 to Admty.)
Your 1809. It is thought better to postpone sailing HORSIA with CULEBRA until weather prospect improves.
2. ADHERENT should sail shortly for Iceland.
(D.T.D., 2344A/8 to A.C.I.C.)
- M.M.S. 141. M.M.S.141 sailed from Greenock 1400A/8 for Bowling
(Broke down To be taken in hand by Scott and Son, Bowling.
31st Jan.) (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1443A/8.)
M.M.S. 141 became detached from convoy S.C.117 and attempts to establish communication with her failed. In the absence of contrary information it was assumed she was sailing as one of H.M. ships and would comply with Naval W/T organisation and carry the authorised allowance of S.Ps. It is requested that in future I may be informed when warships are sailed in convoy as merchant ships.
(C. in C. W.A., 1845A/8 to Admty.)

/GRAPH ...

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

GRAPH.

Your 1327A/8. My 0901A/7 reads as follows:-
A starboard engine cylinder block forward section in GRAPH has cracked. Details. Repair is considered beyond Depot Ship's resources. Possible that experts like Barrimars may make repair.
(Capt. S.3, 1545A/8 to Admty.)

CADUCEUS.

CADUCEUS refloated.
(N.O.I.C. Lamdash, 1600A/8.)

SALTERELLO.

SALTERELLO has damaged propeller, three blades believed missing. Vessel will be unable to carry out next escort duty.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1807A/8.)

MOORDALE.

C. in C. Plymouth's 1257/7.
MOORDALE has not arrived Milford Haven.
MANGROVE reports not seen since dark 7th.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1925A/8.)

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.118. Require immediate assistance please. Hurry, no lifeboats.
TOWARD, (Liverpool W/T 0114/8.)
ROBERT E. SSSS de az-54 (Unread) Need assistance immediately.
HOPKINS, Az 54 De Az-1R As De Az-54 Thank you, we will wait, but hurry please.
AFRIKA, (Burnham Radio to Admty. Recd. 0133/8.)
DAGHILD, S S S S De Az 54 torpedoed 0043/8 DE G.C.K.
ADAMAS, (Humber Radio 0148/8.)
HENRY R, S S S S De Az 54 require immediate assistance
MALLORY, G.C.K. 0103/8.
sunk. (Humber Radio 0207/8.)
KALLIOPI Following received from Lands End Radio.
presumed sunk. Intercept 0130 G.M.T. S S S S Az 54 boat unread
sunk. need assistance immediately. 0131 G.M.T. Az 54
NEWTON ASH, Thank you. B.U.F.O. A.S.A.K.E. Az 54. We will wait
WEST PORTAL but hurry please.
HARMALA (C. in C. Plymouth 0232/8 to Admty.)
torpedoed. Cannot last much longer.
(Ship No. 54 0300/8.)

NEWTON ASH torpedoed at 0045Z (corrupt group) one Unknown Ship a Tanker at (?0121)Z. ADAMAS in sinking condition after collision with BEVERLEY, LOBELIA investigating picking up survivors. Amplified report follows. Promising counter-attack. My P.C. and S. 56.29 N. 21.14 W. 084°, 7½. Weather 5578 7952.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24-1-16 0800Z/8 to C. in C.W.A.)
Report which casualties are known to be sunk and if any are considered salvable, also situation regarding survivors in each case.
(C. in C.W.A. 1011A/8 to C.T.U. 24-1-16.)
ADAMAS considered unsalvable, sunk by gunfire in 056° 35' N. 022° 23' W. Am returning to Merville at 10 knots. Weather 3671 9566.
(BEVERLEY 1154Z/8 to C. in C.W.A.)
C. in C.W.A. 1011A/8. Following casualties position as appreciated by me to date.

WEST PORTAL torpedoed at 1300Z/5 in 53.00 N. 33.(?00) W. while straggling. Nothing known of fate.
TOWARD torpedoed at 0250Z/7 in 55.13 N. 26.40 W., sank at 0330/7. 26 survivors in MIGNONETTE.
R.E.HOPKINS torpedoed at 0238Z/7 in 55.14 N. 26.39 W., sank at 0250Z/7. 42 survivors in MIGNONETTE.
AFRIKA torpedoed at 0340Z/7th in 55.16 N. 26.31 W., sank at 0350Z/7. 25 survivors in CAMPANULA, 12 in MIGNONETTE.
DAGHILD torpedoed at 0350Z/7 whilst straggling. Sank 1535Z/7 in approx. 55.34 N. 25.52 W. 39 survivors in LOBELIA.
HARMALA torpedoed at 0315Z/7 in 55.14 N. 26.37W. at 1918Z/7. 11 survivors in LOBELIA.
HENRY R.MALLORY torpedoed at 0400Z/7 in 55.18 N. 26.29 W. Sank at 0408Z/7. 4 survivors in CAMPANULA, 212 in BIBB, 20 in INGHAM, 4 in MIGNONETTE.
KALLIOPI torpedoed at 0600Z/7 in 55.27 N. 26.08 W. Presumed sunk. 33 survivors in BIBB.
ADAMAS. Damaged in collision at 0140Z/8. Sank by BEVERLEY in approx. 56.26 N. 22.15.W. 12 survivors in BABBITT, 13 in LOBELIA.
NEWTON ASH. Situation not clear.
BEVERLEY proceeding independently (?to) Merville, S.O.A. 10 knots. Considerable indication of U-Boat activities in vicinity of convoy.

/LOBELIA...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.118. LOBELIA broken down in 56.23 N. 21 $\frac{1}{2}$.34 W. Have sent VIMY to her assistance.
TOWARD, My P.C. and S. at 1800Z, 56.41 N. 18.22 W.,
ROBERT E. (? 091° or 317°), 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Weather 4882 7074.
HOPKINS, (M.O.E.T.U. 24-1-16 1920Z/8 to C. in C.W.A.)
AFRIKA, Request you sail PROSPEROUS and SCHELDE escorted
DAGHILD, by BUTTERCUP and SOUTHERN WAVE at daylight to-
ADAMAS, morrow to 56.30 N. 22 W. Two abandoned torpedo
HENRY R. vessels have been reported in this area and good
MALLORY, lookout is to be kept for survivors making towards
sunk. land in boats or rafts.
KALLIOPI (C. in C.W.A. 2137A/8 to Cmdre. Londonderry.)
presumed sunk. Pass through 55.30 N. 25 W., thence through 56.40
NEWTON ASH, N. 22 W., and keep lookout for torpedoed vessel
WEST PORTAL, or survivors in each area and to Eastward.
HARMALA (C. in C.W.A. 2208A/8 to CHURCHILL.)
torpedoed. Take SOUTHERN WAVE, PROSPEROUS and SCHEDULE under
(Cont d.) your orders and leave Lough Foyle at 0830/9 to
comply with C. in C.W.A. 2137A/8.
(Cmdre. Londonderry 2258A/8 to BUTTERCUP.)

M.K.F.8. Convoy M.K.F. 8 is due U.K. about 11/2,
comprising the following troopships:-
A. to Liverpool. DUCHESS OF YORK, SAMARIA.
B. to Tail of the Bank. DURBAN CASTLE, LETITIA, CIRCASSIA,
STRATHNAVER, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.
2. D.S.T.O. Glasgow. Is requested to call forward DURBAN
CASTLE, LETITIA, CIRCASSIA and DUNNOTTAR CASTLE as soon as berths
become available.
3. As far as is known here no personnel or cargo are on board
the above vessels with the exception of the following personnel
in SAMARIA, STRATHNAVER, LETITIA.
Details. (D.S.T. 0155A/8.)

TEGELBERG, TEGELBERG, DURBAN CASTLE, and CIRCASSIA on return
DURBAN CASTLE, to Glasgow from convoy W.S.27.Q. about 15/3. are
CIRCASSIA. to be taken in hand for fitting as L.S.I.(L),
completion date being not later than 30.4.
(D.S.T. 0158A/8.)

A.T.36. Convoy A.T.36 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND is
T.A.36. due Tail of the Bank on 11/2 with following
personnel on board. Total 3971. Details.
2. Vessel will sail as convoy T.A.36. On 19/2.
Approx. 3500 personnel will embark at Tail of the
Bank on 18/2 and 19/2.
(D.S.T. 0159A/8.)

W.S.27. Following is amended composition of convoy W.S.27.

/Code...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.W.S.27
Contd.

Code No.

E.1.

E.3.

E.4.

E.7.

E.9.

J.5.

(D.S.T. 0200A/8.)

Ship.

ALMANZORA

CAPETOWN CASTLE

CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS

STRATHMORE.

STRATHAIRD

ANTENOR.

W.S.27.Q.
W.S.27.R.

Following are amended compositions of:-

A. Convoy W.S.27.Q.

Code No.

P.3.

P.5.

P.8.

P.31.

P.64.

P.65.

P.68.

B. Convoy W.S.27.R.

Code No.

P.26

P.32.

P.42.

P.50.

P.55.

(D.S.T. 0201A/8.)

MORETON BAY and TAMAROA will now be included in
convoy W.S.27.R. code numbers being P.69 and P.70
respectively.

(D.S.T. 0202A/8.)

Ship.

TEGELBERG

LETITIA.

DURBAN CASTLE.

CIRCASSIA.

BOISSEVAIN.

FRANCONIA.

NIEUW HOLLAND.

Ship.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

DUNNOTAR CASTLE.

DUCHESS OF YORK.

SAMARIA.

EMPIRE PRIDE.

AMSTERDAM.

Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM and escort at
1845/10, speed 14½ knots, for Invergordon. E.T.A.
0745/11th, routed 5 miles east Sumburg Head, 35
buoy, A.M. Q.Z.S. 655, 150.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1051A/8.)

R.A.52.

Hvaljord arrival VIVACIOUS at 1015.
(A.C.I.C. 1101A/8.)

TJALDUR.

Intend sailing at 1800/10 TJALDUR kite balloon
(Troop) escorted by DULCIBELLE, speed 9 knots
for Aberdeen. E.T.A. 1800/11. routed by my
1125/14.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1103A/8.)

K.M.F.9.

My 1114A/6. Sailed.. For SHIKARI read EXE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1224A/8.)
My 1526/5. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1824A/8.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- K.M.F.9.
(Contd.) Convoy sailed as in A.M.2246A/31. Escorts MALCOM, OAKLEY, EASTON, MIAOULES routed as in A.M.1928A/1st. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1948A/8.)
- J.W.53.
R.A.53. The following code words and W/T call signs have been allotted:-
J.W.53 Code Word TICTAC. W/T Call Sign P.G.
R.A.53 Code Word NUMERAL. W/T Call Sign V.H.
(D.T.D.1500A/8.)
- K.X.9. Convoy K.X.9 consisting of ships for destinations shown will leave Milford Haven a.m. 15th February. Details and Escorts
(D.O.D.H.1526A/8.)
- PERTSHIRE. On reaching new position C 5001 N. 2048 W. steer for new D 5505 N. 0930 W. thence to Y omitting W. Destination changed to Glasgow.
(D.T.D. 1600Z/8 to B.A.M.S.)
- WAIPAWA. From new position X 5002 N. 2122W. steer for new position Y 55° N. 10° W. thence to S. Destination changed to Belfast for Avonmouth.
(D.T.D. 1601Z/8 to B.A.M.S.)
- O.N.166. On completion repairs in Mersey request BRITISH LADY and SAINTONGE be sailed as escort oilers in O.N.166, destination both vessels New York.
(D.of Stores 1953A/8.)
- Russian
Convoys.
Discharge
arrangements. Signal 155 your M.A.S.T. 375.
Comment on future use of White Sea was being withheld until at least group two had arrived and we had been able to discuss experiences with masters. Reports of damaged ships propellers are coming through; (?9) of group one are damaged and two more are known to be damaged before leaving White Sea Ports.
2. There is no question of sending any ships now here to White Sea as there is a chance of them all catching R.A.53 if discharged here. This has been explained to Russian Authorities and they have accepted position.
3. Shortage of flat cars and waggons has blocked Port AA. Discharging figures are still keeping up but space is getting shorter and quantity in target area is now about 30,000 tons. In another week it will be over 40,000 tons at present rate. Russians continue to assure us efforts are being made but results have not appeared. Unless sufficiency of rail transport is forthcoming within next three days it might be well to postpone sailing of J.W.53 for four or five days so that present congestion will be cleared sufficiently for expeditious discharging. This should not increase turn-round difficulties since discharging will be considerable.

War Diary.

8.2.1943.

Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Russian
Convoys.
Discharge
arrangements.
(Contd.)

4. We are not in a position here to know how many of 34 ships mentioned in your M.A.S.T. 358 will actually catch convoy. Basing on last year's experience presume maximum will be twenty five.
5. If about twenty-five ships arrive in J.W.53 and all ships are out of White Sea by then we will recommend that all Russian ships should proceed EKONOMIA and four deep-draft ships with as few

heavy lifts as possible should proceed MOLOTOVSK.

6. If all these ships were to discharge Murmansk foregoing number would not catch end of March convoy so that if discharged White Sea no loss in turn-round time should result.

7. Vessels of group one report KAGANOVICK as being unable to steam properly presumably owing to bad coal, Have offered coal from ships of J.W.52 to ice breakers though it should go to fill bunkers of EMPIRE ELGAR.

(Dalgleish, Murmansk 2127A/8 to Admty.)

U.C.1.
C.U.1.

Escorts for U.C.1 and C.U.1 Commander L.F. Durnford-Slater R.N. in WESTON as S.O. of escort. British ships WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, EXE, NAIRN and if available BRADFORD and U.S. ship MADISON, LANSDALE, HILARY P. JONES, and C.B. HUGHES.
(C. in C.W.A. 2131Z/8.)

MUSSOVIET.

Sailed MUSSOVIET at 2225/8.
(A.C.I.C. 2340A/8 to C. in C.H.F., S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

8.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ANTELOPE, E.T.A. 1645A/ with BOREAS and WIVERN.
BOREAS, (?Acknowledge). Weather report.
WIVERN (ANTELOPE, 0851A/8 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
A/S hunt. Capt. (D) 13).
WIVERN reports No. 1 oil fuel tank leaking
(?direct to) sea; it will be clear before
arrival.
(ANTELOPE, 0855A/8 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) A.S. Gibraltar,
Capt. (D) 13).
Your 1218A (N.T. in W.D.) ANTELOPE and BOREAS will join
corvettes at 1530. WIVERN has insufficient fuel to join in
hunt and is proceeding to Gibraltar now.
(ANTELOPE, 1321A/8 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) BADDECK,
ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR).

M.K.S.7 ROCHESTER 0121/8th (0151/8 intended N.T. in W.D.)
Dispositions, M.K.S.7.
EMPIRE 1. VERITY has been sent to join escort.
MORDRED. 2. Med. escorts have been ordered to remain
with convoy until further orders.
3. BADDECK, SUMMERSIDE, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR
and aircraft sent to hunt.
4. Tug has been sent in case EMPIRE MORDRED is still afloat.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0921/8 to Admty. etc).
SCARBOROUGH standing by EMPIRE MORDRED approx. 035° 58' N.
005° 59' W. On relief by M.L. 341 SCARBOROUGH proceed to
rejoin convoy.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0935A/8 to NIMBLE, M.L. 341, (R)
SCARBOROUGH, Admty. N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A).
M.K.S.7 TREFUSIS returned with boiler trouble, EMPIRE
TRENT did not sail.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1001/8 to Cdre. Algiers (R) Connav,
Admty. N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.App. Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.7
for Cdre).
M.K.S.7 B. Gibraltar section arrived 13 ships.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1007A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers,
F.O.I.C. Oran, Connav, Admty).
LUNENBURG and WEYBURN are to part company as necessary to
enter Gibraltar at 0800/9.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1245A/8 to Escorts of Convoy, M.K.S.
7 (R) N.C.X.F., BADDECK, ANTELOPE, Admty).
VERITY is to remain with convoy until prudent limit of
endurance.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1252A/8 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.
No. 7 (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)
My 1245A/8, delete LUNENBURG.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1452A/8 to Escorts of M.K.S. 7 (R) Admty.
N.C.X.F., BADDECK, ANTELOPE).
M.K.S.7 EL BIAR arrived.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1641A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers,
F.O.I.C. Oran, Connav, Admty).
If no further attacks are made on convoy during night
ROCHESTER is to detach PENTSTEMON, VETCH, CONVULVULUS and
SPEEDWELL at 0800A/9th to return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2245A/8 to Escorts of M.K.S.7 (R)
Admty. N.C.X.F. C. in C. W.A., S.N.O. Casablanca).

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- U.G.S. 5. Request confirmation that position (P) is 035° 15' N. 021° 30' W. Your 0144/7th refers.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0944/8 to Port Director New York, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)
Reply: N.C.S.O. New York 1730Z/8.
- U/B. Following read from A/C C/S L30/P: Am investigating possible S/M in 29° 43' N. 13° 39' W.
(Gibraltar W/T, 0953A/8.)
- U/B Am over enemy S/M in 30.17 N. 13.53 W. sighted attacked. on surface and seen to submerge, when first sighted was on course 100° speed 10 knots.
(A/C L30/U, 1225A/8.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C L30/U, 1230A/8.)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 30.40 N. 13.11 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 011° speed 4 knots.
(A/C L30/Y, 1425A/8.)
- G.S.1. Your 1228/6 my 1533/29/1 and your 1245/30. Request confirmation that BUTSER and BIRDLIP are to be sailed with convoy G.S.1.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1012A/8 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.Af., S.N.O.C.A.)
Replies: (N.C.X.F., 0809A/9, 1039A/9.)
- Dispositions. Situation 2001A/8th.
NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, 4 merchant ships 37.56 09.31 through 36.36 10.11 at 0900/9th to R/V M.K.S.7. Escort thence Gibraltar 10.
(2) M.K.S.7 (? ROCHESTER) 36.06 07.56 through 36.29 10.01 thence 311°, 7.
(3) Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 39.13 10.49 through 37.01 10.01 and 35.56 06.08 thence Gibraltar 14.
(4) Gibraltar convoy 2, PETUNIA 31.05 12.32 048°, 8.
(5) LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON PENDER working cables vicinity 32.26, 16.05.
(6) JAMAICA leaving patrol between 43 to 46 N. and 18 to 35 W. during 8th through 36.01 12.01 thence Gibraltar 17.
(7) 4 Swedish relief ships 37.22, 25.18 96°, 12.
(8) 7 L.C.I.(L) 35.08 08.31 to Gibraltar 10.
(9) 2 L.C.I.(L) 32.12 13.54 56°, 6½.
(10) Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAZ 36.15 15.20 63°, 11.
(11) Spanish Training ship GALATEA left Corunna 5th for Las Palmas.
(12) Portuguese D/R VOUGA leaves Lisbon 8th for Ponta Delgada 18.
(13) BADDECK, SUMMERSIDE, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR A/S sweep off Cape Spartel.
(14) S/M P.35, 036° 43', 008° 18' through 036° 51' 009° 13' at 0200/9th thence 330° diving by day 2½ surface at night 7½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1016A/8 to A.I.G. 63.)

/Situation ...

8.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic

Dispositions (Contd.) Situation 2003A/8th Area Y.
4 Swedish relief ships 037° 22' 025° 18' 096° 12.
2. JAMAICA leaves patrol between 43 and 46 N. and 18 and 35 W. during 8th through 36.01 12.01 thence

Gibraltar 17.

3. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR working cable vicinity of 39.05 25.26.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1104A/8 to Area Y.)

My 1104/8th para. 3 add: KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE holds incorrect recognition signals.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1646A/8 to Area Y.)

No. H.M. ship in this area.

(Adm. Gibraltar 1130/8 to Area Z.)

NEWFOUNDLAND (Hospital Ship.) NEWFOUNDLAND estimated 2000/8th 039° 13' N. 010° 49' W. thence 037° 01' 010° 01' and 035° 56' 006° 08' thence Gibraltar 14.
(Adm. Gibraltar 1018/8 to P.35.)

CADMUS, HUSSAR, ALBACORE, Oropesa Sweep. CADMUS and HUSSAR are to R/V ALBACORE in 036° N. 006° W. at 0800/9th.
2. Carry out 33% double Oropesa searching sweep in H formation in area bound by latitude 36.53 and 36.03 and longitude 06.05 W. and 05.55 W. 20 fathom float wire to be used.
(F.O.Gibraltar 1020A/8 to CADMUS, ALBACORE, HUSSAR, (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

Attacks on Gibraltar Convoy 2, Air support. At the moment convoy Gib. 2 is being attacked by U-Boats possibly up to 12 in number. I also understand there are 26 P.B.Ys. in Casablanca area. Please confirm that this convoy is being given maximum air support.

(1st S.L. 1050A/8 to V.A.Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F.)

Your 1050A/8. Personal for 1st S.L. Agadir detachment Hudson close escort throughout the day. In addition four Hudsons sweeping area. Three Gibraltar Catalina in vicinity have been diverted to close convoy.

2. Have asked S.N.O.C.A. to give maximum air protection possible.
3. Hudson attacked U-Boat near this convoy at 1225A today Monday. Aircraft report one escort vessel sunk at 0803A.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1330A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

(corrupt group) 2 P.Cs. departing Casablanca as soon as practicable to augment escorts of convoy Gib. -2. Estimated P.C. and S. at 0800A/9th 031° 55' N. 011° 20' W. 048° 8. S.O. of escort PETUNIA. Guard Gib. FOX and within 100 miles Casablanca 2333 k/cs. per sec.

(S.N.O. Casablanca 1441Z/8 to C.T.U. 26.7.1. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., PETUNIA, C.T.U. 26.7.2., C.T.U. 26.7.3. F.O.W.Af.)

BREDON sunk, (Convoy Gib. 2.) BREDON torpedoed 0703Z in 029° 49' N. 014° 05' W. Two survivors only, first lieutenant and one seaman. Am rejoining convoy.
(DUNKERY 1215Z/8 to PETUNIA.) [News of sinking p. 337]

/Following...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

BREDON Following from Agadir Aircraft (begins):-
 sunk, Admiralty (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.
 (Convoy from PETUNIA. At 0703Z (Approx. six corrupt words)
 Gib.2.) C.V.10 in FALKON which sank in a few seconds in
 (Contd.) 29.55 N. 13.57 W. No signs of U-Boat attack seen
 by Convoy Escorts. DUNKERY and Hudson Aircraft
 carrying out search for possible survivors. Request
 permission to retain DUNKERY to Gibraltar. T.O.O. 0906/8. (Ends.)
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1601A/8 to Admty, F.O.C.W.Af., N.C.X.F.)
 PETUNIA's 1601A/8th. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 1601/8 intended?)
 Concur in DUNKERY remaining in Company PETUNIA to Gibraltar.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 1808Z/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) PETUNIA etc.)
 PETUNIA 0906/8. Intend sailing ANTELOPE to act as
 additional escort to Gibraltar convoy No. 2
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1602A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.Af.)
 My 1602/8, not to F.O.H. ANTELOPE defective, intend sailing
 HAYDON.
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1930A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.A.
 F.O.H.)
 Sailed (2305) HAYDON to R/V and act as additional escort to
 Gibraltar Convoy No. 2.
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 2310/8.)
 Between 1304Z and 2006Z a number of transmissions from your
 vicinity on 14577 k/cs and 12260 k/cs, indicate presence of
 several U-Boats.
 (D.D.I.C. 2146A/8 to PETUNIA (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
 F.O.C.W.A. C. in C.W.A.)
 Your 1932Z/8. Take whatever action you consider necessary
 and practicable.
 (D.C. 2155A/8 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.W.A. N.C.X.F.)
 W.R.Note: Repetition of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 1601/8 - re
 attack on PETUNIA convoy. 1932Z/8 was not circulated.
 Your 0996 (0906 intended - see 1601A/8). DUNKERY is to
 remain with convoy to Gibraltar.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 2301A/8 to PETUNIA (R) DUNKERY, Admty.
 R.A.W.A.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)

Gibraltar Your 1958/6 (1958/5 intended) concur.
 Intelligence (F.O.C. Gib. 1231A/8 to Admty.)
 Area.

TORBAY V.A. Gibraltar please pass to N.C.X.F. My 2232
 firing on and 2233/7th and your 2310/7th. C.O. Spanish S/M
 Spanish SAN JURJO has now reported that his original signal
 S/M SAN JURJO. was in error and S/M that attacked him was British.
 Waterline damage done very slight.
 Submit I should express regret but point that
 SAN JURJO was unescorted, was in unnotified position, and is
 of Italian S/M ARCHIMEDE class.
 Presume I can guarantee no molestation of French S/M IRIS.
 (N.A. Madrid 1329/8 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty. V.A. Malta.)

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- P.35
(UMBRA.) Your 2240/5. Request you will reroute P.35 to position 43° N. 12° 26' W. thence by route "Red". (D.O.D.(H) 1612A/8 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) F.O.S. UMBRA (P.35) etc.)
- My 1037/6th to P.35 only. After passing position S. proceed new position C, 43.01 12.26 thence by "Red" route. Estimated time of passing C 1900/12th shifting wireless watch at that time.
(F.O.Gibraltar 2347/8 to P.35 (R) Capt. (S) 3, F.O.(S). Capt. (S) 5, C. in C.W.A. Admty. C. in C. Plymouth.)
- G.S.2. Your 1211/7 and 1843/3. No objection if this can be operated with escorts at present available. No additional escorts can be spared.
(D.T.D. 1615A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- T.E.15. N.C.X.F. 1713/6th; intend to sail: for Bougie - INGERFIRE, for Algiers - DINGLEDALE, for Bone - then Philippeville - ORKLA, for Bone - ASHANTIAN, for Algiers then Bougie - SELVIK.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1638A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- MANUCHU Spanish Steamer MANUCHU arrived 11 hours Feb. 7th
German for cargo zinc ore for Germany.
Cargo. (Cartagena 1815/8 to Bedrock5(R) Proximo 2 and N.A.Madrid.)
- ADVENTURE. Intend to sail ADVENTURE for U.K. at 0430/9 routed through B. 35.50 06.01 C. 35.51 06.15 D. 36.01 11.01 E. 43.01 16.01 F. 45.01 16.01 S.O.A. 20 knots.
2. Admty is requested to signal destination and C. in C.W.A. onward route.
3. Codeword "Coach."
(F.O.C. Gib. 1823A/8 as amended 2242A/8 to Admty. C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. N.C.X.F. V.A.(M) ADVENTURE.)
- WEYBURN. E.T.A. 0100/9. 56 survivors transferred from SCARBOROUGH, intend to berth as per your 2007A/7, (N.T. in W.D.) unless otherwise ordered.
(WEYBURN 1901A/8 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- CHARLES C. 2nd Mate and 13 crew of U.S. CHARLES C. PINCKNEY
PINCKNEY. landed Horta by Swiss CARITASI Feb. 8th. 2nd mate in hospital Samarai. S/M sighted a.m. 26th, ship torpedoed 2245 G.M.T. 27th, 200 miles S.S.W. Azores. Believe 4 boats 1 raft launched but lost touch. His boat was picked up 0230 G.M.T. 8th approx. 15 miles N. from Sao Miguel.
(R.O.Fayal 2128/8 to Admty. for D. of N.I. (R) N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

8.2.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

KATHIAWAR.

Failed to rejoin convoy. Intend to proceed to Gibraltar and keep wireless watch from 0001 G.M.T.9th "S" orders 2/43 table 2 line 6.
(KATHIAWAR 2132/8 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. BLACK SWAN.)

Movements.

Arrivals 1440. NASTURTIUM with French S.S. EL BIAR ex M.K.S. 7. 0910 F.O. (H) in NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, ADVENTURE, TARTAR, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, PUCKERIDGE, HAYDON, HOLCOMBE, VENOMOUS, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA from Mers El Kebir.

Departures A.M.H.M.C. Ships SUMERSIDE, BADDECK, PORT ARTHUR, for A/S sweep westwards. 0800 H.M.T. ARTIC RANGER F.S. LA BOUDEUSE escorting Convoy K.43. to Algiers. 2230 HAYDON to reinforce escort of PETUNIA Convoy.

(F.O. Gibraltar 2335A/8 to Admty. N.C.X.F. N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements. Arrived HILDESAY.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0611Z/8 to Admty etc).
Arrived French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 1800/7th.
(Com Dakar, 0828Z/8 to F.O.W.A.)
Departure 7th Feb. RELENTLESS.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 0931Z/8 to Admty).
Departure 8th Brazilian Destroyer MARANHAO.
(B.R.L.O. Santos, 1315Z/8 to Admty).
Departure 6th February U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS U.S. Destroyer
WINSTONE.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1933Z/8 to Admty)

INKPEN In A/S contact position 14° 32' N. 17° 31' W.
U/B. am (?attacking).
(INKPEN, 0918Z/8).

N.C. Group My 1105/8 (as received) Following ships are
sailing. being diverted to Walvis Bay for onward passage
to Saldanha Bay in N.C. Group sailing:-
Name, and E.T.A. DAVID STONE 10th Feb.
DUNDRUM CASTLE 11th Feb. KING JAMES V 13th Feb.
BENVANNOCK 13th Feb. OCEAN HUNTER 14th Feb. ALGENIB 15th Feb.
ALLERTON 14th Feb. FORBIN 13th Feb.
(2) OCEAN HUNTER is to be instructed to use A.N.D. Gear.
(C. in C. S.A., 1101C/8 to N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay (R) Admty. etc).
It is intended to sail escort of C.N. convoys through to
Walvis Bay to return the day after arrival with N.C. groups
assembled at Walvis Bay. The first N.C. group should be
ready to leave 14th Feb. and subsequent groups each Wednesday
and Sunday.
(C. in C. S.A., 1105C/8 to N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, (R)
Admty. N.C.S.O. Capetown, N.C.S.O. Saldanha Bay).

Dispositions. CHESHIRE 043° 20' S. 026° 00' W. to Montevideo
13½ knots.
CARTHAGE on patrol about 051° S. 028° E.
P.614 029° 30' S. 011° 45' E. to Simonstown 8½.
Convoy D.C.5 off Cape Agulhas to Capetown 8.
STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY off Saldanha Bay to Capetown.
VEREENIGING TURFONTEIN 035° 50' S. 022° (?00') E. to Capetown 12.
Convoy C.A.10 A 034° 00' S. (?027°) 00' E. to Durban 8.
(C. in C. S.A., 1204C/8 to Area Q).
Situation at 2001Z/8th.
RELENTLESS 03.49 07.59 to 03.39 07.45 thence 081° 22.5
RUMBA, BELLWORT escorting 04.39 01.37 to 04.34 02.00 thence 261 9.
ST. WISTAN, CHARON, off Ivory coast. Fleet unit HOTSPUR,
EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with C.F.11, 00.45 04.50 284° 13.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S., escorting about 02.50 S.
06.11 E. to 01.01 S. 03.00 E. thence 322 12. M.L No. 285 04.59
00.24 E. to Lagos (Nigeria) 10. RANCHI 05.40 S. 06.25 E. 302 14.
Allied Naval unit patrolling Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area.
(R.A.W.A., 1635/8 to A.I.G.150).
French Cruiser GLOIRE off Dakar to Bathurst M.L. 271 escorting
010° 45' 016° 55' to Freetown 7. REDOUBT, BURDOCK escorting
009° 18' 016° 24' to Freetown.
French Sloop Minesweeper GAZELLE, QUERCY off (?Ivory coast) to
North 12½.

/DESPATCH...

War Diary.

8.2.1943.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Dispositions. DESPATCH patrol between 008° 51' 023° (?23') and 008° 26' 027° 23' 20. (F.O.C.W.A. 1637Z/8 to A.I.G. 149.)

KEPPEL
HILARY.

1. B.N.L.O. W.AF. sail KEPPEL to Lagos to escort HILARY to Freetown. 2. N.O.I.C. Lagos report when HILARY ready to proceed Freetown on escorted basis. (F.O.C.W.A. 1301Z/8? to B.N.L.O.W.A. (R) R.N.O. Lagos, address amended 1533/12.)

W.S. 26.

Intend to sail convoy W.S. 26 at 1000Z/9th.Feb. (List.)

(2) Route (A) 007° 50' N. 014° 22' W. (B) 003° 01' N. 008° 16' W. (C) 003° 30' N. 001° 16' W. (D) 006° (700') S. 010° 48' E. (E) 018° 38' S. 010° 42' E. (F) 029° (759') S. 015° 41' E. S. of A. 12½ knots.
(3) Escort from Freetown CILICIA, CANTON, CORINTHIAN, QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH, QUALITY, RACEHORSE, WAYLAND, ADRIAS.
(4) COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES from Takoradi joins escort to the Cape in position. (Z) 003° 30' N. 001° 30' W. at 1400Z/12th Feb. After COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES joining, CORINTHIAN and ADRIAS will be detached to comply with my 1603Z/8 (N.T. in W.D.) (5) RELENTLESS is to be sailed from Lagos to join escort to the Cape in 000° 56' N. 002° 02' E. at 1100Z/13
(6) A/S escorts will be fuelled from CANTON or at POINTE NOIRE as ordered by WAYLAND. (7) Escorts shift to area Q. W/T organization at 0800Z/16th Feb. (8) B.N.L.O. W.AF. is to arrange maximum air cover from Pointe Noire on Feb. 15th.
(9) C. in C. S.A. is requested to signal onward route from position. (f) and orders for convoy splitting in the Cape Area.
(R.A.W.A. 1601Z/8 to C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos, etc.)

Gib.
Intelligence
Area.

Your 1958/5/2. (re boundary.) Concur.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1730Z/8 to Admty.)

THAMES,
(tug).

Ref. A.M. 1201/7th. THAMES expected Montevideo 18th. Feb. My 1219/31st. to B.N.A. Buenos Aires only refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 1741C/8 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.AF. B.N.A. Buenos Aires.)

GLOIRE.

Intend sailing F.C. GLOIRE for Bathurst 0400/9th E.T.A. 0830Z/9th. After fuelling GLOIRE sail 1600Z/9th for anti blockade runner patrol between 010° and 021° N. and 025° and 030° W. Passing through position H. 011° N. 025° W. at 1800Z/10th. Leave patrol from position H. 2000Z/13th proceeding direct to Freetown E.T.A. 0730Z/15th S. of A. 20 knots throughout.
(Comar, Dakar, 1832Z/8 to F.O.W.A. (R) Cominch etc.)

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Movements.

Arrival 8th Feb. ARMERIA, HYDRANGEA, M.Ls. 305,
279, CONSBRO, B.D.V. BARFOSS.
Departure BELLWORT, DRANGEY.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1903Z/8 to Admty. R.A. W.Af.,
R.N.O. Lagos.)

REDOUBT,
LEOPOLDVILLE,
BURDOCK.

E.T.A. 0800Z/9th LEOPOLDVILLE and BURDOCK in
company. BURDOCK urgently requires 30 tons water
on arrival.
(REDOUBT, 2025Z/8 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) BURDOCK.)

CARNATIC.

Arrival Pointe Noire 1800Z/8th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 2135Z/8 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.etc)

Move
of U.S.
Personnel.

B.A.D. 2221Z/8 to F.O.C.W.A.
See America and West Indies.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

K.M.S.8. FORT BABINE in tow. Damage not yet ascertained.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 0907A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).

ABDIEL, Your 1225/5. Intend to sail ABDIEL to Milford
ADVENTURE. Haven to embark mines and to return to Gibraltar
by 24th Feb.
2. Request ADVENTURE be sailed with two further
outfits for ABDIEL to arrive Gibraltar by 26th
Feb.
(N.C.X.F., 1006A/8 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gib.
ABDIEL).

Sail at 1400 tomorrow 9th route. 37° 30' N. 02° 00' E.
60, 76, 82, S. of A. 26 knots to arrive Gibraltar 0800/10.
F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail ABDIEL onward to Milford
Haven.

(N.C.X.F., 1703A/8 to ABDIEL (R) Com. Algiers, Admty.
F.O.C. Gibraltar).

MONTE NARANCO interception. N.C.X.F. 1211A/30 requests that F.O.C.W.A.
co-ordinate with me air search for Spanish
MONTE NARANCO proceeding from Buenos Aires to Las
Palmas 17th to 21st Feb. Due to limited range
Catalina Amphibians this command suggest possibil-
ity your aircraft operating Agadir could better
carry out this mission.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1030Z/8 to A.O.C. Gib.
(R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
Admty).

Cagliari bombed. To Eaker and Brereton. From 12th Air Force.
From Doolittle, Signed Eisenhower.
12th Air Force Operations Daily Intelligence
Cable, 7th February.

1. Elmas A/D and Seaplane base at Cagliari
successfully bombed by our heavy and medium bombers. 51
bombers - 32 B.17 and 19 B.26 over target dropping 42 tons
H/E and 48 tons of fragmentation bombs. Results believed good.
2. 40 to 50 A/C dispersed on field. Bursts seen on N. and S.
sides of A/S among building, many on A/D many on both sides of
runways. Several A/C burned on ground, 2 very large fires seen
among hangars and docks.

3. E/A encountered after bombing runs. 5 E/A destroyed. 3
damaged. All of our planes, bombers and escorts, safely
returned.

(Allied Air Force, 1036Z/8 to Etousa).

REGENT Your 1758/7 (basing of REGENT at Gibraltar)
Fully concur.
(N.C.X.F., 1040A/8 to Admty).

8.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Minesweeping Alexandria. Bi-weekly M/S Summary Feb. 7th 1943. Channel anchorages and degaussing range swept daily. Negative results. (R.A. Alexandria, 1042/8 to Admty).

M.T.B. Sweep, P.43. M.T.Bs. will be sweeping South from Hammamet tonight North of 036°. Ordered not to attack submarines. After dark withdrawing to vicinity 036° 35' 011° 45' and signal at your discretion brief report on volume of shipping sighted. Return to area after 0300. (Capt. S.10., 1059A/8 to P.43 (R), P.44). Reply: See 2244A/8.
2 M.T.Bs. leaving Malta at 1530/8 to operate off W.A. (V.A. Malta, 1114A/8 to C. in C. Med., 201 Group, H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 247 Wing Advanced. (R) F.O.I.S., N.C.X.F., Admty. H.Q.E.A.C.)
M.T.B. 313, 309 sailed on operation. (V.A. Malta, 1636A/8 to Admty. etc).

Movements, Port Said. Your 1000A/7. Following is a repetition of my 1704B/1 (Begins). 1st Feb. Port Said. Departures DELPHINIUM, CUMBRAE, KLO, M.L. 384, M.L. 361. (Port Said, C.C.O., 1100B/8 to Admty. C.C.O.)

P.51 After dark tonight 8th
UNA. (1) P.51 proceed through 038° 20' 017° 37' 035° 30' 015° 41' 035° 20' 015° 035° 20' 014° 19' to R/V with sweepers at position 6 at 0830/11.
(2) UNA moving to area 2 between latitude 038° 18' and 040° W. of 017° 50' P.45 sailing for Messina area p.m. today.
(Capt. S.10., 1103A/8 1637A/8 to S/Ms on patrol).

K.M.S.8 K.M.S.8 Section arrived in accordance with N.C.X.F's 1130A/3 as amended by 1135A/4 and F.O.C. Gibraltar's 1442A/31 plus NACEEN from Oran less FORT BABINE (?sunk) and EPHOBARTE and EMPIRE FORM diverted to Bone, total 21 ships. (Cdre Algiers, 1149A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Connav, F.O.I.C. Oran)
W.D. Note FORT BABINE torpedoed 6 Feb. and taken in tow. No signal of sinking in W.D.

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 98 part 2. Night 6/7th Feb. 8 Wellingtons despatched to (?bomb) Heraklion Harbour with 4 Wellingtons providing diversion bombing. Owing to low cloud only 1 Wellington was able to find Harbour and laid 2 mines off entrance. Another Wellington bombed area of Heraklion aerodrome with unobserved results. Remainder returned.
7th Feb. 2 formations totalling 20 B.24s bombed shipping Naples Harbour, claiming 3 direct hits on merchant vessels at Moles.

/Fires...

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Bi-weekly
Opsum No.
98 part 2.
Contd.

Fires started on Massaniello and Vittoria
Emmanuele Moles. Other bombs burst on Bausona
Mole and Porta Di Massuueuay. Both formations
attacked by enemy fighters of which B.24s shot
down 2 M.e 109s probably destroying another.
1 B.24 shot down.
(A.H.Q., M.E., 1159Z/8).

Air R/C.

P.R.U. 8th Feb. 0930 Taranto visuals. 2
Battleships 2 cruisers, photographs taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1213A/8 to C. in C. Med. etc).
P.R.U. 1530 Taranto visuals. 2 Battleships,
2 Cruisers. 1600 Messina, no visual sighting owing to cloud.
Photographs taken. Naples, no sightings, aircraft being
driven off.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1754A/8 to C. in C. Med.etc).

Movements,
Aden.

Arrivals HAWKINS 0530Z departures CESSNOCK 1250Z
ROMNEY and POOLE in company.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1350Z/8 to Admty. C. in C.
Med., F.O.C.R.S.F., S.O.(I)s Kilindini, Colombo,
Bombay).

E.A.C.
Report.

Op. summ. No. 89 1800 hours 6 Feb. to 1800 hours
7 Feb.
A. Operations. 1 Hudson on A/S sweep sighted
U-boat in act of diving 3 miles away. 3 250 lb.
D/Cs were seen to explode across track of
U-boat 150 yards ahead of swirl, square search
carried out but no further sightings.
(E.A.C. N. Africa, 1400A/8).

P.45

Sailed.
(V.A. Malta 1420A/8 to Admty. etc).

Dispersal
of S/Ms.

I feel that REGENT and all available T class
S/Ms would for the moment best be employed
against Naples - Tunisian Traffic.
2. Consider it is still desirable to avoid
passing S/Ms through Sicilian channel if

possible.

3. Suggest therefore that if you can (?undertake) them you keep
TORBAY P.339 and REGENT to operate under Capt. (S) 8. THUNDER-
BOLT could join them if you wish.

4. I am anxious if possible to stop free run the enemy is now
enjoying in Aegean but this must be secondary to your
requirements.

5. Any of these submarines you cannot accept I intend to
operate in Aegean and Adriatic where they will get plenty of
targets and force enemy to disperse his crush effort.

6. Admiralty pass to F.O.S. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(C. in C. Med., 1630B/8 as amended 1214B/9 to N.C.X.F. (R)
Admty. etc). Reply: N.C.X.F. 1152A/9).

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TURBULENT,
P.54.

Capt. (S) 10 1030 (N.T. in W.D.) TURBULENT passing through 038° 45' 012° 08' tonight, keep lookout for aircraft dinghy. P.54 investigate this vicinity during daylight tomorrow. (Capt. S.8., 1650A/8 to TURBULENT, P.54, (R) Capt. (S) 10).

Western
Med.,
Administration

Following orders showing responsibility for administration of ships in Western Med. are to come into force now:-

2. By F.O.C. Gibraltar. 13th D.F. 12th M.S.F. 27th Canadian Escort group SAYONARA. Local Defence Vessel. M.Ls. and H.D.M.L.s (But see under C.C.F. below).

Ships temporarily at port awaiting repairs etc. all rescue fleet and ships tugs under white ensign.

3. By F.O. Force H. Battleships B. Battle cruisers. Aircraft Carriers. VINDICTIVE, GUARDIAN.

4. By C.S.12. 12th C.S. MISOA, POZARICA, QUEEN EMMA, TASAJERA, BACHAQUERO, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN.

5. By Capt. F. 6th and 19th Destroyer Flotillas through Capt. (D). 57th, 58th, 59th Destroyer division. 13th M.S.F. 36 Escort group. BORDE. All A/S and M/S trawlers and M.M.S. on

North African coast for alterations additions and manning. 6. By F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. Local Defence Vessels and white ensign harbour craft allocated to these ports. Day by day administration of A/S and M/S trawlers M.M.S. M.Ls. and H.D.M.Ls. not covered by responsibilities of Capt. (F) and C.C.F. respectively.

7. By C.E.W. under C.C.F. M.T.Bs. M.G.Bs. Alterations and additions and manning of M.Ls. and H.S.M.Ls.

8. By C.L.C. under Capt. F. All landing craft.

9. By Capt. (S) 8. Submarines, MAIDSTONE.

10. By Com. Algiers in addition to these under Para. 6 VIENNA, LEONIAN, LASSO, LINNET, AQUILLA.

11. Standing orders will be issued embodying this information and showing ships to which accounts will be kept.

(N.C.X.F., 1745A/8 to all S.Os. etc. (R) Admty).

Situation (1) Two M.T.Bs. from Bone patrolled vicinity of report No. 60. Cani Rocks night 7/8.

(2) ABDIEL was missed by two torpedoes from U-boat at 2330/7 in position 37° 28' N. 06° 18' E.,.

(3) ROTHESAY escorting L.S.T.s sighted and attacked U-boat at 0015/8 in position 37° 10' N. 06° 01' E. Result not known.

(4) L.C.I. (L) 162 which sailed Arzeu 1000/7 in company with L.C.I.(L) seven and 210 for Algiers exploded and sunk at 1700/7 four miles off coast. Seven survivors.

(5) M.K.S. 7 Gibraltar section attacked by U-boat 2359/7 in 35° 55' N. 06° 01' W. MARY SLESSOR torpedoed and sunk. EMPIRE MORDRED torpedoed after half still floating at 0945/8.

Captain, 9 officers 46 crew of EMPIRE MORDRED saved. 3 officers and 2 crew believed killed. BALTONIA believed also torpedoed and sunk. Details not known.

8.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation report No. 60. Contd. (6) FORT BABINE arrived Oran in tow 8 Feb. (7) TERVANI while (searching for?) missing French water boat MORY AZGUT blew up and sank about 2200/7 off Bougaroni. Two survivors reported so far. (8) P.211 reports at 0944/30 January in 39° 56' N. 15° 41' E. sank two southbound schooners 100 and 200 tons by gunfire. One was full of ammunition. At 1438/2 hit 2500 ton Merchant ship with two torpedoes in position 40° 35' N. 14° 29' E. ship was camouflaged like a warship with engines aft and P.211 then surfaced and gunned 700 ton steamer following astern. Both sunk. (N.C.X.F., 1830A/8 to Admty).

Force Q. Sailed EURYALUS, NUBIAN and PALADIN. (V.A. Malta, 1846A/8 to Admty. C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.) To reinforce Malta - Tripoli convoy escort, see Malta 1910Z/8.

BALTONIA (M.K.S.7). ALBERNI's 0232/8 not to Admty. Request confirmation that BALTONIA has been sunk. (N.C.X.F., 1855A/8 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. ALBERNI).

Malta Intelligence Summary. 2000A/7 to 2000A/8. Naval. Two M.T.Bs. sailed tonight to sweep off Hammamet. One cruiser and two D/Rs sailed to reinforce the escort of Westbound combined Malta-Tripoli convoy. One of our submarines has sunk a medium sized M/V off the S.E. Coast of Italy.

3. Strikes. Night 7/8 Feb. Four torpedo carrying Wellingtons attacked one M/V 6,000 tons in convoy with one M/V 3,000 tons and two D/Rs 2135 hrs. 39° 30' N. 12° 03' E. course 080° ten knots. Red glow lasting several minutes seen on stern of large M/V. One Mosquito intruded over Catania. (Govr. Malta, 1910Z/8).

TRIBUNE P.217. TRIBUNE and P.217 are to operate east and west respectively of line drawn 180° from Port Capri. (2) P.217 patrolling at your discretion within 5 miles of Carena Point withdrawn before dark. (3) TRIBUNE patrolling at your discretion within 5 miles of Boca Piccola or on coastal route as far south as 040° N. withdrawn by dark. Coastal route passes close off Galli Island. (4) E-boat patrol close Carena Boca Piccola and on coastal route by night. (Capt. S.8., 1950A/8 to TRIBUNE, P.217, (R) Capt. (S) 10).

/Malta...

8.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Malta Air
Reports

A.I. 563 8 Feb.

Night 7/8 Feb. 3 special equipment Wellingtons made searches north of Marittimo for convoy sighted by Baltimore 1353 hrs. (see Part 3).

At 2135 hrs. 1 M/V 6,000 1 M/V 3000 tons and 2

D/Rs were located 39° 30' N. 12° 03' E. course 080° 10 knots. 4 torpedo carrying Wellingtons attacked larger M/V and in spite of thick smoke screen a red glow lasting several minutes was seen on stern on larger M/V. Intense flak was encountered from D/Rs and 1 Wellington is missing. 1 intruder Mosquito patrolled in Catania Area to cover this shipping strike. Further intruder operations were prevented by bad weather. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1950Z/8).

A.I. 563. Part 3 R/C day 7 Feb.

3 Baltimore shipping R/C First north Sicily and second Cape Spartivento to Gulf of Taranto, no significant sightings.

Third North of Bizerta 1353 hrs. 38° 12' N. 10° 05' E.

2 M/Vs 4,000 tons 2 D/Rs course 060° 6 knots. Night 7/8 Feb.

1 special equipment Wellington on shipping search in the Marittimo Palermo area made no significant sightings.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 1958Z/8).

ARETHUSA

My 1850B/30. Intend to sail ARETHUSA to comply with programme 3 days late throughout. (C. in C. Med., 2002B/8 to N.O.I.C. Alex. C.S.15. ARETHUSA, F.O.C. Red Sea Force, N.O.I.C. Aden. F.O.W.A.R., N.O.I.C. Simonstown, F.O.E.A. and Z. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)

Situation
Report No.
336.

Western Desert. Tripoli (L) raided by 3 enemy aircraft no damage. Ex Italian cable between Tripoli (L) and Malta now working at hand speed. 2. Tobruk. My 2015/5 Feb. para. 2. CORONA has reached harbour. German salvage tug MAX BERENDT has been raised and beached in shallow water.

3. Submarines. TAKU has left station for refit in U.K.

4. Red Sea. Convoy "Pamphlet" sailed Perim 4th Feb. escorted by PAKENHAM, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, ISIS, DERWENT, and HERO as far as Socotra.

(C. in C. Med., 2022B/8 to Admty).

Movements

Algiers. *see p306*

Algiers arrivals CYRUS JOSEPH from Bone L.C.I.(L)s 7 and 210 from West. ABDIEL from East. LAFOREY. LOOKOUT from K.M.S.8. S/M P.211 from patrols. Departures RHYL and REGINA escorting 2 merchant ships to Bone. (Cdre. Algiers, 2028A/8, to Admty. etc).

/Movements...

8.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Arrived and sailed CROOME, HURSLEY, arrived
Tobruk. schooner AROUSSA.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2031B/8 to Admty).

Black Sea. 1. Naval.
(a) Russian surface and air force have made combined night attack on two ports in Crimea. No official details yet received.
(b) Enemy has laid mines off coast of Crimea from vicinity Yalta to northward Alyshta.
(c) Enemy submarine have been sighted off Caucasian coast.
2. Air. (a) Russian aircraft have kept up attacks enemy occupied positions and ports.
(b) Air R/C does not show much increase of enemy craft in Kerch Straits area.
3. Land. Russians occupied Stranichka, Suburb of Novorossisk southwest of town on Feb. 4th. Russian advance patrols were in contact enemy in two villages on east and southeast outskirts Krasnodar on 2nd Feb.
4. Report indicate presence of strong (2 groups omitted)ing out in Mir(?ch) Straits.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 2047C/8 to Admty etc).

M.K. convoy Your 1729/7. M.A.R.I. not yet received.
Stragglers. 2. Since present route for M.K.F. convoys passes within 30 miles of Porcupine Bank propose stragglers route should pass through 53.30 N. 14.25 W. thence direct to Split Point. For M.K.S. convoys propose through 53.35 N. 12.20 W. direct to Split Point. Both routes cross convoy route slightly.
(N.C.X.F., 2052A/8 to Admty). Reply: D.T.D.1833A/10.

ENDEAVOUR Amend E.T.A. to read a.m./10th Feb. Exact time will be communicated when known.
(ENDEAVOUR, 2115B/8 to F.O.C.R.S.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Suez, D. C.O. SAUNDERS).

Tankers for My 1330/15th Jan. (re carrying of petrol by
Tripoli. TONELINE etc). Tripoli report can receive and requires motor transport spirit in bulk tankers up to 8,000 tons in convoy sailing 17th Feb. this being in addition to other loads for Mers-el-Kebir. Consideration is being given to ships allocated to Vacport if vessels can be got ready in time. Confirmation being obtained that dimensions suitable for discharging at Tripoli. Cairo mast 3774 refers. Please confirm vessel can be used if found suitable and ready. Further requirements of bulk tanker tonnage for Tripoli being carefully considered but apparently from preliminary investigation more tankers of size mentioned in your 2250/4th Jan. now required as soon as possible. Agree Murrant and G.H.Q. M.E.
(P.S.T.O. M.E., 2129B/8 to Admty. for D.S.T.)

8.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements,
Bone.

Bone arrival BICESTER, ZETLAND, MOOSEJAW,
PRESCOTT, ALGOMA, WOODSTOCK.
(S.O.I.S., 2212A/8 to N.C.X.F. etc).

CASABIANCA

F.S. CASABIANCA now arrived (?arriving) Algiers
from North a.m./10th, speed of advance 160 miles
a day.
(Capt. S.8., 2232A/8 to P.247, (R) 8th S.F.)

P.43 (UNISON)
Barges
Sunk.

Your 1059A/8th. One Yacht marked as hospital
ship frequently patrols coast northward from
Mahmur. 3 motor barges southbound $\frac{1}{2}$ mile
off the coast 13 miles south of Hammamet today.
2 sunk, one damaged.
(P.43, 2244A/8 to Capt. S.10).

Movements,
Benghazi.

ERICA, BURRA, SOUTHERN MAID, M.L. 351, M.L. 356,
arrived and sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2343B/8 to Admt).)

Enemy convoy
TURBULENT.

Northbound convoy Palermo 090° in 038° 24 '012°
09'. (?Calculate) steering 010° to 038° 13'
012° 40' then 085° to Palermo.
Convoy passes through 038° 07' 014° 00' course
280°.
(TURBULENT, 2347A/8 to Capt. (S) 8 (R) P.41).

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

ETHIOPIAN arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0230Z/8.)

O.24.

Colombo departures 1430Z/7 D. S/M O.24.
(F.O. Ceylon 1212Z/8.)

Italian
naval
prisoners
for
repatriation.

Names required by your 2028/25th Jan. have been
passed to W.O. in Telegram 3898/3A of Feb. from
Detarm India.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0253Z/8 to Admty.)

KINDAT
Q, Report.

Following has been recieved QQQQ de M P F O (GFFG=
KINDAT) O R 49 N = 68 R 59 E. Ship very fast
closing.
(Colombo W/T No. T.O.O. /8.)
Following has been read. From GFFG (KINDAT) AAA
cancel my Q Q Q Q T.O.R. 0634Z/8.
(Colombo 0800Z/8.)

India
Air
Report.

Night 7/8 Feb. 7 Liberators attacked Rangoon.
1 Hurricane damaged barges Pauktawgyi
(A.H.Q. India 1240Z/8 to Air Min.)

?TAMWORTH.

Your 0615Z/6 (N.T. in W.D.- E.T.A. Addu 0200Z/11
speed 10 knots. At estuary (Group Missing) KE
Departure 0900Z/9.
(? TAMWORTH 1840Z/8 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.
Ceylon, 4th C.S., DEVONSHIRE, N.O.I.C. Addu.)

CORNCRAKE.

A.M. 2009/14/1 CORNCRAKE lost. Another ship will
be sent when available.
(D.T.M. 1749/8 to C. in C. E.F. F.O.I.C. Gib.
F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.E.A.)

War Diary.

8.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. Departure 8th U.S.A.T. EL LIBERTADOR Trinidad 10th.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0952QR/8 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Arrival p.m./6th Armed Yacht S.C.655. Departures p.m./7th S.C.655 and BARRANQUILLA - Panamanian.
(R.O. Barranquilla, 1127/8 to Proximo London, (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

O.T. 2, This is Cinclant's 1651/07 addressed to C.T.G. Task Group 21.5. for action and to C.T.G. 26.3, N.C.X.F., 21.5. C.T.G. 26.7, Comnavfor Aruba, Cominch and Comnavu for information.
Scheduled depart Aruba, Convoy O.T.2, about 20th Feb. for North West Africa. This convoy will be escorted by T.G. 21.5 as routed by Cominch (C and R). Cinclant operational control passes to Admiralty at 40° W. longitude then to Cincaf at 10° W. Destroyers fuel under way from MATTAPODI. Return with same convoy in accordance with Admty. routing to port in Gulf of Mexico to be specified later, when directed by C.T.G. 26.7 (at Casablanca).
(Comnavu, 0901/8 to Admty.)

K.M.S. 9. Names of ships and destinations.
(D.T.D., 1120Z/8.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary, 1800 G.M.T. 8th Feb.	F.S. RICHELIEU	29° N. 59° W.	308°	12½
	F.S. MONTCALM			
	U.S. Escort	Equator 44½° W.	127°	12
	ALCANTARA			
	WOODRUFF			
	BUTTERMERE			
	WASTWATER	05° N. 48½° W.	116°	8
5 M.M.S.				
A.T. 36	46½° N. 33½° W.	053°	19	

Position uncertain may possibly have been diverted.
(D.O.D.(F), 1155Z/8 to Opnav, (R) Comnavu.)

QUEEN A.M. 1748/20th Jan. Can reply to paras. 2 and 5
ELIZABETH now be given?
(H.M.S.) B.A.D. pass to QUEEN ELIZABETH.
(D.O.D.(F), 1210A/8 to B.A.M.R., (R) N.S.H.Q., QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

Your 1210/8. Not Yet, anticipate further information next week.
(B.A.M.R., 2242Z/8 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

Fast Tankers, My 0020A/7. Early confirmation is requested that U.C. 1. 12 fast tankers will be available to leave Curacao mid-March, observing U.C.1 is due there about 6th March.
(D.T.D., 1251A/8 to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

/Your ...

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Fast Tankers, Your 0020/7 and 1251/8 confirmation that fast U.C. 1. tankers will be available in mid-March has not (Contd.) yet been presented officially in Navy Dept. but we have no reason to doubt the assurances we have received.

(2) As Naval arguments in favour of this plan especially in saving of escorts and reduced risk are unassailable it is suggested that arrangements of escort for U.C.1 as stated in A.M. 0020/7 should be put into effect.

(3) With regard to future assignment of escorts, Navy Dept. desires to defer all questions for March 1st conference.

(4) Request you will signal in good time all Admiralty convoy proposals so that these may be worked out with Navy Dept. prior to conference. Your remarks on N.C.X.F. 0926/30th Jan. and F.O.C.W.Af. 0955/31st Jan. refer.

(5) You will be kept fully informed of any developments on para. (1).

(B.A.D., 2301Z/8 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

West
African
Commands.

Combined Chiefs of Staff to Glassford, action, British Chiefs of Staff etc., for information. (Begins). 1. West Africa Coast (off shore) from Cape Bojador southward shall be an area under commander of a British Air Officer for Air

Operations in co-operating with Naval Forces.

2. Subject to 1, a submarine area extending from Cape Bojador to Western boundary of Sierra Leone and all forces operating there in shall be under French Command.

3. In French submarine area intention will be to enable French Air Units to take over Air duties as rapidly as equipment and training permit. (Ends). In furtherance of above agreement command relationships your 1525/30th Dec. has been approved. (Radio Washington, 1342/8 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.)

G.Z. 21,
NORTHERN
SWORD
sunk (U.S.)

Convoy G.Z.21 arrived less ? NORTHERN SWORD sunk in (? collision).

(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 1439R/8 to Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

PRIMROSE,
WAVENEY.

My P.C. and S. at 1400Z 052° 20', 035° 37', 034°, 9½ knots. Transmit on 4400 H/Cs every 4 hours commencing 2000Z for SALISBURY to home you. Communicate direct with SALISBURY repeated to me in case of difficulty.

(WAVENEY, 1456Z/8 to PRIMROSE.)

FAIRWATER
(broke down
24th Jan.)

FAIRWATER ex O.N.160 arrived. Steering defects considerable superstructure weather damage.

(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1505Z/8 to Admty.)

War Diary.8.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

S/M Estimates (Cominch, 1520/8, 1521/8, 1555/8, 1556/8,
8th Feb., U.S. 1557/8.)
S/M Notices.

Escort A.M. 1402/31 paras. 1 and 2.
Vessels, As B.D.Es have a large amount of new type U.S.
trials and equipment it is considered that a period of
working-up. working-up is essential before sailing for U.K.
2. Suggested that this should take place at
Bermuda covering a period of about one week.
Conditions in Boston Area are not suitable.

B.D.E.2 will be ready for sea shortly after B.D.E.1.
3. Ref. B.A.D's 0025/9th Jan. As these ships will do full
working-up in U.K. it is confirmed that a submarine is unlikely
to be required at Bermuda before April 1st.

4. Since B.D.Es are manned with inexperienced personnel and
nearly all U.S. construction so far has been subject to
considerable teething trouble, it is for consideration whether
they should be sailed in pairs from Bermuda to U.K. Routed
fairly close to Halifax and St. Johns in case of breakdown. It
is for further consideration whether these ships would be more
of a liability than an asset to the C.O. of an Ocean Escort
Group in their untried and inexperienced state.

5. Should a Convoy become in urgent need of support when B.D.Es
are on passage in the vicinity they could be diverted to assist
if essential.

(B.A.D., 1715Z/8 to Admty., (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, C.A.S.E.E., Cdre. WESTERN ISLES,
S.B.N.O.W.At., Cdre. Londonderry, Cdre. i/c Bermuda, SOMERS
ISLES.)

U.G.S. 5. Your 0944/8. Port Director New York confirms
position P is 035° 15' N. 021° 30' W.
(N.C.S.O. New York, B.R., 1730Z/8 to N.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)

S.C. 119. S.C.119 arrived Halifax, (Nor.) IRIS lost convoy,
(Y/S) FRANKA lost convoy, EMPIRE WAIMANA collision
damage, (U.S.) GULFPRINCE lost convoy, PORT
MELBOURNE, boiler repairs H.S.C.119 (Greek) EUTHALIA collision
damaged, (Greek) MOUNT OTHRYS lost convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1736Z/8 to Port Director, New York, Admty.)

"Q" Report. Following received (begins). Following received
by Halifax W/T from Naval General call sign secret
block. QONA steamship course 225° 3 miles type
unknown my position 056° 24', 022° 54' uncertain. 2239Z/7.
(Ends.)
(N.S.H.Q., 1824Z/8 to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., Cominch.)

/Straggler ...

8.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Straggler Route Instructions. Your 1312A/5. Have arranged with U.S. Navy that in future all Masters in eastward convoy will be instructed to open secret envelope containing Straggler Route immediately after dropping pilot thus any instructions amending Straggler Route signalled by Commodore should be fully understood by Masters concerned.
 (B.R.L.O. New York, 2043Z/8 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., B.A.D.)

T.U. 24.12.2 GEORGETOWN. T.U. 24.12.2 MONTGOMERY (S.O.). GEORGETOWN H/F D/F sail with S.C.119 as support group detaching in 35 W. to St. Johns N.F. (F.O.N.F., 2137Z/8 to C.T.F.24, (R) C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Admty., Cominch, C. in C. W.A.)

A.T. 36 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.) A.T. 36 NK. Recommend alter course immediately to 44° 30' N. 29° 00' W. then 44° 30' N. 24° 00' W. then to N.
 (D.O.D.(H), 2143Z/8 to Connav.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. (A) Plane attacks S/M on surface 55.41 N, 26.17 W. 1712Z/7.
 (B) Liberator sights sub. on surface 56° 32' N. 19° 06' W. 1315Z/8.
 (Cominch, 2145/8 to Admty.)

Pacific Operations. Solops 2.
 (B.A.D., 2203Z/8.)
 See Australia.

JAMES PARKER. My 0001/4. U.S. Army desire to transport following personnel which they affirm are ready to move now - 500 air transport command from Matadi to Dakar. 206 medical personnel from Matadi to Casablanca. 665 engineer troops from Marshall (Liberia) to Casablanca (for Oran).
 2. It has been suggested that JAMES PARKER might proceed from Dakar to Matadi and return to Casablanca via Marshall and Dakar.
 3. Request your remarks on -
 (A) What protection could be given to JAMES PARKER.
 (B) Could you make any more economical arrangement for this move.
 (B.A.D., 2221Z/8 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)
 Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 1545/11.

316

8.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Wellington 0249Z/8 U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY for Noumea E.T.A. 1930/11 route direct 13.8 knots.
Arrivals Auckland 0009Z/8 U.S.A. Ship SOLACE.
(S.O.I. Wellington, 0317Z/8 to Admty.)
U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA arrived Townsville 6th.
Hospital Ship MANUNDA arrived and departed Fall River 7th due Brisbane 11th.
U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Fall River 7th due Oro Bay 8th.
U.S. Transport TASMAN departed Brisbane 7th due Sydney 9th.
Hired Transport TAROONA departed Townsville 8th due Brisbane 10th.
(A.C.N.B., 0924Z/8 to Admty., Connav.)
Hired Transport MAURETANIA arrived Fremantle escorted by Netherlands cruiser TROMP and VAN GALEN at 0845Z/8.
(Cdre. W. Australia, 0930Z/8 to A.C.N.B.)
Arrival U.S.S. HENRY T. ALLEN and U.S.S. PREBLE.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1755Z/8.)

Convoy "Pamphlet" QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Your 1229Z/6 (see East Indies.) Surface A/S escort in vicinity of Fremantle cannot be guaranteed for QUEEN OF BERMUDA if sailing separately from "Pamphlet".
(2) It is for consideration that QUEEN OF BERMUDA should precede departure of main body from Addu and R/V in position "Tar" observing that there are definite indications of enemy S/MS off West Coast Australia.
(3) Request earliest possible advice of any alterations in programme outlined in your 0627Z/16th Jan.
(A.C.N.B., 0416/8 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C.S.4, Admty., D. C. in C. E.F., C.T.F.51, Cdre. W. Australia.)

GALE. Departure GALE E.T.A. Noumea 1900Z/13. Route. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0558Z/8 to Admty., (R) Comsopac.)

Digest Serial No. 382, Feb. 7th. (3) Afternoon R/C saw one medium transport ten miles south Cape St. George course 320° speed ten knots also 40 miles further S.E. three destroyers laying smoke screens round four transports all headed towards Rabaul.
(6) Hudson strafed two luggers before noon vicinity Buton Island (south-east Celebes).
(7) Liberator bombed jetty Babo (Dutch New Guinea) during morning and jetty barracks buildings Dobo (Aru Islands) starting fire.
(9) Small allied warship unsuccessfully attacked by submarine 26° S. 112° 53' E. 0945Z/7.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0817Z/8.)

/Solops ...

317

8.2.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Solops 2.
Japanese
Destroyers
attacked
by A/C.

Solops 2. At 1735/7, 19 Japanese destroyers south of Rendova Island steering south-east were attacked by aircraft. 2 ships hit. (B.A.D., 2203Z/8 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., (R) F.L.O. Delhi, Concentric Colombo, Capt. on Staff Kilindini.)

W.D. Note: New Georgia Groups, Solomon Is.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C., 1400A/8, 1421A/8.)

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.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy R.A.52 (10 ships, the 11th, GREYLOCK was torpedoed on 3rd February) arrived at Loch Ewe in the early hours of today.

A Coastal Command aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 1245A today in 56.12 N. 20.59 W., straddled it abaft the conning tower, and reports that the enemy was severely damaged. The U-Boat lifted bodily, slewed 30° to starboard, lost all forward way and gradually settled and sank straight down. An oil streak 2 miles long was seen. At 1340 an aircraft of Coastal Command attacked a U-Boat in 48.10 N. 20.35 W. and estimated 2 hits.

North Atlantic.

Mines in Straits of Gibraltar.

Mines were cut today near the Ridge Bank in the Straits of Gibraltar with depth of up to 120 fathoms (cf. sinking of SS. MARY SLESSOR and EMPIRE MORDRED in Convoy M.K.S.7 on 7th February about 50 miles east of Gibraltar). A channel is being swept. (339)

Convoy Gib. II.

At 0534Z PORTSDOWN, one of the Escort of Convoy Gibraltar II was missed by 3 torpedoes in 31.10 N. 11.46 W.

South Atlantic.

French S/Ms ARCHIMEDE and AMAZONE sailed from Dakar today for U.S., to refit.

319

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

N.C.X.F. reports that moored mines have been laid in the Gulf of Stora (Philippeville), probably on 2nd or 3rd Feb.

At 0944/30/1 H.M. S/M SAFARI (P.211) sank by gunfire 2 southbound schooners, one of which was full of ammunition, in 39.50 N. 15.41 E. (Gulf of Policastro). At 1438/2 in the Gulf of Salerno she torpedoed and sank a 2500 ton merchant vessel resembling a warship with engines aft, in 40.35 N. 14.29 E. and, by gunfire, a 700 ton ship which was following astern.

S/M UNBENDING (P.37) torpedoed and sank a southbound 2500 ton merchant ship at 1027 today in 40.56 N. 17.36 E.

U/B sunk.
(MALACHITE)

D.S/M DOLFIJN reports that she torpedoed and sank an Italian U-Boat of the GEMMA class 10 miles south of Cape Spartivento, (~~probably Sardinia, Sardinia intended~~) at 1101 today. (But cf. 8th February.)

ERICA
sunk.

*Incorrectly informed
presence of mine field.*

British mine
The Corvette ERICA was sunk, cause unknown, at 1550 today in 32.48.5 N. 21.10 E. (off the north coast of Cyrenaica between Benghazi and Mersa Susa) whilst in company with BURRA, SOUTHERN MAID and two M.Ls escorting 4 merchant ships from Benghazi to Alexandria. SOUTHERN MAID picked up all officers and 71 ratings.

It has now become necessary to run convoys consisting of about 15 ships every 11 days from Egypt to Tripoli (L) and Malta. C. in C. Med. considers that regular Commodores should be appointed to conduct these convoys.

26 aircraft were despatched to attack shipping at Palermo last night, but owing to bad weather only 12 aircraft bombed the harbour. No definite results were reported.

Seven enemy aircraft attacked Tripoli (L) last night, but no damage was caused.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Convoy
"Pamphlet".

DEVONSHIRE escorting the eastbound Australian
convoy, arrived at Addu Atoll this morning.
The convoy sailed at 0752Z/10.

China.

Increased W/T activity by German ships in the
China Sea - Dutch East Indies area suggests that
some ships are preparing to sail for Europe.

America and West Indies.

A conference is to be held at the Navy Dept.,
Washington on 1st March, to discuss Atlantic
and U.S.S.R Convoys, convoy routes, surface
and air escorts. V.C.N.S. will attend.

Convoy O.T.1 (see 6th February) sailed from
Trinidad 1600 today for Dakar.

Australia and New Zealand.

U.S. STARR KING was struck by 2 torpedoes at
one hour interval, from a U-Boat at 1922Z today
in 34.15 S. 154.20 E. (about 150 miles east of
Sydney N.S.W.) and sank at 1530Z/10.

9.2.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PANTHER,
PENN.

Your 1923/8. Without full particulars no estimate of time required for this work can be given. Very early information is requested as to whether it is intended to proceed with this installation. It is estimated that not less than one month would be required for fitting H.F/D.F, under existing circumstances.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1251/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

M.Ls at
Faroes and
Lerwick.

My 1117A/5th December 1942. A further 4 'B' class motor launches can be surrendered from 22nd Feb. Propose the 4 boats numbers 188, 226, 228, and 231 of 15th Flotilla not detached to Lerwick be so surrendered.

(A.C.O.S., 1752A/9 to Admty.)

Movements.

ATHERSTONE,
VELOX.

A.M. 1055/5.

1. It has been decided that only one of the destroyers referred to in para. 5 can at present be spared from the Nore Command.

2. ATHERSTONE is required to sail from Plymouth direct to Gibraltar in company with VELOX.

3. It is expected that VELOX will be ready to leave Plymouth 11th Feb. C. in C. Plymouth's 1755/4 refers.

4. C. in C. Nore is requested to sail ATHERSTONE to Plymouth as necessary.

5. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail and route ships as requisite.

6. On arrival of ATHERSTONE, N.C.X.F. is requested to detail one R.C.N. corvette to return to command of C. in C. W.A. with next suitable returning convoy.

(V.C.N.S., 0120A/9.)

S/M
Positions.

Lost escort. My P.C. and S. 057° N. 001° 53' W. 200°, 8 knots.

(O.19, 0701Z/9.)

My 1037/7 as amended by my 1601/7. Sailed.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0845A/9.)

Scapa departures 0827 P.225 escorted PENNYWORT, E.T.A. 2000/9.

(A.C.O.S., 0917/9 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

My 1750/4 and my 1915/6. Weather unsuitable for escort. Intend to postpone sailing of SEVERN for 24 hours. Request your 2200/5 may again be amended accordingly.

(Capt. S.5, 1001A/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Arrival 1010/9 SHAD.

(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1016A/9.)

/Intend ...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Intend to sail TACTICIAN, SEADOG, and ULTOR
Positions. escorted by PENNYWORT 1200A/10 for Holy Loch
(Contd.) routed (A) 089° Sumburgh Head 5 miles. (B) 001°
Fair Isle 10 miles. (C) 359° Noup Head 5 miles.
(D) 059° 17' N. 003° 40' W. (E) 058° 45' N.
004° 48' W. (F) 058° 40' N. 005° 44' W. thence
via the Minches, E.T.A. 1600A/12.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1029A/9.)
Amend route to pass through 41° N. 10° W., 43° 01' N.
11° 10' W., thence as routed by F.O.S.
(D.O.D.H., 1132A/9 to P.35.)
My 1522/3. Intend to sail P.316 escorted by JAN VAN
GELDER 1600A/11 northabout to Clyde. E.T.A. Cumbræes 0900A/12.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1133/9.)
My 1641/8. Cancel para. (H). Ship delayed 24 hours.
(F.O.S., 1144A/9 to Admty.)
(i) My 2026/6. From position (V) proceed on surface at
C.O's discretion to R/V in (J) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at
1200/10 with CUTTY SARK for escort to Falmouth.
(ii) Report after dark tonight if unable to comply within one
hour.
(F.O.S., 1239A/9 to HERRING.)
Cancel my 1915/6. Amend my 1750/4 as follows:-
A. Force position A for position 270° Wolf Rock 8 miles read
Falmouth.
B. Para. 1, last sentence to read E.T.A. 0800/11.
C. Para. 2, last sentence to read speed 9 knots.
(Capt. S.5, 1346A/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
0.19 arrived.
(Capt. S.9, 1553A/9.)
My 1641/8 para. (C), add - Leaving after dark 9th for
Lerwick probably on surface.
(F.O.S., 1559A/9 to Admty.)
Positions of submarines at 0800A/10 and movements for
following 24 hours.
(A) UREDD off Vest Fiord.
(B) DZIK 61° 10' N. 00° 36' E. probably on surface through 090°
Muckle Flugga 10 miles for Lerwick.
(C) SOKOL, SICKLE (P.244), JUNON and 0.15 escorted by LOCH
MONTEITH approaching Dundee from northward due 23 buoy at
0930/10th thence SOKOL, JUNON and 0.15 to Dundee. SICKLE and
LOCH MONTEITH to Rosyth.
(D) HERRING due 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/10 from west-
ward. Thence probably on surface to R/V in 180° Lizard Head 8
miles with CUTTY SARK at 1200/10 for onward escort to Falmouth.
(E) SEVERN escorted by two Chasseurs leaves Needles 1100/10th
for Falmouth.
(F) BARB in zone K.505.
(G) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.
(H) SEADOG (P.216), ULTOR (P.53), and TACTICIAN (P.314) escorted
by PENNYWORT leave Lerwick 1200/10th routed west of Orkneys and
through Minches to Holy Loch.
(F.O.S., 1721A/9 to Admty.)
Intend sailing CUTTY SARK at 0945/10 Feb. to R/V HERRING in
180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 1200/10 escorting same to Falmouth.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1736A/9.)
Your 0917/9. Arrived (P.225).
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1929/9.)

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Positions. (Contd.) (1) Estimate you will pass position M 043° 01' N. 011° 10' W. at 1800/12. Proceed to dive by day through N 046° 02', 011° 09'. O 049° 10', 011° 10'. P 049° 10', 009° 00'. Q 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/17, thence on the surface at C.O.'s discretion to R/V in R 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 1500/17 for escort to Plymouth.
(2) Estimate your speed night 12th/13th 7½ knots, and daily advance 115 miles.
(F.O.S., 2127A/9 to P.35.)

DASHER. Scapa arrival DASHER escorted by EGGESFORD.
(A.C.O.S., 0937/9.)

FURIOUS. Intend to sail FURIOUS escorted by MIDDLETON passing Clyde boom 1640A/10. ORWELL joins off Cumbraes. Destination Scapa. E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 1730A/11.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/9.)

A.F.D.20. Port towing bridle parted during the night tug end. Dock is recovering bridle. Escort standing by in Barnstaple Bay meanwhile.
(SKATE, 1055A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

C. in C. W.A. 1755A/8 and C. in C. Plymouth's 1153A/7. STAR OF INDIA defective. A/S Trawler YORK CITY has been detailed to carry out this duty.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1937A/9 to SKATE.)

ADVENTURE, F.O.C. Gibraltar 1823/8.
ABDIEL. 1. ADVENTURE is to embark outfits Z.54 and Z.55.
2. ABDIEL arriving Milford Haven about 14th Feb. is to embark outfit Z.56.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ABDIEL to arrive Gibraltar on 24th Feb. and ADVENTURE to arrive Gibraltar 26th Feb.
(D.D.O.D.M., 1423A/9 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

CULEBRA. Your 1809A/8 and your 1346A/8. Arrangements have been made for another tug to be in attendance when HORSIA approaches Butt of Lewis and to continue with tow until arrival Tyne.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 1447A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

NEAVE. Sailed NEAVE for bunkering and onward routing to Portland.
(WESTERN ISLES, 1501A/9 to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

ARGUS. Clyde arrival ARGUS.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1646A/9.)

324

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Shelling by Coastal Batteries. My 1106/9. Route used by tracks E.11.D and E.15.D cleared Q.Z.X.917 and Q.Z.X.918 to the northward and was considerably further from the coast than usual. Our coastal batteries engaged track E.15.D, firing 26 rounds of eight-inch and eleven rounds of six-inch between 0540 and 0602.

Results unobserved. Enemy batteries replied with six rounds four falling in the sea off South Foreland and two in Kingsdown area. No damage to naval property.
(V.A. Dover, 1107A/9.)

Akureyri A/C Patrol. My 1107/19th January. Request similar arrangements during passage of J.W.53, R.A.53.
(C. in C. H.F., 1150A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

Operation "Valuable". Force A, consisting of CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, TYNEDALE, GOATHLAND, MELBREAK is to proceed at 1600/9 to patrol south of Beachy Head in accordance with para. 4 of my 1000/20.

Return so as to pass Needles at 0730/10 and anchor at Beachy Head Roads. Force B at Newhaven to consist of M.G.Bs 616 S.O., 611, 613 and M.T.B.89 S.O., 242, 85.
2. KINGSTON TOPAZ, LORD WAKEFIELD at Spithead and KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth (I.o.W.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1228A/9.)

Norwegian Coastal S/M Patrol. Leave patrol after dark tonight on the surface at C.O's discretion through (A) 061° 17' N. 000° 50' E. (B) 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, to arrive Lerwick a.m./11th.
(Capt. S.9, 1433A/9 to DZIK.)

Operation "Yorker". Operation "Yorker" approved in principle subject to final agreement by A.C.O.S.
2. A.C.O.S. is requested to inform C. in C. H.F. and C. in C. Rosyth as necessary.
(A.C.N.S.H., 2005A/9 to C.C.O., A.C.O.S.)

Operations V.P./R, V.P./B, and "Omnibus". Carry out V.P./R and "Omnibus" on number 56 or 57 target if possible before leaving.
(1) Patrol R leaving between N.S.
(2) 619 (S.O.), 623, and 627.
(3) Balta 1200A/10th or first suitable day thereafter through 55 miles west of R.

(4) 5. (5) Air protection until last light. (6) No.
(7) 0800A, 060° Out Skerries 110 miles.

Carry out V.P./B and "Omnibus" on numbers 15, 16, or 17 targets if possible before leaving.

(1) Patrol B. (2) 631. (3) 1200A/10th or first suitable day thereafter through 110° West of A. (4) 3. (5) Air protection until last light. (6) No. (7) 0800A, 115° Out Skerries 100 miles.

(A.C.O.S., 2024A/9 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

325

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Battle Fleet Exercise. Hvalfjord 8th February departure R.A. 2 H.F. in ANSON, SHEFFIELD, INGLEFIELD, ORIBI, VIVACIOUS in company at 2350. (A.C.I.C., 0038A/9 to C. in C. H.F., C.S.1.) My 1209/5. Time of A.L.T. amended to 1900A. Cruiser with KING GEORGE V will be UGANDA. (C. in C. H.F., 1907A/9 to V.A.2.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bombing restrictions. (HERRING). My 1239/9. Details. (F.O.S., 1241A/9 to H.Q.C.C.)

U-Boat damaged by A/C. See U-Boats.

A/C in DASHER. Your 1152A/7. DASHER has two dismantled fighters in addition to six Operational fighters. Although four more fighters could be stowed dismantled they could not be erected unless Swordfish were disembarked. (R.A.A., 1537A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Straits of Dover. Between 1918 and 2027 yesterday about 10 hostile aircraft operated over the Strait from North Foreland to Dungeness. Flares were dropped off the harbour and minelaying suspected in the harbour which is not however confirmed by further investigation. No evidence is available to justify diversion of traffic. A.A. defences claim 1 aircraft destroyed. (V.A. Dover, 1108A/9.)

Ju.88 modification. Ju.88 aircraft are being modified by the enemy so that the dive-angle should not exceed 50° with approx. maximum dive speed of 350 m.p.h. (D.A.W.T., 1934/9 A Message 212A.)

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

M/S.F. 15, A.M. 1807/7. A.C.I.C. is requested sail M/S Flotilla 15 to Scapa on completion E.Y.
2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested sail HOUND to Scapa when ready.
3. Request A.C.O.S. will assume operational control of M/S.F. 15 while at Scapa.
4. Intend HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER should form part of local escort for J.W.53, subsequently remain at Seidisfjord as temporary reinforcement for minesweeping force in Iceland. (C. in C. H.F., 0001A/9.)

M/S.F. 4. My 1420A/8. Sailing cancelled owing to heavy weather.
(M/S.F.4, 0720A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Intend sailing LYDD, SELKIRK, ALBURY and ELGIN at 0800 tomorrow to continue clearance of Q.Z.X.887. E.T.A. western end of area 1130.
(LYDD, 1325A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation "Tincture". Request operation "Tincture" may be completed by p.m./11th.
(D.M.S., 1157A/9 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Search off Iona. Weather unfit for sweeping. Have searched for Dan Buoys and sighted only one. Anchoring Lock Soridain.
(M/S.F. 16, 1443A/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Traffic in Sound. Two German tankers each about 3000 tons apparently naval vessels which have anchored off Elsinore since February 6th departed northbound p.m. today.
(2) My 1812/3. It is now ascertained that this delay was due to reports of British A/C or air mining and so possibly above delay is for same reason.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1747/9.)

SCHARNHORST, Photographic R/C of Gdynia 1330/9 not complete
EMDEN, but following seen to be present in portion
SCHLESSEN, covered:- SCHARNHORST, EMDEN, SCHLESSEN and
SCHLESWIG- SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.
HOLSTEIN. (D.D.I.C., 2135A/9.)

327

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

- U-Boats reported. D/F bearings at 2026Z/8 indicate U-Boat in area within 75 miles of 43° N. 19° W.
(D.D.I.C., 0028A/9 to JAMAICA.)
Am over enemy S/M in 47° 44' N. 17° 57' W.
(A/C U of 303 F.T. Unit, 1252/9 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 47° 18' N. 20° 13' W.
(A/C U9Z Duty U, 1424/9 to 19 Group.)
- U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 64° 50' N. 03° 59' W.
(A/C 281 Sqdn. Duty E, 1200/9 to 18 Group)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 281 Sqdn. Duty E, 1230/9 to 18 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 56° 12' N. 20° 59' W.
(A/C M3M Duty L, 1245A/9 to 15 Group.)
Enemy submarine has been severely damaged by air attack.
(A/C M3M Duty L, 1250A/9 to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 48° 10' N. 20° 35' W.
(A/C B of 311 Sqdn., 1340/9 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 2 hits.
(A/C B of 311 Sqdn., 1350/9 to 19 Group.)

Casualties and Defects.

- VISCOUNT. Hvalfjord departure VISCOUNT.
(A.C.I.C., 0240A/9 to FAME.)
- MALCOLM. Arrived MALCOLM with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0931A/9.)
- L.C.T.326. Following from Coast Guard Caernarvon. Begins.
A small boat washed ashore between west end and South Beach Pwlllehil. One side of boat badly damaged markings L.C.T.326. 0915/9. Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1024A/9.)
- SWANSEA CASTLE. Your 1701A/7. SWANSEA CASTLE arrived ex W.P.291 at 1017/9 with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1043/9 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
SWANSEA CASTLE entered Portland ex W.P.291 with excessive flooding of magazine and engine room and damage to W/T dynamo sustained during yesterday's gale. Repairs are being effected.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1808A/9.)
- LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Your 1151/6.
Requirements for refitting LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE at present are too undetermined for me to say whether vessel can be completed by required date even although every possible priority is afforded her. If alterations are restricted to a minimum

/and ...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE.
(Contd.) and structural defects are not disclosed when opened up the date can probably be kept by Messrs. Harland and Wolff who will receive instructions to do all possible. Please hasten final requirements.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1101A/9 to Admty.)
- CULEBRA. Your 2344/8. Weather appears as favourable as can ever be hoped for at this time of year. Intend therefore to sail HORSIA as in my 1346/8th.
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 1151A/9 to Admty.)
My 1346/8 and my 1151/9. Tows parted off Reykjavik and CULEBRA has returned to harbour.
(A.C.I.C., 1956A/9 to Admty.)
- PARADIGM. M.W.U. PARADIGM sunk in collision with drifter SPES AUREA approx. 180° 200 yards from tip of South Arm near S.W. corner of White Bank Baffle Rosyth at 0930 today. Salvage operations being carried out by Admty. Salvage Unit, Leith.
(? Origin, 1157/9 to S.D.G. Admty.)
- SALTARELLO. My 1807/8. Diver reports no damage to propellor. Ship can steam 10 knots and will carry out escort duties as detailed.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1215A/9.)
- M.L. 195. M.L.195 sustained damage to hull structure and will be unable to sail on escort. Intend to slip and proceed with repairs immediately. Anticipated time fourteen days.
(HORNET, 1237/9.)
- EXE. Arrived EXE with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1711A/9.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- P.W. 291. P.W.291 hove to off St. Alban's Head.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0028A/9.)
- M.K.F. 8. M.K.F.8. Your 2002/8. Liverpool ships are to proceed independently from Mull of Kintyre.
(C. in C. W.A., 0037A/9 to EGRET.)
Clyde arrival Clyde portion of M.K.F.8.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758A/9.)
Following arrived 1719/9. CIRCASSIA, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, DURBAN CASTLE, LETITIA, STRATHNAVER.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1812/9.)

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.S.165. Proceeding 0030N/9. Estimated S.O.A. 20 knots. If not met by 1430N/9 request homing in accordance with W.A.S.O.216 procedure H. (VISCOUNT, 0045N/9 to A.C.I.C., FAME, C.T.G. 24.6)
- J.W.53.. Your 1433/31 January. Concur that convoy should consist of not more than 30 ships. (V.C.N.S., 0116A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)
- K.M.F.9. ^AOSKLEY, EASTON sail as previously ordered to R/V with leading portion of "Damson". MIAOULES delayed sailing till 0630 to meet rear portion at R/V. 2 portion to join up together before convoy enters Q.Z.L.18.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0127A/9.)
C. in C. W.A. 2237A/2 and 1541A/3. Sailed OAKLEY, EASTON and MIAOULES to R/V K.M.F.9.
MALCOLM did not sail owing to defects.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1137/9.)
A.M. 1928/1. MALCOLM has returned to Milford Haven with weather damage and OAKLEY is now S.O. of Escort. Request you will sail one destroyer to reinforce escorts of K.M.F.9.
(A.C.N.S.H., 1306A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- D.S. 37. LEINSTER will sail Clyde 16th February.
(LEINSTER) (D.S.T., 0317A/9.)
- W.S. 27R. My 0201/8. Embarkation dates of convoy W.S.27R should be amended to read 23rd February to 26th February.
(D.S.T., 0318A/9.)
My 0202/8. Embarkation will now take place 23rd February and 24th February.
(D.S.T., 0319A/9.)
- F.S. 33. F.S.33 spread out and making little headway near 55A Buoy.
(VERDUN, 0415A/9.)
- P.S. 9,
S.P. 9. P.S.9 and S.P.9 are cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0824A/9.)
- R.A. 52. Scapa arrivals 0714 BLANKNEY, HARRIER, SEAGULL.
(A.C.O.S., 0907/9 to A.C.I.C.)

330

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.C. 118. C. in C. W.A.'s 2137A/8. Sailed BUTTERCUP, NEWTON ASH, SOUTHERN WAVE, PROSPEROUS, SCHELDE. SAMUEL (Cdre. Londonderry, 0910A/9.) HUNTINGTON, Inform Cdre. ships for Mersey capable of arriving LOBELIA. Bar Light Vessel before 1700A/11 are to be detached at 1700A/9.
(2) Detail one escort to 007° W., ships then to proceed independently.

(3) Designation of this section S.C.118 (F).
(C. in C. W.A., 1113A/9 to Escorts S.C.118.)
VIMY towing LOBELIA, P.C.S. 056° 05' N. 020° 03' W., 095°, 7 knots. Slipping during night. Speed 2 - 3 knots. Have one Fortress A/S patrol over me. Request air cover tomorrow Wednesday and A/S protection. No assistance required. Weather 3885 0065.
(VIMY, 1240Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1930Z/8. NEWTON ASH torpedoed at 0045Z/8 in 56° 25' N. 22° 26' W. No information of survivors. Reference 1630Z/8 from BEVERLEY, possibly NEWTON ASH or tanker reference in C. in C. W.A. 1042Z/6.
TELEMACHUS, ZAGOBLA, and SKTORE are stragglers. Have instructed SAMUEL HUNTINGTON to proceed Clyde for repairs due to collision.
Have instructed Master ATHELPRINCE to anchor off Bar lightship for 24 hours, to effect repairs before proceeding Mersey. Reference 1757Z/8 from C. in C. W.A. have instructed ANEMONE to proceed.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 1628Z/9 to A.C.I.C.)
Damaged A/S oscillator has been replaced by one from LOBELIA. Owing to it being a different pattern, clamps are securing it giving an arc of 25° starboard to 65° port. Will tow all night, speed 7 knots.
(VIMY, 1700Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
BABBITT arrived Reykjavik 1630Z/9 from S.C.118 with 12 survivors from ADAMIS.
(C.T.U. 24.6, 1729Z/9 to C.T.F. 24.)
If fuel permits proceed to assistance of LOBELIA situation is given in my 1721/9 to BUTTERCUP. Report your position, course, and fuel endurance.
(C. in C. W.A., 1738A/9 to CHURCHILL.)
Following received by Liverpool. Am over ship's lifeboat containing (merchant seaman?). Position 056° 01' N. 017° 35' W. on course 090°. Occupants have indicated that they require food and water.
(A/C PT5 Duty N, 1800A/9 to 15 Group.)
If fuel permits detach escort vessel forthwith to assist lifeboat containing 7 survivors reported by A/C at 1800A/9 in 56.01 N. 17.35 W. steering 090.
(C. in C. W.A., 1837A/9 to C.T.U. 24.1.16.)
Steer to intercept lifeboat referred to in my 1837/9.
(C. in C. W.A., 1838A/9 to BUTTERCUP, SOUTHERN WAVE.)
Am complying with your 1738A/9. At 2030Z/9 my P.C.S. 055° 27' N. 025° 20' W., 083°, 16 knots. 56% fuel remaining. Weather 3865 0564.
(CHURCHILL, 2045Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1837A/9. Have despatched ABELIA with instructions to search 10 hours only after arrival in reported position.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.6, 2115Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

/C. in C. W.A. ...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.118. C. in C. W.A. 1837A/9. My P.C.S. 56° 30' N. 12°
 NEWTON ASH, 10' W., 258°, 12. E.T.A. 55° 34' N. 16° 05' W.
 SAMUEL 0900Z/10. Will then search 56° 01' N. 17° 35'
 HUNTINGTON, W. until dark. Request aircraft assistance.
 LOBELIA. Weather 6872 0166.
 (Contd.) (ABELIA, 2126Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
 Your 1500/9. U-Boats are in your vicinity.
 Consider it advisable to slip tow and carry
 out A/S sweep round LOBELIA until air or surface
 support arrives. Report fuel situation. Lifeboat with
 survivors was in vicinity 056° 01' N. 017° 35' W. at 1800/9.
 2 Wellington aircraft will be in this vicinity during the
 night.
 (C. in C. W.A., 2213A/9 to VIMY.)

A.T. 36 My 0607Z/9. Unable to comply C. in C. U.S. Fleet
 (EMPRESS OF (C and R). Reference 0115/9, P.C.S. 046° 20',
 SCOTLAND.) 022° 58', 027°, 19 $\frac{3}{4}$.
 (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, 1103Z/9 to Admty.)
 All previous diversions to your route are
 cancelled. Proceed from P 46.01 N. 23.02 W. direct to N 56.15
 N., 14.45 W.
 (D.O.D.H., 1201Z/9 to A.T.36.)

Oiling Canvas hose equipment for oiling at sea has been
 at sea. sent from Greenock for Tanker BEACON.
 (D. of Stores, 1142A/9 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
 My 2336/4. Understand no berth available for
 Tanker KAIA KNUDSEN. Request vessel be supplied with canvas
 hose for oiling at sea and necessary connection fitted.
 (D. of Stores, 1143A/9 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
 Request Tanker BEACONHILL be supplied with canvas hose for
 oiling at sea if it is possible to fit connection to vessel's
 system.
 (D. of Stores, 1144A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
 My 1206/29. Understood other work necessary on tanker SAN
 ADOLFO will not permit oiling at sea fittings to be sufficiently
 advanced for them to be used. Request vessel be supplied either
 with emergency rubber hose or canvas hose according to which is
 considered the more suitable locally.
 (D. of Stores, 1145A/9 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

North Owing to narrow margin of coal for reaching
 Russian destination consider that trawler escorts for
 Convoy North Russian convoys should complete at
 Trawler Stornoway before departure.
 Escorts. 2. In order to reduce consumption as much as
 possible request best quality coal may be
 selected and supplied to these trawlers.
 (F.O.I.C.N.I., 1222A/9 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.X. 9. Request all ships assembling at Milford Haven for K.X.9 and similar convoys complete with water at loading port. Facilities are very restricted at Milford Haven.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1233A/9 to D.S.T.)
- F.D. 2. Clyde arrival LEINSTER.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1336A/9 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
- U.C. 1. Sailing postponed 24 hours convoy sails Liverpool 1600/14th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1418A/9.)
- K.M.S. 10. My 2044/28th January. Ships for K.M.S.10 should complete loading in time to sail from Barry Roads midnight 22nd/23rd.
(D.S.T., 1513A/9.)
All ships loading in K.M.S.10 should now be completed and ready in all respects at Tail of Bank by a.m./25th.
(D.S.T., 1514A/9.)
My 2053/28. Ships for K.M.S.10 should complete loading in time to sail from the Mersey p.m./23rd.
(D.S.T., 1515A/9.)
- H.X.225. Your 0101A/9. Did not contact A/C on 6666 k/cs. SALISBURY only escort with H/F direction finding being detached tonight. Request in future aircraft may home on 385 k/cs.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1515Z/9 to A.C.I.C.)
- P.W.D.291. My 1212/8. Postponed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth, 1519/9.)
- TJALDUR. My 1101/7. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1553/9.)
- O.S.43. My 1055/5, C. in C. Rosyth's 1153/6.
1. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail BROCKLESBY, LIDDESDALE, and QUANTOCK to arrive Plymouth 15th Feb.
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail and route ships as requisite to R/V with convoy O.S.43 in order that they may provide additional escort to Casablanca.
3. O.S.43 will leave Clyde on 14th Feb. and C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange suitable R/V.
4. On arrival at Casablanca ships will come under the orders of N.C.X.F. who is requested to detail 4 R.C.N. Corvettes to return to Command of C. in C. W.A. as soon as possible with convoy to U.K.
(A.C.N.S.H., 1559A/9.)

/K.M.S.9 ...

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.9. P.C.S. 052° 42' N. 014° 01' W., 190°, 7.
KUMAON in company, KATHIAWAR not rejoined.
2. 47 ships present, FORT NORMAN and LIBERIAN
straggled last night and are not in possession
of amended route.
3. 1200Z R/V 10th 050° 44' N. 014° 36' W.; 11th 048° 00' N.
014° 16' W.
4. Can arrive in 036° 05' N. 009° 59' W. at 2000Z/15.
(BLACK SWAN, 2000A/9.)
- O.N.S.167. Request TAHCHEE in Mersey and BEACON due Loch
Ewe 10th Feb. be sailed as escort oilers in
O.N.S.167. Destination both vessels New York.
(D. of Stores, 2150A/9.)

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. A.M. 1941A/2nd Feb.
 1. No further reports of German or Japanese raiders.
 2. Blockade runners. Increased W/T activity by German ships in China Sea - Dutch East Indies area suggests that some ships are preparing to sail for Europe.
 3. EMPIRE MARCH overdue at Bahia since 9th January, 1943 from Durban. Cause unknown.
 (D.D.I.C. 1811A/9 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

General.

Telegrams to Chiefs of Staff. Following from Chiefs of Staff. A tendency has grown up during recent months for Cs. in C. to address telegrams on matters which are predominantly, if not exclusively, the concern of a single service, to the Chiefs of Staff. This practice tends to cause delay. It is therefore requested that, as a general rule, telegrams relating to matters which are the predominant concern of one of the Service Ministries should be addressed to that Ministry rather than to the Chiefs of Staff as a whole; it being left to the Chief of Staff of the Service addressed to consult his colleagues if he thinks necessary.
 2. Telegrams which relate to details concerning Combined Operations policy, appointments, technique or training should be addressed to C.C.O. who will consult Service Ministries as necessary.
 (Air Min. 1930Z/9 to Cs. in C. etc.)

North Atlantic.

TORBAY, firing on Spanish SAN JURJO. Your 2233/7. Belligerent submarine was TORBAY who reports that she intercepted submarine flying Spanish colours but resembling Italian U-Boat, in 038° 15' N. 000° 05' E. As submarine was without escort and as no indication had been given of a Spanish submarine in the area, TORBAY closed, securing one hit on foreplane with 4 inch while bringing her to. TORBAY did not ram, but caused a small dent in Spanish submarine's after casing when closing.
 2. Unless H.M. Ambassador sees objection, you are requested to inform Spanish Minister of Marine that belligerent submarine was British, pointing out the very grave risk run by SAN JURJO in proceeding to sea without escort and without notification. The

/Spaniards...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.TORBAY,
firing on
Spanish
SAN JURJO.
(Contd.)

Spaniards agreed early in the war that their submarines outside territorial waters and outside specified exercise areas would move only on the surface accompanied by a surface vessel, and that such movements would be notified in advance. They have, so far as we know, in general conformed to this agreement. The enemy frequently employ false flags and all H.M. Ships and aircraft are instructed to treat as hostile any unescorted submarine encountered outside territorial waters, whatever flag it flies. SAN JURJO was therefore lucky not to be torpedoed at sight. When TORBAY's signal was received, Allied Forces in the vicinity were immediately warned of SAN JURJO's presence in the area.

3. You should, therefore, while expressing our relief that no serious damage was suffered by SAN JURJO, leave the Spaniards in no doubt that we regard them as wholly to blame for the incident.

(Head of M (I), Approved 1st Lord 0030A/9 to N.A. Madrid
(R) F.O. Gibraltar, etc.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

Following is a reencipherment of my 1915/8 (begins); Warships U.S.P.C. 471 and P.C.474 departed Casablanca to reinforce escort C/V Gib. 37. Number 2.

(Comseafrom W.T.F. 0150/9 to Admty.)

My 1920/8 not to S.N.O.C.A. (1330/8 (most secret) intended - sweeping in vicinity of Convoy Gib.2.) Searching sweep in vicinity of Ridge carried out Tuesday 9th resulted in three mines being swept up prior to 1640.

2. Have ordered minesweepers to patrol east and west of Ridge during dark hours to divert all traffic south of ridge.

3. Intend to sweep clear channel south of Ridge tomorrow Wednesday and commencing clearing sweep on Thursday with CADMUS, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, ALBACORE.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1912A/9 to N.C.X.F. Admty. S.N.O.C.A.)

PETUNIA,
Gibraltar
Convoy No.2.

At 1800/8 PETUNIA convoy to aircraft "we are being shadowed by two U-Boats."
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 0302A/9 to S.N.O. Casablanca Area,
(R) Comar, Admty. N.C.X.F. R.A.W.A.F.)

Air
Report.

A.I. 136 9 Feb. Opsum No. 99 for 24 hours ended midnight 8 Feb.

Sightings and attacks.

Hudson U/233 Agadir detachment while on A/S sweep sighted and attacked U-Boat C.O.100°/10 at 1225/8 position 30.17 N. 13.53 W. No further details available.

Hudson U/233 Agadir Detachment escort to C/V Gib.2 sighted U-Boat conning tower at 0923/8 position 29.43 N. 13.39 W. No further details available.

Hudson Q/48 Agadir detachment on anti submarine strike attacked U-Boat with depth charges in 30.43 N. 13.17 W. at 1631/8. U-Boat was sighted on surface and seen to submerge 360/8, no further details available.

/Hudson...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Air Report (Contd.) Hudson S/48 Agadir Detachment sighted U-Boat on surface which was seen to submerge in 30.55 N. 12.49 W. at 1632/8, no further details available. Wellington Y/179 Agadir Detachment on escort to C/V Gib.2. sighted U-Boat in 30.40 N. 13.11 W. at 1425/8, further details unknown.
- Enemy aircraft activity. At 1358/8, 1 Ju. 88 approached the Rock from N.E. at 22,000 feet passed over North Front and disappeared Eastwards. 2 Spitfires airborne to intercept failed to gain height in time.
(R.A.F. Gibraltar 0355A/9 0900Z/9)
- ADVENTURE. My 1821/8, (?1823 intended. Sailing of ADVENTURE for U.K.) Sailed. Q.Z.H. 158, L.52, S.397, X.918, Y.376.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0610A/9 to Admty. etc.)
- G.S.1. Your 1012/8. (Ships sailing with convoy G.S.1.) Confirmed.
(N.C.X.F. 0809A/9 to F.O. Gibraltar.)
- Cancel my 0809/9. BUTSER, BIRDLIP can proceed in accordance with your 1533/29 para. 5.
(N.C.X.F. 1039A/9 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. S.N.O.C.A.)
- P.35. Following is a repetition of my 2353/8th (begins):
My 2241/5th. (N.T. in W.R.) Cancel para. 2.
(ii) T.C.A.O. 16. (a) Submerge.
(b) P.35 (c) 0630/8th 36.37 07.24 0200/9th 36.51 09.13 1900/12th 43.01 12.26 (d) 7½, Ends.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0821A/9 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. (R) F.O.S. Admty.)
Alter course forthwith for position 041° 00' N. 010° 01' W.
Repetition of Admiralty 1132/9th follows.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1525A/9 to P.35 (R) Admty. F.O.S. C. in C.W.A.)
Cancel my 2353/8. 2. T.C.A.O. 16. (A) Submerged. (B) P.35.
(C) 1600/9 37.50 09.42 0500/11 41.00 (?10).00 1900/12 43.01 11.10
(D) 7½.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1537A/9 to R.A.F. Gibraltar H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. F.O.(S).)
Estimate you 037° 50' 009° 42' at 1600/9th, 041° 00' 010° 01' at 0500/11th, 043° 01' 011° 10' at 1900/12th, and bombing restrictions have been amended accordingly.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1601A/9 to P.35 (R) Admty. etc.)

/PETUNIA...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

PETUNIA, attacks on U/Bs, PORTSDOWN attacked, BREDON survivors. (Convoy Sit. 2)
At 2019Z/8th in 030° 49' N. 012° 41' W. attacked and forced U-Boat to submerge. Later at 2136Z/8th attacked second U-Boat in 030° 49' N. 012° 36' W. and again at 2150Z. Both detected on the surface by type 271, carried out depth charge and Hedgehog attack, without any definite result, remained in this vicinity until 2300Z, then rejoined convoy. At 0534Z/9th PORTSDOWN was missed by 3 torpedoes in 031° 10' N. 011° 46' W. DUNKERY has 2 survivors only from BREDON: Lieut. J.L. Nicoll, R.A.N.V.R. and Seaman R. Harris. R.N. P.S. Have endeavoured to pass this signal to aircraft twice today.

(PETUNIA 0905Z/9 to Admty. (R) F.O.Gib. etc.)

Movements. Arrivals 1900/8, ANTELOPE, WIVERN. 0835/9, BOREAS. (F.O.C. Gibraltar 0940A/9 to Admty. etc.)

Sabotage Gibraltar. Presumed attempt at sabotage by home-made incendiary bomb discovered p.m. 7th Feb. in compound on coaling island. Bomb comprised small tobacco tin presumably intended to be fired by electricity the components of which included cordite and two other substances a liquid and a green granular highly inflammable substance which are being analysed. Owing to obvious deficiencies in insulation bomb would not have fired electrically a fact which indicates that maker had no technical knowledge. Although probably working from a specification. Investigation proceeding. (C.S. Gibraltar 1007A/9 to Admty.)

Situation Report. Area X. 1958A/9th.
NORTHERN GIFT 36.13 08.03 to Gibraltar 10.
(ii) M.K.S. 7, ROCHESTER 37.30 11.01 000° 7.
(iii) S/M P.35 38.02 09.43 thence 356 diving by day 2½ knots surfaced by night 7½.
(iv) ADVENTURE 36.25 11.16 through 43.01 16.01 thence 000° 20.
(v) Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 35.37 06.10 to Gibraltar.
(vi) Gibraltar convoy 2 H.M.S. PETUNIA 033° 13' 009° 42' 048° 8.
(vii) LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON-PENDER working cable vicinity of (E) 032° 24' 016° 09'.
(viii) JAMAICA left patrol between 043° to 046° N. and 018° to 035° W. during 8th bound Gibraltar 17.
(ix) 4 Swedish relief ships (?036°) 50' 019° 23' 096° 12.
(x) Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAZ 038° 12' 010° 25' to Lisbon 11.
(xi) Spanish training ship GALATEA left Corunna for Las Palmas 5th.
(xii) Portuguese Dest. VOUGA left Lisbon 8th for Ponta Delgada 18.
(xiii) Spanish training schooner under sail leaves Teneriffe 10th for Cape Verde Is.
(xiv) 9 L.C. (?L)'s (a) 035° 13' 008° 15' to Gibraltar 10.
(xv) PENTSTEMON 3 corvettes 036° 01' 006° 45' to Gibraltar 12.
(xvi) NORTHERN FOAM 038° 01' 009° 33' to patrol off Tagus.
(xvii) ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG sailing Gibraltar 1000A/10th through 350° (corrupt group) (?2 miles) thence 247° 9.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1018A/9 as amended 1545A/9 to N.A. Stn.)

/Area Y...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic.

Situation Report. (Contd.) Area Y. Situation 2002A/9th.
2. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR working vicinity 39.05 25.26. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE holds incorrect recognition signals.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1127A/9 to N.A.Stn.)

M.K.S.7. N.K. amend route from new H 37.10N. 11.01 W. to J 41°N. 11° W. K. 42.30 N. 12.25 W. L. 50° N. 13° W. then to P.
2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered W.X.Y.Z.U.
(D.O.D.(H) 1034A/9 to Escorts of M.K.S.7. (R) C. in C.W.A. N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)

JAMAICA. If not South of 39.30 N. pass through position 39.30 N. 11.00 W. then 37.30 N. 10.00 W.
2. Convoy M.K.S. 7 is routed from 37.10 N. 11.00 W. to 41° N. 11° W.
(D.O.D. (H) 1049A/9 to JAMAICA, (R) C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)
E.T.A. Gibraltar 0840A/10th. Request Northern-most entrance inwards 0930A/10th.
(JAMAICA 1815A/9 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. H.F.)

U/B attacked by Hudson. Am over enemy submarine in 31° 04' N. 12° 19' W. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C L.30/U, 1100A/9 to T.D.8.)

GRETE. GRETE arrived Valencia 8th. If sighted proceeding to South she should not be molested.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1154A/9 to TORBAY, (R) P.339, Capt. (S) 8.)

M.K.S.7. Ships sunk. Confirmed BALTONIA, MARY SLESSOR, EMPIRE MORDRED sunk. ROCHESTER 0355/8, 1810/8 refer.
(N.T. in W.D.)
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1155A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)
Position of escorts M.K.S.7 at 0800A/9th 036° 29' N. 009° 59' W. My P.C. and S.of A. 036° 23' N. 009° 30' W. 098° 10½. E.T.A. Europa Point 0800A/10th. Weather.
(PENSTEMON 1200A/9 to Admiral Gibraltar.)

LADY DENISON PENDER Escort. Intend to sail ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, 1000S/10th, as relief escorts for LADY DENISON-PENDER, routed through position 350°. Spartel 5 thence direct to position (J) 032° 24' N. 016° 09' W. S.O.A. 9 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1251A/9 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

/U/B...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B
attacked by
Hudson.

Following read by Gibraltar. Am over enemy S/M in 38° 15' N. 1° 45' E. Have attacked with depth charges.
(A/C J.1.S/Z 1342/9 to C/S T.D.8)
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C J.1.S/Z 1357/9 to T.D.8.)
Enemy Submarine previously reported was on course 260° estimated speed 12 knots.
(A/C J.1.S/Z 1440/9 to T.D.8.)

ADVENTURE. F.O.C. Gibraltar 1823/8. Destination is Milford Haven.
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1416A/9 to F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A.)
Comply with A.M.1535/9*.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1858A/9 to ADVENTURE, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth.)
* N.T. in W.D. but see Home Commands.

P.35. Estimate you 037° 50' 009° 42' at 1600/9th, 041° 00' 010° 01' at 0500/11th, 043° 01' 011° 10' at 1900/12th, and bombing restrictions have been amended accordingly.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1601A/9 to P.35 (R) Admty. etc.)

RIA DE
EL FERROL Ex German ship RIA DE EL FERROL (Formerly PORTO) arrived Cadiz Feb. 5th.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1615A/9 to Admty. S.O.(I).X.F.)

Mines,
Gibraltar
Straits. 3 mines have been cut today Tuesday in vicinity of Ridge of Straits of Gibraltar in depth of up to 120 fathoms. Sweeping continues. Route ships north of Ridge. Swept channel will be established.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1735A/9 to Admty. S. and A.N.A., S. and A. in Area G., F.O.C.W.A.)

Westbound SPEEDWELL to R/V CADMUS sweeping in vicinity of Rigain Bay at 0730/10th.

2. PENTSTEMON, VETCH, CONVULVULUS are to proceed Gib. passing through (A) 035° 49' 03" N. 006° 06' 05" W.
(B) 035° 50' 09" N. 005° 56' 08" W. (C) 035° 54' N. 005° 50' 09" W. (D) 035° 54' 09" N. 005° 43' 02" W.

3. Acknowledge forthwith.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1810A/9 to PENTSTEMON (R) Admty. CADMUS, N.C.X.F.)

O.S.- S.L. Request information whether through escorts O.S.
Escorts, - S.L. convoys can fuel at Casablanca and Dakar if
Fuel. necessary.
(C. in C.W.A. 1824A/9 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, R.A.W.A.
(R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Liverpool, Capt. (D) Liverpool,
N.O.I.C. Londonderry, N.C.X.F.)
Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 1241Z/18.

/JAMAICA...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.JAMAICA,
Paravanes.

Attention is called to Q.K.A. 86.
2. Paravanes are to stream on crossing 007° West.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1840A/9 to JAMAICA (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

U/B attacked
by Catalina.

Following read from A/C G.7.G/K.
Am over enemy S/M in 32° 40' N. 14° 15' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 020° speed 10 knots. (Gib. W/T 1855Z/9.)
Following read from A/C G.7.G/K. Have attacked enemy with depth charges in 32° 40' N. 14° 15' W. (Gib. W/T 1902/9.)

Tunisia-
Marseilles
Repatriations.

N.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to N.C.X.F. My 1305/1st (not to C. in C. Med.) and your 2240/2nd. SPHINX cannot be used for lack of fuel. GOUVENEUR GENERAL JONNART. She is now at Marseilles.

Sufficient voyages projected removal of 3,400 people. She will have temporary characteristics of hospital ship. French urgently request your concurrence. Please inform Foreign Office. (N.A.Madrid 2011/9 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib. etc.)

Movements.

Arrival 0300 WEYBURN ex M.K.S.7. 1055 SUMMERSIDE, BADDECK, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR, from anti S/M sweep West. Departure 2150 WEYBURN, SUMMERSIDE, BADDECK, ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR with T.E.15. (F.O. Gibraltar 2215A/9 to Admty. N.C.X.F. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

T.E.15.

Ships sailed as in my 1638/8 plus ORIENT CITY for Bougie. (F.O. Gibraltar 2322A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements. Arrival 8th Feb. ORFSAY, PICT, MERCATOR, M.L. 256, 261, CROCUS with (PT) S.30. (S.O.(I) Freetown 0054Z/9 to Admty etc).
Arrival 8th SS. ERICA. Arrival 9th TOVAREG Free French.
(V.C. Pointe Noire, 0920/9 to C. in C. S.A. etc).
Arrival 9th Feb. BURDOCK, REDOUBT. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1713Z/9 to Admty).
Arrival 8th Brazilian destroyer MARANHAO and Minesweeper CANANEA. (B.R.L.O. Santos, 1715Z/9 to Admty).
Arrival 9th SARABANDE departure ARMERIA Baltimore 13th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1950Z/9 to Admty. etc).

Convoy D.C.6. D.C.6 sailed 0500Z/9th consisting of 10 ships route coastal. Details. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0626Z/9 to Admty etc).

FRESNEL, GEORGES LEYGUES. Intend docking F.S. FRESNEL for about 8 days from 17th on return from patrol. Subsequently F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES after second period on patrol (Comar Dakar, 1122Z/9 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

Dispositions. Situation report E.
CHESHIRE 041° 45' S. 032° 50' W. to Montevideo 13½ knots.
CARTHAGE 040° 55' S. 024° 10' E. to Capetown 15 knots.
P.614 029° 20' S. 011° 55' E. to Capetown 6 knots.
BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN with C.N.6 032° 15' S. 017° 30' E. to Walvis Bay 8 knots.
Convoy D.C.6 031° 50' S. 029° 55' E. to Capetown 8 knots.
Convoy C.A.10 A 031° 40' S. 029° 50' E. to Durban 8 knots.
BOLD 028° 55' S. 032° 15' E. to Kilindini.
NIGELLA 029° 20' S. 032° 15' E. to Durban 12.
SONDRA with RECORDER 029° 40' S. 032° 30' E.
JASMINE 030° 20' S. 032° 15' E. to Durban 12.
ARCTIC EXPLORER 031° 00' S. 033° 50' E. to Durban 9.
DAUNTLESS 034° 55' S. 022° 14' E. to Durban 18.
(C. in C. S.A., 1209C/9 to Area Q).

CARNATIC Departure from Pointe Noire 1100Z/9th CARNATIC E.T.A. Simonstown a.m./15th. Shifts to Q W/T organization 1200/10th. (B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1215/9 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. etc).

/DAUNTLESS...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

DAUNTLESS Simons town departure DAUNTLESS for Durban by route R.8. S. of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. Durban 0500Z/11th. Shifting to W/T (?testing) for area J at 2100Z/10th.
(C. in C. S.A., 1225C/9 to N.O.I.C. Durban (R) C. in C. E.F., etc).

MARBLEHEAD, Departures 8th U.S. cruiser MARBLEHEAD and U.S. DAVIS. destroyer DAVIS.
(R.O. Bahia, 1245Z/9 to Admty).

Flying Boat Ref. our A.692 2 Feb. (1510/2).
facilities, Wing Cdr. Thewles's detailed report follows by
W. Africa. air mail. At present all available Flying Boats
are fully employed in northern half of area but
I suggest authority be given me to construct
requirements for 1 Squadron at Lagos.

2. R/C party was warmly welcomed at Libreville and Banana
Creek and suggest authority be obtained for me to negotiate with
Free French and Belgian Authorities respectively and construct
such minor requirements as are necessary to operate detachments.

3. Although none of these 3 sites are required at the moment
I may be required to move a Squadron to Lagos at short notice
if U-boat activity moves southward, and in any event I shall
require facilities for basing 1 Flying Boat Squadron ?in this
area when the target of 5 squadrons is achieved.
(A.H.Q. W. Africa, 1250Z/9 to Air Min).

Convoys Sailing Telegram. (16 ships).
W.S.26. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1313Z/9 1317Z/9 to Admty).
Departure 9th Feb. QUALITY, QUICKMATCH, RACEHORSE,
QUIBERON, CANTON, CILICIA, CORINTHIAN, WAYLAND,
ADRIAS with W.S.26.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1733Z/9 to Admty).

Convoy Sailing telegram.
C.N.6. (2) 0630Z/9th Feb. (3) Group A 029° 00' S. 016°
10' E. 2300Z/10th. Group (?B) route serial number
580 and 568. Group C, 023° 00' S. 041° 10' E.
0001Z/13th.

(4) 8 knots. (5) Coastal passing through (Y) 030° 00' S.
016° 50' E. (Z) 027° 40' S. 015° 00' E.
(6) BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN, LADY ROSEMARY .
(14) Codeword "Packet".
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 1244Z/9 to Admty. etc).

Dispositions. Situation 2003Z/9th F.S. Sub. ARCHIMEDE 14.28
18.34 261° 12½. French Sub. AMAZONE 14.33 18.05
261° 7. French Sloop QUERCY, French Sloop Mine-
sweeper GAZELLE estimated off Cape Roxo to
Dakar 12½. French Cruiser GLOIRE 13.07 17.59
253° 20. M.L. 271 escorting 09.12 14.35. DESPATCH patrol
between 08.51 23.23 and 08.26 27.23 and thence Freetown 20.
(F.O.W.A., 1355Z/9 to Area P. North).

/Situation...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation 1958Z/9th WAYLAND, CILICIA, CANTON, Contd. CORINTHIAN, QUIBERON, ADRIAS, RACEHORSE, QUALITY, QUICKMATCH with W.S. 26, 17.22 13.46 128° 12½.
Fleet Unit HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTITUDE, INCONSTANT with C.F.11, 02.00 09.56 through 02.35 12.10 thence 335° 13.
ST. WISTAN tug CHARON off Ivory Coast.
BELLWORT, RUMBA escorting 04.15 03.56 261° 8.
RELENTLESS 05.(?16) 00.57 E. to Lagos 22.5.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting 00.10 S. 02.17 E. to Takoradi 12.
RANCHI (702).38 S. 01.39 E. 302° 14. Allied naval unit patrolling in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.
CARNATIC possibly off Pointe Noire to South. (F.O.W.A., 1357Z/9, to Area P, South).

GLOIRE. My 1832/8th and 1833/8th not to all addressees. Sailed French Cruiser GLOIRE 0430/9th. (Comar, Dakar, No T.O.O. Recd. 1447/9).

VITA Hospital Ship VITA left Mombasa 8th Feb. and is due Durban 15th Feb. Defence H.Q. wish to know particulars of invalids and their port of embarkation. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1546/9 to P.S.T.O's India, Mid.East).

S.L. Convoys. 8 ships will be accepted without advice from Cape Ports for S.L. 126 and for each subsequent S.L. convoy, route signals should indicate that these ships are for S.L. convoy.
2. Places for ships above this number to be applied for as detailed in para. 2. of your 1746/7 to F.O.C.W.A. My 1647Z/5 also refers.
3. Requested that very early advice may be given if it is not intended to use all of the 8 places for each convoy allotted to Cape ships. This advice will enable other allocations to be made.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1652Z/9 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. etc).

BOLD M.F.Vs. Sailed H.M. Tug BOLD towing 3 M.F.V.s to Kilindini routed through A. 028° 30' S. 032° 40' E.
B. 024° 12' S. 035° 44' E. C. 019° 01' S. 037° 35' E. D. 016° 30' S. 040° 20' E.
E. 015° 20' S. 041° 00' E. F. 011° 01' S. 041° 00' E. G. 004° 52' S. 040° 03' E. S. of A. S. of A. 6 knots.
E.T.A. Kilindini 1800C Feb. 22nd.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1812C/9 to Admty. etc).

/INKPEN...

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

INKPEN,
U/B,

Regret lost contact at 1100Z. Closed to fixed position at 1600Z and now patrolling 3 miles square in vicinity of contact. (INKPEN 1905Z/9 to F.O.C.W.A.) W.D. Note No former signal but see INKPEN 0918Z/8.

DESPATCH

P.C. and S. 008° 55' N. 023° 23' W. 093° 18. E.T.A. Freetown 0800Z/11th. Weather report. (DESPATCH, 2210Z/9 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty).

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- D.12. Departures D.12 in PAKENHAM with ISIS, DERWENT, and QUEEN OLGA in company. (Cmdre. Aden 0629Z/9 to Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.R.S.C.A., S.O.Is. Colombo, Bombay.)
- Tripoli unloading. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Tripoli discharged 8th Feb. 2022 tons from three ships. Swell delayed salvage work slightly but work proceeding satisfactorily. (C. in C.M.E. 1015B/9 to W.O.)
- Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 98 Part 3. Night 7/8th Feb. Small number enemy aircraft bombed Tripoli without causing damage. 2 enemy aircraft claimed damaged by A.A. fire. 8th Feb. 18 B 24's despatched to attack railway ferry terminus at Messina. 3 aircraft returned early with mechanical trouble, remainder bombed objective, scoring hits on or near terminus, on railway sidings to South and on Northern arm of harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1032Z/9.)
- E.T.11. My 1611/6th. Convoy is to enter Algiers anchoring in Bay and sailing again at 0930A/11th. Amend E.T.A. at Oran to 1730A/12th, at Gibraltar 0430A/14th. (N.C.X.F. 1121A/9 to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. French North Africa A.O.C. Eastern Air Command, etc)
- FORT BABINE (torpedoed 6/2.) FORT BADIN (?BABINE) damage consists of hit in engine room by aerial torpedo. Hole 40 feet long, 20 to 30 feet deep, showing 3 feet above waterline. Engines flooded. Present draft 27½ feet. Boilers evidently pushed over, no steam possible. Bulkheads on either side of hole holding well. Cargo now being transferred to another ship to permit better survey of damage. Recommend temporary repairs here to insure watertight integrity then towing ship elsewhere for drydocking. (F.O.I.C. Oran 1140A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- Disposal of S/MS. Your 1630/8th. Concur except that REGENT is at present allocated for intercepting blockade runners in Atlantic under control of F.O.(S). Consider she is best employed there, in view of her size and age. 2. TORBAY, P.339, THUNDERBOLT would be welcomed and can be accommodated. (N.C.X.F. 1152A/9 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
- Air R/C. P.R.U. 9th Feb. 0930 Naples. Visual 1 cruiser. Photographs taken. (V.A.Malta 1201A/9 to C. in C. Med. etc.) P.R.U. 9th Feb. Visuals only. 1525, Taranto, two Cavour battleships one D type cruiser, One E type cruiser (in dry dock). 1625, Messina, two destroyers. (V.A.Malta 1843A/9 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

/ABDIEL...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

ABDIEL. N.C.X.F. 2021/8.+ Concur.
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1413A/9 to ABDIEL, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
+ N.T. in W.D., but 1006/8 and 1703/8 refer.

E.A.C. Opsum No. 90, 1800 hours Feb. 7 to 1800 hours
Report. Feb. 8.
F. 12th U.S. Air Force. 42 escorted B.17's attacked the docks and shipping at Sousse dropping 186 x 1000 lb. bombs. Many bursts seen on buildings and jetties, also among some small ships reported in Harbour. 2 Ships received direct hits.
(E.A.C. Africa 1515/9.)

Port Said 9th Feb. Port Said arrivals SPETSAI, H.H.M.S.
Movements. PANTHER, KLO, H.H.M.S. AETOS, NORSE, MOONSTONE.
Departures NORSE.
(Port Said 1632B/9 to Admty. etc.)

Mediterranean A.G.M. 198A/7th Feb. (2253A/7). Subject to
and Levant concurrence of C. in C. Med. propose following
Commands, signalling arrangements be promulgated to take
Signalling. effect when change takes place.
A. Cypher and Code Groups. Delivery Groups and Call Signs allocated to N.C.X.F. to be re-allocated to C. in C. Med. Those at present allocated to C. in C. allocated to C. in C. Mediterranean to be re-allocated to C. in C. Levant.
B. Collective Group allocated to "Torch" or Western Med. similarly to be reallocated to Med. Station and those for present Med. Station to Levant.
C. Area W/T limits and W/T organisation to remain unchanged for the present.
D. A.F.O S 1 to be rewritten in due course with section M.D. replacing section W.M. and a new L.V. section produced for Levant.
E. References to messages made by C. in C. Med. prior to change of title to be in form "C. in C. Levant's", references to messages made by N.C.X.F. should continue to be in form "N.C.X.F's"
F. Intend communication orders for new Mediterranean to be named Mediterranean War Communication Orders (MWCO'S). Suggest "MSO'S" be renamed "LSSO'S" to avoid confusion.
(N.C.X.F. 1654A/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)
Concur. (C. in C. Med. 1903B/10.)

Mediterranean A.G.M. 198A/7th Feb. The following readjustments
and Levant of areas for S.Ps are proposed:
Commands, A. The new Mediterranean and Levant Stations to
S.Ps. constitute Area 2.
B. Area 1 not to extend East of Straits of Gibraltar and to overlap Area 2 in that part of the Mediterranean Station West of Gibraltar.
2. A full set of both Area 1 and 2 tables to be held by C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca Area and F.O.H. S.P. 02436+ will need to be carried by ships in Med. Station to receive movement summaries for Areas X.A, X.B, Y and Z.

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Mediterranean and Levant Commands, S.Ps. (Contd.)

3. Areas X.A, X.B, Y and Z. to be part of Area 1 for all ships and authorities other than those belonging to Med.Station.

4. Through escorts of convoys from U.K. to North Africa to carry Area 1 tables and S.P.02484+ and 02485+. My 1437/25 refers.

5. Intercommunication between Ships and authorities (except those shown in para. (2) of Med. Station, e.g. Gibraltar Escort Force and Area 1) must be in world wide tables or S.P. 02436. In special cases Area 1 tables will be supplied to Med. Station ships proceeding into Atlantic.

6. S.P.02484, 02485, 02420 and 02421+ to be renamed C. in C. Med. Code and Cypher Out and C. in C. Levant Cypher and Code Out respectively.

7. It is realised that the above scheme places undesirable reliance upon world wide tables and S.P. 02436. No immediate alternative, however, seems possible to Cater for (A). The constant inter-change of ships between one area and another; (B) U.S. Ships. On the other hand a better balance between areas, 1 and 2 will result.

(N.C.X.F. 1717A/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)
+ S.P. 02436 - Area Recyphering Table for use with Naval Cypher No. 3.
S.P. 02484 - N.C.X.F. Code Out. S.P. 02485 - N.C.X.F. Cypher Out. S.P. 02420 - C. in C. Med. Cypher Out.
S.P. 02421 - C. in C. Med. Code Out.
Reply: Admty. 1922A/11.

U/B
Cartagena.

Cartagena believed German submarine crew at Cartagena have left by lorry except Captain, 1st Lieut. and Engineer Officer. Am obtaining confirmation.
(N.A.Madrid 1753/9 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar.)

Situation
Report No.61.

1. Bougie. Divers examination and underwater cutting of AVONVALE began on 6th Feb.

2. Philippeville. Moored mines were laid in Gulf ^{*(AVORIO) (p.585)} of Stora probably on 2nd or 3rd Feb.

3. A U-Boat* was attacked at 2340/8 in 37.10 N. 06.42 E. by REGINA escorting stragglers of K.M.S.8. U-Boat surfaced and surrendered. U-Boat was taken in tow by tug but sank at 0510/9. 27 prisoners were taken. (W.D.Note:- U/B was AVORIO, see Admty. 1858A/15.)

4. At 0944/30 Jan. in 39.50 N. 15.41 E. P.211 sank by gunfire two Southbound Schooners of 100 to 200 tons one full of ammunition. At 1438/2 in 40.35 N. 14.29 E. P.211 torpedoed and sank a 2,500 ton M/V. Ship was camouflaged and resembled a warship with engines aft. P.211 then surfaced and sank by gunfire a 700-ton ship following astern.
(N.C.X.F. 1813A/9 to Admty.)
(As amended 1829A/12.)

/Movements...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Bone (?9th) Feb. arrivals RHYL, KITCHENER, REGINA, departures BICESTER, ZETLAND, MOOSEJAW, PRESCOTT, ALGOMA, F.S. ALYSSE, WOODSTOCK, KITCHENER, REGINA.
(F.O.I.S. 1933A/11 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 313, 309 returned from operations.
(V.A.Malta 1946A/9 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Philippeville. Sailings ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, WHEATLAND, LAMERTON.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1952A/9 to Admty.)

Convoy Commodores Tripoli, Malta. It has now become necessary to run convoys consisting of about 15 (ships?) every 11 days from Egypt to Tripoli, Libya, and Malta.
2. Previous practice has been for selected Shipmasters to take the added duties of Commodore and Vice Commodore. This method is however unpopular with the Masters who consider that they shoulder enough responsibility with their own particular ship under the exacting conditions which prevail in Eastern Med. Considered therefore that regular Commodores should now be appointed.
3. One R.N.R. Commander with previous experience is available on station. Request three more officers together with communication staffs be appointed at an early date.
4. Six J/T sets type TV 5 are also required for fitting in Commodore's ships for R/T use on 2410 k/cs, 2 signalmen will be trained to maintain these sets.
5. One convoy signalman in each ship of convoy is also most desirable, but Commodores' V/S staff is prior commitment.
(C. in C. Med. 1959B/9 to Admty.)

Situation Western Desert.
Report No.337. Tripoli, Libya. 14 Mines cut by sweepers 8 Feb. in 33.05 N. 13.00 E. and five cut 9th Feb. North of Ras El Hallab. Six aircraft attacked Tripoli, Libya, dusk 8th Feb. Two shot down. No damage.
2. Regret to report ERICA sunk probably by U-Boat at 1550 9th Feb. in 32.48.5 N. 21.20 E. ERICA in company with BURRA, SOUTHERN MAID, and two M.Ls. was escorting four M.Vs. from Benghazi to Alexandria. SOUTHERN MAID has picked up all Officers and 71 Ratings.
3. Two M.T.Bs. operated off Hammamet night of 8/9th Feb. but met nothing.
4. Levant. My 2202/6th Jan. para. 4. GHEORGHIA was subsequently refloated but foundered on passage Latakia to Tripoli, Syria 1100 7th Feb. in 35.12 N. 35.55 E. No casualties.
5. Small sailing vessel (believed Egyptian) sunk by aircraft 6th Feb. 60 miles south of Cape Aspro (Cyprus). (As received (?Greco)).
6. Red Sea. PAKENHAM, PETARD, ISIS, DERWENT and QUEEN OLGA on passage north from Aden.
(C. in C. Med. 2019B/9 to Admty.)

/Malta...

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Attack. AI. 573 9th Feb. Bad weather curtailed offensive operations.
Part 2, Enemy air activity. Day 9th Feb. 8 Spitfires were Airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2041Z/9.)

Movements Algiers. Algiers arrivals LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN from Philippeville. Departures ABDIEL to Gibraltar. TARANA to sea. (Cmdre. Algiers 2142A/9 to Admty. N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

M.N.B.D.O.1. My 1526/14th Dec. parts 3 and 4. (Re concentration of M.N.B.D.O.1 in India.) Request information regarding who will provide these craft. (F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to Armindia.) (C. in C. Med. 2143B/9 to Admty.)

Enemy Units. Aircraft sighting at 2215A tonight one merchant ship and one destroyer 040° 04' 016° 41' southbound at 10 knots. (Capt. S.10 2250A/9 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

C.M, 38.
EASTERN
PRINCE. Your 1640/7. Para (5). concur.
(D. of S.T. 0248A/9 to C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A.
P.S.T.O. Capetown. P.S.T.O. India. D.S.T.O. Durban.
D.S.T.O. Mombasa.)

TARIFA
overdue. Merchant Shipping No. 151 Jan. 23rd. TARIFA now
4 days overdue.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0450Z/9 to C. in C. E.F.
(R) P.S.T.O. Bombay, D. of S.T.)

COLOMBIA,
PLANCIUS. B.S.O's requirement for COLOMBIA at Colombo is due
to PLANCIUS probably being sent Australia.
Relief for latter will be most desirable as con-
sider Dutch S/M crews should not be accommodated
in ADAMANT if other arrangements can be made owing to messing
and other differences.
(F.O. Ceylon 0640Z/9 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty., F.O.S. , B.S.O.
C. in C. S.A.)

F.O.E.A. My 1011/29th Nov., 1942. R.A. Stuart returned
to duty. Flag of F.O.E. Africa hoisted ashore
at Kilindini 8th.
(C. in C. E.F. 0726Z/9 to Admty.)

O.21.
(Dutch
S/M.) Sailed O.21 for Addu Atoll. E.T.A. 1100C/16.
Ref. C. in C. E.F. 0850/29th Jan. Latest held
(? 317) 155, 123, 17 9 200 210.
Missing Q C A 146 151. W.C.A. 16. Ceylon move-
ments not held here.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0741Z/9 to C. in C. E.F.
(R) N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, Admty. Capt (S) 4. N.O.I.
C. Diego Garcia N.O.I.C. Seychelles. F.O. Ceylon.

SARKA
SATSA,
STORMWAACK. N.L.O. East London 1139Z/8th (re SARKA commissioned
as tender to Tana 1129/8 intended. N.T. in W.D.)
not addressed to EUPHRATES or S.N.O. Persian Gulf.
SARKA is destined for the Persian Gulf and should
be commissioned as tender to EUPHRATES.
This also applies to SATSA and to STORMWRACK. C. in C. S.A. is
requested to sail these 3 vessels to Abadan on completion of trials
(C. in C. E.F., 0751Z/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.)

Convoy
Pamphlet. Time of arrival 1305Z/9 DEVONSHIRE escorting "Pam-
phlet".
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1020Z/9 (?1025Z/9) to Admty.
(R) S.O.I. Bombay. S.O.I. Colombo, S.O.I. Aden,
S.O.I. Kilindini.) Amended 1311Z/9.
Be prepared to weigh at 1600/9.
(Local C/S 3 K K M, 1230A/9 Force A.)

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Movements.

Departure L.N. 416 KONKAN escorting FORT ALEXANDRIA
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 1112Z/9 to Admty. etc.)
Colombo departure 9th. 0035Z MARYBOROUGH.
(F.O. Ceylon 1158Z/ to Admty etc.)

India Air
Report.

2 Hudsons shipping R/C of Akyab attacked small
steamer and craft Jaliapara, Cheduba building and
small craft Singaung.
(A.H.Q. India 1309Z/9 to Air Min.)

PORCUPINE.

Request any information concerning future movements
of PORCUPINE.
(C. in C. E.F. 1453Z/9 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Request
for night
T.B.
Squadron.

With ref. to A.C.N.B's 1130/5. Further F.A.A.
commitments of shore based T.B.R. Squadrons cannot
be accepted owing to shortage of aircraft.
Regret extra provision can not be made to meet
this requirement.
(Approved 1st S.L. V.C.N.S. 1839A/9 to C. in C.
E.F. (R) A.C.N.B.)

F.S. ^{LEOPARD} Leopard.

Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius. 2025Z/9 to Admty. F.O. Ceylon
S.O. (I) Bombay C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.
C. Diego Suarez S.O. (I) Aden S.O. (I) Kilindini
F.N.F.L. London N.O.I.C. Tamatave.)

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements. Port Hueneme five U.S. Army Transports JAMES BUCHANAN for Tutuila. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0012Z/9 to Admty). Arrival Punta Arenas, Costa Rica 8th MADISON U.S. transport. (Limón 1510/9 to Intelligence Officer, Callao, (R) Admty). Halifax arrival 9th CYRUS FIELD. (C.O.A.C., 1645/9 to Admty. N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.A.) U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND arrived Trinidad 5th. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1845Z/9 to Admty).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T./9th Feb.			
	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
	F.S. RICHELIEU	32½° N. 63½° W.	314°	12½
	U.S. Escort			
	F.S. MONTCALM	32½° N. 63½° W.	305°	12½
	U.S. Escort			
	BUTTERMERE	03½° N. 46° W.	117°	8
	WASTWATER			
	5 M.M.S.			
	ALCANTARA	02° S. 40½° W.	114°	12
	WOODRUFF			
	DESPATCH	08½° N. 26° W.	Patrol	-
	(D.O.D. (F), 1014Z/9 to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).			

Proposed Atlantic Convoy Conference. If you so desire I would be pleased to have your representatives attend conference to be held at Navy Department Washington at 1000Q March 1st to discuss following subjects.
(a) Operational control of northwestern Atlantic trade convoy escort forces.
(b) Possible re-adjustment of entire Atlantic convoy system to meet new conditions.
(Cominch 1231/9 to Canadian Air Force H.Q. Ottawa, (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C. Lant, B.A.D., N.M.C.S.) See 2201Z/9.

JED S.P. 02355 (73) not held my P.C. and S. 1300Z/9 061° 44' N. 030° 16' W. 230° 14 knots. (JED 1335Z/9 to C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C. (Reykjavik) (R) Connav C.T.F.24., Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7).

O.T.1 Departure 1600Z/9. Convoy O.T.1. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1427Q/9 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q.)

LORD BYRON LORD BYRON ex O.N.S. 163 stragglng lost lifeboat and heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1440Z/9 to Admty).

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

TENACITY,
FAIRWATER.

Following for C.C.R.T. My 1325/26 (1325Z/25 intended) TENACITY arrived St. Johns 2110/7 with FAIRWATER.
(F.O.N.F., 1505Z/9 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

AGHIOS
GEORGIOS.

AGHIOS GEORGIOS ex O.N.S.163. Engine defects and heavy weather damage. Number one hold leaking.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1505Z/9 to Admty).

Coal,
Belem, Para.

My 1451/1st para. 3. Arrangements have been made with Lloyd's Brazilero Company for 400 tons coal at Belem any date after 6th March.
(B.A.D., 1521Z/9 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad S.B.N.O. W.A., Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Kingston (Jamaica) F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Victoria (B.C.))

S/M
estimates
9th Feb.
U.S. S/M
notices.

Patrols submerged daylight within 5 miles of that position. Departs 2300/10th over out bound track E.T.A. Point Judith 0500/11th. From 14th S.17 and escort exercising between 43.30 - 43.38, 69.30 70.00 daily from 1200 to 2100 routed in and out of Casco Bay via swept channel.
(Cominch, 1541/9 amend 2125/9, 1542/9 amended 2022/9, 1554/9, 1555/9, 1556/9 to Admty).

ARCHIMEDES,
AMAZONE.

C. in C. Lant direct U.S.N.O.B., Bermuda route French S/Ms ARCHIMEDES and AMAZONE onwards to Philadelphia with escort for about 100 miles upon completion of Logistic requirements at Bermuda. Place liaison officer on board with current recognition signals and sweep channels 135 and 171. Advise time of sailing speed and route. (etc). C.E.S.F. designate R/V about 200 miles from Delaware Capes at which point furnish suitable escort to destination.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1612/9 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S. Comeastsea Front, S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic Cmdt. 4th U.S. Naval Dist. etc).

S.C.120

Your 1518/3. It now appears that S.C.120 will probably total (?more) than 60 ships beyond West O.M.P. Request decision as to numbers, which may be included in order that priorities may be explored. It is feared that limitations to total number may build up a back (corrupt group) which will be difficult to clear.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1700Z/9 to Connav, (R) C.E.S.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.F. 24. F.O.N.F. Admty.) Note, 1518/3 states S.C.119 is not to consist of more than 60 ships.

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Issue of
Recoding
Tables.

From Sailing Telegrams of U.G. and G.U., convoys it appears that neither Outcon nor Incon Recoding Tables are issued to ships in these convoys.

2. We regard these tables as essential for all ocean convoys and therefore request you will approach Connav with view to issue to these and C.U. convoys. (D.T.D. 1808A/9 to B.A.D. (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

T.B.5
SOLARIUM.

My 1236/19 Jan. regarding NORSOL request similar arrangement for SOLARIUM (tanker message) in convoy T.B.5 to Takoradi. (D.T.D., 1845A/9 to Connav, F.O.C.W.Af. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

RECIFELOIDE

Contacted RECIFELOIDE at 1800Z/9 in 038° 15' N. 067° 12'. LETHBRIDGE now screening. BUCTOUCHE E.T.A. at New York 1800Z/10 G.M.T. (?from) (?Halifax). Weather report. (BUCTOUCHE, 1900Z/9 to C.E.S.F. (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T.G.24 TRAIL)

U/B attacked
by A/C.

My 1801Z/6. U-boat sighted on surface at 4 miles by aircraft flying at (?20)00 feet U-boat course 190 ° 3 charges dropped 8 seconds after U-boat submerged. No observed indication of damage to U-boat. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2029Z /8 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav serial 9. NORTIND overdue U.K. since 2 Feb. convoy H.X.223. NORTHERN SWORD sunk 8th Feb. in collision with FISHER AMES, 10.40 N. 79.28 W. (Connav, 2048/9 to Comnav)

Control of
Trade convoys
in Canadian
areas.

Following message from C.N.S. Ottawa to Naval Member Canadian Staff Washington has been sent to me by the latter. (Begins) You may inform British and American Authorities in Washington that question of Canadian C. in C. W.A. to control all trade convoys in Canadian areas and to be responsible for all A/S measures both surface and air is now under discussion by Canadian Chiefs of Staff and Defence Council. T.O.O. 1611/4. (Ends). (B.A.D. 2107Z/9 to Admty).

/Sub...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Sub.
attack and
sighting
summary.

Para. (A) Plane attacks sub. on surface 56° 12' N. 25° 09' W. 1145A/09. Plane attacks Sub. on surface 60° 35' N. 47° 53' W. 1335Z/07.

Para. (B). Plane sights six subs. course E.S.E. area 55° N. 29° W. 1712Z/06.

Para. (C). (U.S.S. MONO?) sights sub. 54° 04' N. 50° 38' W. 9th.

(Cominch 2135/9 to Admty).

MARIPOSA

Your 1740/7. U.S. authorities much regret ship is required to return to West Coast of U.S.A. Presume she will call Bombay as originally arranged. Agreed B.A.S. Alexandria C.C.O. pass to C. in C. M.E.F. (B.A.D., 2145Z/9 to D.S.T.) Reply: D.S.T., 0425A/12 to P.S.T.O.M.E.

Anti-
U-boat war,
North
Atlantic.

J.S.M. 721. 9th Feb.

1. Present position with regard to this is somewhat complicated. While on the one hand Combined Staff Planners were instructed to submit recommendations as to all measures which can be taken to combat effectively submarine menace, Adm. King has called a conference here with representatives of R.N, R.C.N. and R.C.A.F. for 1st March to discuss operational control of N.W. Atlantic trade convoy escorts and to explore the whole Atlantic convoy scheme in the light of many pending recommendations.
 2. Our view is that report by Combined Planners should be expedited and should show not only present command arrangements and organisation of Naval and Air Forces on both sides of Atlantic but should also include recommendations for ensuring closer co-ordination and most effective use of our combined resources. This report, we think, should be noted by Combined Chiefs of Staff and made available to conference to act as background for that body who should be instructed to report their final recommendations to Combined Chiefs of Staff.
 3. Since this conference has been called at Adm. King's instigation it is our opinion that it probably holds out hopes of achieving results and therefore should be strengthened by a Senior Officer from Coastal Command and we hope to get Adm. King to issue the necessary invitation. Adm. Mansfield will, as you know, serve as our Naval Representative.
 4. It is important that you should at once give us guidance both for use at Conference and by our Planners as to what, if any changes you consider necessary with regard to operational control, dividing line of responsibility, etc. for both Naval and Air Forces in Atlantic being used in anti-submarine warfare.
 5. We intend to endeavour to get U.S. C.O.S. on Friday to agree with method of procedure outlined above.
- (J.S.M. Washington, 2201Z/9 to War Cabinet Offices, London).

/A.C. Vs...

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

A.C. Vs. A.M. 1946/22 Dec.
 3 (a) Year of completion is 1943 unless otherwise indicated. A.C.V. Numbers and Official Completing dates.
 2. Your para. 3 (b). All dates 1943.
 A.C.V. Numbers and Estimated sailing dates (details).
 3. My 2253/29th Jan. may affect sailing dates of A.C.Vs. 8, 14, 15, and B.A.C.V.6.
 (B.A.D., 2343Z/9 to Admty).

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

America & West Indies.

IRON KNIGHT, torpedoed and sunk 7th Feb. IRON KNIGHT 4812 tons loaded with Ironstone torpedoed and sank within 2 minutes, position 036° 05' S. 150° 38' E. at 1530Z/7 whilst in convoy escorted by MILDURA and TOWNSVILLE, 14. survivors picked up. Believed remainder of crew sank with ship.
 (A.C.N.B. 0112Z/9 amended 0416Z/10 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.) Amended 0416Z/10.

Movements Arrival Milne Bay WHYALLA from Cairns Brisbane 8th KAPUNDA Geraldton 8th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON.
 Departure Fremantle 7th TJERK HIDDIES on patrol Darwin 7th KALGOURLIE for Thursday Island. Milne Bay 8th BENDIGO for Townsville, Townsville 8th BROOME for Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B., 0441Z/9 to Admty).
 A.T. PAUL REVERE arrived Brisbane 8th. MAURETANIA arrived Fremantle 8th. U.S. Fleet Oiler TRINITY departed Albany 7th due Fremantle 9th.
 (A.C.N.B., 1048Z/9 to Admty. Connav).
 Departure Auckland U.S.S. TAURUS. E.T.A. Espirito Santo 0500Z/15.
 (D.N.I. Wellington, 1835Z/9 to Admty).

Digest Serial No. 383 Feb. 8th. 2 Catalinas bombed Kahila Aerodrome night 7/8 scoring direct hits along runway among dispersal bays and blast pens where two large aircraft observed burning also hits on ammunition dump and among searchlight and building areas. 2,000 ton vessel off shore also received direct hit and believed destroyed.
 (3) Six Bostons bombed and strafed tracks Mubo area shortly after midday. Pilots report observing evidence intense activity Merobe harbour area while returning including possible landing strip under construction.
 (5) Approx. 250 enemy troops reported Waria river area where barge activity continues at night.

War Diary.

9.2.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial No.
383 Feb.
8th. Contd.

(6) Liberator on R/C Dobo area 7th reported one 3,000 ton vessel off Edjir Island (as received) ten miles North Dobo where several buildings jetties and evidence considerable recent activity observed.
(8) British Freighter IRON KNIGHT torpedoed off N.S.W. coast 1530Z/7. Vessel sank in two minutes. Fourteen survivors picked up remainder crew believed lost with ship.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0905Z/9).

ACHILLES

Your 0042/22 Jan. Approved.
(D.O.D. (F) 1741A/9 to N.Z.N.B. (R) Comsoupac, B.A.D., ACHILLES, S.B.N.O.W.At).

MOUNT
VERNON.

Departure Auckland U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON for San Francisco E.T.A. 20th. S. 36.46 S. 176.06 E. T. 20.30 S. 157 W. U. 17 S. 153 W. V. 00 S. 143 W. thence Great Circle to 37.30 N. 123.30 W. Speed 20 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2153Z/8 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MAURETANIA

ADELAIDE departs Fremantle escorting MAURETANIA to 025° 22' S. 100° 01' E. thence returning Fremantle. ADELAIDE keeps watch on Bakers throughout MAURETANIA shifting to N.U. at 2000Z/(?11th). Local A/S escort D.S. TROMP and VAN GALEN until 1200Z/10.
(Cdre. W. Australia 2210Z/9 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, Comsowestpac F.O.C. R.I.N, Admty. ADELAIDE).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1410A/9, 1411A/9).

War Diary.9.2.1943.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Attacked.Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22nd July.

1. H.X. 224. (a) Feb. 3rd H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD in $56^{\circ} 27' N.$ $24^{\circ} 29' W.$ attacked a U-boat with depth charges. SS. EMPIRE GLADE reported striking a submerged object shortly afterwards.
(b) Feb. 3rd. H.M.S. LONDONDERRY in $56^{\circ} 32' N.$ $17^{\circ} 45' W.$ obtained Radar contact and then heard a loud clapping effect. She chased the U-boat which dived, contact was easily held and 3 attacks were delivered. H.M.S. CLARE reported that U-boat was "in the bag".
2. S.C.118 (a) Feb. 4th. H.M.S. VIMY in $51^{\circ} 39' N.$ $36^{\circ} 13' W.$ sank U.187 taking 34 prisoners.
(b) Feb. 6th Liberator aircraft in $54^{\circ} 33' N.$ $29^{\circ} 27' W.$ attacked with 6 Amatol depth charges from 40 feet. The centre of the stick slightly overshot but No. 3 was a direct hit. A large gush of bubbles and patch of thick oil was seen, a large black object probably the bows surfaced momentarily, and a piece of timber 20 feet long was seen.
(c) Feb. 7th Fortress aircraft in $56^{\circ} 18' N.$ $24^{\circ} 43' W.$ straddled a U-boat with Nos. 4 and 5 depth charges, the U-boat submerged very slowly and a rounded object 12 feet long rose out of the water about 5 feet. Black oil welled up in the centre of explosion. Pieces of yellow wood 2 feet long were seen.
3. Mediterranean Feb. 4th. Hudson aircraft in $36^{\circ} 52' N.$ $00^{\circ} 22' W.$ attacked a suspicious wake with depth charges. Two depth charges exploded in the feather. A large black hoop-like object, 3 times the size of depth charge, shot 50 feet into the air and many black lumps the size of tennis balls were seen. (D.A/S.W., 1335Z/9 to Cominch etc).

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Valuable".

TSGO

At 1920 today R.D.F. plotted one large and one medium size vessel (later identified as an armed merchant raider) with 8 escorts proceeding on a westerly course off Gravelines. Coastal batteries engaged but results were not observed. The enemy batteries replied. C. in C. Portsmouth ordered Force A (CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, GOATHLAND and BLEASDALE) who were patrolling south of Beachy Head to proceed to intercept and attack. Force B (3 M.G.Bs and 3 M.T.Bs) also sailed from Newhaven. The larger enemy ship was attacked by aircraft at 2245, 7 miles S.W. of Boulogne and was possibly damaged, for she remained stationary in 50.38 N. 01.32 E. until 0005, they returned to Boulogne at 5 to 7 knots and remained outside harbour until 0715; the M.G.Bs were recalled at 2352/10 and the destroyers at 0300/11.

[Further movement, see 14/2, page 516]

The port of Workington was temporarily closed this evening; on account of silting.

U-Boats on the surface were attacked by Liberators today at 0830, 300 miles S.W. of the Fastnet, at 0911 410 miles S.W. of the Fastnet and at 0928 460 miles S.W. of the Fastnet.

Typhoon bombers of Army Co-operation Command attacked an armed trawler off IJmuiden today and left it listing and on fire.

Operation
Q.V.3.

PLOVER reported minelaying operation Q.V.3 completed at 1820A today.

Foreign Stations.

The Admiralty today issued fresh orders for zigzagging by British-managed merchant ships.

War Diary.

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Regulation". JAMAICA arrived at Gibraltar this morning from blockade runner patrol.

Mines in Straits of Gibraltar. Spanish SS. DUERO mined. Spanish SS. DUERO struck a mine at 1600 today in 35.55 N. 05.50 W. (about 5 miles east of the Ridge Bank in the Straits of Gibraltar) and was taken in tow for Tangier by Portuguese SS. TAQUS. Earlier in the day, one of H.M. Trawlers warned another Spanish ship of the danger in the Straits and escorted her clear. All traffic has been stopped in the Straits and the Spanish Government are asking why no general warning of the minefield was issued after the earlier incident. The Admiralty replied (11th Feb.) that they regarded it as an impertinence that a complaint should be addressed to them which should so plainly be laid at the door of the Axis.

U.S. S/M SHAD, on return from Biscay patrol, reports that she torpedoed German SS. NORDFELS off Bilbao on 25th January, but the vessel made port.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON is proceeding to Port Stanley. She found no evidence of visits by enemy vessels in the South Orkneys.

Convoy S.R. 1. Convoy S.R.1 sailed from Freetown for Gibraltar today escorted by BRIDGEWATER, QUADRANT and FANDANGO.

U/B off Cape Agulhas. SS. QUEEN ANNE in Convoy C.A.11 was torpedoed and sunk at 2320Z today in 34.53 S. 19.51 E. (12 miles 252° Cape Agulhas). H.M.T. ST. ZENO, one of the escort, reports that she attacked the submarine with gunfire and depth charges, and claims success. As, however, a U-Boat surfaced at 0430Z to interrogate survivors C. in C. S.A. does not think it probable that ST. ZENO's attack has caused much, if any, damage, though the possibility exists that there may have been two U-Boats.

361

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

4 M.T.Bs sailed from Malta at 1630A today to operate near Pantellaria. Nothing was met.

Convoy
M.W.20A.

Convoy M.W.20A, 4 ships of the convoy which left Alexandria on 6th February, arrived at Malta at 1509A today, escorted by EURYALUS, NUBIAN, PALADIN, BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS and KANARIS.

UNA today sank a 4000 ton northbound merchant ship in 38.52 N. 16.35 E. near Cape Stilo (S.E. Italy)

S/M UNBENDING (P.37) torpedoed a 1500 ton passenger and cargo vessel in Noce Bay (near Scatari). The vessel was beached with her back broken.

ARETHUSA left Alexandria today for the U.K. via the Cape, to refit.

Air
Operations.

10 Wellingtons attacked the docks and shipping at Trapani last night and 4 Albacores and 5 Beauforts from Malta laid mines last night at the entrance to Trapani Harbour.

Two torpedo carrying Wellingtons from Malta attacked at 0230 a merchant ship escorted by a destroyer, which had been sighted at 2110/9 in 40.04 N. 16.41 E. (Gulf of Taranto) steering south, but results were not seen.

Nine escorted B.25s of the 12th U.S.A.F. attacked 4 ships between Tunisia and Sicily today, one of which was sunk and another left sinking.

21 B.24s were sent to attack shipping in Palermo today but found both Palermo and alternative objective Messina hidden by low cloud. Seven B.24s bombed the estimated position of Palermo harbour through cloud, with unknown results.

Australia and New Zealand.

Cominch reports that about 14th December U.S.S. SAILFISH torpedoed a Japanese submarine near New Britain.

A Hudson aircraft gunned and bombed a submarine 90 miles from Woodlark Island today.

Two carriers (probably auxiliary), 17 destroyers and 7 merchant ships were sighted in the Buin - Faisi area today.

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

C. in C. H.F. My 1209/5. I shall be visiting Admiralty arriving back at Scapa 14th. My Flag will be flown in DUNLUCE CASTLE whilst KING GEORGE V is at sea.
(C. in C. H.F., 0944A/10 to V.A.2).

H.F. Destroyers. C. in C. H.F.'s 1023/2 and your 1016/6 and A.M. 1055/5 modified by A.M. 0120/9. Request you will sail two destroyers as desired by C. in C. H.F.
(D.O.D. H., 1250A/10 to C. in C. Nore).

17th Destroyer Division. Your 1120/16. Regret decision to reduce 17th Division to 5 destroyers must stand, but it is fully understood that destroyers may have to be temporarily detailed from other commands in order to ensure a screen of 4 ships for Minelaying Squadron.
(D.O.D. H., 1506A/10 to R.A.M.)

PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER, D/F for Tribal and later Destroyers. Your 1923/8. PATHFINDER, PENN and PANTHER will not remain permanently on escort duties and approval cannot be given to alterations which affect their function as Fleet destroyers.
2. Approved to fit H.F/D.F. in one ship subject to no delay in extended completion date of March 15th.
3. It has just been approved for all Tribal and later classes to be fitted with type 272 on a lattice work mast as ships become available for the required fitting period, but there will not be time to fit these destroyers. The fitting of a W.S. set in any other position as an interim measure is not approved.
(D.O.D. H., 2330A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

A.F.D. 20 C. in C. Plymouth's 1153A/7. Sailed to make R/V YORK CITY. STAR OF INDIA defective.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0405A/10).

L.23 Capt. (S) 7 is requested to sail L.23 for Philadelphia 14th Feb. and to arrange
(A) escort to vicinity Barra Head.
(B) L.23 to leave Barra Head dusk 14th, thence dived by day to 022° W, thence on the surface
(C) Bombing restrictions to "Chop" in 035° W.
2. Owing to limited endurance L.23 should proceed St. Johns N.F. for onward passage to Philadelphia as ordered by F.O.N.F. and N.O.I.C. Halifax. S.O.A. 216 miles per day on surface and 120 miles per day when diving by day. L.23 E.T.A. "Chop". (2) 0800A/20.
(F.O.S., 1002A/10).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

O.19 My 1723/9. Sailed.
(Capt. S.9., 1105A/10 to B.D.Z.)

ULTOR,
SEADOG,
TACTICIAN. My 1029/9. ULTOR not yet arrived. Sailing postponed.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1109A/10)(F.O.S. 1302A/10).
Arrival ULTOR.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2049A/10).
My 1029/9. Amend time of sailing to read 0730A/11th and E.T.A. to read 1130A/13th.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 2155A/10) (F.O.S., 2302A/10).

O.15 O.15 arrived Dundee.
(Capt. S.9., 1353A/10).

JUNON JUNON arrived Dundee.
(Capt. S.9., 1355A/10).

SICKLE, Your 1037/7, 1601/7th. Arrived.
(Capt. S.9., 1359A/10 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

SEVERN Capt. S.5's 1750A/4 and 1346A/9. Sailed Needles 1340. For Chasseur 13 read Chasseur 11.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1405A/10).

COWSLIP,
SNOWDROP. On completion of working up request you will sail COWSLIP and SNOWDROP for Freetown with convenient convoy.
(D.O.D. F., 1520A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

SHAD,
HERRING,
SEVERN. Intend sailing at 0800/11 CUTTY SARK. Escorting SHAD, HERRING, SEVERN Clyde. E.T.A. 1500/12.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1520A/10).

Landing
Craft. Failing other instructions, all L.C.M. (3) and L.C.P.(L) and (R) suitable for operations should remain in the Mersey and Cardiff areas until the information referred to in para. 4. of my 1948/6 is available.
(C.C.O., 1537A/9 to S.O.A.S.C.)

ATHERSTONE
VELOX. Intend sailing VELOX and ATHERSTONE at 1500/11 to Gibraltar routed through A. 180° knots 10.
B. 049°04' N. 010° 51' W. C. 045° 01' N. 010° 30' W. D. 043° 02' N. 010° 31' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1539/10).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- P.53 E.T.A. Lerwick 2100 today.
(P.53, 1627A/10 to A.C.O.S.)
- FURIOUS Sailed FURIOUS and MIDDLETON in accordance with my 1004A/9.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1628A/10).
- S/M Positions. Position of submarines at 0800A/11 and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) UREDD in Lofoten Area.
(B) TEMPLAR (P.316) leaves Barrow escorted by JAN VAN GELDER at 1600/11 North Isle of Man speed 9 knots due Cumbræes 0900/12.
(C) SEVERN from Eastward escorted by two Chasseurs due R/V off Falmouth with HERRING and SHAD at 0800/11, thence these three submarines escorted by CUTTY SARK to Clyde.
(D) BARB in Zone K.505.
(E) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.
(F.O.S., 1739A/10 to Admty).
- JED Your 1249A/10. 13th Group not understood.
My P.C.S. at 1800Z/10, 56.47 N. 40.58 W. 226° 15 knots.
(JED, 1813Z/10 to Admty).
- Coastal Forces and Trawlers for Gibraltar. My 1619/21 Jan. My 1142/30 Jan, F.O.I.C. I. 1246/9 Feb.
Trawlers. MAN O'WAR, TANGO, FOXTROT, PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, and VISENDA are to leave Milford Haven for Gibraltar on 21st February.
2. They will be required to provide escort for all available coastal forces of 22nd and 31st M.L.F., 19 M.G.B. F., and 32nd M.T.B.F.
3. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail trawlers to arrive Milford Haven 20th February.
4. If KING SOL and REIGHTON WYKE cannot arrive in time they can be sailed to R/V with convoy before entering Q.Z.L.
18. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange.
5. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail trawlers with all Coastal Forces ready on 21st Feb. and requisite by route to be promulgated by Admiralty.
6. On arrival of trawlers at Gibraltar, N.C.X.F. is requested to detail 8 R.C.N. Corvettes who should return to Command of C. in C. W.A., with first convenient convoy returning to U.K.
(D.O.D. H., 1924A/10 to F.O.C. N.I.)

War Diary.10. 2. 1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.E. Operation F.E. para. 6 H. Request you will sail one of the destroyers referred to in second sub. para. to Akureyri via Hvalfjord with mail and passenger leaving Scapa 13th Feb. (C. in C. H.F., 0938A/10 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Coastal Patrols. Patrol tonight. 3 HAMBLEDON, 4 MACKAY, 5 PYTCHLEY, 6 MEYNELL, 7 SHELDRAKE. (C. in C. Nore, 0952A/10). M.Ls. 137 and 138 patrolling near Rye Buoy. (V.A. Dover, 1727A/10).

Operation "Valuable." Force A consisting of CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, is to proceed from Yarmouth at 1600/10 to patrol south of Beachy Head, see my 1000/20 Jan. Pass Needles inwards at 0730/11 and proceed into harbour. Force B at Newhaven to consist of M.G.Bs. 616 (S.O.) 611, 613 and M.T.Bs. 89 (S.O.), 85, 242. 2. LORD WAKEFIELD, KINGSTON TOPAZ, Chasseur 14 at St. Helens and KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth Roads. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1235/10). One large, 5 small craft reported 043° Griz Nez 8 miles at 2025. Await further orders. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2050A/10 to Force A). P.C.S. of enemy at 2100, 030° Griz Nez four and a half, 12 knots. Proceed to intercept and attack. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2115/10 to Force A). Aircraft will attack enemy off Etaples. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2133A/10 to Force A). Your position estimated by R.D.F. at 2210, 176° Beachy Head 16 miles. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2213A/10 to Force "A"). Enemy's position at 2225, 050° 40' N. 001° 32' E, course and speed 196° 12 knots. Force B sailed 2215. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2230/10 to Force A) Coastal forces sail Newhaven 0215 steering to southward. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2252/10 to ATHERSTONE). Your 2244. Keep W/T silence. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2314A/10 to M.G.B. 616). Last position of enemy was 050° 35' N. 001° 31' E. Course and speed 194° 12 knots at 2255. Estimate five to eight small escorts. Your position at 2310, 172° Beachy Head 31. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2320/10 to Force A). It appears probable that enemy has been damaged by air attack and is stopped in 050° 38' N. 001° 32' E. at extreme R.D.F. range. Further air attack being requested. You should remain to south westward of line Hastings/Treport for the present. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2347/10 to Force A). Target stationary 6 miles North Etaples. Signal confirmation and carry on patrol. (16 group 2350/10 to A/C Duty A). Return to Newhaven. M.G.B. 616 acknowledge. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2353/10 to Force B, (R) Force A).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

NORDFELS
(German,
1214 tons)
torpedoed by
SHAD on 25th
January.

SHAD reports as follows:-

- (A) Torpedoed NORDFELS off Bilbao 25th January but vessel made port.
(B) Since that date enemy aircraft including captured Sunderland carrying out daily A/S patrols close inshore.
(C) Surface A/S operations suspected during night periods.
(F.O.S., 1758A/10 to Admty).

Exercises.

Battle
Fleet
Exercise.

Arrived your 1805/7 at 1550/10.

(KENT, HOWE, BERWICK) (A.C.I.C., 1626A/10 to A.C.O.S.)

Propose NEWARK and WELLS should join you a.m./19 for about week to carry out practices and assist in providing screens for fleet units exercising.

(R.A.M., 1938/10 to R.A.D.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C
Recognition
Signals in
North Russia.

Your 1728C/3. Local recognition signals do exist but Russians stated they could not be given more than two days in advance.

(2) They stated emphatically that local recognition signals were not required for arrival of Catalina mentioned in Air Min. 1900Z/13 Jan. My 1853/2nd refers.

(3) Question of local recognition signals now being dealt with by S.R.A.F.O. Grasnaya.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1102A/10 to Ad. Miles).

M.A.C. ships.

A.M. 1701/5. para. 1. Concur. Paras. 2 and 3, this can be arranged.

(C. in C. W.A., 1150A/10 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Shetlands.

A. Ju.88 was sighted at 1535 today 10 miles East of Bressay about 2,000 feet, course N then E. Lost to plot at 1555 when 20 miles E. of Yell 1,000 feet course E. Fighter failed to intercept.
(A.C.O.S., 1815A/10 to Admty).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining

Q. V. 3

Operation Q.V.3 completed.
(PLOVER, 1820A/10 to C. in C. Nore).

"Tincture".

Owing to too deep setting used in error by M/S three mines have been swept in H.S. 1. Two exploded in sweep, one cut.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2131A/10 to Admty).U-Boats.

U-boats reported.

Am over Enemy Submarine in 47° 48' N. 15° 00' W.
(A/C Duty P. 0835/10 to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 47° 05' N. 17° 18' W.
(A/C 1 YPT 0915A/10 to 19 Group).
Indefinite D/F bearings at 1313Z indicate U-boat may have reported ADVENTURE or EMPIRE NED.
(D.D.I.C., 1544A/10 to ADVENTURE, EMPIRE NED).Navigational.

Workington.

Port of Workington temporarily closed owing to silting.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1917A/10)Casualties & Defects.

NEAVE

Request you sail BUSTLER forthwith to assist NEAVE reported 232° 5 miles Mull of Kintyre at 0437A today. Ship is to be taken to Belfast.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0723A/10 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).

Sailed BUSTLER.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 0910A/10).

Connected to NEAVE 1130.

(BUSTLER, 1215A/10).

Arrived NEAVE in tow of BUSTLER.

(F.O.I.C. N.I., 1700A/10).

KENYA

My 1431/29. Handicapped by faults in electric communications consequent on refit KENYA will not have progressed sufficiently to proceed before March 5th.
(C. in C. H.F., 0934A/10 to Admty).STAR OF
INDIASteering-engine and control of STAR OF INDIA seriously damaged. Part cannot be repaired locally. Estimated time 2 to 3 weeks.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1049A/10).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BARNHURST Port H H Z reports that BARNHURST has been holed. Repair party being sent tomorrow but understand vessel will require to go away for repairs. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1617A/1 to D.B.D.)

BLACKPOOL, BANGOR. Damage sustained to BLACKPOOL's starboard side between station 60 and 61 when she dragged on to an unknown trawler on night of 8th Feb. will be made good at Harwich in 5 days. She has lost one anchor and seven shackles of cable. BANGOR has lost one anchor and two shackles. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth is attempting to recover these. (M/S 9. 1726A/10 to C. in C. Nore).

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53 (1) BRADFORD is to arrive Greenock a.m./11th to escort 15 ships of J.W.53 to Loch Ewe. (C. in C. W.A., 0002A/10). Your 0002/10A BRADFORD will not be available owing to defects. My 1301/8 refers. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1002A/10 to C. in C. W.A.) My 0002/10. 1. FOR BRADFORD read LAVENDER. (C. in C. W.A., 1054A/10). Intend sailing LAVENDER 1900A/10 for Greenock to escort 15 ships of N.J.W. 53 to Loch Ewe in accordance with C. in C. W.A., 0002A/10 and 1054A/10. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1444A/10). A.M. 0115A/9. The 30 ships to be accepted will be available at Loch Ewe from the 36 given below in the order of priority stated. British 12, American 15, Panamanian 3, Russian 3, Norwegian 1, Polish 1, Dutch 1. Names of Ships. 3. MOBILE CITY and EXMOUTH are fitted with Gyro Compasses. (D.T.D., 1739A/10). My 1444A/10. Sailed LAVENDER. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1902A/10). Present congestion of docks and lack of rail transportation indicate that port will not be cleared sufficiently for expeditious discharging of J.W.53. Recommend sailing date be postponed for five days which will ensure more rapid discharge and also make probable departure of all ships now here. (Dalgleish 2236A/10 to Admty). C. in C. H.F., 1007/3. Five submarines are available. Request concurrence of Soviet Authorities be sought for British submarines to occupy Russian zones 2 and 2A West of 024° E. from 20th February to 10th March. (F.O.S., 2258A/10 to Admty).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

R.A. 52. Convoy R.A. 52 consisting of 11 ships sailed
GREYLOCK from Kola Inlet on 29th January.
survivors. 2. Close escort was provided by 2 destroyers,
4 corvettes, 4 trawlers and 2 minesweepers.
3. A striking force of 7 fleet destroyers was
in company and close cover consisted of one 8"
and two 6" cruisers.
4. Distant cover was provided by one battleship, one 6"
cruiser and four destroyers.
5. The convoy was shadowed by U-boats and on 3rd February one
American ship, the GREYLOCK, was torpedoed and sunk.
6. There was no further incident and the remaining ships of
convoy arrived safely at Loch Ewe today.

(A.C.N.S. H., 0126A/10 to B.A.D., Washington).

OXLIP arrived Clyde with following survivors from SS.
GREYLOCK. 1 Officer, 6 Ratings U.S. Navy. 1 Officer, 9
ratings Mercantile Marine.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0834A/10).

W.S. 27 R. My 0319/9. Embarkation of MORETON BAY and
W.S. 27 Q (B). TAMAROA will now take place on 25 Feb. and 26
Feb.
2. Convoy W.S. 27 R will now be known as
W.S. 27 Q (B).
(D.S.T. 0128A/10).

W.S. 28 Respective services of BATORY in convoy
W.S. 27 Q (A). W.S. 28 and TEGELBERG in convoy W.S. 27 Q (A)
Have been interchanged.
2. BATORY will now embark at Tail of the Bank
on 21 Feb. and TEGELBERG will fit as an L.S.I. (L)
in Glasgow completion date being not later than 28 Feb. My
0158/8 should be amended accordingly.
(D.S.T., 0129A/10).

My 0318/9. Embarkation of ships in convoy W.S. 27 R. will
now take place on 26 Feb. to 28 Feb.
Convoy W.S. 27 Q will now be known as W.S. 27 Q (A) and convoy
W.S. 27 R as W.S. 27 Q (B).
(D.S.T., 0130A/10).

W.S. 28 sailing on 15th March will include KEREN, BULOLO,
LARGS, ULSTER, MONARCH and nine Red Ensign L.S.I. (L).
2. These ships will assemble at the Tail of the Bank not
later than 1st March where the Red Ensign ships will come under
the control of D.S.T.O. Monck for embarkation of Landing Craft
and Naval Crews as ordered by S.O.A.S.C. Embarkation of
military personnel will take place between 11th and 14th March.
(D.O.D. H., 2230A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

M/Vs Group 2. Position at 0640C/10 66.25 N. 41.03 E.
in North S.O.A. 2 knots.
Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0826A/10).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

S.C.118 My position at 0800 was 55° 32' N. 09° 40' W. Speed of SCHELDT 4 knots. Master requests to return owing to state of weather, damaged bridge, and sickness of Chief Officer. Request SOUTHERN WAVE carry on and make attempt to assist in previous orders. (SOUTHERN WAVE, 0909A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0909/10. SCHELDE return to Milford Haven. SOUTHERN WAVE join BUTTERCUP.
(C. in C. W.A., 1053A/10 to SOUTHERN WAVE).
S.C.118 (F). My 1113/9. Report names of ships in company. (C. in C. W.A., 0946A/10 to MIGNONETTE).
Your 0800/10. LOBELIA proceed to Londonderry, VIMY continue search for lifeboat reported by aircraft.
(C. in C. W.A., 1205A/10 to VIMY).
Cancel my 1738/9. Proceed search for life-boat containing 7 survivors reported by A/C at 1800A/9 in 056° 01' N. 017° 35' W. with sail up, drifting to eastward.
(C. in C. W.A., 1213A/10 to CHURCHILL).
Your 0946A/10. CELTIC STAR, SUMMERSTAD, MAUD, DEIDO. (MIGNONETTE, 1258A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1205A/10. Situation of thrust block bearings (?improved). My P.C.S. 055° 43' N. 014° 12' W. 095° 11 knots, request permission proceed Greenock.
(LOBELIA 1330Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
Request you sail AQUAMARINE to R/V S.C.118 expected position A 0200A/11th.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1440A/10 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
My approx. position 1600A/10 055° 42' N. 012° 48' W, course and speed 275° 12½. Improved.
(BUTTERCUP, 1515Z/10).
Cancel instructions to join BUTTERCUP and join CHURCHILL and VIMY who are searching for lifeboat with 7 survivors in area to eastward of 56.01 N. 17.35 W.
(C. in C. W.A., 1545A/10 to SOUTHERN WAVE).
Your 1330/10 approved.
(C. in C. W.A., 1614A/10 to LOBELIA).
Returning to base. P.C.S. 055° 58' N. 015° 43' W, 096° 12 knots. Search unsuccessful. Weather 3845 0366.
(ABELIA, 1900Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
12 survivors ex Greek ADAMAS arrived Reykjavik in BABBITT list of names contained in my 2127A/10 in P/L. Men abandoned ship after collision with BEVERLEY in 56° 26' N. 22° 15' W. at 2200/7. Master and 16 Men remaining on board. Vessel not seen to sink. Disposal of C.B. unknown.
(A.C.I.C., 2131A/10 to Admty).
Sailed AQUAMARINE for S.C.118.
(Cdre. Londonderry 2302A/10).

U.C.1

N.C.S.O. Mersey 1523/9.
1. If ready, EXE is to join convoy for Milford Haven in 52.00 N. 05.36 W. at 0900Z/15th.
2. Remaining escort are to join convoy from Londonderry in 090° Altacarry 5 miles at 0730Z/14.
(C. in C. W.A., 1058A/10).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- A.T. 36 Alter course forthwith direct to new ZZ 55.25 N.
08.30 W, thence to Clyde.
(D.O.D. H., 1145A/10 to A.T.36).
E.T.A. Clyde Boom 1230A/11.
(A.T.36, 2053A/10).
- CASTILLO CASTILLO ANDRADE in 43° 50' N. 07° 10' W.
 ANDRADE, course 260° speed 6 knots at 1340.
CASTILLO CASTILLO CAMPANIARO tanker in 43° 50' N.
 CAMPANIARO 07.00' W. course 095° speed 7 knots.
(Spanish). (A/C B. of 207 Sqdn. 1410/10 to 19 Group).
- P.S.11 Owing to sweepers not being available P.S. and
S.P.11. S.P.11 is cancelled.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1734/10).
- AMSTERDAM My 1051/8. Sailed. K/B flown.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1840/10 to A.C.O.S.)
- DUCHESS OF Request necessary priority to the completion of
BEDFORD. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD now fitting out in Liverpool.
 2. She is a "named" ship and the completion date
 required is 28th Feb.
 (Vice-Controller 1906A/10 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
 DUCHESS OF BEDFORD is required for duty as L.S.I.(L)
 and S.N.O.L. duties and will remain under the Red Ensign.
 Fitting-out is not to interfere with completion date.
 (Controller, 1909A/10 to S.O.A.S.C.)
- D.S. 37 SS. LEINSTER will be ready to leave Clyde as
S.D. 37. Convoy D.S. 37 carrying Military Personnel for
 Iceland p.m./16th Feb.
 2. She is to return as S.D. 37,
 (D.O.D. H., 1916A/10).
- T.A. 35 Convoy T.A. 35 consisting of SS. ANDES will be
 ready to leave Clyde for Halifax p.m./14th Feb.
 carrying Military Personnel.
 2. Route.
 3. Ship will sail independently and maximum air
 protection both A/A and A/S are to be arranged.
 (D.O.D. H., 1926A/10).
- TJALDUR Your 1101/7. Arrived.
 (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1945A/10 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen).
- K.X. 9 A.M. 1526/8. (1) A/S escort. WISHART, S.O. COREOP-
 SIS, JONQUIL, ANCHUSA, COLUMBINE, STELLA CARINA,
 LADY HOGARTH.
 (2) Corvettes are to arrive Milford Haven a.m./14
 (C. in C. W.A., 2146A/10).

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

Zigzagging. British-managed Merchant Ships of over 7 but under 10 knots are to zigzag by day and night, except in heavy weather or low visibility, when proceeding independently in open waters in the following areas:-

(A) In the Atlantic Ocean:-

1. Within 200 miles of African coast.
2. Within 200 miles of South American Coast northward of 25° S.
3. Within 500 miles of Capetown, Freetown, Trinidad or Cape St. Roque.
4. In Caribbean Sea.
5. In North Atlantic between 40° N. and 60° N. except:-
 - (a) between 40° N. and 55° N. when eastward of 20° W.
 - (b) when Northward of 55° N. and Westward of 45° W.

(B) In the Indian Ocean:-

1. Within 200 miles of Indian, South-Eastern Arabian and East African coasts.
2. Within 500 miles of Colombo, Bombay or Durban.
3. In Gulf of Aden.
4. In Mozambique Channel.

(D.T.D. 0911A/10 to A.I.G. 11, British B.A.M.S. Lettered Message K.J.)

North Atlantic.

Air Report. A.I. 139 10th Feb. Opsum 100 for 24 hrs. ending midnight 9 Feb.

(G) Sightings and attacks. Hudson U.48 Agadir detachment on A/S sweep ahead and astern of C/V Gib. 2 attacked U/B Co. 230/10 kts. at 1100/9Z 31.04 N. 12.19 W. no further details received. Hudson Z.48 on A/S sweep attacked large U/B Co. (210/10 or 260/19 corrupt) kts. at 1350/9 ? 37.55 N. 1.29 E. attacked from dead astern dropping 4 D.Cs spaced 45 ft. 25 seconds after U/B submerged, nearest D.C. exploded 85 ft. ahead of swirl. 10 seconds after attack blackish-thick oil formed ahead of D.C. swirl, 15 seconds after attack air bubbles for 2 or 3 seconds 400 ft. ahead of swirl. Catalina K.202 on A/S search in area of C/V Gib. 2 attacked a U/B Co. 020/10 kts. at 1855/9 32.40 N. 14.15W A/C still airborne. (see 1200Z/10.)

(I) E/A activity at 1251/9 1 Ju.88 approached from North North-west at 25000 ft. engaged by A.A. over Rock no claim. 1 Spitfire on patrol intercepted. Claims E/A starboard wing damaged by cannon shell and port engine damaged. E/A last seen in shallow dive at 3000 ft. going North.

(H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar 0505Z/10.)

My A.I. (?139). Opsum number 100. Cat. K/202 attacked U-Boat on surface and dropped 6/250 torpex D/Cs from 50 feet spacing 35 feet set at 25 feet D/Cs overshot. No results observed.

(A.H.Q. Gibraltar 1200Z/10.)

/JAMAICA...

War Diary.10, 2, 1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- JAMAICA. Arrival JAMAICA.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1003/10 to Admty.)
- U/B Am over enemy S/M in 32° 25' N. 16° 08' W.
attacked. sighted on surface observed to submerge.
(A/C 9 M.Y/N 1020A/10 to Gibraltar.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 9 H.Y/N. 1022A/10 to Gibraltar.)
- U-Boat reported by aircraft in 032° 25' N. 016° 08' W. at 1020
today Wednesday.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1108A/10 to S. and A. N.A.S.)
- REGENT, Admty's 1758/7. In view of congestion here and
Biscay calls that an operational submarine must
Patrol. inevitably make on repair and dockyard facilities,
propose that REGENT be based in U.K. whilst
operating in Bay of Biscay unless there are
strong reasons against this, observing that distances to Central
Bay of Biscay are roughly the same.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1054A/10 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. F.O.S.)
Concur (N.C.X.F. 1037A/11.)
- DERNA. Italian S.S. DERNA arrived Valencia Feb. 9th.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1131A/10 to S.O.(I) X.F.
S.O.(I) Malta.)
- Dispositions. Situation 2002A/10th.
M.K.S. 7 ROCHESTER 040° 20' 011° 01' through 041°
01' 011° 01' to 042° 30' 012° 25' thence 357° 7.
2. P.35 039° 52' 09° 54' through 041° 01' 010° 01'? at 0500/11th
thence 336° dived by day 2½ surface by night 7½.
3. LORD HOTHAM, IMPERIALIST, LADY DENISON-PENDER working cable
vicinity 032° 24' 016° 09'.
4. ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, 35.36 06.41 247° 9.
6. Spanish Training Schooner under sail leaves Tenerife 10th
for Cape Verde Is.
7. Spanish Training ship GALATEA left Corunna for Las Palmas 5th.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1136A/10 1522A/10 to A.I.G. 55.)
2. Gibraltar convoy 2 PETUNIA 034° 13' 008° 18' through 035°
56' 006° 01' to Gibraltar 7.
4. 4 Swedish relief ships 36.53 07.12 to Gibraltar 12.
5. NORTHERN FOAM on patrol off Tagus to R/V BARFOIL 2100/10th and
escort to given 9.6. 4 minesweepers S.O. CADMUS sweeping in
vicinity of Rigaih Bay.
7. EMPIRE TITAN, trawler, 36.18 07.50 to Gibraltar 6½.
8. R.S.1 VANOC sail Gibraltar 0700/11th through 035° 45' 006° 23'
215° 7½.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1203A/10 1526/10 1740A/10 2051A/10.)
- EIGER. Swiss EIGER leaves Genoa about 17th for Buenos
Aires via Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D. 1216A/10 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
N.C.X.F. C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

ST. NECTAN,
LOCH OSKAIG. My 1251/9. (ST. NECTAN and LOCH OSKAIG as relief Escorts for LADY DENISON-PENDER.) ships sailed 1250. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1409/10 to Admty.)

M.K.S.7. Your 1655/5. Intend to hold FIDRA and CHATEAUROUX, both too slow for M.K.S.7. (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1501/10 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. Cmdre. Algiers.)

ABDIEL. Intend to sail ABDIEL for Milford Haven at 2000/10 route.
(P) 35.50 N. 07.01 W. (Q) 36.30N. 09.30 W.
(R) 38.01 N. 11.30 W. (S) 40.01N. 13.01 W.
(T) 43.01 N. 13.01 W. S.O.A. 22½ knots.
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to signal onward route from (T). 3. Codeword "Tommy".
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1513A/10 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.S. H.Q.C.C. V.A.Minelayers, ABDIEL.)

Enemy A/C,
Gibraltar. 1. One Ju. 99 R/C aircraft approached Rock from M.N.E. at 1253/8 height 23,000 feet. A.A. fired no claims, two Spitfires took off, no interceptions.
2. One Ju. 88 R/C aircraft approached from North at 25,000 feet. A.A. fired, no claims. Airborne Spitfires intercepted plane last seen heading North towards Spain losing height with Port Engine smoking.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 1544A/10 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

GUECHO ,
ALBULA. Spanish Swiss chartered GUECHO and Swiss ALBULA leave Genoa 13th and 14th respectively for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D. 1610A/10 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F.)

U/B
Attacked. Am over enemy S/M 32.15 N. 15.53 W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 290° speed 7 knots.
(A/C 9 H.Y/N 1615A/10 to ?T.D.8.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Weather report.
(A/C 1625A/10 to ?T.D.8.)

U/B attacked
by HAYDON
(Gib. Convoy
No.2.) Good contact at 1447 in 033° 56' N. 008° 37' W. with one medium 5 charge pattern and 2 deep 10 charge patterns. Contact lost after 3rd attack. Am searching area. Intend rejoining convoy at 1730.
(HAYDON 1530A/10 to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A., PETUNIA.)

/DUERO...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

DUERO, Following has been read.
mined. S.O.S. S.S. DUERO. 35.55 N. 5.50 W.
(Burnham Radio 1721 G.M.T./10 to Admty.)
Following has been read S.S. DUERO. We are
being towed by Portuguese S.S. TAGUS. Leaking
badly as result of explosion. Making for Tangier.
(Burnham Radio 1850A/10 to Admty.)
Spanish S.S. DUERO mined at 1730/10th in approx. 35.55 N.
05.50 W. ALBACORE close to her.
2. Floating mine reported by CALOCHMUS in position 35.53 30 N.
05.46 30 W. at 1017/10th.
(V.A.Gibraltar 1855A/10 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid, N.C.X.F.
B.N.A.Lisbon.)

SAINT Arrival Cartagena Feb. 10th 8 a.m. French steamer
LUCIEN. SAINT LUCIEN under German Flag from Marseilles,
pursued by one of our destroyers, to load fruit.
(Cartagena 1745/10 to Gibraltar (R) Admty. for
D.N.I.3. Naval Attache 12.)

IMPERIALIST, U-Boats have been reported in your close vicinity.
LOCH OSKAIG. At your discretion escort LADY DENISON PENDER to
Funchal, and then carry A/S hunt with LORD HOTHAM
in that locality to limit of prudent endurance,
returning to Gibraltar.
2. LADY DENISON PENDER would still remain at Funchal until ST.
NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG join approx. noon 13th.
(V.A.Gibraltar 1834A/10 as amended 0905A/11 to IMPERIALIST,
(R) LORD HOTHAM, Admty. N.C.X.F.)

Movements, Feb. 10th warships arrived Casablanca Chasseur II
Casablanca. (Fr.) and ELNAMITE (Fr.) from escort cable ship
ALSACE.
(S.N.O.C.A. 1835Z/10 to Admty. N.C.X.F. Cominch.
F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

BARFOIL. My 1614/8th and V.A.Gibraltar's 2232/30 Jan.
neither to Admiralty. BARFOIL sailing 1800 G.M.T.
today after 6 days boiler repair.
(N.A.Lisbon 1852/10 to V.A.Gibraltar, (R)Admty.)

CADMUS, My 1912/9th. (N.T. in W.D.) CADMUS reported 62½
minefield. per cent searched channel 3.2 miles wide completed.
Nothing to report.
2. Request I may be informed if existence of mine-
field is being broadcast to neutrals.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1910A/10 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A.)

/Your...

War Diary.

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

CADMUS,
minefield.
(Contd.)

Your 1910/10. This is not being broadcast for the time being.
(N.C.X.F. 2208A/10 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A.)

Movements.

Arrivals, 0810 ABDIEL. 0815 PENSTEMON, VETCH, CONVULVULUS, NORTHERN GIFT, ex M.K.S. 7. 1936, CADMUS, SPEEDWELL ex M.K.S.7 and M/S sweep West. Departure, 1800, LUNENBERG to overtake T.E.15. (F.O.C. Gibraltar 2119A/10 to Admty. N.C.X.F. N.S.H.Q.)

Axis
Shipping.

Arrivals 8th GRETE Marseilles in ballast, arrival 7th ROMAIN Cette in ballast, CONAM Marseilles Sulphate Ammonia. Arrivals 6th ENRIQUE ILLUECA, Cette in ballast, expected sailings tonight 8th Cette Oranges. Departures 6th MANUCHU Cartagena in ballast.
ST. ALBERT expected sailing tonight 8th Cette Orange and Fruit Pulp.
(Valencia No. T.O.O./10 Recd. 2300/10.)

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

O.N. 162.

A.M. 1737/7 and Cominch 2011/6.
Please confirm that all southbound ships except
OCEAN VESTAL are proceeding through position V.
(C. in C. S.A., 0036C/10 to Admty., (R)
F.O.C.W.Af.)
Your 0036C/10 confirmed.
(D.T.D., 0624A/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions.

Situation at 2000Z/10th.

DESPATCH 08.36 16.42 to Freetown, 18.
CILICIA, CANTON, WAYLAND, QUIBERON, CORINTHIAN,
ADRIAS, RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, QUALITY with
W.S.26, 04.20 09.58 to 03.01 08.16 thence 086° 12.5.
(? VALIANT), EXPRESS, FORTUNE, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT with C.F.11,
05.20 13.26 to 07.40 14.30 thence Freetown 13.
Allied Naval Unit on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area.
CYCLAMEN, CROCUS escorting 08.21 13.36 to 08.00 14.06 thence
129.
COPINSAY escorting Marshall to Freetown 8.
BELLWORT, RUMBA escorting 03.44 07.20 to 03.39 07.45 thence
300, 8.5.
RANCHI 00.22 03.08, 302°, 14.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting 03.02 00.08 to Takoradi
12.
(F.O.C.W.A., 0549Z/10 to A.I.G.150.)
My 0549/10th. Add ARMERIA 01.00 N. 03.31 E., 128°, 12.
(F.O.C.W.A., ?0009Z/10.)
CHESHIRE 040° 50' S. 039° 50' W. to Montevideo 13½ knots.
CARTHAGE 035° 05' S. 022° 05' E. to Capetown 15.
P.614 and GENISTA 031° 55' S. 014° 50' E. to Simonstown 7½.
BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN with C.N.6, 029° 20' S. 016° 00' E. to
Walvis Bay, 8.
DAUNTLESS 032° 10' S. 029° 30' E. to Durban 18.
Convoy D.C.6, 033° 45' S. 027° 30' E. to Capetown 8.
NIGELLA, ARCTIC EXPLORER with D.N.16, 031° 10' S. 032° 50' E.
8.
SONDRA with RECORDER 029° 30' S. 032° 50' E.
BOLD 028° 00' S. 033° 20' E. to Kilindini 6.
ST. ZENO, LE TIGRE with C.A.11 034° 55' S. 019° 33' E., 8.
(C. in C. S.A., 1215C/10 to A.I.G. 125.)
Situation at 2003Z/10th.
French Submarine ARCHIMEDE on surface 13.40 23.36 to 13.35 24.20
thence 296, 12½.
French Submarine AMAZONE on surface 14.08 20.55, 261, 7.
French Cruiser GLOIRE patrolling between 10° N. 12° N. 25° W.
and 30° W.
DESPATCH 08.36 16.42 to Freetown, 18.
BRIDGEWATER, FANDANGO, QUADRANT, 3 M.Ls with S.R.1, 09.08
14.25 302°, 7¾.
(R.A.W.A., 1225Z/10 to A.I.G. 149.)

C.A. 11.

Sailing telegram. (2) 0730Z/10th. (4) 8 knots.
(5) Group A. Coastal. Group B. P 034° 55' S.
020° E. Q 036° 45' S. 024° E. R 037° 10' S.
025° E. thence in accordance with Capetown
Serial Numbers 601 - 603. (6) SAINT ZENO and
LE TIGRE.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 0843Z/10 to Admty., etc.)
/Movements ...

378

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Arrival 10th Feb. RELENTLESS.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 0932Z/10 to Admty.)
Arrived French Sloop M/S GAZELLE and QUERCY.
(Com Dakar, 0952Z/10 to F.O.W.A.)

Departure 9th Feb. BRIDGEWATER.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1043Z/10 to Admty.)

Arrival 9th U.S. corvette SAUCY.
(R.O. Para, 1057/10 to Admty.)

Departure 10th Feb. BRIDGEWATER, QUADRANT, FANDANGO, M.Ls 287,
296 and 281.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2321Z/10 to Admty.)

S.L. A.M. 1824/15th Jan. and 2216/22nd Jan.
Convoys. It would assist if applications for inclusion in
S.L. convoy included E.T.A. Freetown and probable
requirements fuel and water.
(D.T.D., 1042A/10 to C. in C. S.A., B.N.S.O. Rio
de Janeiro, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Passenger A.M. 1605/6th. Concur with proposed revised
Numbers, rules for passenger ships.
Limits. Ref. para. 3B. Difficulty is frequently
experienced in obtaining accommodation for
entitled service wives and families to U.K.
It is desirable to return them with their husbands
whenever possible but this takes up valuable berths. Union
Govt. have stated that saturation point for any further families
in transit has been reached and no more can be accepted for the
present. DETOQ (?16)06 of 26th Jan. to Armindia and Troopers
refers.
Suggested that passage homeward for entitled and civilian wives
and families should be curtailed as far as possible and that
any families permitted to leave U.K. should be prepared to stay
abroad until termination of hostilities. Similarly those who
proceed abroad at their own expense should be informed that no
guarantee of repatriation can be held out.
(C. in C. S.A., 1245C/10 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., B.A.D.)

CARNARVON A.M. 2046/28th Jan. and my 1800/4th Feb., not to
CASTLE. F.O.W.Af. E.T.A. Port Stanley p.m./11th. No
evidence found of visits by enemy vessels in
South (Orkneys)?
(CARNARVON CASTLE, 1345Z/10 to C. in C. S.A.,
(R) Admty., F.O.W.Af.)

Convoy 1. S.R.1. 2. 0909/10th Feb. 3. Nil. 4. 7½ knots.
S.R. 1 5. All positions North and West. (A) 10.59,
17.27. (B) 17.01, 18.00. (C) 24.24, 16.58.
(D) 31 11. (E) 34.01, 09.01 thence as ordered
by N.C.X.F. 6. BRIDGEWATER (S.O.), QUADRANT, FANDANGO.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1525Z/10, 1605Z/10 to Admty., etc.)
My 2347Z/8th. EMPIRE CLIVE and NEWCHANG did not sail.
Destination BRITISH COAST changed to Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1545Z/10 to N.C.X.F., etc.)

/W.S.26 ...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.W.S.26,
Move of
Belgian
Brigade.D.S.T's (O.R. 1634A/3) to D.S.T.O.W.A., F.O.C.W.A.
This H.Q. and other addressees state that it is
proposed to turn round at Capetown three ships ex
W.S.26 to lift 8000 of Belgian Brigade from Lagos
to Mideast.Is intention that whole of Belgian Brigade will
be transferred to Mideast?

(G.O.C. in C. W.Africa, 1605ZA/10 to W.O.)

W.S. 26.

F.O.C.W.A.F's 1601/8th.

Onward route for W.S.26 from position F through
G 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E. thence by Q.G.A.127
and Q.G.A. 109 to H 034° 26' S. 018° 26' E.J 034° 55' S. 019° 26' E. K 034° 55' S. 023° 40' E.
L 034° 35' S. 025° 28' E. M 033° 31' S. 028° 05' E.
N 031° 17' S. 030° 32' E. O 030° 40' S. 031° 02' E. thence to
Durban.(2) Capetown (? portion) parts company in 033° 53' S. 018°
22' E. and enter harbour.

(3) Following are escort arrangements.

(a) BLACKMOOR to R/V with W.S.26 in 030° 22' S. 015° 55' E. at
0500A/21st.(b) On BLACKMOOR joining QUIBERON and QUICKMATCH proceed to
Capetown at best speed to arrive before dark 21st.(c) QUIBERON, QUICKMATCH and GENISTA join W.S.26 on passing
Capetown a.m./22nd Feb.(d) On being joined by ships mentioned in para. (c) above
RACEHORSE enters Capetown for fuel. QUALITY proceeds Simonstown
for repairs.(e) On completion of fuelling RACEHORSE is to sail to overtake
W.S. 26.(f) On RACEHORSE rejoining BLACKMOOR and GENISTA return to
Simonstown and Capetown.(g) Air escort by Catalinas and later by Venturas may be
expected from daylight 21st Feb.(4) The above R/V times are based on N.C.S.O. Freetown's estimate
that W.S.26 will reach position F at 0300Z/21st Feb.Request you will signal any amendment to this at least (? 48)
hours in advance.(C. in C. S.A., 1758C/10 to WAYLAND, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.A.F.,
Cdre. i/c Durban, N.L.Os Capetown, Port Elizabeth, East London,
C. in C. E.F.)CYCLAMEN,
CROCUS,
LEOPOLDVILLE.Sailed CYCLAMEN and CROCUS escorting LEOPOLDVILLE
at 1815Z/10th Feb. for Takoradi, route A 008°
00' N. 014° 06' W. B 004° 34' N. 010° 00' W.
C 003° 44' N. 006° (53' or 40') W. D 004° 20' N.
002° 06' thence Takoradi. S. of A. 12½ knots,
E.T.A. p.m./13th Feb.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1819Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R)
N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty., CYCLAMEN.)

/ U/B ...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B.

At 1405/10th German U-Boat within 150 miles 033° 00' N. 014° 00' W. and at 1708/10th within 150 miles of 031° 30' N. 019° 00' W.
(F.O.W.A., 2025Z/10 to S.N.O. Casablanca.)

EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA,
BURDOCK,
Convoy
R.S. 1.

Admty. 1640A/4.

1. Intend to sail EMPRESS OF RUSSIA escorted by BURDOCK at 1500Z/12th Feb. routed, all positions North and West. P 09.05, 16.53. Q 11.59, 18.01. R 19.08, 18.59. S 27.19, 16.26. T 31.19, 14.31. A 35° 49'03", 06° 06'05", thence by approach route to Gibraltar. S. of A. 12½ knots.

2. N.C.X.F. is requested to provide escort to

R/V in position (X) 24.01, 17.30 at 1000Z/16 and take over onward escort to Gibraltar.

3. From R/V BURDOCK will proceed to join escorts of convoy R.S.1 to Freetown.

(F.O.C.W.A., 2149/10 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., S.N.O.C.A., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

ARCHIMEDE,
AMAZONE.

Following from Glassfurd pass to Cominch, S.O.P. Bermuda, C. in C. Atlantic, C.E.S.F., Navy Yard Philadelphia.

My 081440 and 061000 F.S. ARCHIMEDE, F.S. AMAZONE sailed 1830Z/9th Feb. delayed due to (? unsuit-

ability of) imposing restricted bombing area in approaches Dakar as enemy submarines reported close to proposed track of French submarines.

(Comar Dakar, 2247Z/10 to F.O.W.A., etc.)

Suspicious
Ship,
St. Helena.

Your 1730/10 (not to other addressees - N.T. in W.D.)

Unidentified ship sighted south-east of Island at 0930 distance 15 to 20 miles steering West may be U.S. Ship THOMAS RUFFIN. (Description). Please report whether this description agrees with your observations.

(C. in C. S.A., 2314C/10 to General St. Helena, (R) Admty., F.O.C.W.Af., Connav.)

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 9th Feb. PROTEA, HURSLEY, CROOME, M.L. 1149. Departure 9th Feb. ANTWERP, SOUTHERN ISLE, HYACINTH, GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN SEA, PROTEA, SEAHAM, FALK, M.L.361, GENERAL BIRDWOOD.
(S.O.(I) Med., 0916B/10 to Adnty., C. in C. Med.)
Vesca No.51. Arrivals 9th Feb. ARMILLA (Dutch), sailings 10th Feb. MAINE (Hospital ship) Benghazi 13th.
(N.C.S.O. Alex., 1700B/10 to Fairmiss, Connav.)
- Mediterranean and Levant Commands. A.M. 2338/7 (requesting proposals regarding W/T organisation). My 1654/9 and 1657/9 refers. Date of change is only effected by these considerations to extent of allowing time for promulgation by signal.
(N.C.X.F., 1005A/10 to Adnty.)
- Tripoli, Benghazi. From L.G.A. for Prime Minister. Tripoli discharges 9th Feb. 838 tons. Benghazi discharges 1492 tons. Lower figure for Tripoli due completion discharge of three ships. Further convoy arriving this morning.
(C. in C. M.E., 1035B/10 to W.O.)
- Air Attack on Spezia, N.C.X.F. not informed. Your 1602/6. It is rarely possible to give advanced notice of R.A.F. bombing attacks on Italian ports owing to rapidly changing weather conditions, particularly at this time of year. Your telegram, however, raises important points regarding co-ordination and policy between Naval forces in the Mediterranean and Bomber Command targets in Italy. These are being examined.
(A.C.N.S.(F), Approved 1st Sea Lord, 1041A/10 to N.C.X.F.)
- M.T.Bs. 4 M.T.Bs leave Malta at 1530/10th to operate in vicinity of Pantellaria.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1101A/10 to C. in C. Med., etc.)
- NEURALIA etc. Your 2142/6. Vessels are required for move of troops to Tripoli and Malta.
(2) Requirement for further troopships is dependent on results of impending operations. Agreed G.H.Q.M.E.F.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 1109B/10 to Adnty. for D. of S.T.,
(R) C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O.E.I., G.H.Q.M.E.F.)
- LINNET. Propose to release LINNET when laying of special loops at Algiers has been completed in approx. one week's time. Request confirmation that she is required to return to U.K.
(N.C.X.F., 1155A/10 to Adnty., (R) Com. Algiers.)

/Air ...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Air R/C. P.R.U. Feb. 10th (N.P.?) 0945, Taranto, Visuals, 2 Battleships, 2 Cruisers, photographs taken. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1224A/10 to C. in C. Med., etc.)
- MARIPOSA. U.S. Transport MARIPOSA arrived 0535Z/10 sailed 1235Z/10, knots 18, Suez 1400Z/13. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 1309Z/10 to Admty.)
- P.51. Do not cross 014° 30' before dawn tomorrow 11th owing to movements of surface forces. Then proceed on surface at your discretion to end of searched channel at 1300 and enter unescorted. (Capt. S.10, 1322A/10 to P.31.)
- P.44, P.43. During daylight tomorrow 11th, P.44 patrol in N.W. corner of your area. P.43 patrol in 037° DD 157 after 0100/11th. (Capt. S.10, 1323A/10 to P.43, P.44.)
- TORBAY, DOLFIJN. Leave patrol to pass 038° 59' 000° 15' at 2330/11th, 038° 28' 001° 19' at 0530/12th, 038° 29' 002° 50' at 2230/12th thence proceed on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 037° 00' 003° 10' at 0730/13th. (2) DOLFIJN will R/V same escort at same time. (3) All positions North and East. (Capt. S.8, 1334A/10 to TORBAY, (R) Cdre. Algiers, DOLFIJN, N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Gibraltar, 8th S.F.)
- Bi-Weekly A.668, 1016Z/10th Feb. Night of 8th/9th Feb. Opsum No. 20 Wellingtons, 6 Halifaxes despatched to attack 798, Part 4. shipping at Palermo. Bad weather with low clouds (? and) severe icing experienced en route (corrupt group) over Sicily. 2 Wellingtons, 1 Halifax unable to reach Sicily and returned. 6 Wellingtons 2 Halifaxes unable to locate Palermo owing to cloud bombed other targets including Syracuse (?and) Enna in Sicily (? and) Biancoc in Southern Italy. Results unobserved. 10 Wellingtons, 2 Halifaxes bombed Palermo Harbour through cloud starting 1 fire south of harbour, 1 fire in town. 1 Wellington landed Malta report awaited. 1 Wellington, 1 Halifax missing. 7 enemy aircraft attacked Tripoli without causing damage. Beaufighter shot down 2 Heinkel 111s. (Middle East Command, H.Q., No T.O.O./10.) Part 2 my A.668. 9th Feb. Bad weather with low cloud restricted operations over forward area. 2 Spitfires intercepted a R/C Ju.88 off Port Said. 1 Spitfire fired all ammunition at enemy which escaped ?by diving. (Middle East Command H.Q., 1323Z/10.)

/French ...

383

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.French
Naval
Aircraft.

Read Adm. Amanrich commanding French Fleet Air Arm called on me yesterday prior to his departure to London which he is visiting at request of Air Ministry. He requested my authority to visit Admty. to discuss possibilities of obtaining aircraft to set up squadrons in "Torch" Area for Naval work. He asked for Albacores or Walrus.

2. I informed him that it was most unlikely Albacores would be forthcoming and that I was unaware of present situation as regard Walrus.

3. Adm. Amanrich was also informed that if it were possible to make aircraft available organisations should be set up first in West or North West Africa and that his proposal to set up squadrons at Oran and Algiers would be of lower priority.

4. I am unaware of Admiralty policy in this matter but consider that French personnel could probably do useful work on off shore A/S patrols if aircraft can be made available for the purpose.

(N.C.X.F., 1435A/10 to Admty.)
See Admty., 0007A/17.

M.W. 20A.

Arrived convoy M.W.20A, EURYALUS, NUBIAN, PALADIN, BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, COUNDOURIOTIS, KANARIS.
(V.A. Malta, 1509A/10 to Admty., C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Malta
Commands.

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Prime Minister will announce in Parliament tomorrow certain important changes in Command arrangements in Mediterranean. 2. Notwithstanding these changes, the directive to you contained in Colonial Office telegram No.230 of 7th May holds good pending further instructions, except that A.O.C. Malta will be under Air C. in C. of whole Mediterranean theatre (see Air Ministry telegram No. A.X.983 of 23rd Jan. to A.O.C. Malta) instead of under A.O.C. in C. Middle East.

3. Mideast inform Minister of State.
(Air Min., 1525Z/10 to Govr., Malta.)

Enemy
Report.

Aircraft sighting at 1015/10th 355° Trionto 15
1 merchant ship course 190°, 185° Alice Point 10,
1 tanker stationary.
(Capt. S.10, 1527Z/10 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

M.T.Bs.

M.T.Bs 313, 309, 267, 77 sailed on operations.
(V.A. Malta, 1630A/10 to Admty., N.C.X.F., (R)
C. in C. Med., S.O.I.S.)

Movements,
Port Said.

Feb. 10th Port Said arrivals ANTWERP, R.F.A.
BADAPUR, departures SPETSAI, H.H.M.S. PANTHER,
AETOS, KLO, ANTWERP, R.F.A. BADAPUR.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1702B/20 to Admty., etc.)

/MIAOULES ...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- MIAOULES. N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1948/8th Feb. and A.M. 1933/17th Jan. para B.
MIAOULES requires further H.A. practices before she can be considered an efficient fighting unit.
2. Request you will arrange for this to be undertaken wherever you think best.
(D.O.D.(F), 1718A/10 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
Your 1311/9th Feb., not to N.C.X.F.
Both ships sailed with W.S.26, but MIAOULES lost touch in heavy weather and had to return to U.K. to refuel.
2. MIAOULES sailed for Gibraltar with K.M.F.9 on 8th Feb. A.M. 1718/10 also refers.
(D.O.D.(F), 1740A/10 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)
- K.M.F.9, Of 4 escort of K.M.F.9, only KRAKOWIAK is due
escort for for return to U.K. In addition O.N.B. (? "one"
return. intended) R.C.N. corvette as specified in your
O120/9 para. 6 will be available.
2. What are future intentions for this convoy?
3. Escorts on this station are heavily committed at that time.
(N.C.X.F., 1739A/10 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gib.)
Reply: Admty., 1950A/11.
- ALBA JULIA. Roumanian ALBA JULIA was expected to leave
Trieste for Istanbul end of January. B.4.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1743C/10 to S.O.I. Med., (R)
S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)
- REGINA, We congratulate REGINA on the destruction of a
U/B U-Boat on Feb. 8th.
destroyed (D.A/S.W. Approved 1st S.L., 1806A/10 to REGINA,
8th Feb. (R) N.S.H.Q., N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., Cdre.
Algiers.)
- M.K.Convoy Your 2052/8th. M.A.R.I. and M.A.C.R.I. are
Stragglers. being sent today to D.N.C.X.F. for despatch by
air.
2. Stragglers route will be promulgated by Admty.
and your proposal will be taken into consideration.
(D.T.D., 1833A/10 to N.C.X.F.)
- M.Ls. for Your 1402/12 Jan. M.Ls 1143 and 1164 trans-
F. French. ferred to Fighting French Navy a.m./5th Feb.
(C. in C. Med., 1841B/10 to Admty., (R) S.N.O.
L.A., C.C.F. Med.)
- Med. and N.C.X.F's 1654/9th Feb., concur.
Levant (C. in C. Med., 1903B/10 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)
Commends,
Signalling.

/Replacement ...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Replacement of R.C.N. Corvettes by "Hunts". My 1055/5 para. 3 and 5. Not more than 7 "Hunts" can be made available. 2. ATHERSTONE sails in accordance with A.M. 0120/9. 3. BROCKLESBY, LIDDESDALE and QUANTOCK sail in accordance with A.M. 1559/9. 4. WHADDON will be fitted for blind barrage fire and sailed on completion in about three weeks. 5. CLEVELAND will be sailed on completion of refit probably including installation of blind barrage fire control. 6. TYNEDALE will be sailed on completion of present operations in a few days. (D.O.D.(H), 1948A/10 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F.)

Movements, Oran. Arrivals BRIXHAM, ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, EMPIRE DACE. (? N.O.I.C. Oran, 1959A/10 to Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrival French S/M CASABIANCA from Operation. LA SEPOISE escorting one French M.S. from Mostaganem. Departures F.P.V. 9 to Jijelli. M.T.B. 95 to Bone. (Cdre. Algiers, 2019A/10 to Admty., etc.)

ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN. ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTERMAN are both in urgent need of refit. In view of their value in operations it is requested that work is done in U.K. as quickly as possible. Ships can only be spared providing two small fast troop carriers can be sent to take their place temporary for ferry work. (2) If ships are to return for refit spare gear should be returned (? "retained") in U.K. Advance copies of Defects List will be forwarded separately. (N.C.X.F., 2124A/10 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 1504A/17.

Movements, Tripoli. Feb. 10th arrivals TETCOTT, PINDOS. Departures TETCOTT, PRIMULA, Greek Ship SAKTOURIS, PINDOS, BEVER. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli, Libya, 2135B/10 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 587. Night 9th/10th Feb. 6 Intruder Mosquitoes were airborne and gave cover to our shipping strike. 3 patrolled Pantelleria Castelvetro, 2 patrolled Comiso Catania, and 1 patrolled Gabes area.

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Malta Air
Report.
(Contd.)

1 special equipment Wellington on shipping search off toe of Italy sighted 2110 hours 1 M/V 2/3000 tons and one D/R 40° 04' N. 16° 41' E. course 180° speed 10 knots. At 0230 hours this convoy was attacked by 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons but target was obscured by cloud and results could not be observed. 4 Albacores and 5 Beauforts laid mines successfully at entrance to Trapani harbour.

Day 10th Feb. A total of 4 Beaufighters and 27 Spitfires provided escort for our incoming convoy from position 34° 55' N. 14° 13' E. at 0530 hours until its safe arrival in harbour at 0130 hours. 12 Spitfires were airborne on protective patrol for convoy in harbour.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2146Z/10.)

Axis
Shipping.

Arrival 9th REUS, Sete via Barcelona in ballast. GRETE finished loading onions and is ready to sail for Marseilles.
TOM finished loading orange pulp and ready to sail probably Marseilles.
ROMAIN and DERNA expected sailing tonight 10th for Marseilles with oranges.
(Valencia T.H.I. 2240/10 to Admty.)

G.S. 1,
S.G. 1,
M.K.S.8.

Following is a repetition of my 1029/10th (begins):
Addressed F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af., Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca, Comar Dakar, from N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.Af. 0700/9th. Request you will sail convoy G.S.1 accordingly and detail R/V for S.G.1 with M.K.S.8. (Ends).
(N.C.X.F., 2243A/10 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af., Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca, Comar Dakar.)

War Diary.

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

F.S.
LEOPARD.

F.S. LEOPARD returned to Port Louis with boiler defects.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0450Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

Request
for
Ferry A/C.

The need for Multi Sloter ferry aircraft was stressed in C. in C. E.I. 0719Z/9th June 1942. With the development of Addu Atoll and expansion forecast in your 2243A/19th Dec. supply of such aircraft preferably with range not less than one thousand miles becomes even more urgent. Request requirement may again be considered.
(Com. N.A.S. Ceylon, 0633Z/10 to Admty. (R) R.A.N.S.I.O.)

Movement
Summary.

Ceylon Movement Summary No. 37 of 10th Feb. Ref. Summary 36. 2. SUTLEJ and PUNJAB escorting P. B. 25 due Bombay 10th. 3. MARGUERITE arrived Colombo 9th. 5. VERBENA escorting B.M. 41 due Trincomalee 12th. 9. GERALDTON escorting P.A. 23 due Aden 12th. 10. BOMBAY escorting B.P. 67 $\frac{3}{4}$ due Khor Kuwait 9th. Summary 37.
1. CLIVE left Karachi 8th. 2. SONAVATI and ORRISSA escorting B.P. 68 leave Bombay 11th. 3. ASTER escorting SINGU leaves Addu Atoll 11th due Colombo 13th. 4. LISMORE escorting EL MADINA left Addu Atoll 5th arrived Colombo 7th. MARYBOROUGH escorting EL MADINA left Colombo 9th Feb. due Bombay 12th.
6. BENGAL and MADRAS escorting P.B. 26 leave Bandar Abbas 11th.
7. LAUNCESTON and IPSWICH escorting P.A. 24 leave Bandar Abbas 11th. KONKAN left Madras 9th escorting FORT ALEXANDRIA to vicinity of Dondra Head thence proceeding to Trincomalee 12th to take over Madras portion of B.M.D. Madras 13th.
9. KHYBER left Diego Suarez 4th due Addu Atoll 12th. 10. TAMWORTH left Diego Garcia 9th due Addu Atoll 11th.
(F.O. Ceylon 0653Z/10 Admty., C. in C. E.F. Comrin, S.N.O.P.G.)

P.B. 25.

Arrivals SUTLEJ, MADRAS with P.B. 25.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0706Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

BRITTANY.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0735Z/10 to Admty. S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Aden. S.O.(I) Kilindini.)

Wingfield.

Confirmed 6 disembarked squadrons are to be accommodated. Your 1652/4 para.5 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 0743Z/10 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. R.A.N.A.S.I.O. N.A.S. Wingfield.

Convoy
"Pamphlet".

Departure 0752Z/10 "Pamphlet".
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0756Z/10 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Aden, S.O.(I) Kilindini.)

ROCKWOOD.

10th arrived.
(F.O.E.A. 0841Z/10 to Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon ,
Comic, Durban.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

ROCKWOOD.

Convoy P.B. 25 Bombay portion arrived less KING
FEISAL.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0929Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

Movements.

Colombo arrivals 9th my 1158/9 add 1735Z MARGUERITE
(Ceylon, 1220Z/ to Admty.)

Air
Report
India.

(A) 9th. 4 Blenheims escort 6 Hurricanes attac-
ked small craft Satyogya Creek. Offensive R/C
4 Beaufighters rivers between Chauk Chaungma
damaged small steamers Chauk Monywa Pagan Pakokku
Factory and railway trucks Alon. 5 Hurricanes
(3 sorties) attacked buildings small craft Padali buildings
MagyIchaung Donbaik. 3 Hurricanes R/C Akyab Island and A/D night
Feb. 9/10. 9 Wellingtons attacked Sagaing jetty and railway
sidings.
(A.H.Q. India 1305/10 to Air Min.)

War Diary.

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T. 10th Feb.			
	Ship.	Position	Course	Speed
	F.S. RICHELIEU)	36° N. 68° W.	314°	12½
	U.S. Escort)			
	F.S. MONTCALM)	35½° N. 68½° W.	306°	12½
	U.S. Escort)			
	ALCANTARA)	04° S. 36½° W.	115°	12
	WOODRUFF)			
	BUTTERMERE)	02½° N. 43° W.	117°	8
	WASTWATER)			
	5 M.M.S.)			
	(D.O.D.(F) 1004Z/10 to Opanav (R) Comnavu.)			

Movements. Arrival 9th U.S. Warship OPAL.
(Grenada 1030Q/10 to Admty.)
Arrival French ship, SAINT DOMINQUE.
Martinique (Fort de France) 1425/10 to Admty.)
Arrival 10th U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA.
(N.C.S.O. Curacao 1430QR/10 to Admty.)
Kingston arrival British Cable Ship NORSEMAN and
U.S. Coast Guard MARION.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1453/10 to Admty.)

B.Y.M.S. Following B.Y.M.S. will be ready to sail from
Seattle for Freetown on 26th. Numbers 10,17,18,
21,25.
(B.A.M.R 1506Q/10 to Admty. (R) Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At.
F.O.C.W.Af.)

N.A.T.O. J.S.M. 723. 10th Feb. 1943. Following is text of
Telegram No. 1901 to Eisenhower from Marshall.
(Begins):- Designation of Commanding General U.S.
Army Forces in North African Theatre of Operations was intended
in our 1771 Feb. 3rd. (N.T. in W.D.) Commander N.A.T.O. or C.
in C. of Allied Forces in N.A.T.O. was considered prerogative
of C.C.S and it has been so proposed to them for consideration.
Boundaries of N.A.T.O. designated in our 1771 Feb. 3rd are
hereby confirmed and made of record. Fitzgerald and Brereton
will be notified. (Ends.)
(J.S.M. Washington 1509Z/10 to War Cabinet, London.)

Escorts for Personal for 1st S.L. Your 0200/5 and N.S.H.Q's
Ocean Convoys. 2135/21 Jan.
It is considered that large A/S trawlers could
replace a proportion but not all of the corvettes
in the Halifax Force for H.S. convoys, Gaspe Force for Q.S.
convoys and Quebec Force for N.L. convoys.
The 15 corvettes allocated to these forces will only be
available when R.C.N. corvettes return from "Torch". Six of
these could be released by the six trawlers from North Russian
convoys, but further consideration would have to be given to
additional replacements.
2. This does not apply to the Western Local Escort Force, which
is looked upon as an ocean escort force, and is already very weak
in numbers and composition.

War Diary.

10.2, 1943,
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Escorts for Ocean Convoys. (Contd.) 3. Request details of class, speed and armament of the large trawlers and approx. dates they could arrive Halifax. (C.N.S. of Canada 1539Z/10 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 1700A/15.

Submarine estimates 10th Feb. U.S. Submarines notice. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 1554/10, 1621/10, 1622/10, 1623/10.)

Convoys U.C.1 and C.U.1. U.S. Destroyers Escort. Your 0542/6. Personal for 1st S.L. Confirmed that the four U.S.A. Destroyers will be available for escort of U.C.one and C.U.one. 2. Navy Department desires to consider their further employment at the conference on March 1st. (B.A.D. 1559Z/10 to Admty.)

U/Bs. At 1142/10th important enemy U-Boat transmission of 20 groups may have been from your vicinity. (N.S.H.Q. 1700Z/10 to Admty. ST. CLAIR, ROXBOROUGH, (R) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

S.C.120, H.X.227 N.S.H.Q. 1700/9 Jan. request S.C.120 be limited to 60 ships. Recommend minimum speed for inclusion in H.X. 227 be reduced to 9½ knots in order to include some ships excluded from S.C. but total ships in H.X. 227 not to exceed 60. (D.T.D. 1709A/10 to Connnav, (R) N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. C.T.F.24. C.E.S.F.)

ASSINIBOINE. Sustained damage to A/S gear not repairable in St. Johns. Ship will be sailed to Halifax. Every effort being made to expedite repairs but anticipate ship will not be ready to sail from St. Johns before 16th Feb. at earliest. Intend sailing her to overtake if possible otherwise direct Londonderry. (F.O.N.F. 1754Z/10 to C.T.F.24 (R) C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. Cmdre. Londonderry, C.T.G.24.7 C.T.U.24.1.13.)

Portuguese Ships, Newfoundland, Route. Portuguese Consul at St. Johns N.F. communicated that all Portuguese ships at present in that port have received instructions to proceed due South for 3 days before steering direct to Lisbon.

/Portuguese...

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Portuguese Ships, Newfoundland, Route.(contd.) Portuguese Ministry of Marine enquire, is this a temporary measure due to special emergency or a permanent instruction applicable to all Portuguese ships in Newfoundland waters? If temporary measure Portuguese intend to hold up their ships until they can return by normal route. If permanent measure intended, Ministry of Marine point out that this large deviation from their course renders their ships liable to be sunk by U-Boats for being off their course and obeying British Routeing Instructions. Ministry of Marine state that their ships never obey German instructions as to routeing across the Atlantic. (N.A.Lisbon 1758/10 to Admty.)

THUNDER E.T.A. St. John N.B. 0200Z/11. Request 3 in number circular plates 14 inches diameter and welding outfit be available to repair damaged scuttles. THUNDER 1810Z/10 to N.O.I.C. St. John N.B. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.O. Atl. Coast. Shelbourne C.C.O.)

PHOEBE refit. PHOEBE arrived New York for refit with steaming party only complement have been reduced before leaving her war station. 2. With the exception of a few individual ratings for courses no further reduction of complement can take place in U.S.A. (B.A.M.R. 1818Z/10 to Admty. (R) Combrax, Chatham.)

ST. LAURENT. My 2021/1. ST. LAURENT delayed now unable to arrive Londonderry prior to 23rd. (C.O.A.C. 1851Z/10 to F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. N.O.I.C. Londonderry (R) N.S.H.Q.)

A/C Recognition, U.C.1. Further to my 1846A/7 (N.T. in W.D.) S.O. Escort Group 5 has reported that when operating in Caribbean Sea area air escort by day and night may be expected from U.S. aircraft bases at Trinidad, Aruba and Curacao. Aircraft employed have been Catalina or Digbys. Experience hitherto has been that no recognition procedure has been carried by these aircraft, nor has any signal been made warning ships of arrival of air escort. 2. As air escort from these sources may be in operation on convoy U.C.1. request authorities concerned may be instructed inform S.O. Escort of any air escort arranged. 3. Request confirmation that British-U.S. recognition procedure will be used. (D.S.D.1910A/10 to B.A.D.(R) S.B.N.O. W.At. C. in C.W.A.) Reply B.A.D.2329/16.

U.S. Dispositions. Cominch's 1242/10 (Serial 60) informs as follows: This refers to my 2000/02 (changes). Pacific. DETROIT at sea. PENNSYLVANIA at San Pedro. Atlantic. CARD at New York, VICTORIOUS, MASSACHUSETTS, ARKANSAS and PHILADELPHIA at Sea. ESSEX at Norfolk. (Comnavcu 2017/10 to Admty.)

KUMAON, KATHIAWAR. Estimated P.C. and S. 1800Z 049° 52' N. (?143°) 59' W. 166° 7. Attempting to make 1200Z/11 R/V. KATHIAWAR in company. (KUMAON 2019Z/10 to C. in C.W.A. BLACK SWAN.)

/Shipping...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Shipping
Casualties.

Connav serial 10. PAN ROYLE sunk in collision 9th
036° 20' N. 067° 30' W. EVITA and GEORGE DAVIS
both damaged same collision proceeding Bermuda.
All convoy U.G.S.5.
(Connav 2100/10 to Comnav.)

Atlantic
Convoys
Conference,
Agenda.

My 2013/2, my 1231/9 and my 2138/9. Following is
proposed Agenda for Conference:- A. Operational
Control of Escorts in North West Atlantic areas
including A/C at North Atlantic bases. B. U.S.S.R.
Convoys. C. Study of Escorts available in
Atlantic. D. Study of necessary Atlantic Convoy
routes and Escort requirements for those routes. E. Assignment
of Escorts to meet (?Convoy) requirement considering (?both)
Escorts now available and future deliveries. F. Air support for
Atlantic Convoys including assignment to bases and operational
control of A/C. Request comment together with recommendation as
to any additional subjects which you consider should be discussed.
B.A.D. and N.M.C.S. have for information. N.S.H.Q. pass Canadian
Air Force H.Q. Ottawa.
(Cominch 2124/10 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Canadian Air Force H.Q.
Ottawa. (R) Cinclant. C.T.24 B.A.D. N.M.C.S. C.E.S.F. C.C.S.F.
C.G.S.F.) Reply D.T.D.1813A/19 to Cominch.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. D. S.C.658 Attacks sound contact 32° 38' N.
79° 13' W., 0440Z/10. C.G.-3057 makes sound con-
tact 40° 26' N. 72° 46' W. 1128Z/10. Plane sights
conning tower course 170 36° 58' N. 75° 16' W.
1830Z/10 S.C.-412 makes sound contact 36° 46' N.
75° 30' W. 1855Z/10. S.C.-437 makes sound contact 36° 58' N. 75°
25' W. about 1930Z/10. Surface craft sights Sub. Area 32° 48' N.
79° 16' W. about 1946Z/10. Surface craft attacks sound contact
00° N. 45° 08' W. 1445Z/08.
(Cominch 2151/10 to Admty.)

Bolero
Movement.
Administra-
tion Troops.

1. C.O.S. (42) 212 shows that you regard 50,000
engineers, pioneers and service of supply personnel
as first priority in 1943 Bolero movement.
2. C.C.S. 172 which gives an indication of scale of
Bolero movement has been discussed here.
3. Necessity for giving high priority to
administrative troops is not appreciated here. Unless some action
is taken to persuade U.S. Cs. O.S. that scale of Bolero movement
contemplated in C.C.S. 172 is only possible if administrative
troops are in the first flights we shall have same situation as
last year when any units that happened to be ready were embarked
regardless of priority in order to avoid delay in troopships.
(J.S.M. Washington 2201Z/10 to War Cabinet Officers.)

U/Bs...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U/Bs.

Possible submarines in following areas are indicated from recent contacts:-

One - 37 N. 75.30 W.

One - 40.30 N. 73 W.

One - off Cape Romain.

(C.E.S.F. 2224/10 to All concerned with Submarine reports in East Sea Frontier.)

ATTACKER,
request for
one Fighter
A/C.

ATTACKER has requested that she may be supplied with one fighter A/C in view of possible routeing within range of F.W.A/C.

2. It is understood that A/C would be flown in emergency only and personally by Lieut. Cmdre. Garnett.

3. There appears to be little likelihood of first F.M. one A/C being ready in time. There remains a possibility of being loaned on (?one) sea Hurricane by R.C.A.F. from those at present at Dartmouth being converted for training.

4. Enquiries of Canadian Air Attache indicate Canadians would naturally require its re-entry in due course.

5. It is realised A/C would probably not be fitted for arresting but C.O. ATTACKER states owing to the very considerable experience of Lieut. Cmdre. Garnett, he would be prepared to operate it in emergency without arrester gear.

6. At worst it would be a (?one) shot A/C as in a cam ship.

7. Request your very early remarks.

(B.A.D. 2239Z/10 to Admty. (R) ATTACKER.)

Australia & New Zealand.

MAURETANIA.

Departure 2145/9. H.T. MAURETANIA E.T.A. Bombay 19th. Numbers, requirements. Imperative that vessel has 9 days for boiler cleaning Bombay. (Cmdre. W. Australia 0106Z/10 to A.C.N.B. (R) P.S. TO India.)

Movements.

Arrivals Brisbane 9th U.S. Destroyers BAGLEY, HELM.
(A.C.N.B. 0644Z/10 to A.I.G. 115.)Shipping
Routes.

94 A.C.B. 0221.

1. Page one. Trans Tasman shipping. Add to para. (A). To avoid concentration vessels from Sydney (N.S.W.) are to be routed either.

1. North of a line joining outer end of S.C.F.7

/and...

War Diary.10.2.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Shipping Routes. (Contd.) and 032° 29' S. 055° 00' E. or
 2. South of a line joining outer end of S.C.F. 7 and 035° 25' S. 155° 00' E.
 2. Vessels from Newcastle to be routed as in para. one.

(1) Above 3 vessels from Port Kemble are to be routed as in para. one.
 (2) Above.
 (4) N.Z.N.B. are requested to route westbound ships in accordance with above policy.
 (5) Memoranda embodying these amendments and necessary alterations to green routes is being issued.
 (A.C.N.B. 0717Z/10 to S.O. H.M.A. Squadron, C.S. Sydney, C.S. of Training Flinders Naval Depot, All N.Os.I.C. All H.M.A. Ships, All District N.Os.)

Digest Serial No. 384 Feb. 9th. Two destroyers two transports arrived Buka passage about noon probably from South. Subsequently one Destroyer one Transport one small Merchant Vessel departed northwest leaving one Destroyer two small Merchantmen in passage.

Later 8 planes flew over Buka southward bound. Further defences and consolidation reported north coast Bougainville.

(2). Five Bostons co-ordinated with seven Beaufighters attacked positions vicinity Malapang? strip early afternoon.

(3). Strong enemy party southeast Wau overcome 8/2 our patrols continue offensive progress east of Wau.

(4). One float plane ineffectively bombed Merauke morning 8th.

(5). Eight liberators bombed Kendari Aerodrome area forenoon destroying buildings and possibly bomb dump medium merchant ship in harbour unsuccessfully attacked. Intercepted over Timor and one probable Zero shot down no interception over target.

At noon saw one Destroyer two Transports 150 miles North of Dille course 250°.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0806Z/10).

Movements. U.S. Transport TASMAN arrived Sydney 9th. U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA Armament Store Issuing Ship POYANG departed Townsville 8th due Brisbane 11th. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE arrived Gladstone 8th. (A.C.N.B. 1732Z/10 to Admty., Connav.)

Milne Bay defences. Following information has been received by Navy Department from Comsowespacfor. (Begins)- Milne Bay now established as defended port. Naval Officer in command Milne was responsible officer Port

War Signal Station and six inch battery established on North Foreland at 10° 29.5' S. 150° 39.5' E. Full recognition procedure will be employed but no examination service in operation now. Harbour signal station at Giligili. War Signal Station at Kellerton Point. - (Ends.)

(B.A.D. 2141Z/10 to Admty.)

War Diary.

10.2.1943.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1341A/10, 1401A/10.)

Submarines Attacked.

U.S. Report. Admiralty pass to Comnavu. Your 1059B/22/July.
About Dec. 14 U.S.S. SAILFISH torpedoed Jap. Sub.
near New Britain. Feb. 3, Army B-25 straddled
diving sub. with two Mark 29 depth charges off Cape Farewell.
Sub. lifted in water. Air and oil slick. Feb. 6, R.C.A.F. Plane
attacked sub. off Newfoundland. Estimates two hits. 29 attacks
reported week ending 2400Z/7.
(Cominch 1557Z/10 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

137 out of 177 heavy aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Wilhelmshaven about 2000 today. The attack is reported to have been well concentrated and one particularly violent explosion occurred.

During routine sweeping in the Dover area 10/11 Feb. 4 ground mines were swept. LL sweepers detonated 5 mines this morning 1 mile west of South Haisboro Buoy (off Yarmouth).

North Atlantic.

The Admiralty today issued revised instructions for British and Allied ships in Spanish or Portuguese ports in the event of war with Spain or Portugal (substituted for those in force since 28th July 1941). This signal, it was stated, does not indicate any change in the present situation.

Convoy R.S.1 Convoy R.S.1 sailed from Gibraltar for Freetown this morning escorted by VANOC and 4 other escort vessels.

Mines in Straits. Three more mines were swept in the Straits of Gibraltar today. V.A. Gibraltar's intentions for sweeping are given in a message today. The Admiralty today instructed N.C.X.F. to broadcast a warning in general terms from Gibraltar.

Danish SS. GRETE is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at about noon today off Peniscola. The submarine was not identified.

397

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U-boat
off
Port
Elizabeth.

SS. HELMSPEY reported that she was torpedoed by a U-boat at 0350 G.M.T. today, about 50 miles S.S.W. of Port Elizabeth. N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth later gave the position 34.22 S. 22.54 E. (or 24.54 E).

DESPATCH arrived at Freetown today from patrol.

Mediterranean.

Division
of
Mediterranean
Command.

The Prime Minister announced today in the House of Commons certain changes of command in the Mediterranean.
The Mediterranean will be divided into two Commands, viz. the Mediterranean Command comprising the area west of a line running from the Tunisia - Tripolitania boarder to position 35 N. 16. E. thence to Cape Spartivento (Italy); and the Levant Command, to the east of this line, and including the Red Sea. C. in C. Mediterranean as designated above will be Admiral of the Fleet Sir A.B. Cunningham; C. in C. Levant will be Admiral Sir H.H. Harwood. C. in C. Mediterranean will co-ordinate all movements and matters affecting the Mediterranean as a whole and will be responsible for the distribution of forces between the Mediterranean and Levant Commands. No date was given for the change in command and departments assumed that the Prime Minister's announcement made the change effective, with the result that confusion arose. On 15th Feb. the Admiralty sent a message that the change will come into force at 0001Z/20.

Operation
M.H. 4.

Convoy M.W. 20 B (2 tankers) escorted by JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN and BELVOIR arrived at Malta at 0900A today. 6 ships from Alexandria arrived at Tripoli (L) today without incident.

The Dutch tanker SAROENA was torpedoed by a U-boat at 0020 today in 33.47 N. 35.09 E. and was set on fire, but was later beached in St. George's Bay, Beirut, and the fire extinguished. The tanker was refloated two days later.

/S/M...

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

S/M UNISON attacked with gunfire at 1724Z in the Gulf of Hammamet today a southbound 1400 ton laden motor vessel which blew up.

HAWKINS (eastern Fleet) left Aden for Durban today.

Air
Operations.

There was a small scale air attack on Tripoli last night, but no damage was caused.

East Indies.

Force A (WARSPITE, RESOLUTION, REVENGE, MAURITIUS and 6 destroyers) arrived at Addu Atoll this morning.

America & West Indies.

H.X. and
S.C. convoys
increased to
65.

In order that Convoy S.C. 120 may be limited to 60 ships without causing a backlog, Cominch, at the request of the Admiralty, has given instructions that the minimum speed for inclusion in H.X. 227 should be reduced to 9½ knots so that some ships excluded from S.C.120 may be included, though the total number of ships in H.X. 227 should not exceed 60. On 16 Feb. the Admiralty authorised an increase in numbers in S.C. convoys to 65 ships in order to enable L.S.Ts. for the U.K. to be included without excluding merchant ships, and on the following day the permissible number in H.X. convoys was also raised to 65. On 19 Feb. the U.S. Navy Dept. pointed out that increasing the size of these convoys will create undue hazard unless the Admty. contemplate the reinforcement of the escorts.

SS. PORTLAND sank today in 34.27 N. 76.28 W, a marine casualty.

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.H.F.
Destroyers.A.M. 1250/10. Request these 2 destroyers may arrive Loch Ewe p.m. 14th Feb.
(C. in C.H.F. 0951A/11 to C. in C. Nore.)PENN,
PANTHER,
PATHFINDER.My 2330/10. Completion date may be extended to March 15th for all three ships.
(D.O.D.H. 1119A/11 to C. in C.W.A.)17th
Destroyer
Division.Your 1526/15th January and your 1506/10th February. CHARLESTOWN has already been allocated to A.C.O.S. Propose BRIGHTON should be 2nd destroyer released.
(R.A.M. 1732A/11 to Admty.)Plymouth
Command
Destroyers.Your 1055A/11 para. 8 and my 2301/6. M.Ls could be usefully employed for many local commitments but can in no sense be considered as replacements for Hunt-Class destroyers.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1853A/11 to Admty.)Movements.S/M
Movements.My 1029/9 as amended by my 2355/10 sailed.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0732A/11.)
DZIK arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0845A/11.)Intend to sail DZIK escorted by SWITHA 0800A/12 for Dundee routed
(A) 089° Sumburg Head 5 miles. (B) 090° Fair Island 6 miles.
(C) 058° 44' N. 022° 52' W. thence by searched channel. E.T.A. 1400A/13.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1153A/11.)

Request you route L.23 through to first Port of call. F.O.(S) 1002A/10 refers.

(Cominch 1305/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

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

A. UREDD in Lofoten Area.

B. TEMPLAR (P.316) escorted by JAN VAN GELDER due Cumbræes 0900/12th from Barrow.

C. TACTICIAN (P.314), SEADOG (P.216), ULTOR (P.53) escorted by PENNYWORT 58° 02' N. 06° 00' W. via Minches to Clyde 9 knots.

D. DZIK escorted by SWITHA sails Lerwick 0800A/12th through 090° Sumburg 5. 090° Fair Island 6. 58° 44' 02' 52° thence via searched Channels to Dundee 9 knots.

E. SEVERN. U.S.S. SHAD and HERRING escorted by CUTTY SARK 54° 40' N. 05° 10' W. to Clyde E.T.A. 1500/12th.

F. BARB Zone K.505.

G. BLACKFISH off Bilbao.

H. UMBRA (P.35) passes through 43° 00' N. 11° 10' W. at 1900A/12th dived by day course North speed of advance 115 miles per day.

(F.O.S. 1443A/11.)

/My...

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- S/M My 2302/10. These S/Ms are proceeding east of
 Movements. Orkney and through Pentland Firth.
 (Contd.) (F.O.S. 1509A/11 to Admty.)
 My 1133/9 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1926/9.
 Sailed P.316.
 (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1720A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- F.O.S. 1002/10th. Route for L.23.
 (A) 270° Tory Island 35 miles. (B) 055° 20' N. 017° 01' W.
 (C) 054° 30' N. 026° 10' W. (D) 052° 40' N. 035° 00' N.
 (C. in C.W.A. 1752Z/11.)
- ABDIEL. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1513/10. Onward route from (t)
 043° 01' N. 013° 01' W. to (u) 049° 45' N. 013° 02'
 W. (v) 180° Fastnet Rock 10, then by Q.Z.L. 18 to
 Milford Haven.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1223A/11 to ABDIEL.)
- SUSSEX. A.M. 0806/31 and C. in C.H.F. 1431/29 and 1445/9.
 Arrangements are being made for SUSSEX's spare
 dynamo armature to be fully repaired. SUSSEX is
 not to be delayed and must sail without the armature which
 will be shipped to her as soon as possible.
 (A.C.N.S.F. 1519A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)
- SHOOTING SHOOTING STAR sailed 1410Z/11. E.T.A. New York
 STAR. 21st February.
 (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1600Z/11.)
 My 1539/10. Sail ATHERSTONE and VELOX. E.T.A.
 1100A/15.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1613A/11.)
- FURIOUS. Scapa arrival FURIOUS escorted by MIDDLETON,
 ORWELL.
 (A.C.O.S. 1901A/11.)
- EMPIRE NED, 1. The following ships have returned to Milford
 EMPIRE FRED, Haven - due to stress of weather:
 EMPIRE CHUBB, (a) EMPIRE FRED and EMPIRE NED - destination
 CROCODILE. Gibraltar.
 ALLIGATOR, (b) Ferry Steamer - EMPIRE CHUBB - destination
 EMPIRE ACE, Suez.
 EMPIRE DENIS, 2. Harbour tug CROCODILE - now ready at Milford
 EMPIRE OBERON. Haven and ALLIGATOR due there on 18th February,
 destination Kilindini, both have an endurance of
 10 days at 7 knots.
3. Tugs EMPIRE ACE and EMPIRE DENIS are expected to arrive
 Milford Haven on 11th February and 18th February respectively
 destination Capetown. Both are oil burners with an endurance
 of approximately 3,000 miles.
4. Tug EMPIRE OBERON is expected to arrive Milford Haven 21st
 February, destination Capetown. She is coal fired with an
 endurance of approximately 2,200 miles.

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

EMPIRE NED,
EMPIRE FRED,
EMPIRE CHUBB,
CROCODILE,
ALLIGATOR,
EMPIRE ACE,
EMPIRE DENIS,
EMPIRE OBERON.
(Contd.)

5. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail these small craft without escort to Gibraltar for onward routing as soon as weather forecast is such that gales are not likely to be encountered. Ships should be sailed in parties of not less than two.
(D.O.D.H. 1954A/11 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

B.Y.M.S.2. Have not repeated have not located. Bunker will not permit further daylight search. Am proceeding on voyage. Present position Latitude $056^{\circ} 01'$ Longitude $016^{\circ} 00'$. Course 115° Speed 9 knots.
(B.Y.M.S.2 2245Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

Operation "Valuable". Patrol in position to intercept enemy should information in my 2347/10 be wrong.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0002A/11 to Force A.)
Your 2353 acknowledged.
(M.G.B. 616 0010A/11 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Coastal forces are returning to Newhaven from Southward.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0100A/11 to FERNIE.)
Keep clear of C.W.155.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0102/11 to Force B.)
A/C? report at 0047 ship in vicinity $050^{\circ} 23' N.$ $001^{\circ} 23' E.$
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0116/11 to Force A.)
Position of leading ship by R.D.F. 242° Beachy Head 12 miles.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0155A/11 to Force B.)
If nothing is sighted by 0300 return to harbour.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0222/11 to Force A.)

At 1920 yesterday R.D.F. plotted one large vessel and one medium-size vessel with eight escorts from four miles West of Gravelines at 1920, course westerly, speed ten to twelve knots. Coastal batteries engaged and fired thirty-three rounds of fifteen-inch and ninety-three rounds of 9 point 2 between 2037 and 2120. Results unobserved. Enemy batteries replied with about thirty-six rounds which fell to the east of Dover. Two Military killed.

One Whirlwind of 137 Squadron attacked with bombs at 2240 when vessels were about six miles south of Boulogne claiming hits on one large vessel which was plotted by R.D.F. stopped for about one hour and a half, then proceeded slowly into Boulogne. Further Sorties by Whirlwind and Albacores failed to locate the target owing to unfavourable weather.

(V.A.Dover 0938A/11.)

Request information whether heavy armed merchant vessel was definitely hit and damaged last night off Boulogne and whether bombing will continue today. Force A must be rested if possible.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0959A/11 to Admty.)

/Tonight...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Valuable". (Contd.) Tonight. My 1000/20 refers. Force A consisting of GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, TANATSIDE, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK to sail from Portsmouth at 1345 via Needles to patrol South of Beachy Head. Passing Needles inward at 0730/12th and anchoring Yarmouth. M.G.B's. 616, S.O. 611, 613 M.T.Bs. 89, 85, 242 to form Force B at Newhaven. Destroyers may operate North of Hastings - Treport line up to 0200/12 February but not after.

2. At St. Helens UNST, ASIE, CHASER 14. At Yarmouth (I.O.W.) KINGSTON TURQUOISE.

4. M.G.Bs. 312, 317, 326 leaving Needles about 1930/11 for patrol to Southward between Needles and Portland, arriving Portland daylight 12th.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1305A/11.)

Operations V.P.R. and "Omnibus". My 2024A/9. Cancel V.P/R and Omnibus on number 56 and 57 targets.
(A.C.O.S. 0425/11.)

Coastal Patrols. Patrol four MONTROSE, five MENDIP, six PYTCHLEY, seven WIDGEON.
(C. in C. Nore 1006A/11.)
Intend to sail M.G.B. 316 at 1615/11 to Southward

Returning 0900/12.

2. Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles each side of line joining Start Point and Ile De Bas.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1441A/11.)
Patrols tonight. 2 M.Ls each Z 22, Z 55, Z 15, Z 52.
2 M.G.Bs. each Z 53, Z 54. 3 M.G.Bs. each Z 10, Z 12.
2 Rescue M.Ls. Z 18.
(C. in C. Nore 1648A/11.)
M.Ls 137 and 138 patrolling near Rye buoy.
(V.A.Dover 1809A/11.)

Operations F.E. Operation F.E. para 6 (H) ONSLAUGHT, PIORUN, OFFA detailed. Your 0938A/10. ONSLAUGHT detailed.
(V.A.D. H.F. 1431A/11 to C. in C.H.F.)

Unknown operation. CUMBERLAND. Your 1824A/8. Request early information whether aircraft will be embarked during forthcoming operation and whether at least 24 hours will be available at Scapa after arrival p.m. 16th February to embark fuel and ammunition also provisions.
(CUMBERLAND 1455/11 to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 1455/11. Aircraft to be embarked.

2. Ship will not proceed Scapa before forthcoming operation.

3. Fuel ammunition and provisions should be embarked before leaving Greenock.
(C. in C.H.F. 2234A/11 to CUMBERLAND.)

/Operation...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.Operation
"Lift."

S.O. Force J 1052A/11. Intend to sail PRINCE ALBERT (S.O.), PRINCE LEOPOLD, INVICTA, and DUKE OF WELLINGTON passing Needles 0815/13 to Dartmouth.
2. E.T.A. 1400/13.
3. Codeword Jovial.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1846A/11 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

Exercises.Exercise
X.C.G.

As an X.C.F. was carried by 1st C.S. in same area on 5th December 1942, propose exercise orders in your 0212A/6th be referred to as X.C.G. (C.S.1 1016A/11 to V.A.2.)
Your 1938/10. Certainly we will do all we can to help.
(R.A.D. 1014/11 to R.A.M.)
Scapa arrivals. R.A.2nd H.F. in ANSON with SHEFFIELD, INGLEFIELD, ORIBI, VIVACIOUS.
(A.C.O.S. 1641/11 to A.C.I.C.)

Allied Air Activity.Attack on
Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy attacked by A/C at 2245/10, 7 miles S.W. of Boulogne.
(V.A.Dover 0937A/11.) See also operations.

Enemy Air Activity.Enemy Air
Patrols.

Flights by enemy meteorological aircraft between 11th January and 10th February:-
(a) Arctic Zenit - no details of any activity.
(b) Trondheim Zenit made 27 flights all in a North Westerly direction between 0600 - 1400.
(c) North Sea operated daily between dawn and noon from Zwischenahn (53° 12' N. 8° E.) over usual area.
(d) Stavanger Zenit was active on 30 days on its routine flight between 0700 - 1400.
(D.D.I.C. 1155A/11 to A.I.G. 47.)

JAN MAYEN.

Following from JAN MAYEN. F.W. observed 1055 East Barenberg Heard vicinity until 1125. T.O.O. 1200/11.
(A.C.I.C. 1641A/11.)

Mining.Operation
Q.V.2.

Prepare to carry out Q.V.2.
(C. in C. Nore 1002A/11 to PLOVER.)
Prepare to carry out Q.V.2 on 14th February.
(C. in C. Nore 1716A/11 to PLOVER, N.O.I.C. Humber.)

/Dover...

404

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.- Contd.

Dover Area. Routine sweeping carried out 10th/11th. Four ground mines swept in the following positions:-
 1. 51° 05' 35" N. 01° 20' 03" E. 2. 51° 06' 36" N. 01° 21' 54" E.
 3. 51° 07' 00" N. 01° 22' 36" E. 4. 51° 06' 19" N. 01° 22' 03" E.
 (V.A. Dover 1021A/11)

Yarmouth Area. L.L. Sweepers detonated 5 red mines at 1010 in position 1 mile West South Haisboro Buoy.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1035A/11)

Operation "Tincture" Your 1157A/9. Operation completed. Nothing to report other than my 2131A/10.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1157A/11 to Admty.)

East Coast Search. Your 1224A/5. 62½% search of area enclosed by following positions completed.
 (A) 52° 37' 36" N. 2° 12' 36" E. (B) 52° 36' 42" N. 2° 15' 48" E. (C) 52° 29' 36" N. 2° 10' 45" E. (D) 52° 28' 55" N. 2° 13' 27" E. (E) 52° 05' 21" N. 2° 02' 00" E. (F) 52° 02' 30" N. 1° 51' 20" E.
 No mines swept. Intend extending 2 miles to Eastward when BLACKPOOL's defects made good.
 (M/S 9 1742A/11 to C. inC. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Warship. 1 cruiser size bearing 232° 30 miles, course 040°. First contact bearing 230° 34 miles at 0328A.
 (R.A.F. Saebol 0400A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Convoy. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait (See operations.) from 0900/10 to 0900/11:-
 Track E.11 D. 1 large, 1 medium, 8 escorts from 4 miles West of Gravelines at 1920, speed 12 knots westbound. Attacked by aircraft 7 miles S.W. of Boulogne at 2245. Remained stationary till 0005 then returned to Boulogne at 5-7 knots and remained outside harbour till 0715.
 (V.A. Dover 0937A/11).

KURT HARTWIG D/F bearing, grade 2, 090° distress S.O.S.
 SIEMERS. (Sheigra Radio 2308 G.M.T./11 to A.C.O.S.)
 Following received from Cullercoats Radio.
 Intercepted 2208 G.M.T. begins position Nidurgen on Swedish West Coast S.O.S. 2213. Ship aground in 57.17 N. 11.53E. 2308 B.S.T./11 ends. Cullercoats Radio.
 (C. in C. Rosyth No T.O.O. to Admty. and 2334/11)

U/Boats.

U/Boats reported. Have obtained A.S.V. contact bearing 020° 4 miles. My position 066° 54 miles from 50° N. 000° E. based on a fix at 2300.
 (A/C Duty A 0047A/11 to A/C Base)
 Am over enemy Submarine in 47° 52' N. 17° 18' W.
 (A/C 1324/11 to 19 Group).

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- MALCOLM. Admiralty's 1749A/10. Sailed MALCOLM.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0031A/11.)
Your 0031A/11. Arrived MALCOLM.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 1026A/11.)
- ATHELPRINCE. Instruct ATHELPRINCE to enter port immediately on arrival and not to anchor at Bar Lightship unless defects are such as to prevent it entering.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1250/11 to AQUAMARINE.)
Your 1125A/11th. ATHELPRINCE reports essential to anchor at Bar Light Vessel for 2 hours. Only one engine manoeuvrable. Request tug to meet at Bar Light Vessel.
(AQUAMARINE 1900A/11 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
Your 1900A/11. Tug will be at Bar Light Vessel to assist ATHELPRINCE.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2042A/11 to AQUAMARINE.)
- CULEBRA. My 1956/9. Sailed my 1246/8 at 1410/11. E.T.A. noon 18th.
(A.C.I.C. 1455A/11 to N.O.I.C. Thurso.)
- SCHELDE. My 1011A/11. Tug SCHELDE delayed defective. Estimated delay 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 1718A/11 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- MORAY. Waterboat MORAY in tow of SAMSONIA has again failed to make passage and has returned.
Consider her unlikely to make Gibraltar in weather conditions other than good over the whole route.
Vessel has incurred damage through straining, leaking, and flooding. Repairs to her aged hull are again being undertaken.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1745A/11 to Admty.)
- M.L. 257. Arrived M.L. 257 with defective exhaust system.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1746A/11.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- S.C. 118. Survivors from DAGHILL, HARMALA, and ADAMA3. Have been hove-to since 0300/11 with forepeak and store-room flooded, also slight fire in same caused by coke flaring. Present position 055° 34' N. 013° 05' W. Course and speed 272°, 4 knots. Will increase speed at daylight if weather permits and commence search toward 015° West.
(SOUTHERN WAVE 0714A/11 to C. in C.W.A.)
Approx. P.C. and S. at 1000A/11, 055° 55' N. 016° 40' W., 275° 9 knots. Lost contact with PROSPEROUS unable to regain. Westerly gale, long heavy swell, poor visibility.
(BUTTERCUP 0915Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

/My...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.118. My position at 0730, 056° N. 015° 10' W. course 095°, 15 knots. No sight having been obtained for 4 days intend to continue this course with VIMY 10 miles to southward until within range of accurate D/F bearings from shore. On obtaining names will return on reciprocal course of life-boat varying probable track if fuel permits. Weather 3865, 0256.
(Contd.)

(CHURCHILL 1030Z/11.)

Following received from B.Y.M.S. 2 and 4 (Begins.) Your 2023/10. My present position uncertain and weather deteriorating. Bunkers will not permit extensive search. Suggest aeroplanes help locate position of life-boat. M/S Three and 30 not in company. T.O.O. 0300/11. Ends.

Following reply has been made begins:

Your 0300/11. Sweep to eastward during daylight and if nothing found by dark proceed to destination T.O.O. 0947/11. Ends.

(C. in C.W.A. 1048A/11 to CHURCHILL, (R) VIMY.)

S.C.118 preliminary report.

All times Z.

(1) General.

(a) All attacks were night attacks except WEST PORTAL (1300 5th Feb.) a straggler many miles on the port beam. Attacks were mostly from quarter. Destroyers were disposed on beam, quarter and astern at night. During daytime a destroyer was placed on either bow in extended screen.

(b) H/F D/F was very valuable. Rescue ship TOWARD number 95 did excellent service till unfortunately torpedoed at 0250/7th. BIBB was only H/F D/F ship then present.

(c) Half "Raspberry" and "Raspberry" astern were used but not full "Raspberry".

(2) Attacks.

(a) Sinking of U 187 by VIMY and BEVERLEY. BEVERLEY sighted at 1100/4th along H/F D/F bearing from TOWARD 15 miles ahead convoy in good weather. At 1347 U-Boat was sunk. It is known VIMY had dropped 3 depth charge patterns. There were 39 survivors.

(W.D. Note. See A. & W.I.)

(b) Night 4th/5th. Of many U-Boats in the vicinity estimated 6 attacked from astern and quarter. These were detected by type 271 and driven off. No ships torpedoed. It is considered first U-Boats came in hoping convoy would illuminate. This was not done.

(c) 5th February. There were numerous sightings particularly by BEVERLEY on the port westward side and much high frequency D/F traffic. WEST PORTAL torpedoed at 1300.

(d) Night 5th to 6th February. Number and disposition of U-Boat escort tactics and general condition were similar to previous night. No ships torpedoed.

(e) 6th February. Air cover arrived and did good service for rest of the time in putting down U-Boat. One A/C reported attack.

(f) Night 6th/7th. Large numbers of U-Boats present. Numerous sightings and radio D/F contacts, many attacks carried out, one promising one by LOBELIA. Again attacks developed from quarter and astern and full "Raspberry" was not carried out. 7 ships were torpedoed between 0248/7 and 0400/7 in following order numbers 115, 95, 105, 135, 75, 44, 33.

(g) 7th February. U-Boats were still in contact. Aircraft cover reported putting U-Boats down.

(h) Night 7th/8th. Similar U-Boat and escort tactics carried out. Number 54 torpedoed about 0100/8 and at 0140/8 number 65 was rammed and sunk by merchant ship.

(i) U-Boats were in contact till night 9th though no further attacks developed.

(Capt. D. Liverpool 1802A/11 to Admty.)

/If...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.118. If nothing found by dark today proceed to base.
Survivors SOUTHERN WAVE to Oban.
from (C. in C.W.A. 1929A/11 to CHURCHILL, VIMY,
DAGHILL, SOUTHERN WAVE.)
HARMALA, Arrived ABELIA.
and ADAMUS. (Cmdre. Londonderry 2020A/11.)
(Contd.) E.T.A. Merville 0830A/12.
(CHURCHILL 2150Z/11.)
Arrived LOBELIA with 64 survivors ex. DAGHILL,
HARMALA, and ADAMAS.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2154A/11.)

If nothing found by 0600A/12 return to Base. If not in company home by D/F. BUTTERCUP is to send her call sign and 5 second dashes alternatively on 385 k/cs for 2 minutes every hour commencing at 0600A/12. PROSPEROUS is to pass bearings on 2410 k/cs.

(C. in C.W.A. 2243A/11 to BUTTERCUP, PROSPEROUS.)

TJALDUR. My 1103/8 amended by my 1615/10. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 0740A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

H.X.225. H.X.225 badly scattered. Cmdre. not in sight. At 0100Z/11th LAGAN reported loud homing signal but found on bearing.
(C.T.U. 24-1-12 0905Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

All ships not in company with any escort are being ordered by B.A.M.S. to proceed independently at best speed to destination.
2. Any ships for Mersey in company with an escort that by proceeding at best speed from 015° W. can arrive Bar light vessel by 1900A/13 are to be detached at 015° W.

(C. in C.W.A. 1108Z/11 to Escorts H.X.225.)

My 0905/11 and your 1108/11. Majority of convoy including Cmdre. now in touch. Most of remainder 13 miles to port with 2 escorts rejoining. AXEL JOHNSON dropped back at 2000Z/10, engine trouble. Orders for fast Mersey ships noted but should they be detached under escort.

(M.O.E.T.U. 24-1-12 1250Z/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 1250/11. Escort should be detailed for fast Mersey group to 007° W. Designation H.X.225 (F).

2. Ships of this group are to proceed independently from 007° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 1604Z/11 to Escorts H.X.225.)

U.C.1. (A) 0345A/13. (B) Unescorted (C) 18.
(N.C.S.O. Gourock 0931/11.)
Present stowage of additional depth-charge is as follows:-

ATHEL PRINCESS 20., SAN AMBROSIO 30. It is understood that LAURELWOOD is not likely to catch this convoy. It is considered essential for safety of convoy that at least 600 charges should be carried in the outgoing convoy and 300 of these transferred to ships of C.U.1. Request immediate instructions for the embarkation of these charges.

(C. in C.W.A. 1930A/11 to Admty.)

/M/Vs...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- M/Vs in North Russia. Group 2. First Section clear of ice and in company with escort at dawn today. Second section (?northward) of DANILOV in company with ice breakers and expects to reach clear water p.m. today.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0958A/11 to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)
- U.C.U.J.1. (A) 0815/13. (B) VELETA. (C) 5.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1120A/11 to Admt.)
- O.N.J.166. BABBITT (?Designated) escort for O.N.J.166 sailing February 13th. ELCOSTON and MARKAY compose convoy.
(C.T.G.24-6 1250Z/11 to C.T.24.)
- Tankers for U.C. Convoys. A.M.1032/31st January, para. (4).
Request very early report of names of ships that have been painted to comply.
(C. in C.W.A. 1449A/11.)
- K.M.S.9 FORT NORMAN. FORT NORMAN square number 83 returned to Clyde.
Lost convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1455/11.)
H.148 returned from K.M.S.9 at 1500 today owing to vessel being too stiff and rolling dangerously. Master recommends that about one thousand tons cargo be loaded in between decks in order to reduce the present excessive metacentric height.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 1740/11 to D.S.T.)
47 ships and all escorts in company. P.C. and S. 046° 28' N. 013° 42' W., 180° 9. Can now make position on p.m. 14th. Request approval.
(BLACK SWAN 2002A/11 to C. in C.W.A.)
- A.T.36 EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. A.T.36 arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1458A/11.) (D.S.T.O. Greenock 1743/11.)
- K.X.9. A.M. 1526/8. Convoy K.X.9.
Delete DOMBY and CISNEROS.
(D.O.D.H. 1652A/11.)
- O.S.43. The following ships ex K.M.S.9 for North African destinations as shown will be sailed for Gibraltar in convoy O.S.43 leaving Clyde on 14th February.
Gibraltar S.S. CLEARPOOL. Algiers S.S. ALEXANDRE ANDRE S.S. TRADER, S.S. FORT NORMAN. Bone S.S. GENERTON, S.S. OCEAN VICTORY. Bougie S.S. LIBERIAN. Philippeville S.S. PORT LAC LA ROUGE, S.S. EMPIRE SNIPE. Oran S.S. FORT RUPERT. Lisbon. S.S. DOMBY.
2. It is proposed that BROCKLESBY, LIDDISDALE, and QUANTOCK, referred to in my 1559/9 should instead of proceeding to Casablanca part company as requisite to escort above mentioned ships to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.H. 1655A/11 to N.C.X.F.)

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

J.W.53. Murmansk's 2236A/10. Have just seen Kruesseskov who protests against this proposal and says all ships will be discharged not later than 22nd February. Also claims bulk of cargoes will be cleared from dock by February 25th.
2. Comment. From facts and figures produced consider this may be achieved.
e. Also listened to long and well-worn grievance about decision not to send ships to White Sea, but managed to extract concurrence for immediate sailing of EMPIRE BARD.
(Ad, Miles 1827C/11 to Admty.)

K.M.F.9. K.M.F.9 not met. At 2000/11th my P.C. and S. 044° 19' N. 013° 49' W. 182° 12 4752, 2200.
(KRAKOWIAK 2305A/11 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty.
F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. Plymouth, OAKLEY.)

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Mines,
Gibraltar
Straits,
DUERO sunk.

Spanish SS. DUERO struck a mine in deep water estimated about 120 fathoms about 5 miles east of the ridge in the Straits at 1600 today Feb. 10th. Trying to make Tangier in tow of Portuguese ship but believed sinking. Earlier today H.M.T. warned another Spanish ship westbound of danger in Straits and escorted

her on south westerly course.

All traffic stopped in Straits. Spanish Government request immediate explanation and why absence of general warning after earlier incident.

(N.A. Madrid, 0001/11, to Admty (R) Gibraltar).

My 0001/11th. We have received official note protesting at British omission to issue warning after danger discovered. Ships stated to be diverted by H.M. trawler in morning watch (?Feb) 10th so we must have known then.

M. of M. asking every hour when safe resume navigation.

(N.A. Madrid, 1239/11 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Your 0001/11. Request you inform Spaniards that these mines were laid by Axis in shipping highway without declaration and contrary to International Law. We have done our best to protect neutral shipping subject to our own most vital interests. We accordingly regard it as impertinence that a complaint should be addressed to us which should so plainly be laid at the door of the Axis.

(Head of M. (1) Approved by 1st S.L. 1401A/11 to N.A. Madrid) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 1910/10. It is considered most desirable that a warning should be broadcast immediately from Gibraltar in general terms. Propose:

"Axis mines have been discovered in the Western Approaches to the Straits of Gibraltar and this area is dangerous to all shipping. Neutral ships are accordingly advised either to seek routing instructions from British Naval Authorities or to proceed by way of Spanish territorial waters".

(Head of M. (1) Approved 1st S.L. 1408A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.A. Madrid).

Admty. 1408/11, comply.

(N.C.X.F., 1820A/11 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty).

With reference to the mining of ships in the M.K.S. convoy on the Ridge Bank in Gibraltar Straits, request following information (a) what route was given to the convoy and by whom (b) what orders were given about running Paravanes. (c) whether steps have been taken as regards outward-bound convoys in future?

(1st S.L., 0220A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar)

Your 0220/11. (A) Route was given by F.O.C. Gibraltar for Gibraltar section of M.K.S.7 prior to joining main convoy F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to report details. (B) and (C) are assumed to be Nil, conforming to standard practice for convoys both from U.K. and back since beginning of "Torch". There has been no reason to suppose mining in approaches to Straits as probable it is considered that this was a sporadic attempt, probably by captured SEAL, and is unlikely to be recurrent since extent of our sweeping will not be known and enemy will steer clear of our mines.

2. Convoys have been routed by Q.K.A. 86 pending clearance of mines. It is not considered desirable to continue to confine convoys to this narrow channel, but ridge should continue to be avoided.

(N.C.X.F. 1728A/11 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar).

/Axis...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Axis Shipping. Arrival 9th Italian BERNA Genoa via Barcelona
JUAN DE ASTIGARRAGA Marseilles in ballast,
departure 8th ENRIQUE ILLUECA Sete Oranges.
(Valencia, 0135/11 to Admty).
Departure 10th 2000 from Valencia German controlled
GRETE for Marseilles, Italian DERNA for Genoa, Spanish TOM from
(?for) Marseilles.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 0339A/11 to S.O.(I) Malta, S.O.I.X.F.)

Air Report. A.I. 147. Op. Sum. No. 101 for 24 hours ended
midnight 10 Feb. 43. (G) Sightings and attacks.
N/202 on A/S search South west sighted and
attacked U-boat in 32.25 N. 16.08 W. at 1020/10
with D/Cs. U-boat was on surface but dived before the attack.
At 1625/10 the same A/C sighted and attacked U-boat with D/Cs
in 32.15 N. 15.53 W. course 290° 7. No further details
available as A/C is still airborne.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar).

WX.7824. My A.I.147. Catalina sighted U-boat on surface
course 330/14 only 2 D/Cs were dropped as U-boat had submerged
90 seconds before attack. Second attack 4 D/Cs were dropped,
20 seconds after U-boat had submerged. They appeared to
explode 100 feet ahead swivel and straddle track 10 yards astern
of shadow on? U-boat. Height of attack 50 feet. Spacing 45
feet set at 25 feet. No results observed.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0711Z/11).

Situation Report, area X. T.C.A.O. 11th Feb. Gibraltar in force between
035° and 036° N. to 010° W. one C 0800 to 2000.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0355A/11 to N.A.S.)

Convoy R.S.1. R.S.1 convoy with 5 escorts departing Gib. 0800Z
/11 Feb. routed through (A) 35.45 N. 06.23 W.
(B) 34.01 N. 07.52 W. (C) 33.30 N. 09.02 W.
(D) 32.40 N. 09.57 W. (E) 31.40 N. 10.59 W.
(F) 28.03 N. 13.14 W. thence southward. S. of A.
7½ to point (B) thereafter 8½. Estimated position 0800/12
Feb. 34.20 N. 07.35 W. Provide normal air coverage through area.
Mission 40 - 2.
(Comseafon WTF. 0700Z/11 to C.T.U. 26.7.2. (R) F.O.C. Gib.
F.O.C.W.A., A.H.Q. Gibraltar).

My 1328/10 sailed.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 0745A/11 to F.O.C.W.A.F.(R) Admty.
N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A.)
N.C.X.F., 2131A/18 (N.T. in W.R.) Intend reinforcing escort
R.S.1 with P.C.473 to join point (B) at 1000A/12th. Escort
M.O.M.P. point (H) join S.R.1 as additional escort as far as
Casablanca. Guard Gibraltar "Fox" and within 100 miles
Casablanca 2333 k/cs. Request composition and (?stragglers)
route R.S.1 plus names of vessels for Casablanca and Safi.
C.T.U. 26.7.3. escort Casablanca section through minefields.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 0918Z/11 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
C.T.U. 26.7.1. (R) N.C.X.F., C.T.U. 26.7.3., P.C.473 etc).

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy R.S.1 Contd. THESEUS in R.S.1 sailed 0700/11 embarked R.N. Officer for Freetown. (D.S.T.O. Gibraltar, 1157A/11 to D.S.T.O.W.A.)

VERITY E.T.A. 1830A/11th. Weather report. (VERITY, 0900A/11 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Capt. (D) Gibraltar).

Dispositions Situation 2000A/11th. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR working cable vicinity 39.05 25.26. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE at daylight (?leaves) (?Straits of Gibraltar). (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1032A/11 to Area Y).
 Situation 2001A/11th. P.35 41.44 10.26 to 43.01 11.10 at 1900/12th diving by day 2½ surfacing at night (?7½).
 2. M.K.S. 7 ROCHESTER 42.50 12.27 357° 7.
 3. IMPERIALIST anti S/M sweep in vicinity 32.29 16.09.
 4. ABDIEL 39.03 12.18 through 41.04 13.01 and 43.31 13.01 thence Northbound 22½.
 5. K.M.F.9 (corrupt group) 44.27 13.49 through 42.01 14.01 thence 132° 11.
 6. ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, 34.12 10.42 248° 9.
 7. Spanish training ship GALATEA left Corunna 5th for Las Palmas. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1115A/11 as amended 1536A/11, 1930A/11, 2306A/11 to A.I.G.55).

REGENT F.O.C. Gibraltar 1054/10 (Suggesting basing of REGENT in U.K. to relieve Gibraltar dockyard congestion). Concur in this proposal. (N.C.X.F., 1037A/11 to Admty).

VELOX, ATHERSTONE. VELOX, ATHERSTONE sailed Plymouth 1500/11 through 180° (?each) 10. 49.04, 10.51 45.01 10.30 43.02 10.31. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1125A/11 to P.35 (R) F.O.S., C. in C. W.A.)

Minesweeping My 1912/9 para. 3. Intend carrying clearing sweep of following Area 35° 56.5' N. 35° 52' N. 06° 04.8' W. 05.55 W. using CADMUS, ALBACORE, SPEEDWELL, HUAFAR (?HUSSAR) and Local Minesweeping Trawlers as Danlayers.
 2. Subsequently intend carrying out searches in vicinity of Ridge outside Territorial Waters. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1142A/11 to Admty. N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A.)

/Cable...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Cable Operations, U/Bs. Cable Ship LADY DENISON PENDER arrived on instructions from Escort owing to presence of submarines in the vicinity of Cable ground. Escort intends return Funchal on 13th Feb. to accompany LADY DENISON PENDER to continue work. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1145/11 to F.O.C.N.At. (R) Admty).

M.K.S.7 PORTOBELLO returned Gibraltar with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1203A/11 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

IMPERIALIST, A/S Hunt. Your 1834/10 (Report of U-boats) and your 1127/11 (N.T. in W.D.) LADY DENISON PENDER entered Funchal a.m. on 11th. Am now carrying anti sub. hunt east Dezerta Grande. Intend leaving area for Gibraltar 0900/12th. S. of A. 8½ knots. Detach LORD HOTHAM to arrive Funchal 0900/12th. Weather report. (IMPERIALIST 1520A/11 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) ST. NECTAN)

ARIGUANI F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1535/10 and my 1818/5. Is ARIGUANI still to wait for SAMSONIA? (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1611A/11 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.) Reply: N.C.X.F. 1455A/12. Admty. 1722A/12.

Gib. Convoy No. 2. Arrival PETUNIA, HAYDON, DUNKERY, PORTSDOWN U.S.S. P.C.471 P.C.474 with Gibraltar convoy No.2. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1630A/11 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F., S.N.O.C.A., Cominch).

Shipping in Spanish or Portuguese Ports. Cancel my 1913/28 July, 1941. and substitute.
(a) Vessels in ports east of Gibraltar proceed to Oran or Algiers for orders.
(b) Vessels in Malaga to proceed to Gibraltar.
(c) Vessels in Spanish ports west of Gibraltar and in Portuguese ports to proceed to Casablanca or Dakar for orders or, if need be, to the Azores.

2. It is still considered necessary that British Allied or Neutral vessels on time charter should have 20 days bunkers on board in Peninsula ports.

3. This signal does not indicate any change in the present situation.

4. Foreign Office will inform Consulates.
(Head of M. Branch (II) 1647A/11 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af).

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

ST. LUCIEN Following report received from Cartagena under T.O.O. 1745/10 Feb. (begins):- Arrival Cartagena Feb. 10th 0800 French Steamer ST. LUCIEN under German Flag from Marseilles pursued by one of our destroyers to load fruit. (Ends). (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1714A/11 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) X.F.)

Gibraltar - (N.C.X.F., 1725A/11 to Admty) See South Atlantic. Freetown convoys.

G.U.S.4 N.C.X.F. 1021A/11th (requesting R/V for Oran Section) G.U.S.4 R/V Casablanca - Oran sections 035° 10' N. 007° 30' W. at 0900Z/20th. Request routing as soon as practicable. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1726Z/11 to Admty etc).

EMPRESS OF Your 2149/10, para. 2. VANOC, BOREAS, onward RUSSIA, escorts. VANOC, (2) VANOC has insufficient endurance to reach BOREAS. M.O.M.P. even if fuelled at Casablanca on southward passage. (3) Propose new M.O.M.P. position (z) 26.01 16. 50 at 1700Z/16. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1815A/11 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F.)

MALOJA Swiss MALOJA G.T. 1788, speed 9 knots. (Swiss). National colours and Switzerland painted on hull sailed 1810/11th for Genoa by approved route, not to be interfered with this voyage. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1825A/11 to S. and A. area G, etc).

U/B S/M reported on surface N.E. of Madeira between 0910 and 1245 G.M.T. today. Exact position unknown and course not indicated A.O. (N.A. Lisbon, 1835/11 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty (D.N.I.))

DINGLEDALE DINGLEDALE with cargo 9217 tons furnace oil and 321 tons Admty. diesel oil sailed 9th Feb. (C.S. Gibraltar, 1855A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) Com. Algiers, Admty).

Movements Arrival 1955 VERITY ex M.K.S.7. Departures 0350 CADMUS, SPEEDWELL for M/S sweep. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2030A/11 to Admty N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.HELMSPEY
torpedoed.Following has been read. S S S S
11 Miles South Cape St. Francis HELMSPEY
torpedoed.
(Slangkop 0350/11 to Admty.)
(Plymouth C.C.O. 0405/11 to Admty.)EMPRESS OF
CANADA.
(W.S.26.)My 0516/6. Request you will arrange for 500
Italian P.O.W. for U.K. to be embarked in EMPRESS
OF CANADA. Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 0523A/11 2220A/12 to P.S.T.O.
Capetown, (R) D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C.S.A.
D.S.T.O.W.Af.)

Movements.

Arrived (?DAUNTLESS).
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0744Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
Departure 0830Z/11th COMMANDANT DROGOU E.T.A.
Lagos 1500Z/12th.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0832Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
Departure 10th Feb. CROCUS, CYCLAMEN.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0943Z/11 to Admty.)
Departure 10th U.S. Corvette SAUCY.
(R.O., Para. 1148/11 to Admty.)
Capetown arrival 11th CARTHAGE.
(C. in C.S.A. 1225C/11 to Admty. C. in C.E.F.)
Arrival 11th Feb. DESPATCH from patrol.
S.O.(I) Freetown 1439Z/11 to Admty.)
Arrival 11th F.F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S.
Departure H.M.S. SARABANDE Freetown 16th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1831Z/11 to Admty. etc.)
Departure 6th TEVIOTBANK, U.S. Aircraft Tender THRUSH.
Departure 10th U.S. Destroyer GREENE. Arrival 10th Brazilian
Minelayer CABEDELLO. Departure 11th U.S.A. Patrol Vessel
CARNELIAN. (CARNELIAN amended to 15th, see 1431/16.)
(R.O. Pernambuco 1920Z/11 to Admty.)Convoy
D.C.6.Your 0655/11th Feb. approved. All ships are to
remain in convoy and proceed with you to your
destination for onward routing.
(C. in C.S.A. 1039 G.M.T./11 to Cmdre of Convoy
D.C.6 and Convoy D.C.6 (R) Admty.)

NORSOL.

Tanker Message. NORSOL is to be sailed Accra to
discharge 2000 tons of aviation spirit and 1000
tons of motor spirit. NORSOL is to be escorted
by 2 M.Ls.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1117Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R)
Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)
Your 1117Z/11th. NORSOL sailed for Lagos 0730Z/11th (tanker
message) speed 11 knots E.T.A. 1000Z/12th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1452Z/11 to F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Lagos.
Admty.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. CHESHIRE 039° S. 047° W. to Montevideo 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
GENISTA P.614 034° 10' S. 017° 05' E. to
Simonstown 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.
BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN with C.N.6. 026° 30' S. 014° (?17')
(E?). to Walvis Bay 8.
Convoy D.C.6 035° 05' S. 022° E. to Capetown 8.
Convoy C.A.11 A 034° 55' S. 023° 20' E. to Durban 8.
CALIPAN, LE TIGER, with C.A.11 B 036° 20' S. 022° 55' E. to
036° 45' S. 024° E. 8
THYME escorting NESTOR 032° 20' S. 017° 15' E. to Walvis Bay 10 $\frac{3}{4}$.
SONDRA with RECORDER 029° 30' S. 031° 40' E.
NIGELLA, ARCTIC EXPLORER with D.N.16 032° 30' S. 035° 15' E. to
(?033°) 00' S. 036° 00' E. 7.
BOLD 025° 55' S. 034° 50' E. to Kilindini 6.
CARNATIC about 016° (?15') S. 010° 50' E. to Simonstown 12.
(C. in C.S.A. 1156C/11 to Area "Q".)
My 1156/11th. Add COVENTRY CITY and VEREENIGING off Cape
Point to Cape Agulhas 9 knots. Situation Report.
(C. in C.S.A. 1535C/11 to A.I.G. 125.)
French S/M ARCHIMEDE on surface 15.05 27.26 296° 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
French S/M AMAZONE on surface 13.45 at daylight 16 through
13.35 24.20 thence 296° 7.
French Cruiser GLOIRE patrol between 10° N. 12° N. and 25° W. 30° W.
BRIDGEWATER, FANDANGO ARRAN 3 M.L. with S.R.1, 10.47 17.05 to
10.59 17.27 thence 355° 7 $\frac{3}{4}$.
QUADRANT in 09.57 15.45 to Freetown 16.
INKPEN off Bathurst to R/V S.R.1.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1321Z/11 to A.I.G. 149.)
Situation at 1958/11.
RUMBA, BELLWORT escorting 05.14 10.18 301 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.
M.L. 261 and 274, 07.02 13.12 to join BELLWORT, 11.
CYCLAMEN, CROCUS escorting 05.08 10.40 to 04.34 10.00 thence
104 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
RANCHI 03.21 07.54 302 14.
ST.WINSTAN, Tug CHARON off Ivory Coast to Takoradi 7.
CILICIA, CANTON, CORINTHIAN, WAYLAND, QUIBERON, ADRIAS,
RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, QUALITY with W.S. 26, 03.14 05.02 086° 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
DRANGEY escorting 12 Lagos to Takoradi.
SARABANDE escorting 12 Takoradi to Freetown 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.
ARMERIA 02.08 S. 07.28 E. 129° 12.
CANTON about 01.00 01.30 E. to N.W. 14. Allied Naval (?Unit)
on patrol Ascension St. Pauls Rocks Area.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1437Z/11 to A.I.G. 150.)

S.L.126. Request accommodation in S.L. 126 for UMBERLEIGH
from Buenos Aires, knots 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, due Freetown 10th
March, will require 600 tons coal. My 1958Z/6th,
JANETA now delayed about one week.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1214Z/11 to F.O.C.W.A.
(R) Admty. etc.)
Reply: N.C.S.O. Freetown 1350Z/14.

CARNARVON CASTLE. When ready CARNARVON CASTLE is to be sailed for
Freetown, as routed by C. in C.S.A., for onward
passage to U.K., A.M. 0010/20th Oct. refers.
Programme to be reported.

2. Subject to confirmation by N.A. Montevideo that adequate stocks
of marine diesel oil are available ship may refuel at Montevideo
if necessary.

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CARNARVON
CASTLE.
(Contd.)

3. Early report is requested of results of CARNARVON CASTLE's visit particularly to Laurie Island.
(D.O.D.(F) 1240A/11 to N.O.I.C. Falklands. N.A.Montevideo, C. in C.S.A.)
Reply: N.A. Montevideo 1237Z/12.
Arrival 11th Feb. CARNARVON CASTLE.
(N.O.I.C. Falklands 2054Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy
S.R.1.

Following did not sail for reason stated.
EMPIRE CLIVE not bunkered in time.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1245Z/11 to Admty.)

RESOLUTE,
distress.

Following received from RESOLUTE: Engine disabled, need immediate assistance, position 026° 54' S. 014° 37' E.
(Simonstown W/T 1305 G.M.T./11 to Admty.)

JAMES
PARKER
escort.

My 1245/14th Jan. and B.A.D. 2221/8th Feb.
1. As MALCOLM and WOLVERINE delayed, intend REDOUBT from Convoy C.F.11 to arrive Casablanca about 22nd Feb. to escort JAMES PARKER direct to Dakar and Freetown. JAMES PARKER to sail from Freetown about 10th March in W.S.27 to Matadi. Escort from Matadi will be provided.
2. N.C.X.F. 2230A/31st Jan. ask HONBBAR to embark U.S.41 engineer battalions at Marshall for Oran. Request confirmation this is addition to proposed JAMES PARKER embarkation at Marshall.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1545Z/11 to N.C.X.F. B.A.D. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar S.N.O. Casablanca, Comar Dakar.)

THYME,
NESTOR.

Capetown departure 1200/11th, THYME escorting NESTOR for Freetown calling Walvis Bay and St. Helena, routed in accordance with N.C.S.O. Capetown's 1316/10th. Speed 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots, E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1300C/14th.
2. E.T.A. St. Helena will be signalled from Walvis Bay.
3. THYME completes with fuel Walvis Bay.
4. THYME reports from St. Helena E.T.A. (?010°) south and E.T.A. Freetown or Takoradi if necessary to proceed Takoradi for fuel.
(C. in C.S.A. 1555G/11 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. St. Helena. Comsdentfor N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay.)

BRIDGEWATER.

At 1600Z my P.C. and S. 010° 20' N. 016° 28' W. 315° 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Intend keeping Bathurst Section until 2359Z/12th to arrive Bathurst daylight 13th.
(BRIDGEWATER 1603Z/11, to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Com Dakar.)

/RANCHI...

War Diary.

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Cont.

RANCHI, Intend to include RANCHI in convoy C.F.11 sailing
C.F.11. from Freetown 14th Feb. On reporting E.T.A.,
indicate all requirements and accommodation for
passengers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1651Z/11 to RANCHI, (R) Admty. VALIANT.)

Suspicious Your 2314/10th para. 2. (Corrupt Group) (Description
Ship, as follows) 3 masts, 2 forward of funnel. One may
St. Helena. have been Samson Post.
(General St. Helena 1700Z/11 to C. in C.S.A. (R)
Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. Connnav.)

Unidentified ship passed 35,000 yards north of St. Helena 1400
to 1650 steering west. Speed 8 to 10 knots. 1 (one) funnel 2
masts fore and aft well deck little super-structure. Estimated
9000 tons. S.L. illegible.

(General St. Helena 1900Z/11 0922Z/12 to C. in C.S.A. (R)
Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. Connnav.)

Your 1900/11th Ship identified as SANDOWN CASTLE.

(C. in C.S.A. 1107C/11 to General Saint Helena. (R) Admty.
F.O.C.W.Af. Connnav.)

ST. WISTAN, My 1515/8th. Acknowledge. E.T.A. 1800/12th.
CHARON. CHARON in company 2nd barge. Request Harbour tug
remove barge from CHARON on arrival.
(ST. WISTAN 1708Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Lights, A.M. 1900/30th July and 1838/19th August 1942. As
Pointe it has been suggested that the light shown from
Indienne, Pointe Indienne may have been confused with Pointe
Pointe Noire light and was a factor bearing on grounding
Noire. of MARUDU and TITANIA. Request information as to
whether the showing of this light has been stopped.
(D.T.D. 1708A/11 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C.S.A.)
Reply F.O.C.W.A. 0921Z/16.

Gibraltar- F.O.C. West Africa 2020/4, para. 2. Request you
Freetown will remark.
Convoys. 2. It is apparent that 16-day cycle as suggested
in my 1843/3 will not fit O.S. - S.L. cycle
and will absorb full time service of one small
escort group at each end.
3. A 20-day cycle, halving the O.S.-S.L. cycle, will involve half
time service for two escorts groups which would be available
for local work in intervals.
(N.C.X.F. 1725A/11 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. S.N.O. Casablanca,
F.O.C. Gibraltar.) Reply: Admty. 1256A/18 (North Atlantic.)

/QUADRANT...

War Diary.

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

QUADRANT. E.T.A. 0630/12th. Acknowledge.
(QUADRANT 1730Z/11 to N.O.I.C. W.Africa. (R)
Capt. (D) Freetown.)

C.F.11. Arrival 11th Feb. VALIANT, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT,
EXPRESS, FORTUNE with C.F.11.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1749Z/11 1955Z/12 to Admty.
(R) C. in C.S.A.)

Entrance to Request information whether merchant ships direct
Dakar. from U.K. may approach and enter Dakar on
information available here or whether they should
proceed to Freetown for routing instructions.
(D.T.D. 1830A/11 to F.O.C.W.A.)

QUERCY. Sailed French Auxiliary Cruiser QUERCY for
Konakri expected time of arrival a.m. 13th 1446/3rd
to F.O.C.W.Af. and N.O.I.C. Bathurst only refers.
(Comar Dakar 1831/11 to F.O.C.W.A.)

BELNOR, BELNOR and EMPIRE ELAINE are required for
EMPIRE operational purposes on return to U.K. In order
ELAINE. to assist planning request your intentions as
to their homeward voyages. A.M. 2343/5th May
1942 and 1201/22nd Jan. refer.
(D.T.D. 1831A/11 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) N.C.X.F.
F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Convoy M.W. 20 B. Arrived convoy M.W. 20 B, JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN, BELVOIR.
(V.A. Malta, 0900A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.)
- Movements, Alexandria. Departures 10th Feb. ARETHUSA, HURSLEY, CROOME.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0907B/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med).
- T.E. convoy. T.E. sailed for Algiers, FINTRA, BRALANTA, for Philippeville OCEAN FAME.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 0912A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers, Connav).
- 5th D.F. It is desired to divide present 5th D.F. into 2 Flotillas. Request a Flotilla number may be allotted.
(C. in C. Med., 0931B/11 to Admty. (R) Cdre. (D))
- Movements, Malta. Arrive TETCOTT, PINDOS.
(V.A. Malta, 0950A/11 to Admty. etc).
Arrival S/M P.51.
(V.A. Malta, 1649A/11 to Admty. etc).
Sailed BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, EXMOOR, ALDENHAM, KANARIS.
(V.A. Malta, 1910A/11 to Admty. etc).
Sailed KELVIN, PALADIN, COUNDOURIOTIS, R.F.A. CHERRYLEAF.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1952A/11 to Admty etc).
- K.M.F.9. Onward route from (O) 036° 00' N. 010° 00' W. through 035° 49' 03" N. 006° 06' 05" W. 035° 50' 09" N. 005° 56' 08" W. 035° 54' N. 005° 50' 09" W. 035° 54' 09" N. 005° 43' 02" W. lettered (P) to (S). Adjust speed (?to) pass Europa Point position 37 at 0100/15th thence 32, 109, 44, 100 lettered (C) to (G) to Algiers E.T.A. 0800/16th. S. of A. 14 knots. Stragglers route as convoy.
2. Sections detach with local escort as follows:- Gibraltar in 57 at 0100/15 Oran in 109 at 1730/15th.
3. Fighter protection priority 1, special codeword "Sateen".
(N.C.X.F., 1017A/11 to OAKLEY, Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.9, (R) Capt. (F) Capt. (S) 8, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Connav, N.O.I.C. Oran, Cmdre. Algiers, A.H.Q. Gibraltar, C.G.12th A.F.H.Q., E.A.C., S.O. Force H).
K.M.F.9. My 1017/11th para. 1. Cancel 4 position letters P to S and substitute P. 035° 49' 18" 006° 06' 30"
Q. 035° 50' 54" 005° 56' 48" R. 035° 54' 00" 005° 50' 54"
S. 035° 54' 54" 005° 43' 12". all north and west.
(2) Q.K.A. 87 refers.
(N.C.X.F., 1831A/11 to OAKLEY, Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.9.
(R) S.O. Force H, Capt. (S) 8th, Capt. F. Connav).

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- P.A.23 Convoy P.A.23 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1022Z/11 to Admty.)
- Bi-weekly Opsum No.99 Part 1. A. 670. Night 9/10 Feb. 12 B.25s despatched to bomb Heraklion aerodrome, Crete. 3 aircraft returned early owing to technical trouble and bad weather. 8 B.25s bombed objective but cloud obscured results. Remaining one aircraft bombed alternative target Kastelli Pediada starting 1 fire. 10 Feb. Bad weather restricted operations. 21 B.24s despatched to attack shipping to Palermo Harbour. 3 aircraft returned early owing to technical trouble. Of these 1 bombed road in Southern Italy through cloud gap, scoring 4 hits, remainder found both Palermo and alternative target Messina completely obscured by low cloud. 7 B.24s bombed estimated position of Palermo Harbour through cloud. Results unknown, remainder returned.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1043Z/11).
- P.217 Be in position 171° focal point A 9½ miles by 0500A/12th until 1200A/12th. Freedom 141° 21 miles sector one. U-boat(s) may be attacked.
(Capt. S.8., 1134A/11 to P.217 (R) TRIBUNE).
- M.T.Bs. Arrived from operations. M.T.Bs. 313, 309, 267, 77.
(V.A. Malta, 1135A/11 to Admty etc).
- P.43, P.44, P.46, P.42. P.43 leave patrol after dark Friday 12th and pass 20 miles North of Linosa through 036° 05' 014° 05' to position 6 at 0830/14th. P.44 extend patrol area to 036° 40' N. after 2300/12th and leave patrol after dark 13th by above route to usual R/V 0830/15th. P.46 and P.42 sail p.m./12th routed south of Linosa and Lampedusa respectively to enter Gulf of Hammamet p.m./13th and a.m./14th.
(Capt. S.10., 1140A/11 to Submarines on patrol).
- TAKU TAKU leaves Algiers at 1700/12th routed through 038° 15' N. 001° 35' E. at 0400/13 and 135° Cape Palos 10 at 0100/14th thence to Gibraltar.
(Capt. S.8., 1220A/11 to TORBAY, P.339).
Algiers arrival S/M TAKU.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2013A/11 to Admty etc).

/Axis...

War Diary.

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Axis Shipping. Departure Cartagena for Marseilles not before the evening of Feb. 12th French Steamer SAINT LUCIEN Feb. 13th Spanish Steamer TANAGONA and Feb. 16th MANUCHU. (Cartagena, 1250C/11 to Gibraltar).

Movements, Aden. Arrival GERALDTON 0800Z departures HERO 0740Z HAWKINS and TOOWOOMBA in company. (Cdre. Aden, 1332Z/11 to Admty. etc).

M.N.B.D.O. 2. Ref. C.O.S. M.E. 336 of 10th Dec. (2230/10)
7th R.M.Bn. Although M.N.B.D.O. No. 2 may arrive end of March all stores and equipment are unlikely to arrive before June. Thus M.N.B.D.O. is unlikely to be ready before August.

2. Meanwhile formation of beach bricks has become a most urgent requirement. Success of landing operations depends upon such formation. No British battalions can be made available until troops return from Tunisia. It is thus essential a highly trained cadre of a beach brick be trained at once so that they may train other formations the moment they become available. This duty has been given 7th R.M. Battalion. They remain at the disposal of C. in C. Med.

3. Should M.N.B.D.O. 2 be required for an operation as yet unspecified a battalion returned from Tunisia would meet requirements. When sufficient beach bricks have been adequately trained for operations in Mediterranean, 7th R.M. Battalion will return to its function as the Infantry component.

4. C. in C. M.E.F. agrees.
(C. in C. Med., 1333B/11 to Admty).

Convoy M.C.4. Sailing telegram. 2. 1300Z/11. 3. TOOWOOMBA to position D. HAWKINS to position F, Tamatave, a.m./21st "Chop" 24, Durban 0400Z/27.
4. 10½ knots. Route etc.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1342Z/11 1551Z/11 to Admty. etc).

Air R/C P.R.U. 11th Feb. Visuals only. 1225, Naples, 1 E type cruiser. 1325, Trapani, 5 destroyers. 1335, Palermo, 4 destroyers, 2 tankers. Taranto totally obscured.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1440A/11 to C. in C. Med., etc).

P.228 Intend sailing P.228. 1800/13 routed through 038° 18' 00" 40' 37' at 0500/14th. 038° 18' 11" 40' at 1900/16th. to patrol an area between 038° N. and 039° N. and 11° 40' E. and 013° 20' E.
(Capt. S.8., 1516A/11 as amended 1434Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers etc).

War Diary.11. ~~7~~2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

E.A.C. Report. A.530 11 Jan. Opl. Sum. No. 92. 1800 9 Feb. 43 to 1800 10 Feb. 43. A. operations. Night 9/10. 10 Wellingtons attacked the docks and shipping at Trapani. All crews report bombing the target, burst being seen parallel to the shipping berths near the Railway Station, gasworks and seaplane bases. Results generally were unobserved but at least three fires were started.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1520A/11).

Second part of Opsum No. 92. "F" Twelfth Air Force. 9 escorted B.25s attacked shipping between Tunisia and Sicily, 4 vessels were attacked one of which was sunk and another left sinking. All aircraft returned safely.
(E.A.C. Africa, 1723A/11).

L.C.Ms. lost. L.C.M. 61 sunk Benghazi Harbour 8th Feb. in rough weather. L.C.M. 80 stranded Benghazi Area 6th Feb. considered total loss.
(C. in C. Med., 1534B/11 to Admty).

M.K. convoys. A.M. 1249/8 Dec. and 1833/10. Following fixed stragglers routes are instituted.
2. M.K.F. convoys 36.20 10.00, 39.35 17.10 45.01 17.00, 50.02 16.30, 55.00 10.45, 55.25 08.30.
3. M.K.S. convoys 36.30 10.00. 39.32 16.01. 44.58 15.50. 49.51 15.28, 55.00 10.00, 55.25 08.30.
4. As both convoy route and stragglers route are fixed, to reduce signalling, it is suggested that the sailing signal should only contain the following (a) Ocean route letters (b) Stragglers route letters.
(D.T.D., 1618A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

Movements, Port Said. 11 Feb. Port Said Arrivals ARETHUSA, HURSLEY, CROOME. Departures ARETHUSA, HURSLEY, CROOME. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1621B/11 to Admty. etc).

12th D.F. Your 1237/11 (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. 0700B/12th. PAKENHAM, PETARD have confidential mail and G.S BASILISSA OLGA has one passenger for Suez ISIS has money for Base Accountant Officer Suez. DERWENT will have 43 tons fuel stocks remaining. (Capt. D.12, 1649B/11, to F.O.R.S. and C.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Port Said, N.O.I.C. Suez, C. in C. Med).

Med. and Levant Commands, signalling. My 1654/9*para. A. and A.G.M. 831A of 3rd Dec. Request Groups in Naval Cypher No. 3 and 4 and Naval Code Numbers 3 may be allocated for following significations: Mediterranean Station, from Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Fleet, Mediterranean Fleet Ships and Vessels. (N.C.X.F., 1717A/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med). *Proposal for signal arrangements subject to concurrence of C. in C. Med.

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TALMA Admty. 1322/29th Jan. C. in C. Med. 1242/6th
 Repatriations. Feb. On completion of disembarkation at Suez
 TALMA makes 1 voyage Jeddah to Mersin with
 Italian Naval Exchanges returning with British
 to Egypt. Voyage to be made under safe conduct.
 2. Request that before departure from Bombay following
 may be carried out. Union Jack to be painted on hatches fore
 and aft and arrangements made for ship and these to be fully
 illuminated at night for above voyage. Arrangements
 also to be made for illumination at night of ship's name and
 Union Jack 10 feet square which will be painted on ship's
 side after arrival at Suez.
 (P.S.T.O. Egypt, (Port Said) 1746B/11 to P.S.T.O. India (Bombay)
 (R) D. of S.T., Admty. C. in C. Med. etc).

KROM Admty. message 1602A/7th Jan. route 4. SS. KROM
 from Gibraltar to New Orleans as agreed with
 U.S. is from Gibraltar to (a) 35° 30' N. 08° 00'
 W. (b) 35° 00' N. 25° 00' W thence by Great
 Circle route to Bermuda, thence to Florida Straits, thence in
 accordance with V.C.N.O. Serial 1030, 1025, 172, 7th Nov. 1942,
 which has been passed by U.S. to Turkish Govt.
 2. Turkish Govt. should obtain Axis concurrence to above route
 and thereafter notify us 7 days in advance of proposed date of
 sailing from Smyrna.
 (M. Branch (I) 1817A/11 to N.A. Ankara (R) C. in C. Med).

M.W.20 B. Malta Intelligence Summary 2000A/10 to 2000A/11.
 Naval Two tankers escorted by four D/Rs arrived
 this morning. One Tanker escorted by three D/Rs
 sailed for Tripoli this morning.
 (Govr. Malta, 1910Z/11 to A.F.H.Q. Algiers).

Med. and Levant Commands, S.Ps.
 Your 1717/9th Feb. not to F.O.C. Gibraltar.
 Concur that this is best re-arrangement of Area
 Tables but it is doubtful whether supply of Area
 II tables to Gibraltar and Algiers given in my
 1503/10th Feb. is sufficient to meet requirements
 of ships based on Gibraltar. Request you will
 remark. If existing stocks are insufficient
 present arrangements will have to continue until further
 editions of Area II can be produced.
 2. Every available copy of S.P. 02484 and S.P. 02485 has
 already been sent from U.K. as shown in my 2154/19th Jan.
 Future editions of these series are being substantially
 increased to provide for all ships and authorities throughout
 Mediterranean and to provide for your 0245/10 Feb. para. 4.
 (N.I.D. 10 for D.N.I. 1922A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med.,
 F.O.C. Gib).

/Malta...

War Diary.

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta Air
Report.

A.I. 599. C.S.R.
Bad weather and heavy rain curtailed all
offensive operations.
Enemy air activity nil. Day 11 Feb. 17 Spitfire
sorties were made in escorting our incoming convoy
from dawn until safe arrival in harbour at 0900
hours.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1940/11).

Return Escort
K.M.F.9

Your 1739/10. In addition to KRAKOWIAK and one
R.C.N. Corvette referred to, suggest you may
be able to make R.C.N. Corvettes being relieved in
your command by 3 Hunt class arriving with O.S.
43 available for return escort.
2. Reduction in Convoy speed must if necessary
be accepted.
3. Convoy should be sailed by short route and Q.Z.L.18 to
compensate for endurance of KRAKOWIAK.
(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 1950A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R)
F.O. Gibraltar). Reply: N.C.X.F., 1202/12.

Movements,
Oran.

Departures ROTHESAY, U.S. Destroyer CASE,
BRIXHAM, POLRUAN.
(N.O.I.C. Oran, 1952A/11 to Admty etc).

U-boat
crew,
Escape

My 1753/9 (Re German Submarine crew left
Cartagena except Capt. 1st Lieut, and Engineer
Officer) This appears substantially correct but
exact confirmation still lacking.
(N.A. Madrid, 2006/11 to Admty) See also 1912/12.

Movements
Algiers.

Arrivals BICESTER, ZETLAND from E.T.11. ARCTIC
RANGER, LA BOUDEUSE from Gibraltar.
Departures BICESTER, ZETLAND, CAMROSE to Westward.
AROMA L.C.T.164 L.C.T.160 to Philippeville.
PRINSES BEATRIX, WHEATLAND to Arzeu.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2009A/11 to Admty etc).

French
Naval A/C.

My 1435/10 to Admty. only about French F.A.A.
Mission. Rear Adm. Amanrich, accompanied by
Lieut Brossier F.A.A., and Eng. Lieut. Cdr.
Pelletier F.A.A. leaves Algiers by air 12th Feb.
for Gibraltar. R.A.F. have arranged for onward
passage to U.K.
(N.C.X.F., 2020A/11 to Admty).

ARETHUSA

Suez 11th Feb. Departure to south ARETHUSA at
2000.
(F.O.C.R.S.F., 2031B/11 to C. in C. Med., (R)
N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty. N.O.I.C. Suez).

426

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation Report No. 338. Tripoli, Libya. Gap now 125 feet wide depth 26 feet.
2. ARETHUSA has left Alexandria for refit in U.K.
3. Operation M.H.4 (2022/6 Feb. para. 2 refers). All ships have arrived Tripoli Libya and Malta respectively. No incidents.
4. Malta. Four M.T.Bs. operated in vicinity of Pantellaria night of 10/11 Feb. but met nothing.
5. Levant. Dutch Tanker SAROENA torpedoed by U-boat at 0020/11 Feb. in 33.47 N. 35.09 E. Tanker now beached in St. Georges Bay Beirut and fire extinguished. (C. in C. Med., 2055B/11 to Admty).

31 and 22 M.L. Flot. Your 0511/6* and 0315/11*. Following is a repetition of my 1115/4 (begins): Addressed Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., R.A.C.F., C.C.F., C.F.W. from N.C.X.F.
Your 1945/20~~4~~ and 1450/3+ to certain Addresses only. Intend to base 31st M.L. Flotilla at Oran as A/S Striking Force 2. 22nd M.L. Flotilla will be based temporarily on Algiers and similarly employed until opportunity occurs to pass through to Eastern Mediterranean. (Ends).
(N.C.X.F., 2357A/11 to Admty).
*Originated by W.R. requesting repetition of N.C.X.F.'s 1115/4 received undecyphered.
+Re 31st M.L. Flotilla allocated Western Med.
+Request for reply to 1945/20.

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departure 0050Z/11 ASTER escorting M.F.A. SINGU.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0144Z/11 to Admty.)
F.S. LEOPARD sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0359Z/11 to Admty., etc.)

Arrival 0441Z/11 TAMWORTH.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0450Z/11 to Admty.)

Arrivals 0241Z/11 WARSPITE, RESOLUTION, REVENGE, MAURITIUS,
NEPAL, NORMAN, ROTHERHAM, NIZAM. 0525Z/11 QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0533Z/11 to Admty.)

BRITTANY left.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1215Z/11 to Admty.)

Colombo departures 11th 0130Z MARGUERITE.
(F.O. Ceylon, 1218Z/11 to Admty.)

Arrived BIRMINGHAM.
(F.O. E.Africa, 1321Z/11 to Admty.)

Arrival 1017Z/11 KHYBER. Departure 1552Z/11 MAURITIUS.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1555Z/11 to Admty.)

P.B. 26. Sailing telegram. (2) P.B.25.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 0315Z/11 to Admty., etc.)

MARIPOSA. P.S.T.O.M.E. 1135/8th Feb. (presumably 1133/8.)
and 1816/8th Feb. Your 2116/9 Feb. to P.S.T.O.
M.E. Arminia request MARIPOSA may proceed India
to embark U.S. personnel and 900 Poles as all cabin accommodation
in MAURETANIA is already fully allotted from India.
(P.S.T.O. India, 0529/11 to D.S.T.)

B.P.68. Departure ORISSA with B.P.68 slow portion. Last
held 60, 155, 123, 17, 9, 200, 217, 36. Missing
Q.C.A. ? 150 and 152. Q.C.B.121 and 122, Y 195
and 196.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0751Z/11 to Admty., etc.)

B.M. 41. Colombo portion B.M.41 arrived.
(C.S.O. Colombo, 0805Z/11 to Admty.)

A/S Training S/Ms,
NEBOJSCA. In view of delay in completion of submarine P.552
and urgent need for A/S training submarine both
at Bombay and Kilindini would it now be possible
to allocate Yugoslav submarine NEBOJSCA to Eastern
Fleet. Your 2348/30 Sept. 1942 refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 0940/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C.
Med., F.O. Subs., S.1, S.4.)
Reply: Admty., 1850A/12 to C. in C. Med.

Convoy "Pamphlet",
U/B. No alteration to programme of convoy to which
your 0426/8 refers. C.S.4 reports E.T.A. convoy
at Fremantle 0001Z/18.
(C. in C. E.F., 1025Z/11 to A.C.N.B., (R) C.S.4,
Admty., Dep. C. in C. E.F., C.T.F. 51, Cdr. W.
Australia.)

/NORMAN ...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Convoy
"Pamphlet",
U/B.
(Contd.)

NORMAN obtained what appeared to be a good contact in position V 107 481 P 0125 at 0900/10th. "Pamphlet" was diverted 20 miles to eastwards. 2. Later investigation indicated contact was possibly U-Boat. (C. in C. E.F., 1029Z/11 to Admty., Dep. C. in C. E.F., ?F.O. Ceylon.)

India Air
Report.

(B) Fighter attacks 10th. 4 Beaufighters gunned river traffic warehouses station buildings railway trucks Myingyan Monywa Segyi Kanbya. (A.H.Q. India, 1255Z/11 to Air Min.)

Movements
Summary.No. 40, Feb. 11th.
(1) HAWKINS leaves Aden 11th escorting convoy M.C.4 until relieved at about 005° S. thence to Kilindini.
(2) F.F.S. LEOPARD left Mauritius 11th for

Reunion Is. and Tamatave.

(3) HERO probably leaves Aden 11th for Kilindini.
(4) CHALLENGER leaves Kilindini 13th for Capetown.
(5) BIRMINGHAM arrives Kilindini 11th.
(6) FROBISHER and C.M.38.3 arrived Diego Suarez 11th for water. (C. in C. E.F., 1415Z/11 to E.F. (203 Y), Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Durban, F.O.R.S.C.A.)U.S.
dispositions.

My 1552/28th Jan. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific - DETROIT at sea. PENNSYLVANIA at San Pedro. (D.O.D.(F), 1423A/11 to C. in C. E.F.)

Enemy Unit,
? U/B.

Unreliable D/F bearings at 1000?Z/11th indicate presence of (O?)SOY probably S/M in area bounded by 090° E. and 110° E. 025° S. and 015° S. Unit made 4 messages on 16220 k/cs addressed to F.O. South Eastern Fleet, F.O. East Indies Force and Harbour Master Sourabaya and may be unit fixed on 5th in 035° S. 100° E. returning to base. My 1630/5 refers. (Dep. C. in C. E.F., 1450C/11 to F.O.C. 4th C.S., (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

F.S.
LEOPARD.

E.T.A. Tamatave 0600Z/12. Please report. (F.S. LEOPARD, 1703Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius.) (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1830Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Tamatave.)

11.2.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

West African Commands. This is a re-encypherment of Combined Chiefs of Staff 1342/8. Quoted. (Radio Washington, 0400/11 to Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.)

U.S. S/M Notices, S/M Estimates 11th Feb. (Cominch 0550/11, 1534/11, 1535/11, 1631/11, 1632/11, 1633/11, 1916/11 to Admty.) (Comnavu, 0838/11 to Admty.)

JED defects. Your 0002A/11 (N.T. in W.D.) My P.C. and S. at 0700Z/11 054° 19' N. 044° 48' W. 218° 14. Weather report.

(JED, 0716Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.) E.T.A. St. Johns 1800Z/12. One boiler to be run down and pipes blown down multi-braided. (? Whaler) requires repair or renewal. (JED, 2345Z/11 to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns.)

Movements. U.S.S. BOYLE arrived and departed Bermuda 10th Feb. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 0743Z/11 to Admty.) Departure 11th U.S. Warship OPAL. (Grenada, 1401Q/11 to Admty.)

Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T. 11th February.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
F.S. RICHELIEU } U.S. Escort	39½° N. 72½° W.	314°	12½
F.S. MONTCALM } U.S. Escort			
F. S/M } ARCHIMEDE }	16½° N. 28° W.	297°	12½
ALCANTARA } WOODRUFF }			
BUTTERMERE } WASTWATER }	06° S. 34½° W.	178°	12
5 M.M.S. }			

(D.O.D.(F), 1013Z/11 to Opanav, (R) Comnavu.)

Anti U-Boat War, North Atlantic. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(W) 467. Your J.S.M.721 (2201/9). Paras. 1 and 2. Not clear whether C.C.S.160 is report of Combined Planners which is referred to. If not, a summary of the new report should be telegraphed.

Para. 2. In our view the Conference has been called to deal comprehensively with any problems connected with the U-Boat war referred to in C.C.S. 160 or which the various representatives may put up. It is considered undesirable that the Conference should be fettered by any document which had been laid before the Combined Chiefs of Staff even though it had not been approved by the latter.

/Para ...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Anti U-Boat
War, North
Atlantic.
(Contd.)

Para. 3. Concur as regards senior officer from Coastal Command. The issues which will be discussed are evidently becoming so wide and important that it has been decided that V.A. Moore shall be the British representative. He will be accompanied by Adm. Mansfield.

Para. 4. An outline of the proposals which will be put forward by our representative will be telegraphed in due course. (J.S.M. Washington, 1110Z/11 to Air Min.)

Pontoons in
Landing
Operations.

Following for C.O.L.O. My 1947/6. To avoid difficulty of stowage and of coupling pontoons in a swell it is suggested that they might be formed into long pontoons say 200 ft. and towed to the scene of operations by LS.T.

2. Please comment on this with particular regard to (a) maximum speed of tow. (b) possibility of placing such pontoons in position using ship's boats or other means. (c) possibility of providing a quick means of casting off some pontoons if found to be too long for the water gap. (d) possibility of sinking long pontoon when in position.

3. This is a most urgent problem still unsolved and it is requested that highest priority be given to any trial found necessary. If satisfactory anticipate large quantity of pontoons will be wanted to be shipped at short notice. I have discussed this matter with Adm. Kirk who is leaving to take up his new appointment on Monday next and with Capt. Huse and they are in agreement with need of this development. (Chief of Combined Operations, 1203A/11 to B.A.D.)

S.C.117,
numbers,
formation.

Observed that S.C.117 comprising 39 ships was formed in 14 columns.

2. With this comparatively small number of ships we consider that fewer columns would have been preferable from point of view of escort and manoeuvrability.

3. Request this may be taken up with U.S. Authorities concerned. (D.T.D., 1251A/11 to B.A.D.)

Your 1251/11. S.C.117 was planned for 50 ships. Numbers of ships in line abreast as follows: 14 14 12 and 10. Port Director formulates convoy plan with no column exceeding four ships.

2. Cdre. inspected proposed formation day prior to conference and approved.

3. Understand that any suggestion by Cdre. would be given consideration.

(B.A.D., 2231Z/11 to Admty.)

WITHERINGTON.

WITHERINGTON will be ready to sail on 14th Feb. if trials are satisfactory. Information requested to where she is to be sailed. (S.H.A. 9 B.A.M.R. Washington, 1334Z/11 to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.At., C.O.A.C., WITHERINGTON.)

/Your ...

431

11.2.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- WITHERINGTON. Your 1334Z/11. Request WITHERINGTON be sailed
(Contd.) direct St. Johns N.F.
(F.O.N.F., 1712Z/11 to B.A.M.R., (R) WITHERINGTON,
C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.
W.At., C.O.A.C.)
- HIGHLAND BRIGADE . HIGHLAND BRIGADE 15 knots requests authorization
(British) sail independently Rio direct Liverpool. Has 400
service personnel. 39 non-service including
28 women and children. Do you approve.
(Cominch C and R., 1335/11 to Admty.)
Your 1335/11. Request ship be sailed independently to New
York for H.X. convoy.
(D.T.D., 2122Z/11 to Connav.)
- H O.N.163. Sailing telegram.
(C.O.A.C., 1519Z/11, 1521/11 to Admty.)
- ATTACKER, Your 2239Z/10. Concur. Request you will make
request for the necessary arrangements through Canadian Air
one fighter Attache.
A/C. (D.N.A.O., 1645A/11 to B.A.D., (R) ATTACKER.)
- British aircraft Your Marcus 347 dated 8th February. The four
in B.W.I. Hudsons were detached by A.O.C. Iceland (C) to
B.W.I. on instructions from H.Q.C.C. to meet the
threat of an unusually large concentration of
U-Boats south of Cape Farewell. A.O.C. Iceland
relies on the U.S. Naval Officer Base Iceland
for his link with U.S. Naval Authorities but it is not known
why this information was not passed by this channel to C.T.F.24.
I request that you explain the situation to Navy Dept. expressing
our regret that our aircraft operated in one of their areas
without their knowledge. H.Q.C.C. are taking the matter up
with A.O.C. Iceland (C).
Ref. para. 4 of Marcus 326 dated 6th February Coastal Command
do not intend to operate Liberators from B.W.I. except in
emergency when conditions at Goose Gander and Iceland (C) make
the diversion necessary.
(Air Min., 1700Z/11 to Rafdel Washington, Webber W.929, (R)
Admty., H.Q.C.C., R.A.F. Iceland (C).)
- U.G.S.5A. Route. This from Cominch C and R.
(Radio Washington, 1714Z/11 to Admty. for
information.)
- Routeing Your 153/1 (1531A/1 intended). Instructions have
instructions been given to U.S.R.O. Cristobal in the sense of
not observed. C. in C. S.A. message.
(B.A.D., 1723Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

/Neutral ...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Neutral
Shipping.

Your 1802/3rd Nov.

Is it intended to apply this to neutral vessels trading to neutral ports.

2. Portuguese SERPA PINTO was supplied at Philadelphia with identification signals from February 6th to 10th but has not been supplied after Feb. 10th by Bermuda. Although Master believed reliable it seems undesirable to apply this ruling to ships referred to in para. 1. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 1902Q/11 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

U/B
reported
by SUNOIL.

Armed guard unit of SUNOIL reported sighting periscope 100 yards astern of ship at 1945Z/10 in 042° 26' N. 064° 50' W. SUNOIL arrived Halifax 11th February was straggler from H.X.226 and 4 miles astern of convoy at time of sighting.

(C.O.A.C., 1928Z/11, 1309Z/12 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, H.Q.C.C., C.E.S.F.)

Limits on
numbers of
passengers.

Your 1605/6, para. 6 and your 1701/6.

(1) U.S. Authorities are considering proposals which have been put before the Combined Military Transportation Committee.

(B.A.D., 2029Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., N.S.H.Q.)

S.C. 120.

Comply A.M. 1709A/10.

(Cominch C and R., 2036/11 to C.E.S.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.24, Admty.)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serial 11.

LOUISE LYKES overdue Belfast since 11th January from New York presumed lost.

EVITA serial 10 not in collision. Left convoy account of engine trouble.

(? OCEAN) KNIGHT serial 9 sunk.

(Cominch C and R., 2113Z/11 to Cdre. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.)

B.Y.M.S.

Sail B.Y.M.S.15, 16 when ready about Feb. 14th direct to St. Johns N.F.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2211/11 to C.E.S.F., (R) Com. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston, C.O.A.C., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Admty., C.T. 24.)

TRACKER.

TRACKER will probably be ready to leave Portland (Oregon) for Puget Sound for trials on 27th Feb. leaving Puget Sound for Norfolk (Virginia) about 8th March.

(B.A.M.R. Washington, 2218Z/11 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, TRACKER.)

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 2145Z/11 February IN
From: J.S.M. Washington Date: 12.2.43.
Recd: 0700Z

CYPHER

Addressed: War Cabinet Offices London.

Limits of the
European Theatre
of Operations

IZ 561 J.S.M. 727 11th Feb., 1943.

Ref. J.S.M. 723.

Following is text of telegram No. 1771 of 3rd February from Marshall to Eisenhower.

Begins.

Will issue orders to relieve you from assignment as Commanding General European Theatre of Operations effective upon date of arrival of General Andrews at H.Q. Etouza. By direction of the President you are designated as Commanding General U.S. Army Forces in the North African Theatre of Operations. This radio is your authority to assume command pending receipt of orders supra. General Andrews upon arrival in England will be directed to assume command of the European theatre of operations as delineated in Annex 1 to follow.

As Commanding General U.S. Army Forces in the North African theatre of operations, all powers and authority heretofore conferred by directives, regulations or orders to you as the C.G. of the European theatre of operations insofar as applicable to the geographical area of the North African theatre of operations (see Annex 1) and compatible with directives issued you from time to time by the Combined C.O.S. as C. in C. of the Allied Forces, will hereafter be exercised by you within the North African theatre.

Annex 1. The limits of the European theatre of operations are as follows:-

South along the 15th Meridian west longitude to the 70 parallel, thence south and west through the Denmark Strait to the intersection of the Arctic Circle with the 32 Meridian west longitude, thence south along the 32 Meridian west longitude to 43 degrees 45 mins. north latitude, thence east along this parallel to the north-western tip of the Iberian Peninsula thence along the northern coast of Spain and the Franco-Spanish boundary to the Mediterranean sea; thence along the south-eastern coast of France to the Franco-Italian boundary, thence along the northern boundary of Italy to its junction with the Austrian-Yugoslavian boundary, thence along the northern boundary

boundary of Yugoslavia and the southern and south-eastern boundary of Hungary to its intersection with the Roumanian-Russian boundary, thence along the western boundary of Russia to the Barents Sea, thence north along the 32 Meridian east longitude.

Pending final adoption based upon recommendations to be submitted by you, the limits of the North African Theatre are as follows:-

From 32 degs. west longitude 43 degs. 45 mins. north latitude south along the 32nd. Meridian west longitude to 13 degs. 30 mins. north latitude, thence east along this parallel to the western coast of Africa, thence generally east and south along the French territorial boundaries in West Africa and along the Atlantic coast of Africa to the intersection of the western boundary of Nigeria with the Gulf of Guinea excluding Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, Sierre Leone, Liberia and Gold Coast, thence north and east along the boundary of Nigeria to the intersection of the Nigerian-French Equatorial Africa and French West African boundaries thence northward along the eastern boundaries of French West Africa, Algeria and Tunisia to the Mediterranean Coast, thence northeast to the junction of the Albanian-Grecian boundary with the Mediterranean Sea, thence north and west through the Adriatic Sea to the junction of the Italian-Yugoslavian boundary with the Adriatic Sea, thence north along the Italian-Yugoslavian boundary to its intersection with the southern boundary of Austria, thence generally westward along the southern boundary of the European theatre of operations designated herein closing at 32 degs. west longitude 43 degs. 45' north latitude. Ends.

2145Z/11.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
U.A. (Mails)
F.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.M.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D. of P.(Q)
Head of M.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Ad. Blake
D. of L.D.

Recd. in War Reg. at 1902/12.
War Cabinet Office Distribution:-
Brig. Jacob
Foreign Sec.
1st Sea Lord
C.6. Telegrams, War Office.
A.M.C.S.(C)
C.C.O.

433

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.(c) Brazilian C.S. sights sub. attacks sound
contact area 13° 20' S. 38° 40' W. 1515Z/10.
(d) Y.P. 507 makes sound contact 37° 01' N.
75° 12' W. 1514Z/11.
(Cominch, 2228/11 to Admty. for O.I.C., (R)
N.S.H.Q.)Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Sydney (N.S.W. 9th Feb. U.S.A. Transport
HERMITAGE 23 San Francisco 27th via Samoa 16th
Feb. knots 16.5.
Section 2. (A) 036° S. 154° (? E.)
(B) 036° S. 161°. (C) 024° 20' S. 171° 00' W. thence Samoa.
(A.C.N.B., 0253Z/11 to Connav, Admty., etc.)
Arrival (? Geraldton) TJERK HIDDEN departure Fremantle
9th ADELAIDE on escort duty Sydney (N.S.W.) 9th F.S. LE
TRIUMPHANT on escort duty Townsville for Brisbane 10th GYMPIE
for Townsville. ROCKHAMPTON on escort duty Townsville 10th
STUART for Port Moresby.
(A.C.N.B., 0401Z/11 to Admty.)
Arrivals 9th Feb. Fremantle U.S. Fleet Oiler TRINITY.
Townsville YUNNAN.
11th Brisbane Hired Transport TAROONA, Hospital Ship MANUNDA.
U.S. Transport BANTAM departed Fall River 10th due Oro Bay 11th.
R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA, Hired Transport KATOOMBA departed
Sydney (N.S.W.) 10th due Townsville 14th.
(A.C.N.B., 1002Z/11 to Admty., Connav.)

STARR KING
torpedoed
9th Feb.

My 0510/10. STARR KING sank at 1530Z/10. Ship
struck by 2 torpedoes at 1 hour intervals.
No casualties.
(A.C.N.B. N.O. Melbourne, 1349Z/11 to Admty.,
C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., N.O. Wellington.)

Digest
Serial
No. 385,
Feb. 10th.

Same destroyer, two small merchantmen still at
Buka passage evening 10th refer Digest Number 384
para. 1. Also another small cargo vessel loading
or unloading south of Western entrance.
(4) Afternoon R/C sighted one destroyer four
merchant vessels including one large tow medium
one small St. Georges Channel course 350° speed
10 knots.
(5) During afternoon Hudson strafed and bombed submarine 90
miles end Woodlark Island.
(8) Re-assessment interception Liberators attacking Kendari
9th refer Digest Number 384 para. 5 indicates two fighters

/intercepted ...

War Diary.11.2.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
No. 385,
Feb. 10th.
(Contd.)intercepted en route target one shot down.
Seven to 10 Zeros intercepted over Kendari one probably destroyed. Photos show 18 serviceable bombers eight more doubtful or unserviceable 37 serviceable fighters one transport aircraft eleven dummies. Also constructional activity and new runway. In harbour one small vessel nine barges or launches in addition 9000 tonner unsuccessfully bombed. 24 motor vehicles and aircraft parts on wharf.

(9) Liberty ship STARR KING torpedoed by submarine 34° 15' S. 154° 20' E. 1922Z/9. No casualties but ship subsequently sank. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 0605Z/11 to Air Min.)

LE
TRIUMPHANT.On mission 2100Z/9. Sydney (N.S.W.) 2130Z/11.
(LE TRIUMPHANT, 2355Z/11 to F.N.F.L. London,
(R) H.C. (Compt group) TAHITI.)U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1356A/11, 1420A/11.)

12.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.T.Bs.
for Norwegian
coast.

A.C.O.S. is asking for 55 ft. M.T.Bs. to be allocated to his command for operations on the Norwegian coast, for which he considers them particularly suitable during the period of short nights: he proposes they should be manned by Norwegian naval crews. (On 16 Feb. the Admty. gave orders for this to be put into effect).

Escort oilers.

C. in C. Western Approaches made certain proposals today, in regard to the provision of escort oilers for convoys, which is in a far from satisfactory state.

SS. CASTILIAN went ashore on East Platter, inshore of the Skerries, Anglesea today and was abandoned.

The port of Salcombe has been closed on account of unexploded bombs reported today to have been dropped at 1805/10 (re-opened 1045/14)
Two further mines were detonated off south Haisboro Buoy today and one off Dover and one in the Thames Approaches.

24 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 54 mines last night off the Frisian Islands and French west coast ports.

"Torch" Area.

Aircraft
for shipping
protection
in Casablanca
area.

The Navy Dept. Washington propose that 6 to 12 of the American A.S.V. equipped B.24 aircraft now based in the U.K. should be transferred to the Casablanca area to aid in meeting the menace of the U-boat concentration off the Casablanca area which is seriously endangering convoys approaching the area. These aircraft are the only available additional striking force which can be brought to bear in time. The two U.S. A/S squadrons now based in the U.K. were diverted from the Western Atlantic for the express purpose of protecting shipping in connection with Operation "Torch".

The Admty. view was that the squadrons were as yet insufficiently worked up and could not move in time to cover the two U.G. convoys now on their way. They would, however, welcome the

/transfer...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT."Torch" Area.

Aircraft
for
shipping
protection
in
Casablanca
area. Contd.

transfer of one squadron when it has sufficient operational experience and the necessary facilities for maintenance and operational control could be made available in North west Africa.

The Admiralty intend to maintain sufficient Catalinas at Gibraltar to cover both the K.M/M.K. and U.G/G.U. convoys to maximum range. These together with N.C.X.F's P.B.Ys. and perhaps a British detachment at Port Lyautey, should be able to provide air cover up to about 600 miles. On 16 Feb. the Admty. were informed that orders had been given to General Andrews to despatch 12 A.S.V. B.24s at once to join the North west African Air Command. They once more communicated to Washington (18 Feb) their opinion that the training of the Squadron was not complete, and they proposed that the whole question of the control and distribution of air forces allocated to the protection of shipping in the north Atlantic should be discussed at the forthcoming conference at Washington on 1st March.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar Convoy No. 1 arrived at Gibraltar today from Freetown.

Hudson FCJA F.48 on A/S sweep attacked a submerging U-boat at 1405 today in 37.32 N. 11.56 W. (140 miles west of Cape St. Vincent) The stern was still visible when 2 depth charges exploded right alongside the U-boat and 2 depth charges ahead of it, bringing up pieces of wood littered over a bluish oil patch swirling and seething over a diameter of 200 yards.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. today issued fresh instructions for the routing of convoys in the Cape area.

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

The question of repairing, rebuilding and increasing the defences and facilities, of Malta is under consideration by the Commanders in Chief in Cairo. A message from C. in C. Med. today gives a provisional list of Naval requirements.

Patrol
report by
TURBULENT.

On return from patrol TURBULENT reports that she hit and probably sank one of two westbound merchant ships heavily escorted by surface vessels and aircraft in 37.46 N. 11.14 E. (60 miles west of Marsala, Sicily) at 0855/27 Jan. At 1408/1 she sank a 5,000 ton unescorted eastbound merchant ship in 38.13 N. 12.50 E. (Cape San Vito, Sicily) She missed with torpedo a 3,000 ton A.M.C. which was hunting her. At 0649/5 off Cape Cefalu (Sicily) she obtained two hits on a 6000 ton westbound tanker and probably sank it. At 1253/7 she bombarded a train in St. Ambrocio Station and made 6 hits. A westbound merchantman was unsuccessfully attacked at 1114/8.

SARACEN

At 1830, SARACEN sank 2 tugs by gunfire off Cape Camarat.

America & West Indies.

U.S. PAN ROYAL which was to have sailed in convoy U.G.S.5 was reported today to have been sunk in collision.

Australia & New Zealand.

This afternoon a Liberator attacked an enemy convoy consisting of two 6000 and one 2000 ton merchant vessels escorted by a light cruiser, steering a southerly course in 6° 5' S. 152° 55' E. (off the N.E. coast of New Britain) and obtained a hit or near miss on one of the two larger merchant ships which was seen stationary with the convoy about an hour later.

/It...

War Diary.

12.2.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

It is reported that last night and on the previous night Allied M.T.Bs. "strafed" (whatever that may mean) enemy positions in the Waria River area (Huon Gulf N. coast of Papua) where coastwise barge activity continued.

439

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

R.A.C.F. Flag of R.A.C.F. was struck in ATTACK 0900 today Friday 12th.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1019/12.)

Movements.

DZIK. Sailed my 1153/11.
(S.O. S/MS Lerwick, 0820/12.)
DZIK arrived Dundee.
(Capt. S.9, 1647A/12.)

15th M/S.F. You will be based at Kirkwall.
(A.C.O.S., 0957A/12 to M.S.15.)
Cancelled - see 1535/12.)

My 0001/9th. 15th M/S Flotilla to remain Iceland (C). Request you will report intended minesweeping.

2. HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER to join S.O. 15th M/S.F. on arrival when LLANDUDNO should be sailed for docking.
3. Berths will not be available at Seidisfjord for Minesweepers during Operation F.E.
4. Request A.C.O.S. will sail remainder of 15th M/S.F. and HOUND to join S.O. 15th M/S.F. when ready. A.C.I.C. report any stores required.
5. A.C.I.C. and R.A.(D) H.F. inform ships concerned.
(C. in C. H.F., 1301A/12 to A.C.I.C.)
Cancel my 0957/12.
(A.C.O.S., 1535/12.)

P.223,
P.229,
P.315. Intend sailing P.223, P.229, P.315 escorted by CUTTY SARK from Clyde at 1500A/13th west of Orkneys to Lerwick. E.T.A. 1500A/15, speed 10 knots.
(2) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. Help messages on port wave.
(3) Communications.
(Capt. (S) 3, 1055A/12.)

PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE. A.M. 1924/10th and Captain (D) Greenock's 1604/8th. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE should be sailed to arrive Milford Haven a.m./20th. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail her with trawler for Gibraltar on Feb. 21st. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail PRESIDENT HOUDUCE for Freetown as convenient to join F.O.C.W.Af. Command.
(C. in C. W.A., 1217A/12.)

SAMSONIA. Intend to sail H.M.R.T. SAMSONIA at 0800/13 for Gibraltar, E.T.A. 18th Feb. routed in accordance with Admty. 2217/12th Jan. and Q.K.A.87.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1251A/12.)

/V.A. ...

War Diary.

12.2.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

SAMSONIA. V.A. Gibraltar's 1611/11 and F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1745/11.
(Contd.) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven sail SAMSONIA independently to Gibraltar as soon as possible.

2. C. in C. W.A. arrange route.

3. After arrival at Gibraltar SAMSONIA is to tow ARIGUANI to U.K. (D.O.D.(H), 1722A/12.)

My 1722/12 cancel para. 2. Route as follows:-
M 180 Fastnet 10 miles. N 50.05 N. 13.10 W. P 41.55 N. 13.10 W.
P 39.00 N. 11.00 W. Q 36.55 N. 11.00 W. R 35.50 N. 09.55 W.
(D.O.D.(H), 2217A/12 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C.)

PYTCHLEY, Admty. 1250/10 and my 1748/11. PYTCHLEY and MEYNELL. MEYNELL passed Flamborough Head at 1345/12 on passage to Scapa and for onward routeing to Loch Ewe.
(C. in C. Nore, 1536A/12.)

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

A. UREDD in Lofoten area.
B. DZIK escorted by SWITHA vicinity Girdleness due Dundee 1400/13th.
C. TACTICIAN (P.314), SEADOG (P.216), ULTOR (P.53) escorted by PENNYWORT vicinity Tiumpan Head for Clyde.
D. UMBRA (P.35) 44° 35' N. 11° 10' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 11° 10' W. advancing 115 miles per day.
E. U.S.S. BARB in zone K.505.
F. U.S.S. BLACKFISH off Bilbao.
G. SEA NYMPH (P.223), SPORTSMAN (P.229), TRUCULENT (P.315) escorted by CUTTY SARK leave Holy Loch 1500/13th through Minches and west of Orkneys, E.T.A. Lerwick 1500/15th.
H. H.33 escorted by QUALICUM sails Lough Foyle 1000A/13 for Londonderry, E.T.A. 2200A/13, 8 knots.
(F.O.S., 1659A/12, 2304A/12.)

ADVENTURE. Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1717A/12.)

Convoy of small craft for Gibraltar.

1. Capt. D. Greenock's 2150/11. STELLA CARINA is to be completed with coal and sailed to Milford Haven to arrive a.m./20th at latest.
2. Cancel her sailing as in A.M. 1526/8 para. 5.
3. She is to be sailed from Milford Haven in place of MAN-O-WAR A.M. 1924/10.
(D.O.D.(H), 1718A/12.)

/ENCHANTRESS ...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

ENCHANTRESS,
BANFF,
LAVENDER,
LORD AUSTIN,
LORD
MIDDLETON. Informing them that TACTICIAN, SEADOG and ULTOR escorted by PENNYWORT may be sighted southbound tonight Friday.
(C. in C. W.A., 1744A/12.)

L. 23. Cominch C and R 1305/11 and my 1752/11th onward route for L.23 from (D) to (E) 049° 55' N. 045° 05' W. (F) 048° 30' N. 049° 20' W. thence to St. Johns.
(C. in C. W.A., 1753Z/12 to Cominch (C and R), Capt. S.7, F.O.S.)

F.O.S. 1002/10 and C. in C. W.A. 1752/11. Intend sailing L.23 escorted by GERANIUM from Rothesay at 2300A/13 to position (A) 270° Tory Island 35 miles, E.T.A. 2000A/14. Thence GERANIUM to Londonderry and L.23 diving by day through position (B) 055° 20' N. 017° 01' W. to longitude 022° W., thence on surface through position (C) 054° 30', 026° 10' to position (D) 052° 40', 035°, thence as routed Cominch to St. Johns N.F. for onward passage to Philadelphia as ordered by F.O.N.F. and N.O.I.C. Halifax. Speeds of advance as follows: Rothesay to position (A) 10 knots, thence 216 miles per day on surface and 120 miles per day when diving by day. E.T.A. "Chop" approx. 0800A/20.
(Capt. S.7, 2156A/12 to Cominch.)

ONSLAUGHT. Instructions for proceeding to Akureyri, dropping Capt. Symonds Tayler at Hvalfjord.
(F.O.(D) H.F., 1757A/12.)

H. 33. Intend sailing H.33 escorted by QUALICUM from Lough Foyle at 1000A/13 speed 8 knots arriving Tobermory 2200A/13. F.O.I.C.N.I. is requested to arrange fighter protection. Communications.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2009A/12 to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES.)

TACTICIAN. 2100/12 058° 41' N. 004° 26' W. S. of A. 5. Pass to S/Ms and PENNYWORT.
R/V 0900/13 in 140° Tiupan Head 6 miles.
(TACTICIAN (P.314, 2041A/12 to A.C.O.S., (R) S.3, ULTOR (P.53), SEADOG (P.216), PENNYWORT.)

PENNYWORT, P.216, P.53, P.314. R/V for 0900/13th is 140° Tiupan Head 6 miles. Total bombing restriction arranged. Acknowledge.
(Capt. S.3, 2307A/12 to PENNYWORT, P.216, P.53, P.314, (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.S., AC.O.S.)

/REGENT ...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

REGENT. Ref. A.M. 1758/7 and F.O.C. Gib. 1054/10 not to all addressees. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. Portsmouth propose REGENT should proceed to Portsmouth on completion first patrol in Bay of Biscay being attached to 5th Sub. Flotilla. Propose also that REGENT should commence first patrol from Gibraltar as soon as reported ready by F.O.C. Gib. duration of patrol being about 21 days.
(F.O.S., 1146A/12 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. S.5)

Operation "Valuable". CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, GOATHLAND, BLEASDALE, TANATSIDE form Force A tonight 12th/13th Feb. and leave Yarmouth 1530 to patrol south of Beachy Head. Pass Needles inward 0730/13 Feb. and anchor at Yarmouth.

My 1000/20 Jan. not to all refers.
Force B at Newhaven M.G.B. 616 (S.O.), 611, 613 M.T.B.89, 85, 242.

2. Destroyers may cross Hastings Treport line at any time if necessary.

3. FYLLA, Chasseur 10 at St. Helens. LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.

4. P.W.293 escort MELBREAK leave Needles 1715/12 Feb. S.P.293 escort WENSLEYDALE arrives Needles 0900/13 Feb.

5. Portland patrol 2 M.Ls 50° 20' N. between 2° 05' W. and 1° 30' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1205A/12 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, X.D.O.E., Force A, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, D.1, MELBREAK, WENSLEYDALE, 16 Group R.A.F. Tangmere, R.A.F. Thorney Island.)

M.T.Bs for A.C.O.S. Request that two and later if successful more of the 55 foot M.T.Bs of 12th Flotilla may be allocated to this command for operations on Norwegian Coast. Considered particularly suitable during the period of short nights and propose they be manned by Norwegian Navy crews. Detailed proposals will follow by letter if approved in principle.
(A.C.O.S., 1210/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F.)

CUMBERLAND. Request you will sail CUMBERLAND for Seidisfjord to arrive a.m./17th and complete.
(C. in C. H.F., 1501A/12 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Exercises.

Trials in TRESPASSER. 1. It is desired to carry out trials with types 758 QE/S in TRESPASSER after modifications in accordance with C.A.F.O. 2536/42. These may involve spending some hours in deep water in North Channel.

12.2.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.Trials in
TRESPASSER.
(Contd.)

2. It is suggested these trials be carried out on passage from Devonport to Holy Loch.
3. Request you arrange with C.O. Fairlie and for escorts.
(F.O.S., 1754A/12 to Capt. S.3.)

Allied Air Activity.Murmansk
Balloon
Barrage.

Your 1840/6th, para. (4).
(1) Russians can supply hydrogen at atmospheric pressure but will not say what quantity available.
(2) No. (3) Russians say they could charge ships balloon ashore and inspection of balloon unnecessary. (4) Yes.
(2) Permission for Merchant Vessels to fly balloons in Kola Inlet not yet granted by Russian Naval Staff who fear danger to Russian fighter aircraft. Matter still under discussion. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0908A/12 to Admty.)
My 0908/12, para. 2. Russia Staff have now agreed to balloons being flown in vicinity of Murmansk.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1503A/12 to Admty.)

Bomber
Command
Report.

Boulogne. 11 Bostons detailed to attack an M/V with fighter cover were obliged by unfavourable weather to abandon the operation.
Night 11th/12th Feb.
Wilhelmshaven. 177 heavy A/C were detailed to attack there was 10/10 cloud over the target.
137 claim to have bombed. By their indication 76 A/C of 1 and 4 Groups compressed their attack within the first 9 minutes and 48 A/C of 5 Group attacked within 20 minutes.
Reports suggest that the target indicator flares were somewhat separated, but that the bombing was well concentrated. At 2006 hours many crews saw a tremendous flash which lit up the whole sky and remained for nearly 10 minutes afterwards as a huge red glow. This is presumed to indicate a particularly violent explosion which seems to be in the centre of the flares.
3 aircraft are missing.
Minelaying. 34 aircraft were detailed. 24 A/C were successful in laying their mines.
(H.Q.B.C., 1540A/12.)

Jettisoning
bombs.

It is reported that at about 1900/11 a friendly aircraft jettisoned a large bomb within 800 yards of a trawler on patrol in 53° 23' N. 01° 00' E. My 1437/10 Dec. referred to previous similar episodes and it is requested that the matter may be again represented to the Air Min.
(C. in C. Nore, 2211A/12 to Admty.)

War Diary.

12.2.1943.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Salcombe.

My 1944/10.

R.N.O. Salcombe now reports that 4 bombs in all were dropped at 1805/10. One exploded and three U.X.Bs in the estuary between South Sands and

Woodville Rocks. Request bomb disposal officer may investigate and report as soon as possible.

Port of Salcombe has been closed to all shipping until further orders.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1855/12 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Mining.

Dover area.

Routine sweeping carried out 11th/12th Feb. by S.A. and LL trawlers in Q.Z.S. 357 and 377.

One ground mine detonated in 51° 16' 30" N. 01° 28' 50" E.

(V.A. Dover, 1031A/12.)

Yarmouth area.

LL sweepers detonated 2 red mines at 1003 in 270° S. Haisborough 1 mile.

(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1043A/12.)

Positions and details of 5 mines detonated 11th Feb., and 2 mines 12th Feb.

(Capt. M/S Yarmouth, 1845A/12.)

Operation Q.U.(2).

Prepare to carry out operation Q.U.(2) on first suitable night after 13th Feb. with 51st M.L.F. Mines (details).

(C. in C. Nore, 1134A/12 to BEEHIVE, (R) N.O.I.C. Harwich, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, Admty.)

Operation Q.L. 9.

My 1816/25th not to MIDGE or N.O.I.C. Yarmouth. Night 13th/14th Feb. is the last night for operation Q.L.9.

Division of 1st M.L.F. is to return to Yarmouth as soon as practicable after last night.

(C. in C. Nore, 1136A/12 to BEEHIVE, (R) N.O.I.C. Harwich, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, MIDGE, Admty.)

Thames Approaches.

Ground mine report. (A) 1234A/12. (B) S.A. LL Q formation M.M/S 187, 226, 191. (D) M.M/S 191 51° 53.1' N. 01° 35.1' E., 209°. (F) Red 160° 2 cables. (C) On, red to port. (H) 25th Jan. 1943.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1607A/12.)

Iceland.

Your 1301/12th. Sweeping programme in para. 2B of C. in C. H.F. 1137/30th Dec. (N.T. in W.D.) has been completed with negative results.

(2) Owing to adverse weather this week no progress has been made in approaches to Reydarfiord.

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Iceland.
(Contd.)

(3) On completion of para. 2 above intend 15th M/S Flotilla return to Hvalfjord to carry out searching sweeps of West coast of Iceland working from Reykjanes Passage to northwards. (A.C.I.C., 1941A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.KURT HARTWIG
SIEMENS.

Ran ashore 11th Feb. Intercepted messages re assistance. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0004/12, 0005/12, 0055/12, 0105/12; Wick 0109/12, 0150/12, 0249/12)

Dover
Straits.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D/F in Dover Strait between 0900/11 and 0900/12. Track E.7D 6 small operating between Calais and Cap Gris Nez from 2235 fading 4 miles west of Calais at 0055.

Track E.11D 4 small from Calais at 0305 westbound at 8 knots, turned and faded three and a half miles north-west of Calais at 0405. Both groups thought to be minesweeping. (V.A. Dover, 0936A/12.)

Enemy
destroyers.

German warships (a) reported 4 destroyers passed Fehmarn belt proceeding West on Jan. 21st. (B.3.) (b) Destroyers Z.5, Z.14, Z.15 and Z.24 were at Gdynia early and mid-January. (A.1.) (N.A. Stockholm, 1207/12.)

U-Boats.U/B
reported.

D/F bearings on 4412 k/cs at 0003Z indicate U-Boat within 60 miles of 43° N. 12° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 0201A/12 to ABDIEL, Escorts M.K.S.7, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., N.C.X.F., F.O.S., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Escorts K.M.F.9.)

As last, adding:- Other authorities informed. (D.D.I.C., 0210A/12 to UMBRA, (R) F.O.S., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Submarine's position 71.25 N. 15.45 W.

(311 Sqn., 1142/12 to 19th Group C.C.)

2nd class bearing obtained by H/F D/F, believed German submarine type of transmission not identified. ? Endeavouring to locate and attack.

(BLACK SWAN, 1740A/12 to Admty.)

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

WIAN WIAN returned from K.M.S.9 square 24 heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0859/12)

Vessel on Orrisdale Head. Proceed with all despatch to assist vessel aground on Orrisdale Head Isle of Man 54° 18' N. 4° 35' W. Maintain continuous W/T watch 500 Kcs. Acknowledge.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 0932A/12 to BUSTLER.)

Sailed BUSTLER in accordance with my 0932A/12.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1015A/12)

Return to Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915A/12 to BUSTLER)

S.S. CASTILIAN. Proceed to assistance of SS CASTILIAN ashore on East Platters $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.W. Skerries Light reporting E.T.A. to N.O.I.C. Holyhead.
(F.O.I.C.N.I.1004A/12 to SCHELDE)

SS CASTILIAN on East Platters Inshore of Skerries abandoned all crew safe. Vessel hard and fast at right angle to direction of wind. Possible that flood tide may slow her and she may move into deep water when there will be danger of foundering HUDDERSFIELD TOWN kept at immediate notice in case vessel moves. Weather conditions do not allow any vessel to remain near her.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1026A/12)

My 1026A/12 ship considered total wreck. Firmly settled head N.W. and listing 45° to Port. Anticipate decks will be awash low water. Weather permitting hope to salve 6 bags Diplomatic Mail in Chart House next A.M. low tide. Further salvage doubtful.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1026A/12)

CUMBERLAND. In order to comply with C. in C. H.F. 2236/11 (?2234/11 intended) E.R. 1596 (CUMBERLAND) will be undocked A.M./14 and proceed to Tail o' The Bank to fuel and embark aeroplanes. Defects in fore peak have been progressed but work is by no means complete. A written report has been forwarded to D.N.C.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1305A/13 to C. in C. H.F.)

VALIANT It is proposed that VALIANT should refit at Devonport arriving about 26th Feb. So far as can be foreseen at present the refit will take from 2½ to 3 months.

2. Request your views whether there is any undue risk having regard to the other units which will be present during the period. Meanwhile the Air Ministry has been informed of the periods when important ships will be present.
(V.C.N.S. 1515A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth)

CULEBRA My 1455/11. Returned on account of weather.
(A.C.I.C.1646A/12 to N.O.I.C. Thurso)

/My ...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

CULEBRA (Contd.) My 1809/8 and 1455/11. After a hazardous night at sea rescue tug HORSIA has had to return to Reykjavik as she was unable to control CULEBRA in even a moderate sea and wind. It is therefore requested that a more powerful tug may be sent to assist HORSIA in getting this valuable tow to the U.K.
(A.C.I.C. 1723A/12 to Admty.)

SHERWOOD men over-board. 2 men lost overboard in 056° 01' N. 010° 45' W. 2 Denton rafts dropped but men not recovered. Request you will keep look out.
(SHERWOOD 1708A/12 to WAVENEY)
Your 1708. Regret nothing sighted.
(WAVENEY 2225Z/12 to SHERWOOD)

MOONRISE Your 1108/9 not received until 12th Feb. MOONRISE should not be placed on mud berth as she will be required to proceed to conversion yard. My 2147A/9 refers.
(D.S.V.P. 2101A/12 to C, in C. Plymouth)

S.O.S. ? SAMUEL CHASE. Following received from Portrush Radio. S.O.S. distress bearing by D/F (corrupt group) 328° class one.
(Port Patrick Radio 2122 G.M.T./12)

SAMUEL CHASE. Intercept 2147 G.M.T. on 500 KCs. from unknown station. begins: Annul My S.O.S. my 2135/12 DE A P D No.94, ends. Signal strength 2 - 3.
(Wick Radio 2250/12)

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53 Your 1735/9th (Hush Most Secret) not to S.B.N.O. Archangel. J.W.53 sails 15th Feb.
(C. in C. H.F. 1121A/12 to S.B.N.O. N. Russia, (R) Admty, S.B.N.O. Archangel, Admiral Miles.)

M.K.S.7 Following received from escort via aircraft position 0800/12 44° 50' N. 12° 36' W. 357° 8 knots.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 0345A/12)
Your 1457A/12th. H/F D/F bearings indicate M.K.S.7 is being shadowed by at least 3 U-Boats. My position 045° 52' N. 012° 33' W. Weather 5580 3573.
(ROCHESTER 1600A/12 to Admty.)
French ships GROIX and CHAMPOLLION are due Tail of the Bank about 17/2 in convoy M.K.S.7. 213 personnel are on board GROIX.
3. As far as is known no personnel are on board CHAMPOLLION.
4. Both vessels may be taken over for conversion to troop transports for which purpose they would proceed to fitting out ports not yet nominated but further signal will follow.
Preliminary inspections as to their suitability will be held at the Tail of the Bank.
(D.S.T. 2219A/12)

/K.M.F.9 ...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.F.9. Convoy K.M.F.9 sailed from U.K. 8th Feb. comprising troopships: WINDSOR CASTLE, NEA HELLAS, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, MONARCH OF BERMUDA carrying 12753 personnel for Oran, Algiers, Philippeville, Bougie, Bone.
2. M.T. Ship TAWALI (Stores, ammunition, M.T., guns) also included for Oran.
3. Particulars of vessels NEA HELLAS, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT with personnel for destinations East of Oran. (D.S.T., 0426A/12.)

- S.C.118. Arrived CHURCHILL.
Search for survivors. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1025A/12.)
Your 1102. Return to Oban.
Attacked by U-Boats (C. in C. W.A., 1353A/12 to SOUTHERN WAVE.)
4th to 7th Your 0915/12th not to Capt. (D) Liverpool
February. proceed to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 1355A/12 to BUTTERCUP.)
Following preliminary report from BEVERLEY, MIGNONETTE, ABELIA and ANEMONE. All times G.M.T.
1. General.

(A) Route appeared clear of U-Boats when U.187 sighted and reported at about 1015/4. Prisoners state that submarine was not on patrol but on passage with 5 others to American waters. Appears likely that U-Boats on passage do not use W/T and therefore are not indicated in submarine situation report.

(B) Attacks come from down wind i.e. weather side.

(C) M/F D/F was heard on one occasion only by BEVERLEY searching between 425 and 475 k/cs approximately.

2. Attacks.

(A) BEVERLEY sighted 1059/4 and chased, then stationed VIMY who picked up contact and attacked. BEVERLEY held the ring by carrying out observant, as asdics failed temporarily. Prisoners report VIMY's third attack crushed in side. Submarine was flooded immediately to a depth of 5 feet. Submarine surfaced at once. BEVERLEY picked up 3 officers and 37 ratings.

(B) 2130/4 BEVERLEY in position F obtained R.D.F. contact at 5000 yards outside screen. Chased, sighted and closed to 200 yards searched on 10-inch searchlight. Fired one round 4-inch and starshell and close-range weapons. U-Boat turned sharply to port and dived inside turning circle, dropped 5 charges set to 50 foot to scare. Carried out second attack at 2210/4, no apparent result. ANEMONE joined and both ships carried out box search round area for 25 minutes before sweeping back to convoy. At 2327/4 R.D.F. contact 2000 yards, chased and sighted, closed to 160 yards, fired Oerlikon and Lewis illuminated with 10-inch. Submarine again turned sharply and avoided being rammed. Picked up contact and attacked with 10 charge pattern shallow at 2344. No apparent result. Returned to convoy.

(C) As a result of H/F D/F bearings BEVERLEY ordered to search. Sighted at 1130/5 distant 7 miles, chased. U-Boat dived at 6 miles. A/S contact at 1258, carried out hedgehog attack. All charges exploded apparently on surface (old type fuses), brief contact obtained and lost during box search.

/(E) ...

12.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- S.C.118. Search for survivors. Attacked by U-Boats 4th to 7th February. (Contd.)
- (E) At 2240/5 R.D.F. contact 2400 inside screen. BEVERLEY in position G chased, sighted, and fired starshell and close-range weapons which made him dive at 500 yards. Hedgehog attack good, no result. Scared with one depth charge and rejoined convoy. Nearly out of depth charges.
- (F) 2145/6 ABELIA position M R.D.F. contact 3500 yards, chased, but could not close within 1,800 yards. 2153 fired starshell, R.D.F. contact lost and A/S contact gained, and counter-attacked 10 charge pattern. No apparent result. Carried out box sweep for 28 minutes then resumed station.
- (G) 0444/7 ABELIA position M R.D.F. contact 3,500 yards. Operator obtained contact at approximately 1000 yards ahead leading ship of port column. Closed and attempted to ram. R.D.F. held to 400 yards when U-Boat sighted few degrees on starboard bow. A/S contact 350 yards strong hydrophone. Altered course to ram. U-Boat dived at 200 yards, shallow pattern dropped 150 yards ahead of swirl. Attack appeared very promising. Further attacks had to be broken off to avoid collision with convoy. Reported and resumed station.
- (Cdre. Londonderry, 1930A/12 to Admty.)
Return to Milford Haven. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. W.A., 2201A/12 to PROSPEROUS.)
- Convoy U.C. 1. 1. 1315A/14th. 2. Unescorted. 3. 1.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1056A/12.)
- O.N.S.J.167. Convoy delayed by weather. Escort your section to Bloody Bay.
2. Sail to R/V with O.N.S.167 in 270° Oversay 6' at 1130Z/14.
3. Acknowledge.
(C. in C. W.A., 1119A/12 to SETTER.)
- K.M.S.9. E.34 returned due to heavy weather damage.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1158/12.)
- SS. PACIFIC. Ref. C. in C. Nore's 1714A/11 no trace of SS. PACIFIC in this area up to 1045 today Friday.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1159A/12.)
- O.N. 166. C. Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.3 in SPENCER (H/F D/F) plus CAMPBELL (H/F D/F), CHILLIWACK, DIANTHUS, ROSTHERN, TRILLIUM, DAUPHIN sailed to meet O.N.166. Latest Q.J.A. 173.
(C.T. 24.7, 1200Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

/H.X.225 ...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- H.X.225. My 1250/11 last sentence. Propose following destinations.
WAVENEY, LAGAN, DRUMHELLER, MORDEN to Londonderry.
SHERWOOD, PRIMROSE Liverpool.
Request refitting port for POLYANTHUS.
(C.T.U. 24.12, 1328Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
SHERWOOD escorting H.X. 225 (F) for Mersey consisting
LARGS BAY, MENELAUS (corrupt) CAPE NEDDICK. E.T.A. position
(a) 0015Z/13th speed 13 knots.
IVARAN rejoins H.X.225.
(SHERWOOD, 1455A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
(A) DRUMHELLER escorting Loch Ewe section until daylight
13th. MORDEN Irish Sea section.
(B) E.T.A. position (A) 0900Z/13th.
(C) E.T.A. Barra Head 0400Z/13th and Loch Ewe 1400Z/13th.
(D) MAIHAR NOREG and 2 others straggling. FORT LIVINGSTONE
reports going to Belfast for compass adjustment.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 1542Z/12.)
1 submarine on the surface bearing 320° 2 miles. My
position 056° 01', 010° 45'. Sighted by merchant ship.
(SHERWOOD, 1640A/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.(Liverpool),
C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
My 2649/12th (as received, ? 1640/12 intended). Consider
submarine sighting doubtful. Have abandoned hunt and continuing
with H.X.225 (F).
(SHERWOOD, 1711A/12 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)
Your 1328/12th all escorts should proceed to Londonderry.
Refitting port for POLYANTHUS is being arranged.
(C. in C. W.A., 1740A/12 to C.T.U. 24.1.12.)
- S.C. 118. Estimated position 2201 tonight. S.C.L.118
INGHAM, BIBB, U.S.D. SCHENCK 61.19, 20.51 north-
westward.
(A.C.I.C., 1414A/12.)
- F.N. 42. My 1000 amend E.T.A. to 0130 due to adverse head
wind and sea which has scattered convoy between
18A and 18D Buoys. Am remaining with rear.
Request fighter protection in vicinity (?) for
dusk period. Sea temperature 42.
(WINCHESTER, 1430/12 to C. in C. Rosyth, (R)
N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ships employed on
East Coast Convoy Duties, 13th Fighter Group.)
- T.A. 35. Intend sailing ANDES passing Clyde boom 0300A/15
to pass through position (P) at 1000A/15 thence
in accordance with A.M. 1926A/10. Codeword
"Baulk".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1504A/12.)

/Ships ...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Ships in North Russia. RICHARD (?LEE) and EMPIRE ARCHER arrived Kola Inlet from White Sea 0430A/12. EMPIRE EMERALD and CHESTER VALLEY expected to clear Cradlo shortly.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1520A/12.)

P.S. 13, S.P. 13. P.S.13 and S.P.13 cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1554/12.)

K.X. 9. My 1526/8. Convoy K.X.9.
1. STELLA CARINA will be unable to sail.
2. My 1924/20. If MAN OF WAR can be prepared in time she is to be sailed to R/V with K.X.9 in place of STELLA CARINA. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange.
3. A further signal will be made regarding STELLA CARINA.
(D.O.D.(H), 1713A/12.)
A.M. 1526A/8th and 1658A/11th. Voyage is approx. 200 hours. WISHART can remain at sea 200 hours only at 8 knots or below. WISHART will have to leave convoy about a.m./20th Feb. in about 041° N. This assumes a mean speed of 10 knots while with convoy and economical speed to Gibraltar and 10% fuel remaining.
(WISHART, 1930A/12 to Admty.)

K.M.S.9. Immediate to: C. in C. Plymouth, ATHERSTONE and VELOX.
Request you will order ATHERSTONE and VELOX to join K.M.S.9 and reinforce escort for as long as endurance permits.
(D.O.D.(H), 1738A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A., ATHERSTONE, VELOX, Escorts of K.M.S.9.)
Comply with A.M. 1738/12th if endurance permits.
K.M.S.9 S.O. of Escort BLACK SWAN estimate position at 2000A/12th 043° 28' N. 014° 01' W. thence to (R).
(R) 041° 59' N. 013° 59' W. (S) 040° 01' N. 010° 59' W.
(T) 037° 00' N. 011° 01' W. (Z) 036° 05' N. 009° 59' W.
to Gibraltar at 9 knots.
P.35 passes through 043° 01' N. 011° 10' W. at 1900A/12th (? diving) by day course 00° advancing 115 miles per day.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1933A/12 to ATHERSTONE, (R) VELOX, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.S., N.C.X.F., Escort of K.M.S.9.)
Your 1933A/12th. VELOX proceeding to join convoy at 22 knots. ATHERSTONE at 15 knots. My position at 2000A/12 (014° or 046° ?) 40' N. 010° 29' W.
(ATHERSTONE, 2140A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., F.O.S., Admty., K.M.S.9, VELOX.)

Escort oilers for convoys. Situation with regard to the provision of escort oilers for convoys is far from satisfactory and it is often not known until immediately prior to sailing of convoy which oilers will be sailing with it. This precludes any training being

/carried ...

12.2.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Escort
oilers for
convoys.
(Contd.)

carried out at Moville prior to sailing and seriously affects the results obtained at sea.
2. The difficulties of ascertaining in advance which oilers will be ready to sail are appreciated but it is considered that some improvement might be effected if there was a fixed routine.
3 - 6. Proposals.
(C. in C. W.A., 1855A/12.)

M.K.S.7,
K.M.S.9,
K.M.F.9.

A.M. 1457A/12. Further W/T activity, on 4412 k/cs indicate that a convoy is being shadowed. Bearings are inconclusive and which is the threatened convoy is not yet established.
(D.D.I.C., 1930A/12 to Escorts of M.K.S.7, Escorts of K.M.S.9, Escorts of K.M.F.9, (R)

ABDIEL, VELOX, ATHERSTONE, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

A.M. 1457A/12 and 1930A/12 (neither to N.C.X.F.). Bearings of further transmissions on 4412 k/cs indicate that convoy being shadowed is probably K.M.S.9.

(D.D.I.C., 2300A/12 to Escorts of M.K.S.7, Escorts of K.M.S.9, Escorts of K.M.F.9, (R) ABDIEL, VELOX, ATHERSTONE, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

12.2.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Mines, Gibraltar Straits. My 1142/11. CADMUS reports three mines swept today. (2) One anti-sweeping device recovered. (F.O.C. Gib. 0002A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.) My 0002A/12. Mines seen not identified. Spherical 44" diameter without horns filling plate without studs which might be electrode. Opportunity of recovery likely. Suggest consideration sending expert in mine recovery by air. (F.O.C. Gib. 2250/12 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.) See also 2257A/12.

ST. LUCIEN . German Controlled French ST. LUCIEN Expect leaving Cartagena for Marseilles not before evening of 12th Febuary. (S.O.(I). Gib. 0105A/12 to S.O.(I) Malta S.O.(I) X.F.) Amended 0817A/13. French ST. LUCIEN leaves Cartagena for Marseilles not before evening of 12th. Feb. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 0126A/12 to P. 339 (R) Capt. (S)8.)

K.M.S.9. Following is passed to you for action and reply. Addressed C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. Capt. (D) Liverpool. From BLACK SWAN. (Begins). K.M.S.9, 47 ships and all escorts in company. P.C. and S. 046° 28' N. 013° 42' W. 180° 9.06413063. Can now make position Z. P.M. Sunday 14th. Request approval T.O.O. 2002A/11th. (Ends). (C. in C. W.A. 0308A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., BLACK SWAN, Capt. (D) Liverpool.)

M.K.S.7. F.O.C. Gib. 0345A/12 see Home Commands.

U/B. U/B sighted on surface in 036° 00'N. 007° 38' W. at 0230/12th. Course 078° speed 15 knots. F.O.C. Gib. 0533A/12 to S. and A. North Atlantic Area X. (R) Admty.)

KINGSTON CHRYSLITE. Situation 2004A/12th. KINGSTON CHRYSLITE patrolling off Ponta Delgada holds incorrect recognition signal. (F.O.I.C. Gib., 1016A/12 to N.A.S. Area Y.)

Situation Report. Area X, 2001A/12th. R.3.1. PENTSTEMON 32.57 09.25 through 32.40 09.37 and 31.48 10.09 thence 215° 8½. NORTHERN FOAM in vicinity 36.30 N.06.30

War Diary.

12.2.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

Situation West towing abandoned CATA to Gib.
Report. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 1035A/12 1703A/12 to N.A.S.)

WINOOSKI Unless units of Task Force 32 available as escort
G.U.S.4. plan to sail WINOOSKI company G.U.S.4.
Request F.O. Gib. arrange WINOOSKI R/V with Med.
section of G.U.S.4 about, 19th Feb. advised.
C. in C. U.S. 1141/14th. Jan. refers. Movements T.F. 32 being
forwarded (Corrupt Group). Aluslo Gib. pass to C.T.F. 32 and
WINOOSKI.
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1045Z/12 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet. F.O.C. Gib.)

GUECHO My 1610/10 GUECHO leaves Genoa 16th Feb.
(Swiss). (D.E.W.D. 1051A/12 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F.)

U/B. Am over Enemy S/M in 37° 11' N. 14° 25' W.
(A/C SKP/B, 1119A/12 to T.D.8.)

SITUATION, Area x.B. of W.Med. K.M.F.9 OAKLEY 040° 49' 012°
2001 A/12th. 12' through 40.01 11.01 and 37.01 11.01 thence
141 10.3. (2) K.M.S.9 BLACK SWAN 42° 52' 13°
58' 9. (3) VELOX, ATHERSTONE 46° 28' 10° 38' 15.
(4) R.S. 1. VANOC 032° 57' 009° 25' through 32.40 09.37 and
31.48 1009 thence 215 8½. (5) IMPERIALIST 32.57 14.28 068°
8½. (6) LOCH OSKAIG, ST. NECTAN, 32.54 14.43 to patrol in
vicinity of 32.24 16.09. (7) Spanish training ship GALATEA
left Corunna 5th to arrive Las Palmas 15th.
(F.O., Gib., 1238A/12 as amended 1816A/12 to N.A. Stn.)

R.S.1. Following ships sailed for Takoradi, LYCAON,
THESEUS, CALUMET, OCEAN VICEROY, OCEAN VENGEANCE.
For Safi, ITTERSUM. For Casablanca, CAP PINEDE,
EL BIAR. All ships hold S.P. 02272 (22) and (23).
(F.O.C. Gib. 1239A/12 to F.O.C.W.A. S.N.O. Casablanca Area
(R) Admty., N.C,X.F.)

Area "Z". U.G.F.5. 036° 50' 040° 12' through 036° 40' 034°
15' thence 098° 12½.
(F.O. Gib. 1745A/12 to N.A.S.,)

Gib. Gib. convoy No.1 arrived.
Convoy 1. (F.O.C. Gib. 1241A/12 to N.C.S.O. Freetown, N.C.
x.F. (R) Admty., Connav.)

JAMAICA. C. in C. H.F. 1431 (Hush, Most Secret.) 29th Jan.
Departure JAMAICA delayed owing to contaminated
ruel.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1252A/12 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

C.G.11. Intend sail C.G.11 consisting of OCEAN VIGIL, ROBIN GRAY, JAMES E. IRSDELL, ALCOA BANNER, ALCOA TRADER, LT. DE LA TOUR (French) VILLE D'ORAN, (French) DE LA SALLE (French) ST. MAXIME, (French) depart Casablanca 1200A/16 escorted by the? Destroyer plus U.S.S. RAVEN and OSPREY from T.F.38. Safi. Section consisting of ANNISTON CITY escorted by GLEAVES depart Safi 1600A/15 R/V with Casablanca Section at 1700A/16 position 33.55 N. 07.53 W. GLEAVES augment escort to Gib. through points (D) 35.00 N. 06.48 W. (E) 35.50 N. 06.01 W. S. of A. 8.5 knots E.T.A. 4 miles S. Tarifa 1400A/17. Stragglers route B.S. Convoy F.O.C. Gib. requested to return escorts immediately. Convoy code word "Tarbat". Convoy Guard 500 K/cs. Escorts Guard 2410 K/cs. Gib. Fox 2333 K/cs. S. 35 N. 1570 K/cs N. 35 N. C.T.U. 56.7.2. provide normal Air Coverage Mission 46 Safi. Section Mission 47 after R/V. C.T.U. 26.7.3 and C.T.U. 26.7.1. provide escort through Minefield H. (S.N.O.C.A. 1400Z/12 to C.T.F.38, C.T.U.26.7.1. C.T.U.26.7.2., C.T.U.26.7.3., (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C. Gib., A.H.Q. Gib., F.O.I.C., Oran, Admty., etc.)

ST. NECTAN. Your 1607A/9th. Will arrive position J day 13th. (2) In view of your signals to IMPERIALIST intend carrying A/S hunt in that area pending further orders. (3) Your 1846/9th, latest Q.K.A. No.86 and Q.K.3. (4) Wind East Force 4 moderate sea Northerly Swell cloud base 3000 10/10 visibility 15 miles. No Barometer. P.C. and S. 33.22 N. 13.18 $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 248° 9 knots. (ST. NECTAN 1407A/12 to F.O.I.C. Gib., (R) LORD HOTHAM.)

ARIGUANI. Your 1611/11. Request you will sail ARIGUANI for U.K. in tow tug NIMBLE at first convenient opportunity. (N.C.X.F. 1455A/12 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)

Gibraltar, Water Supply. Following is text Freedom Algiers 6542/21 Jan. (Begins) N. African Shipping Board considers there should be no need supply water to majority ships calling Gib. and that non-enforcement of rationing waste and lack knowledge water shortage in this area are main reasons why ships are running short and demand replenishment (? from you). Signal being made to D. of S.T. London requesting first all ships carry full capacity fresh water on sailing and second Masters of all ships entering N. African waters be informed shortage here and instructed to ration supplies throughout voyage. Further signal being made to all M.W.T.R. at N. African Ports instructing them to report on fresh water position in all ships on arrival and to inform Masters that water supplies not (repetition not) available either in N. African ports or in Gib. This should ensure reduction in demand made on you. Ends. (Gov. C. in C. Gib. 1500A/12 to W.O.)

/Your ...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

Gibraltar Your 20285 of 7th Feb. (1325/7.)
Water 1. Matter under examination by Joint Planning
Supply. Staff who will make early recommendation to Chiefs
of Staff. 2. Following information required
in order to suggest methods for reducing number
of ships drawing water:-
(a) Could you please state what portion of estimate of future
weekly water issue is allotted to ships, (i) In Gib.
(ii) East bound. (iii) West bound. (b) M.W.T. have
already signalled P.S.T.O.X.F. (R) P.S.T.O. Gib. requesting names
of ships that have taken water lately and quantities.
Could reply covering period from mid-January to date be expedited
(c) If ships arrive at Gib. from N. Africa or elsewhere with
surplus water have you water boats available to ship this water
from ship to shore installations.
(W.O. 1835A/12 to Gov. and C. in C. Gib (R) Freedom, Algiers.)

MIRROR. Cable Ship MIRROR arrived 1500 G.M.T./11th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1545/12 to F.O.I.C. Gib.
(R) Admty.)

MIRROR escorted by KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE sailed from Ponta Delgada
at 1300A/12 routed through (A) 37° 30' N. 20° 01' W.
(B) 35° 30' N. 17° 01' W. (C) 35° 30' N. 10° 30' W. thence to
position 36° 55' N. 08° 31' W. to commence operation detailed in
your 2037/6 amended by your 2030/9.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1847A/12 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)

Spanish Following received from Lands End Radio.
Shipping. Intercept 1507 G.M.T. 500 K/cs. On account of
mines in Straits of Gib. all Spanish ships are so
far as possible to keep within territorial waters,
and are for preference to hug the African coast.
(C.C.O. Plymouth 1630/12 to Admiral Plymouth.)

K.M.F.9. T.C.A.O. 11, Feb. 11th. Gibraltar.
(A) K.M.F. 9, Damson One C, last. light 12th to
moonset 13th.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1710A/12 to S. and A. Areas X.A.
and X.B.)

ARIGUANI. V.A. Gib. 1611/11. Reply see A.M. 1722A/12
(in Home Commands.)

VANOC My 1815/11th, 1816/11th and 1309/12th (N.T. in W.
EMPRESS D.) not all to VANOC.. Request you will sail
OF VANOC to R/V EMPRESS OF RUSSIA in 29.30 N. 15.25
RUSSIA. W. at 1200/17. VANOC S. of A. 13½ knots.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1740A/12 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Admty.,
F.O.C.W.Af., N.C.X.F., VANOC.)
See also 1823/12.

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

TORBAY firing on Spanish SAN JURJO. Your 003/9th part 2. This has been done and was very well received. I believe incident can now be regarded closed. (N.A. Madrid 1757/12 to Admty., F.O. Gib. V.A. Malta, Gib., pass to N.C.X.F.)

Spain and Axis Mines, Gibraltar. Your untimed signal (Message T.O.O. 1401A/11 refers.) Feb. 11th in reply to my 0001/11th. I told Minister of Marine at the time that they must be Axis mines and he at once accepted that. Explanation requested was what did we know and why had we not warned them when we discovered mines earlier in the day. We have never been accused of laying mines and Minister told me this morning that complaint will be made to German and Italian Governments. (N.A. Madrid, 1804/12 to Admty.)

BARFOIL NORTHERN FOAM. Arrival 0840 B.D.V. BARFOIL escorted by H.M.T. NORTHERN FOAM. (F.O.C. Gib. 1812A/12 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BOREAS, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Intend to sail BOREAS at 1700/13 Feb. to R/V with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA in position (Z) 26.01 N. 16.50 W at 1700Z/16 Feb. 2. Route V. 35.50 N. 06.15 W. W. 29.01 N. 14.45 W. X. 27.50 N. 14.50 W. Y. 26.17 N. 16.50 W. Z. 26.01 N. 16.50 W. 3. S. of A. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. 4. Onward route from Z as in F.O.C. W. Africa's 2149 Feb. 10th. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 1823A/12 to S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.) Your 2149/10/2, 0259/12/2. My 1815/11/2. (1) BOREAS being sailed to R/V as in my 1815/11?. (2) In view of U/B situation it is considered preferable for BURDOCK to remain with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA until second destroyer joins. (F.O.C. Gib. 2309A/12 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) S.N.O.C.A. N.C.X.F.) See also South Atlantic.

G.U.S.4. Your 1726Z/11. Route through (F) 34° N. 10° W. (G) 31° N. 13° W. (H) 29° 30' N. 16° 01' W. (J) 29° 29' N. 27° 02' W. (K) 33° N. 38° W. (L) 35° N. 47° W. (M) 36° N. 53° W. (N) 37° N. 69° W. 2. Stragglers route (Q) 34° N. 10° W. (R) 30° N. 13° W. (S) 29° 30' N. 16° 02' W. (T) 29° N. 26° W. (U) 32° N. 39° W. (V) 34° N. 48° W. (W) 35° N. 55° W. (X) 37° N. 69° W. (D.O.D. (H) 1935A/12 to S.N.O.C.A., (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gib. N.O.I.C. Oran, C.T.F. 36, N.S.H.Q., Connav.)

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

Mines , N.C.X.F's 1728/11. (A) Routed in accordance
Gibraltar with N.C.X.F's 1217/2. (B) and (C) Confirmed.
Straits (F.O.C. Gib. 1937A/12 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)
DUERO
sunk.

Movements, Feb. 12 VANOC and TAPAGUESE (Fr.) arrived.
Casablanca. U.S.S. GLEAVES and OSPREY departed for Safi.
(Comseafon W.T.F. 1941/12 to Admty. etc.)

American Gen. Marshall has telgraphed Allied C. in C. asking
Aircraft immediate comment on message from Navy Department,
for of which para 2 is a paraphrase.
Casablanca. 2. (Begins) Propose that from 6 to 12 American
an A.S.V. B. 24 aircraft should be transferred to
Casablanca from U.K. as our convoys approaching
that area are being seriously endangered. These aircraft are
the only available additional striking force which can be brought
to bear in time. Immediate action is necessary in view of im-
portance of time factor.
3. Marshall points out that the 2 V.S. squadrons based in U.K.
were diverted from Western Atlantic in first instance for purpose
of protecting shipping in connection with "Torch".
4. Allied C. in C. has drafted a reply concurring in proposal
but I am not sufficiently informed of Atlantic situation to give
my concurrence without Admty. view.
5. Request very early reply.
(N.C.X.F. 1044A/12 to Admty.)
Reply: 1801A/13.

Movements Arrivals 1830 CADMUS, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, from
Gibraltar. M/S sweep. Departures 1905 F.O. 'H' in NELSON,
RODNEY, ASHANTI, ESKIMO, TARTAR, HAYDON, CALPE,
VENOMOUS, WIVERN, VERITY, for Mers-el-Kebir.
(F.O.C. Gib. 2005A/12 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Minesweeping Casablanca area.
Gibraltar. My 1142A/11. Clearance completed between 35° 55'
12" N. and 35° 53' 00" N. One mine swept today.
2. Weather unsuitable for sweeping p.m., sweepers
returned to harbour.
3. Intend carrying out 62½% search of Q.K.A. 87 prior to K.M.F.
9. passing on 14/Feb. subsequently completing clearance referred
to above.
4. My 0002A/12 para. 2 This device appears to be released
gear and shock absorber from mine moorings.
(F.O.C. Gib. 2257A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., S.N.O.)
Casablanca Area.)

12.2.1943.
Friday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, BOREAS, BURDOCK. F.O.C. Gibraltar's 1815A/11. Concur. But in order that BURDOCK may join escort of R.S.1, request BOREAS only may take over escort in position X 24.01 N. 17.30 W. at 0700Z/16. (F.O.C.W.A., 0259Z/12 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F.)

Convoy D.C.7. Sailing telegram. (2) 0500Z/12th. (4) 9 knots. (5) Coastal. (12) Capetown E.T.A. a.m./16th Feb. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0723Z/12 to Admty etc).

P.614 Simonstown arrival 12th Feb. (C. in C. S.A., 0951C/12 to Admty etc).

EGERO. Departure Pointe Noire 0930Z/12th Tanker EGERO. Routed through (M) Equator 003° 55' E. E.T.A. Lagos (Nigeria) dawn 16th. Draught 21 ft. (B.N.L.O.W.A., 1035A/12 to R.A.W.A., (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos).
Your 1622/10 and my 1035/12th. EGERO at Pointe Noire 7140 tons furnace oil. Has 4636 tons remaining for estimated requirements.
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1045A/12 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos).

QUEEN ANNE (C.A.11) sunk 10 Feb. Possible R.D.F. on U/B. British Ship QUEEN ANNE in convoy (C.S.11) torpedoed and sunk at 2320Z/10th in 035° 53' S. 019° 51' E. 17 survivors rescued by ST. ZENO and 22 others landed near Bredasdorp. 2. ST. ZENO reports she attacked submarine and claims success.
(C. in C. S.A., 1116Z/12 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.W.Af).
Details of attack, see 1156/16.
Your 1116/12th. Request verification of position received as 35° 53' S. 19° 51' E.
(D.T.D., 1955A/12 to C. in C. S.A.) Position amended, see 1841C/13. (p. 499)
My 1116/12. Interrogation of QUEEN ANNE survivors disclosed
(a) U-boat surfaced at 0430Z/11 Feb. and Captain asked name of ship torpedoed.
(b) Whilst doing so, U-boat crash dived suddenly for no apparent reason.
(c) 20 minutes later aircraft appeared (this was a S.A.A.F. based aircraft).
2. U-boat was approx. 250 feet long, slightly raised bow, raked stem, very broad beam, short slender C/T with gadget at after end resembling a big bullrush, set at an angle leaning aft. Armament was one 4 inch gun just forward and one A.A. gun just aft of C/T.
3. Survivors landed Port Elizabeth from British ship HELMSPEY confirm similar "bullrush" contrivance on C/T seen on second U-boat

12.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- QUEEN ANNE (CA.11) sunk 10 Feb. Possible R.D.F. aircraft approach to a range of up to at least 60 miles. Contd.
4. Inference is that U-boats here are now fitted with some form of A.S.V. or R.D.F. equipment capable of obtaining warning of aircraft approach to a range of up to at least 60 miles.
 5. U-boat crash dived and disappeared within 30 seconds.
 6. Speed on surface estimated at 17 to 20 knots. (C. in C. S.A., 2326C/12 to Admty etc).

Following from Group Captain Drew. C. in C. S.A.'s 2326/12. From Personal Interrogation of Chief Engineer and Second Mate QUEEN ANNE the gadget appears to be as follows. A stalk projecting about 4 feet above C/T casing. Stalk estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, except for top 6 to 8 inches which was estimated at 2 inches diameter. Whole gadget situated at aft end of C/T leaning aft. Somewhat similar apparatus seen on U-boat which attacked SS. HELMSPEY same night. U-boat dived very suddenly with gadget still in position. Personal opinion is that this is possibly some form of listening device. (C. in C. S.A., 2335C/12 to Air Min. (R) Admty. etc).
 Reply: Admty. 1700A/14.

Movements. Arrival 11th Brazilian Submarine Chasers C.S. 51, Para. 52, 53 U.S. Aircraft tender THRUSH, arrival 12th U.S. Destroyer OSMOND INGRAM. (R.O. Para. 1117/12th to Admty (R) B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro).

Dispositions. Situation 2000Z/12th. F.S. ARCHIMEDE on surface 17.17 32.03 296° 12½.
 F.S. AMAZONE on surface 14.19 25.55 296° 7.
 French Cruiser GLOIRE patrolling between 010° N. and 012° N. 025° W. and 030° W.
 BRIDGEWATER, FANDANGO, ARRAN, 2 M.Ls. with S.R.1. 13.55 17.43 355° 8.
 INKPEN escorting from S.R.1 to Dakar and rejoining S.R.1.
 BURDOCK escorting 09.05 14.53 to 09.50 16.53 thence 332° 12½.
 French A.M.C. QUERCY off Cape Verga to Konakri 13½.
 (F.O.W.A., 1229Z/12 to Area P).
 BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN with C.N.6 arrives Walvis Bay a.m./13th Feb. FRITILLARY, CAPE WARWICK with C.N.7 032° 30' S. 017° 30' E. to Walvis Bay 7½.
 THYME escorting NESTOR 028° 20' S. 015° 15' E. to Walvis Bay 10¼.
 CARNATIC about 021° 20' S. 012° 10' E. to Simonstown 12.
 COVENTRY CITY, VEREENIGING with D.C.6 off Cape Point to Capetown.
 ST. ZENO, LE TIGRE 036° 35' S. 023° 40' E. to Capetown 9.
 SPHENE with RECORDER 029° 30' S. 031° 50' E. NIGELLA, ARCTIC.
 EXPLORER 032° 40' S. 037° 15' E. to Durban 10.
 Convoy D.C.7 031° 30' S. 030° 15' E. to Capetown 7.
 Convoy C.A.11 A, 033° 45' S. 026° 45' E. to Durban 8.
 (C. in C. S.A., 1239C/12).

/Situation...

461

12.2.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation at 2001Z/12th. RANCHI 05.51 11.45 303°
Contd. 14.
SARABANDE escorting 04.24 05.03 265° 8.
CYCLAMEN, CROCUS 03.49 05.56 083° 12.5
CORINTHIAN, HYDRANGEA, ADRIAS, escorting 03.33
02.44 273° 12.
BELLWORT 2 M.Ls. escorting 06.56 12.56 to 07.38 14.10 thence
to Freetown 8.
Convoy W.S. 26 02.51 00.26 128° 12.5
RELENTLESS probably off Lagos to join Convoy W.S. 26.
COPINSAY escorting MARSHALL to Freetown.
DRANGEY escort VIGIL to Takoradi.
Portuguese Sloop ALFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE about 02.00 05.00 to
North West 14.
ACMEDIA (?ARMERIA) arriving (?Calabar) 0600Z/13th from North
West.
(R.A.W.A., 1347Z/10 to Area P).

CARNARVON Your 1240/11th and 1300/11th. Ample stocks of
CASTLE, Marine Diesel oil available here.
fuelling (N.A. Montevideo, 1237Z/12 to Admty).
Montevideo. Intend to refuel Montevideo. 1900 tons diesel
oil required. Expect to arrive 17th or 18th
Feb.
(CARNARVON CASTLE, 1625Z/12 to N.A. Montevideo,
C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.
Comsolant, N.O.I.C. Falkland Is).

Ref. Admty. 1240/11 my 1800/4th and 1345/10. Following
action taken at Signy. Two Flagstaffs with metal Union Jacks
erected and record of visit signed by me deposited under cairn
at old whaling station. 4 Notice boards inscribed "British
Crown Islands" set up at various points.
At Laurie found only 4 Argentines - 2 scientists W/T operator
and cook. I landed with party from ship and was very cordially
received. Argentine flag was flying. No comment made about
flag nor was subject of sovereignty mentioned. Gift of eggs
vegetables and fruit left by CARNARVON CASTLE was much
appreciated. It was explained that CARNARVON CASTLE was
cruising in Islands for purpose of finding out if anchorages were
being used by enemy. This was in accordance with instructions
from Secretary of State to Governor, Falkland Isles. O.I.C.
Meteorological Station stated no ship had been sighted during
past 12 months.

(CARNARVON CASTLE, 1524Z/12 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A. etc).

Routeing of Following amendments to existing instructions
convoys in are to be brought into force forthwith.
Cape Area. (A) From Durban. Westbound traffic.
1. Ships of 8.0 to 14.9 knots except as in (A)
(2). In D.C. convoy to Capetown for onward
routeing.
2. Ships of 10 to 14.9 knots, if suitable and without calls at
intermediate principal ports. In D.N. convoy thence well
outside 300 miles from the coast and in accordance with existing
routeing instructions.
3. Ships of 15 knots and over, without calls at intermediate
Union ports. Independently on approach route in force for 300
miles from the coast thence outside 300 miles from the coast and
in accordance with existing instructions.

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Routeing
of Convoys
in Cape area.
Contd.

4. Ships over 15 knots and over calling at intermediate Union ports. Independent coastwise but with sufficient notice to C. in C. S.A. to enable air cover to be arranged.
(B) From East London and Port Elizabeth. Westbound traffic.

1. All ships of 8.0 to 14.9 knots. In C.D. convoys to Capetown for onward routeing.

2. Ships of 15 knots and over without calls at intermediate Union ports. Independently coastwise to any position between 022° E. and 024° E. thence due South in accordance with existing routeing instructions. Sufficient notice to be given C. in C. S.A. to enable air cover to be arranged.

C. From East London and Port Elizabeth. Eastbound traffic.

1. All ships of 8 to 14.9 knots. In C.A. convoy to Durban for onward routeing.

2. Ships of 15 knots and over. Independent coastwise to outer end of Durban searched channel and thence on approaching route in force for 300 miles from the coast.

(Note: Approach route now in force is from Durban towards position 033° S. 036° E).

D. From Capetown.

1. Westbound ships of 8.0 to 14.9 knots. In C.N. convoy (or in C.A. convoy if proceeding south of Agulhas).

2. Eastbound ships of 8.0 to 14.9 in C.A. convoy.

3. Ships of 15 knots and over independent in accordance with existing instructions.

(C. in C. S.A., 1258F/12 to N.O.I.C. Durban, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London (R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Capetown).

Convoys.

(A) Forecast of convoy movements.

Dates are approx. speed of all convoys 8 knots.

(1) Leaving Freetown 24th Feb. for Gib.

(2) Leaving Freetown 12th March for U.K.

(3) Passing Port Etienne 28th Feb. for Freetown.

(4) Passing Port Etienne (?3rd) March for Freetown.

(B) Request early information of any ships you wish to join these convoys.

(C) Independent sailings between Takoradi and Freetown will continue until further orders.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1429Z/12 to Com. Dakar (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.I.C. Gib. S.N.O. Casablanca).

S.L.126

My 1851Z/4th. Very uncertain whether HARBERTON and GRANICOS will be able to sail in time to join S.L. 126.

(B.N.S.O. Raio de Janeiro 1441Z/12 to F.O.C.W.A)

Movements

Arrival 12th Feb. F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU.

Departure RELENTLESS.

(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1800Z/12 to Admty).

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Employment of F.O.C.W.Af's 1008/28.
French S/MS. 1. Not considered that any profitable employment can be found for French S/MS in West African waters but such may well exist in Mediterranean.
2. N.C.X.F. is requested, if concurring in this, to raise matter with Adm. Michelier and if French agreement is reached to make arrangements direct with F.O.C.W.Af. for transfer to Mediterranean of such French S/MS as can be usefully operated there.
(Head of M.I. Approved V.C.N.S. 2122A/12 to F.O.C.W.A., N.C.X.F)
Reply by N.C.X.F., see 1053A/16 Mediterranean.

Convoy S.R.1. Your 1503Z/12th (N.T. in W.D.) Convoy will not be at R/V until 1800Z/13th.
My position course and speed are made good at 2200Z/12th 013° 20' N. 017° 45' W. 355° 7.
State of convoy at present: INCROMATI proceeding on one engine, ARRAN owing to faulty feed valve maximum speed 8 knots and will have to use salt water for boilers on 16th Feb. M.L. 1209 asdic out of action.
INKPEN and HOG(?G)ARY will not arrivd Dakar before daylight tomorrow 13th.
(BRIDGEWATER, 2207Z/12 to R.A. West Africa (R) Comar Dakar).

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, VOLENDAM, RUYS, SIBAJAK. Ref. D.S.T.O. West Africa's 1515/7 (N.T. in W.D) Intend to substitute DUCHESS OF RICHMOND for VOLENDAM. Former vessel can be trimmed to ensure a draught on sailing Lagos not exceeding 26 feet provided (a) Only sufficient fuel, water and stores are taken in Capetown for voyage to Lagos and return (b) Belgian personnel embarking only take absolute minimum of personal baggage.
2. P.S.T.O. Capetown is requested to arrange (a) S.T.O. Lagos should arrange (b).
3. To avoid bunkering and watering at Lagos, RUYS and SIBAJAK should also take sufficient fuel and water at Capetown for the round voyage.
4. C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange for VOLENDAM in W.S.26 to proceed to Durban and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND to Capetown.
5. VOLENDAM will return from Durban to U.K.
6. My 0523/11 is cancelled in respect of DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. (former amended).
(D. of S.T., 2220A/12 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C. S.A., S.T.O. Lagos).

QUADRANT Arrival 12th Feb.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2349Z/12 to Admty).

SAMUEL CHASE, S O S Following received on 500 k/cs S O S SAMUEL CHASE Nr. 94. torpedoed.
(Freetown W/T No T.O.O. to Admty) See also Wick Radio 2250/12. Home Commands.

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

MARIPOSA. B.A.D's 2145/9 and P.S.T.O. India's 0529/11. MARIPOSA will proceed from Suez to Bombay and thence to San Francisco.

2. At Bombay she will embark the personnel referred to in P.S.T.O. India's 0529/11.
(D. of S.T. 0425A/12 to P.S.T.O. M.E. P.S.T.O. India. (R) C. in C.E.F. B.A.D.)
See also B.A.D. 1449/12, America & W. Indies.
D.S.T's 0425/13/2. MARIPOSA ex Suez 15th Feb. Proceeds Port Sudan, Massawa, Bombay, San Francisco.
(.P.S.T.O. M.E. 1704B/12 to D.S.T.O. Suez (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. etc.)

Convoy M.C.4. CAP TOURANE put back from M.C.4. Hot Thrust Block. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0721Z/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. etc.)

Movements Alexandria. Arrival 11th Feb. ANTWERP, HURSLEY, CROOME. Departure 11th Feb. M.L. 1149 (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0910/12 to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 99 Part 2. Night 10/11 Feb. 5 Liberators despatched to bomb Heraklion Airfield Crete prevented from reaching objective by bad weather with low cloud and severe icing. 3 enemy aircraft bombed Tripoli Harbour without causing damage.
(H.Q. R.A.F.M.E. 0953Z/12.)

Naval and Air Operations, closer co-ordination. Propose to provide combined War Room and additional office accommodation in building to be constructed between Navy House and 201 group Headquarters, with covered connections. Need for closer co-ordination of Naval and Air operations is constantly being felt. Total area of two floors 2750 square feet. Estimated cost £3,500. Early approval by signal desired.
(C. in C. Med. 1002B/12 to Admty.)

T.E.15. Sailing THISTLEDALE (KB) (?C) AUDEBEC (French) JEANNE SCHIAFFINO (French) for Philippeville, ANTONIA (T) (KB) EMPIRE LONENZO (KB) for Bone.
2. Following arrived BRALANTA, SELVIK, DINGLEDALE, ASHANTIAN.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1139A/12 to F.O.I.S. etc.)

Smokelaying Aircraft. Request information whether any system for screening convoy against torpedo bomber attack by means of smokelaying aircraft has been developed and whether any aircraft fitted for this purpose can be provided for this station. From experience in Mediterranean it appears that there is a useful field for such aircraft particularly for dealing with dusk and dawn attacks carried out by torpedo bomber formations.
(N.C.X.F. 1156A/12 to Admty.) Reply: Admty 1714A/20.

/French...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.French
Personnel
for Harbour
Defence &
4 Sweepers.

My 1619/30. Request early policy decision may be given on at least some items of Harbour defence equipment which it is permissible to release to French rather than defer decision until whole policy can be decided.

2. At present there are considerable number of French Naval Officers and men at ports like Algiers for whom it is important to find interest and employment as soon as possible.

3. Admty. 2212/8 to N.C.X.F. only inquiring vessels capable of conversion to British ropesa minesweeping has brought to light some prospectively suitable vessels and also the fact that French have a form of single L magnetic sweep employing bouyant cable and pulsing.

4. Propose start be made now on training in L.L. forms of minesweeping, boom defence, and H.D.M.L.S.
(N.C.X.F. 1157A/12 to Admty. (R) Cominch F.O.C.W.A.)

M.K.S.8
M.K.F.9
Escorts.

Your 1950/11. R.C.N. corvettes will all be employed escorting K.M.S.9 and M.K.S.8 at time M.K.F.9 is ready to leave Gibraltar. Solution intended is to use part of ocean escort of K.M.S.9 for M.K.F.9 and for 4 R.C.N. corvettes to continue escort of M.K.S. 8 to U.K.
(N.C.X.F.. 1202/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.W.A.)

K.M.F.9.

Request you will arrange relief of escorts for fuelling on passing Gibraltar. PUCKERIDGE and HOLCOMBE should be sailed to reinforce onward escort. MIAOULES is to remain at Gibraltar to carry out intensive A/A practice prior passage Eastern Med.
(N.C.X.F.. 1203A/12 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H Capt. F. Cmdre Algiers, S.O. Escorts K.M.F.9.)
K.M.F.9 My 1017/11th. Convoy is to enter Oran sailing again at 0001A/16th to arrive Algiers at 1430A/16th.
(N.C.X.F. 1455A/12 to OAKLEY, Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.9 (R) F.O.I.C. and N.O.I.C. French North Africa, A.O.C. E.A.C. 328 Group Wing, A.O.C. Western Air Command.)

K.M.S.9.

Your 2002/11th. (See Home Commands.) Adjust speed to arrive position Z a.m. Monday, 15th Feb.
(N.C.X.F. 1257A/12 to BLACK SWAN, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C.W.A. Escorts of K.M.S.9.)
K.M.S.9. Cancel LIBERIAN and FORT NORMAN, returned U.K.
(D.T.D. 1609A/12 to N.C.X.F.)

E.A.C.
Reports.

A.541 12th Feb. Opsum 93 1800 hours 10th Feb. to 1800 hours 11th Feb.
(A) Operations. Night 10/11. Wellington operations cancelled owing to weather. Day 11th. Maison Blanche. 2 Swordfish and 16 Hudsons carried out convoy escorts and A/S sweeps over a wide area. No activity from other stations owing to weather.
(E.A.C. N.Africa 1300A/12.)

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.VENOMOUS
attack on
U/B.Your 1934A/7 is very much appreciated.
(VENOMOUS 1330A/12 to Admty.)Pay of
French Units,
Alexandria.Info: AGWAR, Combined Chiefs of Staff and Hull.
USFOR, British Chiefs of Staff.
Sgd: Eisenhower.

Recently when Prime Minister passed through Cairo he told Casey that British Govt. could no longer justify funds supplied to Adm. Godfroy for pay and maintenance of French units now in Alexandria, unless Godfroy was prepared actively to co-operate in prosecution of the war. At Casey's suggestion Giraud sent Godfroy a message on Jan. 31st asking latter to rally to his support. When Godfroy replied in the negative stating that he would remain faithful to legitimate authority in France and be governed by the armistice until such a time as a new political and military situation might render action his part, in the true interest of France, it was then suggested from Cairo that Giraud or Michelier should order the ships into service. ~~7~~ Neither prepared to issue such orders at present as they consider that to make similar advance to that so recently made by Giraud would merely insure a further rebuff. Further consultation with Prime Minister here has led to decision on part of British authorities to cut off pay of both officers and men. French authorities have been informed and have raised no objection except to request that no publicity be given to this action. This proposal has been accepted by Adm. Cunningham who made the original agreement with Godfroy.
(Algiers 1349/12 to AGWAR for action. ETOUSA for action.)

P.339.

Leave patrol to pass 038° 05' 000° 01' at 0800/14th
038° 03' 001° 25' at 2230/14th and R/V escort to
Algiers in 036° 59' 002° 57' at 0730/15th.
2. All positions North and East.
(Capt. S.8 1530A/12 to P.339 (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

DOLFIJN
TORBAY.

Your escort will be H.D.M.L.1249 for DOLFIJN
and M.L. 458 for TORBAY.
Both escorts will be in 037° 00' N. 003° 10' E. at
0730/13th. 2. Two Cruisers and two Destroyers may
sail to eastward at 0700/13th.
(Capt. S.8 1540A/12 to DOLFIJN, TORBAY.)

M.K.S.8.

M.K.S.8. S.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy
M.K.S.8 at 1800/17 escorted by BICESTER, ZETLAND,
and Escort Group 62. Route through 91.36 61.92
100.44 109.82 57 letters F. to O. omitting I. S. of A. 6½ knots.
Stragglers route as convoy.
2. Sections join and detach with local escort as follows -
Philippeville in 037° 13' N. 006° 53' E. at 0200/18.
Bougie in 037° 09' N. 005° 15' E. at 1600/18. Algiers, arrives
at 0630/19 and anchors in bay, sails at 1100/19.
Oran in 035° 58' N. 000° 31' E. at 1700/20th. Gibraltar in 57
at 0600/22.

War Diary.12.2.1943.
FridayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

- M.K.S.8 (Contd.)
3. Route from O through $035^{\circ} 55' 005^{\circ} 43' - 035^{\circ} 54' 005^{\circ} (50'?) - 035^{\circ} (50') 005^{\circ} 57' - 035^{\circ} 49' 006^{\circ} 06'$; all North and West. Letter P to S.
 4. Ocean route from S to $036^{\circ} 31' 010^{\circ} 02' - 039^{\circ} 58' 015^{\circ} 10' - 049^{\circ} 20' 014^{\circ} 35' - 055^{\circ} 01' 010^{\circ} 01' - 055^{\circ} 25' 008^{\circ} 30'$ All North and West. Letter T to X. Speed of advance $7\frac{1}{2}$. Stragglers route as convoy route with instructions to keep 30 miles to Port, letter B.B to F.F.
 5. Ocean escort will be promulgated later.
 6. First 2 letters of W/T callsigns Q.M. Outcon 423.
 7. Fighter protection priority 2. Codeword Riband.
 8. All times A.
(N.C.X.F. 1733A/12 to A.I.G. 260 (R) Capt. (S) 8. S.O. Force H. Captain F. Connav.)
- M.K.F.9.
- Cmdre. Algiers is requested to sail M.K.F.9 at 1800/17th escorted by KRAKOWIAK and ships as detailed later.
2. Mediterranean route through 100.39 109.32 57 letters B to F. to Gibraltar. Stragglers route as convoy. S.O.A. 14, E.T.A. 0030/19th. Oran section to join in position 109 at 0800/18th with local escort.
 3. Convoy is to sail Gibraltar at 0600/19th routed through (?corrupt group) $035^{\circ} 54' 54" 005^{\circ} 43' 12" 035^{\circ} 54' 00" 005^{\circ} 50' 54" 035^{\circ} 50' 54" 005^{\circ} 56' 48" 035^{\circ} 49' 18" 006^{\circ} 06' 30" 035^{\circ} 50' 007^{\circ} 00'$ letters J to O. Stragglers route as convoy. S.O.A.13.
 4. Ocean route from position O through $037^{\circ} 00' 011^{\circ} 01' 039^{\circ} 58' 011^{\circ} 01' 042^{\circ} 02' 013^{\circ} 59' 050^{\circ} 20' 013^{\circ} 10'$ letters P to S. Then as ordered by Admty. Stragglers route as convoy with instructions to keep 30 miles to port lettered T to W. S.O.A. 13 knots.
 5. First 2 letters of wireless callsigns B.S, OUTCON 422.
 6. Fighter protection priority 1 until 0900/19th codeword Harper.
 7. All times A. All positions in para. 3 and 4 North and West.
(N.C.X.F. 1741A/12 to F.Os.I.C. etc.)
- TURBULENT TAKU.
- Algiers S/M movements. Arrival TURBULENT from patrol, departure TAKU (?to) Gibraltar.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1749A/12 to Admty. etc.)
- P.37.
- Torpedoes expended. Expect me Lazaretto 1200A/14th. Weather report.
(P.37 1805A/12 to Capt. (S) 10. (R) S/Ms on Patrol.)
- Movements, Algiers.
- Algiers arrivals. WHEATLAND from Arzeu. TARANG from Sea. WEYBURN, LUNENBURG from T.E.15. Departures WEYBURN, LUNENBURG to overtake T.E.15. French ship LA BOUDEUSE to sea.
(Cmdre. Algiers 1811A/12 to Admty. etc.)

/Situation...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 62. Bone. ITHURIEL has been refloated and is awaiting tow. TURBULENT reports an attack on two westbound Merchant Vessels escorted by three destroyers 2 M.Ls. and about 12 aircraft in 37° 46' N. 11° 14' E. at 0855A/27 Jan. Four torpedoes were fired one hit and one ship was probably sunk. At 1211/1 Feb. TURBULENT fired 2 torpedoes in 38° 13' N. 12° 50' E. at 5000 ton unescorted east bound merchant ship. Both hit. Ship sank. At 1408/1 Feb. TURBULENT fired one torpedo at 3000 ton A.M.C. who was hunting her. Torpedo missed. At 0649/5 Feb. off Cape Cafalu TURBULENT obtained two hits on 6000 ton westbound Tanker escorted by two destroyers and one M.L. Tanker probably sank. At 1253/7 Feb. TURBULENT bombarded one train in St. Ambrocio Station. 6 hits. At 1114/8 Feb. TURBULENT fired two torpedoes at westbound M/V without success.

Situation Report No. 61. Para. 1. For Bone read Bougie. (N.C.X.F. 1829A/12 to Admty.) (W.D.Note: 1813/9 amended.)

Tankers, K.M.S.9, U.G.S.5, U.G.F.5. Following vessels sailed for North Africa:- K.M.S.9 AGATHA, EMPIRE TIDE, ARY LENSEN (Cargoes and destinations.) In addition THOMAS HAYWARD, JOHN CARVER and ALCOA PILOT have 800, 680, and 500 tons respectively surplus furnace oil bunkers for discharge Bone.

U.G.S.5. SUN. NORBRIS. U.G.F.5. COLINA, ESSO PHILADELPHIA (Cargoes etc.) ALEXANDRA ANDRE will follow in O.S.43. Four fast tankers with cargoes Admiralty oil due leave Aruba about Feb. 20th for Gibraltar. (Director of Stores 1834A/12 to N.C.X.F.) NORBRIS deleted (Admty 1901A/13.)

P.46 Departure S/Ms. P.46, P.42.
P.42. (V.A.Malta 1848A/12 to Admty. etc.)

NEBOJSCA C. in C.E.F's 0940/11th Feb.
2. Request probable date of completion of NEBOJSCA and when she can be sailed for Kilindini. (D.O.D.(F) 1850A/12 to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.S.) Reply: C. in C.Med 1415B/15. Cancel 1850A/12. (Admty. 1625A/17.)

U/B Crew Escape, Cartagena. My 2006/11th. Minister of Marine informs me in confidence he received orders from M.F.A. to allow crew to disappear. They left in three parties over last week, final party going Feb. (corrupt group). Three days ago he told M.F.A. I was making persistent representations and latter told him to reply that H.M. Ambassador could get answer from M.F.A. Minister then said he understood from M.F.A. that it was necessary to let Germans "escape" in order to let British and American airmen escape and that I had no conception of pressure

/by...

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

U/B Crew by Germans over this matter.
 Escape, When I protested there was no connection whatever
 Cartagena. he again referred me to M.F.A. I still thought it
 (Contd.) best to remind him great importance attached by
 you to this S/M crew and to warn him that such
 contemptuous treatment of International Law
 respecting internment of S/Ms and their crews had gone on long
 enough. But he was certainly acting under instructions.
 (N.A.Madrid 1912/12 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)

Malta Air M.S.7628. A.I.510 12 Feb. Bad weather curtailed
 Report. all offensive operations night 11/12 Feb. Day
 12th Feb. 2 Spitfires despatched to attack targets
 in S.E.Sicily strafed a locomotive approaching
 Noto and A.A.gun position East of Pozzallo.
 Part 2 Enemy Air Activity. Day 12th Feb. 10 Spitfires were air-
 borne for raids that turned back before reaching Malta.
 (A.H.Q. Malta 1925Z/12.)

K.M.F.10A 1. K.M.F.10/11 now in two portions and redesignated
 K.M.F.10B as follows:- (A) K.M.F.10A sails 23 Feb. with
 K.M.S.10 following composition. (details) (military.)
 W.S.28. (B) K.M.F.10B sails 1 March with (details).
 2. Vehicles for all units in K.M.F.10A and 10B sail
 K.M.S.10, 26 Feb.
 3. W.S.28 N.Africa portion. Following units may be despatched
 this convoy. (list.)
 (W.O. 1930A/12 to Freedom Algiers.)
 A.M.1954/19/1. Following is revised programme for K.M.
 convoys.
 (a) K.M.F.10A, 7 ships, capacity about 20000 troops, to leave
 U.K. with W.S.27 on 23rd Feb.
 (b) K.M.S.10 to leave 26th Feb. and K.M.S.11 on 14th March.
 (c) K.M.F.10B, 7 ships, capacity about 20000 troops, to leave
 U.K. 1st March.
 (d) K.M.F.11, 8 ships, to leave U.K. with W.S.28 on 15th March.
 (D.O.D.(H) 1940A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A.Gibraltar. etc.)

Movements, Bone arrival and departure ROTHESAY, CLACTON,
 Bone. BRIXHAM, POLRUAN.
 (F.O.I.S. 1941A/12 to N.C.X.F. Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.
 Gibraltar.)

WOODSTOCK Position 35.38 N. 01.13 W. in company T.Pendant
 U/B. 182 attacking submerged submarine, have no anti
 S/M contact, attacking her with Trawler as
 directing ship. WESTRAY out of depth charges.
 (WOODSTOCK 1945A/12 to N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

BEAUFORT. My P.C. and S. at 2100B/12 033° 03' N. 022° 20'
 E. course 110° speed 21 knots intend. (Remainder
 not received.)
 (BEAUFORT T.O.R. 2005/12.)

/Force...

War Diary.

12.2.1943.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Force X Pay of Force X is being stopped tomorrow 13th.
 (?French So as to deal with Force X if they open fire and to
 Ships stop them bolting request all M.T.Bs now at
 at Malta may be sailed to Alexandria as soon as
 Alexandria.) possible.
 (C. in C. Med. 2018B/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A.Malta,
 C.C.F. Admty.)

Please comply with C. in C. Med's 2018.
 (N.C.X.F. 1959A/12 to V.A.Malta.)

Your 2018/12th. Sea moderating. 4 10th Flotilla M.T.B. will
 be sailing for Benghazi at 0001A/13th so as to arrive 1800A/13th.
 Will require 10,000 gallons 100 Octane petrol at Benghazi and
 further 10,000 at Tobruk.

2. Consider 27th Flotilla boats are too unreliable to make
 passage in less than a week. Remaining 2 of 10th Flotilla are in
 dock.

(V.A.Malta 2149A/12 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. N.O.I.C.
 Benghazi, N.O.I.C. Tobruk.)

P.37
 THUNDERBOLT.

P.37 has returned to Malta. Extend your area
 southwards to 040° 02'.
 (Capt. S.10 2030A/12 to THUNDERBOLT (R) Submarines
 on Patrol.)

Movements
 Port Said.

12th Feb. Port Said arrivals PAKENHAM, ISIS,
 DERWENT, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, M.L.1149.
 Departures ISIS, DERWENT.
 (N.O.I.C. Port Said 2115B/12 to Admty.)

ADRIAS.

Request information E.T.A. Freetown Greek ship
 ADRIAS.
 (C. in C. Med. 2116B/12 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Greek C. in
 C.) Arrived 6th Feb. (S.O.I. Freetown 2352Z/14.)

Malta
 defences,
 rebuilding
 and increase.

Question of repairing rebuilding, and increasing
 defences and facilities of Malta is under
 consideration by the Cs in C. in Cairo.
 2. In order to decide what outside help in men
 and material must be asked for from home and to
 assess importance of various items of work in
 the war effort, following provisional list of Naval requirements
 has been drawn up in what is considered to be their order of
 importance:-

1. Construction of landing craft repair base.
2. Clearing the harbour of wrecks and obstructions.
3. Reconstruction of docks.
4. Completion of Dockyard Repair Facilities (underground if possible) and clearing Dockyard of obstructions.
5. Completion of Boom Defences.
6. Provision of accommodation for Naval personnel.
7. Construction of Coastal Force Base.
8. Construction of Rock shelters for submarines and harbour craft.
9. Provision of ammunition and armament storage.
10. Completion of Mine and Torpedo Depots.
11. Provision of Naval and Victualling storage.

War Diary.

12.2.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Malta defences, rebuilding and increase. (Contd.)	3. Request you will remark on this priority and state briefly what you estimate the requirements of each item are in time, labour and material and to what extent outside assistance will be required. (C. in C.Med. 2150B/12 to V.A.Malta (R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)
Movements, Benghazi.	Arrival KINGSTON CHRYSTAL, IMHOFF, BEVER, arrived and left G.S.SAKTOURIS and PRIMULA. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2224B/13 (?12 intended - Recd. 0730/13.)
Axis Shipping.	Arrival 12th ST. LUCIEN Cartagena fruit. Castellon departure 11th JOSE ILLUECA Cette Oranges. (Valencia T.H.I. 2400/12 to Admty.)

War Diary.

12.2.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements Arrival MARYBOROUGH.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0242Z/12 to Admty).
Arrival VERBENA at 0315Z/12.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 0615Z/12 to Admty).
Departure 0730Z SONAVATI (4100) with B.P. 68 $\frac{1}{4}$. 0750Z
SHOREHAM escorting 3 ships through focal area. Arrival 0825Z
CLIVE.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 1036Z/12 to Admty).

NARINGA Transport NARINGA sailed 11th Feb. E.T.A. a.m./17
Feb. Numbers requirements.
(D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf. 0655Z/12 to S.T.O.
Karachi).

B.P. 68, Sailing telegram.
B.P. 68 $\frac{1}{4}$. (1) B.P. 68 $\frac{1}{4}$. (2) 0730Z/12th Feb. (3) E.T.A.
Karachi examination anchorage 0430Z/14th Feb.
where NEVASA will take over duties of Cdre. of
reformed B.P.68, my 0850Z/11th Feb. refers.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0750Z/12, 0752Z/12).
B.P. 68. sailed from Bombay 12th Feb. NEVASA E.T.A. Basra
0330Z/19 TAKLIWA E.T.A. Karachi 0430Z/14th.
Personnel and requirements. On completion of discharge NEVASA
required for Karachi.
(P.S.T.O. India 1135Z/12 to D.S.T.O. P.G., S.T.O. Karachi,
(R) D. of S.T.)

B.S.115 B.S.115 departure 12th JAMES LONGSTREET Colombo
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ intended. Departure 13th HENRY BALDWIN
Colombo KALMARSUND Calicut.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1106Z/12 to E.I.S.I.S.)

Force A. E.T.D. Force A. 0430Z/13th Feb. E.T.A. Seychelles
0600/17th Feb.
(WARSPITE 1121Z/12 to C. in C. E.F., D.C. in C.
E.F., Admty. F.O. Ceylon).

Limits on The proposals contained in A.M.1605/6th Feb. are
Numbers of concurred in. 2. Amendments to my 0906/19th Sept.
Passengers. 1942 which appear necessary are for para. 2 (B)
and (C) to be altered to read 15 knots instead of
12 knots and (D) to be altered to quote the new
Admty. ruling when issued. 3. The reasons given
for the grant of discretionary power still holds. 4. Am in
agreement with last 2 sentences of C. in C. S.A., 1245/10th Feb.
(C. in C. E.F., 1233Z/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

U/B One doubtful 023° N. 061° E. 10th. One doubtful
Disposition 008° N. 079° E. 11th. One doubtful 002° S. 073°
No.2. E. 10th. One by unreliable direction finding
fixed within area 015° to 025° S. 087° or 090° to
110° E. 11th.
(C. in C. E.F., 1243Z/2 to E.F. (R) Admty etc).

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies Contd.

Indian Ocean Underwater Defences. Underwater defences of harbours in Indian Ocean controlled minefields indicator loops and H.D.A.S. completed. Kilindini. Four in number Anti Midget Indicator Loops three H.D.A.S. four depth charge throwers R.A.S. Mzimili. Manza controlled minefield. Diego Suarez controlled minefield.

Mauritius. Grande Porte controlled minefield. Addu Atoll controlled minefields at all entrances. Future commitments. Kilindini controlled minefield off R.A.S. Mzimili. Diego Suarez Relac number four mine loop relay guard loop number two in two parts lay three H.D.A.S. in Cronjia Pass. Mauritius relay guard loop in two parts. Ceylon relay controlled minefields at Trincomalee and Colombo. Lay indicator Loops system off Trincomalee and Colombo and H.D.A.S. at Trincomalee. Bombay lay indicator loop system. It is intended to proceed with the controlled mining programme when MANCHESTER CITY and SPINDRIFT have completed the C.M. field at Saldanha. EMILE BAUDOT is proceeding now to Bombay to lay the Indicator Loop system there and thence to Colombo and Trincomalee.
(C. in C. E.F. 1326Z/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.E.A. F.O. Ceylon
C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.R.I.N. Comrin.)

Movements Summary. Position 0900Z/15th Feb. Movements summary No.41 12th Feb. 1. MAURITIUS left Addu 11th Feb. due Colombo 13th Feb. 2. Main fleet unit leaves Addu (?12th) Feb. for Kilindini via Seychelles. 3. FROBISHER escorting C.M. 38 left Diego Suarez 11th Feb. 003° 45' S. 063° 15' E. routed through 002° 28' S. (? 064°) (?50') and 010° 35' N. 069° 14'.
(C. in C. E.F. 1337Z/12 to E.F. (205 Y), Admty., C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Durban, F.O.R.C.S.A.)

BANDRA. Transport BANDRA sailed to-day via Bahrein to discharge 30 tons stores. Numbers embarked. Requirements.
(D.S.T.O. Perian Gulf, 1415Z/12 to S.T.O. Karachi,
(R) D.S.T. etc.)

WOOLONGONG, PULASKI. Sailed WOOLONGONG escorting PULASKI E.T.A. Kilindini 1130C/16th. passing through position M 011° 30' S. 049° 37' E. N.010° 14' S. 045° 30' E. Thence direct to Kilindini. Requirements.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1416Z/12 to C. in C. E.F.
(R) Admty., F.O.E. Africa.)

India Air Report. (A) 11th Feb. 5 Blenheims escort Hurricanes attacked Magyichaung sighted S/M 3 miles west Foul Pt. heading N. Offensive R/C. 2 Beaufighters attacked rolling stock 2 paddle steamers Katha. R/C Catalina failed to locate S/M reported near Foul Point.
(A.H.Q. India 1312Z/12 to Air Min.)

War Diary.

12.2.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

HUNTER,
STALKER.

My 2035/4 and A.M. 0301/6.

1. Appears probable that HUNTER and STALKER will sail in U.G.F.6 from New York about March 5th each carrying U.S.A.A.F. fighters and some U.S.A.A.F. personnel. They will have to be unloaded by crane at Casablanca and U.S.A.A.F. have assured us that this can be accomplished. N.C.X.F. please confirm that suitable crane is available.
2. N.C.X.F. is requested to arrange onward passage to U.K. if possible with special escort, in view of necessity for their early arrival. Ships could be used for ferrying stores, damaged aircraft etc. to U.K.
3. Ships can carry approx. 200,000 U.S. gallons of aviation spirit. Are they to complete to full stowage for transport purposes observing that they will have no operating aircraft? If so should they unload it in Africa or retain it for U.K.? (B.A.D., 0033Z/12 to Admty. N.C.X.F. (R) HUNTER STALKER).

A.S.V.
Aircraft,
Casablanca.

Following is substance of urgent memorandum from Navy Department.

1. Transfer of from 6 to 12 of the American A.S.V. equipped B.24 airplanes now based in U.K. to Casablanca area to operated under control of U.S.N.Cdr. Casablanca, would be of material aid in meeting the menace of enemy submarine concentration off the Casablanca area which is seriously endangering our convoys approaching that area. Long range A.S.V. aircraft is the only available additional means which can be brought to bear to counter this threat in time. Since the time factor is paramount immediate action is suggested.
2. Please give me your immediate comments on the foregoing proposal, bearing in mind that the two American Anti-submarine Squadrons, now based in U.K. were diverted from the Western Atlantic for the express purpose of protecting shipping in connection with the North African operation. (Agwar 0101Z/12 to Freedom and Etousa for action.)

Movements
Summary.

1800 G.M.T./12th Feb.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
F.S. ARCHIMEDE	17½° N. 32½° W.	296°	12½
F.S. AMAZONE	14° N. 25½° W.	296°	7
BUTTERMERE)	01½° S. 37½° W.	131°	8
WASTWATER)			
5 M.M.S.)	11° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
F.S. GLOIRE			

(D.O.D. (F) 0943Z/12 to Opnav (R) Comnavu)

Movements.

Departure 12th U.S. Minelayer GENERAL THOMAS S. JESSUP Paramaribo 13th Feb.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1210/12 to Admty).
San Diego arrived 2250Z/11 ENGADINE.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1419Z/12 to Admty).

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Movements
Contd.San Francisco arrivals 9th ELIHU THOMPSON 10th
MORMACPORT both U.S. Army Transports.
(N.S.H.Q. 1952Z/12 to Admty).Army Transport STATE OF VIRGINIA (U.S.) arrived
Curacao Feb. 10.

(N.S.H.Q. 2039Z/12 to Admty).

Departures ROXBOROUGH for Charleston S.C. estimated stay
10 weeks. Arrivals ASSINIBOINE from Newfoundland.
(N.O.I.C. 2101Z/12).S/M estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet. 1357/12, 1607/12, 1610/12,
Feb. 12th. 1611/12, 1612/12, 1613/12 to Admty).
U.S. S/M NoticeEscort
Vessels,
trials and
working up.

Your 1715/8th. Proposal in para. 2 approved.

2. A.M. 1402/31 Jan. BAZELEY should be
substituted for COCKBURN if ready earlier.3. B.D.E's should be sailed in pairs from Bermuda
and it is intended that they should be attached
to convoys for the passage, but not to be
regarded as additional escorts.

(D.A/S.W. 1404A/12 to B.A.D., (R) Cominch

N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock,
SOMERS ISLES, C.A/S.E.E. Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, S.B.N.O.W.A.,
Cdre. Londonderry, Cdr. i/c Bermuda).

MARIPOSA

Your 0425/12th para. 2. (see Mediterranean).

U.S. Authorities have not agreed to MARIPOSA
embarking Poles. See my 1845/21st Jan. 1943.2. Embassy informs me Mexican agreement is not
yet signed and therefore State Department are not yet prepared
to accept Poles.3. We are very doubtful as to how many Poles are required to
come to Mexico. 4,000, 900 and 500 have been quoted as
possible starters.

(B.A.D., 1449Z/12 to D.S.T.)

Fuelling
Convoy Escorts
at Sea.Strongly concur. T.F. 24 12/0013. (Circulated
under T.O.O. 1600/12 from Radio Washington).
(Connav, 1520/12 to Admty (action)).U.G.F.5
SALAMONIE,
URUGUAY,
collision.Delete SALAMONIE and URUGUAY from Port Director
New York 0330Z/9 both returning Bermuda with
collision damage.
(Connav, 1521/12 to N.C.X.F. Cdr. N.W.Af.
S.F., V.A. Gibraltar). W.D. Note. Amendment to
0330Z/9 made.

12.2.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.G.S.5, PAN ROYAL sunk collision GEORGE DAVIS, collision. Delete following from Port Director New York 2200Z/7. PAN ROYAL sunk in collision EVITA and NORBRIS engine trouble GEORGE DAVIS collision NORTH BRITAIN too (?slow) from Connav. (Radio Washington 1548/12 to N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area, V.A. Gibraltar (R) Port Director New York, N.S.H.Q.) W.D. Note. Amendment to 2200Z/7 made.

Fuelling at sea. Efforts of all concerned toward improvement in operation of fuelling at sea has resulted in a marked increased effectiveness of escorts. However, experience shows that one tanker is not sufficient to adequately cover contingencies. Recommend therefore that efforts be made to provide at least 2 preferably 3 properly equipped tankers. This is C.T.F. 24 120013. (Radio Washington, 1600/21 for information to Admty. C.E.S.F. P.D. New York).

Use of M.M.S. hulls. When visiting Miami Governor of Bahamas asked if there was any objection to using hulls of M.M.S. whilst awaiting engines for carrying food stuffs to Islands. Have now received application for this purpose. If approved request conditions under which this can be granted. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 1612Q/12 to Admty).

T.B.4 Add to my 1648/5. SIMON WILLARD (U.S.) for Saldanha Bay for Capetown. Route being requested. (N.S.H.Q. 1647Z/12 to C. in C. S.A.S., S.O.(I) Freetown).

L.S.T. breakdowns, causes. Cominch 2128/31 Jan. These 10 L.S.T. are required in Western Med. as soon as possible. Request you will report proposals. 2. Request you will signal briefly causes of breakdowns of the 5 who returned to New York and also the 3 who failed to sail in S.C.119. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2131/8 Feb. refers). (D. of P. 1657A/12 to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q.) Reply: B.A.D. 2229Z/13.

ATTACKER Cancel my 1843/2nd. (1) Due to serious turbine defects ATTACKER unlikely to be ready to leave Norfolk (Virginia) until 5th March at earliest. (2) Further signals will be made when definite date is known. If necessary ship could join C.U. 1 at sea in which case an attempt will be made to fly C.O. to Curacao to attend confernece. (3) Estimate one day will be sufficient at Jamaica.

War Diary.12.2.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

ATTACKER Contd. S.B.N.O. Trinidad, pass to R.N.A.S. Palisadoes. (B.A.D. 1739Z/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, ATTACKER, N.O.I.C. Jamaica, S.B.N.O.W.A. S.B.N.O. Curacao, S.B.N.O. Trinidad, R.N.A.S. Palisadoes).

H.X. 226, Ocean Escort. H.X. No. 226. (1) M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13, BURNHAM H/F D/F JEDMINE BITTERSWEET, MAYFLOWER, LAMALBAIE EYEBRIGHT designated ocean escort for H.X.226. ASSINIBOINE H/F D/F to overtake if possible. (2) T.U. 24.12.3 MANSFIELD sails as supporting unit detaching in 35°W to O.N.167. (C.C.N.F., 1838Z/12 to C.T. 24 (R) C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., N.S.H.Q. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. W.A., Admty. Cdre. Londonderry, C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8).

PORTLAND Connav Serial 12. PORTLAND (Pan) marine casualty sunk 11th Feb. 34.27 N. 76.28 W. (Connav, 1956/12 to Comnav).

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. (D) SS. SUNOIL sights periscope 42° 26' 64° 54' W. 1945Z/10. Alusna PORT AU PRINCE reports sub operating 19° 50' N. 73° 27' W. 1520Z/11. (Cominch, 2013/12 to Admty).

Speed of Fast Tankers. Your 1540/9th*and your 0304/11+to B.A.D. only. Correct T.O.O. received as 1340/8th to read 1641Z/8th repetition as follows (begins). C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. from B.A.D. Your 0020/6th. Speed of U.S. fast Tankers is 14 (14.?) knots. 2. Allocation with exact individual speeds is not yet available. 1041Z/8th (ends). (B.A.D. 2101Z/12 to Admty). *re speed of tankers - fast tanker convoys. +sent by W.R. 1340/8 recd. undecypherable.

S.C.120 Sailing telegram part 1. (Port Director New York 2124Z/12 to Admty).

Atlantic Convoy Conference Agenda. Your 2142/10 (2124/10 intended) Agenda is quite satisfactory. The only addition suggested is: (G) unification of control of convoy and escort arrangements in the North West Atlantic. R.C.N. representative will table proposals for putting this into effect. (N.S.H.Q. 2204Z/12 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. C.O.A.C., Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington).

WITHERINGTON When ready about Feb. 14 sailing WITHERINGTON Boston direct St. Johns N.F. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2231/12 to C.E.S.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc) Amended 2209/14.

War Diary.

12.2.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial No. 386 Feb. 11th.

2. 12 bombers passed over Buka noon 10th course south 2 small cargo vessels in passage evening 11.
3. Afternoon R/C saw 2 destroyers 3 medium cargo ships one probable tanker off Northwest coast Buka Island course 345° speed 8 knots.
4. Morning R/C viewed Rabaul from distance saw some ships but not heavy concentration.
7. Possible submarine off Buna morning 11th.
8. Submarine conning tower sighted 33° 47' S. 156° 22' E. 1720Z/10. Indications 2 enemy submarines operating this area. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0710Z/12).

Movements. Arrivals Thursday Island 11th KALGOURLIE, VENDETTA. Melbourne 11th ATHENE. Milne Bay 11th BROOME. Departure Cairns 10th. GLENELG for Milne Bay. Geraldton 11th TJERK HIDDES. Port Moresby ? 10th PIRIE for Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B., 0153Z/12 to Admty etc).
Arrivals 11th Feb. Fremantle Hospital Ship WANGANELLA. 12th Thursday Island Royal Fleet Aux. BISHOPDALE. Brisbane A.S.I.S. POOANG U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA. U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN departed Townsville 10th due Fall River 13th. Hired transport TAROONA departed Brisbane 11th due Sydney 13th. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Onslow 10th for Exmouth Gulf. (A.C.N.B., 1126Z/12 to Connav, Admty).
Arrivals Thursday Island 11th. KALGOURLIE, VENDETTA. Melbourne 11th. ATHENE. Milne Bay 11th. BROOME. Departure Cairns 10th. GLENELG for Milne Bay. Geraldton 11th. TJERK HIDDES. Port Moresby 10th PIRIE for escorting ship to Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B., 1132/12 to Admty).

Enemy Force. Solops 3. On 10th Feb. 2 carriers probably auxiliary 17 destroyers and 7 Merchant ships were sighted in Buin-Faisi area. (B.A.D., 2125Z/12 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1332A/12, 1336A/12).

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

O.N.F./H.X.F., In order to allow for the increased volume of
O.N.M./H.X.M., shipping required to achieve the agreed U.K.
O.N.S./H.X.S. target of dry cargo and oil import programmes
Convoys. we expect shortly to handle 550 ships per month
in north Atlantic trans-ocean convoys. Statistics
show clearly that the rate of loss in H.X.
convoys is about one quarter of that in S.C.
convoys, and the difference must be attributed
to the advantage which the former have over the
latter regarding speed and shorter time in the
danger area.

It is intended at the forthcoming Washington
Conference to propose that the North Atlantic
Convoys should be divided into Fast, Medium,
and Slow Convoys of a minimum speed of 11, $9\frac{1}{2}$,
and $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots, respectively, and that each class
of Convoy should be operated on a 12-day cycle
giving an average of $7\frac{1}{2}$ 60-ship Convoys per
month with 10 Groups of Mid-Ocean Escorts. The
S.C. designation of these Convoys has been
dropped, only the H.X. and O.N. designations
being retained.

The Naval College at Dartmouth was hit this
morning by a bomb which did not explode; 2
ratings were injured by H.E. bombs which fell
at 2110 today near Lancing.

Twelve Bostons took off today to attack the
armed merchant vessel in Boulogne Harbour.
Eleven Bostons attacked, but did not hit the
vessel. Objectives at Ijmuiden and the lock
gates at St. Malo were also attacked.

Bomber Command aircraft laid 72 mines off the
Frisian Is. last night and 5 off Heligoland.

One magnetic mine was exploded by Sweepers this
morning in the Eastern approaches to Portsmouth.
Plymouth was closed from 2343/13 to 1343/14, on
account of suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft.

War Diary.

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Regulation".

JAMAICA sailed from Gibraltar this afternoon for Scapa via positions 49.59 N. 15.59 W. and 58.45 N. 08.24 W., but was recalled at 2307A/14.

South Atlantic.

H.M.S. BORDER attacked a U-Boat in 03.52 N. 06.33 W. from 1615Z to 1952Z today. She reports that she dropped 52 depth charges.

Mediterranean.

Convoy
M.E. 17.

Two empty tankers and one transport escorted by destroyers left Malta for Alexandria at 1831A/13.

Auxiliary A/A ship POZARICA, which was damaged on 29th January and was towed to Bougie, capsized at Bougie at 2227 today. The harbour entrance is clear and no lives were lost.

U/B sunk.

A U-Boat was probably sunk in 35.43 N. 01.10 W. (about 25 miles west of Oran) this morning, after 18 hours of continuous attacks which commenced at 1845Z/12 in 35.38 N. 01.13 W., by WOODSTOCK (corvette), trawlers WESTRAY and HUNDA, and aircraft of U.S. Army 12th Fighter Command.

Force X.

Now that H.M. Govt. have clear proof that French warships have been taken over and used against them by the Axis powers they are entitled under Art. XI of the Godfroy - Harwood agreement of 20th June, 1942, to require the agreement to be reconsidered. Admiral Godfroy still refuses to allow his ships to come over to the United Nations. He has been warned that his ships must not leave Alexandria.

/The ...

War Diary.

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Force X.
(Contd.)

The pay of Force X (French warships at Alexandria) is being stopped today. In order to deal with the Force if they open fire, and to stop them from bolting C. in C. Med. at 2018B/12 asked for all M.T.Bs now at Malta to be sailed as soon as possible for Alexandria.

M.T.Bs 309, 313, 260, 267 of the 10th Flotilla sailed from Malta at 0113A today, via Benghazi: the remaining 2 boats of the Flotilla are in dock. There are 2 boats of the 7th Flotilla at Malta, but V.A. Malta considers them too unreliable to make the passage in less than 1 week.

Eighteen B.24s were despatched this forenoon to make a dusk attack on Naples; 14 aircraft reached Naples and found the harbour completely obscured by low cloud. Four aircraft dropped bombs through the clouds with unknown results.

There were one day and one night air raid on Benghazi today, but no damage or casualties were caused.

A Russian aircraft claims to have sunk a U-Boat off Tuapse today.

East Indies.

Force A left Addu Atoll early this morning for Kilindini via the Seychelles.

America and West Indies.

SS. EMPIRE EMERALD made a submarine distress report at 2008R today in 30.56 N. 81.10 W.

482

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Nore
Command
Forces.
WOLSEY.

A.M. 1055/5. Para. 8. One additional flotilla of M.Ls. could usefully be employed as anti E-boat patrol but they can in no sense be regarded as replacement for destroyers. (C. in C. Nore, 1052A/13 to Admty).
My 1150/6 Para. (2). Intend to loan WOLSEY to C. in C. Nore. She will be ready to sail from Rosyth p.m./17th. This will reduce number of running Wairs to that specified in para. 1 and any untoward occurrence might necessitate WOLSEY's return to my command. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1549A/13 to C. in C. Nore).

Movements.

S/M
Movements.

ULTOR, SEADOG, and TACTICIAN on passage Lerwick to Clyde may be separated from escort PENNYWORT and will R/V 0900A/13 in 140° Tiumpan Head 6 miles (C. in C. W.A. 0012/13 to ENCHANTRESS, BLANKNEY, VISCOUNT, LA COMBATTANTE)
Your 2313A/12. My position 336° Cape Wrath 8 miles in company PENNYWORT.
(SEADOG, 0348A/13 to Capt. S.3).
My 1659/12. Add new para. (J) L.23 escorted by GERANIUM sails Rothesay 2300A/13 for 270° Tory Island 35 miles, E.T.A. 2000A/14.
(F.O.S., 0746A/13 to Admty).
F.O.S. 1146A/12. Concur (REGENT).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1010A/13 to Admty).
My 2009A/12. Amend time of departure to 2000A/13, arriving Tobermory daylight 14th. (H.33).
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1225A/13) See also Casualties.
Sailed P.223, 229, and P.315 escorted by CUTTY SARK in accordance with Capt. (S) 3, 1055/12.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1558A/13).
Your 1153/11. Arrived (DZIK).
(Capt. S.9., 1645A/13 to S.O. S/M Lerwick).
Position of Submarines at 0800A/14th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) UREDD in Lofoten Area. (B) SEANYMPH (P.223) TRUCULENT (P.315, SPORTSMAN (P.229), escorted by CUTTY SARK 56° 52' N. 07° 10' W. proceeding west of Orkneys, due Lerwick 1500/15
(C) TACTICIAN (P.314), ULTOR, (P.53, SEADOG (P.216) escorted by PENNYWORT vicinity Ailsa Craig for Holy Loch.
(D) L.23 escorted by GERANIUM 55° 38' N. 07° 01' W, speed 10 knots, E.T.A. 270° Tory Island 35 miles 2000/14, thence unescorted dived by day through 55° 20' N. 17° 01' W.
(E) UMBRA (P.35) 46° 34' N. 11° 09' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 11° 10' W. daily advance 115 miles.
(F) BARB in zone K.505.
(G) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.
(F.O.S., 1708A/13 to Admty).
My 1708. Add new para. (H) SICKLE (P.224) leave Methil with F.S.39 for Chatham. Escorted to Humber by HORNPIPE, then TURQUOISE.
(F.O.S., 1859A/13).

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M
Movements.
Contd. (1) My 1708 para. (B) for $56^{\circ} 52' N. 07^{\circ} 10' W.$ read vicinity of Skerryvore. (F.O.S., 2126A/13 to Admty). Intend sailing H.28 escorted QUALICUM from Lough Foyle at 2000A/14 speed 8 knots, arriving Tobermory 0800A/15. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2337A/13).

SAMSONIA Sailed SAMSONIA. Routed according to Admty's 2217/12. E.T.A. Gibraltar 18th Feb. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0819A/12).

HOWE E.T.A. Akureyri passing Hrisey Island 1000N/16. (HOWE, 1011A/13).

OFFA,
PIORUN,
ONSLAUGHT. OFFA with PIORUN proceed passing Switha 1100A/14 to Akureyri. Route through $062^{\circ} 30' N. 005^{\circ} 30' W. 066^{\circ} 10' N. 012^{\circ} 05' W.$ thence via North coast Iceland.
2. On arrival complete and act in accordance with H.F.01325/132 para. (H).
3. ONSLAUGHT arrives Akureyri from westward a.m./16th. (R.A.D. H.F., 1100/13 to OFFA, PIORUN). Sailed ONSLAUGHT for Hvalfjord and Akureyri. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 1200A/15. (R.A.D. H.F., 1205A/13 to A.C.I.C.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland (C) HOWE, BERWICK, KENT 3 destroyers.
Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, ANSON, MALAYA, FURIOUS, BERMUDA, GLASGOW, NORFOLK, SCYLLA, SHEFFIELD, SUSSEX 9 destroyers.
Area Clyde ILLUSTRIOUS, 4 destroyers (U.S.)
Area Rosyth. RENOWN. Area Milford ADVENTURE. Passage to U.K. ABDIEL. Area Gibraltar. NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, PENELOPE, SIRIUS 7 destroyers. (D.O.D. H., 1149A/13 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

CHARYBDIS Request CHARYBDIS may be sailed to arrive Scapa not later than 7th March. (C. in C. H.F., 1255A/13 to Admty).

L.53 My 2156/12. Sailed. (Capt. S.7., 2351A/13 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation V.P/K. Carry out operation V.P/K and investigate target number 42.
1. Patrol K. 2. 619 (S.O.) and 627.
3. 1400A/14th or 1st suitable day thereafter through position 70 miles West of K.
4. 4. 5. Protection until past light.
6. No. 7. 0800A 070° Out Skerries 100 miles. (A.C.O.S., 0241A/13 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

Coastal Patrols. No patrol tonight. (C. in C. Nore, 0958A/13).
1. Intend M.G.Bs. 54 (S.O.) and 51 to patrol tonight between 50° 20' N. 10° 30' W. and 50° 15' N. 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Weymouth 1900 via Q.Z.S. 382 to patrol line.
3. Object. Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1149/13).
Patrol tonight.
2. M.G.B. 8 (S.O.) and 6.
3. Patrol 10 miles 069° and 249° from 142° Start 12'.
4. Object. To intercept E-boats.
5. Information. No aircraft patrol is being flown. E-boats may be in Cherbourg, torpedo boats in Le Havre.
6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1900/13 and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight/14 and return to harbour. Speed to and from patrol is not to exceed 20 knots. Q.Z.X. 834 is not to be entered unless chasing enemy.
7. Codeword "Sapper". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1811A/13).

REGENT F.O.S. 1146/12. Concur. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1010A/13).

Operation "Lift". My 1846A/11 and 1550A/12. Operation "Lift". Intend to sail Group IV (PRINCE ALBERT (S.O.) PRINCE LEOPOLD, INVICTA, and DUKE OF WELLINGTON) from Needles 0300/14 for Dartmouth.
2. Routed standard route, speed 18 knots,

E.T.A. 0800.
4. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth is requested to sail Group IV. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1100A/13).
My 1501/12. Sailed. (6 L.C.Ts. for Needles). (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1758A/13).

Operation "Valuable". Patrols tonight ref. my 1000/20. Force A. CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, GOATHLAND, WENSLEYDALE, TANATSIDE, BLEASDALE to patrol south of Beachy Head leaving Yarmouth I.O.W. 1530 and passing Needles inward at 0730/14. to anchor at Yarmouth I.O.W. Force B M.G.Bs. 616, 665, 611, 657, M.T.Bs. 89, 85, 242 at Newhaven.
2. FYLLA, Chaser 10 at St. Helens. LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth I.O.W. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1151A/13).

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

M.T.Bs. for
A.C.O.S. Your 1210/12 approved in principle and concur that these two boats should be manned by Norwegian Navy crews. Boats will take approx. six weeks to prepare for service.
2. It is assumed that you will provide crews from Norwegian personnel now serving in your command.
(D.D.O.D. C., 1720A/13 to A.C.O.S.)

Operation
KK. Intend to sail LOCUST escorted by M.G.Bs. 312, and 317 at 1130/14 in company with convoy D.S.14 astern of sweepers as far as Looe Buoy and thence independently by inshore route for Shoreham. Speed after leaving convoy 12 knots. E.T.A. 1630/14.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1748A/13)

Operation
"Regulation". SUSSEX proceed to Clyde passing Hoxa Gate at 1000A/15. Route via Minches Attention is called Admty. message Q.Z.X. 910.
(2) Carry out operation "Regulation". D day is 16th Feb.
(C. in C. H.F., 1836A/13 to SUSSEX).

Operations
V.P/B
and
"Omnibus". My 2024/9. Cancel V.P/B and "Omnibus" on 15 16 and 17 target.
(A.C.O.S., 1957A/13 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

Allied Air Activity.

Dartmouth
A/A Defences. My 2310A/3rd January and Admty. to Air Ministry 1921A/12th January, 1256A/23rd and 1448A/4th Feb. Dartmouth A/A defences on 6th January 1943 were as shown in column A. On 13th Feb. they are shown as in column B. Read in three columns headed blank, A, B. H.A.A. nil. Nil. L.A.A. 40 millimetre. 12, 16. LA.A. 37 millimetre, one, one. Balloon, nil, nil. A/A searchlight, four, four. Naval O.Ps. eight, eight.
The College was attacked today and hit by bomb which did not explode.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1613A/13 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Dartmouth
bombed At about 1130 today 4 F.W.190s dropped four bombs in Dartmouth area. Two bombs on town of Dartmouth. One unexploded in east end of D Block R.N. College. One in Old Mill Creek which may be unexploded.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1150/13).

Air raid on 13 Feb. caused damage at Dartmouth as follows:
D Block wall damaged by unexploded bomb and slight damage to following requisitioned property.
(S.C.E. Devonport, 1615/13).

488

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Shetlands At 1547/13 Ju.88 sighted E of Bressay under 1,000 feet, course S.E. speed 240 - 300 m.p.h. visibility 5 - 6 miles. Altered course to N. then E. 4,000 feet 095° Lerwick 41 miles, and faded. Two fighters failed to intercept. Guns did not open fire.
(A.C.O.S., 1900A/13 to Admty).

Lancing bombed. Following from KING ALFRED. Two H.E. bombs in vicinity of Lancing College at 2110/13.
(A) No structural damage (B) Two selected ratings seriously injured. (C) Nil (D) Nil.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2330/13).

Fernhurst bombed. Following from Admty. signal establishment Haslemere.
H.E. bomb at approx. 0828/9 in close vicinity of Admty. signal establishment extension Fernhurst.
(a) slight damage to roof and glass (b) Nil
(c) Nil (d) Nil.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2335/13).

Mining.

Operation Q.V.2. Your 1716/11. Intend to lay north to south. Following is proposed programme.
(PLOVER, 1010/13 to C. in C. Nore).
Your 1010/13 approved.
(C. in C. Nore, 1247A/13 to PLOVER).
Operation Q.V.2 postponed 24 hours owing to weather
(C. in C. Nore, 1602A/13).

Portsmouth Area. One magnetic mine red detonated by LL in 50° 41' 45" N. 00° 51' 15" W. Details.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1805A/13 and 1155A/14).

Iceland Your 1941/12. Would prefer to Abandon sweep in Reydar Fjord and proceed as in para. three.
(C. in C. H.F., 2326A/13 to A.C.I.C.)

U-Boats.

U-boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 45° 50' N. 08° 00' W.
(A/C 5 WTN 0114/13 to 19 Group).
My 0115. S/M has dived. (?One) attack.
(A/C 0125/13 to 19 Group).
On day 12th. A Halifax sighted a U-boat with the conning-tower visible at about 5 miles distant. The Halifax dropped six depth-charges from 100 ft. and, although the A/C remained in the vicinity for 10 minutes, nothing further was seen.
(H.Q.B.C., 1300A/13).

/U-Boats...

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats. - Contd.

U-boats reported.

By D/F at 0545Z U-boat estimated to be in vicinity of convoy, possibly shadowing. It is not yet clear whether Local Series has been abandoned in favour of Series One.
(D.D.I.C., 0850A/13 to Escorts K.M.S.9, VELOX, ATHERSTONE).

A.M. 0850/13. Further W/T activity on 4412 k/cs and Series One indicates number of U-boats in vicinity of the convoys.

(D.D.I.C., 1019A/13 to K.M.S.9, VELOX, ATHERSTONE).

A.M. 1019A/13. U-boat W/T activity in your vicinity now appears to be entirely on series 1.

(D.D.I.C., 1220A/13 to K.M.S.9, VELOX, ATHERSTONE).

Navigational.

Plymouth closed.

The port of Plymouth is closed owing to suspected minelaying by aircraft.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2343A/13).

Casualties & Defects.

Vessel on Orrisdale Head.

Consider weather still too dangerous to approach distressed ship. Suggest shore lifeboat attend if weather moderates for connecting p.m. tide. Distance too great for rocket.
(BUSTLER, 0400A/13 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

GLEN CREE

District Officer Coastguards reports GLEN CREE has moored nearly 100 yards inshore lying on sand with less than 4 ft. water at high tide. Weather and tides unsuitable for lifeboats or tug to get sufficiently near. Next suitable tides early March.
(N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 0845A/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

VALIANT

Your 1515/12 para. 2. Consider no undue risk unless present strength German Air Force in North West France is reinforced.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1319A/13 to Admty).

CULEBRA

Request BUSTLER be sailed as soon as available to Reykjavik to tow SS. CULEBRA to Tyne. ADHERENT to relieve BUSTLER at Campbeltown. N.O.I.C. Aultbea to sail accordingly and not to Iceland.
HORSA to remain under orders of A.C.I.C. until further notice.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 1340A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- LORD MIDDLETON, LORD AUSTIN. Following from LORD MIDDLETON. Begins. Amend E.T.A. for LORD MIDDLETON, LORD AUSTIN at Stornoway 2000/13. LORD MIDDLETON T.W.12 out of action, LORD AUSTIN R.D.F. masthead training-wire carried away, also other defects caused by weather. Request immediate attention on arrival. 1110A/13 Ends. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1351A/13 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).
- LA CAPRICIEUSE. My 1401/21 Jan. Repairs completed and ship sailed to Tail of Bank a.m. today. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1514/13).
- BRADFORD F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1301/8. (1) F.O.I.C. Liverpool reports BRADFORD considered unfit for ocean escort. (2) I intend to give ship a further trial on a short escort duty. (C. in C. W.A., 1527A/13 to Admty).
- CASTILIAN My 1026A/12 and 1826A/12. Vessel listed 60° and wreck appears to be breaking up. No possibility of recovering diplomatic bags. Large numbers of prisoner of war mail-bags now being washed ashore over general area North Stack to Pt. Lynas. Coastguard, police, and military instructed to open up these to save the tinned food. Anticipate large quantity will be saved in good condition. This may require organization of local voluntary effort to assist. Am taking steps accordingly. Request Red Cross authorities may be informed and collection arranged. (H.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1544A/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
- H.33 Cancel my 1225A/13. H.33 unfit for service owing to fractured actuating-shaft forward planes. (Cdre. Londonderry, 2002A/13 to WESTERN ISLES).
- ULSTER QUEEN. Have sustained heavy weather damage. Details. Am proceeding destination for inspection. (ULSTER QUEEN, 2220A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- North Russian return cargoes. Following from Ministry of War Transport for Dalgleish. Soviet Trade Delegation have furnished the following information on return cargoes from Murmansk. Details. Please confirm that you have received similar information direct. (Admty. 0002A/13 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

/North...

489

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

North Atlantic Convoy Cycles. It is intended to put forward following proposals for revised North Atlantic trans-ocean convoy cycles at forthcoming Washington conference

(a) **Fast**, Medium and Slow convoys to be instituted each on a 12 day cycle, giving average of 7½ 60-ships convoys a month.

(b) Minimum speeds for inclusion in convoy as follows: H.X.F/O.N.F. 11 knots, H.X.M/O.N.M. 9½ knots, H.X.S/O.N.S. 7½ knots.

Note. S.C. designation has been dropped.

(c) System to be operated with 10 Groups of Mid Ocean escorts. 2. Request you will signal sailing programme showing how soon revised system could be brought into force having regard to other commitments.

(D.T.D., 0110A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X. 225 E.T.A. 0930A/13. Ships in company WAVENEY, REPUTAN, PRIMROSE, POLYANTHUS.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12, 0630A/13 to N.O.I.C.Londonderry).

H.X. 225 F. Arrived SHERWOOD.
(Cdre. Londonderry 0845/13).

D/F procedure. A.C.I.330. When D/F procedure B is ordered intercommunication is always to be on convoy H/F, ships and aircraft shifting frequency at the appropriate times.
(C. in C. W.A., 0846A/13 W.A. N. Message 542 N)

O.N.166 (EMPIRE CATO). Bearing from R/V your 0026/13 270° 45. Unable to rejoin convoy. Returning Clyde speed 9 knots.
(EMPIRE CATO, 0900 G.M.T./13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
Inform Commodore EMPIRE CATO is returning Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1755Z/13 to Escorts O.N. 166).

U.C.M.1 (1) 0500A/15. (2) EXE. Local escort "P.C.74" and FIARAY.
(3) 7 including 1 special and 6 tankers.
(4) Proceeding to R/V as in para. 1 of N.C.S.O. Mersey's 1523A/9.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 0932A/13).

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. D. of S.T's 0521/6, and Admiralty's 1526/4. Crane berth cannot be provided before p.m./15th, and this may delay completion date.
(D.S.T.O. Glasgow, 0945/13 to D.S.T.)

/M.K.S...

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- M.K.S.7. Ships for Bristol Channel and Mersey are to be detached as soon as convenient today to proceed south of Ireland, routed through 180° Old Head of Kinsale 10 miles thence via Q.Z.L. 18 escorted by 5 escorts.
2. Southabout Section designated M.K.S.7 (South).
3. 1 escort is to be detailed for final Bristol Channel portion to Scarweather.
(C. in C. W.A., 1037A/13 to Escorts M.K.S.7).
- Return Route of Icelandic Trawlers. Icelandic Trawlers both from Grimsby and Hull are asking permission to return independently and not in convoy, breaking off at 22 Buoy as usual. This is likely to recur. Estimated about 20 hours could be saved by the time they reached Thurso if their request was granted. Subject to approval I am informing them that they must proceed by F.N.44 (S) I.E. a.m./15th. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1130/13 to D.T.D.)
- J.W.53, and R.A.53. It is intended that five British S/Ms shall occupy Russian zones 2 and 2A West of 24° E. from 20th February to 10th March.
2. It is requested that concurrence of Soviet Authorities be obtained and that they be asked to keep clear of these areas during this period. (D.O.D. H., 1135A/13 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)
- U.C. and C.U. convoy armaments. Request is may be stressed that A.M. 0100/13th February refers to British Depth Charges and Escort Vessels, and that similar arrangements for U.S.A. escorts are of equal importance. (C. in C. W.A., 1144A/13 to Admty).
- M/Vs in North Russia. Group 3. Sailed from Molotovsk harbour 1100A today. First section R.W. EMERSON from Rican. Second section EMPIRE BARD, JEFFERSON MYERS. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1521A/13 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
- J.W.53 Is proposed R.A.F. Movement taking place in J.W.53. If so please give names of ships and as full details as possible to enable necessary berthing arrangements to be made before arrival. (Dalgleish, Murmansk 1716Z/13 to Admty).
- S.C.118 Arrived SOUTHERN WAVE. (Cdre. Londonderry 1920/13).
- K.X.9 My 1034A/13. Sailed MAN O' WAR. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 2000A/13 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Air Report. A.I.154 13th Feb. Op. Sum. 103 for 24 hours ended midnight 12 Feb.
 Afternoon cancelled A/C required for sweep west 4 Hudsons west 28 hours 1 Hudson U-boat hunt for U/B attacked by F.48 7 hours 1 Hudson U/B hunt for U/B attacked by D.233 7 hours 2 Albamarle Spartel night 12/13 4 hours balance flying time 1 Wellington night 11/12 landed Agadir ? 9 hours Agadir ? detachment 2 Hudsons south west estimated 11 hours 3 Hudsons west estimated 18 hours.
 (D) Met 1 Hudson west 9 hours.
 (E) Convoys U.3 Catalina K.M.F.9 2 met 8 hours BCJY 2530 at 2100/12 1 A/C still airborne 45 hours 1 Wellington ET 11 cancelled escorted by Algiers A/C until 1500/12 1 Catalina ET 11 still airborne 12 hours 2 Walrus M.F.S. S.S.W. of Straits PL ? met 1, our second Walrus cancelled not required (2 or 8?) hours 1 Walrus (force GTKH) met 1 hour NHPK (5439 or 5039?) at 1935/12 hours 1 Albermarle (force H) night not ? met returned base engine trouble 1 hour (1 or 2?) Hudson (force H) night 12/13 still airborne 1 hour.
 (F) A.S.R.2 Hudsons search for Catalina FP 2531 in transit from U.K. 6th Feb. abandoned by crew in position NHHY 4010 found in tow by trawler hove to NHHY 1853 at 2000/12 15 hrs.
 (G) Sightings and attacks Hudson B.1404 Met. Flight West at 1119 /12 37.11 N. 14.25 W. attacked a U/B on surface CO 220/4 kts. with M.G. fire on C/T. Hudson FCJA F.48 on A/S sweep West attacked from stern a U/B when submerging CO 290/8 kts. at (1405/12 or 1405/6?) 37.32 N. 11.56 W. stern still visible when 2 D.Cs. exploded right alongside U/B estimated level with F/T, other 2 D/Cs in line ahead of C/T pieces of wood littered over bluish oil patch swirling and seething ?200 yards diameter. Hudson D.233 on A/S sweep West attacked fully surfaced U/B CO 210/7 kts. at 1423/12 38.51 N. 13.38 W. U/B opened fire hitting bomb bay, D/Cs undershot.
 (H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 0515Z/13).

K.M.F.O K.M.F.9 N.K. alter course forthwith for new position T.37° N. 10° W. thence as ordered by N.C.X.F. No amendment to stragglers route.
 (D.O.D. (H) 1042A/13 to Escorts of K.M.F.9
 (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, KRAKOWIAK).

Situation Report. Situation 1956A/13. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR 037° 30' 020° 20' through 037° 30' 020° 01' thence 130° 8½. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE holds incorrect recognition signal.
 (2) U.G.F. 5, T.F. 36, 036° 38' 034° 04' 098° 12½.
 (F.O.C.N.A.S., 1133A/13 to A.I.G.64).
 Situation 2006A/13th.
 U.G.F.5 F.T.36 036° 38' 034° 04' 098° 12½.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1143A/13 to A.I.G.65).

492

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Should EMPRESS OF RUSSIA be sailed to join
M.K.F.9 S. of A. $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots?
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1138/13 to N.C.X.F. (R)
Admty. Cdre. Algiers).
Reply Yes. (N.C.X.F., 1034A/14).
1138/11 cancelled, see 1151/16.

NORTHERN
FOAM.

Your 1030 acknowledged.
(2) P.C. and S. 2000 tonight Saturday BOREAS
 $35^{\circ} 50' 06'' 03'$ to $35^{\circ} 50' 06'' 15'$ thence 225°
 $13\frac{1}{2}$. JAMAICA $35^{\circ} 48' 06'' 46'$ to $35^{\circ} 38'$ patrol
01 thence $273^{\circ} 18'$.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1214/13 to NORTHERN FOAM).

EIGER,
ALBULA.

My 1216/10 and 1610/10 Swiss state Swiss ships
EIGER and ALBULA will now leave Genoa 16th and
Maloja 19th for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D. 1225A/13 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
N.C.X.F.)

JAMAICA,
Operation
"Regulation".

Intend sailing JAMAICA 1600/13th through
(L) 35.40 N. 10.01 W. (M) 36.01 N. 18.01 W.
(N) 38.30 N. 20.01 W. (O) 43.30 N. 20.01 W to
arrive position (O) at 0500/16th.
(2) Thence carrying out operation "Regulation"
passing following positions at times indicated
(P) 43.30 32.30 1500/17th (Q) 45.01 33.01 20.30 /17th.
(R) 45.01 32.01 2315/17th (S) 44.01 31.01 03(?22)/18th.
(T) 44.01 23.01 0145/19th S. of A. $16\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to signal onward route
from position (T).
(4) Admty. pass to A.O.C. Coastal Command.
(Passing action being taken by W.R.).
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1302A/13 to Admty. etc).
My 1302/13. JAMAICA sailed 1620 Q.Z.H. 166 L.52 S.398
X 920 Y 377.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1722A/13 to Admty etc).

P.B.Ys.
for
Casablanca.

J.S.M. 1421Z/13 to W.C.O. See America and West
Indies.

Minesweeping
Gibraltar.

Your 2250/12 (2257A/12 intended) Mines
apparently new type.
VERNON officer being sent first opportunity.
Meanwhile recovery is important.
(D.T.M.1528A/13 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R)
N.C.X.F., VERNON M).

/Slow...

493

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Slow Convoy. Intended to sail a special slow convoy from Gibraltar to U.K. on Feb. 27th escorted by escorts of K.X.9, primarily intended for French ships too slow for inclusion in M.K. convoys. Slow ships from Oran and Casablanca should be sailed to Gibraltar with local escorts to anticipate this date. Addressees are requested to record names and speeds of ships for inclusion.
(N.C.X.F., 1546A/13 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O.C.A., (R) Com. Algiers, Admty).

BOREAS My 1823/12. BOREAS sailed 1655.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1731/13 to S.N.O.C.A., F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

U.S. Liberators for Casablanca. Following from Chiefs of Staff. Ref. your 1944A/12. We repeat text of a message communicated today to General Andrews. You will no doubt take the necessary action in regard to para. 4. (Begins). The following are our comments on Agwar R/5807 of 12th Feb. 1943.

2. The need for providing adequate air protection for your convoys proceeding to and from N.W.Africa is fully appreciated and constantly in mind and we agree that Liberators are necessary in this area.

We had always visualised that it might be desirable to despatch the American A/S Liberator Squadrons in U.K. to "Torch" area for these duties, and we would welcome the transfer of one Squadron to that area as soon as it has had sufficient operational experience and the necessary facilities for maintenance and operational control can be made available in N.W. Africa.

3. The period of working up of these Squadrons is far from complete and their combined strength is 14 aircraft. It is doubtful if they could yet operate efficiently from an advanced base without the necessary technical facilities to maintain them, particularly in view of their Special Equipment. In our view it would be unsound and uneconomical to move them at this stage in their training, especially as the requisite effort could hardly be obtained from a small detachment. Meanwhile they are gaining valuable training and operational experience in the Bay of Biscay where their presence is most useful.

4. We intend to maintain sufficient Catalinas at Gibraltar to cover both K.M/M.K. and U.G/G.U. convoys to maximum range. These, together with your P.B.Ys. and perhaps a British detachment at Port Lyautey, should be able to provide air cover up to about 600 miles.

5. We appreciate that the protection of the two U.G. convoys now on their way is a matter of immediate importance, but there would be no possibility of moving the U.S. Liberator Squadrons from Cornwall in time to operate in this connection. (Ends).
(Admty. 1801A/13 to N.C.X.F.)

/U.G.S...

494

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys. Maximum increased to 60 ships. (Cominch 1820/13 to Cinclant, etc). See America and West Indies.

ST. NECTAN, LADY DENISON PENDER, LORD HOTHAM. 1. Intend picking up LADY DENISON PENDER at Funchal daylight 14th.
2. At 1850A/13 LORD HOTHAM P.C. and S. 032° 43' N. 016° 27' W. 070° 9 knots.
3. Weather wind north east slight sea and swell, cloud 3/10 nautical, my position as in para. (2). (ST. NECTAN 1850A/13 to V.A. Gibraltar).

U.S. Movements. U.S.S. OSPREY and U.S.S. MAYO departed Safi for Casablanca. U.S.S. GLEAVES arrived Safi. (S.N.O.C.A., 1930Z/13 to N.C.X.F., Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch).

Axis shipping. Departure Cartagena Feb. 11th 11 hours French Steamer SAINT LUCIEN, Marseilles, Feb. 13th evening Spanish Steamer TARRAGONA Marseilles, Feb. 16th evening Spanish Steamer AMNUCHU GENOA all with cargoes for German destinations. Spanish fruit Steamer now may receive Spanish Naval escort. (Cartagena, 1935/13 to Gibraltar 8, (R) Proximo 5 Naval Attache 14).

Movements Arrivals 1845 REGINA, ALGOMA, MOOSEJAW, WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT, CAMROSE, KITCHENER, with convoy E.T.11 2126 VERITY from Mers-el-Kebir.
Departures. 1847 U.S. P.Cs. 471 and 474 to Casablanca, 1930 HARLEM to R/V SS. EMPIRE USK off Almeria and escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2229A/13 to Admty. N.C.X.F., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Cominch).

REGENT F.O.S.1146/12. Approved.
2. F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to report date on which it is anticipated REGENT will be ready to leave Gibraltar for patrol. (D.O.D. (F) 2240A/13 to N.C.X.F., F.O.S., F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C., C.in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. S.5). Reply: Feb. 24. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1146A/18).

/U/B...

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.U/B
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 39° 11' N. 11° 7' W.
Have lost touch with S/M last seen in position.
(A/C Duty J., 2240A/13 to A.H.Q. Gibraltar.
Enemy S/M previously reported was, when first
sighted on course 240° speed 10 knots.
(A/C duty J, 2310A/13).

Have attacked enemy with depth charges in 39° 18' N. 11°
17' W.

(A/C Duty J, 2330A/13).

Am over enemy S/M in 39° 18' N. 11° 17' W. sighted on
surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on
course 341° speed 10 knots.

(A/C Duty J, 2342A/13).

E.T.11

Arrived.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2308A/13 to N.C.X.F. (R)
Admty. F.O.C. Oran, Com. Algiers Connav).

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- BURDOCK,
EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA. Departure 12 Feb. BURDOCK escorting EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. (S.O.I. Freetown 0051Z/13 to Admty. (R) V.A.Gib.) EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Sailed 12th U.K. via Gibraltar E.T.A. Gibraltar 19th. Fuel taken. Watered to capacity. Passenger details in my code 1122Z/13/2. (D.S.T.O.W.A. 1119Z/13 to Admty. etc.)
- W.S.26. My 1601/8. 1. WAYLAND has sufficient oil to reach Capetown (?only.)
2. QUICKMATCH requires boiler cleaning on arrival at Capetown.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 0059Z/13 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. QUIBERON, WAYLAND.)
- Convoy
S.R.1. Sailing CEVENNES and ROUENNA is at 0001/13 escorted by F.S. M/S LA GRACIEUSE to comply with F.O.C.W.Af. 1503/12. (N.T. in W.D.) F.S. LA GRACIEUSE returning to Dakar.
(Comar Dakar 0857Z/13 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) BRIDGEWATER, Admty. N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca.)
- Entrance to
Dakar. Ref. A.M. 1830/11. Confirmed that M.Ship direct from U.K. may approach and enter Dakar provided they possess information in Q.L.A.151.
(R.A.W.Af. 1001Z/13 to Admty. (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar.)
- Movements. Walvis Bay arrivals 13th BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1031C/13.)
Arrival 13th. BELLWORT, M.Ls. 244 and 261.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1649Z/13 to Admty.)
Arrival 13th CYCLAMEN, CROCUS, DRANGY. Departure DRANGY H.M. Tug CHARON Accra E.T.A. 14th M.L. 272 Port Bouet E.T.A. 14th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1910Z/13 to Admty.)
- Dispositions. Weekly state S.A. Station 13th Feb. Pointe Noire to Simonstown, CARNATIC, Capetown to Walvis Bay, THYME, KRITILLARY, BAZELY: Cape Area, ST. ZENO, LE TIGER, COVENTRY CITY: Durban Area, SPHENE, NIGELLA, ARCTIC EXPLORER: Walvis Bay (?BLACKMOOR), NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN ISLES: Saldanha Bay, SPINDRIFT, MANCHESTER CITY, FERNMOOR: Capetown M.L. 381, 383, 829, 830, CARTHAGE, NORTHERN DUKE, WELLARD, STELLA POLARIS, LADY ROSEMARY; Simonstown, M.Ls. 380, 382 and 1150, CHITRAL, CERES, F.S. COMMANDANTE DUBOC, ROCKROSE, GENISTA, BALUCHISTAN, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ELSA, PACHECO, P.552, P.614 Port Elizabeth STORM WRACK, KHETI; East London, SARKA, SATSA, CECILE MAPLESON, NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN, Durban EREBUS, RESOURCE, ALBATROSS, NAPIER, FREESIA, CATTERICK, DAUNTLESS, JASMINE, INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA, PRUDENT, NORWICH CITY, MEAD, INTEGRITY, HILDESAY, SONDRRA.
(C. in C.S.A. 1154C/13 to C. in C.E.F. etc.)

/Situation...

497

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Situation THYME escorting NESTOR 024° 20' S. 013° 50' E. to
Report. Walvis Bay 10½ knots FRITILLARY H.M.S. CAPE
WARWICK with O.N.7 029° 30' S. 016° 30' E. to
Walvis Bay 7½ knots ST. ZENO, LE TIGER off Cape
Agulhas to Capetown 9 knots H.M.S. COVENTRY CITY, VEREENIGING
with D.C.6 off Cape Point to Capetown H.M.S. NIGELLA 030° 10' S.
031° 50' E. to Durban 12½ knots. ARCTIC EXPLORER 030° 50' S. 033°
05' E. to Durban 9 knots, NORWICH CITY, INDIAN STAR with O.N.17
(?031°) 10' S. 032° 45' E. to 033° S. 036° E. 8 knots SPHENE with
RECORDER 029° 30' S. 031° 50' E. CARNATIC about 026° 45' S. 014°
30' E. to Simonstown 12 knots S.D.C.7 034° 20' S. 026° 30' E. to
Capetown 9 knots S.C.A.11 A 031° 50' S. 029° 55' E. to Durban 8
knots.

(C. in C.S.A. 1202C/13 to A.I.G. 125.)

Situation 2000Z/13. French S/M ARCHIMEDE on surface 019° 34'
036° 48' 296° 12½.

French S/M AMAZONE on surface 015° 38' 028° 31' 296° 7.

French Cruiser GLOIRE 011° 00' 025° 00' to Freetown 20.

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. FANDANGO, INKPEN, ARRAN 2 M.Ls with
S.R.I. at 01.17 755 to 17.01 18.00 thence 007° 7¼.

BURDOCK escorting 12.27 18.04 352° 12½.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 1426Z/13 to A.I.G. 149.)

HELMSPEY HELMSPEY torpedoed and sunk by S/M Feb. 11th 0350
sunk 11/2. G.M.T. 034° 22' S. 022° 54' W., 2 torpedoes, 42
survivors landed Port Elizabeth, 4 men killed one
since died in hospital all boats accounted for.
Ship did not open fire. First message only sent out. Master H. Jones
(N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth 1226C/13 to Admty. C. in C.S.A.
Cmdre. i/c. Durban.)

HELMSPEY sunk by torpedo. 0350 G.M.T. 11th Feb. 034° 22' S.
024° 54' E. killed W. Watson A.B. L. Sanderson A.B. T.F. Robson 3rd
Engineer, Abdul Mohammed Arab Greaser.
(N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth 1523C/13 to Admty., (R) C. in C.S.A.)

VALIANT, 1. Intend to sail VALIANT, Captain (D) 2 in
Destroyers HOTSPUR, RANCHI, INCONSTANT, EXPRESS and FORTUNE
Convoy escorting convoy C.F.11 at 1300Z/14th Feb.
C.F.11. 2. C.F.11 consists of BRITANNIC (Cmdre. Tillard)
ORION, TROILUS and INDRAPOERA for U.K. and
ESPERANCE BAY for New York.
3. Route (A) 08.39 N. 15.20 W. (B) 11.27 N. 19.05 W.
(C) 18.00 N. 19.40 W. (D) 26.03 N. 24.34 W. (E) 38.17 N. 30.15 W.
(F) 48.05 N. 25.00 W. (G) 53.10 N. 20.00 W. thence as ordered by
C.inC.W.A. Estimated Speed make good 12 knots.
4. QUADRANT and REDOUBT will join escort from Bathurst in 14° 04 N.
19.18 W. at 1200Z/16 Feb.
5. ESPERANCE BAY will be detached in approx. 28.28 N. 25.40 W.
at 1900Z/19 Feb. to proceed independently to New York.
6. REDOUBT will be detached at dusk 22 Feb. to refuel at Ponta
Delgada. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada p.m. 23rd. From Ponta Delgada
REDOUBT proceeds at best speed to Casablanca to comply with my
1545Z/11.
7. QUADRANT will be detached at dusk 23rd Feb. to refuel at Ponta
Delgada and will then be available to join escorts of convoy W.S.
27 E.T.A. Ponta Delgada p.m. 25th Feb.

/8...

498

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

VALIANT,
Destroyers
Convoy
C.F.11.
(Contd.)

8. It has been left to discretion of VALIANT to refuel remaining destroyers from VALIANT and RANCHI*. If this is done it will leave little margin for diversions or operational purposes. If destroyers are not fuelled at sea they will fuel at Ponta Delgada.

9. Escorts shift to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 0800Z/19 Feb. and to Home Station W/T organisation at 2000Z/22 Feb. code word Teapot.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1301Z/13 to Admty.etc.) *Reference to RANCHI cancelled, see 1215/14.

DESPATCH,
QUADRANT,
REDOUBT.

Intend to sail DESPATCH for Bathurst escorted by (?QUADRANT) and REDOUBT at 1100Z/14th Feb. Route: (A) 008° 30' N. 014° 43' W. (B) 010° 24' N. 017° 40' W. (C) 012° 52' N. 017° 37' W. (D) 013° 31' N. 017° 00' W. thence Bathurst, estimated speed made

good 17 knots E.T.A. Bathurst 1730Z/15th Feb.

(11) DESPATCH has orders to proceed on patrol at 0700Z/17th Feb.

(111) QUADRANT, REDOUBT are to be sailed to comply with my 1301Z/13th.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1334C/13 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty. DESPATCH, Comar Dakar.)

DESPATCH
GEORGES
LEYGUES,
patrol.

My 1829Z/3. Intend DESPATCH to patrol to eastward of Cape Verde Islands. Propose that GEORGES LEYGUES should patrol to westward of Cape Verde Islands.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1431Z/13 to Admty.)

MALAKAL
(ex German
LIKOMBA.)

In Telegram 86 of 2nd Feb., to Governor, Sierra Leone, Secretary of State has directed Institution of Prize Court proceedings in Sierra Leone against MALAKAL (Late LIKOMBA.)*
(F.O.C.W.A. 1435Z/13 to Admty. (R) Govr. Sierra Leone.)* No records available in my office capture of this vessel.

ADRIAS,
U/B.

Am engaged in hunting enemy S/M in position three 52 North six 33 West.
(ADRIAS 1625A/13, 1651Z/14 to Admty. (R) F.O.W.Af.)
C.A.F.O. 834/41 (A) H.M.S. BORDER (B) 1615Z/13th.
(C) 003° 52' N. 006° 33' W. (D) 52 (E) 1952Z/13th.
(BORDER 2212Z/13 1651Z/14 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

BURDOCK
defect.

Your 1823/12th, not to Com. Dakar or BOREAS. BURDOCK reports distiller defect which will necessitate ship proceeding from R/V in 026° 01' N. 016° (?50') W. at 1700Z/16th direct to Port Etienne to effect repairs.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1643Z/13 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., Com. Dakar, S.N.O. Casablanca, BOREAS, BURDOCK.)

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

TJITJALENGKA Naval Hospital ship TJITJALENGKA now serving as
(Hospital base hospital ship in West Africa is required for
Ship.) service under C. in C.E.F.

2. She should therefore be sailed by D.S.T.O.
W.A. as soon as possible for Capetown.*

3. C. in C.E.F. is requested to give instructions as to her
subsequent movements.

(D. of S.T. 1700A/13 to D.S.T.O.W.Af. C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.Af.
C. in C.S.A. P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O.M.E.
P.S.T.O. India.) * Anticipated date of sailing should be reported.

A.M. 1240/11.
CARNARVON Personnel from West Africa for U.K. may be embarked
CASTLE. in CARNARVON CASTLE. As A/S escort will probably
not be available, numbers in each category should
not exceed 250.

(D.O.D.(F) 1701A/13 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) CARNARVON
CASTLE.)

A.Ms. 1240/11. Route for CARNARVON CASTLE from Montevideo. Q
035° S. 043° W. R 032° S. 021° W. S. 010° S. 022° W. Thence
Freetown as ordered by F.O.C.W.Af.

(C. in C.S.A. 2133C/13 to CARNARVON CASTLE, (R) N.O.I.C.
Falkland Islands, Naval Attache Montevideo, F.O.C.W.Af.
Comsolant for Admty.)

UMGENI, Request any information of movements of UMGANI and
VILLE VILLE D'AMIENS both ships have consignments of
D'AMIENS. Naval stores and are considerably overdue.
(Cmdre. Durban 1826/13 to Admty.)

QUEEN Your 1955/12. Correct position 034° 53' S. 019°
ANNE 51' E.
(C.A.11.) (C. in C.S.A. 1841C/13 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C.
sunk 10/2. Durban, C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.Af.)

HOGGAR, Intend to sail HOGGAR escorted by LA GRACIEUSE
QUERCY, 1830Z/14 for Freetown. Speed made good 8½ knots
LA GRACIEUSE. expect to arrive 1100Z/17.

2. LA GRACIEUSE proceeding without entering Freetown
to Conakry. Leave Conakry 1900Z/18 escorting

QUERCY to Dakar. Speed made good 12½ knots. Expect to arrive
a.m. 20th.

3. French air cover arranged between Dakar, Conakry. My 1446/3rd
refers.

(Comar Dakar 2006Z/13 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)

Convoy A.M. 1831A/11. Intend to include BELNOR and EMPIRE
S.R.2. ELAINE in convoy S.R.2, sailing from Freetown about
24th Feb.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2015Z/13 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C.
Gibraltar.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Weekly state 13th Feb. Cape Verde area BRIDGEWATER, Freetown area RANCI, BURDOCK, BELLWORT, Freetown, VALIANT, DESPATCH, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, HOTSPUR EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT, S/M P.615. Takoradi area WAYLAND, CILICIA, CANTON, QUIBERON, QUALITY, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUICKMATCH, COMMANDANT, DESTIENNE, D'ORVES, CORINTHINIAN, ADRIAS, HYDRANGEA. Takoradi CYCLAMEN, CROCUS. Lagos CDTE. DROGOU, Boma, ARMERIA.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2215Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

501

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.T.Bs. Departure M.T.B. 309, 313, 260, 267.
(V.A. Malta, 0113A/13 to C. in C. Med., Admty.,
N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Benghazi.)

ALBARO. Italian tanker ALBARO expected Istanbul from
Black Sea 1200 G.M.T. Feb. 13th. B.2.
(S.O.I. Istanbul via N.I.D., 0851C/13 to S.O.I.
Med., S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

Tunis Your 1300 Jan. 31st. Ships can be allowed to
Repatriations. proceed to Tunis under following conditions.
(A) Date and time of sailing to be communicated
to me not less than 48 hours in advance.
(B) Names of Hospital Ships to be employed to
be communicated. Ships to be fully marked and illuminated in
accordance with Geneva Convention.
(C) Route to be from Marseilles direct to pass position 37°
20', 7° 00' E. at 1600A where they will be liable to examination
thence through position 37° 40', 9° 00' E. direct to Bizerta
unless course southbound endangers her from enemy mines
suspected off Bizerta.
(D) Italians may send German tug and named pilot vessel to meet
her at this point.
(E) Ships must berth in Bizerta Lake to avoid danger from
bombing.
(F) Ships must sail from Bizerta in daylight by reverse of
outward route being similar subject to examination.
(G) More precise instructions will be given when speed of
ships is known.
(N.C.X.F., 0900A/¹³ to N.A. Madrid, Admty., etc.)
Action deferred, see Admty. 1641A/14.

Movements, Arrivals 12th Feb. M.L.351, SOUTHERN MAID,
Alexandria. departure 12th Feb. ANTWERP.
(S.O.I. Alex., 0910B/13 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

GURNA. Arrival Suez 12th Feb. A.S.I. Ship GURNA.
(F.O.C.R.S., 0925A/13 to Admty.)

TROOPER. Leave patrol after dark on 15th passing through
038° 14', 018° 54' then by reverse of outward
route to R/V with sweepers at position 6, 0830/
18th.
(Capt. S.10, 1015A/13 to TROOPER, (R) Submarines
on patrol.)

M.K.S.8. My 1733/12th Oran R/V 035° 38', 000° 31' W.
(N.C.X.F., 1101A/13 to A.I.G.260, (R) Capt. S.8,
S.O. Force H, Capt. (F), Connav.)

/GRETE ...

502

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- GRETE N.A. Madrid reports Danish SS. GRETE was torpedoed and sunk approx. 1200/11th February off Pensicola. Submarine not identified. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1104A/13 to S.O.(I) N.C.X.F., S.O.(I) Malta.)
? TORBAY concerned, see Admty., 1908A/14.
- Enemy Transmissions. Very faint foreign transmission heard between 1043 and 1050 bearing 346.5 degs. on 458 k/cs and 349 degs. on 450 k/cs. My position 037° 09' N. 005° 44' E.
(ROTHESAY, 1107A/13 to N.C.X.F.)
- MARIPOSA. U.S.S. MARIPOSA arrived 0705/13 Feb. G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Suez, 1115B/13 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Bombay, Colombo, Com. Aden, Cominch, Connav, C.O.I.S., Alexandria, Dep. C. in C. E.F.)
- Tafaroui aerodrome. My 1246/4 (N.T. in W.R.) not to FORMIDABLE or F.O.C. Gibraltar. H.Q. Allied Air Force inform me that section of Tafaroui aerodrome has been allocated to British G/R aircraft of Eastern Air Command. 2. For simplicity in administration and communication, arrangements should be made for F.A.A. disembarked Squadrons to share same portion of Tafaroui. Temporary arrangements at A.A. Senia are to cease as soon as transfer to Tafaroui is practicable. 3. Request arrangements for representatives of F.O. 'H', R.N.A.S. Gibraltar, and FORMIDABLE to meet officers of E.A.C. at Oran about 16th Feb. to make detailed proposals in consultation with 12th Air Force. H.Q.E.A.C. requested to confirm date. (N.C.X.F., 1126/13 to F.O.'H', F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., FORMIDABLE, N.O.I.C. Oran, H.Q.E.A.C.)
- Coastal Force Bases. Your 1644A/22/1. Lieut. Cdr. R.N.O. Marshall D.S.C., R.N.V.R. has been appointed to Coastal Force Base, Malta, and will be sent by quickest route. 2. Lieut. Cdr. E.M. Norman, D.S.C., R.N.R. is appointed Coastal Force Base, Gibraltar, vice Outhwaite, sick. 3. Your 1524A/1/1 para. 2 (c), Cdre. E. Welman, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N. will be appointed to Algiers, and will leave U.K. shortly. (N.A. 2nd S.L., 1143A/13 to N.C.X.F.)
- P. 54. Leave patrol to pass 038° 36', 011° 40' at 0800/15th. 038° 36', 008° 28' at 2130/16th. 038° 04', 004° 03' at 2130/18th to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 59', 003° 08' at 0730/19th. After 0800/15th do not attack S/M unless identified as hostile until west of 008° E.
(Capt. S.8, 1200A/13 to P.54, (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

THUNDERBOLT. Patrol close to position 180° C C 17 during daylight 14th. May you be lucky.
(Capt. S.10, 1209A/13 to THUNDERBOLT.)

L.C.M. 58
Lost. L.C.M. 58 sank 25th Jan. off Ras-el-Ghargan after stranding.
(C. in C. Med., 1230B/13 to Admty., (R) D.C.O. M.E., R.A.L., SAUNDERS.)

Med. and Levant Commands. Admty. 2253/7 para. 1. It is most important to know the date when change in Command organisation is intended to take effect. Confusion is obviously already arising due to departments assuming that Prime Minister's announcement made change effective. Urgency lies not so much in making the change as in making clear when it is to take place. Request very early reply.
(N.C.X.F., 1238A/13 to Admty.)

U-Boat sunk by DOLFIJN. C.A.F.O. 1278/41 (reports on expenditure of ammunition). 8th Feb. B. Italian U-Boat. C. DOLFIJN. G. 4-21 inch Mark 8 2 star A A 23 60, 26 35, 26 62, 26 67. J. Separate report. 2. Admty. pass to B.D.Z.
(Capt. S.8, 1401A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., etc.)
W.D. Note: For position see N.C.X.F. 1231A/16.
My 1401/13th Feb. para. J. Submarine sunk. 2. F.O.S. pass to B.D.Z.
(Capt. S.8, 1405A/13 to F.O.S., (R) B.D.Z.)
W.D. Note: - No position given. DOLFIJN left Algiers for patrol 1st Feb.

Tripoli Unloading. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Weather bad at Tripoli last two days and salvage operations impeded. Stores landed 11th and 12th Feb. Tripoli 1635 and 2000. Benghazi 855 and Nil.
(Mideast, No T.O.O. to Air Min.)

K.M.S.9. BLACK SWAN. In view of U-Boat threat to K.M.S.9 which has since developed, request reconsideration of your 1257/12 (re time of arrival at position Z of BLACK SWAN).
(D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1543A/13 to N.C.X.F.)
Cancel my 1257/12th. Proceed at utmost speed of convoy.
(N.C.X.F., 1731A/13 to BLACK SWAN, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.9, (R) Admty., F.O. Gib.)

/Air ...

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Air R/C. P.R.U. 13th Feb. 1345 Taranto visual 2 CAVOUR battleships, 1 "D" type cruiser, 1 "E" type cruiser. Photographs taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1555A/13 to C. in C. M.E., N.C.X.F., S.O. Force I, etc.)
- P.R.U. 13th Feb. visual. 1600, Naples, one "E" type cruiser. Photographs taken.
(V.A. Malta, 1755A/13 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., S.O. Force I, etc.)
- UNA, Investigate carefully position 10 miles south of Alice Point where aircraft report 1 tanker Tanker. stopped at 1320 today. She is probably beached and has vessels standing by protecting her.
(Capt. S.10, 1707A/13 to UNA.)
- G.U.S. 4. Request you will sail Oran section of G.U.S. 4 at 1400A/18 escorted by RHYL, STORNOWAY, BUDE, FELIXSTOWE, CLACTON, ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, POLRUAN to R/V with Casablanca section in 35.10 N. 07.30 W. at 1000A/20th.
2. Route through 86, 50, 57, 35° 55' 05° 43', 35° 54' 05° 51', 35° 51' 05° 57', 35° 49' 06° 06', 35° 44' 06° 36' (all North and West) lettered A - H. Stragglers route as convoy. S. of A. 8 knots.
3. Gibraltar section join in position 57 at 1900A/19 with local escorts.
4. Escorts return to Gibraltar on completion.
5. Onward route as ordered by Admiralty.
6. Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Wasting".
(N.C.X.F., 1803A/13 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty., etc.)
W.D. Note:- Cancelled by 1733A/16, q.v.
- Movements, 13th Feb. Port Said arrivals ANTWERP, SPETSAI, Port Said. H.H.M.S. PANTHER, AETOS, KLO. Departures M.L. 1046, PAKENHAM, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1813B/13 to Admty., etc.)
- M.E. 17. Sailed convoy M.E.17, JERVIS, TETCOTT, BELVOIR, PINDOS.
(V.A. Malta, 1831A/13 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
Transports ERINNA, YORBA LINDA, EGRE left for Alexandria.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 1900/13 to D. of S.T., Connav.)
- S/Ms. Algiers submarine movements. Arrivals submarine Algiers. TORBAY, Dutch submarine DOLFIJN from patrol. Departure submarine SPLENDID (P.228) to patrol.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1853A/13 to Admty., etc.)
- U.G.S.5. My 1834/12. Delete NORBRIS.
(Director of Stores, 1901A/13 to N.C.X.F.)

/Tankers ...

505

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Tankers.

C. in C. Freedom, Algiers, from Army-Navy Petroleum Board, Washington. Admty. pass to Algiers (passing action being taken by W.R.) "Army-Navy Petroleum Board sends action to C.

in C. Freedom, Algiers information to S.O.S. Tanker HOUSATONIC cargo 665,000 gallons V 80 Octane Grade A gasoline. Reference your NR.473 February 12th action FHPET. Tanker ESSO PHILADELPHIA cargo Navy special fuel oil 72,000 barrels, diesel pool 21 requested by Admiralty 25,919 barrels, drums lubes 800." S.O.S. has for information by hand.
(Radio Washington, 1905/13 to Admty.)

French
Warships at
Alexandria.

Following for Prime Minister from Minister of State (R) British Resident Minister, Algiers. (Begins). I saw Adm. Godfroy with Adm. Harwood today and conveyed your message to him, together with a note the text of which I am telegraphing to you at once separately in my telegram M.O.S.61 through Air Ministry (see 1725B/13, following). I told him of the French ships that are in course of being brought into service against us by the Axis, to the extent that the sources of my information (Admiralty and S.I.S.) have agreed that the information could be used with him. Any further particulars in this connection that you can let me have and which I can use with Godfroy would be most valuable. I left him in no doubt as to the situation or as to the attitude of H.M.G. and reasons for it. He showed no change in attitude, and said that he would have to consider the matter. My impression is that he will neither scuttle nor attempt to bolt in the immediate future, but all precautions are being maintained. I said that he could send a Senior Officer by air to North Africa if he so desired, to which he made no immediate reply. I am still firmly of opinion that a visit by a Senior French naval officer from North Africa is essential. It was the most important part of my original plan, and I would ask you to have everything possible done to bring it about. I will of course keep you urgently informed of any developments. (Ends).

(Mideast, 1915Z/13 to Air Min, Freedom Algiers.)

Following for Prime Minister from Minister of State. In addition to conveying your message (as contained in F.O. telegram 442 of Feb. 12th) to Adm. Godfroy, following is text of note that I handed to Adm. Godfroy at our meeting today. (Begins). Under Art. IV of the Godfroy - Harwood Agreement of June 20th 1942, it was agreed that the ships of Force "X" will not attempt to leave the harbour except with consent of C. in C. Mediterranean. Now that H.M.G. have incontestable proof that French warships have been taken over and used against them by Axis powers, they are entitled under Art. XI to require the agreement to be reconsidered with a view to providing thereunder for collaboration of Force "X" with United Nations under the altered circumstances created by such a breach of conditions of the Armistice. Vice-Admiral Commanding Force "X" has not seen his way to modify the agreement in this sense. H.M.G. have therefore decided to maintain it in being for the present with the exception of the withdrawal of their undertaking under Article V to provide pay of personnel after 13th February 1943. They

/regard ...

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

French Warships at Alexandria. (Contd.) regard the undertaking of the Vice Admiral under Art. IV as still binding on him. Should, however, the Vice Admiral consider himself no longer bound by this undertaking. I am instructed by H.M.G. to warn him that in view of important strategic considerations which it is obviously impossible for me to disclose, it is imperative that the ships of Force "X" should remain in the harbour of Alexandria, and that any attempt to leave harbour without express consent of C. in C. Mediterranean will be deemed to have been made with the intention of assisting the enemy, and will be regarded as a hostile act. (Ends). (Mideast, 1725B/13 to Air Min.)

VENOMOUS, WIVERN. Take WIVERN under your orders and sail 2000 today for Gibraltar route through position 72, S. of A. 24 knots. (2) VENOMOUS acknowledge. (S.O. Force H, 1925A/13 to VENOMOUS, (R) WIVERN, N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (D) 6, F.O. Oran.)

Greek Relief Ships. 4 Swedish relief ships for Greece passing Messina probably 15th to Spartivento Cape, thence 20 miles south of Gavdo. Hulls white with red cross and Sverifaire on sides. Not to be molested. (Capt. S.10, 1928A/13 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Movements, Bone. Bone departures: SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LIGHTNING, LOYAL. Arrivals: AURORA, DIDO, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, BICESTER, ZETLAND, LUNENBURG, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, WEYBURN, PORT ARTHUR. (S.O.I.S., 1953A/13 to N.C.X.F., Admty., etc.)

Movements, Oran. Arrival RODNEY, NELSON, VENOMOUS, HAYDON, CALPE, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, TARTAR, WIVERN. Departure FELIXSTOWE. (N.O.I.C. Oran, 1958A/13 to Admty., etc.)

Situation Report No. 339. Tripoli Libya. Dawn raid 11th Feb. no damage. 2000 tons of cargo discharged 12th Feb. Buerat closed down as a supply port 13th Feb. 2. My 2035/29th Jan. para. 3. Maximum storage for furnace oil fuel 1200 tons. Original estimate 10,000 tons based on capacity of tanks now found unserviceable. 3. Submarines. P.51 at 1733/4th Feb. in 39.36 N. 17.11 E. torpedoed and sank 1500 tons merchant vessel in tow unescorted. 4. Levant. Egyptian sailing vessel sunk by U-Boat at 1625/11th Feb. in 35.02 N. 34.35 E. No casualties. My 2055/11th Feb. para. 5 SAROENA refloated. 5. Red. Sea. HERO has left Aden for refit in U.K. (C. in C. Med., 2003B/13 to Admty., etc.)

/Malta ...

507

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta Air
Report.

A.I. 519, 13th Feb.
Night 12th/13th Feb. No shipping target was found. Day 13th Feb. 12 Spitfires made offensive sweeps over Southern Sicily but no enemy aircraft or shipping was found.
(H.Q. Malta, 2012Z/13.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LOYAL, LIGHTNING from East. Departures AURORA, DIDO, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT to East, M.L.458 to Oran, M.L. 283 to Bougie.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2016/13 to Admty., etc.)

Movements,
Tripoli.

Feb. 13th arrivals KELVIN, PALADIN, COUNDOURIOTIS.
(N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya), 2045B/13 to Admty.)

Movements,
Benghazi.

Arrival HYACINTH, SEAHAM, GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN ISLE, PROTEA, SOUTHERN SEA, M.T.B.309, M.T.B.313.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2148B/13, 0610B/14 to Admty.)

LETITIA,
FRANCONIA.

LETITIA and FRANCONIA in K.M.F.10A, destined for Oran have 1400 and 130 personnel respectively for Gibraltar.
2. Request your concurrence that LETITIA can call Gibraltar homeward bound from Oran to U.K. to disembark these personnel. Personnel ex FRANCONIA would be transferred to LETITIA at Oran.
(D. of S.T., 2311A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) P.S.T.O.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.T.O. Gibraltar.)
Para. 2. Concur.
(N.C.X.F., 1032A/14.)

K.M.S.11,
K.M.F.11,
W.S. 28.

For Gen. Eisenhower.
Present provisional arrangements for move of 11 Armoured Div. are that vehicles sail in K.M.S.11 leaving 14th March, and personnel in K.M.F.11 (with W.S.28) leaving 15th March. Urgent investigation now taking place here regarding possible advancement these dates. Provided escorts can be found and other parts of W.S.28 prepared in time K.M.S.11 could sail 9th March and K.M.F.11 March 11th. Request immediate reply whether you can accept these convoys at such reduced interval after K.M.S. 10 observing that K.M.S.10 comprises 17 M.T. ships for Algiers, 5 for Bougie, 4 for Philippeville, 8 for Bone and 7 for Oran total 41 M.T. Ships. K.M.S.11 is expected to consist of about 30 ships.
(W.O., 2315A/13 to A.F.H.Q.)

War Diary.13.2.1943.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Fuelling line Mauritius. Your 1339/1 Feb. approved to extend floating fuelling line at Port Louis, Mauritius to 750 feet to improve berthing. Arrangements made for execution by Oil Co.

(C. E. in C. 0039A/13 to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O., E. Africa and Zanzibar, Capts. Suptd. Simonstown and Durban, Cdore, Durban N.O.I.C. Mauritius.)

Movements. Arrival KONKAN escorting A.P. HILL and BANFF PARK.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0416Z/13)
Departures 0437Z/13th Feb. WARSPITE, RESOLUTION, REVENGE, NORMAN, NIZAM, NEPAL, ROTHERHAM, FOXHOUND, QUILLIAM.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0441Z/13 to Admty.)
Departures 0534Z/13 GAWLER escorting SHENKING.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0537Z/13 to Admty.)
Departure RAJPUTANA escorting NAGINA.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 0612Z/13 to Admty.)
Departure 0935Z/13. JUMNA, KHYBER escorting R.F.A. BROOMDALE M.F.A. ALETTA. JUMNA and KHYBER constant watch group wavemeter.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1024Z/13 to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 13th. Feb., 0300Z/ MAURITIUS 0730Z ASTER.
Departures 0830Z TULIP.
(F.O. Ceylon. 1226/13 to Admty.)
13th Feb. CHALLENGER, FAVOURITE, ROCKWOOD departed.
(F.O.I.C. E. Africa, 1421Z/13 to Admty.)

JEHANGIR B.A.38. JEHANGIR, speed 10 knots, with 150 passengers, ready to proceed in B.A.38 in accordance with P.S.T.O.I. 0929/29 Jan., para F. Will ocean escort be provided?
(Com. R.I.N. 0436Z/13 to C. IN C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon etc.)

MARIPOSA. B.A.D. 1449/12 (see America and West Indies)
The 900 Poles mentioned in my 0529/11th Feb. are Polish troops for onward passage U.K. consisting of officers 38, W.O. 98, Troops 776.
(P.S.T.O.I. 0913Z/13 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. M.E., B.A.D.)

P.B.27, P.B. 28, P.A. 25, P.A. 26. Escorts. Intention for escort SONAVATI and PANGKOR, P.B.27 CESSNOCK, P.A.25 sail 0430Z/18. Ocean Route No.2 BOMBAY and ORISSA P.B.28 GERALDTON P.A. 26 sailing 0600Z/24. Ocean route No.1. This amends my 1232Z/6th.
(S.N.O.P.G. 0945Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, C. in C. S.A. Connav, F.O. Ceylon, Cdore. R.I.N., C. in C. Aden. N.O.I.C. Karachi.)

509

13.2.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

India
Air
Report.

Feb. 12th. Offensive R/C. 1 Hudson attacked small craft South of Ramree Island. 2 Hurricanes damaged? M/T 5 River steamers building Monywa - Pakokku.
(A.H.Q. India, 1255Z/13 to Air Ministry.)

Convoy A.3

Sailing telegram part 2 (tankers GREEN RANGER, ATHEL MONARCH, CEDARDALE, BUCCINUM). All for Colombo.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1328Z/13 to Admty. (R)
F.O. Ceylon)

510

13.2.1943,
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies

U.C./C.U. A.M. 0020/7. Most desirable that U.C./C.U. convoys should carry up to 300 spare depth-charges, 120 Convoys, carriage of ballast weights, 120 carriers, and flotation gear depth charges. for transfer during passage to escort vessels requiring them. (Details.)

5. Convoy U.C.1 is carrying about 250 depth-charges, unexpended balance of these charges may be transferred to C.U.1. Existing stock at Curacao should cover remaining requirement.

6. 250 depth-charges (40% heavy) are being sent to Curacao by S.S. GOVERNOR due about mid-March, further consignments follow.

7. Request you will obtain Navy Dept's. concurrence and assistance to comply with above proposals, to which great importance is attached.

(D.A.S.W. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 0100A/13 to B.A.D. B.R.N.O. Curacao. C. in C.W.A.)
Reply: B.A.D. 1621/18.

TRURO. E.T.A. Halifax 1030Z/13th. (Incomplete group) new asdic dome.
(TRURO 0207Z/13 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q. D. Halifax.)

U/B. Following received from Lands End Radio (Begins): Intercept 0156 G.M.T. Radio Trinidad Sub. sighted 09° 58' N. 61° 48' W. at 1818 G.M.T. 0257/13.
(Ends.)
(C. in C.Plymouth T.O.R. 0301/13 to Admty.)
(Liverpool W/T 0406/13 to General Broadcast Area One.)

Convoy Reports. This is Connav's 1920/12th. Requested daily convoy only situation report on all convoys east of 26° W. between latitudes 10° and 45° N. be obtained by you from Admiralty. G4M and S3Q U.S. Call sign assigned to mean all U.S. Commands concerned with convoy movements in above mentioned area. Navy Dept. will make General Promulgation call sign in usual manner. Encrypt in E.C.M. Class 3 Atlantic and relay via Washington for transmission on N.S.S. F. Advise.
(Connaveu 0934/13 to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 13th U.S. Transport STATE OF VIRGINIA Aruba 13th.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 0937/13 to Admty.)

ASSINIBOINE. My 1754/10. Repairs to ASSINIBOINE cannot be completed until Feb. 23rd. Ship will be sailed direct to Londonderry on completion.
(F.O.N.F. 1215Z/13 to C. in C.W.A. (R) C.T.F.24 Admty. etc.)

/J.H...

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

J.H.36 1. J.H. 36. 2. 1330Z/13 3. Halifax 1600Z/16
4. 7 knots. 5. Route.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1242Z/13 to Admty.)

WITHERINGTON, WITHERINGTON will arrive St. Johns to join
RICHMOND. Western Support Force about 20th Feb. Ref. your
1721A/27 Nov. 1942 para. five can probably date
of arrival of RICHMOND now be given.
(F.O.N.F. 1249Z/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. C.T.F.24.)

My 1334/11. WITHERINGTON has sustained a defect which will
probably delay sailing up to 3 days.
(B.A.R.M. 2200Z/13 to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.U.S.Fleet, Admty.
N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O.W.At. C.O.A.C. WITHERINGTON.)

P.B.Ys. J.S.M. 731. Following is repetition of text of
for Algiers telegram 9896. (Begins):-
Casablanca. Recommend allocation as soon as possible for
French rearmament three P.B.Y. Catalinas
(seaplanes or amphibians) for training of
French Naval Air Force personnel in Casablanca area preparing
for patrol. If planes allocated further recommend that French
crews be sent to U.S.A. for transition training and to fly
planes back.
(J.S.M. Washington 1321Z/13 to W.C.O. London.)

Troop Canadian Army desire to effect relief of one
Movement, battalion stationed at Jamaica by battalion from
Jamaica. Canada, movement from Canada to take place as
soon as possible after 22nd April.
As no vessel available from Canada request you
will advise what arrangement can be made to allocate vessel or
space in vessel to accommodate approx. 800 all ranks.
(N.S.H.Q. 1422Z/13 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. D.of S.T., British M.of
W.T. New York.)

ALCANTARA, ALCANTARA escorted by WOODRUFF gets underway from
WOODRUFF. Recife 1230Z/14 proceed Trinidad conducting ocean
sweep against enemy blockade runners and raiders
enroute. Average S.O.A. 12.5 knots. Proceed through
following points:- A. 05.00 S. 30.00 W. B. 00.00 S. 28.00 W.
C. 05.00 N. 28.00 W. D. 10.00 N. 35.00 W. E. 10.00 N. 60.00 W.
E.T.A. Boca de Navios 2030Z/24. Guard N.S.S. schedule en route.
Upon arrival Trinidad consider duty with Comsolant in accordance
with Cominch 1955/31 completed. All addressees advised.
(Navcom Washington 1503/13 to Admty.)

R.C.N. Personal for 1st S.L.
Contribution Your 1240/31 Jan. Grateful for some early
to War Effort. indication of recommendations which you intend
to make to higher authority.
(C.N.S. Canada 1510Z/13 to Admty.)

/Pontoons...

512

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Pontoons in Landing Operations. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. (W) 471. Problem referred to in telegram No. 1203/11 from C.C.O. to C.O.L.O. regarding pontoons is, for operational reasons, most urgent and you should do all you can to impress this on Americans. (Britman Washington 1530Z/13 to Air Min.)

BRANDON. At 1500Z/13 sailed BRANDON to Londonderry routed (A) 043° 20' N. 060° 00' W. (B) 044° 20' N. 051° 00' W. thence Great Circle to 000° Irish Trahull Light 10 miles thence destination via Q.Z.S.388. Speed 11 knots E.T.A. 0300Z/23.
2. Conditions permitting BRANDON will adjust speed to arrive a.m. 22nd September (?Feb. intended) reporting amended E.T.A. (C.O.A.C. 1543Z/13 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. C.T.G.24.7. N.S.H.Q. C.T.24 F.O.N.F. Cominch, BRANDON.)

Submarine estimates 13th Feb. U.S. Submarine notices. (Cominch 1547/13, 1548/13, 1604/13, 1605/13, 1606/13, 1850/13 to Admty.)

U.G.F.5. U.G.F.5 N.K. Recommend alter course on crossing 38° W. for new position K 41° 03' N. 31° 30' W. new L 41° 01' N. 21° 59' W. thence direct to H. (D.O.D.(H) 1635Z/13 to Connav.)

Destinations of personnel. Your 1657/19/1. Two signals will be sent as hitherto in respect of sailings from U.K. for North America.
(a) One confirming sailing date of vessel or convoy and referring to War Office signal which gives particulars of personnel on board by services and other broad categories and
(b) The other giving details of Naval Personnel on board.
2. Presume this will meet your requirements.
(D. of S.T. 1659A/13 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. C.O.A.C. Halifax.)
Reply: Yes (N.S.H.Q. 1548Z/15.)

L.C.I.(L) for U.K. and Gibraltar. My 1935/7th Jan. para. 3. Next 8 L.C.I. (L) are to be sailed to U.K. and subsequent batches to Gibraltar until 8 flotillas have been built up in Western Mediterranean.
2. The second batch were routed to the Mediterranean except L.C.I.(L) 178 and 245 which remained at Bermuda with defects (D.of P. 1716A/13 to B.A.D.)

/Independent...

513

War Diary.13.2.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- Independent Sailings. Following is Cominch (C. and R.) 111827 to Compaseafon. "You are directed to sail independently all ships ten knots or over to Cuba Gulf ports and East Coast U.S. Route ships to Cuba and Gulf direct to destinations. Route ships for East Coast Ports via Yucatan and thence via northbound Macri."
2. Speed estimation is designed to retain convoy schedule in skeleton form.
(B.A.D. 1751Z/13 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- B.Y.M.S. Following B.Y.M.S. will be ready to sail from Seattle for Gibraltar on Sunday 28th Feb. Nos. 9, 19, 22, 26 and 27.
(B.A.M.R. 1808Z/13 to Admty. (R) Cominch, S.B.N.O. W.A., V.A.Gib.)
- U.G.S,
G.U.S.
Convoys. Admty. pass to S.N.O. Casablanca Area, C. in C.A.F. V.A.Gibraltar, Comnavu, N.C.X.F., Com. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York pass to Port Director New York. Effective with U.G.S. 6, maximum number of ships which may be included in U.G.S. and G.U.S. Convoys will be increased to 60. This limit includes ships from M.K.S. Convoys destined for U.S. and ships my 1802/27 Dec. but does not include tankers accompanying convoys to fuel escorts. Ships must be capable of a sustained speed of 9 knots without smoking.
(Cominch 1820/13 to Cinclant (R) C.E.S.F. Comnavu, N.C.X.F. Admty. Com 3rd U.S. Naval District New York. C. in C.A.F. S.N.O. Casablanca Area, V.A.Gibraltar, Port Director New York.)
- NICHOLSON. Bermuda arrivals and departures U.S.S. NICHOLSON. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1842Q/13 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. S.O.I. Jamaica, B.A.D.)
- M.Ls. Charleston. Sailed 0800Q/12 M.Ls. 72, 80 and 81. Arrived Savannah 1445Q for repair.
(N.S.H.Q. 1925Z/13 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
- U.S.
Transports. Port Hueneme 11th GAMEJAW, MARKHAM (U.S. Army Transport) for Espiritu Santo.
(N.S.H.Q. 1956Z/13 to Admty.)
U.S. Army Transport FING arrived New Orleans 11th Feb.
(N.S.H.Q. 2020Z/13 to Admty.)
- Movements. Departures BRANDON for U.K. STRATFORD, THREE RIVERS escorting H.J.34.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 2001Z/13 to Admty. etc.)
- U/B. Barbados reports submarine reported 2225 G.M.T. 13th 1½ northwest Needham Point, Barbados.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 2005R/13 to Admty. S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

War Diary.

13.2.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.EMPIRE
EMERALD
"S" Report.Intercept by Barbados W/T station Ex. V.I.U.F.
(B C Q C EMPIRE EMERALD) S S S S Submarine 30.56
N. 81.10 W.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 2008R/13 to Admty. S.B.N.O.
Trinidad.)Identification
Signals.Your 1902/11 para. 1. Identification signals
should only be issued to these ships if trading
in the interests of the United Nations.
(D.S.D. 2026A/13 to S.B.N.O. W.At. B.A.A.)

M.A.R.I.

M.A.R.I. your 2020/12 and 2032/12 concur.
(D.T.D. 2036Z/13 to Connav.)
N.T. of formers in W.D.Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.Para. D. Plane sights swirl from submerged C/T
09° - 58' N. 61° - 48' W. 1818Z/12.
(Cominch 2100/13 to Admty.)

H.X.226.

My 1838/12. MANSFIELD delayed by defect sailing
approx. 2300Z/13 to overtake. JEDSAIL 10.30Z/14
to overtake.
(F.O.N.F. 2135Z/13 to C.T.24. (R) Cmdre. London-
derry, C.O.Atlantic Coast? N.S.H.Q. C. in C.U.S.
Fleet, C. in C.Plymouth, Admty. C.T.G.24.7.)

"S" Report.

Report from Barbados W/T Stn. received 0300/14
(Begins): Intercept ex WAX+ SSSS De HPDN* 25°
N. 80° 14' W. sub attack.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 2215R/13 to Admty. S.B.N.O.
Trinidad.) + Florida Radio. * Undecypherable in W.R.L.S.T.
Breakdowns.Your 1651/12. (1657A/12 intended. requesting cause
of breakdown of 5 L.S.Ts.)
1. Three L.S.Ts. that returned to New York had
steering engine trouble, one had clutch trouble
and one shifted cargo. Steering engines and clutches have given
constant trouble during work up period but exhaustive tests to
latest modifications have proved successful.
2. These five reported ready for sea on Feb. 11th but are held
up due to delay in loading American L.S.T. Division with which
they will sail. Cominch will signal sailing date as soon as known.
Cinclant is making every effort to hasten sailing date as the
destroyers earmarked for escort also held up.
3. Ref. to three L.S.T. failing to sail in S.C. 119 not under-
stood. These and further sailings of L.S.T. are dependent on
supply of essential spares. 4. Further signal will be made.
(B.A.D. 2229Z/13 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

515

13.2.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Sydney (N.S.W.) 11th (?AUSTRALIA)
WAGGA, MORESBY. Brisbane 11th BOWEN Cairns 11th
BENDIGO Geraldton 12th U.S. Seaplane Tender
CHILDS. Departures Sydney 11th U.S. Cruiser PORTLAND for McDonald
WARRAMUNGA on escort duty thence Brisbane, Port Moresby 12th COLAC
for Townsville Fremantle 11th U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS for
Geraldton Thursday Island 12th VENDETTA and CASTLEMAINE for
Darwin Geraldton 12th U.S. (S.T.) CHILDS.
(A.C.N.B. 0847Z/13 to Admty.)
Arrival 11th Feb. Onslow U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER, 12th
Townsville R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK.
(A.C.N.B. 0946Z/13 to Admty. Connav.)
Arrived Norfolk Island INCHKEITH.
(D.N.I. Wellington 2300Z/13 to Admty.)

Digest Serial Single Fortress attacked Rabaul early morning
No. 387 Feb. 12th dropping bombs on Rapopo starting small fire.
12th. Searchlights prevented observation shipping -
2. R/C aircraft reported noon 12th two possible
Nachi class heavy cruisers, one large destroyer and
one small unidentified vessel in 5° 50' S. 153° 4' E., course 335°.
Same aircraft later reported this force approx. 25 miles nearer
Rabaul on course 310°.
3. Afternoon 12th one Liberator attacked enemy convoy one light
cruiser, two 6,000 ton Merchant Vessels, one 2,000 ton Merchant
Vessel position 6° 5' S. 152° 55' E. on Southerly course. One
hit or near miss on 6,000 ton Merchant Vessel which was
observed stationary with Convoy approx. one hour later.
7. Forenoon 12th R/C aircraft sighted one large and four medium
sized vessels anchored Ambon Bay. Same aircraft observed one small
vessel Saumlakki Harbour.
8. Single enemy floatplane attacked Tanahmerah (6° 5' S., 140° 18'
E.) forenoon 10th without causing damage.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0630Z/13.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1350A/13, 1405A/13.)

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Armed
merchant
raider at
Boulogne.

TOGO

The armed merchant raider which entered Boulogne harbour on the morning of 10th February, after air attack, and which was attacked by aircraft again yesterday at Boulogne was detected leaving Boulogne eastbound at 0323 today, with several escorts. Our batteries engaged her, but results were not seen. The enemy batteries replied. Four M.T.Bs supported by 4 M.G.Bs were sent from Dover to intercept, but were unable to do so. M.G.B.113 was holed above the waterline by striking wreckage but was towed to Dover, being unsuccessfully shelled by the enemy coastal batteries en route. The weather prevented attacks by Albacores or Whirlwinds. Air R/C located the vessel at Dunkirk at daylight today.

Convoy
M.K.S.7.

ROCHESTER reported at 2000A that MARNE was 20 miles astern with her speed reduced owing to the weather. ERNE was escorting her to Loch Ewe. EMINENT is to take her in tow.

Convoy
U.C. 1.

The Clyde portion of Convoy U.C.1 (9 tankers for Curacao and a few ships for South Africa) sailed from the Clyde this afternoon.

Fuelling
at sea.

The Admiralty report that the efforts made to improve fuelling at sea have resulted in a marked increase in the effectiveness of escorts. However experience shows that one tanker is insufficient adequately to cover contingencies, and they recommend that efforts be made to provide at least two and preferably three properly equipped tankers in north Atlantic convoys.

Russian
anti-British
attitude.

S.B.N.O. North Russia sends today a summary of local Customs and passport procedure introduced by the Russians in order to humiliate the British. He considers they are the forerunners of other humiliations to come.

SS. NORDFELS.

On return from patrol in the Bay of Biscay U.S. S/M SHAD reports that on the morning 25th January she attacked the German SS. NORDFELS flying the Nazi flag, which was seen to leave Bilbao 35 minutes earlier, commencing the attacks 2½ miles north of Cape Villano. SHAD estimated one certain hit and one probable; NORDFELS returned to Bilbao, being joined by LIVADIA which was also sighted.

/Heavy ...

517

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.- Contd.

Heavy air
attack on
Lorient.

426 out of 466 aircraft bombed Lorient last night. Bombs were seen to burst throughout the dock area and an excellent concentration is reported to have been achieved.

South Atlantic.

ALCANTARA escorted by WOODRUFF left Recife today for Trinidad carrying out a sweep on the way against enemy blockade runners and raiders.

DESPATCH sailed from Freetown late tonight for patrol and interception of SS. MONTE NARANCO (Buenos Aires to Las Palmas). Greek destroyer ADRIAS is to relieve DESPATCH on 17th February. (See 15th February).

The Brazilian Govt. have issued a decree placing the Brazilian Merchant Marine under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Marine who will also control all port installations and ship repairing materials.

Convoy
N.C. 1.

BLACKMORE and NORTHERN DAWN sailed from Walvis Bay this morning, escorting Convoy N.C.1 to Saldanha Bay.

A U-Boat was attacked by aircraft off Pernambuco today.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.

Enemy aircraft made a small scale attack on Tripoli harbour at first light today. No damage was caused.

/Two ...

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.
(Contd.)

Two Marauders laid 4 mines in Euripos Channel,
near Khalkis, Greece last night.

Submarines.

At 1311, TROOPER in 39° 06' N. 20° 29.5' E.
fired 6 torpedoes at a large camouflaged merchant
vessel escorted by a destroyer, and scored one
possible hit.

519

14.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Rosyth Admiralty 1055/5 para. 8. While M.Ls. would be of little value for convoy escort, they could be employed as A/S striking force in calm weather. Use of (ii) In view of A.G.M. 305AZ consider one flotilla M.Ls. could well be based at Peterhead, being replaced by P.C. boats when available. (C. in C. Rosyth 1200A/14 to Admty.)

North Russia. Customs and Passport procedure. Following is summary of local customs and passport procedure just introduced by Russians. Details. 2. Soviet Naval C. in C. with whom relations are good disassociates himself from these proceedings and appears acutely embarrassed. 3. These formalities will prove exasperating and humiliating (as they are intended to be). They are only to be expected after our constant submission to Soviet officialdom in matters of visas. Admiral Miles 1630/15 refers. (?Ad. Miles 1054/15/12 intended.) They are presumably forerunners of other humiliations to come. 4. Assuming we are to submit to these regulations in the case of stores and mails (as we have submitted to everything else) I would be grateful for early signal number of bags of ordinary mails and number of packages and weight of stores in escorts of J.W.53. Failing this I will send them all back to U.K. as I do not wish them to go to Moscow first with the probability of loss and the certainty of endless delay. On receipt of information regarding mail Admiral Miles is requested to obtain permission before arrival for them to be landed. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1851A/14 to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M My 1708/13, add new para. (J). H.28 escorted by Movements. QUALICUM leaves Lough Foyle 2000A/14, E.T.A. Tobermory 0800A/15, 8 knots. (F.O.S. 0808A/14 to Admty.)

Intend sailing H.33 escorted by NARVIK from Lough Foyle at 1930A/14. E.T.A. Rothesay 0800A/15. (Cmdre. Londonderry 1259A/14.)

My 1708/13. Add new para. (K). H.33 escorted by NARVIK leaves Lough Foyle 1930/14, due Rothesay 0800/15. (F.O.S. 1429A/14 to Admty.)

My 2337A/13. Delayed 4 hours. (Cmdre. Londonderry 1713A/14.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/15 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) UREDD in Lofoten area. (B) SPORTSMAN (P229), TRUCULENT (P315), and SEANYMPH (P223) escorted by CUTTY SARK vicinity Westray due Lerwick 1500/15. (C) H.28 escorted by QUALICUM arriving Tobermory from Londonderry. (D) SICKLE (P224) with F.S.39 for Chatham. (E) L.23, 55° 18' N. 12° 01' W. dived by day through 55° 20' N. 17° 00' W., daily advance 120 miles.

/F...

War Diary.

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)

F. UMBRA (P.35) 48° 27' N. 11° 10' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 11° 10' W. and 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. daily advance 115 miles.
(G) BARB in zone K505. (H) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.
(J) H.33 escorted by NARVIK arriving Rothesay from Londonderry.
(F.O.S. 1717A/14.)

Clyde arrival TACTICIAN, SEADOG, ULTOR escorted by PENNYWORT.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1848A/14.)
My 1717/14. Cancel last para.
(F.O.S. 1901A/14.)
Parted company with L.23 in position A. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0600A/15.
(GERANIUM 2130A/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
My 2337/13 and 1713/14. Sailed. (H.28.)
(Cmdre. Londonderry 2318A/14 to WESTERN ISLES.)

BELFAST. Scapa. Departure BELFAST.
(A.C.O.S. 0901/14 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
Arrived C.S.10 in BELFAST.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1623A/14 to A.C.O.S.)

FAULKNOR, Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNOR with INGLEFIELD,
INGLEFIELD, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, OB DURATE, ORWELL proceeding
OPPORTUNE, passing Switha 1300A/15 to arrive Seidisfjord
OBEDIENT, a.m. 17th.
OB DURATE, 2. Route.
ORWELL. (R.A.D. 1651A/14.)

Operations.

Operation Proceed to intercept.
"Valuable." (C. in C.Nore 0338A/14 to Force A.)
Request that ship which has now left Boulogne may be attacked throughout its journey.
(C. in C.Plymouth 0359A/14 to A.O.C.in C.C.C.)

Return to harbour. Enemy has proceeded northwards. Cancel my 0338.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0410A/14 to Force A.)
My 1000/20. Tonight, Force A consisting of CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, GLAISDALE, BLEASDALE, WENSLEYDALE at 4 hours notice at Portsmouth, except ESKDALE at immediate notice at Yarmouth. Force B consisting of M.G.Bs. 616 (S.O.) 611, 613, and M.T.Bs.89 (S.O.) 85, 242 at 4 hours notice at Newhaven.
2. M.L. 123 and 247 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
3. KINGSTON TOPAZ, KINGSTON TURQUOISE, CHASSEURS 14 at St. Helens, and ASIE at Yarmouth.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1306A/14 and 1520A/14.)
In view of C. in C.Portsmouth's 0410/14th intend that Forces A and B of operation "Valuable" should spend the night in harbour.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1309/14 to Acmty.)

/Operation...

521

14.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Lift." My 1100A/13. Sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0346A/14 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
N.O.I.C. Dartmouth's 1501/12. "Kettle" entered Portland at 0455/14 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0504/14.)

Group IV. Intend to sail PRINCE ALBERT (S.O.), PRINCE LEOPOLD, INVICTA, and DUKE OF WELLINGTON at 1200/14 for Needles. Speed 18 knots. E.T.A. 1700/14. Codeward "Jovial."
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0925/14.)
My 0504A/14. Intend to sail "Kettle" at 1200 today. E.T.A. Needles 1600.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1101A/14.)

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L. 123 (S.O.) and M.L. 247 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
2. Leave Portland at 1830 via Q.Z.S. 382 to patrol-line, adjusting position so as to cover passage of P.W. convoy. M.Ls leave patrol-line at dawn and return to Portland.
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeward "Device."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1128A/14.)
My 1128A/11. Sailed "Device."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1848A/14.)

Attempted interception & Enemy Convoy. Coastal Batteries in action. M.G.B. 113 damaged. At 0323 today one large vessel (a nine) with eleven escorts was plotted by R.D.F. leaving Boulogne eastbound, speed fifteen knots. Our coastal batteries engaged between 0420 and 0500 firing twelve rounds of fifteen inch and forty five rounds of 9.2. Results unobserved, enemy batteries replied with about twenty five rounds which fell in south Foreland area causing slight damage to military R.D.F. Station. Slight damage to roof of Windmill Cottage housing R.C.M. apparatus. Four M.T.Bs supported by four M.G.Bs were despatched from Dover but failed to intercept owing to their slow speed in unfavourable weather which was also unsuitable for attacks by Albacore or Whirlwind aircraft. Air R/C located this vessel at Monitor Quay, Dunkirk at daylight today. At 0510 M.G.B. 113 when about eight miles North of Cape Blanc Nez reported she was holed forward and she was taken in tow by M.G.B. 110 escorted by M.G.Bs 108 and 114 and M.A.S.Bs 23 and 24. Slow progress was made owing to weather and the M.G.Bs. were shelled by coastal batteries at 1025 and attacked by aircraft at 1230 but details are not known as at 1230 M.G.Bs were in 133° S. Foreland 5½ making 6 knots.
(V.A.Dover 1301A/14 to Admty.)
My 1301, M.G.B 113 holed above water-line by striking wreckage and sustained minor damage only. All craft concerned entered Dover at 1326 having suffered neither damage nor casualties from enemy aircraft or artillery.
(V.A.Dover 1845A/14 to Admty.)

/Operation...

522

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Regulation." C. in C.H.F's 1836/13. Request you sail SUSSEX to arrive position (c) 045° 58' N. 024° 30' W. a.m. 19th, S.O.A. 17 knots.
2. Route.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1319A/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Return to Gibraltar forthwith.
(C. in C.Plymouth 2307A/14 to JAMAICA.)

SHAD. F.O.S. 1832A/14 to BLACKFISH.
Attack on See Enemy Intelligence.
Enemy Trawler, on
4th Jan.
NORDFELS
torpedoed
on 25th
January.

Allied Air Activity.

A/C at Gibraltar. The following repeated to you for information:-
"To: 19 Group, Gibraltar. From H.Q.C.C. Division of 210 Squadron into two separate Squadrons of 6+3 aircraft has been approved. No. 210 Squadron is to maintain up to six aircraft at Gibraltar including aircraft fitted Leigh Light. Reinforcement aircraft are to be despatched to Gibraltar as soon as possible. My A.P/740 12 February also refers."
(C.C.1015A/14 to Air Ministry, Admty.)

*N.I.B. 1/6A/5
12.2.43*

TOGO - Raider K: Schiff 14.
Bomber Command operations. On day 13th, 12 Bostons took off to attack an escorted armed M/V in Boulogne Harbour. The vessel, seen to be stationary 400 yds. from the Mole, was attacked by 11 A/C from 10,000 ft. but all bombs dropped short. A later attack by 10 Venturas was abandoned over the target area owing to 10/10 cloud. On night 13th/14th. 426 A/C bombed Lorient and according to one report the whole area was covered with fire.
(H.Q.B.C. 1510A/14.)
Raider K was damaged and put back to Germany. Never operated on high seas as a raider.

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth bombed. Immediate report small enemy air attack on Plymouth. Raid warning Red 2150, White 2309. South yard 1/b. Slight superficial damage to Woodshops. R.N.Hospital 2 H.E. in grounds, superficial damage officers block and church. War effort not affected. 3 slight casualties.
(C. in C.Plymouth 0057A/14 to Admty.)

Shetlands. My 1900/13. A Ju. 88 was sighted at 1530/13 at 200 feet course N.E. one mile E. of Deerness.
(A.C.O.S. 0950/14.)

/Dartmouth...

523

14.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

Dartmouth. My 1150/13, para. 1. Unexploded bomb in "D" Block of R.N. College has been removed, and the bomb disposal officer considers that the bomb in Mill Creek has exploded.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1642/14 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy A/C plotted at 1600/14. 12 miles E. of Sumburgh Head, course N., about 1000 feet, speed 260 M.P.H. Then to 090° Out Skerries 25 miles. Then course S.E. and faded 1623. Fighters failed to intercept.
(A.C.O.S. 1750A/14.)

Mining.

Iceland. C. in C.H.F. 2326/13. Abandon sweep in Reydar Fjord Area. If fuel permits return to Hvalfjord. If fuel is necessary proceed Seidis Fjord today and sail Hvalfjord on completion.
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik 0211A/14 to M/S 15.)

Operation Q.V.2. Q.V.2 Postponed until further notice owing to weather.
(C. in C.Nore 0954A/14 to PLOVER.)

S.N.90A. Propose that Operation S.N.90A. should be carried out as soon as 3 minelayers are available about the middle of March.
S.N.123. 2. Mines M. Mark I will be laid and lay is regarded as a test of remedies for close prematures encountered last year.
3. Experimental minefield S.N. 123 should be laid off Gallon Head after completion of S.N.90A.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1252A/14 to C. in C.H.F.)
Your 1252/14. Concur.
(R.A.M. 1851/14 to Admty.)

Mine washed ashore. Coastguard Wick reports, mine washed ashore at Loch Claise Kinlochbervie. Large black with red band painted MMKXIX in white. 6 dr 7 horns to be seen 20 yards below high water mark. Nearest house situated 300 yards.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1423A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

15th M/S Flotilla. C. in C.H.F. 1301/12. Request addressees sail LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, WORTHING, BEAUMARIS, and HOUND, when ready, to Hvalfjord to rejoin M/S F.15. Route for LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, by searched channel thence through the following position. Q.Z.S. 396 and 397.
(A.C.O.S. 1647A/14 and 2041/16.)

14.2.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Straits of
Dover.

Track E15D. 1 large with one medium and ten small escorts from Boulogne at 0323, eastbound at 15 knots, faded 7 miles west of Dunkerque at 0555. (V.A.Dover 0903A/14 to Admty.)

Bilbao
ore-ships.
(SHAD
Patrol
Report.)

SHAD reports:

1. Enemy ore ships leaving Bilbao proceeding about 2 miles off the coast to Cape Machichaco, thence to either (A) Hug Coast (B) Cut direct across to inshore water 10 to 15 miles east of Machichaco (C) large ships may proceed to Gironde on N.N.W course.
2. Successful gun attack on trawler towing barge in 043° 55' 002° 50' W. steering 020° at 0510/4th January. Similar targets also encountered later but on 1 occasion RADAR suggested 2 E-Boats escorting may have been present.
3. Ore Shipping usually leaves Bilbao between 0700 and 0900.
4. Damaged NORDFELS with torpedo at 0950/25th January.
5. Anti-Sub. measure by aircraft includes one possible fitted with RADAR. One pair small vessels made Supersonic transmission on 18 k/cs.
6. Sound condition bad specially inside 100 fathoms curve and more so inside 50 fathoms possibly because of heavy surf noise. (F.O.S. 1832A/14 and 2102A/14 to BLACKFISH.) (F.O.S. 1841A/14 to Admty.)

U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.

Am over enemy S/M in 49.13 N.13.55 W. Only periscope sighted. (A/C of 234 Sqdn. 0825/14 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

Salcombe.

My 1855/12. Port of Salcombe is now open. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1045/14.)

Plymouth.

2343A/13. The port of Plymouth is now open. (C. in C.Plymouth 1343A/14.)

Technical.Oiling at
Sea.

Following signal 0013/12th February from C.T.F.24 to C.E.S.F. and Port Director New York is passed for information begins - Efforts of all concerned toward improvement in operation of fuelling at sea has resulted in marked increase effectiveness of escorts. However, experience shows that one tanker is not sufficient to adequately cover contingencies. Recommend therefore that efforts be made to provide at least two and preferably three properly equipped tankers.
(D.T.D. 1215A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.14.2.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- WOODPECKER. E.T.A. 1530Z/14. Request Engineer Officer or Shipwright Officer may examine serious damage to Condenser transformer.
(WOODPECKER 0855Z/14 to C.T.F.24.)
- STRAIDE. STRAIDE delayed sailing from Inverness with defective steering gear.
(R.N.O. Inverness 0930/14 to A.C.O.S.)
- ROSELYS. Arrival ROSELYS with defects.
(Cmdre. Londonderry 1117A/14.)
- BURZA. My 0020/13. BURZA has lost only remaining anchor and is delayed pending efforts to obtain replacement.
GARLAND. GARLAND delayed with defects.
(Capt. D.Greenock 1142A/14.)
- MARNE (Convoy M.K.S.&.) MARNE in tow Tug EMINENT is to proceed with East Coast Ship to Loch Ewe to await onward passage in convoy to Tyne. MARNE cannot anchor.
2. One Escort is to accompany ship to Loch Ewe.
(C. in C.W.A. 1225A/14 to ROCHESTER.)
- CULEBRA. Intend to sail BUSTLER for Loch Ewe at 1800/14 to comply with A.M. 1340A/13. E.T.A. 1000/15.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1250A/14 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
Sailed BUSTLER.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1815A/14.)
- ULSTER QUEEN. ULSTER QUEEN is returning to Belfast for repairs.
E.T.A. 1600A/15. Windlass damaged and unable to anchor.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1451A/14.)
- P.314 (TACTICIAN.) Your 0917/12. P.314 can be docked at Ardrossan on 19th February. Request you sail ship to be off Ardrossan at 1100 on that date.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1815A/14 to Capt. S.3.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.166. (BEAUREGARD.) Inform Commodore BEAUREGARD is returning Clyde.
(C. in C.W.A. 0540Z/14 to Escorts O.N.166.)
- M.K.S.7. P.C.S. 052° 20' N. 011° 41' W. 020° 8 knots.
MARNE speed reduced owing to weather 20 miles astern being escorted to Loch Ewe by ERNE.
Weather 3862 1657.
(ROCHESTER 2000A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)

/M/Vs...

526

14.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- M/Vs. in North Russia. EMPIRE EMERALD and CHESTER VALLEY arrived Kola Inlet. 0300A/14. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0835A/14.)
- M.K.S.7. Your 1057A/13th. TUNECREST is with Northabout Section. Following are stragglers from Northabout Section:- PRESIDENT DE VOGUE, MARSA, HERANGER, ILLINOIAN. Last seen at 2000A/13 in 049° 22' N. 012° 38' W. (ROCHESTER 0930A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
- U.C.1. My 2249/13. Convoy delayed a further 18 hours. Proceed to Belfast. (C. in C.W.A. 1004A/14 to VALETA.)
(A) 1707A/14 (B) Unescorted (C) 14 ships (D) Cmdre. in ATHELREGENT for Curacao. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1810A/14.)
Tankers SAN ADOLFO, MURENA, SAN AMBROSIO, EMPIRE NORSEMAN, VINGA, TIDEWATER, ATHELREGENT, GULF POINT, and KAIA KNUDSEN for Curacao, with 6 other M/Vs for other destinations. Speed 10 to 12½ knots. Details. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1812A/14.)
Your 1625/14. TOTLAND detailed and sails 2300A/14. (Cmdre Londonderry 2156A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 1625/14. Sailed TOTLAND. (Cmdre. Londonderry 2310A/14 to C. in C.W.A.)
- J.W.53. 1. BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA now at Belfast with weather damage are to proceed independently to Seidisfjord for fuel at best speed when ready.
2. C. in C.H.F. is requested to give necessary orders for joining convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 1209A/14.)
HAZARD with SHARPSHOOTER proceed passing Switha 0630A/15 to arrive Loch Ewe Buoy at 1745/15.
2. When Convoy is met act in accordance with H.F. 01325/132 paragraphs 3 (a) and 8 (b) H.M.S. JASON S.O.
3. When released act as ordered by N.O.I.C. Iceland. C. in C.H.F. 1501A/12 refers. (R.A.D.H.F. 1424A/14.)
PYTCHLEY with MEYNELL, MIDDLETON proceed passing Switha 1000A/15 to arrive Loch Ewe Buoy at 1745/15.
2. Act in accordance with H.F. 01325/132 para 3 (A) and 8 (B). JASON S.O. (R.A.D.H.F. 1426A/14.)
Cancel my 1103A/14. Intend to sail BLUEBELL and CAMELLIA at 1000A/15 to comply C. in C.W.A. 1209A/14. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1847A/14.)
N.O.I.C. Aultbea reports ULSTER QUEEN returning to Belfast for weather damage repairs. (C. in C.W.A. 2120A/14 to C. in C.H.F.)
Defects to SHARPSHOOTER can not be completed in time to comply with my 1424/14th and it will be necessary for HALCYON to take her place.
2. SHARPSHOOTER will be sailed as soon as possible, probably 16th February, to comply with C. in C.H.F.'s 1301A/12.

14.2.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys

- J.W.53
(Contd.) 3. Intend HALCYON should return Scapa when released for short working-up.
(R.A.D.H.F. 2225A/14 to C. in C.H.F.)
- D.S.37. Route for D.S.37.
(P) 270° Oversay 6 miles.
(Q) 58.59 N. 14.01 W.
(R) 62.20 N. 22.10 W.
(C. in C.W.A. 1323A/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Small craft. 2 small craft bearing 180° 2 miles course 350°
48° 38' N. 10° 43' W.
(A/C U.H.3.U 1422/14 to 19 Group.)
My 1422/14. Photographs taken. Believed Spanish.
Returning to base.
(A/C U.H.3.U 1515/14 to 19 Group.)
- Dakar. Merchant ships direct from U.K. may approach and enter Dakar provided they are supplied with necessary information in Q.L.A. 151.
(D.T.D. 1519A/14.)
- A.N.D.
Gear.
EMPIRE
COLERIDGE. Pass to A.N.D. officer Greenock. Request that special effort be made to complete training of new crew EMPIRE COLERIDGE so that advantage may be taken of any further postponement in sailing of U.C.1.
(D.T.D. 1545A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
It seems uncertain whether LAURELWOOD is sailing tonight to join U.C.1.
2. Request confirmation that this vessel joins convoy.
(D.T.D. 1638A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- U.R.62. E.T.A. 0900 G.M.T/15th. In company, LYRA and NOVA. ROSENBERG straggling since daylight Saturday.
(CAPE PALLISER 1730Z/14 to A.C.I.C.)
- T.A.35.
(ANDES.) My 1504/12. Sailing delayed.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1838A/14.)
- Returning Icelandic Trawlers. Your 1500/14. Consider these trawlers should sail in convoy F.N.44.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1912A/14.)

528

War Diary.14.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.U/B
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M 39° 27' N. 11° 34' W. Have attacked with depth charges. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 063°. Estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C duty J. 0105A/14 to R.A.F.H.Q. Gib.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001A/14th. R.S.1, PENSTEMON 27.12 14.01 118° 8½ (see also 1806A/14)
(2) BOREAS 32.15 10.51 through 29.01 14.45
thence 184° 15½. (3) K.M.S.9 BLACK SWAN (E) 36.41 10.41
through 36.05 09.59 thence 94° 9.
(4) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR 35.30 17.01 90° 8½.
KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE holds incorrect recognition signals.
(5) JAMAICA 35.54 15.36 through 36.01 18.01 and 38.30 20.01
thence (?000° or 129°) 18. (6) (Corrupt group) 33.59 12.11
70° 9. (7) ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG, LADY DENISON-PENDER
working cable vicinity 32.24 (?39).09.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1022A/14 1430A/14 to Area K.B. of Western Med.)
Situation at 2002A/14th. 2. U.G.F. 5 T.F. 36, 040° 53' 031°
35' through 041° 03' 031° 30' thence 090° 12½.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1044A/14 0350A/15 to Area Y.)
Situation 1959A/14th. (1) IMPERIALIST 035° 31' 006° 56'
through 035° 49' 006° 06' to Gib. 8½. (2) P.C. 475 P.C. 481,
two merchant ships sailed Casablanca 1600/14th coastwise to Port
Lyautey expected time of arrival Mehediya 1100/15th.
(3) CADMUS, 3 minesweepers, sweeping vicinity of Righah Bay.
(4) K.M.S.9. BLACK SWAN. (E) 36.41 10.41 through 36.05
09.59 thence 094° 9. (5) LORD HOTHAM 33.59 (?12) 11 070°
9. (6) K.M.F.9. OAKLEY 35.51 06.11 eastbound to pass
Europa Point 0100/15th. 3 destroyers proceeding ahead to Gib.
P.M. 14th for fuelling. (7) VANOC sailing Casablanca 1800/15th
through 35.55 07.53 thence 263° 13½. (see amendment 1635/14)
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1125A/14 to A.I.G. 63.)
Add new para. to situation report. VENOMOUS 35.58 08.02
through 36.05 09.59 to R/V with K.M.S.9. in 36.(?13) (?18).11
at 0001/15th 22 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1330A/14 to A.I.G. 63, A.I.G. 55.)
My 1125A/14th and my 1530A/14th (1330A/14 intended) add new
para(9). ARIGUANI towed by NIMBLE, DESTINY, escorted by
NORTHERN FOAM, NORTHERN GIFT, 36.01 N. 05.30 W. through Q.K.A. 87
to 36.20 N. 07.01 West thence 36.20 N. 10.01 W. 7 knots.
DESTINY parts company daylight and returns by reverse route to
Gib. Amend para (7) to read through 34.02 N. 89.45 and 33.55 N.
07.53 W. thence 236° 13½ knots.
(F.O. Gib., 1635A/14 to A.I.G. 63.)
My 1104/14th and my 1440/14th PENSTEMON onward route:
through 026° 19' 014° 47' thence 221°.
(V.A. Gib. 1806A/14 to S. and A. N.A. Area Z.)

Movements.

My 1145/11th. Cable Ship LADY DENISON PENDER left with escort for Cable Ground at 1100 G.M.T. 14th Feb.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1027/14 to F.O.I.C. Gib.
(R) Admty.)

L.C.I.(L)'s.

Intend to sail L.C.I. (L) 174, 175, 176, 177, 102,
(as recieved) 246 and M.L. 280 for Oran at 1400/15

/Routed

War Diary.14.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

L.C.I.(L)'s. Routed through 57,8,13, 001° Cape Falcon 5.
 (2) S.O., Cdr. Rainer R.N. in 177. (3) L.C.I.
 (L)'s will be carrying lubricating oil for
 EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. (4) On completion of unloading oil
 F.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail L.C.I. (L)'s and M.L. 280 for
 Algiers. (5) L.C.I. (L)'s 242, 243, 247 will be ready to sail
 20th Feb. L.C.I. (L) 99 requires docking. (6) Communications
 (F.O.C. Gib. 1208A/14 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran (R) Admty., Cdre.
 Algiers.)

VENOMOUS Your 1710/13th (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to sail
 K.M.S.9. VENOMOUS to R/V K.M.S.9. in 36.15 10.08 at
 2359/14th and act as additional escort.
 (2) WIVERN defective.
 (V.A. Gib. 1253A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

JAMAICA. From position (T) 044° 01' N. 023° 01' W. pass
 through positions (V) (all positions N. and W.)
 49.59 15.59 (W) 58.45 08.24 and thence Scapa.
 S. of A. 17 knots: V.A. Gib.'s 1302A/13th refers.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1327A/14 to JAMAICA, (R) V.A. Gib.,
 Admty., C. in C. W.A. A.C.O.S., 10th C.S., H.Q.C.C. SUSSEX,
 N.C.X.F., C. in C. H.F., 1st. C.S.)
 My 1302A/13th, amend longitude of position (M) to read 20°
 01'. (2) Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.
 (F.O.I.C. Gib. 1551A/14 to JAMAICA, (R) Admty., C. in C. H.F.
 C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S., N.C.X.F. H.Q.C.C.)

ARIGUANI In view of exceptionally good weather forecasts
 NIMBLE. intend sailing ARIGUANI towed by NIMBLE escorted
 by NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM routed through
 Q.K.A.87 thence (e) 36.20 07.01 (f) 36.20 10.
 01 (g) 38.01 11.01 (h) 40.01 12.30 (j) 43.01 12.30
 (2) Admty. is requested to signal destination and C, in C.
 Plymouth onward route. (3) Codeword "Favourable".
 (F.O.C. Gib., 1558A/14 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, (R) N.C.
 X.F. H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A. F.O.S. NORTHERN GIFT, F.O.I.C.
 Milford Haven.)
 My 1558/14th sailed 1900/14th. (2) NORTHERN GIFT,
 NORTHERN FOAM and ARIGUANI keep constant watch on broadcast H.D.
 when on Home station. ARIGUANI holds tables K. and I.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 2115A/14 to Admty. etc.)

WISHART Your 1930/12th Feb. (WISHART leaving convoy pro-
 ceeding to Gib. with only 10% Fuel remaining.)
 This must be accepted as no substitute escort is
 available from U.K.
 (D.O.D. (F) 1719A/14 to WISHART (R) F.O.I.C.
 Gib. N.C.X.F. etc.)

530

14.2.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Movements
Casablanca.

Feb. 14th P.C. 471 and 474 arrived from Gib. , MAYO and arrived from Safi, P.C. 472 and 475 departed for Port Lyautey.
(S.N.O.C.A. 1825Z/14 to N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S. Gib. Admty., Cominch.)

K.M.F.9.

Arrival 1646 OAKLEY, 1716 KRAKOWIAK, 1826 EASTON, to fuel and rejoin convoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1845A/14 to Admty., etc.)

Movements
Gibraltar.

Arrivals 0845 VENOMOUS, WIVERN from Mers el Kebir.
Departures 0600 HOLCOMBE, VERITY to R/V K.M.F.9.
0810 CADMUS, ALBACORE, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR on M/S sweep West 1400 VENOMOUS to R/V K.M.F.9. OAKLEY, EASTON, ORP, KRAKOWIAK, to rejoin K.M.F.9.
(F.O.C. Gib. 2345A/14 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.14. 2. 1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Convoy
C.A.11 LORETO detached 0600Z/12th in position Q TAYGETOS
detached 1000Z/12th in position R.
Delete QUEEN ANNE.
(C. in C. S.A., 0019C/14 to Admty etc).

Convoy
N.C.1. Sailing telegram. (2) 1000Z/14th Feb.
(3) - (4) 7½ knots. (5) C. 025° S. 014° E.
D. 030° S. 015° 30' E. E. 032°30' S. 017° 15' E.
(6) BLACKMORE, NORTHERN DAWN.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1001Z/14, 1002Z/14 to Admty.
etc).

BLACKMORE and NORTHERN DAWN sailed 1000Z/14 escorting
convoy N.C.1 to Saldanha Bay, E.T.A. 1300/18th.

(2) Request destination instructions for BLACKMORE and
NORTHERN DAWN be signalled to BLACKMORE before arrival
Saldanha Bay.

(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1013Z/14 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.
etc).

W.S.26 F.O.C. West Africa's 0059/13th. WAYLAND part
WAYLAND, company a.m./22nd Feb. with RACEG (?RACEHORSE)
RACEHORSE, and enter Capetown for fuel. My 1758/10th
QUICKMATCH. para. 3 D refers. WAYLAND will continue with
Capetown portion sailing about 25th Feb.
2. QUICKMATCH will boiler clean at Durban.
(C. in C. S.A., 1015C/14 to WAYLAND (R)
Admty. C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Durban, N.L.Os.
Capetown, East London, Port Elizabeth).

RANCHI Arrival 13th Feb.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1017/14 to Admty).

GLOIRE Arrival 0845/14th Feb. French Cruiser GLOIRE.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1043Z/14 to Admty).

REDOUBT, (Incomplete group) destroyers to arrive Ponta
PETUNIA. Delgada to refuel as follows -
REDOUBT p.m./23rd Feb. PETUNIA p.m./25th Feb.
2 or more destroyers will also arrive Las Palmas
21st, their E.T.A. being signalled.
Request Portuguese authorities be informed 48 hrs.
in advance.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1201Z/14 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada,
for B. Consul, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar etc).
Cancelled. (F.O.C.W.A., 1301Z/17).

/French...

532

14.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

French Escort Refits. My 1648/22, not to F.O.C. Gibraltar. In view of docking congestion at Dakar reported in F.O.C. West Africa's 2359/3, request early information if any of French A/S Escorts quoted could be taken in hand in U.K. If so it would be possible to include them in escorts of special slow convoy leaving Gibraltar 27th Feb, see my 1546/13, not to F.O.C. W.Af. (N.C.X.F., 1203A/14 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.C. Gibraltar).

SOLARIUM A.M.1845A/9th (Requesting arrangement for SOLARIUM in convoy T.B.5 to Takoradi). No escort will be available to meet SOLARIUM until nearing Freetown. (Tanker message). (F.O.W.A., 1203A/14 to Admty)

Dispositions. Situation 1958/14th F.S. AMAZONE on surface 016° 52' 031° 09' 296° 7. BURDOCK escorting 17.15 18.46 to 19.08 18.59 thence 016° 12½.

BRIDGEWATER, FANDANGO, INKPEN, ARRAN 2 M.Ls. with R.S.1 018° 54' 017° 45' 008° 7¼.

DESPATCH, QUADRANT, REDOUBT 009° 07' 015° 40' to 10.24 17.40 thence 001° 17.

F.S.89, MOUCHEZ, escorting 009° 20' 014° 46' 304° 8½.

F.S. GAZELLE escorting probably off Dakar to South 8½ knots.

VALIANT, RANCHI Capt. (D) 2 (As received) in HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with C.F.11 008° 38' 014° 39' to 008° 39' 015° 20' thence (?020° 130°) 12.

Portuguese ALFONSO DE ALBUQUEQUE about 006° 50' 015° 10 to North 14.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1207Z/14 to A.I.G.149).

M.L. 271 escorting 08.03 13.49 to 07.48 14.02 thence 123° 7½.

DUNCTON about 06.45 12.20 to Freetown.

SARABANDE 05.50 11.04 296° 8th.

CORINTHIAN, ADRIAS, HYDRANGEA escorting 05.44 11.26 308° 12.

M.L. 305 279 escorting 04.42 01.55 to 04.35 02.01 thence 261° 10.

WAYLAND, CILICIA, CANTON, QUIBERON, RACEHORSE, QUALITY, QUICK-MATCH, RELENTLESS CMDT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with W.S. 26, 03.21 S. 07.20 128° 12½.

(?CANTON) about 06.50 15.10 to North West 14.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1614Z/14 to A.I.G.150).

VALIANT, RANCHI, C.F.11. Admty. have stated they wish destroyers to fuel at sea if possible but as RANCHI cannot supply any fuel it will be necessary for some of them to fuel at Ponta Delgada. Whilst the decision is left entirely to your discretion, in order that maximum escort may be available in the

vicinity of the Azores you should if circumstances permit, and if so doing will not in your opinion unduly prejudice VALIANT's freedom of action, take early opportunity to top up one or more destroyers from VALIANT. My 1301/13 Feb. refers.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1215Z/14 to VALIANT (R) Admty. F.2 (as received.)).

My 1301/13 para. 8. Cancel reference to RANCHI.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1215Z/14 to Admty etc).

/Brazilian...

14. 2. 1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. -Contd.Brazilian
Merchant
Marine.

Brazilian Government have issued decree placing Brazil Merchant Marine under jurisdiction of Ministry of Marine, who will also control all port installations and ship repairing materials. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1245Z/14 to Admty. (D.N.I.) (R) B.A.D.)

Glassfurd
Mission.

Your 1830/11th (Circulated under T.O.O. 1600/10) On departure of Adm. Glassfurd please give him following message. On conclusion of your Mission I should like to express my warm appreciation of work carried out by you and your staff.

Although only a portion of your negotiations affected my own command directly much of great importance to important joint war effort depended on your Mission. It has been rapidly concluded with great success. Please accept my congratulations and thanks for work done.

(N.C.X.F., 1257A/14 to B.N.L.O. Dakar, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

S.L.126

Your 1214/11th. UMBERLEIGH no. Your 1441/12th and your 1851/4th and my 1749/5th. Please make another request for allocation when sailing date of HARERTON and GRANICOS is known. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1350Z/14 to B.R.L.O. Rio de Janeiro (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

RECORDER,
SONDRA.

1000/14th Feb. RECORDER sails to position 029° 26' S. 031° 50' E. Escorted by SONDRA. E.T.A. 1500/14th. knots (A) 8½ (B) 9. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1542Z/14 to Admty etc).

HYDRANGEA,
HAI LEE.

Detach HYDRANGEA escorting HAI LEE in position (Q) 007° 52' N. 014° 12' W. at about 1200/15th to proceed through (R) 011° 00' 017° 30' W. and (S) 014° 26' N. 017° 33' W. to Dakar. Estimated speed made good 12 knots. E.T.A. position (S) 0700/17 Feb. (F.O.W.A., 1652Z/14 to CORINTHIAN (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. HYDRANGEA N.O.I.C. Takoradi Comar Dakar).

QUEEN ANNE
(sunk 10 Feb)
possible R.D.F
in U/B.

Your 2326/12 and 2335/12. A.M. 2340/19 Oct. not to all addressees, provides most likely explanation of U-boat's crash dive.
2. Request information whether S.A.A.F. aircraft was using A.S.V. (Reply: No. C. in C. S.A.1516C/15).

3. Bullrush contrivance thought not to be connected with U-boat R.D.F. search receiver.
4. No evidence available here to indicate that U-boats are fitted with R.D.F. capable of giving warning of aircraft. (D.S.D., 1700A/14 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., etc).

534

14.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

VALIANT Sailing telegram. (2) 1300/14th Feb.
Convoy (4) 12 knots (5) All positions north and west
C.F.11. (a) 08.39 15.20 (b) 11.27 19.05 (c) 18.00 19.40
(d) 26.03 24.34 (e) 38.17 30.15 (f) 48.05 25.00
(g) 53.10 20.00 thence as ordered by C. in C.
Plymouth. ESPERANCE BAY to be detached at dusk
19th Feb. in approx. 28.10 N. 25.35 W. to proceed independently.
(6) VALIANT S.O., HOTSPUR, EMPRESS, FORTUNE, RANCHI, INCONSTANT.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 1735/14 2032Z/14, 0920Z/15 to Admty (R)
F.O. Gibraltar etc).
Departures 14th Feb. VALIANT, HOTSPUR, INCONSTANT, EXPRESS
FORTUNE, RANCHI escorting C.F.11.
(F.O.C.W.A., 2220Z/14 to Admty).

Hook Your 1538/22 Jan. and Admty. 1123/26 Jan. Hook's
Hydrofin proposals in regard to hydrofoils as applied
Invention. to air and water craft have now been examined in
detail.
2. The Admty. does not desire to pursue these
proposals and it is not desired to bring Hook
to U.K. in connection with his invention.
3. Official letter will shortly be sent direct to Hook and
copy to you dealing with his proposals and Hook should be so
informed.
4. Suggested, if you agree, that Hook be advised that any
further proposals for Admty. consideration should be sent direct
to Director of Scientific Research.
(Hd. of M.Br. II Approved by Controller, 1814A/14 to C. in C. S.A.)

LEOPOLDVILLE, 1730Z/14th Feb. LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by
CYCLAMEN, CYCLAMEN and CROCUS, Freetown a.m./18th S. of A.
CROCUS. 11, days 16. H. 004° 40' N. 002° 00' W.
K. 004° 10' 007° 46' L. 007° 38' 014° 30'
passing through M. 010° 48' 017° 17' if diverted
to Bathurst reference position X. 003° 00'
004° 30' Y. Cape Palmas. Z. 004° 00' 012° 30'.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1835Z/14, to F.O.C.W.A. etc).

C.M. 39 Convoy C.M. 39 sailed 14 Feb. E.T.A. 2nd March.
Personnel on board. FELIX ROUSSEL.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1953C/14 to S.S.T.O. Bombay
(R) D. of S.T. etc).

Examination B.R. L.O. Punta Arenas reports that Chilians
Service, expect to put into force on 1st March Examination
Magellan Service for all ships entering Magellan Straits
Straits.. from Atlantic. Examination Steamer will be
stationed off Harbour and will be covered by
battery of 4 guns.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 2030Z/14 to C. in C.
S.A., (R) Admty).

/DESPATCH...

War Diary.14.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

DESPATCH

My 1334/13th para. 2.
DESPATCH will now be required to proceed on 16th Feb. to patrol to eastwards of Cape Verde Is. (N.O.I.C. West Africa, 2047Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty. DESPATCH, Comar Dakar).

GEORGES
LEYGUES,
patrol.

My 1900Z/14th to Comar Dakar only. Request you will sail French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on following blockade runner patrol.
2. After fuelling at Bathurst proceed thence at 0800Z/16th Feb. to patrol through position (a) 026° 31' N. 038° 20' W. (b) 027° 19' N. 031° 01' W. thence return to Dakar E.T.A. a.m./22nd Feb. S. of A. 20 knots.
3. In addition to blockade runner Spanish MONTE NARANCO carrying contraband may be met. DESPATCH arrives Bathurst p.m./15th Feb. with all details.
4. Merchant Shipping information follows.
5. DESPATCH patrols southeast of Cape Verde Is. from a.m./17th Feb.
(F.O.C.W.A., 2317Z/14 to Comar Dakar, (R) Comsolantfor, Cominch, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, DESPATCH, Admty. N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gib).

Movements

Departure 14th Feb. AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, escorting QUADRANT, DESPATCH, REDOUBT.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2338Z/14 to Admty).

ADRIAS

Your 2116B/12th Feb. (Requesting E.T.A. ADRIAS)
Greek Ship ADRIAS arrived 6th Feb.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2352Z/14 to C. in C. Med).

536

14.2.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.French
Personel
for Harbour
Defence.

Your 1619A/30 Jan, para.3. Information and books may be released on items (i), (iii), (iv) (v), (vi) but not on LL and S.A. sweeps. No objection to French undertaking oropesa sweeping in their own vessels and manning as many of our own M/S and M/S A/S trawlers now on the station as are needed to make up requisite numbers.

Normal R.M.S. for mines washed ashore may be released, but not recovery procedure or details of bomb disposal.

2. Your para. 5. M.M.S. cannot be transferred vide para.1 above. 16 H.D.M.Ls. have been allocated for future operations in Mediterranean. It is proposed to sail them from U.K. at about end of April if weather is suitable. These boats could be manned by the French in N. African ports thus releasing 16 boats and their trained crews for future operations. It is not desired that Boom vessels should be handed over, thus immobilising these vessels, of which we are very short.

(Hd. of M. Approved by Vice-Controller, 0019A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.W.A.) See also Cominch. 1617/14, (A. and W.I.)

Battleships,
Spezia.

One LITTORIO battleship has left Spezia since 5th Feb.

(Capt. S.8., 0910A/14 to S.8)

Tankers
U.G.S.5,
U.G.F.5.

Admty 1834/12. Intend movement of tankers: SUN ex U.G.S.5, COLINA and ESSO PHILADELPHIA ex U.G.F.5 all to Gibraltar to discharge to shore stocks and return to U.S.

(N.C.X.F., 0910A/14 to A.S. Gibraltar (R) P.S.T.O. X.F., S.N.O. C.A., Admty).

Movements
Alexandria.

Arrivals 13th Feb. ISIS, DERWENT, BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, BURRA, PUNNET, Greek Destroyer KANARIS. Departure 13th Feb. CROOME.

(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0922B/14 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

LETITIA

Your 2311/13 para. 2 (request that LETITIA call at Gibraltar homeward bound from Oran to U.K.) concur.

(N.C.X.F., 1032A/14 to D.S.T.)

EMPRESS OF
RUSSIA.

Your 1138/13 (whether to join M.K.F.9) Yes. (N.C.X.F., 1034A/14 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. Com. Algiers).

/M.E. Air Report...

537

14. 2. 1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- M.E. Air Report. Opsum No. 100 part 1. A.676. 13th Feb. 18 B.24s despatched to make dusk attack on shipping in Naples. 3 aircraft returned early owing to technical trouble. 14 B.24s reached Naples but found harbour completely obscured by low cloud. 4 B.24s dropped bombs through cloud N.E. of Naples with unknown results. (17 or 10?) B.24s bombed Cotrone in Southern Italy claiming hits on aerodrome buildings and starting fires in town. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1111Z/14).
- P.43 Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 1129A/14 to Admty etc).
- Air R/C. P.R.U. 14th Feb. Visuals. 1015 Taranto two Cavour battleships one D type cruiser one E type cruiser, photographs taken. (V.A. Malta, 1214A/14 to C. in C. Med.etc).
P.R.U. Feb. 14th. Visuals. 1535 Naples one cruiser. 1540 Taranto 2 battleships 2 cruisers. 1610 Messina no naval unit photographs taken. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1729A/14 to C. in C. Med etc).
- K.M.S.9 Destination of following ships amended as indicated: AGATHA and ARY LENSEN, OCEAN SEAMAN, MAHOUT, JOHN CARVER to Algiers, NORELG to Bougie, TITUS, OCEAN ATHLETE to Bone destination of all other ships unchanged. BLACK SWAN pass to Cdre. and ships concerned. (N.C.X.F., 1216A/14 to BLACK SWAN, ?Cominch).
- UNA, TROOPER. UNA leaving patrol after dark 15th through 038° 38' 017° 52' 035° 20' 015° 17' 035° 20' 014° 18' to usual R/V 083° 18th. TROOPER passes through 035° 12' 016° 00' from north east p.m./17th to same R/V. Neither to attack S/Ms during night 17th 18th unless definitely indentified as hostile. (Capt. S.10., 1245A/14 to S/Ms on patrol).
- Minesweeping Alexandria. Weekly M/S summary Feb. 14th Channels, anchorages and D.G. range swept daily. Negative results. (R.A.Alex, 1246B/14 to Admty).
- E.A.C. Report. A.558 Op. Sum. No. 95. 1800 hours 12 Feb. to 1800 hours 13 Feb. Night 12/13. No Wellington operations owing to weather. F 12th U.S. Air Force. 13 escorted B.26s attacked El Aouina A.D. at Tunis. Bursts reported on concentrations of aircraft in S.W. corner of field (E.A.C. Africa, 1255/14).

/Enemy...

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy M/Vs Aircraft sighted 2 Merchant vessels P.C. and S. 038° 54' 016° 00' 360° 10 at 1116A/14th. (Capt. S.10., 1450A/14 to S/Ms on patrol).

Med and Levant Commands. Your 1238/13. As all is now clear about W/T and books will bring this up at Chiefs of Staff Committee tomorrow Monday and will then issue instructions. (1st S.L., 1531A/14 to N.C.X.F.)

P.37 Arrival. (V.A. Malta, 1629A/14 to Admty).

Movements Port Said. 14th Feb. Port Said arrivals CROOME departures H.H.M.S. PANTHER, AETOS, ANTWERP, KLO. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1637B/14 to Admty etc).

Tunis Repatriations. Request immediate report whether information in N.C.X.F.'s 0900/13 has been passed to the French. If not, you should take no action pending further instructions. (Hd. of M. (L) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1641A/14 to N.A. Madrid).
Your 1641A/14. It has not been passed. (N.A. Madrid, 2032/14 to Admty).
On Prime Minister's direction N.A. Madrid has been ordered to take no action on your 0900/13, pending consideration by War Cabinet p.m. tomorrow 15th. He has also been requested to report immediately whether French have already been informed. If so, further necessary action will be initiated from here.
2. Request report of Gen. Eisenhower's views and any other information likely to be of use to War Cabinet. (Hd. of M.I. Approved 1st S.L., 2000A/14 to N.C.X.F.)
Reply: N.C.X.F., 2000A/15.

Enemy Units. Aircraft sighting at 1605 today 1 Merchant Ship and 1 Destroyer 039° 05' 016° 02' repeated 039° 05' 016° 02' Northbound. (Capt. S.10., 1758A/14 to S/Ms on Patrol).

ERICA My 2019/9th Feb. para. 2 and my 1759/13th Feb. (N.T. in W.D.) 2nd para. (made in error). It has not yet been established how ERICA was sunk. (C. in C. Med., 1810B/14 to Admty. (R) Cdre. D).

/Malta...

War Diary.14. 2. 1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 533. Part 1 Offensive. Night 13/14 Feb. 6 Mosquitoes made intruder patrol 2 patrolled Toe of Italy 1 patrolled Castel Ventrano Trapani and 3 patrolled Comiso Catania Area. No shipping target was found, Day 14th Feb. 6 Spitfires made offensive sweep over Southern Sicily but no enemy aircraft or shipping was found. Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Day 14 Feb. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 7 Beaufighter sorties were made in escorting outgoing eastbound convoy. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1900/14).

Cositrep No. 689. 13 Feb. B.24s despatched to make dusk attack on shipping in Naples found harbour completely obscured by cloud. Four B.24s dropped bombs through cloud near Naples with unknown results. Ten B.24s bombed Cotrone in Southern Italy claiming hits on Aerodrome buildings starting fires in town. (C. in C. M.E., 1905B/14).

GRETE (sunk 11/ Feb.) S.O.(I) Gibraltar's 1104/13. If TORBAY knows anything of this incident request you will ensure complete secrecy since it appears to have taken place within Spanish territorial waters. (Hd. of M.(1) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1908A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.A. Madrid).

Movements Algiers. Algiers Arrivals. H.D.M.L. 1152 L.273 from Bougie. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND from Westward. Departures. ARCTIC RANGER with French Escorts LA SETOISE, ENGAGEANTE to Oran. NEWFOUNDLAND to Oran L.C.Ts. (170, 135) M.M.S.135, 116 to Philippeville M.M.S.33 to Bougie. (Cdre. Algiers 2014A/14 to Admty etc).

U/B U-boat was suspected in 037° 42' N. 004° 42' E. at 2020 course and speed unknown. (Capt. S.10., 2240A/14 to P.339).

SEAHAM SEAHAM not fuelled owing to weather. Intend retaining until this is possible. Personnel aboard other (?group) escorts and in Benghazi awaiting embarkation. After completion of above essentials will not retain SEAHAM more than 24 hours to (?effect) purport of my 1129B/13. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2314B/14 to S.O.I.S. Eastern Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Tripoli).

M.T.Bs. Arrived M.T.Bs. 260, 267. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2344B/14 to Admty).

War Diary.14.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements

Arrival MARGUERITE.

(S.O.I. Bombay 0306Z/14)

Departure 0527Z/14th FALMOUTH, TAMWORTH, escorting CEDARDALE, ATHEL MONARCH, GREEN RANGER, BUCCINUM.

(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0528Z/14 0529Z/14 to Admty.)

Sailed SIGINRA (?SIGFRA) SIMBRA 14th.

(F.O. E. Af. 1122Z/14 to Admty.)

Eastern
Fleet
weekly
disposition
signal
No.23.

(A) Battleships no change. (C) 8 inch cruisers, DEVONSHIRE left Addu Atoll 10th. (D) 7.5 inch and 6 inch cruisers BIRMINGHAM at Kilindini, GAMBIA left Addu Atoll 10th, MAURITIUS at Colombo, FROBISHER left Diego Suarez 11th due Bombay 21st, HAWKINS left Aden 11th, for Kilindini, DAUNTLESS Durban to Kilindini. Others no change.

(E) Nil.

(C. in C. E.F. 0649Z/14 to C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. Med., F.O. Red Sea Force, Admty.)

B.P.68
B.P.68 $\frac{1}{4}$? B.P. 68 and 68 $\frac{1}{4}$ arrived.

(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 0674Z/14 to Admty.)

B.P. 68 sailed 1030Z/14. N.C.S.O. Bombay 0750/12 refers also including HUNAN knots 10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(?N.C.S.O. Karachi 1035Z/14 to Admty.)

HAWKINS.

My position 0900Z, 08° 43' N. 51° 19' E. S. of A. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots, E.T.A. position F. 0700Z/18.

(N.C.S.O. Aden's 1151/11th refers.)

(HAWKINS 1202Z/14 to C. in C. E.F., C.I.C. Durban)

War Diary.14.2.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Adm. Glassfurd Personal for Adm. King from 1st S.L. appreciation. Now that Adm. Glassfurd's work with his mission has come to a successful conclusion in French West Africa, I should like to record our appreciation of his achievements.
2. His success in overcoming difficulties resulting from mixed feelings that existed in French Naval circles at Dakar has paved the way for close and effective co-operation at sea in that important area.
(1st S.L., 0029A/14 to B.A.D.)
- U/B. Intercept de VPO Barbados Radio (begins). S/M reported $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.W. Needham Point Barbados. 2225 G.M.T./13. (Ends).
(Valentia Radio, 0104/14 to Admty.)
- Minesweepers. British Minesweepers 5, 6, 7 and 8 arrived Townsville 1423Z/13.
(U.S.N.O.B. Guantanamo, 0221/14 to Port Director Miami.)
- "S" Report. Following has been read. SSSS HPDH (Signal letters undecypherable in War Registry) 25 N. 80.14 W. sub. attack. de WAX.
(Burnham Radio, 0229 G.M.T./14 to Admty.)
- Probable U/B contact. Obtained R.D.F. contact probable submarine in $050^{\circ} 09' N.$ $045^{\circ} 40' W.$ at 0220Z. Contacted 25 minutes later, hunted negative.
(SALISBURY, 0345Z/14 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, H.Q.C.C.)
- Movements. St. Johns N.F. 13th arrivals JED ex Iceland. Departures BURNHAM, MAYFLOWER, LA MALBAIE, EYEBRIGHT, BITTERSWEET, MANSFIELD to H.J.226. MILLTOWN, MULGRAVE to J.H.36.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0259Z/14 to Admty.)
- Arrival 13th U.S. Transport COLONEL ENGLEMAN.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 0940QR/14 to Admty.)
Halifax departure 14th LORD KELVIN.
(C.O.A.C., 1758Z/14 to Admty.)
- H.X.226. Presume you have diverted this convoy to eastward but we have not received your diversion signal. Your 1604/13, estimate of 14 U-Boats between Flemish Gap and $52^{\circ} N.$ $52^{\circ} W.$ refers.
(D.T.D., 0905Z/14 to Connav.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T.	F. S/M)	22° N. 42° W.	296°	12½
14th Feb.	ARCHIMEDE)			
	F. S/M)	16½° N. 30½° W.	296°	7
	AMAZONE)			
	BUTTERMERE)	06° S. 34½° W.	180°	8
	WASTWATER)			
	5 M.M.S.)			
	(D.O.D.(F), 1000Z/14 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

SANDWICH. Departure Vieuxfort 2100Z/14 SANDWICH, U.S. E.T.A. Boca 1800Z/15th, S.C.534 through position (C) 013° 02' N. 060° 48' W. (D) 012° 01' N. 061° 02' W. (X) Bridgetown. (B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1122Q/14 to Admty., etc.)

Use of A/C from Iceland (C). Situation explained to Navy Dept. who wish to emphasise that such assistance at any time is most welcome but point out that value of aircraft operating in C.T.F.24 area is considerably reduced unless Cdr. T.F.24 has knowledge of their availability. Latter knowledge may well affect his own arrangements for air cover and diversion of convoys particularly when resources are limited.

2. Navy Dept. confirm correct channel for informing Cdr. T.F. 24 is through Senior U.S.N.O. Iceland (C).

3. Assume this channel is being used in connection with operations of V.L.R. aircraft which do not necessarily use B.T.W.1. C.T.F.24 has for instance made no mention of V.L.R. aircraft which landed in Newfoundland from Iceland (C) on Jan. 25th.

(Rafdel Washington, 1202Z/14 to Air Min. (R) Admty., H.Q.C.C., R.A.F. Iceland (C).)

S.C.L.118. First section S.C.L.118 arrived 1400Z/14th consisting (? of) LAGARFOSS and DETTIFOSS escorted by U.S. Destroyer SCHENCK. (C.T.G.24.6, 1450Z/14 to C.T.F.24.6, (R) Connnav, Admty., etc.)

L. 23. S/M L.23 now on passage from Clyde to St. Johns N.F. has had her gun and shield removed. Her silhouette is thereby considerably altered. (D.O.D.(H), 1459A/14 to Ships in Areas B and D, F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O.W.At., C.O.A.C., Cominch, B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., Air Min., (R) F.O.S.)

S.C.117. Your 2231/11 para. 1, it is considered that this limitation is too rigid and that due weight should be given to C.B.04024 (41) Article 72 (b) last sentence. This might be suggested to Port Director. (D.T.D., 1517A/14 to B.A.D.)

14.2.1943.

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

Convoys,
Control of
N. Atlantic.

C.O.S(W) 467 para. 4 following is outline of points we intend to raise. (Part 1 of my 1556/14).

Control of North Atlantic.

1. (A) Establishment of Combined Area H.Qs. for N.W. Atlantic similar to that which exists at Liverpool.

(B) Combined Area H.Qs. would consist of R.C.N. and R.C.A.F. officers with British and U.S. Liaison officers under a F.O. who would be co-ordinating authority for movements and protection of convoys west of new "Chop" line.

(C) "Chop" line to be moved to Westomp and to form boundary of a new area to be known as North West Atlantic Area defined as follows:- Southern limit from Canadian - U.S. Frontier to 42° 00' N. 66° 00' W. thence to 43° 00' N. 46° 00' W. Eastern limit the meridian of 46° W. as far as Greenland coast thence along west coast of Greenland.

(D) Admty. would be controlling east of New "Chop" line working through C. in C. W.A. as at present. New "Chop" line would not affect the operation of aircraft from either side of Atlantic.

2. Exact location of Combined Area H.Qs. referred to in 1(a) will depend on communication facilities but Halifax would appear most suitable. Most important that communication arrangements should allow A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command to co-ordinate operations of V.L.R. aircraft to meet Admty. requirements on both sides of the Atlantic.

(D.T.D., Approved by 1st S.L., 1549A/14 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q.) Following is Part II of my 1556/14.

Re-adjustment of North Atlantic Convoy System.

3. In order to allow for increased volume of shipping required to achieve agreed U.K. target dry cargo and oil import programmes we expect shortly to handle 550 ships per month in N. Atlantic trans-ocean convoys. (See 1110A/19.)

4. In 6 months ending Dec. 1941 we were handling 454 ships per month on a 6-day cycle.

5. It is considered that experience has shown that a convoy of 60 ships is the largest that can be reasonably handled and protected in view of the greatly increased scale of U-Boat attack with which we are now threatened.

6. Statistics show clearly that rate of loss in H.X. convoy is about one quarter of that in S.C. convoy and difference must be attributed to advantage which former has over latter regarding speed and shorter time in danger area. As a result of discussion with M.W.T. it is proposed that N. Atlantic trans-ocean convoys be re-organised in 3 categories of speed viz:-

O.N.F./H.X.F. minimum speed for inclusion 11 knots.

O.N.M./H.X.M. " " " " 9½ "

O.N.S./H.X.S. " " " " 7½ "

7. To allow for increase in volume of shipping presenting for convoy it is proposed that each of above convoys be sailed initially on a 12-day cycle. The above cycle would give an average of 7.5 convoys a month equivalent to 450 ships.

8. Ten mid-ocean groups will be required for above cycles. The two additional groups can be made available by end of March when escorts are released from "Torch" convoys.

(Paras. 6, 7, and 8 cancelled and revised, see 1110A/19.)

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoys, North African Convoys.
Control of 9. Ref. N.C.X.F's 0926/30 Jan. It is intended to
N. Atlantic. run combined O.S. and K.M.S. convoys and W.S.
(Contd.) and K.M.F. convoys as soon as "Torch" build up
is complete about the end of March. Former on
a 20-day cycle, latter on a 30-day cycle.

10. To economise escorts it is desirable that
U.G.S. and U.G.F. convoys should synchronise with arrival of
K.M.S. and K.M.F. convoys at Gibraltar. Thus a 20-day cycle
for former and a 30-day cycle for latter appears preferable
but must depend on flow of shipping required. British mainten-
ance requirement in U.G.S. is estimated to be about 30 ships
per month.

11. In addition to K.M.S./O.S. convoy it is intended to re-
institute H.G./O.G. convoy on a 30-day cycle when necessary
escorts can be found. This convoy carries traffic for Iberian
Peninsula which on account of draught limitations consists of
small ships unsuitable for inclusion in former convoys.
(D.T.D. Approved 1st S.L., 1556A/14 to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q.)
Amended, see 1110A/19.

From War Registry. A.M. 1549/14 and 1556/14 to B.A.D.
and N.S.H.Q. re control of North Atlantic and re-adjustment of
North Atlantic convoy system have been repeated to Air Ministry
and H.Q.C.C. at the request of A.D. of P.(A).

(H.W.R., 17th February.)

S/M Estimates (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1615/14, 1616/14, 1638/14,
14th Feb. and 1639/14, 1640/14.)
U.S. S/M
Notices.

French Admty. pass to N.C.X.F. for Info.
personnel Admty. 2155/12 repeating N.C.X.F's 1157/12.
for Harbour Cominch opinion is that policy of making maximum
Defence, LL use of French capabilities indicates that French
Sweepers. should be employed in operation of all naval
local defence equipment for which N.C.X.F.
considers they are qualified to include
availability of as much equipment as can be
released to them. Recommend information concerning R.M.S. and
bomb disposal equipment not to be released at this time.
B.A.D. informed.
(Cominch, 1617/14 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af., B.A.D.)

Convoy 1. Following is extract of paper written by
Communi- members of Cominch's staff. As matter is likely
cations. to be raised at forthcoming Washington Convoy
Conference suggest that Captain Waymouth be fully
briefed on Admiralty's views on such a proposal.
"Convoy communications are in general handled
through the escort they are transmitted in various manners
according to the approx. area in which the convoy is expected
to be. No general rule covers all classes of convoys. In some
cases duplicate transmissions are resorted to in order to make
certain of reception. At the present time shifts of communication

/guards ...

545

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoy
Communi-
cations.
(Contd.)

guards are controlled by position of ship rather than a definite time. The principles of routeing traffic to escorted convoys in accordance with relatively small geographical areas and by overlap when exact positions are not known furnished valuable information to radio intelligence activities of the enemy.

Recommendations. Eliminate area broadcasts in North Atlantic and route all traffic for escorted convoys via one primary continuous F method with repeater stations in England if necessary."

2. There are of course obvious objections to such a proposal and it is considered that security aspect has been exaggerated particularly on regular convoy routes such as North Atlantic. (B.A.D., 1617Z/14 to Admty.)

H.F. 36. 1. Sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 1800Z/14th.
3. E.T.A. St. Johns N.B. 1200/16th, Boston Feb. 17th, New York Feb. 18th. 4. 7 knots.
6. THUNDER, KENTVILLE. 7. 7 ships.

(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1730Z/14, 1735Z/14, 1736Z/14 to Admty.)
1. Cargo group sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 1800Z/14th.
3. E.T.A. cargo 1500Z/16th. 4. 7 knots to position B thence 10 knots. 5. In company H.F.36 to position B, 43.13 N. 66.00 W. thence E 43.03 N. 69.00 W. F 42.18 N. 70.20 W. G 41.55 N. 70.20 W. 6. GRANBY. 7. 3 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1740Z/14, 1745Z/14 to Admty.)

C.U. 1 C. in C. W.A. 1144/13 (see Home Commands).
arrangements. Request you will report what arrangements are proposed for replenishment of U.S. escorts of C.U.1 both at Curacao and on passage. A.M. 0100/13 refers to replenishment of British escorts only.

2. With reference to para. 7 of A.M. 0100/13 it should be stressed that we attach great importance to carriage of spare depth charges not only for British but for U.S. escorts also. (D.A./S.W., 1832A/14 to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy T.B. 5. T.B.5 Feb. 13th. List and destinations. Individual routes being passed separately. (N.S.H.Q., 2030Z/14 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

Sub. attack Para. C. SALISBURY makes Radar contact 50° 09' and sighting N. 45° 40' W. 0200Z/13. Sub sighted 09° 18' S. summary. 34° 50' W. about 1621Z/13.
Para. D. Surface craft attacks periscope sighting 13° 05' N. 59° 38' W. 2223Z/13. Y.P.189 makes sound contact 40° 22' N. 73° 41' W. 1300Z/14
Surface craft sights sub 30° 56' N. 81° 10' W. about 0010Z/14. (Cominch, 2055/14 to Admty.)

/RICHELIEU ...

546

14.2.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

RICHELIEU,
MONTCALM.

Have Fr. Batt. RICHELIEU and Fr. Cr. MONTCALM arrived?
(Comar Dakar, 2247Z/14 to Cominch, (R) F.O.W.Af.)
Your 2247Z/14th affirmative.
(Cominch, 1914/15.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival Milne Bay 12th PIRIE (?machinery defects)
13th TOWNSVILLE. Departure Sydney 12th MORESBY
on escort duty, Milne Bay 12th LATROBE for Port
Moresby, (? Brisbane) 13th BUNBURY, TOWNSVILLE
for Sydney.

(A.C.N.B., 0406Z/14 to Admty.)

Arrival 13th Cairns Dutch Naval Store Ship SOEDOE, Fall
River U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN, Sydney hired transport
TAROONA. Oiler KURUMBA departed Brisbane 13th due Sydney
16th. SOEDOE departed Cairns 14th due Thursday Island 17th.
Oiler BISHOPDALE departed Thursday Island 13th due Darwin 16th.
U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Oro Bay 12th due Port
Moresby 15th. U.S. Store Ship MIZAR departed Sydney 13th due
Brisbane 14th. U.S. Transport PAUL REVERE departed Brisbane
13th due Newcastle 15th.

(A.C.N.B., 0901Z/14 to Admty., Connv.)

Digest
Serial
No. 398,
Feb. 13th.

Forenoon 13th one Liberator unsuccessfully
attacked enemy flying boat over Jacquinet Bay
while another sighted one light cruiser, one
destroyer, one large transport, three small
merchant vessels at Wewak.
(3) Five Beaufighters successfully strafed enemy
small craft and installations from Finschhafen

to Madang morning 13th.

(9) No further sighting enemy force reported.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0631Z/14.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1447A/14, 1451A/14.)

War Diary.

15.2.1943.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Valuable".

C. in C. Plymouth informed the Admty. this evening that he intended to abandon operation "Valuable".

A.N.D.
ships.

F.O.I.C. Glasgow reports an unsatisfactory state of affairs in connection with several A.N.D. ships. Two ships which sailed with defective net defence were sunk recently (EMPIRE WEBSTER and EMPIRE BANNER in K.M.S.8 in the Mediterranean on 7th Feb). F.O.I.C. Glasgow proposes certain remedies, amongst others that no A.N.D. ship should be allowed to sail without net defence complete and crew trained.

MARNE

At 0030A MARNE (convoy M.K.S.7 see 14 Feb). reported that she was heaving to in 52.23 N. 11.26 W. MARNE was taken in tow by tug EMINENT and arrived at Aultbea at 1043A/18.

Weather

Owing to the weather Convoys M.K.S.7 O.N.S.167, and W.N.95 are hove to or scattered.

Convoy
O.S.43

The southbound convoys from U.K. to West Africa were resumed today with O.S.43 which sailed from Belfast.

Operation
F.E. Convoy
J.W.53.

Convoy J.W.53 sailed from Loch Ewe at 1545 today Owing to bad weather and other causes only 24 out of 30 ships were assembled in time to sail (one more ship joined later and MUSKETEER and MATCHLESS escorted two more ships (J.W.53 B) to overtake the convoy) and severe weather reduced the speed of the Scapa section of the escort who were proceeding to R/V with the convoy. Defects caused several alterations in the escorts, which at 2000/18 consisted of JASON, BERGAMOT, MIDDLETON, PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL, HALCYON and POPPY with MATCHLESS and MUSKETEER proceeding to overtake.
S/MS TRUCULENT (P.315) SPORTSMAN (P.229), SEANYMPH (P.223) sailed from Lerwick today and SIMOON (P.225) at 0004A/16, to patrol in the Russian patrol positions off Alten Fiord. The S/MS were delayed by the weather, and probably did not reach their positions until a.m./21. Before leaving harbour Russian S/M K.21 was ordered to transfer from Zone 2 to Zone 3 by noon 18th and to report the movement. On 19 Feb. S.B.N.O. North Russia informed F.O.(S) that K.21 had not reported and the Russians had requested that the British S/MS be ordered to keep clear until the limit of endurance of K.21 which is approximately 7 March. S.B.N.O. North Russia replied that this could not be done.

/UREDD...

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F.E. convoy
J.W.53.
Contd.

UREDD is already in the Lofoten area. C. in C. H.F. reports that inspection of DASHER (escort carrier with the convoy) shows that no attempt has been made to fit the ship for Arctic service; her operational value has been prejudiced by these omissions. The Admty. explanation is given in A.M.1920A/19.

Convoy
U.C.1.

The Milford and Mersey sections of convoy U.C.1 sailed today. The escort, 42nd escort group (WESTON (S.O.) FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON, NESS) and T.G.92.2 (U.S.S. MADISON, LANSDALE, H.P. JONES, C. HUGHES) sailed from Londonderry.

Three attempts were made today by bombers escorted by fighters, to attack the armed merchant raider at Dunkirk. No hits on the raider are reported, though bursts were seen in the dock area, at least 10 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Between 2015 and 2105 today about 20 enemy aircraft operated over the Thames Estuary from the North Foreland to Orfordness. Minelaying is suspected.

South Atlantic.Blockade
runner
patrols.

The following blockade runner patrols are being carried out in the Atlantic narrows:-
DESPATCH (on patrol) being relieved 17th Feb. by ADRIAS to refuel; to sail from St. Vincent p.m./18 to patrol N.W. of C. Verde Is.
French cruiser GLOIRE left Freetown today for Dakar through 13 N. 33 W.
French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES sailed from Bathurst a.m./16 for 26.31 N. 38.20 W. to 27.19 N. 31.01 W. then to Dakar.
ALCANTARA and WOODRUFF from Recife 14 Feb. for Trinidad, carrying out a sweep on the way. They are to join A.F.D.XXIV as convenient after 23 Feb. and escort it to Freetown.
U.S. cruiser CINCINNATI and destroyer JOUETT from Bahia 16 Feb. to sweep towards Ascension returning to Bahia.

/U.S. cruiser...

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.Blockade
runner
patrols.
Contd.

U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD and destroyer DAVIS patrolling 16 Feb. to southward of the last U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE and destroyer WINSLOW from Recife p.m./12 to patrol in the area 03 N. 30 W. 07 N. 26 W. 04 S. 15 W. 08 S. 19 W. (U.S. cruiser MEMPHIS appears also to have been on patrol since she arrived at Bahia on 18 Feb. from patrol).

Mediterranean.M.T.B. and
air attack
on convoy.

M.T.Bs. 77, 82, 61, 307 and 315 sailed from Malta at 1616A today, to carry out a sweep south of Marittimo. The M.T.Bs. attacked a strongly escorted enemy convoy in conjunction with aircraft and made one torpedo hit on a merchant ship. A Wellington torpedoed and sank another merchant vessel, estimated at 5000 tons, and in addition, Beauforts claim one torpedo hit on a merchant ship. All M.T.Bs. returned safely. M.T.B. 77 was slightly damaged and her 1st Lieut. was killed.

Submarines

SARACEN at 0840 off Cape Noli fired 4 torpedoes at a large eastbound tanker, escorted by an armed yacht, and estimates 1 possible hit. UNA p.m. today torpedoed a 4,000 ton merchant ship which was beached south of Alice Point, 39.16 N. 17.08 E.

ARETHUSA

ARETHUSA is reported as having sailed from Aden today to refit in the U.K. ARETHUSA is also reported by C. in C. E.F. as leaving Aden on 16 Feb. escorting CAP TOURAINE.

Air
Operations.

Four Lancasters of Bomber Command attacked Spezia last night with 4,000 lb. bombs, at least one of which is photographed on the aiming point. 21 unescorted B.17s attacked docks and shipping at Palermo today. One large ship was hit and left burning, an oil tank was set on fire, and there were many bursts on the dry dock. 15 out of 21 B.24s of the 12th U.S.A.F. attacked Naples at dusk today and report a direct hit on each of two merchant vessels at the quays and other targets. The bombers were attacked by fighters, of which they shot down 5 and probably 6 more. One B.24 was lost.

War Diary.15. 2. 1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.Shuttle Service.

The Indian Ocean Shuttle Service was discontinued today in accordance with Admty. 2045A/19 Jan.

Cyclone at Tamatave.

Considerable damage has been caused at Tamatave as a result of a recent cyclone. H.M. Trawler PLADDA was driven high ashore, the breakwaters were damaged, and two light-houses and part of Naval H.Q. were destroyed. The shelter problem for the inhabitants is acute, and BRITTANY is being sailed p.m./17 Feb. with repair materials.

Addu Atoll.

C. in C. E.F. reports that as a result of his visit to Addu and after consultation with F.O. Ceylon he considers that the development of that base should be again reviewed. The limited area available for aerodromes and for air establishments does not admit of effective self defence measures against a large scale seaborne air and possibly surface attack. Consequently, Addu is only suitable for use as a harbour for short periods when the probability of such attack is remote or when our surface and seaborne air forces are in sufficient strength and so disposed that they can forestall any such attack.

America & West Indies.

A U-boat was attacked by a Liberator aircraft in 55.45 N. 30.09 W. with 6 torpex depth charges, and some wreckage was produced.

Australia & New Zealand.

Nine Liberators bombed shipping and land installations at Ambon this morning and obtained two hits on an 8,000 ton merchant ship. Four other medium merchant vessels were seen and attacked in Ambon Bay without visible results.

/A...

15.2.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

A Liberator successfully attacked a small merchant vessel in the Stettin Bay area (New Britain, north side) today; photographs showed the vessel hit, beached and on fire.

Our M.T.Bs. tonight intercepted 6 to 8 enemy barges at the mouth of Eice River (Hercules Bay) and destroyed 3 of them.

552

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

HOWE. Route to Akureyri is to be more than 20 miles from the land when between latitude of Malarife and Goltur Lights.

(C. in C. H.F., 0010A/15 to HOWE.)

Hvalfjord departure HOWE, INTREPID, ORKAN, and ECLIPSE in company at 1330. E.T.A. Akureyri 1200/16th.
(A.C.I.C., 1515A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

S/M Intend sailing H.33 escorted by GERANIUM from
movements. Lough Foyle at 1000A/15. E.T.A. Rothesay 2230A/15.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 0031A/15.)

Lost contact. Hove to in 246° Sumburgh Head

Head 18 miles.

(P.315, 0659A/15)

(F.O.S., 0814A/15.)

My 0659A/15. Am proceeding Lerwick.

(P.315, 0921A/15.)

My position 277° Sumburgh Head 2. E.T.A. Lerwick

1015/15.

(P.229, 0947/15.)

Intend sailing P.49 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde 2000A/16 by standard route to 000° Round Island 7 miles, E.T.A. 2000A/18.

2. Thence P.49 to westward.

(Capt. S.3, 1035A/15.)

P.229 arrived.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1035A/15.)

P.315, P.223 arrived.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1245A/15.)

Arrived H.28.

(WESTERN ISLES, 1428A/15.)

My 1644/15 and F.O.S. 2127/9. Request you will sail FIR to R/V P.35 (UMBRA) and escort her to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1657A/15 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/16 and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) UREDD in Lofoten area.

(B) L.23 approx. 55° 19' N. 15° 05' W., dived by day through 55° 17' N. 17° 00' W. and 54° 30' N. 26° 10' W. Proceeding probably on the surface after crossing 22° W.

(C) SICKLE (P.224) with F.S.39 for Sheerness.

(D) UMBRA (P.35) 49° 10' N. 09° 24' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. and 180° ?Bishop Rock 10 miles. Daily advance 115 miles.

(E) BARB in zone K.505.

(F) BLACKFISH off Bilbao.

(G) UNRULY (P.49) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Holy Loch 2000/16, due 360° Round Island Scillies 2000/18.

(H) TRUCULENT (P.315) 62° 22' N. 00° 38' E. through 69° 00' N. 09° 56' E. speed 10 knots.

(J) SPORTSMAN (P.229) 62° 09' N. 00° 21' E. through 69° 01' N. 09° 57' E. speed 9 knots.

(K) SEA NYMPH (P.223) 62° 12' N. 00° 24' W. through 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E. speed 9 knots.

/(L) ...

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M (L) SIMOON (P.225) 61° 20' N. 00° 35' W. through
movements. 69° 01' N. 08° 53' E.
(Contd.) Submarines in (H) to (L) are proceeding probably
on the surface.
(F.O.S., 1712A/15.)
(1) To allow searchlight Wellingtons to operate
south of 048° N. tonight bombing restrictions are cancelled
south of that parallel from 2000A/15.
(2) If unable to make R/V as ordered in my 2127/9th report your
P.C.S. and E.T.A. at R/V.
(F.O.S., 1751A/15 to P.35.)
Cancel my 1035/15.
(Capt. S.3, 2102A/15.)
My 1712/15. Cancel para. (g).
(F.O.S., 2139A/15.)
My 2127/9. Your escort is FIR.
(F.O.S., 2157A/15 to P.35.)

DASHER, My 0913/14. Sailing postponed.
BLANKNEY, (C. in C. H.F., 1132/15 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
LEDBURY, Intention is that you should proceed on a
IMPULSIVE. favourable tide in Pentland when weather
moderates.
(C. in C. H.F., 1246A/15 to DASHER.)
Proceed to pass Hoxa Gate at 0800A/16 and there-
after in accordance with my 0913/14.
(C. in C. H.F., 1729A/15 to DASHER.)
My 0913/14. Sails at 0800A/16.
(C. in C. H.F., 2149A/15 to DASHER.)

SHEFFIELD. Sailing SHEFFIELD postponed until tomorrow owing
to weather.
(2) SHEFFIELD is then to proceed independently
to Seidisfjord west of Iceland North Rotmin Barrier.
(C. in C. H.F., 1149A/15 to C.S.10, SHEFFIELD.)
Cancel my 2215A/14.
Proceed to Seidisfjord independently, west of minefield.
(C.S.10, 1435A/15 to SHEFFIELD.)

CUMBERLAND. Sailed CUMBERLAND in accordance with my 1944A/14,
3½ hours late.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1204A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

HAZARD. Hove to in strong westerly gale, shows no sign
of abatement, 283° 10 miles Dunnet Head.
Permission is requested to return Scapa if
possible running before sea.
(HAZARD, 1220A/15 to R.A.D.H.F.)

BELFAST. Owing to damage to capstan engine intend remain-
ing here until repairs are effected tomorrow.
arriving Seidisfjord at 1500Z/17.
(C.S.10, 1430A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.HDME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.FURY,
ONSLAUGHT.

ONSLAUGHT delayed by weather. Proceed p.m. today in accordance with F.E. para. 6(F). (C.S.1, 1710A/15 to FURY.) My 1515/15. Sailed FURY at 1855/15. (A.C.I.C., 1953A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

FAULKNER,
INGLEFIELD,
OPPORTUNE,
OBEDIENT,
OBDURATE,
ORWELL.

My 1651/14. Amend time of sailing to 0730/16th. (R.A.D.H.F., 1759A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

BRADFORD,
SABRE.

BRADFORD and SABRE are available to escort INDOMITABLE to Clyde on 20th February and to return with ILLUSTRIOUS from Clyde about Feb. 22nd. N.O.I.C. Liverpool and N.O.I.C. Greenock are requested to sail ships to comply. (C. in C. W.A., 1820A/15.)

SCYLLA.

Scapa departure SCYLLA. (A.C.O.S., 1840/15 to A.C.I.C.)

S.55, S.56.

My 1824/31/1 para. 3 and 1118/11. When U.S.S.R. submarines S.55 and S.56 are ready for sea, F.O.S. is requested to arrange to sail then for North Russia, routing them as far as longitude 15° E.
2. Route and date of sailing should be arranged with C. in C. H.F. and submitted to Admiralty for approval.
3. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested:-
(a) to order onward route from 15° E.
(b) to arrange escort in Russian waters.
(c) to arrange bombing restrictions for A/C operating from North Russia.
(D.O.D.H., 1840A/15.)Operations.Operation
"Regulation.Cancel my 1836/13. SUSSEX will remain at Scapa for the present. (C. in C. H.F., 0030A/15 to SUSSEX.)
Cancel my 1319/14. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0933A/15.)

Your 0030A/15. Request SUSSEX may be sailed to arrive in position (C) p.m. 24th February. Route as in my 1319A/14. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1921A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation
K.K.

Operation K.K. postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0821A/15.)

555

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. My 1848A/14. "Device" in at 1005.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1015A/15.)
1. Intend M.G.Bs 54 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. 01° 30' W. and 02° 05' W.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1130A/15.)
Cancel my 1130A/15 owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1555/15.)

Operation "Valuable". (? If) patrol is ordered for tonight CLEVELAND, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, BLEASDALE, WENSLEYDALE, TYNEDAILE are to form Force A. M.G.Bs 616 S.O., 611, 608, M.T.Bs 89, 242, 85 form Force B at Newhaven.

(2) KINGSTON TOPAZ, KINGSTON TURQUOISE, Chaser 14 at St. Helens. ASIE at Yarmouth (I.o.W.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1117A/15.)
Intend forces A and B should remain in harbour tonight.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1311A/15.)
My 1117/15. Destroyers remain at 4 hours notice except WENSLEYDALE at immediate notice at Yarmouth. Force B to be at immediate notice if weather permits operation.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1322A/15.)
Intend to abandon operation "Valuable".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1923A/15 to Admty.)

North Norway S/M Patrol. F.O.S. 1011/15. Request you sail S/Ms as follows.
P.315, P.229, P.223 at 1800/15 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence -
(A) P.315 by route "Black" through 071° 10', 016° 10' to patrol position R.6.
(B) P.229 by route "Black" through 071° 02', 015° 48' to patrol position R.7.
(C) P.223 by route "Pink" through 070° 50', 014° 03' to patrol position R.8.
2. P.225 at 2359/15 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence by route "Pink" through 070° 50', 014° 03' to patrol position R.9.
3. Submarines to proceed on the surface until within 60 miles Norwegian coast.
(Capt. S.9, 1315A/15 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
(F.O.S., 1547A/15.)
S/Ms left Lerwick 1803A/15 all to patrol in vicinity Sofordoy routed as follows -
(a) P.315 and P.229 by route "Black" through 071° 10', 016° 10' and 071° 02', 015° 48' respectively.
(b) P.223 by route "Pink" through 070° 50', 014° 03'.
(c) S/Ms proceeding on surface until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1825A/15 to UREDD.)

556

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command operations. On night 14th/15th 4 A/C bombed Spezia. (H.Q.B.C., 1720A/15.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C destroyed. Roughs Fort claim to have destroyed one hostile aircraft plotted as "Z2" doubtful. This target approached the Fort from the North and passed on the eastward side about 800 yards distant it was clearly seen as a twin-engined bomber and engaged with all armament, 3.7 F.A.S., Bofors and Lewis. At approximately 2040 - 2045 large flash was observed bearing approximately 120° 20,000 yards. Sunk Head Fort report observing plane passing close and appearing to be in difficulties and losing height. They report flash and believed crash of this plane bearing approximately 140° 10,000 yards from them at about 2045. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2241A/15.)

Mining.

Mine washed ashore. My 1423/14. Mine was exploded. No damage caused. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1113A/15.)

Minesweeper Programme. My 1301/12. Following are intended movements of minesweepers.

2. HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER to remain in Iceland until end March.
3. GLEANER to Iceland for 2 weeks on completion working up about 5th March.
4. If minesweeping situation permits M/S Flot. 15 to return to Scapa about mid-March to comply with para. 2 A.M. 1807/7 while HAZARD, SHARPSHOOTER, GLEANER and HOUND are available in Iceland.
5. HALCYON and SALAMANDER next to North Russia and not to go to Iceland.

(C. in C. H.F., 1256A/15.)

Trial Field off Humber. It is desired that PLOVER should lay a trial field of 18 live mines Mark XVII Assembly No.6 as soon after completion of Q.V.2 as possible. Suggest initial position and line 53° 42' N. 01° 23' E. in a direction 090° about one mile.

2. If you concur, request that you will issue orders for the operation and allot a title.
3. Requested arrangements to watch the field for about six hours after laying.

(A.C.N.S.H., 1536A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)

LLANDUDNO. Sailed M/S 15 1657/14 at 0745/15. (N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 1616A/15 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

/Sweep ...

557

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.Sweep
by M/S.4.

My 0837A/13 and my 1752A/14.
Intend employing six ships on this operation and working from Dartmouth proceed Portland for coal. Estimated time required five full sweeping days. Request services of two trawlers for dan weighing to meet me Dartmouth p.m./18th. (M/S.4, 1734A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

St. Malo.

Photos taken at 1445/13 show St. Malo Naval Shipping two probable Elbing class destroyers, two Wold class T/Bs, two T.1 - 19 T/Bs arrived since 23rd Dec. 1942, also seventeen trawler type auxiliaries as compared with four. Seven out of eight patrol craft 100/150' have departed. (Medmenham, 1200A/15.)

Ijmuiden.

Photos taken at 1053/13 show at Ijmuiden armed coaster 210 ft. departed since 8th Feb. 1943, four possibly six auxiliaries arrived Fishers Haven, making eight possibly ten in port. Three E/R boats remain visible. (Medmenham, 1600A/15.)

TIRPITZ.

B.2 report states TIRPITZ in Lofjord on February 14th. (D.D.I.C., 1757A/15.)

U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.

Am over enemy S/M in 45° 28' N. 09° 50' W. (A/C, 0505/15 to 19 Group.)

Have lost touch with enemy S/M. (A/C, 0510/15 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 47° 58' N. 12° 07' W.

Only periscope sighted.

(A/C AZ9 Duty A, 1338/15 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 53° 31' N. 28° 47' W. Sighted periscope only.

(A/C No.10 Duty R, 1435A/15 to Artunshofdi.)

Am over enemy S/M in position (indecypherable).

(A/C 146 Sqdn. Duty 1, 1800/15 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 44° 49' N. 09° 43' W.

(A/C HIAI, 1805/15 to 19 Group.)

U-Boat
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 55° 45' N. 31° 9' W.

(A/C 300 Sqdn. Duty S, 1203/15 to ? Artunshede)

My 1203 have attacked enemy with bombs. Dived.

(A/C 300 Sqdn. 1210A/15 to C.Z.7.)

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- MARNE. Am heaving to. My position 052° 23', 011° 26'.
(MARNE, 0030A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- BRYONY. Ship's side starboard seriously damaged two feet
above waterline between stations 71 and 72 in
collision with DIANELLA whilst at anchor. Intend
slipping both anchors to avoid further
complications.
(BRYONY, 0945A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 0945A/15. Damage as follows. Details.
(BRYONY, 1301A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
Repairs to BRYONY cannot be undertaken until recommended
and will take 36 hours to complete. Request instructions for
sailing on completion of repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1637A/15 to R.A.D.H.F.)
- NAVUPNOG. My 1016/15. Delayed 24 hours through steering
defect.
(R.N.O. Grangemouth, 1207/15.)
- MIDDLETON. Gyro compass permanently out of action.
(PYTCHLEY, 1225A/15 to JASON.)
- LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE. A.M. 1151A/6. D.S.T.O. Glasgow reports cannot be
completed before 13th March.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1835/15 to Admty.)
- FLY. FLY was in collision with merchant ship FAGERBRO
on 14th Feb. and has extensive damage to mine-
sweeping structure requiring dockyard repairs.
Intend to sail her for U.K. 17th Feb.
(A.C.I.C., 2301A/15 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.S.C.43. The following ships sailed in O.S.C.43 at
0252A/15. ALEXANDRE ANDRE, TRAFALGAR, FORT LAC
LA ROUGE, OCEAN VICTORY, EMPIRE SNIPE, CLEARPOOL,
FORT RUPERT.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0545A/15 to D.S.T.)
- J.W. 53 Your 1135/13, para. 2.
and R.A.53. This has been arranged.
(S/M Patrols) (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0935A/15 to Admty.)

/Operation ...

559

15.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.53
and R.A.
53.
(S/M
Patrols.)
(Contd.)

Operation F.E.

1. P.315, P.229, P.223, and P.225 are to sail so as to arrive on patrol at 0800/20.

2. Following patrol positions established.

Number	Submarine	Position.
R.6	P.315	071° 10', 023° 43'.
R.7	P.229	071° 02', 022° 56'.
R.8	P.223	070° 50', 021° 59'.
R.9	P.225	070° 49', 021° 19'.

3. Eastern limit of British submarine areas is longitude of 024° E. Safety lines established by longitude midway between adjacent patrol positions are not to be crossed except in pursuit of enemy.

4. Object as in F.S.B.2, except that a salvo is to be kept for cruisers and above.

5. Submarines will probably be recalled about 5th March.

6. Route and bombing restrictions to be arranged by Capt. S.9. (F.O.S. 1011A/15 to S.O.S/M Lerwick.)

J.W.53.

Unable to make R/V owing to severe weather.

S.O.A. 5 knots. MIDDLETON gyro-compass permanently out of action.

(PYTCHLEY 1225A/15 to JASON.)

Inspection of DASHER shows that no attempt has been made to fit ship for Arctic service. Few if any of the exposed essential hydraulic fittings required for operation of aircraft are fitted with heating. Equipment for clearing hull and cables from ice has not repetition not been fitted. Consider her operational value has been prejudiced by these omissions. Request immediate fitting out for Arctic service any other auxiliary carrier which it is intended should be used for Russian convoys.

(C. in C.H.F. 1326A/15 to Admty.)

It is understood that difficulty is being experienced in assembling and sailing J.W.53.

2. The convoy may be delayed to enable the maximum number of ships to be sailed.

(A.C.N.S.H. 1745A/15 to C. in C.H.F.)

HAZARD returned to harbour. HALCYON did not sail.

(R.A.D.H.F. 1801A/15 to JASON.)

J.W.53. (A) 1545/15. (B) JASON (S.O.), DIANELLA, POPPY, BERGAMOT, LORD MIDDLETON, LORD AUSTIN. Due to R/V Ewe Buoy MIDDLETON, PYTCHLEY, MEYNELL, HAZARD. (C) 24. (D) Cmdre. in EMPIRE SCOTT. (E) Vice Cmdre. Master S.S. ATLANTIC. (F) Rear Cmdre. Master S.S. EMPIRE GALLIARD.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1906A/15.)

J.W.53. EMPIRE SCOTT, BRITISH GOVERNOR, LLANDAFF, EMPIRE GALLIARD, EMPIRE FORTUNE, OCEAN FREEDOM, ATLANTIC, DOVERHILL, EMPIRE BAFFIN, EMPIRE KINSMAN.

U.S.Ship. MOBILE CITY. U.S.S. BEACON HILL, JOSEPH E. JOHNSON, BERING, FRANCIS SCOTTKEY, ISRAEL PUTNAM, THOMAS HARTLEY.

U.S.S.R. PETROVSKI, KOMILES, TBILISI. PIETER DE HOOGH (Dutch) MARATHON (Norwegian.) ARTIGAS (Panamanian), TOBRUK (Pole.)

M/F Guard BRITISH GOVERNOR (500-365 k/cs), ATLANTIC (300-375 k/cs) LLANDAFF and EMPIRE BAFFIN (442 k/cs.)

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1910A/15.)

/A.M....

560

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- J.W.53. A.M. 1745/15. Convoy is to proceed in accordance with programme.
(Contd.) (C. in C.H.F. 1927A/15 to V.A.2, H.Q.C.C. N.O.I.C. Aultbea, R.A.D.H.F. C.S.10, C. in C.W.A.)
- My P.C.S at 2100, 058° 42' N. 004° 59' W. 270°, 5.5 knots.
Request your P.C.S.
(PYTCHLEY 2102/15 to JASON.)
- My 1424/14. Proceed passing Switha as soon as ready to join convoy. Estimated position at 0400A/16, 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles. Steer 017° about 5 knots.
(R.A.D.H.F. 2221A/15 to HALCYON.)
- C.E.154. My 1530A/14. Postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 0945/15.)
- U.C.1. Sailed WESTON, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON, NESS, MADISON, LANSDALE, H.P.JONES, C.F.HUGHES for U.C.1.
(Cmdre. Londonderry 1016A/15.)
- My 1810/14. (C) for 14 ships read 15 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1035/15.)
MALAKAND. Saldanha Bay for Capetown, pendants 45, speed 13½ and Calcutta.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1340A/15.)
- Your 1055/15. 1. EMPIRE COLERIDGE and LAUREL WOOD did not sail. 2. Report if CUSTODIAN who sailed late is not with convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 1520A/15 to TOTLAND.)
- This is Comtaskgroup 24.7's 0830/15. Sailed Taskgroup 99.2 with 42nd E.G. to meet convoy U.C.1.
(Comnavu 1716/15 to Admty.)
- A. 1707Z/15. B. MOLDE- on completion to Lough Foyle and await further instructions. C. 9 D. Rear- Commodore Master CITY OF DURBAN.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1816Z/15 to C. in C.W.A.)
- A.L. M/T.D. 0313/42 of 28th January 1943 and A.M. 0100/13th February. In spite of all instructions and endeavours, Convoy U.C.1. has sailed with only 156 British and nil U.S.A. spare depth-charges in convoy. Request assurance that arrangements are being made to ensure that sufficient spare charges are being embarked in C.U.1.
(C. in C.W.A. 1848A/15 to Admty.)
- U.C.1. ATHEL PRINCESS, CLAVELLA, EMPIRE CASTLE, SEMBILANGAN, DELIUS, MARTAND, FORT WEDDERBURNE, CITY OF DURBAN, SAINTONGE. Destinations. Pendants. Speeds.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1915A/15 to Admty, C. in C.W.A.)
- Convoy U.C.1. BRITISH FORTITUDE, ECLIPSE, CYMBULA, ESSO BATON ROUGE, EMPIRE MARVEL, MOBILGAS, CORNISH CITY. Destinations, Pendants, and Speeds.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1928A/15 to C., in C.W.A.)
- Icelandic Trawlers Return Routes. My 1912/14. In view of necessity for keeping these ships as far as possible under control it is desired that the existing practice of sailing trawlers with F.N.Convoys as far as 22 buoy should be maintained.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1301A/15 to Admty.)

/C...

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.Icelandic
Trawlers
Return
Routes.
(Contd.)C. in C.Rosyth's 1301/15. Concur.
(C. in C.Nore 1557A/15 to Admty.)O.N.168.
O.N.S.169.Request I may be informed of names of oilers
detailed for O.N. 168, O.N.S. 169.
(C. in C.W.A. 1434A/15 to Admty.)Net
Defence
Ships.Following position reported to me this morning.
EMPIRE WEBSTER, recently sunk. At Greenock on
outward journey, eye-plates were found to be loose.
This defect was not reported when ship was taken in
hand. At sea, neither side of net defence was in
action.EMPIRE BANNER sunk about a month ago. One side of net defence was
out of action on arrival at Clyde. Sailing, sanctioned by S.N.D.,
Admiralty. Ship was in Clyde for two days.EMPIRE COLERIDGE due to sail from Greenock yesterday. Sailing
stopped by protest of Chief Inspector N.D.Scotland, because crew
was untrained.EMPIRE LANCER due to sail from Greenock yesterday, 14th February,
but delayed because of compass adjustment. One side of net defence
is complete. The other side has no latching gear. Ship was in
Clyde for five days and repairs were incomplete due to stress of
weather. Endeavour will now be made to complete N.D.

Following remedies proposed:

(A) Net defence vessels to be included in first priority with
new construction and repairs of all escort and A/S vessels, vide
Admiralty's P/P (L) 048/42 of 6th February 1943.(B) Early consideration whether these ships should ever be allowed
to sail without net defence complete and crews trained.(C) Each ship to be inspected by net defence organisation on
reaching port of arrival and prior to departure. EMPIRE WEBSTER
is a case where such inspection might have saved the ship.(D) Rapid development of organisation for repairs to N.D.
at ports of Discharge, loading and repair including East Coast.
It is essential that the Clyde should not be looked upon as the
only maintenance port for this purpose.(E) Question of increase in the numbers of riggers in Clyde is
being examined and, if necessary, a proposal for transfer of riggers
to the Clyde from other Ports for this purpose will be submitted.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1501A/15 to Admty.)

R.N.Hospital
at Archangel.North Russia's 1721/4th January and 1418/12th
December and paras 42 to 45 of his letter No. 8/130
dated 14th January. Request present state of affairs
regarding hospital unit for Archangel.
(Ad. Miles 1654C/15 to Admty.)

/North...

15.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- North Atlantic Convoy Cycles. Admiralty O110/13. Sailing programme for 3-speed plan on 12-day cycle could be started as follows:-
(A) Convoys to continue as now up to and including O.N.S. 169 and S.C. 123.
(B) 12-day cycle to start as follows:-
From Liverpool O.N.F.1 March 3rd, O.N.M. 1 March 7th, O.N.S. 1 March 11th. From New York H.X.M. 1 March 23rd, H.X.S. 1 March 29th, H.X.F. 1 March 30th.
2. Dates of sailing from Liverpool have been equally spaced as a matter of convenience. Dates of sailing from New York are designed to give escorts an equal lay-over on either side. Dates could be adjusted within limits to suit requirements of trade and Western Local Escorts.
3. Experience has shown that to ensure efficient upkeep of escorts and to allow the essential training periods, this proposed scheme should be run with 11 escort groups. Although in theory 10 groups are sufficient, in practice they do not permit sufficient time at lay-overs to ensure continued efficiency at proper strength.
(C. in C.W.A. 1741A/15 to Admty.)
- M.K.S.7 O.N.S.167 W.N.95. Owing to weather the following convoys are hove to or scattered M.K.S. 7 O.N.S. 167, W.N. 95; and position of other units may be unreliable.
2. CUMBERLAND is expected to be in vicinity of Oversay proceeding northwestwards at 2000A/15th.
3. Navigation lights should be burned full brilliancy by ships east of 9° W. subject red warning.
(C. in C.W.A. 1740A/15.)
- D.S.37. Intend sailing LEINSTER passing Clyde Boom 2300A/16, to R/V SARDONYX and SHIKARI in position (P) at 0800A/17, thence in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 1323A/14.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1744A/15.)
- P.W.294. Cancel my 1644/15. Take FIR, LORD ESSENDEN, CAPE COMORIN under your orders and pass Gate at 0800/16th escorting P.W.D. (S) 294 to R/V with P.W.F. 294 escorted by P.C.74 at D.1 buoy.
2. FIR is to be detached at D.1 buoy to proceed Falmouth.
3. After D.1 buoy convoy continue as P.W. 294.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1949A/15 to ROWAN.)
- E.N. 96. E.N. 96 sheltering in Sinclair Bay Ioacond, proceeding at 0930/16 if weather is suitable. 4 ships in company.
(VALSE 2010A/15 to A.C.O.S.)
- O.S.43. Inform Cmdre. N.P. altering course from L. 055° 15' N. 012° 01' W. to M. 50° 01' N. 14° 30' W. N. 39° 30' N. 14° 30' W. thence E. 33° 59' N. 11° 02' W.
Amend stragglers route. Cancel (P) (Q) (R) and (S) and substitute.

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.S.43 (Contd.) (AA) 052° 00' N. 014° 50' W.
(BB) 045° 01' N. 015° 40' W.
(CC) 39° 30' N. 15° 40' W. thence (T)
2. Amended stragglers route will be broadcast by B.A.M.S. Addressed to all ships of convoy and to stragglers.
3. A.M. 1559/9. C., in C.Plymouth is requested to sail BROCKLESBY, LIDDESDALE and QUANTOCK to R/V with O.S.43 in position 042° 01' N. 014° 30' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 2046A/15 to Escorts O.S.43.)
- U.C.U.J.1. MELINE arrived 2100.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2120A/15.)
- M.K.S.7 (South) ILLINOIAN. Your 1000/15. Inform ILLINOIAN destination is Loch Ewe. 2 Detail escort to North Channel if available.
(C. in C.W.A. 2132A/15 to FLEETWOOD.)
- T.A. 36. Convoy T.A.36 consisting of S.S. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will be ready to leave Clyde for New York p.m. 19th carrying military personnel.
2. Route. 3. Ship will sail independently and maximum air protection both A/A and A/S is to be arranged.
(D.O.D.H. 2334A/15.)
- W.S.27. K.M.F.10A. Convoy W.S.27 will leave U.K. on 23rd February in company with Convoy K.M.F. 10A parting company as directed to proceed to Freetown and South Africa.
2. Composition of Convoy as follows:-
From Clyde, S.S. ALMANZORA, S.S. STRATHAIRD, S.S. ANTENORE.
From Liverpool S.S. CAPETOWN CASTLE, S.S. CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, S.S. STRATHMORE.
3. Embarkation in STRATHMORE will not complete in time for ship to sail on 23rd and C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange for one destroyer to sail with her on 24th to overtake and R/V with convoy as soon as possible.
4. Speed of slowest ship ANTENOR 14 knots.
6. Escort to Freetown RAIDER, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, and WOLVERINE.
7. Destroyer escorts are to be detached as necessary to fuel at Casablanca.
(D.O.D.H. 2336A/15.)
- Convoy K.M.F.10A will leave U.K. in company with W.S.27 on 23rd February, and will part company as directed.
2. Ships will sail from the following ports for destinations stated. From Clyde. Destination Oran S.S. LETITIA. Destination Algiers S.S. BATORY, S.S. DURBAN CASTLE, S.S. CIRCASSIA, S.S. BOISSEVAIN. S.S. NIEUW HOLLAND. From Liverpool. Destination Oran S.S. FRANCONIA.
3. Speed of slowest ship LETITIA 14 knots.
4. Escort will be provided by 44th Escort Group consisting of EGRET, FISHGUARD, CLARE ERNE, TEST.
5. S.O. of escort is in EGRET.
(D.O.D.H. 2338A/15.)

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Mines,
Gibraltar
Straits.

Following has been read from Ferrol Radio.
(Translation by O.I.C.) To all ships.
As moored mines have been laid in the Straits of
Gibraltar, all vessels passing through the
Straits are to be ordered to sail as much as
possible within territorial waters, preferably
along the North Coast of Africa.
(Burnham Radio, 0825 G.M.T./15 to Admty, etc).

K.M.F.9

MIAOULES arrived 2315/14, fuelled and sailed
0550/15 to rejoin convoy.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0937A/15 to Admty etc).

Air Report.

Op. Sum. 105 for 24 hrs. ended midnight 14 Feb.
(G) Sightings and attacks Catalina J202 on
escort to K.M.S.9 night 13/14 at 2240/13 picked
up and sighted U/B Co. 240/10 kts. 39.11 N.

11.07 W. but arrived over position too late to attack. At
2330/13 picked up and attacked from port beam a U/B on surface
Co 241/11 kts. 39.18 N. 11.17 W. with 5 D/Cs? which overshot
by 59? yards. At 0105/14 picked up and attacked a U/B on surface
Co. 068/8 kts. 39.27 N. 11.34 W. with 1 D/C which fell 40 yards
astern.

(H.Q., R.A.F. Gib. 1015Z/15).

Dispositions. Situation at 2005A/15th.

1. R.S.1 PENTSTEMON (E) 25.23 15.45 to
R/V S.R.1 in 24.01 17.01 at 1000/16th thence
188 8½. At R/V escort change convoy.
2. S.R.1 BRIDGEWATER 20.43 17.29 08° 6½.
3. BOREAS 29.11 14.33 through 29.01 14.45 to 27.50 14.50 to
26.17 16.50 to R/V BURDOCK and one merchant ship in 26.01
16.50 at 1700/16th thence escorting merchant ship 16° 12½.
4. BURDOCK one merchant ship 21.48 18.13 to 26.01 16.50.
On BOREAS joining BURDOCK proceed Southward 10. (see 1204/15).
5. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, MIRROR 35.30 12.45 through 35.30 10.30
to 36.55 08.31 8½. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE holds incorrect
recognition signals.
6. JAMAICA, 35.41 10.22 to Gibraltar, 18.
7. ST. NECTAN, LOCH OSKAIG cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER
working vicinity 32.24 16.09.
8. U.G.F.5, T.F.36, 41.01 25.10 through 41.01 22.01 thence 117°
12½.
9. VANOC 33.54 07.55 235° 13½.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1017A/15 2031A/15 to Area X).

Situation report area X at 2001A/15.

- LORD HOTHAM 35.03 08.32 to 35.49 06.06 thence Gibraltar 9.
(2) K.M.S.9 H.M.S. BLACK SWAN 35.50 06.15 W. through Straits
passing position 57 approx. 0100/16. 9.
(4) CADMUS 3 minesweepers 1 motor launch sweeping vicinity Ridge.
(5) ARIGUANI, NIMBLE, NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, 36.26 N.
07.41 W. to 36.40 09.20 and 38.01 11.01 thence 330° 5.
(6) C.G.11 sail Casablanca 1200/16th Safi section R/V in 33.55
07.53 at 1700/16th thence 040° 8½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1043A/15 1245A/15 to N.A.S.)

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. My 1043/15. Add para. (9) PETUNIA sails Gibraltar
Contd. 0400/16 through 35.45 N. 06.23 W. thence
229° 12.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1545A/15).
My 1043/15. Add new para. (10) U.S. GLEAVES one
merchant ship sailed Safi 1600/15th to R/V with C.G.11 in
033° 55' 007° 53' at 1700/16th.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2132A/15 to Area X).
Situation 1958A/15th.
H.M.S. BURDOCK one merchant ship 21.48 18.13 to R/V H.M.S.
QUEEN OF BERMUDA in 26.01 16.50 at 1700/16th whence H.M.S.
BURDOCK proceed Southward 10. H.M.S. BOREAS and merchant ship
proceed 016° 12½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1204/15 to area Z).
My 1204/15th para. 3 amend to read BRIDGEWATER S.R.1
020° 43' 017° 29' 008° 6½.
Add new para. 4: U.G.S.5, T.F.35, 035° 43' 040° 09' 127° 7½.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2027A/15 to Area Z).

T.C.A.O. T.C.A.O. 11 Gib. 15th Feb. (B) St. Vincent to
between 39 and 40 N. to 24 W. one C. 1400/15th
1000/16th.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1143A/15 to S. and A. Area
XA-XB-Y).

NORD Master German Tanker NORD ATLANTIC has returned
ATLANTIC. from Germany and vessel reported to have
received late on 13th 5 heavy cases similar
to those received by Tanker ANTARKTIS before it
sailed on Nov. 30th last.
(Consul Vigo, 1211/15 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar,
(R) Admty. for D.N.I., N.A. Madrid).
My 1211. Tanker NORD ATLANTIC has today received 2 Lorry
loads of cases of provisions. It looks like preparations
for sailing.
(Consul Vigo, 1717/15 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.
for D.N.I. N.A. Madrid).

ALVAIAZERE From M.E.W. Seize Portuguese ship ALVAIAZERE.
(D.E.W.D.1216A/15 to C.C.S.O. Gib).

ARIGUANI, Your 1558A/14. Admty. 1722/12.
SAMSONIA, If weather allows, SAMSONIA is to take over tow
NIMBLE. Latter to return to Gibraltar.
SAMSONIA to tow SS. ARIGUANI to Milford Haven.
(2) If this is impracticable SAMSONIA is to
return to Milford Haven in company with tug
NIMBLE and ARIGUANI.
(3) You are requested to re-route SAMSONIA to effect R/V.
(4) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to NIMBLE. C. in C. Plymouth pass
to SAMSONIA.
(D.O.D. (H) 1527A/15 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.
C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, SAMSONIA, NIMBLE).

566

15. 2. 1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

PETUNIA Intend to sail PETUNIA at 0400/16 for Freetown routed through (B) 35.45 N. 06.23 W. (C) 33.10 N. 10.01 W. (D) 28.31 N. 17.25 W. (E) 28.01 N. 17.40 W. (F) 26.01 N. 17.40 W. S. of A. 12 knots. (2) F.O.C. West Africa is requested to signal onward route from position (F). (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1643A/15 to F.O.C.W.A.)

L.C.I.(L)s L.C.I.(L) 102 has broken down. I am sending her back to Gibraltar in tow of L.C.I.(L) 176. (L.C.I.(L) 177, 1730Z/15 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Movements Casablanca. Feb. 15 P.C.472 and 475 arrived Casablanca from Port Lyautey, VANOC departed Casablanca R/V with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. (S.N.O.C.A., 1855/15 to Admty).

JAMAICA, Operation "Regulation". My 2307A/14th Feb. Request you will sail JAMAICA so as to arrive in position to commence operation "Regulation" on 20th Feb. JAMAICA is to remain in area until 24th or 25th if endurance permits and subsequently proceed as in my 1327A/14 Feb. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1913A/15 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) JAMAICA, SUSSEX, C. in C. W.A., Admty. A.C.O.S., N.C.X.F. H.Q.C.C., C. in C. H.F., C.S. 10, C.S.1).

U/B Report received graded C.3 that submerged S/M was sighted off Punta Malabata (Straits of Gibraltar) at 0800/15 steering eastward. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1923A/15 to S. and A. in Area G (R) Admty).

Slow convoy Gib. - U.K. Your 1546/13. List of ships and speeds. (F.O. Gibraltar, 2011A/15, to N.C.X.F.)

M.K.S.8 Intend to sail (list, 34 ships). (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2013/15 to N.C.X.F.)

Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals 0820 IMPERIALIST from Escorting Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER 1055 TAKU from Algiers 1546 ALBACORE, HUSSAR, SPEEDWELL, CADMUS from M/S sweep west. 1100, HAARLEM escorting SS. EMPIRE USK from Almeda. Departures: 0015 PUCKERIDGE to R/V K.M.F.9. 1415 L.C.I.(L)s 177, 174, 175, 246 M.L. 280 for Oran. (F.O. Gibraltar, 2224A/15 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

/TAKU...

567

15.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

TAKU Intend to sail TAKU p.m./17th Feb. for U.K.
2. TAKU passes through (P) 35° 49' 06° 06 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' at
1800/17th (Q) 35° 53' 6° 15' at 1845/17th.
(R) 36.37 7.24 at 0130/18th.
(S) 36.51 9.13 at 1930/18th. (C) 42.59 12.26 at 0530/21st.
shifting W/T watch at 0530/21st thence as ordered by F.O.S.
3. W/T watch.
4. TAKU is painted blue.
5. F.O.S. 1149/8 Jan. 1942. (A) 4 Mark 2.
(B) 10 knots (150 miles per day) (C) Ready for patrol 100
per cent F.U. (D) (1) 4 (2) 7.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2237A/15 2239A/15 to Admty etc).

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Interception of Blockade Runners. A.M. 1318/14 which is A.M. 1217/14 to Opanav. Arrangements for interception of these ships should take precedence over interception of MONTE NARANCO. Request report of redispositions when you have co-ordinated them with Comsolantfon (A.C.N.S. (F) Approved 1st S.L. 0127A/15 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Opanav etc.)
W.R.Note: Former was an Ultra signal.

A.M. 0127A/15. Blockade runner patrols. DESPATCH from St. Vincent p.m. 18th Feb. to X 019° N. 031° W. to Z 19° N. 37° W. to J 18° N. 23° W. to Bathurst 20 knots.
French Cruiser GLOIRE. From (?Freetown) 1500Z/14 to G 13° N. 33° W. to Dakar 18 knots.
French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES from Bathurst 0800Z/16 to A 026° 31' 039° 20' to B 27.19 31.01 to Dakar 20 knots.
ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF from Recife 1230Z/14 to A 05° S. 30° W. to B Equator 28° W. to C 05° N. 28° W. to D 10° N. 35° W. thence Westward 12½ knots.
U.S.S. CINCINNATI and U.S.S. JOUETT from Bahia p.m. 28th to patrol area bounded by positions A 00.30 S. 29.30 W. B 01.00 N. 28.00 W. C 08.00 S. 19.00 W. D 09.30 S. 20.30 W. arriving Recife a.m. 28th.
U.S.S. MARBLEHEAD, U.S.S. DAVIS patrolling 16th Feb. across Cape San Antonio line with (corrupt group) 02 S. 25 W. bearing 225° 120 miles. Limits of operations 02 S. and 15 S. Unit return to Recife a.m. 21st.
U.S. MILWAUKEE U.S.S. WINSLOW from Recife p.m. 12th to patrol area bounded by A. 03° N. 30° W. B 07° N. 26° W. C 04° S. 15° W. D 08° S. 19° W. arriving Recife p.m. 24th.
(F.O.W.A. 1527Z/15 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

QUIBERON, QUALITY. E.T.A. QUIBERON, QUALITY 0600Z/15th. Oil fuel required 600 tons.
QUIBERON 0246Z/15 to B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.)
Arrived and left Pointe Noire a.m. 15th
QUIBERON, QUALITY.
B.N.L.O. West Africa 1154A/15 to F.O.C.W.A.)

ARMERIA. Arrival Bone 13th for docking ARMERIA.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 0805A/15 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

CARNATIC. E.T.A. 1200Z/16th.
(CARNATIC 1000Z/15 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. THYME escorting NESTOR 021° 15' S. 009° 40' E. to St. Helena 10¼.
BLACKMOOR, NORTHERN DAWN with N.C.1 026° 45' S. 014° 45' E. to Saldanha Bay 7.
FRITILLARY, CAPE WARWICK with C.N.7 024° S. 013° 45' E. to Walvis Bay 8.
Convoy D.C.7 035° 05' S. 021° E. to Capetown 9.
SONDRA with RECORDER 029° 26' S. 043° 50' E.
NORWICH CITY 033° S. 036° 30' E. to Durban 9.
(C. in C.S.A. 1127C/15 to Areas Q and J.)

/Positions...

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions Positions of ships 2000Z/15th.
(Contd.) F.S. AMAZONE on surface 18.07 33.49 296° 7.
PENTSTEMON, LORD NUFFIELD, VETCH with R.S.1
24.27 16.36 to 24.01 17.01 thence 188° 8.5.
BRIDGEWATER, INKPEN, FANDANGO with S.R.1 20.58 17.27 008° 6.5.
BURDOCK escorting 22.12 18.04 016° 12.5.
ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ escorting 11.22 17.20 356° 8.5
French Sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE escorting about 10.05
16.01 to Freetown 10.5
Fleet unit RANCHI, HOTSPUR, EXPRESS, FORTUNE, INCONSTANT with
convoy C.F. 11, 11.07 18.38 to 11.27 19.05 thence 355° 12.
ARRAN off Cape Verde to Bathurst.
French Cruiser GLOIRE 09.15 15.08 292° 20.
(R.A.W.A. 1129Z/15 1615Z/15 to Area P. North.)
My 1129/15th. Add HYDRANGEA escorting 008° 58' 015° 22'
to 011° 00' 017° 30' thence 359° 12.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1615Z/15 to Area P. North.)
Situation at 2001/15th.
SARABANDE escorting 07.20 13.58 to Freetown 8.
M.L. 271 escorting 06. 22 11.52 123 7½.
M.L. 305 M.L. 279 escorting 003° 57' 005° 52' to 03.39 07.45
thence 301° 10.
CYCLAMEN, CROCUS escorting about 003° 20' 006° 55' to North
West 12½.
Convoy W.S. 26 006° 41' S. 010° 48' E. 180° 12½.
COMMANDANT DROGOU (F.S.) escorting off Lagos (Nigeria) to
Westward 10.
(F.O.I.C.W.A. 1532Z/15 to Area P South.)

DESPATCH, To release DESPATCH for blockade runner patrol,
ADRIAS. intend ADRIAS to relieve DESPATCH p.m. 17th
Feb. on patrol to eastward of Cape Verde Islands
for interception of MONTE NARANCO.

If ship intercepted intend ADRIAS to place armed guard on board
and escort to Bathurst for British armed guard to be placed on
board for passage to Gibraltar.

Request I may be informed if there is not any objection.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1150Z/15 to Admty (R) DESPATCH, N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, Comar Dakar.)

Your 1150/15th. No objection.

(D.O.D.(F) 2507A/15 to F.O.C.W.A.)

1. My 2041Z/14th. (?2047/14 intended) ADRIAS from Freetown
will relieve you on patrol in 015° 00' N. 022° 01' W. at 1600Z/
17th Feb. On relief DESPATCH proceed St. Vincent for fuel.

2. After fuelling DESPATCH proceed on blockade runner patrol
through position X 019° 01' N. 031° 01' W. towards Z 019° 01' N
037° 31' W.

Speed on patrol 20 knots or at your discretion.

3. Leave patrol at prudent limit of endurance and return to
Bathurst through position J 018° 01' N. 023° 01' W.

(F.O.W.A. 1358Z/15 to DESPATCH (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst,
ADRIAS, Comsolant.)

/CARNARVON...

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Falkland Islands. 15th Feb. Departure 1200 G.M.T. CARNARVON CASTLE E.T.A. Montevideo 1300 G.M.T. 18th Feb. (N.O.I.C. Falklands 1201Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Bahia. Arrival 13th U.S. cruiser CINCINNATI, U.S. destroyer JOUETT. (R.O. Bahia 1215Z/15 to Admty.)

DESPATCH. Following is a repetition of my 1253/15th (Begins) "N.C.S.O. St. Vincent (C.V.) for British Consul. (R) N.A.Lisbon, Admty, DESPATCH. From F.O.C.W.A. Intend DESPATCH to arrive St. Vincent (C.V.) for fuel a.m. 18th Feb., sailing on completion. Estimated requirements 350 tons. Request Portuguese authorities be informed. (Ends.) (F.O.C.W.A. 1256Z/15 to Admty. DESPATCH.)

EGERO. You are to take as much fuel as possible from EGERO and report quantity remaining. It is proposed to unload remainder estimated maximum 1000 tons at Takoradi if acceptable there. (F.O.C.W.A. 1304Z/15 to R.N.O. Lagos (Nigeria) (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty.)

B.T.4. Following ships sailed Bahia 1800Z/13 in convoy B.T.4. (list). (A.S.O.(I) Recife 1348Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movements Pernambuco. Departures 12th Feb. U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW. Arrivals 12th Brazilian Sub. Chaser C.S.2. (R.O. Pernambuco 1350Z/15 to Admty.)

Possible R.D.F. in U/B. Your 1700/14 para 2. (U-Boat suspected of being equipped with R.D.F. capable of giving warning of approach of A/C.) The aircraft was not carrying A.S.V. (C. in C.S.A. 1516C/15 to Admty.) See also Admty. 1154A/19.

TJITJALENGKA (required by C. in C.E.F.) Ref. 1700/13th Feb. from D. of S.T. to D.S.T.O. W.A. Naval Hospital Ship TJITJALENGKA required to sail from Freetown as soon as possible. Request instructions for disposal of Hospital cases, as Ship cannot be sailed until cases transferred. (F.O.C.W.A. 1543Z/15 to Admty.)

/Fuel...

571

15.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Fuel Supplies. Following for Petroleum Division from Lord Swinton. F.O.C.W.A. has shown me 1052A/7 from N.C.X.F. to Admty.

2. Hope you will insure that arrangements for Naval fuel do not cut across arrangements for fuel supplies for French West Africa as proposed in your Tel. Fuel No. 20 to Nigeria C.O. Tel 162 to me and Tel ELFU No. 19 from Vesey Brown.
3. Please pass copy to Colonial Office.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1554Z/15 to Admty.)

Movements Departures 15th Feb. COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S.
Lagos. M.L. 285.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos. 1653Z/15 to Admty.)

DUNCTON. Arrival 15th.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1717Z/15 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

TICONDEROGA. Your 1904A/10, (asking reason for delay.)
TICONDEROGA was sailed to Dakar as supplies of fuel were urgently required for operational purposes.
2. Reason for delay at Dakar was that Master refused to discharge fuel without signed order from Adm. Collinet. Arrangements made to sail ship at 1100/6 but Master then reported seven absentees. Written order then made by Adm. Glassfurd ship to sail forthwith.
3. Master next reported engine defects which would take an unknown time to repair. Air cover ordered from Bathurst had to be cancelled and requested for following day. Ship finally sailed 1000/7.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1832Z/15 to Admty.)

ESPERANCE Sailed Freetown in C.F.11. E.T.A. New York, 27.
BAY. Fuel on board. Passenger details.
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 1913Z/15 to B.A.D.)

C.F.11. Convoy C.F. 11 sailed 14th - ORION, BRITANNIC, ESPERANCE BAY, INDRAPOERA. Freight ship TROILUS also sailed. ESPERANCE BAY for New York. E.T.A. 27, remainder for U.K.
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 1914Z/15 to Admty.)

572

War Diary.

15.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- ARETHUSA. Arrival.
(Cmdre. Aden 0413Z/15 to Admty. etc.)
- JERVIS. JERVIS passing through Scalp at 0430B, Mind at 1130 B, Heel at 1330 B. "Poker" E.T.A. Chest 1600 B/15th, speed 10 knots.
(Capt. D.14 0240B/15 to S.O.Force "I" (R) A.I.G.72).
- Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 14th Feb. PAKENHAM, PETARD, PRIMULA M.L. 1046 Greek QUEEN OLGA Greek SAKTOURIS.
Departures 14th Feb. M.Ls. 351. 1122.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 0905B/15 to Admty. etc.)
- NEGRO, ELBURY. Intend to sail NEGRO, ELBURY M.M.S. 118 M.M.S.116 at 2300A/15th for Bone. (A) routed 2 miles off Cape de Ferand 5 miles off Cape Tukush, thence to Bone approach channel (B) S.O.A. 9 knots (C) Codeword "Throgmortons". (D) Communications. (F) E.T.A. Bone 0700A/16th.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 0906A/15 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)
- M.T.Bs. 5 M.T.Bs will be operating south of Marittimo tonight 15th/16th.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1014A/15 to C. in C.Med. etc.)
- P.46. Move 23 miles 242° forthwith at 6 knots by dawn tomorrow.
(Capt. S.10 1125A/15 to P.46 (R) P.42.)
- P.44 Arrival.
(V.A.Malta 1127Z/15 to Admty. etc.)
- ALBARO, ALBA JULIA. My 1151C/13. ALBARO arrived Istanbul 0800 G.M.T. Feb. 15th. Report B.2. vessel breaking transit immediately. Z.C. may await ALB?A JULIA escort.
(My 1743C/10 refers.)
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1147C/15 to S.O.(I) Med. (R) S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)
- Codes. My 1717/11. Request Groups in Part 2 of Codes and Cyphers may be allocated for following Authorities:-
N.O.I.Cs. Bone, Philippeville, Bougie, Algiers, Oran, Casablanca.
(N.C.X.F. 1206A/15 to Admty.)

/A.678...

573

War Diary.

15.2.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A.678 Bi- 14th Feb., small number enemy aircraft attacked
weekly Opsum Tripoli Harbour at first light. No damage
No. 100 part 2 reported. No interception. Offensive operations
in forward area prevented by low cloud and dust.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1223Z/15.)

K.F.9. Estimated requirements K.F.9. My 1741/12th.
M.K.S.8. Escort Algiers to Gibraltar OAKLEY, PUCKERIDGE,
EASTON, KRAKOWIAK and HOLCOMBE. Ocean escort
KRAKOWIAK and 5 corvettes of Unit S.2 as
detailed by BLACK SWAN.

M.K.S.8. My 1733/12th. Ocean escort will consist of remainder
of Unit S.2 and WEYBURN, LUNENBURG, BADDECK, ALBERNI, and
SUMMERSIDE.
(N.C.X.F. 1225A/15th to F.Os. I.C. etc.)

Air R/C. P.R.U. 15 Feb. visuals, 1015, Taranto, 2
Battleships, 2 Cruisers, Photographs taken.
(V.A.Malta 1245A/15 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

P.R.U. 15th Feb., visuals. 1045, Naples, one cruiser, 8
destroyers, 1130, Palermo, 5 destroyers, photographs taken.
(V.A.Malta 1455A/15 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Enemy P.C. and S. at 1310B of one auxiliary vessel
Unit. 38.22 N. 24.33 E. 340° 15 knots.
(A/C C.V.2/0 1315/15 to "S" Squadron (Aden
Command.)).

Commands of C. A.G.M. 198A of 7th Feb., 1943, and A.G.M. 229A
in C.Med and of 12th Feb., 1943, will be brought into force
C. in C.Levant 0001Z/20 Feb.
Area. 2. Communication arrangements will be promulgated
separately.
(Head of M.II Approved 1st S.L. 1330A/15 A.G.M.
248A.)
W.R.Note:- B.A.D has been requested to pass
A.G.M. 198A to Cominch and Opanav.

NEBOJSCA, Your 1850/12. Following is summary of Med. 336/
OSIRIS. 00207/10 dated 6th Feb. despatched by air to Admty.
Feb. 9th.

(a) Yugoslavs have asked for NEBOJSCA to remain
in Mediterranean. They have 48 Ratings undergoing S/M Training
with view to taking her over in accordance with Admty. 0024/7/8.
They wish to train these Ratings in NEBOJSCA. If NEBOJSCA goes
to Kilindini training would have to be done in OSIRIS or
PARTHIAN which is unsatisfactory to us and Yugoslavs.

(b) Yugoslavs also particularly anxious to keep NEBOJSCA in
Mediterranean for political and moral reasons and hope to
operate her under (S) 1 in this theatre in which their National
interests lie. I am in full sympathy and anxious to encourage
them to active participation in war.

(c) NEBOJSCA is unsuitable even for A/S work in tropics and
would never co-operate in Indian Ocean, whereas Aegean and

/Adriatic...

574

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

NEBOJSCA Adriatic offer many opportunities for her good
OSIRIS. gun armament.
(Contd.) (d) NEBOJSCA is at present absorbing valuable and
experienced British Crew therefore desirable
Yugoslavs should man her as soon as possible.
(e) For above reasons consider NEBOJSCA should remain in
Mediterranean and OSIRIS go to Kilindini. Both should be ready
mid-March.
(f) Request decision on NEBOJSCA be reconsidered.
(C. in C.Med. 1415B/15 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.(S). S.1.)
Reply Admty 1625A/17.

Naples and For: Arnold, Spaatz, Bissell and Andrews.
Crotone From: Brereton. Feb. 13th, departing home bases
bombed. at 0937 to 1000 hours, 18 Liberators 98th Group
set out to attack shipping Naples Harbour. Four
aircraft returned early due illness, engine
trouble and inability find suitable target. 14 aircraft reached
target area which overcast with 10/10 clouds to 25,000 feet.
Four aircraft dropped bombs in target area with unobserved
results. 10 aircraft bombed Crotone and Crotone Aerodrome
individually after separation due storm conditions.
(Cairo 1435Z/15 to Etousa.)

French Personal for Prime Minister from Minister of State
Warships Adm. Harwood telephones that 450 sailors carrying
Alexandria. suitcases, 33 officers in plain clothes, and 11
officers in uniform, landed at about 1500 hours
from Godfroy's Squadron at Alexandria. I have
asked Harwood to telephone Godfroy to discover what it is all
about and to warn him again about scuttling. Meanwhile we are
making contact with men who have landed.

(Mideast 1525Z/15 to Air Min.)

Harwood telephones that Godfroy denies anything drastic
afoot. Explanation said to be that as they cannot now afford to
maintain themselves ashore they have come ashore to collect
clothes and effects. Not now believed that Force X is about to
scuttle.
(Mideast 1750Z/15 to Air Min.)

Algiers G-2 report for 24 hours ending 2400Z Feb. 14th.
Sit. Rep. III. Naval. Assisted by U.S. Army 12th Fighter
Command planes, attack 1845Z Feb. 12th. begun
against enemy submarine S.W. Cape Figalo, 35°
38' N. 01° 13' W. by WESTRAY, WOODSTOCK, and HUNDA. Considered
sunk by Naval Office, Oran, is submarine after continuous
engagement 18 hours in 35° 43' N. 01° 10' W. By S/M UNISON,
Gulf of Hammamet 3 laden motor Auxiliary Vessels attacked with
gunfire 0828Z Feb. 8th. 1 beached herself 2 sunk. South bound
1,400 ton laden M/V Gulf Hammamet attacked by same submarine with
gunfire 1724Z Feb. 11th blew up. Torpedoed air attack 1810Z Jan.
29th, POZARICA capsized 2127Z Feb. 13th, Bougie, after being
towed there. No loss of life.
(Freedom 1526Z/15 to Usfor) See also C. in C.Med. 1955B/15.)

/Malta...

575

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Malta Minefield. Your 1155/10. It appears desirable to weigh and relay Malta Controlled Minefield. Subject to confirmation by V.A.Malta that this is necessary LINNET should be retained in Western Med. until she can be sailed for Malta. Confirmation required that personnel and material is available at Malta for this work. (D.T.M. 1608A/15 to N.C.X.F. V.A.Malta. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)
- M.T.Bs. M.T.B. 77,82,61,307, 315, sailed for operations. (V.A.Malta 1616A/15 to Admty. etc.)
- E.A.C. Report. A.578. Opsum No. 96 1800/13th Feb. to 1800/14th Feb.
(A) Operations. Night 13/14th 9 Wellingtons attacked Bizerta many bursts seen in target area.
(F) 12th U.S. Air Force. 6 B.25s escorted by P.38s took off to attack shipping between Tunisia and Sicily. No shipping seen all bombs returned.
(E.A.C.Africa 1630/15.)
- G.U.S.4. Intend sailing (list) Gibraltar from Casablanca. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 1652A/15 to N.C.X.F.)
- MARIPOSA. U.S.S. MARIPOSA sailed 1425/15 Feb. G.M.T. E.T.A. Port Sudan daylight 17 Feb. S.O.A. 20 knots, route coastal, endurance 30 days. (N.C.S.O. Suez 1700B/15 to Admty.)
- M.K.S.8. Intend to sail REVERDY-JOHNSON Gibraltar for U.S.A. PORTSEA Oran, FINTRAHEEL San Francisco. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1759A/15 to F.O.I.S. F.O.I.C. Oran, etc.)
- M.N.B.D.O.1. M.N.B.09970. No information received as to source of supply of boats referred to in C. in C. Med. 1526/14 Dec. para. 3 and 2143/9th Feb. If these are to come from U.K. would appreciate if you would watch formations interests by hastening despatch. Boats should be sent S.N.O. Bombay for Overt.
(Overt T.H.I. 1931B/13 to Admty. for Adjutant General, R.M.)
- Situation Report No. 340. Tripoli, Libya. Salvage operations suspended three days due to weather. Dusk raid 14th Feb., no damage, night fighters claim one probable.
2. Benghazi. One day and one night raid 13th Feb. no damage or casualties.
3. Malta. Convoy of two empty tankers and personnel ship on passage Alexandria and Port Said escorted by TETCOTT, BELVOIR, PINDOS. (V.A.M's 1831/13th Feb. refers) and BEAUFORT.

576

15.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Situation 4. Submarines. P.37 (UNBENDING) at 1027/9th Feb.
Report No. in 40° 56' N. 17° 36' E. torpedoed and sank 2500
340.(Contd.) ton Southbound M/V.
5. At 1530/10th Feb. in 41° 57' N. 19° 07' E.
1500 ton passenger and cargo vessel which took
refuge in Noce Bay. Further torpedo hit and vessel was beached
with back broken.
6. P.43 (UNISON) at 1028/8th Feb. in 36° 12' N. 10° 31' E.
gunned three small motor auxiliaries Southbound all laden, two
sunk and one beached probably total loss. At 1924/11th Feb. in
36° 26' N. 10° 55' E. gunned 400 (W.D.Note: Freedom Algiers
1526Z/15 states 1,400 tons) southbound M/V fully laden.
(C. in C.Med. 1955B/15 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrivals ROTHESAY, POLRUAN, BRIXHAM, CLACTON,
Oran. OAKLEY, EASTON, MIAOULES.
(N.O.I.C. Oran 1959A/15 to Admty. etc.)

Tunis- Personal for 1st S.L.
Marseilles Your 2000/14th. 0900/13th was made after consul-
Repatriation. tation with Eisenhower. As you will have seen
from my 1727/2nd, I hold no very great brief for
the proposal but understood from A.M. 2240/2nd
that casting vote lay with Gen. Eisenhower. Latter's view was
that he (Group presumably omitted) rationing proposal on
humanitarian grounds and because of probable favourable effect
on local French opinion after having satisfied himself that
Naval Operational requirements could be fully met. He reported
his decision to Combined Chiefs of Staff in N.A.F.145.
(N.C.X.F. 2000A/15 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 0030/17.

Movements, Algiers arrival P.339 (TAURUS) from patrol,
Algiers. FELIXSTOWE with French merchant ships from
westward.
(Cmdre. Algiers 2007A/15 to Admty. etc.)

Tunis- J.S.M. Washington 2007Z/15.
Marseilles See America & West Indies.
Repatriations.

Malta Part 1 Offensive.
Air Report. Night 14th/15th Feb. 7 Mosquitoes made successful
intruder patrols. (details.)
Day 15th Feb. 11 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4
fighter Spitfires attacked railway station and warehouses at
Ucicli in south east Sicily.
Part 2 Enemy Air Activity.
Day 15th Feb. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which did
not approach close to Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2027Z/15.)

/Enemy...

577

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units. Following read A/C G.J.F/X. P.C. and S. of enemy. One medium vessel and 2 Destroyers 38° 08' N. 12° 30' E. 240° 8 knots. (Alex W/T 2125A/15 to Admty.)

Following read by Alex W/T P.C. and S. of 2 medium vessels 2 destroyers one enemy war motor boat 37° 38' N. 12° 12' E. 280° (A/C G.J.F/Z 2220/15.)

Following read by Alex W/T. P.C. and S. of 4 merchant vessels three destroyers 37° 50' N. 12° 05' E. 260° 8. (A/C G.X.U/C 2230A/15.)

P.54 intelligence. Only shipping observed steering north from Palermo turning to westward 5 miles south of us. Asdic fitted patrol craft encountered off Raisi Point and Castellamare Bay. Weather report. (P.54 (UNSHAKEN) 2330A/15 to Capt. S.8.)

Movements, Tripoli. Feb. 15th departures KELVIN, PALADIN, KONDOUR-IOTIS, M.L.459. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli 2206B/15 to Admty.)

Tripoli, Benghazi, unloading. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. In spite of weather Tripoli discharged 2679 tons on 14 Feb. Salvage operations interrupted by heavy swell for three days. Benghazi discharged 237 tons. Further discharge prevented by swell. (Mideast T.O.O. Nil to Air Min.)

War Diary.

15.2.1943.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departure VERBENA at 0100Z/15.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 0326Z/15 to Admty.)

Addu Atoll After visit to Addu consider it most desirable scale of that development of Base should be again reviewed. defence, 2. For any large scale operations, advantage proposals. of Addu as an assembly point is in its capacity to accommodate a large number of ships, and its geographical isolation. The (?value) of this isolation is reduced to some degree since cover afforded by low land and palm trees is not sufficient in height or extent to screen ships from S/M observation.

3. Limited area available for aerodrome and for naval military and air establishments does not admit of effective self defence measures against a large scale seaborne air and possibly surface attack. It follows that Addu is only suitable for use as a harbour for short periods, when probability of such attack is remote or when circumstances admit of our surface and seaborne air forces being in sufficient strength and so disposed that they can forestall any such attack.

4. In view of foregoing and having regard to very heavy labour and other commitments involved by all works at Addu, and unhealthy climate, which makes it desirable to keep numbers permanently stationed there to a minimum. I consider that following scale of defence and other works should be accepted- (A) Air. Provision to be made for temporary accommodation of two Squadrons to be provided either by a Carrier or from spare squadrons in Ceylon ferried over by a Carrier. Following facilities required on assumption that squadrons will spend only very short period at Addu. (details.)

(B) A/A Defence. Scale of A/A defence to be increased from approved 4 heavy and 8 light to 8 heavy and 16 light.

(C) Boom Depot. Boom Defence Depot on a reduced scale sufficient to maintain A/T baffles and A/S boom and nets. A further signal giving details of this Depot follows.

(C. in C. E.F. 0344Z/15 to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon, Dep. C. in C. E.F.)

Troop Cancel my 0929/29th Jan. and amendment.

Movements, Following is a revised and up to date programme programme. of troop movements.

(A) B.A.38, one personnel ship TALMA with approx 1400 troops sailing 19th Feb. (B) B.P.(?69) 4 personnel ships DUNERA, RAJULA, ROHNA, KO(?S) CIUSZKO sailing 23rd Feb. (C) Karachi to Addu Atoll via Bombay one personnel ship SANTHIA with approx. 1000 troops sailing 24th Feb. (D) B.P.71 2 personnel ships VARELA, CAP. ST. JACQUES sailing 28th Feb. (E) Bombay Capetown U.K. MAURETANIA with service families and troops sailing 1st. March. (F) Karachi to Beira ARONDA with 500 Polish families sailing about 6th March. (G) B.C.72 from Bombay 2 personnel ships ISLAMI, EL MADINA sailing 7th March from Karachi 2 personnel ships NEVASA, VARSOVA sailing 9th March. (H) Basra to Karachi one personnel ship RAJULA with 800 troops and DUNERA and ROHNA with approx. 900 Polish families each ship. All 3 ships sailing about 3rd. March (I) Bombay Capetown U.K. FELIX ROUSSEL with service families troops and mercantile crews up to limit allowed for an unescorted ship sailing about 6th March.

(P.S.T.O. India 1115/15 to C. in C. E.F.)

579

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. Contd.India
Air
Report.

(C) Feb. 13th 9 Hurricanes patrol Donbaik Mayu river. 6 Hurricanes damaged M/T small craft buildings Thsyommyo Toukma Migyaungyo Allannyo 5 Mokawks attacked Shwebo Docks? (A.H.Q. India 1345Z/15 to Admty.)

Tamatave
Cyclone,
PLADDA
stranded.

PLADDA driven high ashore in Tamatave harbour during cyclone. Further signal will be made. (C. in C. E.F. 1408Z/15 to Admty.) Considerable destruction at Tamatave as result cyclone. In addition to stranding of PLADDA (my 1408/15th) N.O.I.C. Tamatave reports damage to breakwaters. Tanio Point and Hastie Lighthouses and part of Naval H.Q. destroyed.

2. Chief Constructor Kilindini is proceeding Tamatave by air to investigate salvaging PLADDA and report. 3. High Commissioner Madagascar has relief ship with maximum amount of iron sheet and repair material as shelter problem for inhabitants is acute.

4. BRITTANY is being sailed p.m. 17th Feb. with about 90 tons of repair materials and High Commissioner is being asked to apply to South African Gov. if further help is required. (C. in C. E.F. 1425Z/15 to Admty.)

580

15.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

This is Port Director New York's 2126/14.
U.G.S.5 A. 1. U.G.S.5 A Sailing Telegram Part 1, New York Section.
2. 1330Z/15 point Z seaward and swept channel.
3. 2100Z/15 position B. 9 knots, E.T.A. Cape Henry 1930Z/16.
5. B.39.05 N. 73.56 W. C. 38.05 N. 74.20 W. D. 37.06 N. 74.45 W.
6. Task Force 37 U.S.S. GHERARDI Senior, JEFFERS MURPHY, HOBBS, BROOME, SIMPSON.
(Comnavex, 0831/15 to Admty).

MATTAPONI, SEAKAY, fuelling. This is Cinclant's 1614/14 addressed to C.T.G. 21.5 for action and to C.T.G. 26.3 C.T.G. 26.7; Comnavex, Cominch, N.C.X.F., Comusfor, Aruba-Curacao, and Comservforlant for information.

MATTAPONI detached T.G.21.5 on arrival Aruba report to Comservfor for duty. Turn over to S.O. of escort command of Task Group and all orders therefor. SEAKAY in convoy O.T.2 is equipped with standard fuelling gear and is to be used to fuel destroyers at sea on Eastward and Westward passages. Inform S.O. of escort. My 071651 (N.T. in W.D.) to be modified accordingly.
(Comnavex, 0959/15 to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary,	F.S. ARCHIMEDE	24 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	296°	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1800 G.M.T.	F.S. AMAZONE	18° N. 33° W.	296°	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
15th Feb.	ALCANTARA)			
	WOODRUFF)	05° S. 30° W.	023°	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
	(D.O.D. (F) 1031Z/15 to Opnav (R) Comnavex).			

ROXBOROUGH E.T.A. (?1800Z/15)17th.
(ROXBOROUGH, 1200Z/15 to Cmdt. 6th U.S. Naval District Charleston (R) B.N.L.O. Charleston, B.A.M.R., C.E.S.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax).

Movements. Feb. 14th departures GRANBY, THUNDER, KENTVILLE, escorting H.F. 369 thence X to New York estimate stay three days. Arrivals RENARD from St. John N.B. VEGREVILLE from St. John escorting IMPERIAL MONARCH and tugs.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1301Z/15 to Admty. etc).
Army Transport ROANOKE (U.S.) arrived Cristobal Feb. 12.
(N.S.H.Q., 1820Z/15 to Admty).
Departures CHAMBLY for Londonderry DUNDAS, BRANTFORD, GANANOQUE escorting had (?H.O.N.164) 164.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2101Z/15 to Admty).

/H.H. ROGERS...

15.2.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.H.H. ROGERS,
CLAM, place
in convoy
S.C.116.

Request you draw attention to my 1730/25 Nov. (N.T. in W.D.) to Connav, of which following is the sense. (Begins) H.H. ROGERS when carrying deck cargo on special skids in heavy weather becomes unmanageable. Request you will place this ship and CLAM similarly fitted in rear positions in convoy to avoid danger of collision when out of control. (Ends).

2. Master reports that despite his representations H.H. ROGERS was placed in van position of S.C.116. Ship got out of control during bad weather and dropped back to a rear position. Luckily this occurred during daylight and other vessels were enabled to keep clear.

(D.T.D., 1421A/15 to B.A.D. Washington, (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U/B attacked. S/M attacked 55° 45' N. 31° 09' W. at 1110 G.C.T
15.
(Connav, 1436/15 to Admty).S/M estimates (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1529/15, 1530/15, 1550/15,
Feb. 15th. 1551/15, 1552/15, 2136/15 to Admty).
U.S. S/M
notices.T.U. 23.1.3
patrol.(Corrupt group) Comsolant 1444/14 T.U. 23.1.3 consisting of U.S.C. CINCINNATI and U.S.D. JOUETT depart base B 16th Feb. after 1200P for ocean patrol in area bounded by following points
A. 000° 30' S. 029° 30' W. B. 001° 00' N. 028° 00' W. C. 008° 00' S. 019° 00' W.

D. 009° 30' S. 020° 30' W. Search for and capture or destroy enemy raiders and blockade runners assumed to be advancing at speeds less than 15 knots in north westerly or south easterly courses. Remain south of 008° 00' S. whilst proceeding to area until east of 025° 00' W. arrive base F breakwater 0900P/28th Feb.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1544/15 to T.U. 23.1.3 (R) F.O.C.W.Af.
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S.)^{Service.}
~~Service~~
Personnel,
signals.Your 1659/13 (two signals to be sent as hitherto re sailings from U.K. for North America).
para. (2). Yes thank you.
(N.S.H.Q., 1548Z/15 to D.S.T.)A/S trawlers
as Escorts
for Ocean
Convoys.

Your 1539/10 para. 3. (a) Trawlers are classed as ocean escort with crews of 4 officers and 44 men. They are similar but average slightly smaller than the 24 which passed through Canadian waters March 1942 en route for New York. (b) Endurance is 18 days at 10 knots, but period at sea is limited to about 12 days by

endurance of personnel.

(c) Armament: one 4" one twin 0.5" 10 D/C Pattern 30 D/Cs on deck, 20 below.

(d)...

15.2.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

A/S trawlers (d) Fitted. M/F D/F and R.D.F. type 286.
as Escorts (e) Arrival Halifax 7 weeks after the order
for Ocean is given.
convoys. (D.O.D. (H) 1700A/15 to C.N.S. Ottawa).
Contd. Reply: C.N.S. 1616Z/16.

RICHMOND Your 1249/13. Date of arrival is uncertain as
RICHMOND has been badly damaged by collision.
(D.O.D. (H) 1738A/15 to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.
W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24).

U/B S/M sighted 53° 31' N. 28° 47' W. at 1335 G.C.T.
15.
(Connav, 1746/15 to Admtty).

M.P.R.I. M.P.R.I. amendment 7. Cancel text Sec. 2 para.
7 and substitute therefore: United Nation
vessels sailed independently or in convoy shall
be routed to avoid sight contact with any Island
in South Pacific except when approaching destination. The
minimum safe passing distance is considered to be 30 miles.
Routeing Officers shall impress Masters and Convoy Commodores
with necessity of conforming to this rule. Reporting centres
pass to Routeing Officers your area.
(Cominch C. and R. 1853/15 to U.S.R.Os).

Repatriation J.S.M. 738 15th Feb. Following is text of
of families N.A.F. 145 (398 from Algiers). (Begins).
of French "Secretary of State of the French Navy".
military has transmitted through French M.A. Madrid a
personnel from request to British Ambassador to permit women
Tunisia to and children, members of families of French
Marseilles. military personnel to be repatriated by hospital
ships to Marseilles from Tunisia. I have
approved and N.C.X.F. has set following
conditions, which must be fulfilled. Notification
to N.C.X.F. 48 hours in advance of date and time of sailing.
Names of ships to be reported. Ships must be illuminated in
accordance with Geneva convention, follow prescribed course, on
which they will be liable to examination. Provides for "Lit"
and named Italian pilot vessel to meet ship at prescribed point.
Ship must berth in Bizerta Lake. Follow same course on return
voyage, sailing in daylight from Bizerta with provision for
examination en route and that pure precise instructions will
be used when speed of ship is known (Ends).
(J.S.M. Washington 2007Z/15 to War Cabinet Offices, London).

Shipping Connav Serial 13 and 14, and 15. NEWTON ASH
Casualties. Serial 8 sunk. Cancel reference EVITA Serial 11.
Both EVITA and GEORGE DAVIS arrived Bermuda Serial
10. RHEXENOR Serial 3 sunk. CHARLES C. PINCKNEY
Serial 6 sunk.
(Connav, 2034/15 to Comnav).

War Diary.15. 2. 1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. A. R.A.F. Liberator attacks sub on surface course 260/55° 45' N. 31° 09' W. 1110Z/15. Para. B. British plane sights periscope course 200 53° 31' N. 28° 47' W. Para. C. 1335Z/15 V.P.83 plane sights sub. 08.25 S. 34° 35' W. 1510Z/14. Brazilian B.25 attacks Sub. 08° 55' S. 34° 41' W. 1730Z/14. (Cominch, 2108/15 to Admty. for O.I.C. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

T.B.5 My 2030/14. T.B.5 sailed Trinidad 2000/13th (N.S.H.Q. 2109Z/15 to C. in C. S.A. Stn. F.O.C. W.A.)

Tanker Convoy O.T.1 O.T.1 Convoy departed Trinidad 091600Z. (N.O.B. Trinidad, 2118Z/15 to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Re-adjustment of North Atlantic Convoy system. Your 1556/14. Is it the intention that this information should be given to Navy Department. It would appear that from para. 3 onwards would be of use in preparation for the conference. (B.A.D. 2129Z/15 to Admty).

Solops 4. B.A.D. 2209Z/15. See Australia.

Troops in Mercantile Convoys. Ref. A.F.O. S. 140/42, Table 1 convoys (B) In view of number of troops ships now proceeding in Mercantile Convoys and distribution of Mercantile Convoy sailing telegrams, suggested that a code word be used for item 11 of such signals to indicate troops are being carried otherwise these signals are liable to conflict with those which come under heading (C) Troop convoys. Example is Port Director New York 2334/13 containing U.S.S. CHATEAU THIERRY. (N.S.H.Q. 2246Z/15 to Admty).

Convoy T.B.5. My 2030/14. From convoy T.B.5 ABEL PARKER, UPSHUR (U.S.) position T at 0700/1st March Mombasa via Saldanha Bay 15th March, in convoy to T. 10.08 S. 35.18 W. thence through U. 18.25 24.57 V. 20.20 15.01 W. 20.20 12.40 E. thence coastwise to Saldanha Bay keeping within 30 miles of coast. Reference positions. etc. (N.S.H.Q., 2334Z/15 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary.15.2.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Milne Bay 13th. GLENELG Port Moresby 13th
STUART 14th LATROBE Fremantle 14th D.S. TJERK
HIDDES Exmouth Gulf. 14th U.S. Seaplane Tender
CHILDS, Townsville, 14th GYMPIE Colac Sydney 14th.
(BUNBURY). Departure Townsville 14th ECHUCA for Port Moresby
Geraldton 14th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON. 14th SWAN for
Port Moresby. Ref. my 0847/13 WARRAMUNGA diverted Wellington
E.T.A. 1200Z/15th.
(A.C.N.B., 0731Z/15 to Admty etc).
Arrival 14th Townsville Hired Transport KATOOMBA Brisbane
U.S. storeship MIZAR. 15th Newcastle U.S. transport
SWARTENHONDT Sydney (N.S.W.) U.S. transport KLIPPFONTEIN.
R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK departed Townsville 14th for Challenger
Bay. Hospital ship MANUNDA departed Brisbane 15th due Port
Moresby 19th.
(A.C.N.B., 1327Z/15 to Admty. Connav).

Digest serial (2) For three hours before dawn 14th 32 Fortresses
No. 389 and 4 Liberators in 4 sweeps dropped approx. 48
Feb. 14th. tons demolition and fragmentation bombs in
addition to numerous incendiaries on enemy
ground installations Rabaul area causing large
fires and explosions visible 100 miles distant.
Several searchlights also destroyed. Aircraft
report shipping well dispersed in Baanche Bay Talili Bay and
St. Georges Channel.
(3) Photographs Rabaul area noon same day show one light
cruiser 10 destroyers 3 submarines 1 minesweeper 5 tankers 51
merchant vessels totalling approx. 250,000 tons 8 other small
vessels less than 1,000 tons each in harbour with 3 flying
boats and 6 floatplanes.
(5) Photographs Ewak area forenoon 13th show one damaged
destroyer 1 11,000 ton transport 4 small merchant vessels.
Intense activity noted aerodrome area where numerous new
dispersal lanes and bays under construction.
(9) Nights 11th and 12th allied motor torpedo boats strafed
enemy positions Waria River area where coastwise barge
activity continuing.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0809Z/15).

Solops 4 Solops 4 1130L/13. Enemy convoy of one light
cruiser, one destroyer and one merchant ship was
bombed 20 miles South East Faisi. No direct hits.
(B.A.D., 2209Z/15 to Admty. C. in C. E.F.,
(R) Concentric Colombo, Chief of Staff,
Kilindini, F.L.O. India).

War Diary.

15.2.1943.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1406A/15, 1420A/15).

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly Summary. My 1059/22nd July. On 8th Dutch S/M DOLFIJN torpedoed and sank an Italian U-boat in Med. On the same day REGINA sank the Italian S/M AVORIO in 37° 10' N. 06° 42' E.]*

On 10th ST. ZENO reports a successful attack off the Cape of Good Hope.

On 12th a Hudson aircraft straddled a U-boat ahead of the conning tower. Pieces of wood and bluish oil were seen swirling and seething. (W.D. Note 37.32 N. 11.56 W. see N.A. 0515/13).

On 9th a Fortress aircraft in 56° 12' N. 20° 59' W. straddled a U-boat abaft the conning tower. The U-boat lifted bodily and slewed 30° to Starboard lost all forward way gradually settling and sank straight down. An oil streak 2 miles long was seen.

(D.A/S.W., 1858A/15 to Cominch etc).

* For account of action, see *Popular History of Canadian Naval Operations*, Chapter VII, pages 18-19.