

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      |
| <br>             |                             |
| 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.

Note. Commencing on 16th February 1944 the Fortnightly Reports from S.A.C.S.E.A. covering Operations, Intelligence and Planning (all Services) have been removed and bound up separately.

ASH 199

2287

264

2. 1. 1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. ULA abandoned her patrol in Skudenenes Fjord today. Four out of five torpedoes fired failed to run and greatly worsening weather rendered it impossible to keep periscope depth.

Operation  
F.V.

2. (a). Convoy R.A.55A arrived at Loch Ewe at 1402 today.

(b). C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with JAMAICA and eight destroyers arrived at Scapa at 0936A from the Kola Inlet; and at 2306 C.S.10 in BELFAST with NORFOLK and SHEFFIELD also arrived at Scapa. BELFAST had 19 tons of Russian silver bullion on board.

(c). DUKE OF YORK has sustained action and weather damage which necessitate docking and C. in C.H.F. intends to sail her shortly to Rosyth.

(d). The A/A ship PRINCE ROBERT was detached at 2208A from E.G.4 escorting convoy M.F.27 to operate in the N.W.Biscay Area.

Operation  
"Stonewall".

3. (a). The Eire vessel KERLOGUE is reported today to have landed 164 survivors of the German Destroyers sunk by GLASGOW on 28th December at Cork; and KERLOGUE will be retained at Fishguard on her arrival there.

(b). MAURITIUS left her patrol in the western Biscay area at 1100A today for Plymouth to fuel; and GAMBIA arrived at Plymouth at 1402A.

(c). Three unknown eastbound ships were sighted by A/C at 1835A about 150 miles W. by N. of Ushant; and a U-Boat was attacked by A/C at 1935A about 300 miles due west of Bordeaux. A/C are hunting the U-Boat.

(d). Admiralty consider it unlikely that any further inward-bound blockade-runners will be in the area north of the Azores before the next dark period beginning about 15th January.

(e). ARIADNE (Mediterranean Command) was today ordered to cease operating under the orders of C. in C.Plymouth.

MUNSTERLAND.

4. Two R.P. Typhoons accompanied by other Typhoons attacked with R.P. and cannon fire, and claim to have damaged a ship believed to be the MUNSTERLAND in Boulogne Harbour. The latter ship was photographed on 4th January but no damage was visible.

War Diary.

1.1.1944.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

U/B  
attacked.

5. The U.S. destroyers GREENE and KEARNEY of Task Group 21.15 engaged enemy submarines with gunfire and depth charges near 44.50 N. 20.10 W. (about 480 miles N.E. of San Miguel, Azores) between 312134 and 010101Z. KEARNEY obtained Radar contact and attacked with guns in 45.00 N. 18.13 W. at 2020Z, making at least one hit on the target, which disappeared. Ten minutes later two heavy underwater explosions were heard. The U-Boat reappeared at 2045, was hit again by gunfire and disappeared.

South Atlantic.

Suspicious  
Vessel.

6. A suspicious vessel purporting to be the British GLENBANK was sighted by aircraft in 09. 35. S. 23.45 W. at 1530A today. GLENBANK was not in the neighbourhood, and this may be a homeward bound blockade runner.

Mediterranean.

AXIUM.

7. The Italian S/M AXIUM was reported to be aground today in 37.31 N. 21.35 E. (west coast of the Isthmus of Corinth.) The vessel was engaged in the evacuation of 7 Allied personnel and is presumably the submarine referred to in Situation Report 28th December, 1943, para. 9 (a). The Italian destroyer RIBOTI is to attempt to rescue the submarine and her crew on the night 3/4th January, but on 10th January C. in C. Mediterranean reported that the vessel was a total loss.

War Diary.

1.1.1944.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Force G.

8. The escort of Force G which is proceeding from Bombay to the Mediterranean, arrived at Aden today viz. escort carrier BATTLEER with D.11 and 3 destroyers and frigates. The landing ships themselves are to go through to Suez without calling at Aden.

9. The Dutch cruiser HEEMSKERCK (Australian Squadron) arrived at Aden from Colombo and sailed for Suez to join the Mediterranean Command temporarily until her refit in the U.K. can be arranged.

Australia & New Zealand.

Attack on  
2 enemy  
cruisers and  
destroyers.

10. A U.S. carrier based R/C aircraft this morning sighted two heavy cruisers and two destroyers about to enter Kavieng, New Ireland. An attack was launched. One cruiser was hit by two 1600 lb. A.P. bombs, 2 other 1000 lb. bombs and at least one torpedo. The other cruiser was hit by one 1600 lb. and one 1000 lb. A.P. bomb and at least two torpedoes. Both ships were left on fire and it is believed they were sunk or beached. One destroyer is thought to have been sunk and the other badly damaged from bombs and gunning. The attacking force was intercepted by 20 to 30 Zeros, of which 11 to 15 were destroyed; and in addition one enemy bomber and one fighter which were searching for the Task Force were shot down. Two Allied fighters and one bomber were lost.

11. A Naval Catalina in the early hours of today attacked two freighters and an escort vessel anchored in Huynne Harbour, Los Negros Island (Admiralty Group), sinking a 9000 ton cargo ship with a direct hit and possibly damaging a 5000 ton ship with two 500 lb. bombs.

12. Earlier last night another naval Catalina damaged by a hit with quarter ton bombs one of two destroyers 15 miles north of Cape Hoskins (New Britain.)

War Diary.

1.1.1944.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

13. A single enemy aircraft ineffectually mined the Borgen Bay area last night.

14. Before dawn today a night patrol aircraft twice attacked a northbound Japanese submarine off Wide Bay, New Britain. A very large oil slick was seen after daybreak.

War Diary.

1.1.1944.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Trawlers for Azores. Your 261315/December. It is essential to provide 6 trawlers required from your Command and depletion of rescue service with O.N.S./S.C. convoys must be temporarily accepted.  
2. 4 trawlers must be available at Azores by 15th January to cover unloading; request you will sail all six in accordance with your para.2.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 011311A to C. in C.W.A.)

PRINCESS MARGARET. SS. PRINCESS MARGARET will be fitted out as L.S.I. (H) at Penarth.  
(D. of P.Q. 011955A to F.O.L.S.U.)

Movements.

ANSON. Herewith repetition of my 010256 begins. Scapa arrival V.A.2 in ANSON with OFFA ends.  
(A.C.O.S. 011047A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

DUKE OF YORK. Intend proceeding to Rosyth in DUKE OF YORK at 2130A/4th. E.T.A. 0930/5th. 2. R.A.D.H.F. is requested to sail 2 destroyers to screen and then return Scapa. 3. Ship is to be ready to sail p.m. 22nd.  
(C. in C.H.F. 011303A to DUKE OF YORK, Admty.)

S/M. movements. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/2 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 011754, 012226A, 020234.)

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall". Intend to leave patrol area 1100A for Plymouth to fuel by route ordered in your 312339. E.T.A. 1100A/2.  
(MAURITIUS 010141A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Am in 047° 35' N. 013° 10' W. by R. LORD NUFFIELD in company, course set for position KD. speed 7 knots. LORD NUFFIELD has 6 A.M. air crew survivors. Intend making nearest port Falmouth for engine repairs and fuel.  
(SCOTTISH 010405A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
E.T.A. 1002A tomorrow. ROMNEY, POOLE in company. Request arrangements be made to relieve me of prisoners of war, 3 cot cases, 5 officers, and 54 ratings on arrival. (3) Request my position when practicable. (4) My dead reckoning position 1000 to-day 049° 19' N. 011° 08' W. course 081° 10 knots.  
(SEAHAM 011133A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

/Proceed...

War Diary.1.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Stonewall" (Contd.) Proceed through following positions to Falmouth. Your 010405 refers.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 011149A to SCOTTISH.) GAMBIA arrived.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 011402A to Admty.) Information has been received that 164 German survivors have been landed at Cork by Eire vessel KERLOGUE. Information is thought to be reliable. Eire vessel KERLOGUE will be retained on arrival at Fishguard until further instructions.  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 011431A to Admty.)  
Cancel A.M. 271254 December. (ARIADNE.)  
(D.O.D.H. 011455A to C. in C. Plymouth, ARIADNE.)  
Abandon search at last light tonight and return to Plymouth. If fuel permits proceed through position (BE) 46° 58' N. 12° 10' W. and thence through (BD) and (BA). My 291521A refers.  
2. If fuel does not permit above proceed direct to (BE) and thence to (BA). 3. Survivors from German destroyers may be in vicinity of (BE).  
(C. in C. Plymouth 011457A to BLYTH.)  
Disposition at 012000. (2) BLYTH, PETERHEAD 045° 45' N. 010° 08' W. through 046° 58' N. 012° 10' W. 031° 11 knots.  
(3) SEAHAM, ROMNEY, POOLE 049° 30' N. 008° 29' W. 082° 11 knots.  
(4) LORD NUFFIELD, SCOTTISH (S.O.) 048° 59' N. 011° 19' W. 079° 7 knots. (5) MAURITIUS 049° 18' N. 011° 35' W. 094° 23 knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 011533A to Admty.)  
Am being shadowed by enemy A/C. position 49.01 N. 13.39 W. course 081° speed 19.  
(MAURITIUS 011626 to Whitehall W/T.)  
Am shadowing 3 unknown ships, course 090° 10 knots, position 49° 24' N. 09° 00' W.  
(A/C. Duty F. 011835A to 19 Group.)  
P.C.S. of 1 merchant vessel 46.32 N. 07.19 W. 280° 12 knots.  
(A/C. Duty E. 011930 to 19 Group.)  
Have obtained A/S. V contact.  
(A/C. Duty E. to 19 Group. No T.O.O. Recd. 011942.)  
Over U/B. Have attacked U/B. with depth charges. Estimate hits across U/B. on surface. Position 44° 45' 07° 38' W. Apparently disabled. In A.S.V. contact.  
(A/C. Duty L. 011935A to 19 Group.)  
S/M. has disappeared.  
(A/C. Duty L. 012030 to 19 Group.)  
N.R.l. Am over enemy S/M. in 45.22 N. 19.38 W. Enemy was on surface. When first sighted was on course 100° speed 15 knots.  
(A/C. Duty L. 012200 to S.H.9.)  
After recent sinking of inward-bound blockade runner and the Bay of Biscay action, Admiralty appreciate that it is unlikely further inward-bound ships will be in the area N. of the Azores before the next dark period commencing about January 15th.  
2. A.M. 221945/December refers.  
(1st S.L. 012200A to Ships, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., F.O.G.M.A.)  
M.K.F.27. Detach PRINCE ROBERT forthwith to proceed toward 047° 40' N. 015° W. passing through 049° 30' N. 021° W. speed 18 knots.  
(C. in C.W.A. 012208A to E.G.4.)  
Hunt U/B reported to be in 44° 45' N. 07° 38' W. at 1935.  
(H.Q. 19 Group 012320A to A/C. P.O.D.L. and P.O.D.S.)

/Operation....



War Diary.1.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.V. R.A.55A in position A at 0215A. Have ordered corvettes to comply with C. in C.W.A. 311603 and R.A. (D) Home Fleet 312026. As no ships are routed beyond Loch Ewe Cmdre. is taking whole convoy there, E.T.A. Ewe Buoy 0900A. I have ordered ACANTHUS to Loch Ewe to comply with C. in C.W.A.311603 when ships have received routeing instructions Am proceeding Skaalefiord with HYDRA. (HOUND 010446A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)  
Scapa arrival C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with JAMAICA, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, SAVAGE, VIRAGO, OPPORTUNE, SEAGULL, STORD, SCORPION.  
(A.C.O.S. 010936A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Faeroes departure BEAGLE.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 011057A to C. in C.H.F.)  
Short transmissions at 0916Z/1 and 0921Z/1 indicates that convoy R.A.55B, or Group 4 may have been reported by U-Boat.  
(D.D.I.C. 011102A to A.I.G.47.)  
Following from MacGregor. 1. Sailed (A) EMPIRE STALWARD, FORT COLUMBIA, FORT POPLAR, THOMAS KEARNS, JAMES GORDON BENNETT. Total 5 ships. (B) Tanker SAN AMBROSIO.  
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 011105 to Admty.)  
BELFAST has 19 tons bullion. S.B.N.O. North Russia 230909A refers.  
(C.S.10 011327A to A.C.O.S.)  
R.A.55A arrived. 22 ships. Names.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 011402 to C. in C.W.A.)  
Request 5 through escorts for J.W.56A and B. may be provided from other commands.  
(C. in C.H.F. 012143A to Admty.)  
Scapa arrival BELFAST, NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD.  
(A.C.O.S. 012306 to H.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (A) 3 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven offensive patrol for torpedo targets between 132° VV.10 miles and 252° VV.10 miles keeping W. of 00° 29' W. when S. of 4S. proceed and return by passage four, passing 4 N. at 2300A. and returning to be within 20 miles of own coast by 0800A. (B) 2 Chasseurs anti E.Boat patrol on 50° 24' N. between 00° 35' W. and 00° 48' W. 1830A to 0700A. (C) TADOUSSAC, PARRSBORO, BEAUMARIS short notice Yarmouth. (D) M.L.292 short notice St.Helens.  
(E) 2 M.G.Bs. from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 00' W. and 02° 35' W.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 011451A.)  
M.Ls.140 and 141 at Bullock Bank. M.T.Bs. 240, 231, 229 and M.G.Bs.40,41 and 43 at No.7 Buoy. E.T.D.Dover 1930 and 1745 respectively.  
(V.A. Dover 011637A to Admty.)

Operation K.J.H. Operation K.J.H. successfully completed.  
K.J.H. (F.O. Force "J" 011538A to A.N.C.X.F.)

ULA. Negative patrol. 5 torpedoes fired on 2 attacks  
Defective and proved defective. My position 2400 first Jan.  
torpedoes. 59° 07' 04° 16' E.  
(ULA 011715A to F.O.S.)

/S/M...

War Diary.1.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/2nd and movements for  
 Patrols. following 24 hours. A. SYRTIS, SEANYMPH, SCEPTRE  
 SEADOG, ULA, SPITEFUL, SUNFISH as in my 301722.  
 B. STRATEGEM sails Lerwick 0900/2nd probably on  
 surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 and 51° 59'  
 N. 00° 35' W. thence course 030° to 65° N. dived by day N. of 62°  
 C. TAKU sails Lerwick 0900/2nd probably on surface through 090°  
 Muckle Flugga 5 and 62° 01' N. 01° 25' W. thence course 030°.  
 Dived by day N. of 62°. D. UNSWERVING sails Lerwick 1500/2nd  
 probably on surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 and 62° 01' N.  
 00° 35' W. thence course 030° to patrol vicinity 63° 28' N. 01°  
 05' E. Dived by day N. of 62°.  
 (F.O.S. 011754 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

HURRICANE MONTGOMERY, LEAMINGTON, E.T.A. Lough Foyle Buoy  
 survivors. 0830Z/2nd. 12 Officers including B.1 and Staff,  
 and 190 Ratings ex HURRICANE. No serious or  
 cot cases.  
 (MONTGOMERY 011101Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)

DUKE OF YORK. My 011303. DUKE OF YORK has sustained action  
 damage to main mast and hatchway action and  
 weather damage to ventilation system and weather  
 deck fittings. The structure in the vicinity of  
 rudder is strained and ship requires docking for survey.  
 (2) Opportunity will also be taken to change certain 5.25 inch  
 guns.  
 (C. in C.H.F. 011305A to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
 Your 011305A and 011303A. Earliest date for ship to basin  
 is p.m. 8th Jan. and in basin p.m. 24th. Anticipated (?earliest)  
 date number 1 dock can be ready is 11th Jan. Date of undocking  
 is 24th Jan. subject to result of survey. Request defect list  
 be forwarded.  
 (A.S. Rosyth 011815A to C. in C.H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

U.C.9. C.T.G. 21.7 in SCOTT and BURKE WEBER, SCHMITT,  
 FRAMENT, and ENRIGHT sailed for U.C.9.  
 (E.C.O. Londonderry 010700Z to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.143/  
 M.K.S.34. Time bombs keep on exploding in Convoy. STANHOPE  
 Time Bombs. has had 2 and EMPIRE HEYWOOD 1. Several oranges  
 have been badly bruised. (2) Corvettes of 6th  
 E.G. are being topped up by Fleet Escort Oiler  
 TOWLY. (3) M.K.S.34 P.C.S. at 1000Z, 048° 29'  
 N. 020° 43' W. 001° 8 knots. (4) Weather 368Z  
 4041.  
 (B.3. 011007Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/My...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.143/  
M.K.S.34.  
Time bombs.  
(contd.)

My 011007 para.1. Ships consider great damage likely to be caused to undamaged cargo by squashed oranges and suggest M.O.W.T. be informed with a view to altering destination to allow earliest possible and rapid discharge.  
(B.3. 011545Z to C. in C.W.A.)

LOCHNAGAR.

Your 302144A. Consider LOCHNAGAR should run unescorted. A minesweeper of 18th M.S.F. will be provided as escort when available.  
(C. in C.H.F. 011355A to Admty.)

Stragglers.

ROGER GRISWOLD. Returned from O.N.217. Lifeboat Damage. Heavy weather. Lost convoy. GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN. Returned from O.N.217. Heavy weather damage. CAIRNESK. Returned from O.N. 217. Reason not yet known.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 011417A to C. in C.W.A.)

O.N.218.

Departure 1615 VANQUISHER to overtake O.N.218.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 011645A.)  
(A) 1200Z/1. (B) B.6, FAME, VANQUISHER, DEVERON, ROSE, KINGCUP, VERVAIN, EGLANTINE. Rescue Ship, ABOYNE, MAC EMPIRE, MACANDREW, MATAROA, JEREMIAH O'BRIEN. (C) 45.  
(C. in C.W.A. 011734Z to A.I.G.334.)

O.N. and  
O.N.S.  
Convoys.

C. in C. C.N.A. has been given discretion to detach ships bound for ports North of New York when convoy is West of Westomp.  
2. C. in C. C.N.A. will instruct Commodores as to time of detachment and routes to be followed informing C.E.S.F. and Com.10th Fleet C. & R. as necessary. 3. Masters of ships concerned should be warned of this arrangement at the Conference.  
(D.T.D. 011729A to C. in C.W.A.)

U.T.6.

Convoy U.T.6 is due Belfast a.m. 8/1 comprising the two following troop transports:- Names.  
(D.S.T. 012030A to D.S.T.O. Belfast.)  
Convoy U.T.6 is due Clyde a.m. 8/1 Liverpool p.m. 8/1 and Bristol Channel a.m. 9/1 comprising the following seventeen troop transports. Names.  
(D.S.T. 012033A.)

K.X.13.

WILLOWHERB, BURNET, MEADOWSWEET are required to escort K.X.13 leaving Milford Haven 5th January for Gibraltar.  
(C. in C.W.A. 012348A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MAURITIUS. From position MB. steer for position MC. 036° 00' N. 010° 00' W. Thence to Gib. S.O.A. 20 knots, codeword "Drain."  
(F.O.G.M.A. 010126A to MAURITIUS.)

German survivors. Your 300217. Spanish destroyers have been sighted in area where German survivors have been seen. It is therefore possible that they may have survivors on board upon return to Ferrol.  
2. A strict watch should be kept and enquiries made of Spanish Authorities. There is absolute obligation to intern naval survivors picked up outside territorial waters by neutral warships, and if any are landed from destroyers immediate representations should be made.  
(Head of M.I. 010521A to N.A.Madrid, Info. F.O.G.M.A. C. in C. Plymouth, Consul Corunna.)

Operation "Stonewall". Arrived PENELOPE.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 010933A.)

HARLESDEN. Following received from Valencia T.O.O. 312005 (begins) 2 small explosions in case of onions in number 2 hold 31st. No damage to ship. 1 gunner slightly injured. (Ends.)  
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 011122A to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty. (D.N.I).)

IRISH CEDAR. Have you any news of IRISH CEDAR. S.B.N.O.Azores 252318Z refers.  
(D.T.D. 011305A to N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada, Info. S.B.N.O.Azores, F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.W.A.)

WITHERINGTON. Sailed from Horta 0907/1st.  
(Azores 011329 to F.O.C.Gib.)

COTILLION. Expect COTILLION in tow of CAPE CORMORIN. E.T.A. will be signalled later.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 011510 to N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada, (R) F.O.G.M.A. Admty. B.N.A.Lisbon.)

L.C.I.487 - 492 proceeding to U.K. in U.G.S.28. Following is repetition of C.T.F. 61 011140 (N.T. in W.R.) (Begins) From C.T.F.61. Refer C. in C.Lant's 162220\* Dec. L.C.I.Group 28 Comdr. Shuyin in 490. Request route and destination. C.T.G. 61.9 has paraphrase by light. U.G.S.28 is 705 miles bearing 245° true from Horta Fayal 012000Z speed 9.5 nautical miles each hour course 090° true. Weather. (Ends.)  
(F.O.G.M.A. 011552A to Admty. S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
\* Circulated under T.O.O. 171227 from Comnavu.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

LUCULUS. Impossible to sail LUCULUS owing to fouled propeller. Earliest expected time of readiness 1300 G.M.T. 2nd Destroyer escort is waiting off port. If decided to enter request Portuguese authorities be informed. Further instructions are requested. (N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 011701 to S.B.N.O.Azores, (R) Admty. S.O.I. Gib. N.A.Lisbon.)

H.X.272. C. in C.W.A. 301751. Request ship be routed to Stragglers. Ponta Delgada. (S.B.N.O.Azores 011705Z to Admty. C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.G.M.A.)

Azores movements. Following is repetition of my 311950\*(begins) Departure Ponta Delgada RYE, WHITEHAVEN, BOSTON, CLUMBERHALL and IERE. (Ends.) (S.B.N.O.Azores 011714Z to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty.) \* recd. undecypherable.

ARCOLA, Re negotiations for taking over, and crews. TAIGETE. (B.N.A.Lisbon 011935 to F.O.I.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. Consul St. Vincent.)

C.T.F.21.16 This is C.T.F. 21.16's 011625 to C. in C.Lant and A/S C.M.S.F. for action. At 44.44 N. 21.03 W. PAUL operations. JONES, BARKER on sub. contact. At 1400Z/4th E.T.A. Casablanca. Orders search area 44 and 45 N. 21 and 20 W. tonight rejoin 39 N. 20 west 1700Z/2nd. Require for BLOCK ISLAND 780,000 gallons fuel oil, 250,000 for 4 destroyers. (Comnaveu 012018 to Admty. and to pass to C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

S.L.145. Departures 0805Z/1st LEITH, ANCHUSA, SOUTHERN PRIDE with S.L.145. (S.O.I. Freetown 011841Z to Admty.) See S.O.I. Freetown 021118Z.

War Diary.

1.1.1944  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B. S/M in 24.20 N. 36.15 E.  
(NORWICH CITY, 010900Z)

TORBAY, TORBAY proceed forthwith to patrol close to  
SIBYL. Cape Krio.  
(2) SIBYL patrolling off Cape Alupo. Cancel  
reference to patrol area has had my 310931BDec.  
not to TORBAY.  
(Capt.(S), 010944B to TORBAY, SIBYL (R) F.O.E.M.)  
Patrol off Cape Krio in daylight hours and between Nisero and  
Piskopi at night.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 011632B to TORBAY, (R) P.217 (SIBYL) F.O.E.M.)  
Patrol forthwith between Piskopi and Khalia.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 012226B to TORBAY (R) SIBYL, F.O.E.M.)

CURIE. Your 312359 return Maddalena when weather  
moderates arrive in daylight and report E.T.A.  
Following expected Maddalena -  
(1) L.S.T. convoys from Southward due 2nd and 3rd.  
(2) LAFOREY (?from) Naples via Q.B.B. 303 due 2nd all informed  
of your whereabouts.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 011051 to P.67 (CURIE))

Chrome for Axis. In addition to frequent shipments of chrome by  
sea to Bourgas (my Dec. 281914 (N.T. in W.D.)  
refers) draw attention to heavy despatch of chrome  
by rail Istanbul to Germany. These amount to  
more than 100 tons daily average. Submit that  
effective bombing of railway bridges over Maritza and Ardas  
would not only disrupt chrome but other valuable enemy traffic  
with Turkey. Both bridges are in German occupied Greek  
territory and anti-aircraft defences believed not abnormally  
strong.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 011114C to F.O.E.M. Pass to S.O.(I) Med.  
(R) D.N.I.)  
Arrival Istanbul of two German ships.

Employment of Italian Battleships. Personal request you will propose CAVOUR Class  
battleship most suitable for commitment quoted  
in A.M.121912 para. 2. No mention of reason  
should be made to any Italian authority without  
specific directions from me. Request you will  
consider arrangements for the demilitarisation of main and  
secondary armament of CAVOUR Class in accordance with my 041941  
para. 7 on assumption that first battleship to be moved will  
to Syracuse and not Taranto.  
(C. in C. Med. 011202 to V.A. Malta, (R) Admty. F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Reduction /...

War Diary.1.1.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Employment  
of Italian  
Battleships.  
(Contd.)

Reduction of complement LITORIO class in accordance with my 041941 para.3. F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to propose provisional programme for return of surplus personnel from Levant SCIPIONE, AFRICANO on completion of refit can be used. Proposal to be arranged direct between F.O.T.A.L.I. and F.O.L.E.M. repeat to me. (C. in C. Med., 011204 to F.O.T.A.L.I., F.O.L.E.M., (R) Admty., V.A. Malta.)

1st Battle  
Squadron.

Onward routing completed 036° 01' N. 004° 17' W. at 0800/6th through positions 72, 86, 2, 12, 94, 65, 40, 206, 79, Q.B.B.149, and Q.B.B.150, 214, 275, 274, 208, 358 then as ordered by F.O., L.E.M.2. S. of A. 14 knots to arrive

position 65 at 1915/7th then adjusting speed to arrive position 206 at 0600 456/8th. Thence S. of A. 16 knots to arrive position 358 at 0230/10th.

3. All times A. 5. Fighter and A/S. protection by day from own resources. 6. Night A/S. protection from sunset to sunrise by A/C. of N.A.C.A.F. fitted I.F.F. Mark III. 7. Fighter protection on 6th 7th and 8th from 30 minutes before sunset until dark by flying single engine fighters patrolling on 2 sides of box round unit flying in single formation low down. Night fighter protection by 2 Beaufighters on patrol line 20 miles to Northward from 30 minutes before sunset until daylight. 8. R/T silence is in force for passage of group A. 9. F.O.L.E.M. inform S.N.O. Cyrenaica and 247 Wing as necessary. (C. in C. Med. 011251A to F.O.1st Battle Squadrons (R) A.H.Q.A.D. E.M., 247 Wing, M.A.A.F., N.A.C.A.F., N.L.O., M.A.A.F., Group A. Admty., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alexandria, V.A. Malta, Cdre. Algiers, F.Os.i/c. and N.Os.i/c. North Africa (Oran to Tripoli), S.N.O. Cyrenaica.)

CLACTON  
sunk  
31.12.43.

CLACTON mined and sunk off East Coast off Corsica a.m. 31st. C.O. and at least 43 ratings have been picked up. Further signal will be sent. (C. in C. Med., 011302A to Admty,)

13th D.F.  
"Captain"  
class  
frigates.

It is under consideration to relieve 6 destroyers of 13th D.F. with "Captain" Class frigates as they become available. 2. Improved "Captain" Class 24 knot type is Turbo electrically driven but suffers from disadvantage that while in harbour can only provide power for cooking heating and light by maintaining steam. Boiler cleaning would only be done 1 boiler at a time, thereby doubling total time but in order to avoid maintaining one boiler under steam consideration is being given to the provision of a diesel generating set so that power could be supplied to one ship at a time from shore and a second similar set when it becomes available. 3. 20 knot type is Diesel electrically driven. 4. Request your views. (D.O.D. (F) 011315A to C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib., Info., C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

1.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Axis shipping. Troopers 85320 C.A.15 dated 3rd Nov. not to Admty., German ships ADANA and SQARTA arrived Cagliari 26th August 1939 from Bremen and Gravosa, Yugoslavia respectively. General cargo not loaded. Both for Genoa 31st August 1940. No information at present as to eventual fate.  
(C. in C. Med., 011529A to Admty., (R) Troopers.)
- Facilities Salerno. Fuel and lubricant will no longer be available at Salerno.  
(C. in C. Med., 011617A to Med. Station 433B.)
- DOLFIJN. Report your E.T.A. Beirut when 80 miles east of Rhodes.  
(Capt. S.1., 011634B to DOLFIJN.)
- Request for daily movement signals. The signal required by para. one of A.M.301224 would consist on the average of about 1800 groups which it is considered would place an unacceptable imposition on the already heavy signalling traffic instructions will be given for movement summaries from F.O.G.M.A., F.O.L.E.M. F.O.W.I.T. and V.A.M. to be repeated to Admty.  
2. A copy of situation report referred to in para. 4 of A.M. quoted would be appreciated.  
(C. in C. Med., 011717A to Admty., (R) V.A.M., F.O.L.E.M., C. in C.E.F.)
- Mersa Matruh Naval Base closed. As from 5th Jan. Naval Base at Mersa Matruh will be closed down and Naval facilities will not exist at that port.  
(C. in C. Med., 011813A to Med. Station 434B.)
- MAURITIUS, PENELOPE. If you can spare MAURITIUS it is proposed to authorise 48 hours leave to each watch before she returns to her station.  
(1st S.L., 011934A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Concur your 011934.  
2. Presume PENELOPE is not required.  
(C. in C. Med., 012102A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Plymouth.)
- M.T.B. patrols. My 271131\* M.T.Bs. have now been ordered to patrol Piskopi Cape Krio by night.  
(F.O. 012015B to 1 (S) F. (R) Capt. (S) 1.)  
\*Not circulated in Admty. re M.T.B.. Patrols in Piscopi Alimnia area.
- Med. Situation report No.261. 1. My 312344 para. 5 salvage of L.S.T. had to be abandoned due to weather.  
2. Approx. 12 enemy aircraft attacked East Sicilian ports p.m. 31st Dec. Bombs dropped at Catania and Augusta caused no naval damage A/A /claim...



1.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Med.  
Situation  
Report 261  
(Contd.)

claim 2 aircraft shot down.  
(C. in C. Med., 012138A.)

CAMELIA  
Safe  
conduct.

Swedish Government intimate safe conduct vessel CAMELIA will sail from Salonika at 0800 hours local time 8th for Piraeus calling intermediately at Mitylene, Chios and Samos.  
6. Details of route have been agreed by Admty.  
7. Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned.  
(Head of M.I. 012308A to F.O.L.E.M., (R)  
C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

War Diary.

1.1.1944.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.TORNUS  
torpedoed  
31st Dec.TORNUS reports being torpedoed in vicinity 020° 45' N. 059° 41' E. at 311428Z. Endeavouring to reach Karachi.  
(C. in C.E.F. 010340Z to S. and A. E.I. Station  
(R) Admty. 246 Wing, A.H.Q.E.A. 222 Group, A.H.Q. Aden, C. in C.S.At.)

U/B.

U-Boat reported by D.C.3 in 22° 25' N. 61° 59' E. at 010415Z.  
(Freetown W/T 010432Z to Admty. Colombo W/T.)U/B dis-  
positions.Ref. U-Boat (German) disposition No. 13 of 31st Dec Area A. U.S. aircraft reported sighting U-Boat (German) in 024° 55' N. 061° 50' E. at 0635Z/31st Dec. graded C.4. Air escort X.  
Area B. tanker TORNUS torpedoed in 020° 45' N. 059° 41' E. at 1428Z/31st Dec. Air escort Y.  
Other areas; no change.  
(C. in C.E.F. 010434Z to S. & A.E. Indies Station.)Command at  
Diego Suarez.Re setting up office by Capitaine de Fregate Richard Evanou (he has reassumed his French Surname) who has arrived Madagascar.  
(C. in C.E.F. 010507Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.E.A. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

B.M.80A.

2. 0730Z/1st. Escort PUNJAB.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 010742Z to Admty.)K.M.F/M.K.F.  
convoys,  
cycle.The cycle of K.M.F. and M.K.F. convoys will be extended to 37 days after departure of K.M.F.28 from U.K. on 15th Jan.  
2. With the exception of M.K.F.28 which sails on 20th Jan. returning convoys will now leave Port Said 10 days after sailing date of K.M.F. from U.K.  
3. This will allow 33 days for the round voyage between Port Said and India, thus enabling ships concerned to catch the next M.K.F.  
(D.O.D.F. 011540A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C) C. in C.S.A.)Aden  
Movements.Arrivals BATTLER with ROTHERHAM, ROEBUCK, RAPID, KALE and DERG in company Dutch sloop JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK. Departures B.Y.M.S. 2204, 2203 and 2232, in company. Highway with VERBENA and NIGELLA in company WOOLWICH with Cmdre. D. in NAPIER with NIZAM and BETONY in company. D.S. JACOB VAN HEEMSKERK.  
(Com. Aden 011639Z.)

17

1.1.1944.

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

C.T.G. 21.15 attacks on U/Bs. Refer to this as 010305 from C.T.G. 21.5 (C.T.G. 21.15 intended) addressed Admty. Cominch, Cinclant, within 15 miles lat. 44.50 N. 20.10 W. GREENE and KEARNY engaged enemy submarines with gun fire and depth charges between 312124 and 010101Z results undetermined.  
(Comnaveu 010424 to Admty.)

This is C.T.G. 21.15's 012120 addressed to C. in C.Lant and (R) Cominch, Admty.)  
Radar contact lat. 45.00 N. long. 18.13. Attacked by KEARNY 2028Z with guns. At least one hit scored on target which disappeared. Two heavy underwater explosions felt 10 minutes later. Target reappeared 2045 struck again by gunfire and disappeared.  
(Comnaveu 012216 to Admty.)

U.S. Major Units, working up. For information. Following U.S. Major Units worked up in Gulf of Paria during quarter ending December 31st aircraft carriers INTREPID, LANGLEY, cruisers VELOXI, CANBERRA. Average duration of visit 16 days (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 011102Q to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. (B.A.M.R?.)

ROBERT McCLINTOCK ashore. Honduras Motor Vessel ROBERT McCLINTOCK ashore 018° N. 087° W. our surveyor reports vessel undamaged but local tug not powerful enough to re-float her. Please pass to Lloyds.  
(R.O. Belize 011115R to Admty.)

CYRUS W. FIELD. CYRUS W. FIELD 1200Z/1st Cable Grounds, thence via Long Island Sound to New York, Key West 1500/2nd. (Halifax 011230Z.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 011426Z.)

GENERAL W.A. MANN. To avoid westbound ships alter course immediately for M. 031° 01' 025° 02' omitting L.  
(Cdr. 10th U.S. Fleet (C. & R.) 011452Z to U.S.S. GENERAL W.A. MANN, (R) U.S. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Comnob. Bermuda, Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.M.S.F.)

ROXBOROUGH. At 1800/31st sailed ROXBOROUGH great circle to Azores speed 15 knots E.T.A. third Jan.  
(F.O.N.F. 011527Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. N.S. ST. ALBANS

/SEARCHER...

War Diary.1.1.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

SEARCHER, BLIGH, BULLEN, BICKERTON. SEARCHER reported stopped. With defective L.P. turbine at 1100Z/31st in 38° 46' N. 64° 30' W. She proceeded later at 8 knots escorted by a U.S. destroyer for New York where she is now to be taken in hand for repairs and change of rotor. On morning of 1st Jan. SEARCHER reported she was stopped again and tug is being sent.

2. BLIGH, BULLEN and BICKERTON who were to form SEARCHER's screen on return passage reference my 202117 Dec. arrive Norfolk p.m. 2nd Jan. In view of delay to SEARCHER intend on arrival these frigates to sail them for U.K. via Argentinia and as additional convoy escort.

3. Propose to sail SEARCHER in C.U. or U.T. convoy on completion if dates fit. Otherwise S.B.N.O.W.At. will be requested to provide three worked up Captain Class frigates on a date to be signalled when completion date of SEARCHER is known. (B.A.D. 011717 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)

B.E.C.IV. Intend sailing B.E.C.IV in company with B.E.C.V  
B.E.C.V. leaving Bermuda about 3rd. My 132151/11/43 refers.  
B.E.C.III. B.E.C.IV is not yet fully reliable operationally owing to shortage of spares some of which have already been shipped direct from U.S. to Freetown.  
2. B.E.C.III is still awaiting essential spares otherwise ready to sail.  
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 011723 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. F.O.C.W.Af.)

T.U.5. 21 ships arrived New York 312300Z Dec. Also straggler POWDER RIVER which arrived 011652Z Jan. Total 22 ships.  
(P.D.New York 011730Z.)

DAKINS, DEANE. DAKINS with DEANE departs Boom Casco 0800Z/2nd. Course direct. Speed 20. E.T.A. Boston Gate 1300Z. Firing Depth Charge Pattern off Cape Ann South of Submarine Operating Area.  
(DAKINS 012007 to Com. 1.)

BLIGH, BULLEN, BICKERTON. As soon as ready after arrival sail BLIGH, BULLEN and BICKERTON not necessarily in company Norfolk to Argentinia for passage as additional convoy escort to U.K.  
(Cominch 012135Z to Comwestseafon.)

DAGHESTAN helicopters. It is confirmed that DAGHESTAN will sail in H.X. 274. My 271435 refers.  
(B.A.D. 012141Z to Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.N.F. Cominch, (R) B.R.L.O.New York.)

War Diary.

1.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 8. Submarine observed 10 miles Southeast Gasmata  
No. 711 Dec. morning proceeding north.  
31. 16. Photos. new type small submarine (reported  
Digest 704 para. 3) establish type S.C. oil tank  
equipped for towing.  
19. Allied gunboats patrolcraft shelled enemy  
coastal positions near Southern Sector Torokina Perimeter also  
destroyed bridge same area on main Buin Road.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 010800Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 011400, 011405A.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine attack & sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/1st Jan. Para. A. 1. Br. Tanker TORNUS torpedoed at 1428/31 in 20° 45' N. 59° 41' E.  
Para. B. 1. U/B reported at 0415/1 in 22° 25' N. 61° 59' E.  
2. U.S. Ship attacked contact at 1730/29 in 35° 02' N. 10° 45' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 011009Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.V.

1. Convoy R.A.55B was about 200 miles N.E. of the North Cape at 0800 to-day.

Operation  
"Stonewall"

2. Four U-Boats were sighted by A/C during to-day about 200 miles West of Bordeaux, of which one was attacked with depth-charges and another wounded one of the A/C's crew.

PRINCE ROBERT was ordered at 1519A to leave her Patrol 400 miles W. by S. of Ushant for Plymouth; and MAURITIUS, who arrived at Plymouth from patrol at 1201A, is to be sailed to Gibraltar as soon as ready - probably on 9th January.

North Atlantic.

U/B's  
Damaged.

3. C.T.G.21.15 reported this evening that the U.S. seaplane tender GOLDSBOROUGH attacked a U-Boat with guns at 022325 in 44 N. 18.10 W. (about 400 miles W. by N. of Cape Finisterre). Near 45 N. 18 W. (about 390 miles W.N.W. of Cape Finisterre) KEARNEY depth charged a submerged U-Boat at 1048 and got evidence of damage; and at 1910 aircraft (from CORE) "mined a submerged U-Boat effectively".

Sabotage.

4. During yesterday and today 3 time bombs exploded in the cargo of STANHOPE and one in the cargo of EMPIRE HEYWOOD though without damaging either ship. Both ships joined convoy M.K.S.34. from Gibraltar. (c.f. Med. 31st Dec.)

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche"

5(a) SS. LARGS BAY (14,182 tons) (Combined Operation Ship) was damaged by a mine in the Approaches to Naples to-day. The ship was brought into harbour and beached.

(b) Aircraft bombed Civitavecchia harbour last night.

2.1.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A.H.16.

6. An Italian Escort Group is escorting Convoy A.H.16 which sailed to-day from Augusta for Taranto.

East Indies.

U/B off  
Persian  
Gulf.

7. SS. ALBERT GALLATIN was torpedoed and sunk 21.21 N. 59.58 E. at 0452Z to-day. The tanker BRITANNIA rescued the survivors.

Australia and New Zealand.

Landing  
at Saidor.

8. Following a preliminary bombardment by destroyers a moderate force of U.S. Army troops landed shortly after dawn to-day on three beaches near Saidor on the North coast of New Guinea without opposition.

2.1.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Trawlers for Azores. A.M. 011311A January and 21545A December Para. 2. Dates of arrival as follows- COTILLION already at the Azores. BLACKFLY - 13/1. CAPE PALLISER and KINGSTON AMBER - 17/1. MAZURKA and VICTRIX in accordance with para. 2 of My 261315A December. It is regretted that CAPE PALLISER and KINGSTON AMBER cannot arrive before 17/1 but their date for completion of necessary repairs has already been advanced two days. (C. in C. W.A. 021153Z to Admty.)

Destroyers in Nore Command. Following is a repetition of my 011922 begins. The shortage of destroyers in this Command, referred to in my 241611 and 071044 both of December, is further aggravated by the collision between VIVACIOUS and KEPPEL. (2) Request consideration may be given to providing re-inforcements until repairs to come of those damaged are completed. (3) VIVACIOUS can proceed to a refitting port as soon as one can be allocated. Ends. (C. in C. Nore, 022143A to Admty.)

Movements.

TANTIVY. TANTIVY leaving vicinity Bishop Rock at 0100/7th to 049 degs. 50' N. 009 degs. W. diving by day, thence by route Brown to cross 043 N. at 2330A/10 thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A. Daily Advance 170 miles. (Capt. (S) 5, 021010A to F.O.G.M.A.) Request you sail TANTIVY with escort on completion of exercises on 6th for Gibraltar so as to arrive in position (ZZ) 180 degs. Bishop 10 miles at 0100/7th. (2) From this position TANTIVY proceed unescorted as in my 021010A. (Capt.(S) 5, 021008A to C. in C. Plymouth)

INDEFATIG- ABLE. Sailed INDEFATIGABLE in accordance with my 301614/December. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 021146A to C. in C. H.F.)

Group A. From position X to give wider berth to suspected U-Boat area, pass through new Z 4500 N. 24.30 W. and rejoin route ordered at position Y. (D.O.D.(H), 021232A to B.S.1)

DUKE OF YORK. My 011303 Para. 1 for 2130A/4 read 0030A/6. For 0930A/5 read 1300A/6. Para. 3 for p.m. 22nd Jan read p.m. 24th Jan. (3) C. in C. H.F. has no barge and DUKE OF YORK has no boat. Request facilities may be provided while at the buoy. (C. in C. H.F. 021244A to DUKE OF YORK, Admty. C. in C. Rosyth.)



War Diary.2.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

S/M. Positions of S/M's at 0800/3 and movements for  
Movements. following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S.021734, 022302.)

BELFAST. Intend BELFAST shall arrive at Rosyth on 7th  
January to give leave. She is to be ready to  
sail p.m. 24th January.  
(C. in C. H.F. 022002 to BELFAST.)

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall". Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charge 45.22 N.  
19.38 W. believed on surface.  
(A/C. S.H.9 020045A to A/C Duty C.)  
Am over enemy S/M in position (indecipherable)  
(position uncertain) Enemy S/M previously reported  
was on surface. When first sighted was on course 300 degs.  
speed 16 knots.  
(A/C Duty L, 020143A to 19 Group)  
Lost touch with U-Boat last seen in 044 degs. N. 35' 07 W.  
30'.  
(A/C Duty L, 020235A to 19 Group)  
Am over enemy S/M. position 45.00 N. 08.08 W.  
(A/C Duty A. 020250 to 19 Group)  
Over 1 enemy S/M in 45.31 N. 07.30 W. Enemy was on surface  
when first sighted, on course 250 degs. estimated speed 10 knots.  
U-Boat has dived position 45.31 N. 07.30 W.A.  
(A/C Duty A, 020330A to 19 Group)  
Am over S/M in 44.34 N. 07.35 W. Enemy was on surface,  
course 050 degs. speed 6 knots.  
(A/C Duty L, 020542 to 19 Group)  
Arrived MAURITIUS.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021201A to Admty.)  
From 047 degs. 40' N. 015 degs. 01' W. proceed through (PA)  
180 degs. Bishop 12 miles and thence Plymouth keeping West of  
Lizard Head during dark hours. C. in C. W.A. 012208A refers.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021519A to PRINCE ROBERT)  
A.M. 012200. (2) A.M. 23234C, 241108 and 280108 December  
are cancelled.  
(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail MAURITIUS to Gibraltar  
as soon as ready. A.M. 011934 and C. in C. Med. 012102 refer.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 021500A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth)  
Your 020231. MAURITIUS will be ready to sail 1200A/9th.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021522A to Admty.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 46.46 N. 39 (sic) 27 W.  
(A/C Duty G. 022140 to 19 Group)  
U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to  
submerge 46 degs. 46' N. 09 degs. 27' W. course 090 degs. speed 10  
No attack. Member crew wounded (?R/B immediately).  
(A/C Duty G. 022150A to 19 Group)

S/M /...

2.1.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

S/M Your 011715. Proceed by reverse of outward  
Patrols. route.  
(F.O.S. 020206A to ULA.)  
At 0915A/2nd. TAKU left Lerwick unescorted  
through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 and 061 degs.  
59' N. 001 degs. 25' W. then by route Grey to patrol line EE.  
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 020945A to S/M's)  
Proceed unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion  
till 062 degs. N. then diving by day STRATAGEM left Lerwick  
1450A/2nd through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 then by route Black  
to 065 degs. N. thence direct to patrol line H.H.  
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 021455A to S/M's)  
Positions of submarines at 0800/3rd January and movements  
for the following 24 hours. (A) SYRTIS, SEANYMPH, SCEPTRE,  
SEADOG, SPITEFUL, as in my 301722.  
(B) ULA arriving Lerwick from N.E.  
(C) TAKU 63 degs. 26' N. 00 degs. 15' E. dived by day probably  
on surface at night to patrol vicinity 64 degs. 19' N. 00 degs.  
58' E. E.T.A. 2159/3rd.  
(D) UNSWERVING 62 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 11' E. dived by day  
probably on surface at night through 63 degs. 18' N. 01 degs.  
51' E. to patrol vicinity 63 degs. 28' N. 018 degs. 08' E.  
E.T.A. 0401/4th.  
(E) STRATAGEM 63 degs. 01' N. 01 degs. 28' E. diving by day  
probably on surface at night to 64 degs. 59' N. 04 degs. 01' E  
thence to patrol vicinity 65 degs. 19' N. 01 degs. 15' E. daily  
advance 175 miles.  
(F.O.S. 021734 to Admty.)

Operation Faeroes arrival HOUND, HYDRA.  
F.V. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 020258A to C. in C. H.F.)  
Kola Inlet arrivals, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, HALCYON  
from Local escort.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 020329A to Admty.)

S.B.N.O. Murmansk's 281235A. We intend to take subject to  
prevailing ice conditions maximum number of ships to White Sea  
from Barrier(?) but must reckon on *Economia* being inaccessible  
by end of January. After this period probably only possible  
to take 5 dry-cargo ships plus tankers from each section to  
Molotovok.

(2) By the time J.W. 56A arrives expect to have all present  
vessels in White Sea discharged and majority sailed to catch  
R.A. 56A.

(3) In view of present congestion at Murmansk it might be  
advisable to meet their request to postpone sailing of J.W. 56  
for 7 days if at all possible in order to help overtake present  
hold up.

(5) Admiralty's 010050 also refers.  
(Watson and Millar, 021045A to Admty.)

Your 311459. Regret that as it appears probable that  
U-Boat threat to Russian Convoys will increase and as no air  
cover is possible in winter I am unable to reduce the size of the  
Anti-submarine Escort.

(C. in C.H.F. 021712A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 012143 (re J.W. 56A and J.W. 56B).

No suitable escorts are available in any Commands other than  
Western Approaches.

(A.C.N.S. (H), 021935A to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.2.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

V.P. Operation. Sailed 1030A today (my 161649A Dec.) M.T.Bs 683, 665, 666, 623, 653.  
(2) Yes.  
(A.C.O.S. 021106 to Admt.)  
Cancel following preparatory signals if held by you. Details.  
(A.C.O.S. 021316A to Admt.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (1) Orders for night 2nd/3rd January.  
(A) 3 M.G.B's from Newhaven anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles south of convoy route between eastern limit of command and longitude of E.A.5 from 0001A to 0730A abreast of C.W.236, from 1900A to 2230A off C 2 A.  
(B) STEVENSTONE, M.L.291 short notice St.Helens.  
(C) 2 S.G.B's from Portland anti E-Boat patrol to southward of W.P.455 until arrival. Then on 50 degs. 25' N. between 01 degs. 00' W. 01 degs. 30' W. until 0700A.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021210A)  
M.L.143 and 139 at Bullock Bank.  
M.T.Bs 221, 229 and 205 E.T.D. 1800 and M.G.B.s 40, 43 and 41 E.T.D. Ramsgate 1715. At No.7 Buoy. E.T.R. 0815/3 and 0845/3 respectively.  
(V.A. Dover, 021513A)

Exercises.

Exercise "Duck". My 312225A para. 1.  
Covering Forces. (1) Owing to weather conditions coastal forces will not operate tonight 2/3 Jan.  
(2) (A) Force 114 is to leave Plymouth Passing Gate at 2000A/2 and proceed at 20 knots through 180 Start 4 to patrol on line 7.5 miles 055 degs. and 235 degs. from 49 degs. 54' N. 3 degs. 35' W. at 0230A/3. Force 114 is to proceed to patrol on line 7.5 miles 055 degs. and 235 degs. from 50 degs. 02' N. 3 degs. 15' W.  
(B) Leave patrol at 0800A/3 and proceed to Plymouth.  
(C) Object to cover L.S.T. and L.C.I. group against torpedo boats based at Cherbourg.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021558A to BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, WENSLEYDALE)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. Have obtained R.D.F. contact bearing 215 degs. distance 1 mile, probable 1 S/M, position 54.04 N. 04.03 W.  
(VINDEX, 020022A to Devonport W/T.)

Casualties and Defects.

TRILBY. (A) Barge TRILBY. (B) British.  
(C) 1600/1st. (E) Cast on Buxey Sands to save from foundering owing to leak, not owing to enemy action. (G) 2 Survivors. Names.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 022240 to Admt.)

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.143/  
M.K.S.34.  
Time-bombs  
in cargo.

A/C did not close within 3000 yards of close escort and at 0315Z/2nd showed two red lights and then burned a searchlight. No explosions noticed. Your 021251 refers.  
(2) STANHOPE has had a third time bomb.  
(4) My P.C.S. at 2000Z, 052 degs. 36' N. 018 degs. 44' W. 064 degs. 8.  
(B.3, 021915Z to C. in C. W.A.)

27

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- U/B report. Have obtained A.S.V. contact 36.50 N. 8.20 W. probably a S/M.  
(Duty C 020206 to R.A.F.Gib.)
- Gib. G.R. W.X. 1379. A.1 44 2nd.  
Opsum. 1st. A.S.R. 1 Lib. Q 511 10 and a half hours search for missing Dakota F.D. 903 gale ditched 15 miles 180° C Trafalgar 1215 A crew 5 all rescued from dinghy by ANTHONY at (?1345 or 1305) A and brought Gib.  
(Gib. 020400A.)
- NORDEFLINGE. Re damage done to frame paravane of NORDEFLINGE by Spanish trawler on 21st Nov. at Huelva.  
(M.W.T.R. Gib. 021000 to Shipminder London.)
- WARSPITE. Anticipate WARSPITE maximum speed 14 knots with endurance to cross Atlantic.  
2. Intend to include in G.U.S.27 subject to satisfactory completion of trials when detailed, endurance figures will be signalled.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 021141A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. Cominch, B.A.M.R. C.M.S.F. B.A.D. Comnavnav.)
- COTILLION. COTILLION and CAPE CORMORIN arrived Ponta Delgada a.m. today. Survey arranged with Portuguese Authority. Report follows.  
(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 021145 to B.N.S.O. Azores, (R) Admty. S.O.I. Gib. N.A.Lisbon, B.S.N.O. Fayal.)  
Following is a repetition of my 311735 to N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada (begins): "My 311512 ship now reports position 258° Ponta Delgada 12 miles drifting west. Tug should be sent to her assistance forthwith with Doctor, ends".  
N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 311915 refers.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 021153Z to Admty.)  
CAPE CORMORIN left Ponta Delgada 1735 G.M.T. for Terceira..  
2. COTILLION estimates temporary repairs will take 14 days enabling ship to make 6 knots. Maximum safe steam pressure would be about 120 pounds. Instructions are requested whether to proceed with temporary repairs or can tow be arranged to British Controlled port for permanent repairs.  
(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 021749C to B.S.N.O.Azores, (R) Admty. S.O.I. Gib. N.A. Lisbon.)
- CHANTICLEER. A.M. 151405A\*Dec. CHANTICLEER has been taken over from 31st Dec. as base ship Horta and re-named LUSITANIA.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 021146Z to Admty. (R) F.O.G.M.A. N.O.I.C. Horta, ORLANDO, C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med. S.N.S.O.Greenock.)  
\* re Approval for CHANTICLEER to be held as base ship Horta.

War Diary.

2.1.1944.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- K.M.S. 36,  
M.K.S. 35/  
S.L. 144. As K.M.S. 36 does not pass Europa until 0900A/3rd Jan. intend diverting S.L. 144 into Gib. and sailing M.K.S. 35/S.L. 144 p.m. 5th Jan. in order to rest escorts and to complete essential defects. Gib. Escort Force not available to relieve 40th E.G. (F.O.G.M.A. 021209A to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C.W.A.)
- LUCULUS. My 011701.\* Obstruction now cleared away but impossible for LUCULUS leave harbour today owing to weather conditions, light ship and absence of tug with dangerous lee shore. Will report when weather moderates.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 021217 to B.S.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty. S.O.I. Gib.)  
\* Impossible to sail LUCULUS owing to fouler propeller.
- ST. ALBANS. Arrived Horta 0210340.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 021349Z to F.O.C. Gib.)
- Italian merchant ships in Spanish ports. If policy dictates that Italian Merchant Ships must be brought out of Spanish Ports, request consideration be given for them to be towed direct to Italian ports.  
2. All these ships seem likely to arrive at Gib. in a damaged condition, and therefore become severe liability in an already congested anchorage particularly during winter gales.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 021601A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.T.A.L.I.)
- ALBULA. Sailed for Marseilles 1320/2 by standard route. Not to be molested on this voyage. (Description.)  
(F.O.G.M.A. 021829A to 10th S/M F. PROTEE (F.S.) ARETHUSE (F.S.) Capt. S.10.)
- O.S. 62. MALCOLM refuelled and departed 1800A to rejoin O.S. 62. May need to refuel at Dakar.  
(C.M.S.F. 021837A.)
- Route to U.K. for L.C.I. 487 - 492 in U.G. 3.28. C.R. No. 57. Request reply my 011140. Refer to this as 021443 from C.T.F. 61 action Admiralty.  
(Comnavu 021852 to Admty.)

/IRISH...

War Diary.

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

IRISH CEDAR. Your 011305. No news but believe BOTHNIA which arrived Ponta Delgada 27th Dec. may have been mistaken for ship in question as Master was challenged by aircraft in position indicated to whom he gave E.T.A. Ponta Delgada a.m. 27th Dec.  
(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 021926 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Gib., B.S.N.O.Azores.)

T.G.21.15 information. 2 Leigh light Wellingtons will be operating in area 044° (720') N. to 045° 40' N. and 018° W. to 021° W. from 0230Z/3rd to 0520Z/3rd.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 021940Z to T.G.21.15.)

JEANNE D'ARC. My 011201A sailed.  
(C.M.S.F. 021943A to F.O.G.M.A.)

T.F.66. Arrived from U.G.S.27.  
(C.M.S.F. 022315A.)

South Atlantic.

FORT WELLINGTON. Report your position at 2100/1 this is urgent.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 020231Z to FORT WELLINGTON, (R) Admty.)  
Your 012358 (N.T. in W.R.) plotted position of FORT WELLINGTON at 2100/1 008° 10' S. 023° 45' W.  
At 2115/1 FORT WELLINGTON reported not interrogated by A/C p.m. 1st (N.O.I.C. W.Af. 020233 to Com. 4th Fleet, (R) B.N.L.O.As-cension.)

BIRDLIP. My 311854 Dec. Ship sailed. E.T.A. Simonstown 051400Z.  
(N.L.O.East London 020656Z to Admty. Com. i/c Durban, N.L.O.Capetown, C. in C.S.A. (R) Cmdre. Sup. Simonstown, N.L.O.Port Elizabeth.)  
W.R.Note: Intend sailing BIRDLIP Jan. 1st. Cancelled by 011947. N.O.I.C. E.London. Generator depots.

HIGHLAND MONARCH. Detached from convoy R.S.13 at 2000Z/31st Dec. in 11.53 N. 17.45 W. routed thence through A. Equator 21 W. B. 20 S. 27 W. C. 31 S. 40 W. D. 35 S.53 W. to Montevideo. E.T.A. 12th Jan.  
(Dakar 020909Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- R.S.13. Arrivals 1811/1st Jan. WOLVERINE, DOUGLAS, GARLAND with R.S.13.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 021115Z.)
- S.L.145. My 011841Z. Add SANDWICH.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 021118Z to Admty.)
- PORTSDOWN, ALSACE. Left Port Gentil 1800A second for Pointe Noire, with ALSACE in company. New Break in cable E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0700A/4th speed 10 knots.  
(PORTSDOWN 021840A to F.O.C.W.Af.)
- EMILE BERTIN. Arrived 1735Z EMILE BERTIN.  
Comcarib's 271955 Dec. refers.  
(Comar Dakar 021852Z to Comcarib, F.O.C.W.Af. H.U.U.S.L.O.Martinique, Admty. Cominch, Radio Washington.)
- Shipping turn-round. The need to expedite shipping turn-round generally is such that sailings should not be suspended for longer than is absolutely necessary and justifies acceptance of some risks. Your 311220 Dec. refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 021941A to C. in C.S.A.)



War Diary.2.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- SIBYL. Proceed to patrol close off North Coast Rhodes between Cape Kopria and Rhodes Northern minefield. 2. 1 cargo ship, 2 destroyers and 1 M.T.B. believed sheltering at Alymnia probable destination Rhodes.  
(Capt. S.1 020137B to SIBYL, (R) TORBAY, F.O.E.M.)
- AXIUM. Italian submarine AXIUM reported to be aground in 37° 31' N. 21.35 E. on 1st Jan.  
2. Mission was evacuation of Seven Allied Personnel  
3. Italian destroyer RIBOTI is to attempt rescue of above and S/M crew night 3/4th. Number is about 60 and includes Lt. Jeffrey R.N.V.R. and Midshipman Roberts R.N.V.R.  
(C. in C.Med. 021124A to Admty. (R) F.O.T.A.L.I.)
- MALINES. Your 122023 Nov. (N.T. in W.D.)  
My 271833. Unless required to proceed to U.K. for repairs. Permanent use can be made of MALINES for this service.  
2. In any case request MALINES may be retained until March or April 1944.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 021158B to Admty. Info. C. in C.Med. S.N.O.R.S.C.A. SAUNDERS, D. of S.T., R.A.Alexandria, M.W.T. M.E.)
- UNSEEN. Intend sailing P.51 (UNSEEN) at 1100/4th to Gib. for onward routing to U.K. for refit. Routed Q.B.B. 301 041° 28' 008° 35' at 1800/4th thence diving by day to 037° 23' (7000°) (700') at 0600/8th thence as ordered by F.O.C. Gib. S.O.A. 120 miles every 24 hours.  
(Capt. S.10 021544 to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gib. (R) 10th S/M F. V.A.Malta, Capt. S.1, F.O.S. CASABIANCA, F.S. S.O.(S) Gib. Cdre. Algiers.)
- Joint Army 2nd. 24 hours to 1000/2nd. All times G.M.T. 5.  
R.A.F. Intel. Gaf. activity. Night 31st Dec./1st Jan. At least  
Appreciation. 12 Ju.88s from Athens and Crete bases attacked Augusta and Catania Harbours using Albanian airfields as advance landing grounds.  
6. Conclusions. Strongest indications long expected merchant vessel convoy from Piraeus which arrived Dodecanese 1st Jan. was intended make direct passage Rhodes but diverted owing weather possibly to Leros. Further attempts run similar merchant vessel convoys Rhodes may however now be expected in addition Leros - Rhodes - Leros small craft shuttle service. Successful operations both types service would enable enemy step up considerably intake reinforcements and supplies and evacuation useless Italian mouths. Further confirmation use landing craft flotilla based Leros for inter-island transport supplies and military stores. Supply convoy for Crete still considered imminent. Appreciation Kastelross unchanged.  
(C. in C.M.E. 021725B, No T.O.O. 3.1.44.)

/PROTEE...

War Diary.2.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

PROTEE.

Your escort will be EGILSAY.  
2, 3. Information of ships in area.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 021826A to PROTEE.)

SICKLE

My 171819 Dec. SICKLE (P.224) returned from patrol patrol report. having fired salvo of four non contact torpedoes at Fox Lighter and Caiques. Surface attack range 1,000 yards depth setting eight feet minimum firing interval 18 seconds. Second torpedo exploded after 17 seconds. Remainder missed. Sea calm. From interval between firing and explosion consider premature due to torpedo breaking surface. Intend SPORTSMAN (P.229) takes these pistols on next patrol using 600 yards safety range.  
(S.1 021836 to Admty. (R) F.A.L.E.M. VERNON W. F.O.S. S.T.E.D.)

ARETHUSE.

After 0800/3rd maintain patrol in zone SU. and SW.  
(Capt. S.10 021930 to ARETHUSE, (R) 10th S/M F. CASABIANCA, C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

M.E.Balkan

2 Jan. One. Int. Yugoslavia. Enemy shipping  
Sitrep No. 47. concs. reported on 29 Dec. Sibenik W.U. 56 Split  
W.U. 93 Omis X.Q. 13 Makarska W.Q. 41.  
Three. Yugoslavia. Brit. L.O. reports:  
Dalmatia. 30 Dec. Solta Island and Supetar W.Q.  
02 on Brac Island were shelled by enemy without causing casualties.  
(C. in C.M.E. 021955B.)

Med. Situation report  
No. 262.

1. During night 29th/30th Dec. TYRIAN and TEAZER patrolled between San Benedetto and Ancona and WHADDON and LAUDERDALE between Kotor and Dubrovnik. Nothing sighted but latter 2 destroyers shelled searchlight positions on Lokrum Island.  
2. SS. LARGS BAY damaged by mine in Bay of Naples  
a.m. 2nd.. Vessel now beached in harbour and reported in no danger.  
(C. in C.Med. 022142A.)

2.1.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.U/B  
Dispositions.

(C. in C. E.F. 020345Z)

A.P/P.A.  
Convoys

To meet present U-Boat threat on South Coast of Arabia A.P. and P.A. convoys are being re-instituted re-institutions on Jan. 5th. Ships for inclusion in these convoys are being held from Jan. 1st.  
(C. in C. E.F. 020506Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Red Sea (Suez), C. in C. S.A., (Simonstown), F.O. E.A., F.O.E.Med.)

B.A.58.

Arrived B.A.58 escorted by PLYM.  
(N.C.S.O.Aden, 020555Z to Admty.)

CHITRAL.

Arrangements for sailing Colombo p.m. 2nd for U.S.A. via Aden and Med.  
(C. in C. E.F. 020645Z to Cdre. i/c Aden. (R) F.O. Western Med., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.E.M., V.A.Malta. S.N.O. Red Sea, C.A., C. in C. Med. Admty. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

S.E.A. Air  
Report.

Part 4 A.C.40 2 Jan.  
14 U.S.A.A.F. 30 Dec. 6 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) shipping Yangtze River (Nanking)? area.  
2 A/C returned with bombs. 4 A/C dropped 24 x 500 lb TNST. 4 M/Vs sunk including one troop transport. 2 Gunboats damaged, 1 U.S. Mitchell crashed.  
(S.E.A.A.C. 020913Z, 022200Z)

M.B.60.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1030Z/2nd.  
(6) WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, ORISSA, POONA.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 021030Z to Admty.)

Movements,  
Aden.

Arrivals PLYM, RAMILLIES, NORMAN, RACEHORSE and REDOUBT in company.  
(Com. Aden, 021612Z)

ROBERT F. HOKE  
SS. N.F.HOKE.

Pass to N.C.S.O. Aden. Still towing ship 46 feet by stern require assistance 16.20 N. 53.40 E. please reply at once. Master.  
(EMPIRE BOMBARDIER, 021645Z to Colombo W/T.)

Routeing.

Your 010502. A.M. 291820 Dec applies to all British controlled ships sailing from India bound for West Coast of North and South America.  
(D.T.D. 021940A to C. in C. E.F.)

Eastern /...

War Diary.

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Eastern Fleet, revised composition.

The following revised composition of the Eastern Fleet has been approved. The necessary movement signals will be made by Admiralty. Estimated dates of arrival on the station in 1944 are given for reinforcements.

(2) Capital Ships	RENOWN	End Jan.
	QUEEN ELIZABETH	" "
	VALIANT	" "
Fleet Carriers	ILLUSTRIOUS	" "
	VICTORIOUS	End March.
Cruisers	CUMBERLAND	End Feb.
	GAMBIA	" "
	PHOEBE	" "
	SPARTAN	" "
	LONDON	End March.
	SUFFOLK	" "
	CEYLON	" "
	KENYA	" "
	NEWCASTLE	" "
	HAWKINS	" "
	FROBISHER	" "
	EMERALD	" "
	DANAE	" "
	D.S.TROMP	" "
Fleet Destroyers	24, As in A.M. 302331/Dec.	
A/S Escort Vessels		
Sloops 10	KISTNA	End Jan.
	CAUVERY	" "
	GODAVARI	Uncertain.
	HINDUSTAN	"
	JUMNA	"
	NARBADA	"
	SUTLEJ	"
	FALMOUTH	"
	SHOREHAM	"
	FLAMINGO	"
Frigates 18	PARRET	End Jan.
	AVON	Mid Feb.
	LOSSIE	Early March.
	FINDHORN	" "
	ROTHER	" "
	SPEY	" "
	WEAR	" "
	NADDER	End March.
	TAFF	" "
	JED	End April.
	BANN	" "
	DERG	" "
	HELFOED	" "
	KALE	" "
	PLYM	" "
	TAY	" "
	TEVIOT	" "
	TRENT	" "
Cutters 5	FISHGUARD	End Jan.
	BANFF	" "
	LANDGUARD	" "
	LULWORTH	" "
	SENNEN	" "

Corvettes /...

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Eastern Fleet, revised composition (Contd.-)	Corvettes	21	MONKSHOOD	End Jan.
			SNOWFLAKE	" "
			BURNET	End Feb.
			MEADOWSWEET	" "
			VIOLET	" "
			WILLOWHERB	" "
			BUGLOSS	Mid March.
			DITTANY	Uncertain.
			SMILAX	"
			ASTER	"
			JASMINE	"
			NIGELLA	"
			ROCKROSE	"
			THYME	"
			TULIP	"
			FREESIA	"
			FRITILLARY	"
			BETONY	"
			HONESTY	"
			LINARIA	"
			ROSEBAY	"
	Minesweepers	16		
	As A/S Vessels.			
	Total A/S Escort Vessels.	70		
	Minesweepers for M/S Duty	11		
	Submarines up to end of march 1944	17	TRUCULENT	Mid Jan.
			STONEHENGE	" "
			SURF	End Jan.
			TANTIVY	Mid Feb.
			SEA ROVER	" "
			SEVERN	" "
			STOIC	February.
			STORM	"
			TANTALUS	End March.
			STRATAGEM	April
			CLYDE	"
			TEMPLAR	"
			TACTICIAN	"
			TALLY-HO	"
			TAURUS	"
			TRESPASSER	"
			ROVER	"
	Repair and Depot Ships	5	MAIDSTONE	Mid Jan.
			UNICORN	End Jan.
			ADAMANT	" "
			WOOLWICH	" "
			RESOURCE	" "

- (3) SUSSEX will return to U.K. for modernisation about April.
  - (4) Further signal will be made concerning escort carriers.
  - (5) Corvettes lent from South Atlantic, GENISTA and VERBENA, will return to their station on arrival of the last two corvettes names in paragraph 2.
  - (6) It is regretted that the world wide requirements for A/S escort vessels do not permit of implementing the full programme proposed in your 2004/E.F. 767/131 of 6th Nov.1943.
- (D.O.D.(F) 022240A to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.) Info: A.C.N.B.  
C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

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2.1.1944.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SHAH.

Following is my 011621 to SHAH.

- (1) Admiralty have directed that you embark 851 Squadron of 12 Avengers at San Francisco and join the Eastern Fleet as A/S Carrier on conclusion of your ferry trip.
- (2) Fighter A/C will be made available on arrival in Eastern Theatre.
- (3) No torpedoes will be embarked in U.S.A.  
(B.A.D. 020103Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F., R.A.N.A.S.I.C.)

Sub.attack  
and  
Sighting  
Summary.

Refer to this as 012030 from Cominch to Admty.  
A. 312124Z Subs. attacked by U.S.S. GREENE and KEARNY vicinity 44.50 N. 20.10 W.  
B. 011625Z Sub. contact by U.S.S. BARKER and PAUL JONES 44.44 N. 21.03 W.  
D. 311725Z P.B.M. Radar Contact 33.34 N. 74.20 W. (Comnaven, 021103 to Admty.)

Para. B. U.S.S. KEARNY attacked Radar contact 45 N. 18.13 W. 012028Z and 012045Z.

Para. D. U.S.S. KNAVE attacked sound contact 28.23 N. 79.59 W. 012202Z.  
(Cominch, 021959 to Admty.)

YILDUM,  
ODYSSEUS  
Collision  
1st Jan.

Following is recoded version of "Contopulos" 012330Z. Addressed. Admty., N.O.I.C.Sydney G.B. (Begins) "Bull abandoned and left sinking in 048 degs. 44' N. 059 degs. 13' W. in collision with "Contopulos" colliding with "Bull" in 048 degs. 44' 059 degs. 13'. Compelled to get back to Cornerbrook for temporary repairs "Bull" crew all saved 012330 (Ends.) SS. YILDUM is "Bull". SS. ODYSSEUS is "Contopulos".

(N.O.I.C.Sydney C.B. 021230Z to Admty.)

ODYSSEUS in collision with YILDUM 2140Z/1st in 48.40 N. 59.20 W. YILDUM left in sinking condition no casualties.

(N.C.S.O.St. Johns, N.F. 022000Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Admty.)  
W.D. Note: Different position)

LECHISTAN,  
Appreciation.

Request you will convey to Master of LECHISTAN ex O.N. 217 on arrival New York an expression of appreciation for the initiative shown in collecting and reporting stragglers. The report was highly informative and of great assistance.  
(D.T.D. 021319A to B.A.D. Info: C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

S/M  
Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 021430Z, Cominch, 021554Z)

PRINCE DAVID.

Arrived Balboa PRINCE DAVID 2330Z/1st.  
(Cmdr. Panama Sea Frontier, 021630 to Com. U.S. Fleet.)

War Diary.2.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

CANSO Patrol. CANSO patrolling Port Basque approach. (C. in C. C.N.A. 021725Z)

STEADFAST. STEADFAST departs Bermuda for Argentia 1230Z/3rd. S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic 131529 Oct. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 021853 to N.O.B. Argentia)

ANTIGUA. Sail ANTIGUA when ready about 6th Boston to Casco Bay for about 7 days (?shake) down. Upon completion sail to Bermuda for working-up via Boston for logistic requirements spares books. Advise routeing instructions. (Cmdr. U.S. Fleet, 021934Z to C.E.S.F.)

Convoy U.C.8. 7 ships arrived New York 021000Z. U.S.S. PROCYON put in at Norfolk. (Connav, 021954)

PERSIAN. 2100Z/2 sailed PERSIAN to St. Johns N.F. (2) Request ship be sailed without delay independently to the U.K. (C. in C. C.N.A. 022103Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

ST. LAURENT Sweep. Position at 2100Z 046 degs. 39' N. 046 degs. 52'. Ships in company SWANSEA, GRANDMERE, NIAGARA, SOLEBAY, (?RESTIGOUCHE), STORMONT detached at 2004Z proceeding Halifax. Intend sweeping area 046 degs.30' N. to 047 degs. 40' N. and 045 degs. 30' W. to 044 degs. 20' W. until 1500Z/3rd. (ST. LAURENT, 022305Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.712 Jan.1st. (2) Earlier same night (apparently night 31 Dec/ 1 Jan.) Navy Catalina damaged one of 2 Destroyers with one quarter ton bombs hit 15 miles North Cape Hoskins heading North refer Digest 711 para. 1. Third vessel unidentified type also seen in vicinity. (19) Night Patrol plane twice attacked Northbound Jap. Submarine outside Wide Bay before Dawn 1st. Very large oil slick seen after day-break. So.Wes.Pac. Beaufighters observed surfaced submarine Southern entrance Saint Georges Channel. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 022210Z)

2.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 021339A, 021354A)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine  
Attack and  
Sighting  
Summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/2nd.

Para. A. (1) In 44 degs. 45' N. 07 degs. 39' W.  
at 1835/1 A/CL/58 attacked and estimated hits on  
a surfaced U-Boat co.360 degs.

(2) At 2100/1 A/C.L/172 attacked with D/C's  
a boat co.100 degs. in 45 degs. 22' N. 19 degs.  
38' W.

(3) A/C L/612 reported at 0043/2 a U-Boat co.  
300 degs. in 44 degs. 35' N. 07 degs. 30' W.

(4) In 45 degs. 31' N. 07 degs. 30' W. A/C A/58  
reported a U-Boat co. 250 degs. at 0200/2.  
(5) At 0442/2 in 44 degs. 34' N. 07 degs. 35' W. A/C L/311  
reported U-Boat on surface co. 050 degs.

Para. B. (1) A/C reported obtaining A.S.V. contact at 0106/2 in  
36 degs. 50' N. 08 degs. 20' W.

Para. D. (1) A/S trawler NORWICH CITY made SSSS at 0900/1 in  
24 degs. 20' N. 36 degs. 15' E.

(D.D.I.C. 021130Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)



3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.V.

1. During the passage of Convoy R.A.55B WHITEHALL attacked a U-Boat at 0906 today about 90 miles south of Bear Island.

SS. EMPIRE  
HOUSMAN  
sunk.

2. SS. EMPIRE HOUSMAN, which was torpedoed early on 31st, was torpedoed again at 0305/3 and abandoned ship in a sinking condition 60.50 N. 22.07 W. (about 180 miles south of Reykjanes.) ELM and rescue tug EARNER picked up 44 survivors out of a total crew of 45. The ship was taken in tow, but sank on 5th January.

Percussion  
Area.

3.(a). An aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 0015 today in 46.39 N. 09.44 W. and considered it possibly damaged.

(b). A U-Boat was attacked by aircraft L/612 at 2030A in 46.13 N. 06.58 W. and after being depth charged it surfaced again half an hour later.

(c). At 2205A today aircraft H.224 attacked a U-Boat with depth charges in 46.02 N. 07.38 W.

4. 27 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night off Frisian Isles and Biscay Ports.

5. Damage, attributed to sabotage, was caused to L.C.H. 187 last night in the Tees.

North Atlantic.

Azores.

6. A U.S. V.L.R. Squadron of aircraft is to be sent to the Azores, to operate under British control, but the first 6 Liberators will not be operational until 31st January, and the balance of the Squadron about 10 days later. The Coastal Command Wellington detachment is to be retained accordingly.

3.1.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

WESERLAND  
sunk.

7. The U.S. destroyer SOMERS at 0030 today sank the German blockade runner WESERLAND, en route from Japan to Germany, in the area 14.55 S. 21.39 W. (about 550 miles S.W. of Ascension Island) and rescued 10 officers and 124 other personnel.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche".

c/ 8.(a). Destroyers carried out A/S patrol in the Central Adriatic last night, but without success. Coastal forces operated in the Braç Channel (43° 25' N. 16° 40' E.) but sighted nothing.

(b). Aircraft bombed San Benedetto harbour last night and the docks at Civitavecchia today. 24 B.25s attacked Split, effectively hitting the dock and making a hit on a medium merchant ship. At Korcula Island (40 miles S.S.E. of Split) U.S. Kittyhawks damaged 4 schooners.

Aegean.

9.(a). SPORTSMAN from Aegean patrol reports a hit with torpedo on a 5000 ton merchant ship in 39.44. 5 N. 25.16 E. at 1130/23 December, and considers the ship was sunk. SPORTSMAN sank a caique off Cape Irene on 21 December, and SICKLE sank two small caiques between Mykoni and Nikaria on 26th.

(b). One aircraft out of 4 despatched mined Khalkis harbour last night.

East Indies.

10. RAMILLIES sailed from Aden today for the U.K.

U/B off  
Persian Gulf.

11(a) M/V ANTAR, Suez for Aden and Basra, reported sighting a submarine at 0240 G.M.T. today in 21.14 N. 61.07 E.

(b). The tanker BENTON FIELD, Aden for Colombo, made a submarine distress message at 0415 today from an indecipherable position, apparently off the coast of Arabia.

3.1.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

12. A report was received, ostensibly from SS. LEVI WOODBURY, that she had been torpedoed by a submarine at 0714 G.M.T. today in 35.00 N. 67.00 W. (about 200 miles north-west of Bermuda) and that she was abandoning ship. SS. LEVI WOODBURY was, however, later reported to have been at New York since 17th December, so that the report of torpedoing cannot refer to this ship.

Australia & New Zealand.

13. Five Catalinas attacked Kavieng last night and 6 Liberators attacked shipping at the port this forenoon: no definite results are reported.

14. U.S.P.T.Boats destroyed four loaded north-bound barges (one at least with troops) near Sio (Papua) tonight: heavy fire was encountered from the enemy positions.

3.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Russian  
procedure.  
(Mails.)

Soviet Government have now agreed to allow all mails for British service personnel in Russia received in mail bags through British Official channels to be imported without censorship.  
2. For your information this is being done reciprocally with Soviet personnel in the U.K.  
(Ad. Anson 031457 to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Destroyers  
for Plymouth  
Command.

Your 281410. Intend transferring destroyer to Plymouth Command as follows.  
A. ATHABASKAN, ASHANTI to sail from Scapa 6th Jan.  
B. IROQUOIS, HAIDA and HURON now with R.A.55B to sail from Scapa about 10th Jan.  
2. As situation in the Bay has improved since your 281410 was made it is for consideration that the requirements of 8 destroyers should now be reduced to 5.  
(C. in C.H.F. 031813A to Admty.)

PIPINOS.

PIPINOS leaving Scilly Isles at 0900A/6th Jan by route "Green" diving by day, E.T.A. in 043° N. 0200/11th, thence as ordered F.O.G.M.A.  
(Capt. S.3 030949A to F.O.G.M.A.)

S/M Move-  
ments.

Positions of S/Ms at 0759/4 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(F.O.S. 031709A.)

A.F.D.36.

Arrangements for towing.  
(C. in C.Nore 032218A to N.O.I.C. Port of London.)  
(Care. Sheerness 041024A.)  
(N.C.S.O.Thames 041138A.)

Operations.Operation  
"Stonewall".

Am over enemy submarine in 45.55 N. 07.55 W.  
Submarine was on surface, course 120°, estimated speed 10 knots.  
(A/C Duty F 030006 to 19 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 45.55 N. 07.55 W.  
(A/C Duty F 030012 to 19 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 46.39 N. 09.44 W. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 110°, estimated speed 12 kts.  
(A/C Duty C 030015 to 19 Group.)  
My 0012. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Result of attack (corrupt group.)  
(A/C Duty F 030020A to 19 Group.)  
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Estimate possibly damaged.  
(A/C Duty C 030054 to 19 Group.)  
Have obtained A.S.V. contact.  
(A/C Duty M 030100 to 19 Group.)

/Your...

3.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Stonewall". (Contd.) Your 011431. Master and crew should be interrogated concerning picking up of survivors. Information is particularly desired of position at which men were picked up, names of enemy ships sunk and any details of the action learnt from survivors.

Result of interrogation should at once be reported to Admiralty who will then issue instructions concerning release of ship. (KERLOGUE.)

(Head of M.I. 030140A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

My 291905Z, and your 301107A. Nothing of tactical importance yet to report but Sub. Lieut. Williamson reports progress promising. Ship was ALSTERUFER and there are 74 prisoners accommodated as follows:- EDMUNDSTON 2 officers, 15 ratings including 3 ratings non cot cases.

CAMROSE 2 officers, 21 ratings including one rating cot case. SNOWBERRY 3 officers, 5 soldiers, 7 ratings including one rating non cot case.

LUNENBERG Master and 18 ratings, including one rating non cot case. Position 5218.

(E.G.6 030345Z to Admty.)

Am over enemy submarine in 45.15 N. 18.28 W.

(A/C RDJL 030445Z to S.H.9.)

Lost touch with U-Boat last seen 45° 15' N. 18° 32' W.

(A/C RDJL 030455Z to 19 Group.)

1 Ju.88 seen 49° 58' N. 09° 15' W.

(A/C Duty G 030945A to 19 Group.)

Am being attacked by 6 enemy aircraft Ju.88s 46.42 N. 08.58 W.

(A/C Duty P 031308 to 19 Group.)

Negative contact. U-Boat has dived in 46° 39' N. 09° 44' W.

(A/C Duty G 031334A to 19 Group.)

Group has 74 German survivors of whom at least 43 need extra clothing.

(EDMUNDSTON 031605Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)

A.M. 030140A. Master of motor vessel KERLOGUE states that he was directed to vicinity of boats by unidentified aircraft and embarked 167 survivors at 1045/29th in 45° 50' N. long. 11° 40' W. Three died on voyage remainder of whom six or seven were seriously wounded were landed at Cork on Jan. 1st.

German Commander asked for party to be landed in France or Spain but was told ship was bound for Dublin prior call at Fishguard not being mentioned. German Senior Officer said yes force came from Brest. Survivors stated to belong to crews of one destroyer and two motor torpedo boats but no names of ships or officers or any further details were obtained. Master stated that he had no further conversation with officers or men and only one officer and one man were able to speak English. Master did not know until hearing Friday nights announcement on wireless that vessels had been sunk by British. His reasons for calling at Cork were given as necessity for food, water and medical attention and statement of his English Chief Engineer that he had insufficient lubricating oil to reach Fishguard. Name of Master Thomas Donohue age 59 of Dungarven, ship bound for Dublin with cargo of oranges and Cork. Ship has been rummaged but nothing of value discovered so far.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 031815A to Admty.)

3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall" (Contd.) Am over enemy submarine in 46.13 N. 06.58 W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 285° 14 knots. (A/C Duty L 032030A to 19 Group.) Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat now on surface. (A/C Duty L 032100A to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy, one submarine, in 46.02 N. 07.38 W. When first sighted was on surface, course 060° 12 knots. (A/C Duty H 032205 to 19 Group.)

Operation F.V. Inconclusive D/F bearings at 0437Z indicate U-Boat possibly in vicinity of convoy R.A.55B. (D.D.I.C. 030756A to A.I.G.47.) A.M. 030756A. Six further transmissions between 0656Z and 0811 indicate several U/Bs. in vicinity of R.A.55B. (D.D.I.C. 031041A to A.I.G.47.)

S/M Patrols. ULA arrived. Operation "Crux." (S.O. S/M Lerwick 030859A to Admty.) Your 022001. "Crux" postponed. Resume normal patrol. (F.O.S. 031013A to SEANYMPH.) Positions of submarines 0759/4th and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. SCEPTRE, SYRTIS, SPITEFUL, SEADOG as in my 301722.
- B. TAKU vicinity 64° 21' N. 00° 59' E.
- C. STRATAGEM 65° 09' N. 02° 45' E. diving by day to patrol vicinity 65° 20' N. 01° 16' E.
- D. UNSWERVING vicinity 63° 29' N. 01° 09' E.

(F.O.S. 031709A to Admty.) My 031013. At your discretion continue operation "Crux" until sunrise 5th Jan. when you may expect recall. Nothing is known here of any trouble ashore.

(F.O.S. 031727A to SEANYMPH.) Negative patrol. My P.C. and S. at 1800, 040° ? (corrupt group), 004° 53' E. 230° 10. Proceeding Lerwick by reverse route. (SEADOG 031802A to Capt. S.9.)

Operations "Hardtack" and "Manacle" abandoned for this dark period. (V.A.Dover 031103A to Admty. C.C.O. A.N.C.X.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 031103A and 031154.) (C. in C.Portsouth 031314A.)

/M/Vs...

3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

M/Vs  
attacked by  
ULA. De-  
fective  
torpedoes.

Report from ULA 1. 27th December, 1418. Convoy of three M/Vs two 8,000 tons, one 3000 tons escorted by two trawlers, P.C. and S. 059° 08' N. 005° 24' E. 305° 8 knots passing out of range. This convoy was preceded by B. and V.H.A. 138 A/C which circled Sudeles Fjord from 1215 until convoy had passed.

28th December, 1345. Attacked southbound three thousand ton unescorted M/V PAN OF BERGEN in same position, course 125° speed 8 knots range 2000 yards. Fired two torpedoes. First torpedo missed probably ahead, second apparently failed to run. One explosion after 10½ minutes.

1st January, 0928. Attacked second ship of 2 laden northbound unescorted M/Vs of 8000 and 6000 tons in 59° 10' N. 05° 21' E. course 305° speed 9 knots. Range 1400 yards. Fired 3 torpedoes which apparently failed to run and did not explode.

2. In view of trouble with torpedoes and greatly worsening weather making Sudeles Fjord impracticable for keeping periscope-depth it was decided to abandon patrol.

3. No patrol vessels were sighted.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 031129A to F.O.S.)

Operation  
V.P.

Returned to base 1400A/2nd owing to engine trouble M.T.B. 653.  
2. M.T.B. 683, 666, 623 obliged to abandon operation at 1330A/2nd owing to very heavy weather. Force returned to Harbour 1130A today.  
(A.C.O.S. 031227A to Admty.)

Operation  
F.W.

My 011831 para. 1A. (See Special File.)  
Following is amended sailing dates. J.W.56A 12th January. J.W.56B 19th January.  
(C. in C.H.F. 031811A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U/B.

By D/F at 1026Z/3. Position of German U-Boat was approx. 66° 15' N. 12° E.  
(D.D.I.C. 031207A to SEANYMPH.)

Technical.

Radar  
Decoy  
Balloon.

Have recovered Radar decoy Balloon. Request same may be collected on arrival.  
(EDMUNDSTON 031045Z to Care. D.W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE  
HOUSMAN  
torpedoed.

Position 60.50 N. 22.07 W. Torpedoed. Taking to boats. Burnham on Sea Radio 0305 G.M.T.  
(EMPIRE HOUSMAN No T.O.O/3.)  
(A.C.I.C. 032117A to Admty.)  
Note. For full account see A.C.I.C. 060146A to Admty.)

3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- WORCESTER. Arrangements for towing on 4th January.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 030747A 031025.)  
(Cdre. Sheerness 031122A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
- L.C.H. 187 C.O. of L.C.H. 187 reports that last night the  
Sabotage. Pitch Control Motor was seriously damaged and  
attributes it to sabotage. Security Control  
Office is making full investigation this forenoon.  
(N.O.I.C. Tees 031251 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- OKINO. My 011149A. OKINO delayed owing to wire round  
propeller.  
2. Weather permitting intend to sail OKINO in tow  
of H.M.T. HEYBURNE WYKE at 1030A/5th to anchor for  
night in Lowestoft Roads (or Yarmouth Roads) for onward passage  
to Humber.  
3. Starboard bilge keel of OKINO is turned back for a distance of  
approx. 3 feet.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 031737A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.218. Sailed KINGCUP to overtake O.N.218.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 030005A to C. in C.W.A.)
- Stragglers. EL ORIENTE returned from O.N.217, leaking condensers  
EMPIRE DUCHESS returned from O.N.U.218, ballast  
shifted. EMPIRE MOORHEN returned from O.N.3.26,  
engine trouble.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 031338A to C. in C.W.A.)
- STRIKER. Request you will arrange for STRIKER to transfer  
from K.M.S. 37/O.S.63 to M.K.S.35/S.L.144 when  
convoys pass.  
(C. in C.W.A. 031507A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- B.1. Ships addressed will temporarily form B.1 support  
group. S.O. WOODPECKER. 2. They will be required  
to sail for operations on January 6th. 3.  
GLENARM will be ordered to join the group at sea.  
(C. in C.W.A. 031611A to WOODPECKER, GLENARM,  
WANDERER, WATCHMAN.)



War Diary.3.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.T.G.61.9  
6 L.C.Is.

Your 01140/. Detach T.G.61.9 as convenient after crossing 35 degs. W. to proceed through position A.B.37 degs. N. 30 degs. W. to Horta for onward routing to U.K.  
(D.O.D.(H), 030011A to C.T.F. 61, Info: Cinclant, Cominch, C.E.S.F., F.O.G.M.A., Comnavu, S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C. Western Approaches.)  
/ Circulated under T.O.O.011552.

T.G.61.9 consisting of 6 L.C.Is, onward route from Horta. CD 46 degs. N. 20 degs. W. CE 49 degs. 40 N. 10 degs. 00 W. Destination Dartmouth.  
(D.O.D.(H), 031143A to S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Lant, Cominch, F.O.G.M.A., N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, Comnavu.)

This is a re-encypherment of C.T.F.61's 031345. T.G.61.9 left Shublin in L.C.I.490 with L.C.I.487 to 492 inclusive left U.G.S. 28 031300Z at PF plus 5 miles E. on course 049 degs. through AB 37 N. 30 W. speed 15.4 thence to Horta to report to S.B.N.O. for onward instructions. Weather.  
(Radio Wash. 031605Z to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., S.B.N.O. Horta.)

MALCOLM  
U/B attacked.

MALCOIM obtained Radar contact followed by good sound contact in 33.57 N. 08.19 W. at 2050Z/02. Asdic showed definite doppler effect and normal movement. Two Hedgehog attacks made followed by (?two) pattern depth charge attack.

Results negative. A/C and T.F.66 continuing search. Evaluation probable.

(MALCOLM, 030358Z, C.M.S.F. 031005 to Cominch, (R) Admty. F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med., Comnavaw, U.S.S. GENERAL ANDERSON)

D'ESTIENNE  
D'ORVES.

Sailed 031000A for Gib. to rejoin S.L.144.  
(C.M.S.F. 031053A to F.O.C.Gib.)

Arrangements  
for introduc-  
tion of 114  
Liberator  
Squadron to  
Azores.

A.845. 3rd Jan. Ref my A 840 31 Dec. (N.T. in W.D.) now understand from Capt Hughes that first 6 searchlight Liberators and crews will not be available fully equipped and trained till 31 Jan. Balance of Squadron about 10 Feb. It is obviously no use bringing in A/C without lights or crews without adequate training so I have agreed that we must retain Wellington detachment accordingly.  
(H.Q.C.C. 031115Z to 247 Group, (R) A.M.W.Admty. 19 Group. SSS)

GENERAL A.E.  
ANDERSON.

Arrangements for sailing from Casablanca to Cape Henry.  
(C.M.S.F. 031123A, 031334A, 031357A, 031538A, 031457A)

German /...

3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- German Survivors of Destroyer Action. My 300217 Dec. Destroyers returned about 0800/2nd with 4 survivors in state of collapse. Embassy demanding internment. (Asst. B.N.A. Madrid, 031147A to Admty. (R) F.O.G.M.A.)
- COTILLION. Your 021749. Temporary repairs should be taken in hand Ponta Delgada. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 031202Z to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) F.O.G.M.A., Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon, COTILLION.) Will COTILLION be operational by 15th January. (D.O.D.(H), 031251A to S.B.N.O. Azores)
- LUCULUS. Your 021901 LUCULUS (N.T. in W.R.) should be sailed to join the next G.U.S. convoy, R/V position will be signalled later. (F.O.G.M.A. 031242A to S.B.N.O. Azores)
- SS. APOLO (Spanish) Your 201805 December Spanish APOLO ship and crew thoroughly searched including turnover of bunkers. (2) (3) Mail passed to Censor. Petty smuggling discovered. (4) Much useful information obtained and it is obvious that news of recent interception is having good effect. (5) Ship released. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 031528A to Admty.)
- Group A. ISIS, S.O., INGLEFIELD, URCHIN, BRILLIANT, ANTHONY, ACTIVE. R/V in 035 degs. 21' 010 degs. 25' at 0800A/5th. (2) When Med. destroyers have joined RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, VALIANT and escort are to part company as requisite to pass BB 20 miles west Spartel at 1830A/5th. From BB proceed at maximum speed of escorting frigates to Gib. (3) Remainder Group A escorted by Med. destroyers are to manoeuvre as necessary to pass Europa Point at 0300A/6th then manoeuvre south 036 degs. N. as necessary to R/V in CC 036 degs. 01' 004 degs. 17' at 0800A/6th where ISIS, ACTIVE, ANTONY and BRILLIANT part company and return Gib., INGLEFIELD, URCHIN continue to Malta. (F.O.G.M.A. 031550A to Group A (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)
- STOIC. Departures. Departed to K.M.S.36. (F.O.G.M.A. 031937A)
- LUGANO. My 281415 SS LUGANO leaves about 6th. (D.E.W.D. 031940A, to F.O.G.M.A. Info: C. in C. Med.)

Tankers /...

# SECRET

State of  
Horta Harbour

48A

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased 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.)

031845/January.

POSTAGRAM

SECRET

IN

DATE 17.1.44  
RECD 17.7

From Senior British Naval Officer, Azores.

Addressed Admiralty Repeated F.O. G.M.A., S.B.M.O. Horta.

The following report on conditions in the harbour at Horta is forwarded for information:-

- (a) The harbour is usually overcrowded especially as the area allocated to the cruiser and oiler takes up more than one third of the deep water. On one day one cruiser and eight destroyers had to be handled, on another fifteen ships of different classes arrived to be oiled, fuelled, and some repaired. It is pointed out that when destroyers stay any length of time they have to be topped up before sailing, thus fuelling twice.
  - (b) The remaining area is not safe for medium sized ships unless special moorings are prepared.
  - (c) The boom defence as now laid has very much impeded the handling of ships in harbour especially in strong winds and in the dark hours.
  - (d) The holding ground is very bad.
  - (e) The scend inside the harbour allows only very small vessels to lie alongside the breakwater unless special arrangements are made for securing them more safely.
  - (f) There are so many anchors and cables laid indiscriminately in the harbour that delays are constantly occurring through foul anchors.
  - (g) The worst of the weather is yet to come.
2. It is therefore requested that arrangements may be made to supply the undermentioned equipment as soon as possible:-
- (1) Two buoys - one for mooring three destroyers and the other for mooring cruisers.
  - (2) Three mooring bridles comprising two of two fathoms of 2 1/4" and one of three fathoms of 2 3/8"
  - (3) Three mooring swivels comprising two of 3 1/4" and one of 3 3/8"
  - (4) Twenty-three joining shackles of 2 3/4"
  - (5) Two hundred and fifty-five fathoms of mooring cable of 2 1/8"
  - (6) One hundred and thirty-five fathoms of mooring cable of 2 1/4"
  - (7) Six anchors being four of at least 3 tons and two of at least 4 tons
  - (8) Six lengths of 6" coir each with 2 1/2" wire pendant attached (length of coir 60 fathoms. Length of pendant 6 fathoms)

It is pointed out that the cables and anchors shipped in S.S. CAPE CLEAR are at present in use for the mooring of S.S. EMPIRE GARDEN and as stern moorings for the cruiser.

031845.

	1st Lord.	D.T.D.(C)	M.F.(L)	
	1st S.L.(2)	M.(2)	P.P.O.	
	D.F.S.L	D. of P.(3)	Hydrog (2)	
	3rd S.L.	D. of P.(Q)(2) for action.	I.P.(3)	
	Vice Contr.	Ad.Blake.(4)	W.D.	
	4th S.L	D.57 O.B.	Dep.Contr.(3)	}
	V.C.N.S.	D.B.D.(2)	D.(4)	
	A.C.N.S.(H)	D.A/S.W.	D.A/S.M.(2)	} Bath by
DF	A.C.N.S.(F)	D.A/U.D.	D.T.M.(2)	
A40.	A.C.N.S.(L)(2)	D.A/S.M.	C.E. in C.	
	A.C.N.S.(W)	D.N.I.(5)	P.Br.	
	A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)	D.M.S.	S.W.R.	
	N.A.I.S.L.	D.M.S.Citadel.		
	U.W.R.	D. of N.		
	O.D.(5)	D. of L.D.(3)		
	Ops.(2)	D. of S.(3)		
	Flot.	D.T.M.(2).		
	D.T.D.(4).	D. of S.T.(15)		

3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Tankers for M.K.S./K.M.S. Convoys. Tankers SCOTTISH AMERICAN and SAN TIRSO are to sail from Gib. in each alternate M.K.S. convoy in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 311723A/Dec. (D.T.D.032040A to F.O.G.M.A. Info: Cdre. (D) W.A. Capt. (D) Greenock. A.S. Gib. C. in C. W.A.)

U/B attacked by A/C. U/B previously reported 060 degs. 12 knots 36 degs. (702') N. 07 degs. 19' W. 2204. Have attacked U/B with depth charge. Lost touch with U/B not in contact with L.612. (A/C H. 032345 to 19 Group)

South Atlantic.

Operation "Woodcutter" With a view to interception and destruction of U/B approaching Cape Area from South Atlantic intend carrying out operation "Woodcutter" commencing at 0500Z/4th and ceasing 1700Z/6th. Forces taking part are LEWES, 4 Royal Navy A/S trawlers and 2 South African Naval Force minesweeping trawlers. Venturas and Catalinas will carry out continuous patrol of area between 037 degs. S. and 041 degs. S. and between 018 degs. 20' E. and 020 degs. 00' E. during the operation. (C. in C. S.A. 030831C to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.) F.O.E.A., Cominch, Durban.)

U/B menace, proposed routeing and Convoys. One submarine unfixed may be southwest of Cape-town bound eastward by plotting she could reach Durban area by 10th Jan. and be south of Madagascar 4 days later. (2) Propose therefore Kilindini to Durban convoys should be resumed forthwith. (3) Request your views on routeing from Durban to India and north assuming U-Boat should remain unfixed. (C. in C. S.A. 031249C to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.)

MONTE NARANCO. A/C sighted vessel believed to be ERMLAND in 002 degs. 38' N. 028 degs. 49' W. at 2001Z course and speed 043 degs. 11 knots. No reply to challenges. My P.C.S. 003 degs. 00' N. 028 degs. 47' W. 145 degs. 17 knots endeavouring to obtain

Radar contact. If no contact obtained intend altering course to 325 degs. 13 knots at 2230Z. (CORFU, 032101Z)

Note: This signal has been passed to Cominch and B.A.D. by W.R. Vessel investigated. Spanish MONTE NARANCO. My 032101 refers. (CORFU, 032240A)

War Diary.3.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.UPROAR,  
ARETHUSE.  
Enemy  
convoy.Convoy 3 ships, 2 destroyers passed 43° 15' 06°  
58' westbound, speed 5 knots at 0500/3rd.  
(P.31 (UPROAR) 030810 to ARETHUSE (R) Capt. (S)  
10, C. in C. Med.)Daily  
movement  
summary  
for Admty.

In order to keep Admiralty informed of movements in Mediterranean of Corvettes and above and of convoys request you will divide the Daily Movement Summary into 2 portions, one Secret Code or Cypher affecting Corvettes and above and convoys and the remainder Confidential. The Secret part and any amendments thereto are to be repeated to Admty. As far as F.O.G.M.A. is concerned this ruling applies only to area GA and XA.  
(C. in C. Med. 030950A to R.A.L., V.A. Malta, F.O.W.It., F.O.G.M.A. F.O. Tunisia (R) Admty., F.O.T.A.L.I., F.O.L.E.M.)

HAZARD,  
SHARPSHOOTER.

Para.2 of your 031454 (N.T. in W.D.) Dec. Am unable to concur 2. Owing to shortage of escorts for through convoys it is necessary to employ 2 minesweepers in the 46th and 49th escort groups. It is intended to employ HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER for this duty as being less severe on their hulls than minesweeping. 3. Owing to recent losses the arrival of the 3 remaining ships of 19th M/S.F. will improve only the minesweeping position and will not enable HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER to be released.

(C. in C. Med. 031055A to Admty. (R) Capt. M/S. Med. M.S.17.)

M.M.S.

4 M.M.S. in your 311420 Dec. Will be a welcome temporary addition to Mediterranean M/S. forces.  
(C. in C. Med. 031117 to Admty.)BOXER,  
BRUISER,  
THRUSTER.

C. in C.E.F. 310456 BOXER, BRUISER and THRUSTER are urgently required in Western Med. C. in C. Med. is requested to indicate destination and latest date of arrival which is acceptable.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 031142A to F.O. L.&E.M. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A. Cmdre. Aden.)

A.M. 031142. BOXER, BRUISER and THRUSTER are required at Naples not later than 17th.

(C. in C. Med. 031841 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. R.A., N.O.I.C., Aden, F.O.W.It., S.O.Force 'P' Com. 8th Phib., F.O.E.M., C. in C. E.F.)

TORBAY.

Leave patrol pm. 3rd to arrive at 035° 39' 028° 01' at 0201/4th thence through 034° 18' 031° 29' to arrive Beirut 1602/5th. 2. UNRULY and KASO (sic) may be sighted about 1700/4th.  
(Capt. (S) 1 031213B to TORBAY (R) SIBYL, F.O. E.M.)

X.I.F.7.

Port Said section sailed 1444B/3rd.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 031611B.)

War Diary.3.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

LARGS BAY. Damaged by two underwater explosions. Vessel now in harbour. Forepeak and Number 1 hold flooded. Diver considers both damaged. Temporary repairs estimated minimum ten days. Dry docking in Med. port essential. Casualties all U.S. Military. Seven dead, 25 stretcher, 60 minor numbers approx. (S.T.L.O. Naples 031730 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Med.)

T.T.Bs. "D" type M.T.Bs. and M.G.B. Flotillas have been re-organized to suit operational requirements. M.G.B. Details. Flotillas. (C. in C. Med. 031742A to Med. Station 435B. (R) Admty.)

NORWICH CITY, S/M. in 24.20 N. 36.15. E. U/B. (NORWICH CITY No T.O.O./3.)

RAMILLIES. Cancel A.M. 251621 (N.T. in W.D.) Dec. 2. L.S.Ts. not now returning as intended. 3. RAMILLIES should, therefore, be sailed to U.K. escorted by six Western Approaches escorts. A.M. 191200 (N.T. in W.D.) December para. 2 refers. 4. No objection to opportunity being taken to include any returning transports of suitable speed. D. of S.T. is making a separate signal to P.S.T.O.'s. (D.O.D. (F) 031944A to C. in C. Med., F.O.L.E.M., Info. F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.W.A.)

G.N., Technical. G.S. Mines. (F.O.L.E.M. 032007B.)

1st Battle Squadron. C. in C. Med's 011251 onward route 358 0330/10th 353 0650/10th 350, 346, 341, 511, 17 (? 10) 10th 329, 322, 508 0740/11th 502, 310, 1340/11th 40 miles N. 306 40 miles S. 300 0100/12th 032° 13' N. 032° 45" E. 0400/12th to Port Said. (2) Speed 45 16 knots to 511 then 14 knots. (3) Times B. (B) Fighter and A/S protection by day from own resources. (C) 201 Group requested to arrange night A/S. protection. (D) 201 Group and Air H.Q. Aden requested to arrange fighter protection from 30' before sunset till dark and until arrival possibly at night. (5) R/T silence in force in spite of passage of Force A. (F.O.L.E.M. 032037B to F.O. 1st Battle Squadron (R) C. in C. Med., Group A. Admty., V.A. Malta, Aden, Group 209, S.N.O. Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Aden, N.O.I.C. Suez, C. in C.E.F., N. and A.A. Western Desert, N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

3.1.1943.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

15th C.S. Intend to proceed in SPARTAN with PENELOPE in company to Algiers leaving Gib. 1500/5th routed direct. S. of A. 23 knots, E.T.A. 0830/6th. 2. PENELOPE will be detaching a.m. 6th to Malta. (route). 3. V.A. Malta is requested to sail PENELOPE to Taranto when ready. F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to sail ORION to Malta on relief by PENELOPE. 4. Subsequently C.S.15 will proceed in SPARTAN to Malta where Flag will be transferred to H.M.S. ORION on her arrival from Taranto. (F.O. 15th C.S. 032057A to C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., V.A. Malta, F.O.T.A.L.I., SPARTAN, PENELOPE (R) 15th C.S. N. and A.A. Algiers to Bizerta. N. and A.A. Bone to Sousse. Negative N.O.I.C.Sousse)

Levant report. SPORTSMAN from Aegean patrol reports 0950 Dec. 21st 100 ton Caique sunk by gunfire off Cape Irene and at 1130/23rd fired 3 torpedoes at 5000 ton M/V in 39° 44.5' N. 25° 16' E. One hit ship considered sunk. 2. SICKLE from Aegean patrol reports p.m. Dec. 21st hunted for four hours without damage by 2 destroyers off Karlovassi Samos. About 2100/26th sank by gunfire two small caiques between Mykoni and Nikaria. 3. A/C. mined Khalkis last night. (FOLEM 032131B.)

SIBYL. Proceed with all despatch to patrol North Eastern approach to Doro Channel. (2) Report forthwith number of torpedoes expended. (3) You will be recalled to arrive Tunis 12th Jan. (Capt. (S) 1 032136B to SIBYL (R) 1st S/M.F., F.O.L.E.M.)  
Your 032136B acknowledged. No target sighted. (SIBYL 032327B to Capt. S.I. (R) C. in C. Levant.)



3.1.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- JABOKO  
adrift.                      Barge JABOKO adrift 008° 26' N. 078° 31' E. at 0030Z/3.  
(HESPERIA 030230 to C. in C.E.F.)  
Message 030230Z from this ship.  
(HESPERIA 030325Z. to Adm. Colombo.)
- SS. ROBERT  
F.HOKE.                      0500Z. P.C. and S. 016° 06' N. 053° 10' E. 234, 3 R.F.HOKE originally torpedoed (2 corrupt groups). After end flooded. Engine room flooded to water level. EMPIRE BOMBARDIER (19 groups missing) she found no trace of code books and no communique of crew. Consider under present weather conditions every possibility of ships reaching Aden. Intend to keep close inshore. It is suggested that all ships be instructed to keep tunnel only closed.  
(LULWORTH 030400Z to Cdre. Aden.)  
P.C. and S. 15° 43' N. 52° 47' E. 236 3½ MASTERFUL now towing, situation of HOKE unchanged. EMPIRE BOMBARDIER proceeding E.T.A. Aden 5th.  
(LULWORTH 031400Z to Cdre. Aden, (R) C. in C.E.F.)
- TORNUS  
torpedoed  
31st Dec.                      Arrival KUMAON escorting SS. TORNUS.  
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 030406Z to C. in C.E.F.)  
A. TORNUS. B. 019° 45' N. 059° 10' E. 1422Z/31st Dec. C. S/M. D. Torpedoed bottom blown out forward of bridge. E. One certain, one possible hit aft but did not explode. F. No casualties.  
G. S/M fired 3 shells, no hits. H. Main Radio set put out of order first 3333 sent in boats radio main set repaired about 6½ hours later and 3333 again made and various other signals reporting position. I. Arrived Karachi.  
(N.C.S.O.Karachi 030637Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. S.O.I. Colombo, S.O.I. Bombay, C. in C. Aden, S.O.I. Kilindini, S.B.N.O.P.G.)
- BENTON FIELD  
S report.                      Following received 3333 from CF4XI (BENTON FIELD) 09.26 N. 34.67 E. submarine - KK rest unreadable.  
(TABIAN 030415 to Bombay W/T.)
- U/B dis-  
position.                      Ref. 0345Z/2nd. Area B. SS. ANTAR reports sighting S/M in 021° 14' N. 061° 07' E. at 0240Z/3rd. Scale of air escort Y other areas no change.  
(C. in C.E.F. 030427, 030429Z.)
- SS. ANTAR  
S report.                      3333 Position 21° 14' N. 61° 07' E. sighted submarine 0240 G.M.T. MB4NN (ANTAR).  
(Colombo W/T No T.O.O/3 recd. 030433.)

3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

- J.C.31. Vizagapatam portion of J.C.31 arrived, escorted by BATHURST, BARODA.  
(N.C.S.O.Vizagapatam 030501Z.)
- C.J.11A. Escort LISMORE.  
(N.C.S.O.Trincomalee 030515Z.)
- SS. ALBERT  
GALLATIN  
sunk. Bisley aircraft reports sighting unknown vessel torpedoed in 021° 28' N. 060° 20' E. which subsequently blew up and sank at 0645Z/2nd in 021° 20' N. 060° 05' E. Survivors reported rescued by unknown tanker.  
(C. in C.E.F. 030544Z to S. and A. E. Indies Stn. Admty. C. in C.S.At. Stn. (Simonstown) 246 Wing, Air Hqs. E.A.222 Group, Air H.Qs. Aden.)
- B.M.80. Arrived Convoy B.M.80 Colombo portion escorted by LAUNCESTON, CAIRNS.  
(N.C.S.O.Colombo 030630Z.)
- ALSEY. Intend to sail ALSEY on 10th Jan. in M.B.61 to Bombay for onward routeing to U.K. A.M. 262002 June '43, refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 031110 to Admty.)
- Situation reports. Details of Situation Reports which will be sent daily.  
(C. in C.E.F. 031136Z, 031149Z to Admty.)
- U/B. Following has been read from call signs 4YDS and 4MJV, submarine sighted surface East Jahar Zugar Island at 0815.  
(Colombo No T.O.O/3rd recd. 031137 to Admty.)  
W.R.Note: Call signs cannot be decoded by W.R.
- PATROLLER. Request intentions for PATROLLER after disembarkation of aircraft at Cochin.  
(C. in C.E.F. 031207Z to Admty.)
- F.B.66D. Escort HIRAVATI.  
(N.C.S.O.Hormuz 031240Z.)
- M.N.1D. Escort SONDRA.  
(N.C.S.O.Kilindini 031401Z to Admty.)

3.1.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

S.E.A.F.O.G. Request clarification and purport of your 181203  
System. Dec. received in Admiralty headed "Sea Fog System".  
2. Attention is invited to Misc. 528 and 527 grid-  
ded charts which have been distributed to Major  
War Vessels on East Indies Station. Distribution  
could be extended to Minor War Vessels if required.  
3. Charts are designed for reporting positions within 1° squares  
in maximum of 2 groups of code/cypher. Positions to minutes of  
latitude and longitude can be indicated as in your para. 8.  
(D.T.D. 031733A to C. in C.E.F.)

H.C.20. Escort NARBADA, ROHILKHAND.  
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 031937Z to Admty.)

M.A.22. Escort LAHORE not N.U.  
(N.C.S.O. Madras 032241Z to Admty.)

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3.1.1944.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Attacks  
on U/B's.

This is C.T.G. 21.15's 022348.  
GOLDSBOROUGH attacked Sub. with guns Lat. 44  
Long. 18.10 022325. KEARNY Depth-charged sub-  
merged U/B got evidence damage 1048. Planes  
(from CORE. W.D.) mined submerged U/B effectively  
1910. Both near 45 N. 18 W. All times Z.  
(Comnavcu, 030101 to Admty.)

LEVI WOODBURY.  
"S" Report.

Following received 0714 G.M.T.  
SSSS de KDFN submarine torpedoed 35.00 N.  
67.00 W. Now abandoning ship unread G.M.T. de  
WSL.

(Lands End Radio, 030816A)

SSSS. Submarine torpedoed lat. 35.00 N. Long 67.00 W. de WSL.  
(LEVI WOODBURY) via Freetown W/T No.T.O.O./3 Recd. 030834)

U/B.

Submarine sighted 6 009 degs. 10' N. 060 degs.  
25' W. at 1100 G.M.T.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 031255R to Admty.)

U/B  
Search.

SWANSEA obtained R.D.F. contact range 4200 yards  
at 022319 in 046 degs. 34' N. 046 degs. 16' W.  
contact lost at 2334 at 900 yards classified S/M.  
At 2341 under water explosion heard believed to  
be torpedo. Have thoroughly searched area for  
12 hours no results. Now sweeping North East from that  
position. Fuel report. ST. LAURENT 87%, SWANSEA 58.8%.  
COLUMBIA 65%, NIAGARA 60% MONTREAL 58%. ST. LAURENT obtained  
H/F D/F bearing of U/B transmitting A.W.W. message bearing 030  
degs. or reciprocal at 0037 on 5100 K/cs 3rd class.  
(ST. LAURENT, 031340Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.WA.)  
Escort attacked by S/M at 022319Z in 046 degs. 34' N. 046  
degs. 16' W.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 031850Z to G.B.7A)

GOODALL,  
AYLMER.

- (1) When ready about 1630Z/3rd sail with despatch  
from Argentia to overtake group B.2 escorting  
H.X.273.
- (2) Estimated position H.X. 273 1200Z/4th 044 degs  
45' N. 047 degs. 21' W. 098 degs. 9.5 knots.
- (3) Upon effecting junction place yourselves under orders  
S.O. B.2 in HESPERUS and continue as additional escort H.X. 273  
to U.K.  
(F.O.N.F. 031423Z to GOODALL, AYLMEER)

PRINCE HENRY.

Your 302210 Dec. not to other addressees.  
PRINCE HENRY ready to leave Esquimalt 7th is to  
sailed via Panama Canal to U.K.  
(2) Cominch has been informed of destination  
Admiralty and will arrange onward routing Admiralty's 251708  
Dec. and N.S.H.Q.'s 282151 Dec. refer.  
(N.S.H.Q. 031430Z to C.O.P.C.)

PIQUE /...

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3.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.PIQUE,  
PERSIAN.(1) Request PIQUE be sailed Argentinia p.m. today coastwise to St. Johns to arrive a.m. 4th.  
(2) Intend sailing PIQUE and PERSIAN in company to U.K. probably p.m. 5th. Further signal will be made.(3) C. in C. C.N.A. 300159 and 022103 refer.  
(F.O.N.F. 031458Z to Capt.(D) Argentinia, C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty. C. in C. W.A., C.E.S.F., Cominch, C.T.F.24.)S/M  
Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 031500Z, Cominch, 031630Z)

SEARCHER.

Your 011717 which has been passed to C. in C. W.A. and F.O.C.T. It is important that SEARCHER should reach U.K. by the end of Jan.

Failing this it may be necessary for SEARCHER to be sailed to Gibraltar to arrive by the end of the first week in February.

(2) Request you will arrange escorts accordingly.  
(D.O.D.(H), 031613A to B.A.D. Info: S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.T.)O.N.217.  
HANNIBAL  
HAMLIN.

SORREL reports (Begins) At 030531Z chasing suspicious Radar contact believed to be enemy sub on the surface in 053 degs. 38' N. 043 degs. 50' W. course 250 degs. speed 9 knots. Considered doubtful.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 031640Z to Ships escorting O.N. 217)

My 031640 SORREL now reports contact verified as Merchant Ship HANNIBAL HAMLIN straggling from O.N.217.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 032210Z to Ships escorting O.N.217)

ADHERANT,  
TENACITY.

Request ADHERANT, who has been on station for nine months may be substituted for TENACITY your 021538, refers.

(F.O.N.F. 031844Z to Admty.)

/ Sailing TENACITY to U.K.

Sub.attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

(A) U.S.S. KEARNY and GREENE attacked Subs. vicinity 44.50 N. 20.10 W. 2124Z/31.

(B) U.S.S. PAUL JONES and BARKER sub. contact 44.44 N. 21.03 W. 1625Z/1.

(D) P.B.M. Radar Contact 33.34 N. 74.20 W. 1725Z/31.

(Cominch, 012030Z to Admty.)

(A) German blockade runner WESSELERLAND en route Japan to Germany sunk by U.S.S. SOMERS 030030 area 14.55 S. 21.39 W. 134 P.W.s including ten officers rescued. Unidentified ship (SS. LEVI WOODBURY. W.D.) torpedoed 35 N. 67 W. 030658. U.S.S. GOLDSBOROUGH attacks sub. 44 N. 18 W. 022325. A/C attacks sub. approx. 45 N. 18 W. 021910. All times Z.

(B) /...

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2.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Sub.attack and sighting summary. (Contd.) (B) U.S.S. KEARNY attacks sub. approx. 45 N. 18 W. 021048. (D) S.C.1348 (?) attacks sound contact and torpedo wake 14.31 N. 81.47 W. 030000. (Cominch, 032152 to Admty.)

STEADFAST. Departed Bermuda for Argentina. (S.B.N.O. W.At. 032142Z)

O.N.217. (1) Westomp 046 degs. 28' N. 050 degs. 39' W. at 1200Z/5th when you will be relieved by group W.2 MULGRAVE (S.O) SHERBROOKE, VILLE DE QUEBEC. (2) Upon relief C.5 proceed St. Johns N.F. negative KOOTWAY who is to proceed direct Argentina for docking. (3) "Chop" 1200Z/4th. (F.O.N.F.032158 to S.E.O.N.217) As amended F.O.N.F. 040115Z.

B.E.C.5. Has sailed from Bermuda. (S.B.N.O. W.A. 032305Z)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.713 Jan. 2nd. (4) Further details Saidor landing indicate that following preliminary destroyer bombardment moderate force U.S. Army troops landed 3 beaches shortly after dawn without meeting shore opposition nor air naval re-action. Our aircraft laid smoke screen but minimum five Squadron Mitchells scheduled to attack shore positions simultaneously with landing were unable to locate targets due heavy rainstorm in progress. Substantial fighter air protection made nil enemy contacts. Co-ordinated with later landing phase 53 Liberators followed by 39 Bostons dropped approx. 116 tons of 500 pounds bombs on enemy coastal positions either side beachheads. Bostons also strafed. By afternoon Saidor ? airfield occupied. (10) Allied Sub.chaser contacted possible submarine early hours 3 miles off Southeast coast Huon Peninsula while A/C saw another after daybreak 17 miles North of Sio. (13) Afternoon 1st possible submarine seen 15 miles off Gasmata by Vengeances. (15) Our M.T.B's sank 2 enemy barges Southbound off Vincke Point night 1st. (18) U.S. carrier based R/C plane sighted 2 heavy cruisers, 2

heavy /...

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2.1.1944.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No.713  
Jan. 2nd.  
(Contd.)

heavy cruisers, 2 destroyers about to enter Kavieng morning 1st. Attack launched and 1 cruiser hit by 2 1600 pounder armour piercing bombs, 2 other 1000 pounders at least one torpedo. Other received one 1600 pound and one 1000 armour piercing plus minimum 2 torpedoes. Both ships left burning believed sunk or beached. One destroyer thought sunk, other badly damaged from bombs and strafing. Enemy force may be that reported Digest 711 Para. 17 having later reversed course 20 to 30 Zeros intercepted attacking (?force) and 11 destroyed plus 4 probably. In addition 1 Jap. bomber, 1 fighter searching for Task Force shot down. 2 Allied fighters, 1 bomber lost. (22) Allied M.T.B.'s aided by Catalina contacted 28 or more barges small craft to Southeast coast Bougainville night 1st/2nd. Previous night similar craft drove 2 barges with light surface escort up river same area.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 030830Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 031425A, 031426A)

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.attack  
and  
sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/3rd.

Para. A. (1) Br. EMPIRE HOUSMAN previously torpedoed on 30th/31st again torpedoed and abandoned ship at 0305/3 in 60 degs. 50' N. 22 degs. 07' W.  
(2) Wellington F/304 attacked U/B on surface at 2306/2 in 45 degs. 55' N. 07 degs. 55' W.  
(3) Liberator C/224 attacked U/B at 2315/2 in 46 degs. 39' N. 09 degs. 44' W.  
(4) Liberator G/224 sighted U/B at 2040/2 in 46 degs. 46' N. 09 degs. 27' W. Co.090 degs.  
(5) Wellington L/Azores reported U/B at 0445/3 in 45 degs. 15' N. 18 degs. 28' W.  
(6) Ru. Icebreaker LENIN torpedoed and sunk E. of Novaya Zemlya early Oct. 1943 (see also para. C) Cancelled by A.M. 0711242 Jan.1944. Ref. A.M. 021130Z Para. A.4.  
Halifax A/58 attacked U/B on surface at 0150/2 in 45 degs. 31' N. 07 degs. 30' W.

Para. B /...

3.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub.attack and sighting for 24 hours to 0900Z/3rd. (Contd.)

Para. B. (1) MALCOLM attacked U/B contact at 2150/2 in 33 degs. 57' N. 08 degs. 10' W.  
(2) U.S. A/C reported U/B at 0635/31 in 24 degs. 55' N. 61 degs. 20 E.  
(3) British SS. ANTAR made SSSS at 0240/3 in 21 degs. 14' N. 61 degs. 07' E.

Para. C. (1) Br. SS. BENTON FIELD made SSSS prior to 0415/3 in 09 degs. 26' N. 64 degs. 00' E. (longitude may be 67 degs. 00' E.)  
(2) Three Russian freighters, possibly ARCHANGEL, PETROWSKI and SERGEI KIROV reported torpedoed and sunk E. of Novaya Zemlya early Oct. 1943.  
(D.D.I.C. 031220A, 091329A)



4.1.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.V.

1. At 1812 today HAIDA attacked a U-Boat about 320 miles E. by S. of Jan Mayen Island. Nothing further is known.

One enemy  
M/V sunk by  
SEADOG on  
2nd January.

2. (a). The S/M SEADOG reports today that at 021150 while on patrol off Stadtlandet she fired three torpedoes at a northbound convoy of three loaded M/Vs. of 2000 to 3500 tons, and that, on returning to periscope-depth at 1202, only two of the M/Vs. could be seen.

(b). At noon on the 28th December in the same position SEADOG had also fired six torpedoes at an 8000 ton M/V in another larger northbound convoy with unobserved results.

Escort and  
Support  
Groups.

3. (a). About 19 escort vessels in the Western Approaches Command are to be paid off and relieved by new construction early this year. A message from C. in C.W.A. today gives particulars and also states the principles which C. in C.W.A. intends to adopt in reforming the groups.

(b). When reforming the Escort and Support Groups to operate with the Atlantic Convoys, C. in C.W.A. intends that nine Escort Groups should consist of four Destroyers and/or Frigates and five Corvettes each, and that Support Groups should consist of six ships apiece.

Operation  
"Stonewall".

4. (a). Three U-Boats were sighted by A/C today in the Biscay area about 240 miles west of St. Nazaire. One appeared to be disabled, and two were attacked with depth-charges.

(b). HIMALAYA having been seen at Brest on the 1st January, Admiralty consider today that there is no longer any evidence of the recent departure of a Blockade-runner from France.

Air attack  
on Kiel.

5. 446 Fortresses and Liberators, accompanied by Lightnings and Mustangs attacked Kiel Harbour this morning.

4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Operation  
"Woodcutter".

6.(a). With a view to the interception and destruction of a U-Boat which is believed to be approaching the Cape area from the south Atlantic (see 5th January para. (b).) Operation "Woodcutter" commenced at 0500Z today and continued until 1700Z/6.

(b). Forces taking part are the aircraft target ship LEWES, 4 Royal Navy A/3 trawlers and 2 South African Naval Force M/3 trawlers. Aircraft co-operated.

(c). The operation was without result.

RIO GRANDE  
sunk.

7. The U.S. cruiser OMAHA and U.S. destroyer JOUETT sank the blockade runner RIO GRANDE at 1126 today in 06.41 S. 25.36 W. (about 630 miles west by north of Ascension Island.) The enemy ship was northbound with a cargo consisting principally of rubber.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

8. The destroyers JERVIS and JANUS carried out a sweep last night off the east coast of Italy between San Benedetto (42.57 N. 13.55 E.) and Pesaro (43.55 N. 12.55 E.) about 30 miles northwest of Ancona, and bombarded Pesaro successfully. No enemy shipping was seen.

East Indies.

9. The submarines STONEHENGE and TRUCULENT arrived at Aden today from the U.K. via the Mediterranean, to join the Eastern Fleet.

10. EMPIRE MINOTAUR reported a periscope at 0900Z today off Bombay.

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4.1.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

11. The U.S. tanker McCLELLAN CREEK reported at 1026 P today that she had sighted and was attacking a U-Boat in 33.20 N. 69.45 W.

Australia & New Zealand.

12. Nine Dutch Mitchells bombed shipping at Kupang today with effect, though precise details are not known. Five Liberators made a hit and near misses on a small destroyer or corvette off Kupang.

13.(a). A patrolling Liberator early this morning made a hit on a light cruiser seen with 4 cargo vessels off Kavieng, New Ireland.

Destroyer  
Sunk off  
New Ireland.

(b). This morning carrier based aircraft attacked two destroyers in South Western Strait, off the coast of New Ireland and obtained hits with bombs and torpedoes. One destroyer is believed to have been sunk and one probably sunk. The aircraft shot down 7 enemy fighters, one floatplane and two bombers for loss of one fighter.

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4.1.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Home Fleet Operational Control. Whilst Fleet Flagship is at Rosyth between 6th and 24th Jan. the operational control of the Fleet will be transferred to V.A.2.  
 (2) All signals affecting current operations or urgent local matters at Scapa should include both C. in C. H.F. and V.A.2 in address. V.A.2 will take necessary action.  
 (3) Routine administration of Fleet will continue from Fleet Flagship.  
 (5) These arrangements will come into force 2100/5th.  
 (C. in C. H.F. 041831A to Admty.)

KERLOGUE. In view of perishable cargo on board and of your 031815 KERLOGUE should be released.  
 A.M. 030140 refers.  
 (Head of M.I. 041923A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

DEWDALE, ENNERDALE. DEWDALE and ENNERDALE are required for service abroad leaving U.K. during February.  
 (D.C.O.D. 042041A to F.O.L.S.U., F.O. Force S.)

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK. My 011303 and 021244. Amend time of passing Hoxa Gate to read 2230A/5th. Times of passing Beamer Rock will be 1100A/6th.  
 (C. in C. H.F. 042056A to DUKE OF YORK)

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall". U/B on surface, position 47 degs. 00' N. 06 degs. 46' W. apparently disabled.  
 (A/C R.G.M.B. 040620 to 19 Group)  
 (3) A.M. 251721 December. HIMALAYA seen at Brest on 1st January therefore no longer any evidence of departure of blockade-runner from France.  
 (4) Cancel para. 2 of A.M. 231208 December.  
 (D.D.I.C. 041800A to A.I.G.13.)  
 Am over 1 enemy submarine in 16.55 N. (?46.55 N. intended)  
 07.22 W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 045 degs. speed 10 knots.  
 (A/C NSXY, 041907A to 19 Group)  
 U/B previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U/B with depth-charge, estimate (?2) hits and U/B has dived, position 46.54 N. 07.39 W. Mark dropped.  
 (A/C SNXY, 041907A to 19 Group)  
 Am over 1 enemy submarine in 16.04 N. (?46.04 N. intended)  
 07.24 W. (Position uncertain.)  
 (A/C Y.58, 041910 to 19 Group)  
 Am over 1 enemy submarine in 46.40 N. 09.20 W.  
 (A/C TPZM, 041934A to 19 Group)

U/B /...

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4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall" (Contd.) U/B previously reported was on surface. Lost touch with U/B. U/B has dived 46.38 N. 09.12 W. (A/C TPZM 042005 to 19 Group)  
Have obtained A.S.V. contact, probably a S/M in 47.03 N. 05.35 W. (A/C JSGX, 042014 to 19 Group)  
Am over 1 enemy S/M in 46.40 N. 05.00 W. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 090 degs. speed 10 knots. (A/C JSGX, 042015 to 19 Group)  
Have attacked U/B with depth-charges. U/B on surface course 090. (A/C JSGX, 042030 to 19 Group)  
Lost touch with U/B last seen 46.32 N. 05.25 W. (A/C JSGX, 042110A to 19 Group)  
Course and speed unknown. (A/C TPZM, 042113 to 19 Group)  
Attack abandoned. (A/C WOTB to 19 Group, No T.O.O. T.O.R. 042227)

Operation <sup>from</sup> "Scalloway". Intend to sail S/M Chaser, Operation <sup>from</sup> "Scalloway".  
(1) a.m. 4th January or first possible day thereafter.  
(2) 062 degs. 25' N. 005 degs. 45' E.  
(3) RAMROSE, SARAWAK. (4) 2.  
(5) 046 degs. Sumburg Head. (6) No.  
(A.C.O.S.041042A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. S/Ms are to leave patrol for Lerwick as follows.  
(1) SYRTIS at 1600A/5th January by route Orange.  
(2) SCEPTRE as convenient to pass through 064 degs 05' N. 003 degs. 45' E. at 0100A/6th thence by route Orange to arrive a.m./7th.  
(3) SEANYMPH as convenient to pass through 065 degs. 30' N. 005 degs. 45' E. at 2300A/6th, thence by route Orange to arrive Lerwick p.m. 7th.  
(4) For information SPITEFUL is on patrol westward and northward midway between position 062 degs. 10' N. 002 degs. 40' E. length 40 miles, direction of 070 degs. 250 degs.  
(5) SYRTIS leave patrol from 062 degs. 50' N. 002 degs. 30' E. SCEPTRE, SEA NYMPH are to proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. when 50 miles clear of Norwegian coast. SYRTIS diving by day when North of 062 degs.  
(Capt.(S) 9, 041145A and 041653A to S/M's)  
Positions of submarines at 0800A/5th and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) SEANYMPH on patrol vicinity 67 degs. N. 012 degs. E. leaving patrol p.m. 5th towards 65 degs. 30' N. 005 degs. 45' E.  
(B) SCEPTRE patrolling near 64 degs. 30' N. 010 degs. 05' E. leaving patrol probably on surface so as to pass through 64 degs 05' N. and 003 degs. 45' E. at 0100A/6th towards 62 degs N. 001 degs. E.  
(C) STRATAGEM patrol vicinity 65 degs. 20' N. 001 degs. 14' E.  
(D) TAKU patrol near 64 degs. 30' N. 000 degs. 55' E.  
(E) UNSWERVING vicinity 63 degs. 32' N. 001 degs. 03' E. on patrol.

4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M (F) SYRTIS patrolling 62 degs. 51' N. 002 degs. 28' E. leaving patrol at 1600A/5th through 62 degs. N. 001 degs. E. to Lerwick, dived by day when North of 62 degs. N.  
(G.) SPITEFUL 62 degs. 08' N. 002 degs. 49' E. (F.O.S. 041714A to Admty.)

Following is forecast of S/M patrols. S/Ms are to be sailed to conform without further signal.

S/Ms.	Leave Lerwick.	Return Lerwick.	Patrol.
(A) VENTURER	11th Jan.	25th Jan.	K 5 (western limit) extended to 003 degs. 00' E. eastern limit 004 degs. 30' E.
(B) TELEMACHUS	12th Jan.	26th Jan.	H.H.
(C) SEANYMPH	16th Jan.	30th Jan.	Bodo area.
(D) STUBBORN	16th Jan.	30th Jan.	Kya area.
(E) SEADOG	19th Jan.	2nd Feb.	Skudesnes area.
(F) SPIRIT	19th Jan.	2nd Feb.	F.F.
(G) SATYR	21st Jan.	4th Feb.	K.5 (Limited as in (A))
(H) O.15	21st Jan.	2nd Feb.	Statlandet area.
(J) SCEPTRE	23rd Jan.	6th Feb.	L.L.

(2) On return from present patrol (SEANYMPH) is to remain at Lerwick until required for para. 1 (C)  
(F.O.S. 042047A to Capt.s (S) 3, (S) 9.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (1) Orders for night 4th/5th January.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041405A)

Operation F.V. Am anchored to one mile North Bolshoi Oleni Is. Forenoon mission completed.  
(SCOURGE, 041430C to S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) SAUMAREZ)

Operation "Cruz" Cancel my 031727 and your instructions in Para.3 of Capt. (S) 9 041145. Fishing vessel reports she has waited off R/V for 3 days and today weather conditions were impossible and she has now returned to harbour.

(2) Fishing vessel is being instructed to return to R/V arriving before dark tomorrow and will remain until daylight 7th.

(3) At your discretion make further attempt on 5th and 6th January.

(4) Should there be no sign of fishing vessels by sunrise 7th January you may at your discretion land stores anywhere in vicinity during ensuing 24 hours carefully recording exact position. In this event agent is to be retained on board SEANYMPH.

(5) In any case leave R/V by sunrise 8th.

(6) Return by reverse of outward route and report final result of operation when clear of area.  
(F.O.S.042256A to SEANYMPH)

War Diary.4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Two  
Convoys and  
One  
Tanker  
attacked by  
SEADOG.  
One  
Enemy M/V.  
apparently  
sunk on  
2nd Jan.

## SEADOG reports.

(B) At 281200, P.C.S. of convoy of 3 ships 8000, 4000 and 2500 tons escorted by 1 minesweeper, 2 trawlers, and 1 unidentified aircraft 062 degs. 15' N. 005 degs. 09' E. 050 degs. 11 knots. Attacked largest ship with 6 torpedoes, range 2500 yards. 3 explosions at 1202 and interval corresponding with time of firing. 3 distant explosions at 1209 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 1210 $\frac{1}{4}$  and 1210 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Counter attack by 2 trawlers commencing at 1207 and continuing till about 1245. Approx. 40 depth-charges were dropped, 19 of which were thought to be (corrupt group) close.

(D) At 021150, P.C.S. of convoy of 3 loaded ships of between 2000 and 3500 tons with escort of 1 trawler and 1 Corvette type vessel 062 degs. 15' N. 005 degs. 05' E. 030 degs. 10 knots. Attacked from very broad track with 3 torpedoes, range 2900 yards. At 1152 $\frac{1}{2}$  one explosion. At 1158 $\frac{1}{2}$  distant explosion. At 1202 SEADOG, having gone deep, returned to periscope depth. 2 Merchant ships and two escorts were then plainly in sight the escort having apparently dropped back to investigate. Vague counter attack with two depth charges by ship with diesel H.E. about 1300. This ship appeared to be in contact for some minutes before.

(E) At 031140, P.C.S. of convoy of one 6,000 ton Tanker and one 4,000 ton Merchant ship escorted by one T.B.T. one to 19 Type and 4 trawlers, 062 degs. 16' N. 005 degs. 14' E. 275 degs, 2 knots. Attacked Tanker with 3 torpedoes which apparently ran under. Range 700 yards. On firing, tanker was seen to be in ballast. Escorts were dropping charges indiscriminately before and during attack. No definite counter-attack. (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 041715A to F.O.S.)

Exercises.

Force "S"  
Exercise.

A.M. 201917/Oct. Intend to carry out large-scale exercise in Moray Firth as far east as Meridian 3 degs. W. p.m. 10th to p.m. 11th Jan. The 4 days following are spare days. (F.O. Force "S" 041329A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Exercise  
"Duck".

Cancel my 250951A. December.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 041541)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy  
Vessels.

P.C.S. of enemy two medium Vessels, one Vessel 59.40 N. 05.35 E. 220 degs. 8 knots. (A/C JRTK 041136A to 18 Group)

Enemy  
Convoy.

P.C.S. of enemy, 3 Destroyers, one Tanker, one medium vessel, one Minesweeper 61.20 N. 05.04 E. 180 degs. 3 knots. (A/C JRTP 041143 to 18 Group)

Attacks /...

4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Attacks on U/B in Percussion Area. My 221059 July 1942.  
 (1) At. 0053/28/12 Wellington H/172 claims straddle on U-Boat in 43 degs. 57' N. 24 degs. 04' W. Results not observed owing to darkness.  
 (2) Wellington C/172 attacked U-Boat in 44 degs. 08' N. 22 degs. 20' W. at 0910/29/12. U-Boat seen to be stationary for 10 minutes after attack.  
 (3) In 44 degs. 45' N. 7 degs. 39' W. Halifax L/58 attacked one U-Boat at 1935/1/1, straddle claimed and U-Boat remained on surface for 40 minutes after attack.  
 (4) At 2255/1/1 Wellington L/172 claims straddle on U-Boat in 45 degs. 30' N. 19 degs. 20' W. U-Boat was still on surface half an hour later but at reduced speed.  
 (5) Wellington F/304 attacked inward bound U-Boat in 45 degs. 55' N. 7 degs. 55' W at 0012/3/1. Depth charges straddled and large explosion reported to have occurred five seconds after explosion of last depth-charge.  
 (6) At 0015/3/1 inward bound U-Boat was attacked by Liberator C/224 in 46 degs. 39' N. 9 degs. 44' W. Straddle claimed but no results observed owing to darkness.  
 (D.A.U.D. 041716Z to Cominch, Comnavu, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE HOUSMAN. A/C reports.  
 (R.A.F. Iceland, 040125A and 041820A to H.Q.C.C.)

WORCESTER. My 011045. Postponed further 24 hours owing to weather.  
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 041741A to C. in C. Nore.)

CYGNET. Sailed CYGNET for A/S exercise proceeding Greenock on completion. E.T.A. 0900/5th. CYGNET has found erosion of inlet ends of starboard condenser approx. 80 ferrules.  
 (WESTERN ISLES, 041101A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
 In view of defects you should arrive Greenock as soon as possible (C. in C. W.A. 041903A to CYGNET)

CAUVERY. CAUVERY reports that his ship requires docking on return to U.K. to examine stabilizer. A brackets and leaks in starboard diesel oil fuel tanks.  
 (E.G.4, 041603A to C. in C. W.A.)

PRINCE ROBERT. Intend PRINCE ROBERT to clean boilers commencing 5th to complete at 4 hours notice by 0800A/13th January.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 041736 to C. in C. W.A.)



4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Stragglers.

Stragglers Return Week 0915/4th January.  
O.N.217.

PEREGRINE WHITE	Insufficient Ballast. Heavy weather.
CAIRNESK	Heavy weather. Lost convoy.
CANADA	Heavy weather. S/S unmanageable being light.
ABIEL FOSTER	Heavy weather. Sprung Plating amidships. Hove to 12 hours.
ROGER GRISWOLD	Heavy weather. Ballast shifted. Lost Convoy.
WILLIAM M MEREDITH	Heavy weather. Hove to for 12 hours sprung plating amidships.
FERDINANDO GORGES	Light ship heavy weather unable to maintain speed.
GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN	Heavy weather. Sprung amidships.
S.L.142	
EMPIRE SWALE	Insufficient fuel to proceed to Loch Ewe.
O.S.63/K.M.S.37.	
BELNOR	Cracked Cylinder line.
EMPIRE THACKERY	Boiler trouble and weather.
L.S.T.35	Heavy weather. Excessive pounding
U.C.9.	
EL ORIENTE	Heavy weather. Unable to maintain speed. Leaking Condensor.
O.N.213.	
EMPIRE DUCHESS	Heavy weather. Unable to maintain speed.
EMPIRE W. SCRIPPS.	Heavy weather. Unable to maintain speed.
O.N.S.26	
EMPIRE MOORHEN	Auxiliary defects. Unable to maintain speed.
(N.C.S.O.Clyde, 040915A to Admty.)	

Escort and Support Groups.

My 222258 December to Admty. only.

- (1) It is intended to pay off and relieve by new construction certain ships in my command.
- (2) The principles which I intend to adopt in reforming the groups are as follows -
  - (a) Groups B 1 to B 7, 39 and 40 to consist of 4 destroyers and/or frigates and 5 corvettes apiece.
  - (b) Reliefs for ships in groups B.3 and 40 to be Maritime Frigates. The remaining close escort groups to contain both turbo-electric and diesel Captains.
  - (c) Support groups to consist of 6 ships apiece.
  - (d) 4 V/W's to relieve the 4 Esses in Group 21.
- (4) (2) Tentative arrangements for paying off and reliefs are as follows. Details.

(C. in C. W.A. 041108A to Admty.)

Reference A.L. M/O.D. 1373/43 of December 11th and my 041108. Following are tentative proposals for relief of one 3 destroyer Flotilla at Gibraltar and formation of 2 new support

groups /...

4.1.1944.

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

Escort and  
Support  
Groups.  
(Contd.)

groups in my Command.  
(A) Group 1 BULLEN, FITZROY, BYRON, CONN, GOODSON,  
KEMPTHORNE Ready 1st March.  
(B) 13 D.F. CRANTOUN, DEANE, EKINS, LAWSON,  
PASLEY N. HOSTE. Ready April 1st.  
(C) Group 5, CUBITT, CURZON, REDMILL, DAKINS,  
LORING, LOUIS, ready April 1st.  
(C. in C. W.A. 041111A to Admty)

K.X.13.

Admiralty 311315. My 012348.  
(1) Amend sailing date to January 7th.  
(2) Delete MEADOWSWEET.  
(C. in C. W.A. 041725A to F.O.I.C.Milford Haven)

O.N.218.

If convoy not threatened following movements are  
to take place at daybreak tomorrow.  
GLENARM to part company and return by reverse  
route of convoy at economical speed to R/V with  
remainder of B.1 E.G.  
(2) NENE, TWEED and WASKESIU if completed with fuel part company  
and proceed at economical speed toward 044 degs. N. 020 degs. W.  
If not completed with fuel remain with O.N.218 until fuelled and  
then proceed as above.  
(3) S.O. 6th E.G. to report action taken.  
(C. in C. W.A. 041756Z to NENE, TWEED, GLENARM, WASKESIU)

O.S.64/  
K.M.S.38.

On completion of defects p.m. tomorrow request  
you sail EDMUNDSTON, LUNENBURG, SNOWBERRY and  
CAMROSE to join and support O.S./64/K.M.S.38.  
(C. in C. W.A. 041757Z to Core. D. W.A.)

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4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary .FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- LUGANO. Leaves Marseilles about 6th for Gib.  
My 291112 Dec.  
(F.O.G.N.A., 040157A to 10th S.F., CASABIANCA,  
PROTEE, ARETHUSE (R) Capt.(S) 10th).
- STORM At 0230 4th one merchant ship illuminated as  
hospital ship P.C. and S 039 degs. 54' N. 010  
degs. 50' W. 345 degs. 14 knots.  
(P.233) STORM, 040307 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) K.14).
- GENERAL A.E. My 031457. Sailed 040845A local escort until  
ANDERSON. dark.  
(C.M.S.F. 040820Z to P.D. Norfolk).
- COTILLION Your 031251A+ No temporary repairs are being  
effected at Ponta Delgada allowing boiler  
pressure 120 pounds speed 6 knots. Further sig-  
nal will be made.  
(B.S.N.O. Azores, 040948 to Admty. (R) N.C.S.O.  
Ponta Delgada, C. in C.W.A., F.O.G.M.A.).  
+ Will COTILLION be operational by 15th Jan.
- 13th D.F. Six improved Captains class frigates would be  
welcomed suggest BRILLIANT and VANOC be remaining  
two destroyers of 13th D.F.  
(2) Shore supply can be obtained temporarily  
by borrowing 175 Kilowatt 400 volt three phase fifty cycle diesel  
generator which will develop 4500 volts but not sixty cycles.  
F.O.C. Gib. 151134 Oct.+(N.T. in W.D.) re supply of generators.  
(3) Twenty knot type not considered acceptable A.M. 011315 ↗  
refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 041215A to Admty., C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C.W.A.).  
+ Re provision of steam and electric power at Fleet Maintenance  
Bases.  
↗ Re intention to relieve 6 Destroyers of 13th D.F. with Captain  
Class Frigates.
- CONQUEROR A.M. 122255 Oct. (N.T. in W.D.). CONQUEROR  
unsuitable.  
(2) Following are estimated dates of arrival at  
Gib. and A/S vessels (ex B.E.Cs.):  
(a) A.M. 301130/Oct. (N.T. in W.D.) KILBIRNIE end January.  
KILBRIDE end Feb.  
(b) A.M. 301223/Oct. (N.T. in W.D.) KILMARNOCK (ex B.E.C.11)  
early March. Others at fortnightly intervals.  
(D.O.D.(F), 041315A to F.O.G.M.A. Info. C. in C. Med.).  
Re the re-arming of A/3 Yacht CONQUEROR being investigated with  
a view to her re-allocation to Gibraltar.
- BLACKFLY A.M. 221545/Dec.+ C. in C.W.A. 021153/Jan.↗ and  
031321/Jan ∅ (none to all addresses). Intend  
sailing BLACKFLY 1700Z/6th to Azores. Fighter  
protection.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 041659A to S.B.N.O. Azores.).  
+ M/S. ↗ Re dates of arrivals of COTILLION etc.  
↗ Re route for BLACKFLY, CAPE PALLISER and  
KINGSTON AGATE). /O.S.63...

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4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- O.S.63 Request you will relax R/T restrictions in O.S.63 as soon as you consider this prudent. C. in C.W.A. 080859/Nov. refers. (A.C.N.S.(H) 041725A to F.O.G.M.A. Info. C. in C. W.A.).
- CHANTICLEER To be paid off on <sup>(24pm)</sup> 22nd Nov. Radar equipment to be removed and utilised as base spares. A.M. 151405A Dec. refers. (A.C.N.S.(H), 041733A to S.B.N.O. Azores, B.N.A. Lisbon, S.B.N.O. Horta, F.O.G.M.A., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med.).
- Azores movements. ROXBOROUGH and N.S. ST. ALBANS sailed from Horta 041632Z. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 041937Z, F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic.

- PORTSDOWN, ALSACE. Arrival Pointe Noire 0700Z/4th PORTSDOWN escorting Cable Ship ALSACE. Proceeding 1000Z to repair cable to north of Pointe Noire. Probable duration 48 hours. (B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 040945A to N.O.I.C.W.Af.).
- CORFU, Narrows Patrol. Poor visibility, flying impracticable. Am proceeding to position Z. 005 degs. 00' N. 030 degs. 00' W. Thence 339 degs. 15 knots until visibility improves. Continuing patrol on this line. E.T.A. position Z. 1800Z. (CORFU, 041231Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., CILICIA).

Your 041231 return and maintain patrol line ordered in my 291229 Dec. not to CILICIA except for intercepting enemy. Your movement and break of wireless silence was unjustified (N.O.I.C.W.Af., 041653Z to CORFU, (R) Admty. CILICIA).

War Diary.4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Employment  
of Italian  
Battleships.

I visited the Italian Admiral today and told him a battleship was required for service. He assumed she would take part in the War and I did not disillusion him. He said there is little to choose between DUILIO and DORIA but as the former is Flagship he suggested DORIA.

2. Reply to para. 2 of your 011202\* will follow. (V.A.Malta 041001 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.T.A.L.I.)

\* Requesting one CAVOUR Class battleships be proposed.

RAMILLES  
special  
convoy.

W. R. to A.M. 031944A, please arrange in agreement with C. in C.Med. for maximum number of ships of over 15 knots from both Eastern and Western Med. which can be embarked to capacity in time with personnel for U.K. only to sail with this escort. (D.S.T. 041022A to P.S.T.O.M.E. P.S.T.O.Med. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.L.E.M.)

Force P.

Suez 4th arrival H.N.M.S. JACOB VAN HEEMSKERCK. (S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 041124B.)

X.I.F.7.

Escorts as in F.O.L.E.M's 312031 Dec. and C. in C.Med.'s 011049 Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) plus KANARIS until relieved by MIAOULES repairing. (R.A.Alex. 041137.)

ULTIMATUM.

Intend sailing from Malta at 1001A/7th for (?Sirte) to arrive 035° 49' 015° 06' DJ. 1358/7th thence proceeding independently on the surface to 034° 43' 020° 02' at 2001/8th thence diving by day to 034° 15' 025° 01' at 2010A/10th for onward routing to Beirut by Capt. S.l. S.O.A. 200 miles every 24 hours when on the surface during daylight and 120 miles every 24 hours when dived by day.

2. 201 Group is requested to arrange total and submerged bombing restrictions as requisite for above route.

(S.O. S/Ms. Malta 041214 to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta Capt. S.l.O, Capt. S.l, S.N.O.C. N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 201 N.C.Group, 212 Group, 235 Wing, 247 Wing, Fighter Sectors between Alex. and Benghazi, (R) Admty. R.A.Alex. F.O.G.M.A. 201 Group, 248 Wing, Cmdr. M/S ULTIMATUM.)

LE CURIE.

Gale warning from North West. Return to Maddalena with M.L. 576 if possible before dark otherwise shelter in Olbia. Acknowledge. (Capt. S.l.O, 041230 to P.67 (LE CURIE).)

/SICKLE...

4.1.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SICKLE  
defect.

Starboard forward main motor Armature in SICKLE is partially burnt out and must be renewed. Nearest spare Armature understood to be at Gib. but D.E.E. is requested to confirm.  
2. Propose SICKLE proceeds to Gib. for renewal of Armature there.  
(S.1 041246B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) D.E.E. F.O.S. C. in C.Med. S.C. S/Ms. Gib. F.O.G.M.A.)

Store carrier  
system.

Advocating reinstatement of Store Carrier System for transporting Admiralty cargo between U.K. and Mediterranean ports.  
3. Consider possible losses by enemy action to stores carried in one bottom preferable to the certain losses which now occur through present method of shipping and handling.  
(C. in C.Med. 041609.)

HOLCOMBE,  
TYNE DALE,  
sunk 12th  
Dec. 1943,  
Technical  
aspects of  
loss.

A.F.O. 3700/40\* HOLCOMBE and TYNE DALE both torpedoed and sunk 12th Dec. whilst hunting U-Boat. All fit survivors discharged to U.K. in SS. TRANTO in M.K.F.27.  
2. Loss of these two ships almost certainly due to attack by U/B using "Gnat" torpedoes.  
3. While the facts concerning the loss of these ships are clearly established an enquiry into the technical aspects in U.K. appears desirable.  
(C. in C.Med. 041701A to Admty.)  
\* Losses of H.M. Ships - Investigations.  
(N.L. 3467/40. 3.10.1940.)

PENN.

Rapidly losing lubricating oil. May have to stop the ship. Request tug may be sent forthwith or vessel with lubricating oil. Will remain on route ordered and go as far as possible.  
(PENN 041741A to F.O.E.M. (R) Capt. F. R.A.Alex.)

E.T.A. Tobruk 2200 tonight.  
(PENN 042009A to S.N.O. Cyrenaica, (R) F.O.E.M.)

UNSEEN.

At 2100 my P.C. and S. 041° 27' 008° 22' 260° 3½ knots. Intend regaining ordered route at 3 knots while diving tomorrow. Will make further signal when weather moderates.  
(P.51 (UNSEEN) 042108 to Capt. S.10, F.O.G.M.A.  
(R) 10th S/M F.)

JACOB VAN  
HEEMSKERCK.

Is to join your Command temporarily until her refit in U.K. can be arranged.  
(A.C.N.S. (F) 042310A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) F.O.L.E.M. V.A. Malta, F.O.G.M.A. B.D.Z. B.A.D.)

War Diary.

4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

HALLAREN  
safe conduct.

Swedish Government intimate that safe conduct vessel HALLAREN will sail from Piraeus at 1800 hours local time 10th for Venice by standard route. 4. Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned.  
(Hd. of M.I. 042344A to F.O.L.E.M. V.A.Malta, Info. C. in C.Med.)

War Diary.4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- K.15. Intend to sail D.S.K.15 0630Z/6th to comply with C.T.F.71's 271537. S.O.A. 8 knots.  
 2. S/M will reconnoitre Benkolen 15th thence proceeding along coast to patrol off Sunda Straits from 18th to 22nd Jan. Christmas Island, 25th Jan. and passing through position 015° 00' S. 109° 00' E. 1600/27th thence proceeding direct to Exmouth Gulf to arrive 2300Z/29th.  
 3. K.15 has been ordered to report her E.T.A. at Exmouth Gulf on crossing 015° 00' S. if it should differ by more than 2 hours from 2300Z/29th.  
 4. K.15 will shift from broadcast NU. to bells at 2300Z/13th. (S.O. S/M Colombo 040305Z to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) C.T.F.71, (R) Cmdr. 7th Fleet, Capt. S.4, F.O.C.W.Australia, B.S.O. A.C.N.B. Admty. M.C.A.)

Attack on U/B assessment. A.M. 091845 July 1942. A. E.F.22. B. 1712Z/10th Dec. 1943. C. KHYBER. D. 018° 33' N. 070° 49' E. E. I. F. Nil. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 040324Z to Admty.)

U/B disposition. Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No. 14. (C. in C.E.F. 040325Z.)

A.B. 26B. Escort TEVIOT, ASTER. (N.C.S.O.Aden 040417Z.)

A.N.D. fitted ships. Now that A.P. P.A. convoys have been reinstated instructions in my 290345 and 290347 are intended to apply to independently routed ships. (C. in C.E.F. 040557Z to Cmdr. i/c Aden, S.N.O. P.G. (R) Admty. N.C.I.C. Hormuz.)

ROBERT F. HOKE. 1. U.S. ROBERT F.HOKE was abandoned by her crew after being torpedoed on 28th Dec. Crew reached Mansira Island and came by U.S.Air Line to Aden.  
 2. R.F.HOKE was found derelict on 30th 20 miles east of Ras Madraka and first taken in tow by EMPIRE BOMBARDIER. On arrival of H.M.Tug MASTERFUL tow was transferred on 3rd January and EMPIRE BOMBARDIER proceeded on her voyage.  
 3. Intend to return ship to her Master on arrival at Aden on his signing a statement he resumes Command without prejudice to salvage claims.  
 4. Request instructions as to whether a claim for salvage should be entered on behalf of Admiralty.  
 5. All going well R.F.HOKE should reach Aden on 9th. (Com. Aden 040921Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)

B.P.105B. B.P.105B escorted by TRAVANCORE arrived at 1120Z. (N.C.S.O.Hormuz 041455Z.)

/Aden...



4.1.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Aden  
Movements.

Departures TEVIOT and ASTER in company.  
Arrivals STONEHENGE (P. 232), TRUCULENT (P. 315).  
(Com. Aden 041704Z.)

Landing  
Craft  
Force G.

Your 281206 Dec. and 290552 Dec.  
Request information may be signalled giving types  
and official numbers of Landing Craft embarked in  
landing ships of Force G. A.M. 171746 Nov.  
Landing Craft Message refers.  
(D.O.D.(F) 041938A to C. in C.E.F. Info. F.O.L.E.M.  
F.O. Force P.)

4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

ARETHUSA. Departed. My 292000Z Cape Henry 0005Z/4th.  
(P.D. Norfolk 040112.)

BARDALAND,  
JANARA. Swedish Government intimate safe conduct vessel  
BARDALAND will sail from Salonika at 0800/7th and  
that safe conduct vessel JANARA will sail from  
Piraeus at 0800/10th, both proceeding by standard  
routes to R/V in 34° 50.5' N. 26° 38' E. at 1100  
hours 11th, thence proceeding in company to St. Johns by standard  
route. Above are local times. Request you will inform air and  
other authorities concerned.  
(Hd. of M.I. 040329A to Connav, F.O.L.E.M., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Med.  
V.A. Malta, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.G.M.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O. West  
Med.)

CYRUS  
FIELD. Cable repairs effected. Escorting CYRUS FIELD to  
042° 06' N. 068° 20' W. thence 274° to Cape Cod.  
(BAYFIELD 040331Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q.  
S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary. All times Z. This is N.S.H.Q.'s first attack and  
sighting summary since my 0503 of 14th Nov.  
Para.A. H.M.C. ship obtains Radar contact in  
46.34 N. 46.16 W. at 2319/2nd Jan. Contact lost  
2334. Underwater explosion, believed torpedo, at  
2341.  
(N.S.H.Q. 040454Z.)

U/B.  
sweep. Have swept area 044° W. to 047° W. 046° N. to 047°  
N. nothing to report. Am sweeping area N. of 047°  
N. P.C. and S. at 040730 047° 15' N. 046° 35' W.  
090° 12.  
(ST. LAURENT 040730Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.  
C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., MATANE.)

MCLELLAN  
CREEK.  
"S" Report. Following has been read:- KCWV SSSS 33.20 N.  
69.45 W. S/M. sighted, we attacking.  
(Halifax T.O.R. 041026P to Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

WARSPITE. Reply to B.A.M.R's 241954Z/Dec. re modernisation.  
(Controller 041215A).

Russian  
A.M. and  
S.C. Your 302149, A.M. 312115 Dec. and A.M. 312126 Dec.  
Owing to the necessity for planning onward passage  
of these vessels from U.K. to North Russia request  
you will report likely sailing date from Miami.  
(D.O.D. (H) 041228A to B.A.D. Info., C. in C.H.F.)

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4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

HALIFAX. Request HALIFAX may be detached from Group C.3 when operationally convenient to rejoin Group C.1 at sea.  
(F.O.N.F. 041333Z to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M. (N.S.H.Q. 041414Z, Cominch 041555Z.)  
Estimates.

TARBELL. Refer to this as 041132Z from U.S.S. TARBELL action C. in C. Lant. Departed for position 034° 34' N. 054° 22' W. 2230Z/3. Destination Horta. (Radio Washington 041600Z to Admty., N.O.I.C. Horta.)

KEATS. Upon completion availability about 6 Jan. sail KEATS Boston direct to Argentina for inclusion by C. in C. C.N.A. as additional escort to U.K. Advise routing instructions.  
(Cominch 041628 to C.E.S.F.)

ADHERENT. Your 031844. Concur if ADHERENT is considered ready to undertake immediate Atlantic Escort duty under C. in C.W.A. without refit. Request confirmation.  
(Capt. in Charge Rescue Tugs 041652A to F.O.N.F. Info., C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

Task Forces 122, 129, 120, 123. Ref. 101009 of Nov. from Comnavu assigned Task Force designation 122 to forces under Command Radm. Alan G. Kirk, U.S.N. S/M. Commands of C.T.F. 122 have been allocated the following additional task force numbers. Miscellaneous forces 129. Miscellaneous small groups operation directly under Com. 12th Fleet will be assigned to Task Force 120. Eleventh Amphibious Force 123.  
(Com. 12th Fleet 041736.)

Convoy O.N. 216. 26 ships arrived New York. First arrival 030004Z last arrival 041957Z. All accounted for.  
(P.D. New York 042054Z.)

RIO GRANDE sunk. S/M. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para.A. U.S.S. OMAHA and U.S.S. BOUETT sank unidentified Blockade runner. 0641 S. 25.36 W. 041126. Para.C. MACLELLAN CREEK reported sighting S/M. Area 33.20 N. 69.45 W. about 041230 probably friendly S/M. Para.D. Transient A/C. sights S/M. course 275 repeats course 275 0705 S.

00  
4.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

RIO GRANDE  
sunk.  
S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

24.35 W. 041205. Admiralty Pass to Commaveu  
and H.Q.C.C.  
(Cominch 042159.)

LORD  
KELVIN.

042210 arrival CARAQUET screening LORD KELVIN.  
(C.O.P. Halifax 042210Z.)

R.C.N. Frigate  
Group C.1.

Suggest consideration be given to allocating an  
R.C.N. Frigate converted as in para.2 of your  
191450 Oct. 43 to C.1 Group. In order to provide  
ship with suitable accommodation for S.O. Group  
when ASSINIBOINE proceeds to refit.  
(F.O.N.F. 042232 to C. in C. C.N.S. (R) Admty.,  
N.S.H.Q.)

PICUDA.

Amend my 041559. (N.T. in W.D.) PICUDA in bad  
weather reports 041900 position 032° 40' N. 069°  
45' W. course (?182°) (?detached). Speed 5 knots.  
(Commander U.S. Fleet 042243 to All Commands  
concerned with S/M. reports in Atlantic between  
25° N. and 40° N. W. of 26° W. less Sea Frontier.)

H.X. 271.

Average speed 9.6 knots. Off Oversay at 1830Z/28  
December. All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 042325A.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 041349A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/4th.

Para.A. (1) H.M.C.S. SWANSEA obtained U/B. contact  
at 2319/2 in 46° 34' N. 46° 16' W. (2) A/C. L/612  
attacked U/B. with depth-charges, course 285° at  
1930/3 in 46° 13' N. 06° 58' W. (3) A/C. H.224  
attacked U/B. with depth-charges, course 060° at  
2105/3 in 46° 02' N. 07° 38' W. (4) A/C. B/304  
sighted U/B. apparently disabled at 0520/4 in 47°  
00' N. 06° 40' W. (5) A/C. B/304 sighted U/B. on  
surface course 040° at 0505/4 in 46° 57' N. 06° 50' W. Para.B.  
(1) A/C. sighted unknown vessel apparently torpedoed at 0645/2  
in 21° 28' N. 60° 20' E. Para.D. (1) U/B sighted on surface at  
0815/3 in 14° 00' N. 42° 50' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 041021Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

5.1.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
"Stonewall"

1. (a). In view of the improved situation in the Biscay area since 28th December the Admiralty have today approved C. in C.H.F.'s suggestion of the 3rd January that the destroyers in the Force to be stationed at Plymouth for Operation "Stonewall" should be reduced in number from eight to five.

(b). ATHABASKAN and ASHANTI are to join the Plymouth Force shortly from Scapa; and IROQUOIS, HAIDA and HURON on about the 10th January.

(c). C. in C.W.A. intends NENE, TWEED and WASKESIU of E.G.6 to operate against U-Boats in the Bay of Biscay from tomorrow to the westward of 020° W.

2. 215 heavy bombers of the 8th U.S. Air Force out of 520 despatched attacked Kiel today. Ten are missing. Between 34 and 40 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

3. Bomber Command aircraft laid 84 mines off Biscay ports last night.

North Atlantic.

Atlantic  
A/S Opera-  
tions.

4. In order to avoid possible duplication of effort and to prevent embarrassing British forces engaged in A/S operations should operations require it to proceed east of 20° W. Cominch has directed C. in C.Lant as a normal practice to confine C.V.E. operations when eastward of the Azores to the area south of 40° N.

South Atlantic.

SS. BURGENLAND  
sunk.

5. (a). C.T.F. 41 (U.S. cruiser OMAHA and U.S. destroyer JOUETT) at 1955Z today intercepted a blockade runner subsequently identified as SS. BURGENLAND in 07.29 S. 25.37 W. (about 640 miles north west of Ascension Island.) The ship set fire to and scuttled herself, and was shelled and

/sunk...

War Diary.5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.SS. BURGENLAND sunk by the U.S. Ships.  
sunk.

(Contd.)

(b). All likely blockade runners from the Far East other than tankers are now accounted for.

Mediterranean.

Mersa Matruh. 6. The Naval Base at Mersa Matruh was closed down today and naval facilities will no longer exist at the port.

Adriatic. 7. An attempted landing by the Germans on Hvar Island off the coast of Yugoslavia, today failed on account of adverse weather.

East Indies.

Convoys.

8.(a). To meet the present U-Boat threat on the south coast of Arabia the Persian Gulf to Aden and beyond convoys (P.A/A.P.) are being reinstated today; ships for these convoys have been held since 1st January.

(b). One submarine unfixed may be south west of Capetown bound eastward. She could reach the Durban area by 10th January and be south of Madagascar four days later. Accordingly, on 3rd Jan. C. in C.S.A. proposed to C. in C.E.F. that the Kilindini to Durban convoys (K.D/D.K.) should be resumed forthwith.

U/Bs off  
coasts of  
Arabia and  
India.

9.(a). SS. SAMARINDA, Hobart for Bombay, reported sighting a submarine at 0651 G.M.T. in 13.37 N. 57.34 E.

(b). The small tanker TARENTUM, Abadan for Khor Kuwai and Colombo, reported sighting a submarine in 10.00 N. 75.50 E. at 1500Z today. The tanker escaped.

MOST SECRET.

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5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. A U.S.Navy Catalina sank a small freighter at dawn today, 25 miles north of Madang.

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Destroyers for Force at Plymouth. Your 031813+ para.2. Approved. (A.C.N.S.H., 051719A to C. in C.H.F.). + Most Secret.

Operations.

Operation "F.W." J.W.56A.  
 (1) Cancel my 301452 December.  
 (2) Close escort CYGNET S.O., INCONSTANT, DIANELLA, POPPY.  
 (3) Local escort WALLFLOWER, BORAGE.  
 (4) (A) CYGNET, INCONSTANT are to arrive Loch Ewe before dark 11th and are to come under orders of C. in C.H.F. on arrival.  
 (B) DIANELLA, POPPY are to sail from Londonderry, a.m. 12th to overtake convoy as ordered by C. in C.H.F.  
 (C) WALLFLOWER, BORAGE are at Loch Ewe.  
 (C. in C.W.A., 050048A to C. in C.H.F., C.S.1.).  
 Following is Operation "F.W." Object, passage of convoy J.W.56A, J.W.56B, R.A.56A, R.A.56B to and from North Russia.  
 (2) D day is day J.W.56A sails from Loch Ewe and will be 12th January unless otherwise ordered. J.W.56B sails on day plus 7.  
 (3) Routes are being signalled separately. Enemy information is being sent S.O. of certain forces only.  
 (4) Forces taking part.  
 (A) Local escort for all convoys. 2 escorts from W.A. and 2 of M.S.F.18th.  
 (B) Through escort for J.W. and R.A.56A, CYGNET (S.O.), INCONSTANT, DIANELLA, POPPY.  
 (C) Through escort for J.W. and R.A.56B. 4 escorts detailed by C. in C.W.A.  
 (D) M/S of M/S Flotilla first as follows. SEAGULL with J.W.56B HALCYON and HUSSAR with R.A.56A and B respectively.  
 (E) Destroyer escort J.W. and R.A.56A. HARDY (Captain D.26) VENUS, VIGILANT, VIRAGO, OBDURATE, OFFA, SAVAGE, STORD.  
 (F) Destroyer escort J.W. and R.A.56B, MILNE, (Captain D.3.), MATCHLESS, MUSKETEER, METEOR, MAHRATTA, OPPORTUNE, SCOURGE.  
 (G) Cruiser cover force. Force 1 F.O.C. 1st C.S. in KENT, BERWICK, BERMUDA.  
 (H) Russian local escort as arranged by S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
 5. Preliminary movements. S.O. concerned are to order preliminary movements as follows. N.O.I.C. Aultbea has asked that escort should arrive in daylight at Loch Ewe if possible. Reference para. (4) above.  
 (A) Local escort for J.W. convoy to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. day minus 1 and day plus 6. Local escort for R.A. convoy to arrive (?corrupt group) Faeroes not less than 24 hours before convoy are due to pass Faeroes.  
 (B) And (C) to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. today minus 1 and day plus 6.  
 (D) As ordered R.A.D. and S.B.N.O. North Russia.  
 (E) And (F) S.O. attend conference at Loch Ewe D day and day plus 7, then to Seidisfiord independently. Remaining destroyers to arrive Seidisfiord p.m. day plus 2 and day plus 9.  
 (G) C.S.1 in KENT to attend conference at Loch Ewe D day, then to return Scapa.  
 6. Conduct of operations.  
 (A) J.W. 56 A and B are to sail p.m. D day and day plus 7

/respectively...



War Diary

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "F.W." (Contd.) respectively escorted by the through and local escort.  
Route Red unless otherwise ordered. All ships are capable of 10 knots.  
(B) Destroyers escort are to join J.W. convoy in approx. longitude 008 degs. W. when local escort are to leave. After leaving and when in latitude Seidisfiord S.O. Local Escort is to report P.C.S. of convoy addressed Home Fleet Operational and Prefixed Immediate, Note: In order to assist J.W. convoy in making land fall off Vestrahorn S.O. Destroyer escort are to send 2 destroyers to meet convoy in the vicinity of position swept. After convoy has made its land fall these destroyers are to top up with fuel at Seidisfiord.  
(C) Local Escort for R.A. convoy are to join in approximate latitude 063 degs. N. when destroyer escort will leave.  
(D) Force 1 to proceed Scapa to cover J.W.56A between longitude 019 degs. E. and 032 degs. E., then returning Akureyri. Subject to further enemy information Force 1 is to remain at Akureyri until R.A.56B crosses latitude 070 degs. N. C.S.1 may order local movements in Iceland area as he desires.  
7. S.B.N.O. Polyarno is requested to sail R.A. convoy about 24 hours after arrival of each J.W., reporting expected T.O.S. as early as possible. Route "Blue" unless otherwise ordered.  
8. Routes of all convoys may be altered by signal. New position may be ordered with reference to lettered positions on the route - e.g. 40 miles 090 degs. from Position F.  
9. Movement on completion. Force 1 to return Scapa. Escort as ordered C. in C.W.A. and R.A.D.H.F.  
10. Communications. Details.  
(C) Convoy codewords J.W.56A "Polecat", J.W.56B "Gosling", R.A.56A "Baulk", R.A.56B "Tictac".  
(C. in C.H.F., 050701A to H.F.).

Operation "F.W." Routes. Route "Red".

- A. 000 degs. Butt of Lewis 15.
- B. 062 degs. 01' North 014 degs. 01' West.
- C. 064 degs. 01' North 014 degs. 50' West.
- D. 064 degs. 35' North 013 degs. 30' West.
- E. 064 degs. 53' North 013 degs. 18' West.
- F. 065 degs. 50' North 013 degs. 37' West.
- G. 071 degs. 08' North 000 degs. 01' East.
- H. 074 degs. 01' North 019 degs. 10' East.
- J. 074 degs. 01' North 034 degs. 30' East.
- K. 072 degs. 30' North 037 degs. 30' East.
- L. 070 degs. 25' North 037 degs. 30' East.

Route "Blue". Through position L, K to M,

- 073 degs. 22' North 032 degs. 40' East.
- N. 073 degs. 22' North 020 degs. 01' East.
- O. 070 degs. 28' North 003 degs. 10' East.
- P. 062 degs. 15' North 005 degs. 50' West.
- Q. 059 degs. 24' North 004 degs. 33' West.
- R. 058 degs. 56' North 005 degs. 28' West.

(C. in C. H.F. 051009A to H.F.).

Intend following movements for ships of first M/S Flot.

(A) J.W.56B, SEAGULL. (B) R.A.56A and B., HALCYON and HUSSAR respectively, HUSSAR to refit on arrival in U.K. (C) J.W.57 JASON and SALAMANDER. (D) R.A.57 SPEEDWELL and GLEANER.  
(C. in C.H.F. 051304A to Admty.).

/Intend...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "F.W." (Contd.). Intend sailing SAUMAREZ with SCOURGE in company 0530A/6th. Routed through position MU, thence as in R.A.10th C.S. 291043 Dec. S.O.A. 25 knots to GG, then 20 knots adjusted as necessary for an E.T.A. Scapa 0700A/9th. (S.B.NO. North Russia, 051705A to C. in C.H.F.).

Operation "Stonewall" My 041756Z. Intend that NENE, TWEED and WASKESIU shall operate against U-boats in Bay of Biscay from p.m. 6th being possibly joined later by remainder of 6th E.G. In order to avoid duplication of effort and accidental encounter during dark hours it is considered essential that separate area of operation should be laid down for this group and any U.S. escort carrier that may be operated in area.

(2) Propose therefore that 6th E.G. operate to Westward of 020 degs. W. and U.S. carrier to Eastward of 19½ degs. W. The Western area has been selected for 6th E.G. in order to facilitate air co-operation with Azores.

(C. in C.W.A., 050051A to Admty.).

C. in C.H.F. 031813 Para. A. ATHABASKAN delayed by defects will be sailed p.m. 8th.

(R.A.D., 051438A to C. in C. Plymouth).

C. in C.W.A. 050051A. Request you co-operate with these Naval Forces particularly at night within 60 miles R.F.43 degs. N. 22 degs. W. now declared A one Area. This co-operation should be on as large a scale as possible bearing in mind however that from approximate p.m. 9th January your convoy commitments will require you to maintain maximum day and night effort for three of four days.

(H.Q.C.C. 052000A to 247 Group).

Tunney Vessel position 47.58 N. 06.55 W. course 180 degs., speed 6 knots.

(A/C Duty 'P', 052135 to 19 Group).

Five unidentified ships. Alighted waiting for orders.

(A/C Duty 'G', 052140A to 19 Group).

Course 210 degs., 2000 tons.

(A/C Duty 'B', 052140A to 19 Group).

Position of enemy 46.42 N. 05.38 W.

(A/C Duty 'G' to 19 Group T.O.R. 052147).

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051326A). (C. in C. Portsmouth 051430A). (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 052048).

S/M. Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800A/6 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SEANYMPH on patrol vicinity 67 degs. N. 012 degs. E.

(B) STRATAGEM, TAKU, UNSWERVING, SPITEFUL

on patrol as in my 041714.

(C) SCEPTRE 63 degs. 05' N. 02 degs. 20' E, through 62 degs. 01' N. 001 degs. 00' E. for Lerwick probably on the surface 10 knots.

(D) SYRTIS vicinity Muckle Flugga from northeastward probably on the surface for Lerwick 10 knots.

(F.O.S. 051529 to Admty.).

/Operation...

War Diary5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation "Crux" Fishing Vessel expect to reach R/V position given in your operation order before dark 6th Jan. weather permitting. My 042256 and your 051530 refer.  
(F.O.S., 051919A to SEANYMPH).

Mining.

Rosyth Command. From 1st October to 31st December 1943, the following stranded and Drifting Mines have been dealt with in this Command. Details.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 051430 to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE HOUSMAN. My 032117. EMPIRE HOUSMAN is still afloat. EARNER and FUSILIER endeavouring to take her in tow. ELM is returning to Reykjavik with survivors.  
(A.C.I.C. 050053A to Admty.).

L.C.T.468 L.C.T.468 with no R/T or W/T, straggler from L.C.T. Flotilla, was last reported off Campbeltown proceeding Lamlash about 1430 Jan 4th has not arrived destination. May possibly be proceeding Oban. Report immediately if seen.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 051037A to AMETHYST, TOMPAZIS, CUTTY SARK).

SAMUEL MCINTYRE. Rammed, badly damaged, in Ailsacraig. Proceeding. No immediate danger.  
(SAMUEL MCINTYRE to ships No T.O.O. Recd.050637).  
No assistance required.  
(SAMUEL MCINTYRE to Ships No T.O.O. Recd.050839).

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.64/  
K.M.S.38  
Escorts. Sailed HELMSDALE, WINCHELSEA, VERITY, BURDOCK, IZALMA, BAYNTUN, ABELIA, ASPHODEL, CLOVER, STORMKING to join O.S.64. K.M.S.38 in accordance with N.C.S.O. Mersey 291135Z Dec. BURDOCK to comply with C. in C.W.A. 041004. SCARBOROUGH will not sail. VANOC delayed approx. 3 days with engine room defects. FOLEY 48 hours waiting new C.O. AVON delayed with engine room defects.  
(Cdre. D.W.A., 050015A to C. in C.W.A.).

B.1.,  
H.X.273. Sail WOODPECKER, S.O., WATCHMAN, WANDERER a.m. tomorrow to proceed towards 052 degs. 10' N. 025 degs. W. at economical speed. S.O. E.G. B.1. to arrange R/V with GLENARM.

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

B.1.  
H.X.273  
(Contd.)

(2) Intention is that Group will join and support H.X.273.  
(C. in C.W.A., 051538A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

K.M.F.28,  
TUSCAN.

N.O.I.C. Holyhead's 041405 (not to C. in C. Med.)  
TUSCAN is to be sailed to Mediterranean as additional escort for K.M.F.28 on the 15th Jan.  
(D.O.D.(H), 051635A to C. in C.W.A.).

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5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.RIO GRANDE  
sunk.Cominch reports U.S.S. OMAHA and U.S.S. JOUETT  
sank unidentified blockade runner 06.41 S. 25.36  
W. at 041126 this is in addition to WESPERLAND  
which was sunk 14.55 S. 21.39 W. at 030030.  
(C.M.S.F. 051102A.)German  
Survivors  
of destroyers  
sunk 28th  
Dec.My tel. 031210\*. Total number of Germans rescued  
is 4 who are lodged in Naval Hospital although  
not wounded. I have visited C. of N. Staff.  
Ferrol insisted men should be interned his reply  
being he could take no action but would inform  
Madrid of my visit.  
(Guyatt Coruna 051145A.)  
\* Arrival of Special Destroyer with German  
survivors.Bomb ex-  
plosions in  
STANHOPE and  
EMPIRE  
HEYWOOD.Ref. bomb explosions in SS. STANHOPE and SS.  
EMPIRE HEYWOOD reported by S.O. Escort Group B.3  
in his 011007Z Jan. Request any details available  
of markings of crates affected may be signalled  
soon as possible after ships reach port.  
(S.O.I. Gib. 051505A.)

ARETHUSA.

Request ARETHUSA be directed to Ponta Delgada.  
Cominch 231847 Dec. refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores 051615Z to F.O.G.M.A.)P.233  
(~~U.S.~~ S/M  
STORM.)From 1930 tonight proceed with all despatch I.S.O.I  
202 refers to Gibraltar by route already signalled.  
Total bombing restrictions arranged details later.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 051718A to P.233 Am. (S/M STORM,) (R)  
K.14.)Italian  
Warship  
survivors.About 450 survivors from Italian Warship now in  
Balearic Is. E.T.A. today Barcelona for internment  
in Madrid remainder 480 E.T.A. Jan. 8th. →  
(N.A. Madrid 051806A.)

GAETA.

Your 031225 GAETA ready for sea. Request infor-  
mation of arrival of tug at Huelva so that Min.  
of Marine may have escort ready. My 311346 Dec.  
refers.  
(A.B.N.A. Madrid 051831A to F.O.G.M.A. (R) C. in  
C. Med. F.O.T.A.L.I. Admty.)

STORM.

S/M P.233 (STORM) now proceeding at 13 knots to  
Gibraltar through positions given in para. 2 of  
my 051158. Estimated approaching Q.B.A. 87 from  
westward at 1000/6th.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 051848 to S. & A. in Area B. and in  
Atlantic N. of 35° N. and others concerned.)

War Diary.

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Blockade  
runner.

A.M. 052050A\* Transmission probably originated by  
blockade runner to the westward of Ascension.  
(D.D.I.C. 052314A to Adnty.)

\* Refers to D/F bearings taken at 1919Z/5.

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

DA RECCO MOCENIGO. MOCENIGO unable to continue to 260° owing to weather conditions. Am proceeding (7033°) 02' 020° 40' (?course and speed) 132° (?12) knots arriving new position 1200A. Present position 033° (35') (?034°) 00'.

(DA RECCO 050800A to C. in C. Levant, (R) V.A. Malta)  
Your 041732 acknowledged. Require enter Alexandria for fuel and water. E.T.A. 1300B/7th.  
(DA RECCO 051906B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) R.A. Alexandria.)

ARETHUSE. Your 042030 (N.T. in W.R.) Unless otherwise ordered by N.O.I.C. Algiers proceed to pass 042° 00' 005° 46' at 1200/5th, 040° 00' 006° 11' at 0800/6th thence by R/V in 036° 57' 003° 08' at 1200/7th. Proceed if possible submerged on 5th. Total bombing restrictions will be arranged.  
(Capt. S.10 050102A to ARETHUSE F.S. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med. 10th S/M F.)

PENN. My 050045B\*. Leaking tubes in port lubricating oil cooler. Expect to complete repairs and sail for Alex. p.m./5th.  
(PENN 050746B to (?F.O.L.E.M.) S.N.O. Cyrenaica, R.A. Alex. Capt. F. Levant Destroyers.)  
\* Leak suspected in oil cooler.

Force G. Arrivals 4th Jan. SOBIESKI, ASCANIA, DERBYSHIRE. Departures CIRCASSIA 0730/4th, WINCHESTER CASTLE 0736/4th, DERBYSHIRE 1230/4th, (2 groups missing) ASCANIA 0435/5th, SOBIESKI 0440/5th.  
(Suez 050849B.)

German Shipping. A. BACCHUS arrived Istanbul January 5th in transit for Aegean. B. SEEROSE, LUEHE not yet reported passing CANAKKALE (my 041215 refers.)  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 050925 to F.O.I.C. M.E.)

Air reports. Daily Opsum 252. 3/4th Jan. 2 Liberators (B.24) 2 Wellingtons mining Khalkis Harbour (Greece) 1 Wellington successfully laid 2 mines other aircraft returned due bad weather.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 050926Z.)  
Part 3 Air Cositintrep No. 178 3 Jan. 1944. 34 A.36s bombed the docks at Civitavecchia.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. Adv. No T.O.O/5.)

Demilitarisation of Italian battleships. The following action to implement para. 7 of your 041941 September was taken on arrival of Italian Battleships at Malta.  
2. All main and secondary armament locks and strikers were removed and placed on deposit with Naval Armament Supply Officer Malta.  
3. To enable ships to provide own A/A protection high angle armament was not demilitarised.

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Demilitarisation of Italian battleships. (Contd.) 4. Action in para. 2 is considered sufficient to ensure demilitarisation of main and secondary armament while ships are at Malta but as an added precaution propose landing all main and secondary armament cordite before leaving. (V.A.Malta 051101A to C. in C.Med.)

UNIVERSAL. Intend sailing P.57 (UNIVERSAL) at 1100/7 via QB. 301 thence submerged 643 043° 00' 007° 22' at 2000/8 to patrol in Zone SS. (Capt. S.10 051105 to C. in C.Med. (R) 10th S/M F. F.O.G.M.A. Cmdre. Algiers.)

CAMELIA<sup>L</sup> mined. B.N.A.Ankara reports Swedish relief ship CAMELIA<sup>L</sup> ? mined off Salonika a.m. Investigating further. (F.O.L.E.M. 051109B to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

DZIK, SIBYL. Following patrol positions to be assumed by dusk/ 6th P.52 (DZIK) close off Cape Eski Stambul, P.217 (SIBYL) close to position 039° 35' 036° 03', P.52 (DZIK) is not to proceed south of 039° 40'. (Capt. S.1st 051119B to P.52 (DZIK), P.217 (SIBYL) (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)

Q.E. VALIANT and ILLUSTRIOUS. Admiralty 311320A Dec. not to all addressees and 030300A Jan. Concur. Confirm Group A will provide their own day fighter and day A/S protection during passage through Med. except whilst in Tunisian War Channel. 2. Request fighter callsign and method of control be included in all fighter escort signals. In event of any confusion as regards callsign the callsign "Tinhat" fighter will be used. 3. It is intended to land on all carrier borne A/C at sunset and they will not be operated during dark hours. (V.A.1 051201A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.Os. i/c and N.Os. i/c N.Af. Oran to Tripoli, S.N.C.Cyrenaica, A.H.Q. A.D.E.M. 247 Wing, N.A.C. A.F. N.L.O. M.A.A.F. M.A.A.F. Admty. F.O.G.M.A. V.A.M. F.O.L.E.M. Cdre. Algiers, R.A.Alex. V.A.(A) G.P.A.)

CAUVERY. Request confirmation that CAUVERY now at Gibraltar is to proceed to Eastern Fleet para. 2 of A.M. 022240, refers. (C. in C.Med. 051551A to Admty.)

SEEROSE, LUEHE. My 051515C. SEEROSE and LUEHE entered Aegean 1215 G.M.T. Jan. 5th course south west between Lemnos and Tenedos. No escort observed. (S.O.I. Istanbul 051704C to F.O.I.C. E.Med. (R) Capt. S.1, D.N.I.)



War Diary.5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

<sup>L</sup>  
CAMELIA.  
<sup>A</sup> Your 051107 to B.N.A. Ankara (N.T. in W.D.)  
Lloyd's Agents Istanbul received tel. dated 3rd  
from Swedish Salvage Association Gothenburg stated  
Swedish Red Cross Vessel CAMELIA damaged by mine  
and beached Salonika Roadstead; exact time and position not known.  
Further information just received states hull and machinery ex-  
tensively damaged.  
(S.O.I) Istanbul 051805C to F.O.E.Med.)

Italian  
Ships in  
Spanish ports. Towage to Italian ports your 021601 is not con-  
sidered practicable congestion there is worse  
and ultimate prospects of repair less than at  
Gibraltar.  
2. Policy is to get these ships away from Spanish  
Ports. Request you will continue to accept this  
burden.  
(C. in C.Med. 051821A to F.O.G.M.A.)

ULTOR. Leaving patrol through 042° 37' 006° 47' at 0400/  
7th through Q.B.B. 301 to arrive Maddalena 1300/8.  
(Capt. S.10 051903 to ULTOR, (R) 10th 3/M F. C. in  
C.Med. Cdre. Algiers.)

Balkan  
Sitrep  
No. 50. 5. Air Ops. A. Bombing. 3 Jan. 24 B.25s attacked  
Split with excellent coverage of dock scoring one  
hit medium M/V starting eight fires, hits mar-  
shalling yards. 23 Kittyhawks Velauka Korcula  
Island strafing and damaging by near misses four  
schooners.  
(C. in C.M.E. 052000B.)

Force G. Orders for sailing BULOLO, GLENGYLE, WINCHESTER  
CASTLE, ASCANIA, DERBYSHIRE, SOBIESKI, CIRCASSIA,  
p.m. 7th to Naples. 6. Escorts TETCOTT, BEAUFORT,  
THEMISTOCLES, CRETE, CROOME.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 052045B.)

2 U/B. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 33.05 N. 21.15 E.  
(A/C GGFT 052150Z to H.Q. 201 Group.)  
Have lost touch with A.S.V. contact.  
(A/C GGFT 052316Z.)

Situation  
report No.  
263. During night 2nd/3rd Jan. destroyers carried out  
A/S patrol north west Vieste 041° 52' N. 016° 10'  
E. but without success. Coastal force operating  
between Split and Makaraska 043° 19' N. 017° 00'  
E. but saw nothing.  
2. JERVIS and JANUS swept Italian coast between  
San Benedetto 042° 57' N. 013° 55' E. and Pesaro 043° 55' N. 012°  
55' E. during night 3rd/4th Jan. Pesaro was successfully bom-  
barded but no shipping was seen.  
(C. in C.Med. 052222A.)

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5.1.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Opsum No. 661. 3 Jan. 2 Beaufighters communications Promemyingyan. 74 rivercraft damaged. 4 Jan. 4 Hurricanes targets Mayu and Kaladan Rivers. 1 large rivercraft damaged. 2 Hurricanes detailed attack launch Alethangyaw (Mayu). Target not located.

4th January, 3 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) escorted by 8 U.S. Lightnings (P.38) bombed and machine gunned construction works M.U. River bridge. Results excellent. Ships and box cars set on fire. Escort later saw 50 foot steam launch damaged 13 other river craft rolling stock and buildings.  
(H.Q.S.E.A.A.C. 050535Z.)

K.15. Dutch submarine K.15 delayed for about three days by defects. My 040305 refers. Further signal will be made.  
(S.O. 3/Ms. Colombo 050611Z to C. in C.E.F.  
(S.E.A.C.) C.T.F. 71.)

U/B sighting summary. 1 German not fixed since D/F of 29th Dec. is probably between long. 70° 00' E. and coast of India. No fix since D/F of 31st Dec. of Japanese U-Boat which may have visited Bombay area.  
Japanese U-Boat which sank SS. PESHAWUR and may possibly have been sighted 25th Dec. off Coconada not subsequently fixed and may have left patrol unless possibly the same as next unit mentioned.  
1 Japanese from D/F 31st Dec. and report by SS. SAMARINDA on 5th Jan. is probably bound towards Gulf of Aden.  
1 Japanese off Arabian coast in vicinity of Masira last reported by SS. ANTAR.  
(D.D.I.C. 051328A.)

Security of shipping, Durban to northward. The Admiralty have informed me that the present shipping situation justifies the acceptance of some risks to expedite the turn-round of shipping.

2. I do not consider that there is at present a sufficiently clear indication of a threat to shipping in the Southern Madagascar waters to justify the starting of Kilindini-Durban convoys and consider that ships should not be held for convoy until there is definite evidence of a U-Boat operating against shipping in this area. This will conform with policy now in force in North Indian Ocean.

3. Should such evidence be forthcoming I propose that the routing policy in my 260951 November be brought into force. Convoys in A.B. and E. only to be instituted if the U-Boat be known to be operating in the Western portion of the area.

4. Your 031249 refers.  
(C. in C.E.F. 051329Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. F.O.E.A. C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

U/B report by M/V TARENTUM. SSSS Submarine sighted 10.00 N. 75.50 E.  
(TARENTUM 051500Z to Colombo W/T.)

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War Diary.5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

ARETHUSA. Norfolk departed 3rd Jan. ARETHUSA for Aberdeen Clyde via Bermuda and Horta for fuel. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 050342Z)

U/B sighted by SS. SAMARINDA. 13 R 37 N. 57 R 34 E. Submarine sighted 0651 G.M.T. (SAMARINDA, No. T.O.O/5.)

SS. LEVI WOODBURY. Request time and date of sailing from New York of LEVI WOODBURY. No departure Merco received. (2) Ship using Secret Call KDFN reports torpedoed 35.00 N. 67.00 W. 0714 G.M.T./3. Your 032152 para.(A) refers. (D.T.D.051117Z to Connav.)

Biscay A/S Operations. Following received from C. in C. W.A. (Repetition of his 050051A see Home Commands). (2) Propose to approve dispositions in para.2. of above signal if you concur. (D.O.D.(H), 051119Z to Cominch)

M.V. URUGUAY. Will proceed unescorted from Capetown to U.S.A. (2) U.S. Authorities agree on this occasion only to the on carriage of passengers in excess of 250. (B.A.D. 051315Z)

PRINCE HENRY, PRINCE DAVID. Your 282151 December. H.M.C.S. PRINCE HENRY is to be sailed independently. (2) If necessary request you will make arrangements for H.M.C.S. PRINCE DAVID to be sailed to overtake convoy U.T.7. (D.O.D.(H), 051350A to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B estimate 1200Z/5. Three patrolling following areas from recent D.F's 60/00 32/00. 54/00 32/00. 47/00 32/00. No indications of change other areas. (Cominch, 051500)

U.G.S.29. Escort. (6) T.F.62. C.F. HUGHES, AMICK, ATHERTON, BOOTH, CARROLL, COONER, FDRIDGE, PILLSBURY, POPE, FLAHERTY, CHATELAIN, NEUNZER, NIOBRARA P.C.S. 552, 553, 1225. L.C.I.(L) 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502. T.G.21.12 GUADALCANAL, WHIPPLE, ALDEN, JOHN D. EDWARDS. JOHN D. FORD. (D.D. Norfolk, 051610, 061405)

G.U.S./...

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

G.U.S./U.G.S. Convoys: Standard Routes. To gain better air coverage from Azores facilitate breakoffs and joiners and avoid neutral track propose revise standard ocean routes as follows:  
G.U.S. 34.58 10.02, 35.59 17.30, 35.10 25.01, 36.20 37.40, 36.12 50.20, 34.40 63.01, 36.01 69.02.  
U.G.S. cancel 32.02 25.01 and substitute 33.55 26.15 stragglers routes to be modified accordingly. Request your comment.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 051815Z to Admt. (R) F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med. Commorseafron.)

COLUMBIA Defects. E.T.A. 1400/6. Main engine requires estimated 6 days work. Ice weather report 3862 1612.  
(COLUMBIA, 052007Z)

H.X.274. - Escort Task Unit W.5 BONIFACE, S.O. HEPATICA, MELVILLE.  
(P.D.New York, 052030Z)

MARIPOSA. Cancel para. 2 of my 040031. In view of A.C.N.B. 050059 U.S. War Dept. Now state that up to 500 P.O.W's may be embarked in MARIPOSA provided space is available. D. of S.T's 041021 para. 4 refers.  
(B.A.D.052121Z)

Stragglers Report No.34. One arrived Halifax from O.N. 216 GEORGIAN U.S. 1st Jan. Lost Convoy bad weather.  
One arrived Halifax from H.X. 272 ROBERT<sup>E.</sup> PEARY U.S. 30 Dec. Collision damage. Two arrived Halifax 3rd Jan. from O.N.25 LEGARTO Straggler Engine breakdown ELIZABETH DAL Heavy weather damage.  
(N.S.H.Q. 052128Z)

North Atlantic A/S Operations. In view of Admiralty 051119/as normal practice confine C.V.E. operations when eastward of Azores to area south of 40 degs. N. until Admiralty advises that such operations will not conflict with their forces.  
(Cominch, 052212 to Cinclant.)  
H.M.S. NENE, TWEED and WASKESU shall operate against U-Boats in Bay of Biscay from Jan. 6th.

Your 051119/. In order to avoid possibilities duplication of effort as well as to prevent embarrassing your 6th Support Group should should operations require it to proceed East of 020 degs. West C. in C. Lant has been directed as normal practice to confine C.V.E. operations when eastward of Azores to area

South /...

War Diary.

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

North Atlantic A/S Operations. (Contd.)

South of 40 degs. N. This should assist in integration of the Bay offensive by making it possible for you to use your C.V.E's on the fringes without possibility of encountering ours. We stand ready to operate our C.V.E's in any profitable area but do not desire that they operate between your forces in such manner that confusion as to control would almost inevitably result. (Cominch, 052215Z to Admty. Info: Comnavu, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Lant.)

Re: Operating against U-Boats of H.M.S. NENE, TWEED and WASKESU in Bay of Biscay possibly being joined by remainder of 6th Escort Group.)

BURGENLAND Sunk.

C.T.F.41 reports unidentified Blockade Runner sinking 07.29 S. 25.37 W. about 051955Z. TRANSIENT B.17 sighted surfaced S/M course 175, 62.02 N. 30.30 W. 051050Z. (Cominch, 052229)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.715.

Jan. 4th. Paras 9 to 11 cover South Pacific Forces. 6 to 8 night Jan 3/4th 2 Catalinas bombed Kavieng and Panapai causing fires in dump and dispersal areas. Probable large cargo vessels Kavieng Harbour one ship Balgai Bay 2 ships North East Panapai.

(2) Dawn Jan. 4th 1 light cruiser 4 cargo vessels observed approaching Kavieng from North West heading Rabaul 3 miles South Dyaul Island.

(7) Ground forces Huon Peninsula advanced to Cape King William about 16 miles S.E. Sio. 15 barges whereof 3-4 were unloading on beach at Reiss Point were sighted by A/C forenoon Jan. 3rd leaving medium cargo vessel afire.

(8) 9 Dutch Mitchells bombed shipping Kupang and sinking (as received) also hit small freighter transport starting fire while 8 escorting Beaufighters shot down 1 light bomber our loss one Mitchell. Shipping reported Kupang area comprised 1 medium, 1 small freighter transport 5 sea trucks 20 - 30 barges. 5 Liberators scored hit and near misses on small destroyer or corvette off Moepang (?Kupang)

(9) Jan. 3rd early morning 6 Liberators bombed Kavieng where no warships seen but cargo vessel bombed. 3 of 19 intercepting fighters shot down.

(10) Patrolling Liberator scored hit early morning Jan. 4th on light cruiser refer para. 2 this Digest off Kavieng. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 050745)

5.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/5th.  
and sighting (A) (1) A/C Y/58 attacked U-Boat with depth-charges  
Summary. at 1807/4 in 46 degs. 55' N. 07 degs. 22' W.  
(2) A/C X/224 attacked U-Boat with depth-charges  
at 1915/4 in 46 degs. 40' N. 05 degs. 00' W.  
(3) A/C M/228 attacked U-Boat on surface with  
gun-fire at 1834/4 in 46 degs. 40' N. 09 degs. 20' W.  
(B) (1) A/C J/103 attacked wake and dark object with depth  
charges at 1826/4 in 47 degs. 48' N. 09 degs. 58' W.  
(2) Br. SAMARINDA made SSSS at 0651/5 in 13 degs. 37' N. 57 degs  
34' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 051132A)

Estimates. (D.D.I.C.051356A, 051400A)

6.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Biscay  
Operations.

1(a) Two U-Boats were sighted by aircraft in the Biscay Area to-day and one was attacked with Depth-charges.  
(b) The Frigates NENE, TWEED and WASKESIU of E.G. 6 were carrying out an A/S sweep to-day about 900 miles West of Bordeaux. Leigh Light Wellington A/C from the Azores were co-operating; and the U.S.A/C carrier CORE was in the area to-day and will be relieved to-night by the U.S. A/C Carrier MISSION BAY.

Convoy  
W.P.457  
attacked  
By E-Boats.  
WALLASEA,  
SOLSTAD, 1408 G.  
UNDERWOOD 1490 G.  
and POLPERRO  
Sunk. 403 G.

Swedish  
A/C  
for.

2. At 0301 to-day Convoy W.P.457 was attacked by E-Boats South of Mounts Bay. The M/S Trawler WALLASEA and the M/V's SOLSTAD, UNDERWOOD and POLPERRO were sunk; but whether by mine or torpedo is uncertain. The E-Boats, of which two were seen, were assisted by Enemy A/C which dropped flares; and it is suspected that mines may have been laid in the area.

Mediterranean.

3. The French S/M CASABIANCA on return from patrol off the French Riviera reports sinking a 1000 ton A/S vessel off Toulon on 22nd Dec. and hitting a 4000 ton merchantman with torpedo on 28th Dec.

"Avalanche"

4 (a) Patrols in the Adriatic last night were cancelled on account of the weather. SS. ROBERT ERSKINE and SS. EMPIRE LIVINGSTONE were driven ashore at Bizerta during a gale to-day. Both ships were badly damaged.  
(b) SS. WILLIAM S. ROSECRANS in Convoy N.U.14 was mined in 40.40 N. 14.15 E. (40 miles North of Naples) at 1235 to-day. The ship sank later.

War Diary.

6.1.1944.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Trawlers for  
Azores.

A.M. 011311A and your 011833A para.2. COTILLION will not be available due to defects. Name of trawler detailed in lieu and date ready for sailing are to be reported forthwith.  
(C. in C.W.A. 061515A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Operations.

Operation  
"Stonewall".

Course 071° (?impossible identify) all ships.  
(A/C. Duty G. 060001A to 19 Group.)  
C. in C. Plymouth is requested to make PRINCE ROBERT available to operate under the orders of C. in C.W.A. to R/V. with K.M.F. 28 as A/A escort to Gibraltar. 2. K.M.F. 28 sails from U.K. on 15th January.  
(D.O.D.H. 060119A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Cancel position in para.2 of my 041756. Carry out A/S sweep during next 24 hours in area radius 40 miles from 045° N. 021° 15' W. 3. U.S.S. CORE will be in the vicinity to-day, leaving area tonight, and being relieved by U.S.Aircraft Carrier MISSION BAY.

(C. in C.W.A. 060952A to NENE, TWEED, WASKESIU.)

My 060952. Leight light Liberators from the Azores will co-operate. Homing procedure (B) will not be carried out unless asked for by A/C. 3. After first sighting reports A/C. will transmit automatic homing signals on 385 kc/s. at intervals of ten minutes.

(C. in C.W.A. 061506A to NENE, TWEED, WASKESIU.)

My 061506. For Liberators read Wellingtons.

(C. in C.W.A. 061806A to NENE, TWEED, WASKESIU.)

Small craft position 48° 02' 7° 52' W. course E. speed 5 knots, believe enemy.

(A/C. B. 062345 to 19 Group.)

One ship like mine sweeper fire(?d) at unidentified A/C. (corrupt group) ER (corrupt group) ER all have lights.

(A/C. B. 062350A to 19 Group.)

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 060118.)  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 061323A.)

Operation  
F.V.

Kola inlet sailed. My 051705 refers. (SAUMAREZ, SCOURGE.)

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 060530A to C. in C.H.F.)

(1) (A) WHITEHALL. (B) 0906/3rd. (C) Radar.

(D) 073° 10' N. 018° 40' E. (E) 2. (F) 1110Z/3rd

(2) (A) HAIDA. (B) 1812/4th. (C) Periscope

sighted by officer of Watch. (D) 070° 32' N. 002° 25' E. (E) 4. (F) 1930/4th.

(Capt.D.17 061631A to Admt.)

Destination of R.A.55B. is Loch Ewe for onward routeing.

(D.T.D. 062030A to Capt.D.17.)



6.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.S/M.  
patrols.

VIKING is on patrol N. of a line joining positions 050° 37' N. 009° 13' W. and 050° 43' N. 007° 39' W. (2) VIKING is diving by day and exercising with coastal command A/C. by night. A/C. may use flare or searchlight.

(C. in C. Plymouth 061354A to WHITEHAVEN.)

Positions of S/MS. at 0800/7th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SEANYMPH, STRATAGEM, TAKU, UNSWERVING, SPITEFUL as in my 051529. (B) SCEPTRE probably on surface vicinity of Out Skerries for Lerwick 10 knots. (C) VIKING as in my 051529. (F.O.S. 061737A to Admty.)

V.P.  
Operation.

S.C. HMITRA returned at 2305 today. My 042200. (2) Operation not successful. (3) South Westerly gale, low vicinity, prevented entry. (A.C.O.S. 062359 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

OSORNO.

Request A.M. 291517A may be cancelled as ship is no longer considered First Priority target. (A.C.N.S.H. 061410A to Air Ministry.)

Mining.

Yarmouth.

LL sweepers detonated presumed red magnetic mine in 53° 04' N. 01° 33' E. at 1005 today. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 061323A to Admty.)  
O sweepers detonated moored mine in 53° 04' N. 01° 38' E. at 1428 today. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 061549A.)

EMPIRE  
HOUSMAN  
sunk.

My 050053. (A) EMPIRE HOUSMAN. (B) British. (C) 1500Z/5th. (D) 61.04 N. 20.32 W. (E) (one) about 0200Z/31st December torpedo from U/B. destroyed rudder and propellor, damaged shaft and main engine, flooded number seven hold and screw tunnel. Crew remained on board vessel drifting in heavy weather. (2) About 0300Z/3rd January, torpedo from U/B. fired from starboard side reported to have been deflected under ship by anti-torpedo net without exploding. Later same U/B. fired second torpedo from port side. This hit abreast number two hold which was flooded causing heavy list. All boats were damaged. Crew of 45 abandoned ship on rafts. Six hours later they were picked up by ELM who arrived with rescue tug EARNER and FUSILIER. Master reports salvage not possible and all three vessels proceed for Reykjavik. Late same day A/C. reported EMPIRE HOUSMAN still afloat. EARNER and FUSILIER returned to ship to attempt salvage or ensure sinking. Ship was taken in tow on 4th but tow parted in heavy weather. (4) EARNER and FUSILIER stood by waiting for weather to moderate but reported that EMPIRE HOUSMAN sank at 1500Z/5th. (G) ELM arrived Reykjavik at 1600Z/5th with 44 survivors all well and uninjured. Master reports only casualty was the Second Mate who was drowned. (2) A/C. patrolled in vicinity of ship almost continuously from 1600Z/31st December to 1630Z/2nd January.

/During...

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6.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.EMPIRE  
HOUSMAN  
sunk.  
(contd.)During night 2/3 January when second attack took place no aircraft could be made available until 0800Z/3rd January when patrol was resumed.  
(A.C.I.C. 060146A to Admty.)

OKINO.

Departure OKINO in tow of STELLA RIGEL.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 060919A to F.O.I.C.Humber.)

TEXAS.

Convoy U.T.6. U.S.S. TEXAS has been ordered to Clyde where repair of underwater damage will be undertaken by TEDWORTH. E.T.A. 0300/8th.  
(D.O.D.H. 062056A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)Shipping & Convoys.Convoy  
W.P.457  
attacked by  
E-Boats.  
WALLASEA,  
SOLSTAD,  
UNDERWOOD,  
POLPERRO  
sunk.Proceed forthwith at best speed to vicinity of Major W.P. Convoy attacked by E Boats.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 060513A to DEXTEROUS.)  
Plot indicates E-Boat closed occasionally from southward.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 060514A to Escorts W.P.457.)  
Enemy shipping plotted by Plymouth Radar 6 Jan. 0405.  
2 vessels 13 miles S.W. of Lizard Head. Course N.W. turning to S.W. at 0346 after attacking convoy.  
Speed 12 to 20 knots. Vessel 0340-0458 14 miles W. of Lizard Head turned S. at 0346. Speed 10 knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth 061122A to Admty.)

At 0301 unidentified plots began to appear S.S.W. of Lizard Head and approached the Convoy W.P.457 which was then South of Mounts Bay. An attack on this convoy developed and it is regretted H.M.T.WALLASEA was sunk also the Merchant Ship SOLSTAD 1408 tons, UNDERWOOD 1990 tons, possibly one other. Convoy retired to the Northwards into Mounts Bay and after about an hour in the area of the convoy route the enemy retired to Southwards. It is suspected mines may have been laid in area quoted in my 060652 January. Information is at present incomplete.

(C. in C. Plymouth 061300A to Admty.)

My 061300. In addition SS. POLPERRO 403 tons was sunk. Cmdre of Convoy states attack was definitely by E-Boats aircraft assisting by dropping flares the latter being ineffective. 2 E-Boats were seen but other were in the vicinity. There is no evidence yet whether the casualties were caused by mines or torpedoes.

(C. in C. Plymouth 061820A to Admty.)

K.M.F.28.

Convoy K.M.F.28 will leave U.K. on 15th January composed as follows. 20 M/Vs. and EASTWAY. Names and destinations. 7. A/A escort PRINCE ROBERT who is to R/V with convoy as directed by C. in C.W.A.

8. A/S escort will be provided by E.G.4, BENTINCK (S.Q) BAYARD, CALDER, DRURY, BAZELEY, and BURGESS. Additional escort will be provided by H.M.S. TUSCAN, BLACK SWAN, and ERNE joining command of C. in C. Med.

(D.O.D.H. 060814 and 062140A to C. in C.W.A.) See also D.O.D.H. 111845A.

/H.X.273...

6.1.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

H.X.273.

Sailed WOODPECKER (S.O.) WATCHMAN, and WANDERER  
in accordance with your 051538A.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 061800A to C. in C.W.A.)

O.S.64/  
K.M.S.38.

FOLEY sailed to overtake O.S.64/K.M.S.38 by convoy  
route. VANOC still defective will not be sailed  
for this convoy.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 061956A to C. in C.W.A.)

6.1.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

North Atlantic Operations by Americans. C.R. Number 288. At 0748Z of the 5th CORE had brief Radar contact and plane crewman saw wake = Lat. 43.54 N. 19.40 at 0938Z. Sono buoy nearby gave FAJST + contact lost after 30 minutes not regained. Tonight destroyers on hold down. Logistics demand departure concentration darkness 6th. Predawn 5th air search forty seconds parallel negative WXWX 6571 2435. This is a paraphrase of C.T.Gs. 21.15.

(Comnaveu, 060441).

+ As received.

GREENE and BELKNAP U.S. Destroyers departed lat. 44.00 North long. 20.00 14 hours Z 6th course 233 speed 20 to refuel Horta and rejoin CORE with two destroyers 16 hours Z 8th 70 miles northwest Horta. CORE with two destroyers course 233 speed 10 from 23 hours Z 6th lat. 43.33 North long. 22.24 West. S.B.N.O. Azores pass to N.O.I.C. Horta.

(Radio Washington, 061935Z).

My 051843. Re-encipherment of Cinclant 051851 to S.B.N.O. Horta. L.C.I. 505 and 506 will sail as part of Task Force 63. C.T.F. 63 when appropriate near Azores direct this detachment. (Then constituted T.G. 63.9) (L.T. (J.G.)). (Waters in L.C.I.505). Proceed Horta whereupon arrival report to Com. 12th Fleet for duty. Upon arrival Azores T.G. 63.9 dissolved. Ends.

(Cominch, 060515Z).

Tanker on fire sighted.

Believed to be a tanker on fire 041 degs. 50' N. 036. degs. 30' West sighted by Liberator Aircraft at 0900Z/6th.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 061338Z to Admty.).

S/M STORM.

Arrived.

(F.O.G.M.A. 061604A).

(W.D. Note: Proceeding to Australia. Apparently left Rothesay 29 Dec. No sailing signal received by W.D.).

U/B report.

A.G./A.C. 41 6 Jan.

U. 206 at 1730 (?1530Z/6) sighted U-boat in 43.53 N. long. indecipherable.

(247 Group, 061646Z).

UNSEEN

After passing through 037 degs. 23' North 000 degs. 01' West at 2100A/8th proceed on the surface at discretion through (Q) 180 degs. Cape de Gata 5 miles at 1320/9th. (R) 180 degs. Cape Calaburras 5 miles at 0700/10th thence to arrive Gibraltar at 1140/10th.

(2) S. of A. 7 knots until 0700/10th, 9 knots thereafter.

(3) Read Gibraltar broadcast West of Greenwich Meridian shifting to read MS routines.

(F.O.G.M.A. 061817A to UNSEEN (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, Capt.(S) 10th, Com.N.O.B. Oran, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

6.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Zig-zagging. Proposals regarding zig-zagging in your 071143+ December appear to offer substantial advantages but are still under discussion with Navy Dept. (A.C.N.S.(F) 060948A to C. in C.S.A.).  
+ Re restrictions of areas for zig-zagging during lulls in submarine activity.

Freetown stragglers report No.7.	Ship	Convoy	Reason
	PEEBAUS	T.S.55	Defective bilge pump.
	JAARSTROOM	S.L.145	Unable to maintain speed.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 061845Z).			

SS BURGENLAND sunk. Attacked and sunk by gunfire by OMAHA and JOUETT at 051955 at 07.29 S. 25.37 W. (Comnaveu, 061846).  
OMAHA and JOUETT at 1853Z intercepted ship on North westerly course, amplifying previous contact reports of this date; which had been reported earlier by Mariner Plane from V.P Squadron 203. Ship showed no colours and failed to reply to challenge but was definitely identified from characteristics as runner (BURGENLAND). Immediately following the firing of a warning shot the crew set fire to and abandoned ship and OMAHA and JOUETT took the runner under gunfire. Time of sinking and position previously given. 4 boats of survivors later sighted. (Comnaveu, 061851).

WESERLAND survivors. Am informed that 134 survivors ex German blockade runner WESERLAND sunk on third by U.S. Destroyer, are expected to be landed Recife today 6th from U.S.S. SOMERS. No details regarding survivors of RIO GRANDE and BURGENLAND sunk 4th and 5th respectively. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 061911Z).

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6.1.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

UNSEEN. Weather moderating. P.C.S. at 2359/5th 040 degs. 23' 006 degs. 17' 238 degs. 8 knots daily advance 120 miles.  
(UNSEEN, 060017 to Capt.(S) 10, F.O.C.Gib.  
F.S. ARETHUSE, (R) 10th S/M.F.)

BIRMINGHAM. Your 311743/Dec. para. 2 approved.  
(2) By what date do you anticipated BIRMINGHAM could reach U.S.A. port?  
(3) Will all necessary temporary repairs be carried out at Alexandria or will ship have to dock at Gibraltar en route and if so, for how long?  
(D.O.D.(F), 060110A to F.O.L.E.M.)  
Your 060017/acknowledged. Estimate you will cross Greenwich meridian at 2100/8th.  
(Capt.(S) 10, 060412 to UNSEEN) / Most Secret.

K.M.S.37. Onward route M.S.C.1 5 (old 22) refers.  
Escorts (A) BARLE (S.O) BERGAMOT, BRYONY, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, MONKSHOOD.  
(B) To Bone Tug MINDFULL.  
(C. in C. Med. 060825A)

Ex Monte- video Dock. Assuming that ex Montevideo Dock is required for use before Oct. it is necessary that both sections should be sailed to arrive India before Monsoon breaks. Your 031244/ refers.  
(2) Propose therefore that arrangements as already made in C. in C. Med's 270954+ Dec. and 261815 as amended by 311125~~x~~ Dec. not to all should stand.  
(3) Request alternative destination for dock and crew.  
(C. in C. Med. 060858A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))  
/ Ex Montevideo Dock. + Composition of Special Naval Dock Party.  
~~x~~ ORIANA and WEIZEL to be employed for onward passage of dock.

STOIC. Part company with K.M.S.36 about 0601A/8th in 035 degs. 35' 016 degs. 02' and proceed independently on the surface Eastwards 104 degs. 11 knots until dawn 9th thence diving by day to pass position 035 degs. 45' 025 degs. 03' at 1815A/10th thence to Beirut as ordered by Capt. (S) 1.  
(2) 201 Group to arrange total and submerged bombing restrictions for this route in accordance with M.J. A.O.24.  
(3) P.34 (ULTIMATUM) diving by day on course 096 previously reported passing position 034 degs. 15' 025 degs. 01' at 2010A/10th for onward surface passage as ordered by Capt. (S) 1.  
(4) Enemy U-Boats are known to operate up to 60 miles from African coast between 020 degs. and 025 degs. East.  
(5) At 0602/8th set watch in accordance with (S) 1/43 section M.L. table 2 (3)  
(6) STORK deliver to STOIC.  
(S.O.S/Ms Malta, 061015 to STOIC, (R) C. in C. Med. 201 Group., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, S.N.O.E.S. 212 Group, Capt. (S) 1, Admty. R.A. Alex. F.O.G.M.A. 235 Wing, 247 Wing, N.O.I.C.Tobruk, S.N.O.C. Fighter Sectors between Alex. and Benghazi, STORK, Escorts K.M.S.36)

My /...

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War Diary.

6.1.1944.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

STOIC. (Contd.) My 061015 add 24 hours to all times including para. 3. STORK pass to STOIC. (S/O. S/Ms Malta, 061812)

UPROAR patrol report. (1) At 0925/28 December in 43 degs. 16' 06 degs. 50' fired 4 torpedoes at 3,000 ton M.V. missed. (2) At 0507/3 in 43 degs. 16' 06 degs. 56' fired 4 torpedoes at 3,000 ton M.V. missed. (S.10, 061210)

Greek S/M P.71(PIPINOS). My 212136/December sailed 4th Jan. (F.O.S.061248A to F.O.L.E.M. (R) (S) 1, (S) 10, Admty.)  
 / Most Secret. Greek S/M P.71 (PIPINOS).

ULTIMATUM. My 041214 not to 19th M/S.F. delayed 24 hours. (S.O.S/M's Malta, 061815 to C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 10, F.O.L.E.M. Capt.(S) 1, V.A. Malta, N. & A. Authorities Western Desert, 201 Group, 248 Wing, C.M.S. 19th M/S.F.)

UNRULY. Proceed to patrol South of Lemnos to the westward of longitude 025 degs. 36' (R) 025 degs. 36'. Object as in memorandum W.D.7. (Capt. (S) 1, 061829 to P.49 (UNRULY) (R) SIBYL, P.52 (UNTIRING), F.O.L.E.M.)

Fr. Cr. JEANNE D'ARC. Am anchored Porto Farina with engine defects intend sail 071100Z to arrive destination morning 8th. Acknowledge. (Fr. Cr. JEANNE D'ARC, 061910Z to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

ARETHUSE. Your escort is EGILSAY. (2) Fleet units pass Algiers 1130A/7th eastbound. (3) 1 P.C. passing at 1430A eastbound. (4) French Coastal Convoy E.T.A. 1200A from Westward to Eastward. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 061929A to ARETHUSE)

Situation Report No.264. CASABIANCA reports sinking 1000 ton A/S vessel off Cape Sicie (043 degs. 03' N. 005 degs. 51' E.) on 22nd Dec. and obtaining 1 torpedo hit on 4000 tons merchant ship off Cape Cam(?ar) at (043 degs. 12' N. 006 degs. 42' E) on 28th Dec. (C. in C. Med. 062134A)

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/Bs reported. EMPIRE MINOTAUR reported periscope off Bombay 0900Z/4, Japanese U-Boat indicates D/F to be between Ceylon and Nicobar Islands 1800Z/5. (C. in C.E.F. 060334Z.)

SS. TARENTUM. Safe position 0500Z 008° 12' N. 076° 47' E. (TARENTUM 060525Z to C. in C.E.F.)  
Note: TARENTUM 051500Z re sighting of S/M refers.

SS. ROBERT F. HOKE. Successfully beached 300° 7 cables from Jazirat Sharma (014° 49' N. 049° 27' E.) 5th January. OCEAN SALVOR being sent to assist. (C. in C.E.F. 060547Z.)

ALBERT GALLATIN sunk 2nd Jan. Ship reported torpedoed and blew up in your 030544\* not to all addressees was U.S.S. ALBERT GALLATIN. All crew picked up by BRITANNIA and arrived at Aden. Submarine seen. (Com. Aden 060924Z to C. in C.E.F.)

\* report by A/C of unknown vessel torpedoed.

The following particulars are forwarded in accordance with E.F. 716H/71/27 A. ALBERT GALLATIN. B. 21° 21' N. 059° 58' E. 0452Z/2 C. Submarine. D. Torpedoed ship sunk. E. One. Hit ship starboard side at number three hold second explosion seen from boats at 0617Z may have been torpedo or H.E. carried as cargo exploding. F. 71 survivors no casualties. G. No. H. Yes but very poor radiation. I. Submarine's periscope sighted at 0454Z bearing 130° 1000 yards ship opened fire no result. Very loud explosion heard at 0653Z after ship had sunk, probably due to cargo exploding. (Com. Aden 061436Z.)

Addu Atoll. Future of Addu Atoll. Although Sextant decisions not yet received consider it probable that scale of defences and work on installations at Addu Atoll can be substantially reduced.

2. In anticipation of Admiralty approval I have cancelled work on the erection of Hangar and Torpedo Workshop and Compressor House for (?new) aerodrome.

3. Further proposed reductions will be signalled when Sextant decisions are received.

(C. in C.E.F. 061127Z to Admty.)



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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SEARCHER  
(U.C.8.)

Arrived New York 5th Jan.  
(N.S.H.Q. 060250Z.)

C.T.G. 21.13  
Desdiv 66.

C.R. No. 283. Refer to this as 051947 from C. in C.Lant, Comdesdiv 66. Depart Hampton Roads 14th January and operate against submarine concentrations giving priority to those that might menace U.G.S. G.U.S. convoys. This constitutes T.G. 21. 13 Captain Vest in CROATAN Comdesdiv 66 in BRECKINRIDGE Desdiv 66. Fuel at Bermuda or from U.G.S. G.U.S. tankers as necessary. Further orders later. BIDDLE will be directed join you at or near Bermuda and remainder division 66 will be directed report to you for this duty.  
(Comnaveu 060406.)

Cortdivs 23  
and 7.

Task force reconstituted Capt. Berdine in LANDSDALE. Refer to this as 051843 from Cinclant Comcortdiv 23 in SELLSTROM, Cortdiv 23, Comcortdiv 7 in MOORE, Cortdiv 7. Escort U.G.S. 30 departing Chesapeake Bay 14th January for North Africa re-turning when directed by Commorseafron escorting G.U.S. 29.  
(Comnaveu 060413.)

Zig-zagging.

Independent Merships. Control of zig-zagging by Admty. and Navy Dept. cannot be as timely or economical as that by Diverting Authorities, owing to lag in inward and outward communications and to incomplete picture of local U-Boat situations. This is borne out by past experience of similar control of anti-torpedo gear and appears to nullify most of the advantages offered by C. in C.S.A.'s 071143 December.  
2. B.A.M.S. areas which are not operational are so large that geographical subdivision will be necessary to limit zig-zagging to threatened localities. Though they thus offer little advantage as basis of control their use can be accepted.  
3. As control by Diverting Authorities appears essential to achieve the full acceleration of shipping turn-round so urgently necessary request you will seek U.S. concurrence to any compromise that will secure this. Com. Tenth Fleet C. & R.'s 201828 Dec. refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 060956A to B.A.D.)

RANGITATA  
(U.C.9.)

RANGITATA detached 051148Z position 54.21 N. 38.09 W. Proceeding along stragglers route your 042009 speed 13 knots.  
(C.T.G. 21.7 061445 to C. in C.W.A.)

U/B estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 061447Z, Cominch 061620.)

/ARETHUSA...

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- ARETHUSA. Departed Bermuda for Horta 1600Z/6 at 11 knots.  
(Comnob Bermuda 061456.)
- HUMBOLDT Departs Norfolk for Bristol, E.P.D. X.S. 1800/6.  
(U.S. seaplane Arrangements.  
tender.) (Comnaveu 061559.)
- N. Atlantic C.R. No. 1047. Comply Cominch 052212\*. Comfair  
A/3 Norfolk deliver these instructions to other C.V.Es.  
Operations. upon reporting.  
(C. in C.Lant 061637 to C.T.G. 21.16, 21.15, 21.12,  
21.13, 21.11, Comfair Norfolk, U.S.S. CARD, BOGUE,  
SANTEE, Info. Comairlant, All subs. copying N.P.G.  
Fox.)  
\* Confirming C.V.E. operations when east of Azores.
- SS. LEVI LEVI WOODBURY at New York since 17th Dec. has not  
WOODBURY. departed your 051117Z\* refers.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 061708Z.)  
\* Request for time and date of sailing from N.Y.  
of LEVI WOODBURY. Ship using callsign KDFN re-  
ported torpedoed.
- C.U.10. Off Oversay at 1830Z/5. All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 061921A.)
- Various Search of area 35 N. 67 W. where unidentified ship  
Operational reported torpedoed 050658 reveals no evidence of  
Intelligence. any sinking my 032152 refers. All times Z. My  
042159 runner identified as RIO GRANDE northbound.  
My 052229 runner identified as BURGENLAND course  
north-east sunk by U.S.S. OMAHA and JOUETT.
- Para. B. U.S.S. CORE Radar contact 43.54 N. 19.40 W. 050748.  
CORE A/C sighted wake same area 050938.  
Para. D. Army B.25 sighted surfaced submarine course 190, 14.20  
N. 68.50 W. 051803.  
(Cominch 062150 to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 3. Many barges one ship sighted St. Georges Channel  
No. 716 Jan. 5. same night 4/5 Jan. by U.S. Navy Catalina, which  
also attacked five ship convoy comprising three  
S/M chasers, two cargo vessels, 25 miles N.N.W.  
Rabaul heading Rabaul. One hit reported on S/M  
Chaser silencing A/A fire.

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 15. Morning Jan. 4th carrier based planes  
No. 716 Jan. 5. attacked two destroyers south western Strait scor-  
(Contd.) ing hits bombs torpedoes. One destroyer believed  
sunk one probably sunk. One medium cargo vessel  
only shipping sighted Kavieng Harbour.  
18. Carrier based aircraft over Kavieng refer  
para. 15 this digest shot down 7 fighters, one  
floatplane, one medium bomber. Our losses one fighter.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 060545.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 061424A, 061430A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack & sighting summary for 24 hrs. to 0900Z/6.

A. 1. A/C R.58 attacked U-Boat sighted on surface at 2215/5 in 47.00 N. 05.38 W.  
2. Wellington J.407 sighted U-Boat on surface at 0516/6 in 46.45 N. 06.24 W.  
3. Liberator N.224 reported U-Boat at 2110/5 in 43.48 N. 07.22 W.  
B. 1. A/C -/110 Radar contact attacked at 1107/4 in 48.06 N. 10.42 W.

2. Br. SS. TARENTUM reported "SSSS S/M sighted" at 1500/5 in 10.00 N. 75.50 E.

D. 1. Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on surface at 1218/5 in 62.02 N. 30.30 W.  
(D.D.I.C. 061154A.)

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Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Biscay  
Operations.  
TWEED  
sunk.

1. (a) At 1613 to-day, while carrying out an A/S sweep in 044° 18' N. 021° 17' W. (about 600 miles W. of Cape Ortegale) in company with NENE and WASKESIU of E.G.6, the frigate TWEED was torpedoed by a U-Boat and sank in two minutes; the C.O., 7 other officers and 44 ratings were rescued by NENE. Many of them being injured internally. WASKESIU carried out depth-charge attacks at 1650 and 1715, and at 1953Z the search for the U-Boat was continuing.
- (b) The Admiralty consider to-day that all likely Blockade-runners from the Far East, other than Tankers, are now accounted for; and that, up to yesterday, no Blockade-runner has sailed from any Biscay port.
- (c) Some five or six U-Boats were sighted in the Bay area to-day, one being apparently disabled; and three of them were attacked by our A/C.

(2) The S/M. TANTIVY sailed to join the Eastern Fleet to-day.

(3) 446 Fortresses and 125 Liberators of 8th U.S. Air Force accompanied by 514 Thunderbolts, 44 Mustangs and 88 Lightnings bombed Ludwigshafen with good results.

Glider Bombs.

(4) It is reliably reported that some F.W.200 A/C. and possibly also some Ju.290 A/C. are now fitted to carry at least two Radio-controlled Rocket Glider Bombs.

North Atlantic.

(5) A/C. P.179 attacked a U-Boat on the surface. At 2245 in 36.38 N. 02.05 W. (S.E. of Spain) and straddled it with depth charges and gunned the hull.

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Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

(6) Spitfires to-day attacked Ongelia (shore of the Ligurian Sea) where hits with bombs were made on the docks and a cargo liner was hit and near missed.

Adriatic.

(7) GRENVILLE and ULSTER carried out a sweep of the Italian coast between San Benedetto and Ancona last night. No shipping was seen but two trains were shelled near San Giorgio (43° 11' N. 13° 47' E.) one of which was hit and stopped.

Attack on  
Fuime.

(8) U.S. Fortresses attacked the torpedo factory at Fuime to-day. The main buildings were not hit, but there were many hits on the railway yards and in the town.

Aegean.

(9) 4 Liberators and 2 Wellingtons successfully mined Rhodes harbour last night, 5 Halifaxes providing diversionary bombing of the harbour installations with good results.

Force G.

(10) The landing ships BULOLO, GLENGYLE, WINCHESTER, CASTLE, ASCANIA, DERBYSHIRE, SOBIESKI and CIRCASSIA from the East Indies sailed from Port Said for Naples to-day.

East Indies.

(11) 9 Liberators laid 36 mines in the Rangoon River to-day.

China.

(12) U.S. A/C. sank two ships and destroyed 30 to 40 sampans in the Yangtze River to-day.

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Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

SHAH.

(13) The new A/S Carrier SHAH arrived at San Francisco today from Esquimalt.

Australia and New Zealand.

(14) A Naval Catalina destroyed a 5000 ton auxiliary oiler and damaged two other small ships 30 miles N. of Madang, Papua in the early hours.

(15) Allied patrol craft shelled enemy positions at Choiseul Bay last night. It is thought supplies may have been landed at Choiseul Bay on 5th Jan.

(16) Allied M.T.Bs. had an indecisive encounter last night with 3 northbound enemy surface craft S.E. of Bougainville.

(17) Three Mitchells attacked a U-Boat off Saidor (N.W. coast of New Guinea) at dusk today and it is believed severely damaged or possibly sank the enemy.

War Diary.

7.1.1944.  
Friday.

GENERAL.

H.S. 293  
Bombs in  
F.W. and  
Ju. A/C.

Reliable reports indicate that some F.W. 200 aircraft are fitted to carry at least two H.S. 293 bombs.

2. It is possible that Ju.290 aircraft may be used for the same purpose.  
(D.G.D. 071105A, A.G.M.,282A.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TANTIVY  
for Eastern  
Fleet.

6th Jan. sailed.  
(F.O.S. 071051A.)

ST. ELSTAN  
for Azores.

Your 040948 January. ST. ELSTAN will be sailed a.m. 8th, E.T.A. Azores 15/1. COTILLION should be sailed to Liverpool at earliest opportunity. A more suitable trawler will be sailed, when available, to relieve ST. ELSTAN. (C. in C.W.A. 071505A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)

AMIENS.

As result of trials carried out I strongly recommend postponement of departure of ship till the fair season.  
4. While waiting for her departure ship may be used for local duties: submarine escort for example. (AMIENS 071740A to F.N.G.B. London.)

Operations.

Operation  
"Stonewall"  
TWEED sunk.  
3 U/Bs at-  
tacked by A/C.

Position of 6 (?small) vessels type unknown 47° 07' N. 5° 33' W.  
(A/C Duty A 070013A to 19 Group.)  
D/F bearings at 0234Z indicate U-Boat within 100' N.E. or S.W. of 43° 30' N. 23° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 070613A to NENE, TWEED, WASKESIU.)  
Good D/F fixing at 0234/7th indicated one or more U-Boats within 30 miles of 043° 45' N. 021° 30' W.

Carry out search in this vicinity forthwith. Expect Fortress aircraft from Azores by day.

(C. in C.W.A. 070936A to NENE, TWEED, WASKESIU.)

Cinquant has ordered U.S. CORE to proceed to Hampton Roads when logistics require.

(D.O.D.H. 071255A to C. in C.W.A. F.O.G.M.A. C. in C. Plymouth.)

War Diary.

7.1.1944.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Stonewall". In view of A.M. 041800A and 061912A it is considered the assistance of LE FANTASQUE and LE MALIN now at Horta is no longer required for operation "Stonewall".

TWEED sunk. 3 U/Bs attacked by A/C. (C. in C.Plymouth 071331A to Admty.) (Contd.) TWEED torpedoed, position 44° 18' N. 21° 19' W. (E.G.6 071611Z to C. in C.W.A.) Co-operate with naval force hunting U-Boat position 44.18 N. 21.33 W. (A/C Duty O 071730Z to A/C SH9.)

TWEED torpedoed in 44° 18' N. 21° 19' W. (D.D.I.C. 071816A to C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.G.M.A. H.Q.C.C.)

A. My 052000. Convoy commitments referred to will not now arise until approx. a.m. 11th January. (H.Q.C.C. 071833 to 247 Group.)

A.M. 041800.

3. All likely blockade-runners from Far East other than tankers are now accounted for. Tankers MADRONO and possibly BRAKE and CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN could be on passage but there is no evidence of their sailing.

4. It is believed that WESERLAND and BURGENLAND succeeded in transmitting a signal before being sunk. RIO GRANDE is not believed to have done so.

5. Up to 6th January no blockade-runners had sailed from Biscay.

6. Vessel referred to in para. 2 of A.M. 041800 possibly WESERLAND having reversed course for 24 hours to throw off search.

(A.C.N.S.F. 071908A to A.I.G. 13.)

If TWEED can steam escort her to northwards, otherwise sink her and continue sweep until dawn. Then proceed to join O.S.64/K.M.S. 38 at economical speed. (C. in C.W.A. 071926Z to NENE.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 48° 00' N. 09° 24' W. Probably a surface vessel. (A/C Duty S to 19 Group No T.O.O. Recd. 072005.)

My 071617Z. TWEED torpedoed aft at 1613 in 044° 18' N. 021° 17' W. and sank 1615.

WASKESIU carried out depth-charge attack at 1650 and 1715. C.O. 7 officers, and 36 ratings picked up by NENE. U-Boat search continues. (E.G.6 071953Z to C. in C.W.A.)

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel of ?(200 tons) 47° 18' N. 6° 20' W. course 030° speed 4 knots. (A/C Duty W 072130A to 19 Group.)

20 small unknown vessels, one tug, not moving, position 46° 05' N. 4° 22' W. (A/C Duty W 072306 to 19 Group.)

W.A.G.M. 876 N.D. 3rd January.

A. 1612 - 1000 yards green 120. B. H.E. effect on bearing not sighted. C. Not known. D. TWEED altered towards and set emergency pattern. E. Nil. F. 1613 at break of quarter-deck, starboard side. G. No defective. H. Wind S.E. 2, sea and swell 21, visibility over 10 miles, sky 3/10 clouded. I. TWEED, NENE, WASKESIU in line abreast from port to starboard distance apart 2 miles carrying out A/S sweep, course 180°, speed 13 knots, zigzag number 8. J. No. K. No indication. L. Investigation of fish echo immediately prior to contact. (E.G.6 072355Z to Admty.)

TWEED sunk by U.305 (G.D. 443)

/Operation...



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Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation F.V. Faroes departure 3.0.13th M/3 in READY with ORESTES.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 070423A to Capt. D.17.)  
Helensburgh arrivals HURON, OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE, RHODODENDRON.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 070546A to R.A.D. Capt. D.17.)  
Faroes departure HURON, OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE, RHODODENDRON.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 071201A to Capt. D.17.)  
SAUMAREZ and SCOURGE southbound at 18 knots will pass through STRATAGEM, TAKU and UNSWERVING area tomorrow passing 065° 30' N. 001° 40' E. about 0600A/8th Jan. on passage to Scapa.  
2. S/Ms concerned are to keep to extreme eastern limit of their patrol line until 2200A/8th.  
3. Destroyers are being informed of your area.  
(F.O.S. 071938A to S/Ms.)  
To avoid own submarines on anti U-Boat patrol keep to the westward of long. 001° W. when south of 066° N.  
(V.A.2 072128A to SAUMAREZ.)  
Scapa arrivals Capt. D.17 D.F. in ONSLOW with ONSLAUGHT, ORWELL, HURON, HAIDA, IROQUOIS, IMPULSIVE.  
(A.C.O.S. 072333A.)

A/S sweep by B.1. While waiting to meet H.X. 273, carry out offensive A/S sweep. Best probability area 053° 00' N. 020° 20' W. where U-Boat was D/Fd. at 0748/6th. Probable duration of sweep from 1200A/8th till 1200A/9th.  
(C. in C.W.A. 071216A to B.1.)  
My 071216A. Sweep is to be conducted during dark hours only. Area is not to be entered till dark.  
(C. in C.W.A. 072027A to B.1.)

SCEPTRE, I.S.O.H. P.215 report.  
patrol report. 1. A. 1809/3 in 030° 2 miles from Villa sighted armed trawler (course and speed) 210° 7 knots.  
B. 1056/4 in 210° 4 miles from Villa attacked with 4 torpedoes leading ship (1200 tons) of 2 escorted by 1 trawler course and speed 040° 7 knots range 4000 yards. Torpedo missed. 3 explosions at 5 minutes and at suitable intervals after firing. Ineffective and distant counter attack with 6 depth charges.  
2. Exceptionally bad weather experienced during patrol making approach to coast difficult and frequently impossible.  
3. Details of defects.  
(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick 071224A.)

Coastal Force (C. in C.Plymouth 071345A.)  
Patrols. (C. in C.Portssmouth 071503A.)

/Operation...

7.1.1944.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation F.W. My 050701 para. 6D.  
Force one is not to proceed east of long. 15° E. unless acting on enemy information.  
(C. in C.H.F. 071543A to V.A.2.)

?V.P. (A.C.O.S. 071631A, 071702A.)  
Operations. W.D.Note: W.D. have no key to the meaning of these signals.

S/M Patrols. Position of S/Ms at 0800A/8th and movements for following 24 hours.  
A. STRATAGEM, TAKU, UNSWERVING, SPITEFUL as in my 051529.  
D. VIKING patrolling vicinity 50° 50' N. 008° 30' W. dived by day.  
F. TANTIVY 49° 48' N. 012° 32' W. dived by day through 49° 11' N. 013° 22' W. to southward. Speed 170 miles per day.  
G. PIPINOS 49° 10' N. 012° 54' W. dived by day, course 180°, speed 136 miles per day.  
(F.O.S. 071731A, 080758A.)

Mining.

Sheerness Explosion. At 0905A/7th explosion reported by Fletcher Battery. Position of explosion R. 454933 was seen and heard, column of water 20 to 30 ft. considerable black smoke.  
Reported at same time as C.G. Warden Point 345° 1 mile approx. No shipping in vicinity.  
(X.D.O. Sheerness 071031 to C. in C.Nore.)

Yarmouth. 0 Sweepers cut moored mine in 053° 03' 00" N. 001° 43' 36" E. at 1001A.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 071055A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

URANIA. Damage through fouling of buoy in harbour during gale at 0620/6, propeller requires to be changed.  
(URANIA 071310A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy A.T.84. Am over enemy S/M in 61° 10' N. 34° 55' W.  
(A/C LI 070045A to Artunshofdi W/T.)  
N.R. 2. Contact lost with submarine shall I continue escort? No attack made.  
(A/C LI 070150A.)  
N.R. 3. Revise 046, 60° 07' N. 35° 28' W.  
(A/C LI. 070215A.)

7.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.S.64/  
K.M.S.38.

My 051722 para. B. Cancel VANOC and VERITY.  
(C. in C.W.A. 071041Z.)  
AVON sailed to overtake O.S.64/K.M.S.38 by  
071800A.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 071801A, 081416A.)

K.M.S.  
convoys,  
routeing.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. at West Coast Assembly Ports.  
Cancel para. 2 of A.M. 202029A Nov. K.M.S.39  
and subsequent K.M.S. convoys are to be routed in  
accordance with the new edition of M.S.C.I.  
C. in C.Med's 201535A Dec. refers.  
(D.T.D. 071626A to C. in C.W.A.)

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7.1.1944.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

C.V.E's Request general location your C.V.E's at present operating engaged in A/S operations in Atlantic. Refer in Atlantic. Cominch 052215Z / Refer to this as 052104 from Cinclant.  
(Comnaveu, 070012 to Admt.)  
/ Re patrol areas of British and American C.V.E's.

STRIKER with O.S.63 transferring to S.L.144 today Friday.  
FENCER sails 14/1 with O.S.65.  
(2) 6th Group (3 Frigates) with shore based aircraft in about 43 degs. N. 22 degs. W. Bone Group (1 Frigate, 2 Destroyers) to 52 degs. N. 25 degs. W.  
(3) Your 070012 refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 072002A to Comnaveu)

Air Search. Search completed by Catalina H.M.D.T. on A/S sweep Agadir to 030 degs. 30' N. 021 degs. 00' W. from 0700 to 1930A/7.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 070152A)

TANTIVY. Onward route. Proceed on the surface at discretion at 10 knots until 0200A/13th and at 11 knots thereafter.  
(2) Total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 50 miles ahead to 50 miles astern of your estimated position. Report if unable to keep within bombing restrictions.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 071612A to TANTIVY, (R) G.S. PIPINOS, Admt. F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, Capt.(S) 10th, Capt. (S) 3rd, C. in C. Med., Command U.S. Fleet, C. in C. W.A., C.M.S.F.)

G.U.S. Routes. Com. 10th Fleet 051815/G.U.S. Routes. Intend to concur unless you have any remarks.  
(2) Request early reply.  
(D.O.D.(H), 071714A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
/ Former given Most Secret distribution.

GAETA. F.O.G.M.A's 071154 not to Admiralty please arrange for examination of bottom and overhaul of GAETA before sailing.  
(A.B.N.A.Madrid, 071821A)

P.51. Cancel my 061817A  
(F.O.G.M.A. 071902A to H.M.S/M.P.51. (R) Capt.(S) 10, C. in C. Med. V.A.M., Com. N.O.B.Oran, Com. Algeria.)

Blockade /...

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7.1.1944.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Blockade  
runner  
ashore  
near  
Bordeaux.

Following is a repetition of Bilbao's 061611 begins  
Following for B.N.A. Madrid large ship recently  
attacked and also driven ashore near entrance  
Bordeaux Harbour is reported to be large  
Japanese blockade runner with very valuable cargo  
of minerals which Germans are unloading by night  
with small ore carrying ships from Bilbao and  
Bayonne. Reliable A.2 UZNAPTOO 061611 ends.  
(A.B.N.A.Madrid, 071916A to D.N.I.(R) S.O.(I) Gib.)

U/B.

Hunt U/B reported position 36.40 N. 02.00 W. at  
2301 course 045 degs. 8 knots.  
(Gib. W/T, 072313A to Duty N.)

South Atlantic.

RIO GRANDE. Following information obtainable today by examina-  
tion of wreckage. Refer to this as 052255.  
Originator unknown by Comnavu. Cargo contained  
large amount crude rubber labelled French Indo-  
China. Entirely satisfied that this was RIO GRANDE. Other  
cargo, lard, vegetable oil. Conclude vessel definitely  
Northbound.  
(Comnavu, 070009Z)

O.S.62.  
FAL in  
collision.

FAL in collision with French ship ANNAMITE in  
010 degs. 27' N. 016 degs. 39' W. ANNAMITE  
reports no damage and is proceeding. FAL holed  
above waterline and is returning to Freetown.  
Am proceeding in accordance with your 051238Z.  
My P.C.S. 010 degs. 28' N. 016 degs. 41' W.  
310 degs. 12 knots altering to 357 degs. at 1015.  
(WOLVERINE, 070510Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

D.F.bearings Technical.  
of blockade (C. in C. S.A. 070901B, F.O.C.W.Af. 071037Z)  
runner W. of  
Ascension.

Operation Completed. My 030931 refers. Result negative.  
"Woodcutter".(C. in C. S.A. 071015C)

WESERLAND /...

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War Diary.7.1.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.- Contd.WESERLAND  
survivors.

Understand that 8 Boat loads of survivors from blockade runners are making for Brazilian coast. My 061911 refers / U.S. have advised Brazilian authorities and requested that they should be treated as prisoners of war.

(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 071320Z to Admty.)  
/ 134 survivors ex German blockade runner WESERLAND. No details re survivors of RIO GRANDE and BURGENLAND.

Among prisoners landed (my 061911 / refers) are 35 Italians ex S/M crew.

(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 072128Z)  
/ Re prisoners ex WESERLAND.

"Freecar"  
Patrol.

Now that French and Italian cruisers are patrolling in the same area the question of command should they be required to act in company must be clarified. Matter is further complicated by fact that Italian Admiral Biancheri and French

Admiral Parthes both go to sea. This also complicates issue should British or American ships become involved. At present Biancheri when at sea flies his flag in other cruiser is she is in harbour for sake of amour propre but continuation of this practice is undesirable. Request instructions. I suggest that Italian ships rank after French in same way as Allies rank after British and American in accordance with A.M. 211954/Sept. 1943 para.1. This would entail command of mixed forces devolving upon Admiral Biancheri but not on Italian Captains.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 072238Z to Admty.) *Reply: Admty 211600A*  
/ Re: procedure regarding command of mixed groups.

123

7.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Daily  
Opsum 254.M.S.1386. A.340 January 7. Jan 5/6th. 4  
Liberators (B.24's) 2 Wellingtons successfully  
mined Rhodes Harbour 26 Mark V.2 Mark A. 5  
Halifaxes provided diversionary bombing of the  
harbour installations with good results. 75 by500 pounds.  
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E., 070957Z.)

C.S.15.

Intend to transfer Flag to ORION at 0900/10.  
(F.O.15 C.S. 071010A.)

M.K.F.27A.

Intend to call special convoy sailing from  
Port Said for U.K. about 13th Jan. M.K.F.27A.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 071121.)

BARFLEUR.

French Admiralty wish to send French A.M.C.  
BARFLEUR to Madagascar in February with reliefs  
for Naval and Military Personnel.2. Request you concurrence. Ship could be  
included in appropriate convoy leaving Algiers end of January.  
(C. in C. Med. 071135A to C. in C.E.F.)

BACCHUS.

My 062335C.  
Entered Aegean 000 G.M.T/7th course S.W. No  
escort observed.  
(S.O. (I) Istanbul 071155C to F.O.I.C. Eastern  
Med., (R) Capt.S.1. D.N.I.)

I.X.F.7.

8. Escorts. (A) Oran to Malta D.S.SLAZAK,  
CATTERICK, BLENCATHRA. (B) Malta to Port Said  
ANTWERP, S.O.ALDENHAM, BELVOIR, G.S.MIAOULES,  
G.S. PINDOS.  
(C. in C. Med. 071231A, 081940A.) See Amendment  
081121A.

UNSEEN.

Proceed so as to pass through 038° 11' N. 001°  
54' E. 2359A/7th thence proceeding on the surface  
to R/V Algiers escort in 036° 55' N. 00° 03' E.  
at 1200A/8th. (2) Bombing restrictions have  
been adjusted.  
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 071426A to P.51 (UNSEEN) (R)  
F.O.G.M.A., Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med.)

CAMELIA.

My 051805C. Exact position CAMELIA this is known  
to Swedish Salvage Association; explosion occurred  
a.m. 29th December.  
(S.O. (I) Istanbul 071557C.)

Force G.

F.O.L.E.M's 052045\*sailed 1551/7th January.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 071743B.) \* Most Secret  
Distribution.

/UNIVERSAL...

7.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNIVERSAL.

Return Maddalena due to defects. Proceeding along ordered route until 0100/8th then turn to reciprocal course to pass position 240° Monachi Rock 5 miles at 0900/8th. S. of A. 6 knots. (UNIVERSAL 071830A to Capt. S.10 (R) C. in C. Med., P.53 (ULTOR) ).

Report  
No.265.

(1) Weather prevented operations taking place in the Adriatic during the night 5th/6th Jan.  
(2) During gale at Bizerta on 6th Jan. SS. ROBERT ERSKINE and EMPIRE LIVINGSTONE were driven ashore and badly damaged Salvage work in progress. (3) SS. WILLIAM S. ROSECRANS in convoy N.V.14 reported mined but more probably torpedoed in position 040° 10' N. 014° 15' E. at 1235/6th. Ship later sank. (C. in C. Med. 072215A.)



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7.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B1-weekly U-boat Disposition No.15. Area A. No definite indication presence of U-boats in this area. Air escort X.  
Area B. The Japanese U-boat operating off Masirah torpedoed and sank U.S. ALBERT GALLATIN 2nd Jan. Last reported sighted by SS ANTAR 3rd January but no indication she has left area. Air escort Y.  
Area C. No evidence presence U-boat. Air escort X.  
Area D. Consider no U-boat in area. Air escort W.  
Area E. Sighted by TARENTUM 5th January off Cochin considered doubtful. One U-boat (German) may be either in this area or in area Cochin but in view of lack of information scale of air escort reduced to X.  
Area F. No fresh information. Air escort X.  
Area G. Air escort reduced to X.  
(C. in C.E.F. 070448Z).

Air raid warnings. Request following be promulgated now as an Admty. Lettered message and subsequently promulgated as a Camsi.  
(C. in C.E.F., 071026Z).

MARIPOSA From D.D.S.T.I. View B.A.Ds. 052121 intend embark 500 but would be grateful for permission to increase accordance my 031039.  
(P.S.T.O.I. 071041Z to B.A.D.).

Daily situation report signals. Details of series to commence 10th Jan.  
(C. in C.E.F. 071327Z).  
See Lion Copy.

ROBERT F. HOKE. OCEAN SALVOR has pumped engine room half dry and stiffening tunnel door, proposes trimming ship to even keel. Anticipate ship ready for towing on Sunday. My boiler hours 1200, 70% oil fuel remaining. Propose escorting tow to Aden.  
(LULWORTH, 071530Z to N.O.i/c Aden).

BETONY. As BETONY has suffered further engine room break-downs today intend to continue towing her to Colombo arriving 0900Z/9th as I cannot reach Trincomalee in time for destroyers to comply with para.3. of your 270931 December. My P.C. and S. 1400Z/7 007 degs. 54' N. 072 degs. 02' E., 107 degs. 10.7 knots. My 051602 and 061353 refer.  
(Cdre. D., 071536 to C. in C.E.F.).

SHAH A.M. 301531/Dec. SHAH has been allocated to Eastern Fleet as an A/S Carrier on completion of her ferrying trip to avoid a long and unproductive voyage to U.K. to embark a squadron and work up. She will arrive in your command completely

/manned...

# SECRET

125A.  
125A.

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

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

SECRET

0713274 Jan. IN.

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date 8. 1. 44.  
Recd. 1155.

NAVAL CYPHER RR BY W/T

Addressed East Indies Station General. Repeated Admiralty  
A.C.N.B., C. in C. S.A. - East Indies Situation Reports.  
IMPORTANT.

Daily situation report signal.  
Commencing 10th January situation reports will  
be signalled daily as follows.

A. Indian Ocean situation report (East)  
addressed A.I.G. 96. To be read by ships (corvettes and  
above) and authorities reading broadcasts NU and FL.

B. Indian Ocean situation report (West)  
addressed A.I.G. 97 to be read by ships  
(corvettes and above) and authorities reading  
broadcasts V and FL. (A) will be passed to  
Admiralty and A.C.N.B. and (B) to Admiralty and  
C. in C. S.A.

2. Indian Ocean Situation Report.

(A and B above) will include all major warships,  
convoys and their escorts, MONSTERS and important  
independents at sea. Messages will be made  
in the following form and should be read in 4 columns.

(1) Name of ship(s) or convoy title followed  
number of ships and names of escorts.

(2) Position at 2000Z.

(3) Course for 24 hours or destination.

(4) Speed of advance.

The signal will be included in general message period  
commencing 0830Z daily.

3. The areas covered will be

A. IO SR (East). Between the Eastern limit of  
station and A line drawn along-side the parallel of  
010° 00' North from West Coast India to 067° 30' East  
thence due South.

/B

B. IO SR (West) between longitude 035° East and longitude 080° East.

4. S/M position A. S/M's will be included in IO SR when on passage and proceeding to and from patrol while west of A line joining the following position.

(1) COX'S BAZAAR.

(2) 015° North 085° East.

(3) Equator 085° East.

(4) 015° South 100° East.

(5) 020° South 110° East B. When Eastward of the above line a special signal in station one time pad will be made as necessary by C. in C. Eastern Fleet to ships concerned.

5. Ceylon Merchant Shipping Situation Report

To simplify in the fleet the work of plotting independent merchant ship E.I.S.I.S. will be supplemented by daily situation report of merchant ship's positions at 0800Z in the area North and East of lines joining the following positions :-

(1) West Coast of India at latitude 010° North.

(2) 010° 00' N 072° 15' E.

(3) 002° South 072° 15' E.

(4) West coast of Sumatra at latitude 002° South. The southern boundary will normally apply but will not be a hard and fast line. When the fleet is operating south of the equator the area will be temporarily extended as necessary.

(6) Ceylon MSSR will be addressed A.I.G. 98 and should be read by ships and authorities keeping watch on NU while in areas given in paragraph five these messages will be made in the following forms and should be read in five columns.

# SECRET

125B.

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

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

-3-

- (A) Signal letters.
- (B) Name of ship.
- (C) Position to nearest degree at 0800Z for day following repetition following the date of origin of signal.
- (D) Destination or course.
- (E) Speed.

The signal will be included in general message period commencing 2050Z.

071327Z

V.C.N.S.	C.C.R.T.(2)
A.C.N.S.(F)	M.(2)
A.C.N.S.(UT) (2)	D.T.D.(4)
U.V.R.	D.T.D.(C)
D.Map Room.	Plot.
Capt.Pim.	Adl. Blake.
Ops.(2)	D.S.D.(3)
O.D.(5)	U.S.N.(3)
O.I.C.(3)	D.S.O.
D.A./S.W.	H.W.R.(2)
D.A.U.D.	F.O.S. by courier.
D.M.S.	W.D.
D.M.S. Citadel.	I.P.(3)

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VR

7.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SHAH  
(Contd.).

manned operationally and modified but will have no torpedoes and will not have done any working up. A fighter flight has not been allocated and one cannot be formed yet. One will be made available as soon as possible, but the shortage of suitable fighters is affecting all A/S Carriers and no immediate remedy is in sight.

(2) It has been decided not to embark American 22.4" torpedoes in Escort Carriers pending the results of trials which are now in progress. SHAH will require a period of up to five or six weeks after she is clear of her ferry commitment to work up with her squadron before she is in an operational condition.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 072007A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)).

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War Diary.

7.1.1944.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Suspicious Ship. Intercept from Hialeana Florida Radio begins. SSSS DE KCML / 33.14 N. 66.45 W. suspicious vessel signalling 070243Z ends. (Valentia Radio 070256Z) / KIGY (DARTMOUTH).

JAMES I. MCKAY. O.N.217 Ref. C. in C. W.A. 020616Z / JAMES I. MCKAY not arrived St. Johns. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F. 071330Z) / Re O.N.217 estimated position.

U/B Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 071405Z, Cominch, 071542)

BLIGH, BULLEN. 1500Q position approx. 042 degs. 10' N. 064 degs. 16' W. Hove to BULLEN in company. Weather report 1865 9918 position to nearest degree 42.64. (BLIGH, 071530Q to C. in C. N.A.)

PRINCE HENRY, PRINCE DAVID. As routing authority request you will take necessary action of Admiralty's 051350A. (N.S.H.Q. 071720Z to Cominch) Reply: Affirmative (Cominch, 081927Z)

NORSEMAN. Cable ship NORSEMAN escorted by U.S. C.G. COLFAX departed from Barbados 1800Q/7th to position (X) 018 degs. 27' N. 067 degs. 50' W. E.T.A. dawn 10th route (V) 013 degs. 36' 061 degs. 01' and 017 degs. 57' 067 degs. 29' thence position (X) and on completion of repairs (?direct) San Juan. Knots 10. (B.R.O. Barbados, 071805Q)

J.H.85, H.J.75. Detached J.H.85A at 045 degs. 53' N. 057 degs. 52' W. Unable to ? rejoin H.J.75? at present speed. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1800Z/8. (GODERICH, 072035Z to C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

Survey re Sinking of 3 blockade Runners. Enemy may be unaware of sinking of all the 3 blockade runners. It is therefore possible that they will send destroyer escorts to R/V in Bay, thus presenting opportunity for action. (2) Please ask Cominch to arrange that no mention be made in press for present of recent American successes. (1st S.L.072130A to B.A.D.)

SEARCHER /...

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7.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SEARCHER.

It is most improbable that SEARCHER's defects will be completed in time for her to make either of the dates mentioned in your 031613. Further signal will be made as soon as a good estimate of her completion date can be given.  
(B.A.D.072203Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.T., S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No.717  
Jan.6.

(10) Night Jan. 4th/5th M.T.B's damaged two large barges Sio area. Afternoon Jan. 5th 8 Kittyhawks destroyed 5 barges between Sio and Kelanoa Harbour.

(12) 6 Mitchells forenoon Jan. 5th bombed strafed 3 barges and enemy concentrations Choiseul Bay where further barge activity reported.

(17) Carrier based A/C over Kavieng morning Jan. 4th refer paras. 15 and 18 Digest Serial No.716 Jan. 5th shot down additional bomber en route Kavieng.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 070601Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U/B  
Estimates.

Extracts: A/C sightings and D/F indicate patrol line of about 10 between latitude 44 degs. 00' N. longitude 16 degs. 00' W. and latitude 44 degs. 00' N. longitude 22 degs. 00' W.  
D/F's 0509Z and 0513Z/7th Jan. on approx. longitude 02 degs. 00' W. indicate 1 or 2 may have passed Straits of Gibraltar eastbound.  
(D.D.I.C.071435A, 071440A)

Submarines Attacked.

U/B sighting  
and attack  
Summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C N/224 attacked U/B on surface at 1905/6 in 45 degs. 09' N. 09 degs. 57' W.  
(2) A/C A/- attacked U/B on surface at 2305/6 in 46 degs. 41' N. 05 degs. 23' W.  
(3) A/C attacked U/B at 2325/6 in 45 degs. 57' N. 06 degs. 06' W.

(4) /...

7.1.1944.

Friday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B sighting and attack Summary. (Contd.)

(4) A/C P/- attacked U/B at 0510/7 in 46 degs. 45' N. 06 degs. 05' W.

(5) H.M.C.S. HAIDA attacked periscope at 1930/4 in 70 degs. 32' N. 02 degs. 25' E.

(6) A/C U/206 sighted U/B at 1730/6 in 43 degs. 53' N. 23 degs. 32' W.

(7) A/C sighted U/B at 2345/6 in 60 degs. 07' N. 35 degs. 28' W.

(8) A/C L/224 sighted U/B at 1925/6 in 45 degs. 45' N. 08 degs. 12' W.

(9) A/C F sighted U/B on surface at 0002/7 in 47 degs. 04' N. 05 degs. 58' W.

(10) A/C sighted U/B on surface at 0140/7 in 46 degs. 24' N. 08 degs. 30' W.

(11) A/C sighted U/B on surface at 0442/7 in 46 degs. 56' N. 04 degs. 50' W.

Para. B. (1) EMPIRE MINOTAUR sighted periscope at 0900/4 in 19 degs. 00' N. 72 degs. 00' W.

(2) H.M.S. WHITEHALL attacked Radar contact at 1110/3 in 73 degs. 10' N. 18 degs. 40' W.

Ref. A.M. 031220A Para. A.6. LENIN sinking now reported unfounded. Ship undamaged.

(D.D.I.C. 071124Z)



8.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U/B sunk  
in Biscay  
Area.

1. Sunderland aircraft U/10 sank an enemy submarine at 1154A today in the Biscay area in 46.47 N. 10. 42 W. Several survivors were seen in the sea.

O.S.64/  
K.M.S.38.

2. Sinking of U-Boat, see 9th January.

North Atlantic.

T.G.21.16

3. U.S. Escort Carrier BLOCK ISLAND with 4 U.S. destroyers in company sailed from Casablanca this afternoon to support convoy G.U.S. 26 and for A/S patrol.

South Atlantic.

4. F.O.C.W. Africa intends to resume independent sailings between Freetown and the Congo River.

Mediterranean.

U/Bs.  
attacked.

5. (a). Aircraft of R.A.F. attacked 2 U-Boats between 2° W. and 3° W. about 2300 yesterday. ISIS, U.S.S. BENSON and ACTIVE, who were hunting off Cran, were directed to the U-Boat attacked in 36. 42 N. 02.05 W. (60 miles S.W. of Cartagena), whilst the Dutch destroyer SLAZAK proceeded to the second position and sighted a German U-Boat which dived at 0540 today in 36.28 N. 02.53 W. BRILLIANT and BLENCATHRA later joined SLAZAK.

(b)...

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8.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

U/Bs.  
attacked.  
(Contd.)

5.(b). At 2200 aircraft attacked a U-Boat in 36.54 N. 01.45 W. (south of Cartagena) and reported damaging it. The aircraft was shot down, 5 out of the crew of 6 being picked up.

Adriatic.

6. The destroyers JERVIS and JANUS patrolled last night between Benedetto and Ancona. They sank 3 schooners, damaged 2 trains, blew up an engine and bombarded Civitanova. They subsequently bombarded the railway area at Ancona; the only opposition encountered was ineffective fire from one battery.

America & West Indies.

MAURETANIA  
in collision.

7. SS. MAURETANIA was damaged above the water-line today in collision with the tanker HAT CREEK at Ambrose and is returning to New York.

Australia & New Zealand.

Routeing,  
Pacific to  
Indian Ocean.

8. Com. 10th Fleet today cancelled his orders dated May 1943 for the routeing of shipping from the west coast of North America the Canal Zone and South America to the Indian Ocean, and vice versa, and issued fresh routeing.

9.(a). Two M.T.Bs. last night sank 5 Japanese barges midway between Bogarjuin and Saidor (N.W. coast of New Guinea).

(b). Two other M.T.Bs. intercepted and it is believed damaged an enemy submarine near Sio (N.E. New Guinea.)

10. At dawn today Allied M.T.Bs. had an inconclusive engagement with 5 lightly loaded barges off Toran Bay, S.E. coast of Bougainville.

8.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Hush M/S. Admty.'s 080055.\* METEOR, ATHABASKAN detailed.  
(2) As METEOR will not now be available for J.W.  
56B am retaining HURON to carry out this duty.  
(R.A.(D) H.F., 081006A.)  
\* Hush Most Secret circulation.

SALCOMBE, Intend to change name of H.M.S. SALCOMBE to  
TENNYSON. H.M.S. TENNYSON, 0900/10.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 081130A.)

Operations.

Operation "Crux" completed. Agents exchanged  
stores transferred fishing vessel. My P.C.S.  
066° 12' N. 009° 28' E., 244, 11 knots. Weather  
report 8371 8782.  
(SEANYMPH, 080201A.)

Operation R.A. 55B E.T.A. Ewe Buoy 1330A/8th. On arrival  
F.V. intend to detach W.A. Escort to Greenock and  
READY, ORESTES to return Skaalefiord.  
(M/S.F.18, 080825A.)  
Scapa arrivals: HARDY, VENUS, VERULAM, VIGILANT.  
(A.C.O.S., 081204.)  
R.A. 55B arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 081508A.)

"Percussion" Am over 1 enemy submarine in 46.47 N. 10.42 W.  
Area: U/B Enemy submarine previously reported was on surface  
sunk. when first sighted was on course 270°, speed 12  
knots.  
(A/C RLBU, 081155 to Fort Southwick.)  
Have attacked U/B with depth charge. Submarine  
sunk 40 survivors in sea. Returning base, E.T.A. 1630.  
(A/C RLBU, 081205.)  
46° 50' N. 10° 45' W. patches of oil and 22 survivors.  
(A/C K, 081500A.)

Operation My 071953Z. Amended number of survivors on board  
"Stonewall": NENE is 52 including C.O. and 7 officers. 20 are  
TWEED, suffering from internal injuries of whom one  
survivors rating critical and one officer 7 ratings serious.  
and attack It is not considered that any books were  
on U/B. compromised.  
(S.O. E.G.6, 081255Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
Senior Officer transfer to WASKESIU. NENE proceed  
to Londonderry at best speed.  
(C. in C. W.A., 081538A to S.O. E.G.6.)  
Technical information required re sinking of TWEED.  
(C. in C. W.A., 081319A to S.O. E.G.6.)  
Reply to last message.  
(S.O. E.G.6, 082315Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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War Diary.8.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force patrols. Orders night 8th/9th January.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 081319A, C. in C. Plymouth 081332A.)  
Patrol cancelled proceed Humber or Yarmouth as convenient. Report state of wind and sea.  
(C. in C. Nore, 081850 to EGLINTON, (R) Capt. (S) 16, S.E.E.C.C.D., N.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, N.O.I.C. Humber.)  
Your 081332A.\* Force 114 sailed M.T.B. 413 S.O.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 081858A to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
\* Re Force 114 M.S.Bs.  
Force 114 returned owing to weather.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 082048.)

S/M Patrols. All times Zone A.  
Positions of submarines at 0800/9 and movements in following 24 hours.  
(B) UNSWERVING (P.63), STRATAGEM (P.234), SPITEFUL (P.227), TAKU as in my 051529.  
(E) PIPINOS (P.71) 47° 03' N. 12° 54' W., course 180°, daily advance 136 miles dived by day.  
(F) VIKING (P.69) diving by day in vicinity 50° 51' N. 08° 28' W.  
(F.O.(S), 081739A.)

U-Boats.

Foxers and Gnats. Even though every endeavour has been made to carry out the instructions given in my 031124A November 1943 it is evident that, owing to handling and A/S operating difficulties escorts are loath to run Foxers mark 2.  
(2) In view of the simplicity and lack of A/S interference experienced with American F.X.R. Mark 2 and 3 requested I may be informed of pros. and cons. of single and double Foxers based on latest information and investigations.  
(3) It is presumed that all information regarding U-Boat attacks with Gnats is being exchanged by the most rapid means with the Americans. It is requested that details of the torpedo attack resulting in the sinking of U.S.S. LEARY in the same area as TWEED may be forwarded as these might prove of great value especially if LEARY was towing American F.X.R. gear when struck.  
(C. in C. W.A., 081155A to Admt.)

Casualties and Defects.

U.S.S. TEXAS. Admiralty's 062056A and your 061654A. Report on damage to port foremost blister.  
(TEDWORTH, 081150A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. 273. Report situation, number of ships in company and known stragglers.  
(C. in C. W.A., 080052Z to S.E. H.X.273.)

/K.X.13 ...

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8.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.X. 13. Sailed. Escorts BURNET, ARCTIC RANGER, ST. NECTAN.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 081125A.)

O.S. 64/ One S/M on surface 135° 8 miles speed unknown  
K.M.S.38. 50.33 N. 17.22 W.

*U.757 sunk.*  
(HELMSDALE, 081810Z to Halifax W/T.)  
Following escorts hunting in 050° 24' N. 018° 22' W. BAYNTUN, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON, CAMROSE.

Latter in charge. Good contact. Have ordered 12 hours hunt. BAYNTUN detected on outer screen port bow at dusk.  
(B.4, 081955Z to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Belfast, Air Ministry, H.Q.A.D.G.B., H.Q.C.C.)

S.L. 144/ Cancel my 081202 (omitted from Diary) not to all  
M.K.S.35. addressees.

Ref. my 072027 not to all addressees, if not in contact with enemy leave southern limit of area at 0400/9th and proceed to make good 14 knots through 050° N. 019° W. to join and support S.L.144/M.K.S.35. Estimated P.C.S. at 0000/10th. All following positions are North and West unless otherwise indicated. 040° 34' 018° 30', 000°, 7½ knots 292 routed through (AL) 050° 10' 018° 30'. (AM) 055° 00' 010° 00'.

(2) Report at 2000/9th (corrupt group) on joining S.L.144/M.K.S.35.

(C. in C. W.A., 081812A to E.G. B.1, (R) Admty., Escorts S.C.150, S.L.144, H.X.273, H.Q.C.C., Cdre. (D) W.A., E.G.6., F.O.G.M.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, STRIKER.)

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8.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.L.C.T.  
332.Re repair and release.  
(A.B.N.A. Madrid, 081340A.)Gibraltar  
G.R. Opsum  
Sup. 7th Jan.

W.X.3374. A.I.75 8th January.  
P.179-2245-8-M.K.3-36.38 N. 02.05 W. 045-8-  
estimated larger than 517 ton type attacked -  
surfaced - illuminated by LL - heavy flak  
encountered. A/C hit in port wing - 15° red -  
6 M.K.V.I XI torpex-one explosion on starboard  
side 5 on port side across U/B stern - R/G sagelows high in  
water and stern submerged after attack - (?third) 600 yds -  
strikes seen on hull P.179-0329-night M.K.3-W.G.W.E. 1931-  
000-12-illuminated by LL-517 ton type - not attacked - pilots  
changing over at time of sighting.  
Large number of oil patches approx. 20 yds. diameter-0330 or  
033 R/179 3.D.R-0045-XVUN 3506-investigating flare on water-  
Y.179.  
(337 Wing, A.H.Q. Gib., 081625Z)

Convoys  
passing  
Europa.Request following be promulgated to Commodores  
and S.O. Escorts on K.M.S. M.K.S. O.S./S.L. convoy  
run.

A. In order to time passage of Eastbound convoys  
through Tunisian War Channel during daylight hours convoy should  
only pass Europa between 0600A and 1100A. It is desirable  
for convoys to pass during daylight to facilitate relief of  
U.K. based escorts and sailing of Gibraltar joiners. Commodores  
are requested to manoeuvre convoy accordingly.  
B. It is frequently necessary to slow down S.L. convoys if  
M.K.S. convoys are late, consequently Commodores should be  
prepared to manoeuvre their convoys as requisite.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 081631A to Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

?BLOCK  
ISLAND  
& destroyers.My 081402Z sailed 081730A.  
(C.M.S.F. 081657Z.)  
(W.R. state there is no trace of 081402Z.)G.U.S.  
routes.  
"Chop"  
line.Concur in Route proposed in Com. 10th Fleet  
051815.  
2. This amendment to G.U.S. Routes once more  
emphasises the necessity to shift the "Chop"  
line to 40° W. My 181857 December refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 081829A to Admty.)LE MALIN,  
LE FANTASQUE.When ordered by Admty. request you sail LE MALIN  
and LE FANTASQUE through (route)  
2. Ships are to stream paravanes before  
crossing 07° W.  
(F.O.G.M.A, 082309A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

/Freetown...

War Diary.

8.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Freetown  
to Congo,  
sailings.

Intend resuming independant sailings between  
Freetown and Congo River screening for ships  
at surf ports will be arranged.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 081956Z.)

War Diary.

8.1.1944.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

DZIK, UNSPARING. Leave patrol at 2101B/8 through 039° 44' 025° 43' 5 miles west of Anti-Psara close West Cape Papas and Kinaros West Kandeliusa and through Scarpanto Straits to position 035° 37' 027° 37' at 0332B/11th thence through 034° 03' 031° 58' to arrive Beirut 0701/13th.

2. Permanent total bombing restrictions on your route from Aegean.

3. P.55 (UNSPARING) is passing 5 miles West Kaloyeri Rocks about 0701B/9 thence 039° 28' 025° 12' to patrol South and Southwest of Lemnos in accordance with my 042210B.

(Capt. S.1 081025B to P.S. DZIK, UNSPARING, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)

ULTIMATUM. From position 034° 15' 025° 01' proceed on surface at 8½ knots through 034° 06' 029° 59' at 0232B/13th to arrive Beirut at 1031B/14th Jan.

2. Re W/T watch.

(Capt. S.1 081106B to ULTIMATUM, (R) N. & A. Authorities E.Alex. and Western Desert, Cmdr. Coastal Forces Med. N.O.I.C. Tripoli, S.O. S/Ms. Malta.)

STOIC. From a position 033° 45' 025° 03' proceed on the surface at 11½ knots to 034° 06' 029° 59' at 1715B/12th to arrive Beirut at 1706B/13th.

2. Re W/T watch.

3. ULTIMATUM routed through 034° 06' 029° 59' on the surface at 8½ knots arrive Beirut 1031/14th.

(Capt. S.1 081108B to as former.)

I.X.F. 7. Sailing postponed 24 hours.

2. Para. 8A for CATTERICK read ATHERSTONE.

(C. in C.Med. 081121A.)

RAMILLIES Convoy T. Intended programme for RAMILLIES and convoy T. is (A) leave Port Said p.m. 14th Jan. (B) RAMILLIES join from Alex. a.m. 15th (C) Arrive Algiers a.m. 19th to refuel sailing p.m. (D) Pass Gibraltar early a.m. 21st (C) Arrive U.K. about 29th. (C. in C.Med. 081217 to Admty.)

BIRMINGHAM. Temporary repairs will be commenced about March 20th on completion of ADINDA para. two of your 060110 refers.

2. Your para. 3 temporary repairs to enable ship to steam direct to U.S.A. will be completed at Alexandria if the current repair and docking situation permits. Otherwise these repairs will be limited to minimum necessary to enable ship to reach Gibraltar where a further period of about one month in dock would be necessary. In either case ship should arrive in U.S.A. middle to end June.

(F.O.L.E.M. 081434B to Admty.)



War Diary.8.1.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- O.24.  
KLO. From position 034° 48' 019° 59' proceed on surface at 12½ knots through 1. 035° 13' 014° 10' to arrive B. 035° 35' 014° 10' at 0601A/11th to R/V with KLO.  
2. Thence proceed in company direct to join convoy G.U.S.27 at 1201A/11th in 036° 33' 014° 02' to onward passage to Gibraltar.  
3. 201 Group is requested to arrange total bombing restrictions in accordance with M.J.A.O. 24 for above routes.  
(S.O. S/Ms. Malta 081446 to O.24 (R) V.A.M. 248 Wing, S.O. S/M Gib. JOHAN MAURITZ, Escorts of G.U.S.27, KLO, 201 Naval Co-op Group, A.H.Q. Med. R.A.L., N.L.O. 8th Army, S.N.O.I.S. N.Os.i/c Tripoli, Benghazi, (247, 211, 212 Group) Benghazi Sector.)  
Orders for KLO (V.A.Malta 081530.)  
Cancelled 082345.
- SIBYL. Leave patrol p.m. 9th passing 039° 10' 025° 36' and 5 miles west (corrupt group) Psara, thence by route ordered for P.52 (DZIK) in my 081025B para. one passing 035° 37' 027° 37' at 0804/11th through 034° 03' 031° 58' to arrive Beirut 0703/13th.  
(Capt. S.1 081833B to SIBYL, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)
- K.M.F.  
Convoys. As far as can at present be foreseen the number of ships in K.M.F. convoys, including 3 to 4 fast cargo vessels per convoy, is likely to be about 18 as far as Algiers, 22 thence to 10° E. and 12 onward to Middle East. K.M.F. 31, 32 and 33 should include an additional 5 personnel ships each West Africa for India.  
2. Request your remarks.  
(D.O.D.(F) 081917A to C. in C.Med.)
- Destroyers,  
defects. Completion essential defects. PENN and PALADIN at Alexandria with delay QUILLIAM, QUEENSBOROUGH, and RAIDER 6 days each.  
2. Revised E.D.C. 3rd February.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 081932B to Admty.)
- Mid-East  
Balkan Sitrep  
No. 53. 400072. O/57279 cipher 8 January.  
1. Int., Yugoslavia. German landing attempt on Hvar 5 January failed owing to adverse weather.  
(C. in C.M.E. 081940B.)
- Suez Canal,  
Co. Crisis reported in Suez Canal Company over wages possibly leading to general strike. Baron Benoiset arrives Alexandria on Monday and proposes to ask Suez Canal Company in London to authorize wage increase. S.N.O.R.S.C.A. to keep authorities addressed informed of developments.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 082010B.)

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8.1.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Damaged merchant shipping.

Owing to difficulties experienced in winter weather conditions and ship repair position in U.K. no further efforts will be made to tow damaged merchant shipping to U.K. during winter months. The situation will be reviewed at the end of February. Request this signal may be passed to M.W.T.Rs. Gibraltar, Mediterranean and Cairo. (D.T.D. 082046A to C. in C.Med. F.O.G.M.A.)

Situation Report No. 266.

1. GRENVILLE and ULSTER carried out sweep of Italian Coast between San Benedetto and Ancona during night 6th/7th January. No shipping seen, 2 trains shelled in vicinity San Giorgio (043° 11' N. 013° 47' E.) one hit and stopped.  
2. R.A.F. A/C attacked 2 U-Boats between 002° W. and 003° W. about 2300/7th. ISIS, U.S.S. BENSON and ACTIVE who were hunting off Cran were diverted to the one attacked in position 036° 42' N. 002° 05' W. SLAZAK proceeded to second position and sighted U-Boat (German) which dived at 0540/8th in position 036° 23' N. 002° 53' W. SLAZAK later joined by BRILLIANT and BLENCATHRA. Both hunts continue. (C. in C.Med. 082204.)

War Diary.

8.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly  
U/boat  
Disposition.

Reference B.1. weekly U-boat disposition number  
15. No fresh information no change in scale of  
air escort.  
(C. in C.E.F., 080314).

Scale of  
air  
activities.

Details of grading.  
(C. in C.E.F. 081053).  
See Lion Copy.

TEMPLAR,  
patrol  
report.

I.316 TEMPLAR summarized patrol report 3rd.  
Far East War Patrol 28th Dec. 1943 to 8th Jan.  
1944. Patrol blank. Returned with (?periscope)  
flooded. Encountered MITSUBISHI T 97 009<sup>0</sup>. 46'  
089 degs. 06' 0701Z/31st December.  
(Capt.(S) 4, 081154Z).

<sup>about</sup>  
R.F.HOKE

Water in engine room reducing to 8 feet. Water-  
tight doors secured. Intend to commence transfer  
of oil fuel 090900Z from aft to forward. Ready  
to proceed at 100700Z. Intend raising steam in  
one boiler and R.F. HOKE maintain control of water. Max. draft  
on arrival about 25 feet. Intend keeping close inshore en  
route to Aden.  
(LULWORTH, 081600Z to N.O.I.C. Aden).

168 and  
170.  
M.S.F.

168th (8 ships) and 170th (6 ships) M.S.F. are  
temporarily re-allocated to C. in C. Portsmouth  
and C. in C.W.A. respectively. Ships should be  
diverted accordingly.  
Com.N.O.B. Bermuda's 052047 refers.  
(D.M.S., 081801A to C. in C.E.F., C. in C.  
Portsmouth, C. in C.W.A., B.A.D.).

# SECRET

140A

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

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

M E S S A G E

IN

081053/Jan

Date: 10.1.44.  
Time: 1230

From: C in C Eastern Fleet

NAVAL CYPHER A 3 BY W/T.

Addressed: East Indies Stn 5630. Repeated Admiralty, N.Z.N.B., N.O.I.C. Fremantle, C.T.F. 71, Com 7th U.S. Fleet.

Grading of scale air activities -

(1) In future signals grading of scale air activity will be as follows. (W) No immediate threat. TOKEN air escort only preferably terminating at last light with sweep ahead of convoy or independently routed merchant ships.

(X) position not entirely clear but probably no immediate threat scale of escort as in (W) but all remaining A/C to be at high state of readiness for immediate action.

(Y) Full scale escort including dark night escort at request of local Naval Auth., for important convoys. Information not sufficiently accurate for laying on search but all aircraft not on escort to be at high state of readiness for immediate action.

(2) Full scale escort as in (Y) maximum effort to be employed searching separate areas specified

(2) When U-Boat contacts are made or when U Boat attack develops in any area local R.A.F. Cdr's in consultation with local Naval Auth. are authorised to alter the scale of effort in the area to meet new situation C. in C. Eastern Fleet and 222 group must at once be informed by immediate signal of any such change giving details of information or action which has necessitated the change.

(3) In considering the area A to G the limit of these areas as far as air action is concerned may be taken to be as follows

A North Arabian Sea North of 020 degs 00' North East of 061 degs 30' East

B Gulf of Oman North of 019 degs 00' North West of 061 degs 30' East

C Gulf of Aden North of 005 degs 00' North South of 019 degs 00' North West of 061 degs 30' East

D Approach Mombasa North of 018 degs 00' South West of 050 degs 00' East South of 005 degs 00' North

E West Coast of India South of 020 degs 00' North East of 070 degs 00' East North of 010 degs 00' North with in addition coastal strip 100 miles wide from West coast to latitude of Cape Comorin

F East coast of India coastal belt 100 miles wide from Calcutta to latitude 010 degs 00' North

/G.....

G Ceylon on East coast a belt 100 miles wide South of the latitude 010 degs 00' North the coastal belt extending to 080 degs 00' East

The area bounded by the Equator and 010 degs 00' North 070 degs 00' and 080 degs 00' East except the coastal strip in section E

(4) This signal summarizes information contained in message 420 Y of 26th Nov., 422 Y of 27th Nov., and 431 Y of 3rd Dec. which are cancelled.

081053.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

U.W.R.

Capt Pim

O.D.(5)

Ops (2)

D.A/S.W.

D.A/U.D.

D of P (3)

O.I.C.(3)

D.T.M (4)

D.T.D.(C)

Plot

D Map Rm

C.C.L.S.(2)

D.A.W.T.

C.A.O.R.

U.S.N.(3)

I.P.(3)

W.D.

C.W.R.

Ad Osborne

M.A File In

\* Re amended scale of escort.

Advance copies Ops. O.D. Plot

VID

(73).

8.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ARETHUSA. In view of D/F 0337Z/8 recommend ARETHUSA be diverted to pass through M. 35° N. 46° W. thence direct to Ponta Delgada.  
(D.O.D. (F) 080935A to Cominch.)  
ARETHUSA alter forthwith to pass through (M) 035° 00' N. 046° 00' W. thence direct to Ponta Delgada.  
(Cdre.10th U.S. Fleet C. & R. 081305Z to ARETHUSA (R) F.O.G.M.A. Admty., C. in C.W.A., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

EMPIRE MACKAY's A/C. Request brief report of circumstances in which EMPIRE MACKAY's A/C. were smashed on 26th Dec. KOOTENAY's 262201Z December (not to F.O.C.T.) refers. (N.T. in W.D.)  
(C. in C.W.A. 081013A to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
O.N.217 reports EMPIRE MACKAY (RP all A/C. smashed.)

LONG BRANCH. Request H.M.C.S. LONG BRANCH join C.3 for O.N.S.28. Your 072227 to N.S.H.Q. refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 081231Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
Allocated to date 21st Jan.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 081236Z.)

My 081231Z for H.M.C.S. LONG BRANCH read H.M.C.S. FORREST HILL. Your 081154Z refers.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 081731Z to C. in C.W.A.) / Re LONG BRANCH joining C.3 for O.N.S.281. \* Re H.M.C.S. FOREST HILL completes working up 21st January.

Read FORREST HILL in my 081236.\*

(C. in C. C.N.A. 081736Z.)\* Allocation from new construction to the Mid Ocean Escort Force.

U.S.S. GEN.A.E. ANDERSON. Alter course forthwith for new A.33.  
(a) 33.30 45.01 (b) 33.30 63.59 (c) 35.40 70.02 thence 36.57 74.38 omitting UV.  
(Com.10th Flotilla 081419Z to A.E.ANDERSON.)

U/B. situation reports. 1200Z/8. Lack of evidence indicates U/B recently in vicinity of Flemish Cap may now be homeward bound.  
(N.S.H.Q. 081424Z.)  
No change indicated since my 061620. Enemy U/B estimated 1200Z/8.  
(Cominch 081500.)

MAURETANIA (A.T.62.) In collision with tanker HAT CREEK at Ambrose damaged above waterline returning.  
(SS. MAURETANIA 081432.)  
Sailing delayed indefinitely.  
(P.D. New York 081646Z.)  
Ref. my 081646. Now sailing Jan.9th. Add 33 hours to all times my dis. 072030.  
(P.D. New York 081916Z.)

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War Diary.8.1.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- B.X.91. Escort Task Unit W.I. NIPIGON (D.O) H.M.C.S. (E.WOIE)/ARROWHEAD. (P.D. Boston 081513 to Com.10th Fleet C. & R. C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. C.N.A., Admiralty London, Comdeslant, C.T.F.24 P.D. New York, N.O.I.C. St.Johns, New Brunswick.) / As received.
- H.M.C.S. LOCKEPORT. My 071500Z amend E.T.A. 091900Z over (2 corrupt groups) L/V instead of Norfolk (V.A.) due to being hove to 20 hours number one boiler broken down for steaming (corrupt group) Radar broken down intend (corrupt group) via Philadelphia to de ammunition thence via Canal to Baltimore for Job. No.301. Position 038° 48' 070° 00' course 260° weather report 6671. 4571. Sea (corrupt group). Re C.E.S.F. 081637Z altering (corrupt group) U.S.S. ST.AUGUSTINE survivors. (LOCKEPORT 081700Z.)
- H.M.C.S. ST.LAURENT. P.C.S. 081500 045° 04' 054° 20' 258° 16 to 268° in 058° 00' W. E.T.A. Halifax No.6 L/V.091500. Boiler hours No.1 243 2 529 No.3 643. MATANE 836 and 874. ST.LAURENT forward bulkhead No.1 stokehold leaking from oil tank. Starboard main generator armature defective. Unrecorded ice and weather report 0067 5862 8976. (ST.LAURENT 081723Z.)
- PRINCE HENRY. After arrival Canal zone and upon completion items para.2 COPO 061632Z sail to Portsmouth, England via Bermuda for fuel. (Cominch 081929Z.)
- Routeing, Pacific to Indian Ocean. Cancel my D.I.S. 101530Z May and all related instructions for routeing South of New Zealand. New instructions for Indian Ocean Traffic follow. (A) All vessel from Pacific bound Indian Ocean shall be routed as follows to pass through positions:- 38.38 S. and 151.20 E. 39.00 S. 147.37 E. and through Bass Strait in accordance Q.F.A.108 to Freemantle for Bunkers and onward routeing:- 1. Vessels from West Coast North America to North of New Zealand as in Para.2 of my DIS.272047Z December. 2. Vessels from Canal zone or South America to pass through Cook Strait in daylight identifying themselves at Baring Head. 3. All ships shall be adequately bunkered in case it is necessary to divert them South of New Zealand. 4. Include Melbourne as reference position. (B) Eastbound vessels from Indian Ocean shall pass North of New Zealand to the W.Coast North America or through Cook Strait and South of Chatham Islands to Canal Zone or South America reporting Centres pass to routeing Officers your areas other interested activities have been informed. (Com.10th Fleet C. & R. 082022Z to Admty.)

/Atlantic...

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8.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Atlantic  
Narrows.

Your 052212 to Cinclant. Convoys S.L.144 and O.S.64 will pass about 100 miles apart in 44° N. 19° W. a.m. 11th January. Request you will consider operating any available C.V.E's between 42° and 46° N. where there will be no British Forces operating other than those supporting the convoys.  
(1st S.L. 082052A to Cominch.)

Blockade  
runners.

Intelligence.  
(Cominch 082137). See Lion Copy.

Convoy  
C.K.1.

Detailing P.C's. 484, 568 and 1261 plus TIDE THREAT, and KEWAYDIN as escorts Convoy C.K.1 to U.K.  
(Commaveu 082239.)

Australia & New Zealand.Digest  
Serial  
No.718.

Jan.7th paras.12 to end cover S. Pacific Forces 7. Japanese S/M. located by A/C. evening 40 miles N. Saidor course 300°. 13. Coast watcher reports supplies possibly landed Choiseul Bay early morning 5th by barges from ship. Allied Patrol Craft shelled enemy positions Choiseul Bay night 6/7th. 14. 3 Northbound enemy surface craft effectively engaged by Motor Torpedo Boats off S.E.Bougainville night 6th although nil barges sunk. Return fire encountered.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 080612Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked.S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/8th.

Para.A. (1) H.M.Ship attacked by U/B. at 1611/7 in 44° 18' N. 21° 19' W. (2) A/C. P/179 attacked U/B. on surface at 2156/7 in 36° 40' N. 02° 00' W. (3) H.M.S. WASKESIU attacked U/B. at 1650/7 and 1715/7 in 44° 18' N. 21° 17' W. (4) A/C. E/247 reported U/B. at 2235/6 in 45° 28' N. 21° 07' W. (5) A/C. reported U/B. at 1614/7 in 44° 18' N. 21° 33' W. (6) A/C. P/35 sighted U/B. at 0540/7 in 45° 10' N. 09° 47' W. (7) A/C. sighted U/B. on surface at 0230/8 in 38° 19' N. 00° 29' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 081130A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 081414A, 081421A.)



# MOST SECRET

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

**(\*Note :** Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :  
MOST SECRET "O.T.P." are ~~transmitted~~ <sup>MISSING</sup> from this 082137/January IN

From : COMINCH. Date. 9.1.44.  
Recd. 0855

C.C.M. FO - A BY T/P. RECIRCULATION.

Addressed : Admiralty, Repeated : C. in C. Lant  
COMNAVEU.

Blockade Runners -  
Intelligence.

Com. Fourth Fleet's 081326 begins.

Amplifying my 032045. WESERLAND departed Batavia 22nd November 1943. Unconfirmed statements give her cargo as 4500 tons rubber, same amount of tin 300 crates rosin, 100 barrels citronella oil, 45 barrels coconut oil, some tungsten. Other runners said to have generally same cargo. Two Italian submarines seen Singapore about 20th November 1943. One informant said these were to leave for Europe as cargo submarines about 30th November. Another stated these going to drydock first. Raider No. 10 reported sunk at Pier in Yokohama late 42. Raider No. 28 reported sunk 400 miles off Yokohama in 1943. German Tanker BRAKE seen in Batavia 22nd November 1943 having been there about four weeks. Informant states WESERLAND arrived Japan December 42. Sailed for Europe January 1943. Got as far as Capetown when ordered back to Japan, arriving there April 1943. Again departed Yokohama for Europe 26th October of that year, called at Singapore about 10th November 1943. There embarked 37 Italians from Italian submarine CAPPELLINI, commanded by Walter Ugoni. Italian submarines TORRELLI and GIULLIANI said to have arrived far East (Singapore possibly) Mid-August 43. Informants know of no other home bound runners other than the OSORNO ALSTERUFER RIO GRANDE BURGEN and WESERLAND. WESERLAND carried 137 men.

Com. Fleet 4 now has 133 men 12 merchant Marine officers 46 Merchant Marine sailors, 6 German Navy Officers and Petty Officers, 32 German Navy enlisted men, 35 Italians, 2 Pins. Ends quotation.

082137

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- C. S.
- C. S. (U)
- C. S. (H)
- C. S. (F)
- U. W. R.
- of P. (2)
- of P. (2)
- D. S. W.
- Capt. Pim.
- D. C.
- Plot.
- D. O. D. (T) (2)
- D. O. D. (H) (4)
- D. D. I. C. (2)
- D. S. D. 9
- W. W.
- D. I. I. (4)
- D. E. W. D. (3)
- Hd. of M.
- Admiral Blake

O.I.C. Comment. This report appears to be generally accurate and is graded C.2. Information concerning Raider 10 (Raider E) has been previously received (W.I.R. Raider Supplement No. 3 of 27th August 1943). Information concerning Raider 28 (Raider H) is new and may probably be correct as there has been no raider activity since July 1943. Italian Submarines arrived Singapore from Europe as follows:  
CAPPELLINI 13th July  
GIULLIANI 1st August.  
TORELLI 30th August.

War Diary.

9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy  
O.S. 64/  
K.M.S.38.  
2 U/Bs.  
sunk.

U.757 sunk

1(a) The frigate BAYNTUN of the 6th Escort Group, supporting O.S.64/K.M.S.38 detected a U-Boat on the outer screen at 1810Z yesterday in about 50.24 N. 18.22 W. and hunted it with the Canadian manned corvette CAMROSE assisted by SNOWBERRY and EDMUNDSTON. Following the eighth attack the submarine was heard trying to blow its ballast tanks, after which contact was lost and the U-Boat was considered to have sunk. Slight wreckage was recovered.

(b) Early this morning contact was obtained in 49.42 N. 19.20 W. with a second submarine which was attacked ahead of the convoy by HELMSDALE, ABELIA and WINCHELSEA of B.4 Group escorting the convoy. At 1100Z contact was lost after a series of promising attacks, and WINCHELSEA considered the U-Boat to have been sunk.

(c) During the attacks, the corvette ABELIA's rudder was blown off, probably by her own depth charges, and the vessel was taken in tow for Milford Haven by the tug STORM KING, escorted by the trawler VIZALMA, and reached Cardiff on the evening of 13th January.

Operation  
"Stonewall".

2. MAURITIUS sailed from Plymouth this evening, to rejoin the Mediterranean Fleet. LE FANTASQUE and LE MALIN are also to sail for the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean.

3. Convoy U.G.S.27 was twice attacked by enemy aircraft this morning, about 60 miles west of Derna. No damage was sustained. One aircraft is reported to have been shot down by A/A fire.

U/B hunts.

4. Aircraft sighted 4 U-Boats in 38.00 N. 00.07 E. (south-east of Alicante) at 0752 today and 37.34 N. 00.35 W. (60 miles N.E. of Cape Palos) at 0845. Hunts continue by the vessels engaged yesterday (see para.5a), who have been joined by ATHERSTONE and U.S.S. BENSON made several attacks without visible result.

PROTEE  
overdue.

5. The French S/M PROTEE is overdue from patrol south of Toulon since 3rd January and must be considered lost. CASABIANCA heard a very heavy explosion in PROTEE's area on 29th December.

/Adriatic ...

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9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Adriatic.

6(a) The destroyers TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT carried out a sweep last night between San Benedetto and Ancona. Four schooners were damaged and left abandoned, and 2 trains were hit and stopped. The destroyers also bombarded San Benedetto.

(b) 107 escorted U.S. Fortresses bombed Pola harbour today: many hits were made in the Naval Base and Arsenal area and a submarine was probably sunk. A total of 66 U.S. Mitchells bombed the harbour and railway centre at Ancona. U.S. Spitfires set an F-Boat on fire and left a gunboat sinking west of Piombino.

Aegean.

7. 2 M.Is. sank 2 caiques south-west of Symi at 2300 today and took prisoners.

China.

8. 14th U.S.A.A.F. sank a merchant ship south-west of Swatow today.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. Last night a light cruiser and destroyer Task Force successfully bombarded targets in the Shortland Faisi Poporang areas of the Solomon Islands.

10. Allied M.T.Bs. sank 10 southbound barges last night north of Saidor; 7 of the barges were loaded.

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9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CHURCHILL Now that RESTIGOUCHE has returned to the Group it is proposed that CHURCHILL be withdrawn from service, and that an R.C.N. Frigate be allocated to C.4 Group when you have one available.  
(2) CHURCHILL is considered to be unfit for further service as an Ocean Escort.  
(3) Request your concurrence or remarks.  
(C. in C.W.A., 090949A to C. in C.C.N.A.).

Operations.

S/M (L) You will sail P.68 (VENTURE) from Lerwick patrols. at 1800A/11 (route), East to patrol in accordance with F.O.(S) + 042047. Proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion until entering patrol area.  
(Capt.(S) 9, 091019A to S.O.(S) Lerwick (R) F.O.(S), A.C.O.S., C. in C. Home Fleet, H.Q.C.C., V.A.2., C. in C. Rosyth).

P.227 (SPITEFUL) is to leave patrol for Lerwick at 1800A/11th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion.

(Capt.(S) 9, 091023A to S/M's. operating N. of 51 degs. N. (R) C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S), S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, A.C.O.S., C. in C.H.F., V.A.(2) H.F.).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/10 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) UNSWERVING (P.63) STRATAGEM (P.234) SPITEFUL (P.227) TAKU on patrol as in my 051529.

(D) VIKING (P.69) proceeding from patrol vicinity 50 degs. 50' N. 08 degs. 30' W. to patrol in vicinity 50 degs. 45' N. 10 degs. 01' W.

(F.O.S., 091542, 091901A).

+ Most Secret.

Operation "F.W." Operation "F.W." para. 4 (a).  
(a) J.W.56A, READY, ORESTES.  
(b) R.A.56A, RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE.  
(c) J.W.56B, ONYX, HYDRA.  
(d) R.A.56B, READY, LOYALTY, acknowledge.  
(S.O.(M) 18, 091101A to V.A.2.).

Group 5 sailed 1030A, total 6 merchant ships. My 071338 refers.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 091248C to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Coastal Orders night 9th - 10th January.  
Force (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091418A).  
patrols.

Operation My 071747+MAURITIUS sailed. S.O.A. 21½ knots.  
"Stonewall" W.D. Note: To rejoin Med. Fleet).  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091855A and 101213A).  
+Most Secret.

Your 071331. Concur. F.S. LE FANTASQUE and F.S. LE MALIN should be sailed for Gibraltar as convenient being placed under the orders to C. in C. Med. on arrival.

(D.O.D.(F), 092358A to C. in C. Plymouth).

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9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Minefield  
off Norfolk  
coast.  
(Q.Z.X. 1204).

Details of 3 mines found and already reported.  
Remarks.: Search of area was ordered subsequent  
to HOLDERNESS being damaged by a mine in lat.53  
degs. 02' 12" N. long. 01 degs. 43' 00" E. area  
has now been declared as Q.Z.X.1204. Field was  
probably laid by E-boats on night 4/5 November  
1943 (see C. in C. Nore's 051654 November to  
Admiralty or 24/25th October (See C. in C.  
Nore's) 251702 October to Admty.  
(Capt.M/S Great Yarmouth, 091715A, 092235A).

(1) 4 Mines accounted for in clearance of Q.Z.X.1204  
today (Details).  
(M.S.15, 091812A).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy  
Units in  
Norway.

N.A. Stockholm reports that one 3,000 ton  
Sperrbrecher, two large destroyers, one heavily  
armed M/V passed Sound at 1400/8 course North.  
(D.D.I.C. 091013A to A.I.G.47, S.B.N.O. North  
Russia, Admiral Fisher, Moscow, Comnaveu).

U-boat.

Sinking of  
TWEED 7 a.m.

Technical information in reply to C. in C.W.A.  
081319A.  
(NENE 091030Z).

Foxers and  
Gnats.

Your 081155A. Detailed reply is being sent by  
letter.  
(D.T.M.,091606A to C. in C.W.A.).

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.64/  
K.M.S.38.  
U/Boat  
sunk.

Inconclusive D/F of transmission on 4020 kc/s.  
at 0001Z indicates U-boat within 100 miles of  
50 degs. 00' N. 20 degs. 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C.090208A to Escorts O.S.64/K.M.S.38,  
E.G.6, E.G. B.1.,AVON Info. as usual).  
My 081955. CAMROSE considers U-boat destroyed.  
Submarine heard trying to blow ballast tank  
after eighth attack when total contact lost. BAYNTUN recovered  
slight wreckage coated with light diesel oil. CAMROSE and  
SNOWBERRY remaining in vicinity until 1000. Remainder  
rejoining. BAYNTUN original Radar contact and sighting made  
3 attacks. CAMROSE 5 attacks. SNOWBERRY, EDMUNSTON observant.  
Consider U-boat probably on passage caught on surface in bad  
visibility.  
(B.4, 090215Z to Admty. C. in C.W.A.).

In contact with second S/M. in 049 degs. 42' N. 019 degs.  
20' W. counter attacked ahead of convoy by HELMSDALE picked up  
astern by ABELIA and WINCHELSEA. Latter two hunted until  
former's rudder blown off probably by own depth charge.

/BURDOCK...

War Diary.9.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

O.S. 64/  
K.M.S.38.  
U-Boat  
sunk.  
(Contd.)

BURDOCK joining WINCHELSEA. STORMKING towing ABELIA. Latter can steam but not steer. Request instructions.  
(B.4., 090550Z to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.I.C.Greenock, F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, Air Min., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Further to my 0550Z. Possible 3rd U-Boat (German) detected by FOLEY 9 miles ahead of convoy at 2330Z. Echo faded search produced no result.

(B.4., 091002Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 0550Z not to all addressees. WINCHELSEA, BURDOCK still attacking.

(B.4., 091012Z to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Re attack on S/M by B.4.

STORMKING towing ABELIA to Milford Haven escorted by VIZALMA routed direct to 180 degs. Fastnet Rock 10 miles thence via Q.Z.L.58. Your 090550Z+ refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 091105A to S.O. E.G. B.4, (R) E.G. B.4, N.O.I.C. Greenock, Admty., N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, C. in C. Plymouth.)

+ Re ABELIA being towed by STORMKING after sustaining damage during U-Boat hunt.

WINCHELSEA reported U-Boat probably sunk. Contact lost at 1100Z after series of promising attacks which started originally at 03335Z. No further details or evidence at present known. A/S conditions have been excellent throughout. All ships rejoining convoy.

(B.4., 091235Z to C. in C. Med.)

Your 091105A and S.O. E.G. B.4 090550Z. My P.C. and S. at 1330A 049 degs. 50' N. 019 degs. 07' W. 076 degs. 5 knots. Following damage sustained.

Foxers not streamed. Contact first obtained at 2,800 yards and speed reduced to 7 knots. Speed increased to full at 950 yards and E. pattern dropped at estimated speed 13 to 14 knots. It is not considered U-Boat (German) was end on to ship during any period of attack. Cause of explosion is not clear. Possibly premature explosion of 3rd depth charge from ?? (damage) or possibly mine from U-Boat (German).

(ABELIA, 091338A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N. 219. Sailed ASSINIBOINE (S.O.), ETRICK, GALT, FORESTER, FREDERICTON, H.M.R.T. BUSTLER and H.M.T. COLD-STREAMER, for O.N.219. GIFFARD sailing 4 hours later on completion of calibration. CELANDINE defective sailing p.m. Monday to overtake. Latest Q.J.A.254.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 091001A.)

FREDERICTON returned with A/S defects will be sailed with CELANDINE to overtake.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 091950A.)

EMPIRE  
HEYWARD.

It has been reported that EMPIRE HEYWARD destination Tyne, has time bombs placed by enemy agents on board. Arrangements.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 091035A; D.T.D. 091832A.)

9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.L.144/  
M.K.S.35.

Ref. my 081812. / Increase speed to make 15 knots.  
(C. in C.W.A., 091115A to E.G.B.1.).  
/ If not in contact with enemy proceed to join  
and support S.L.144/M.K.S.35.

O.N.S.27

Escorts. Group B.5.  
HAVELOCK S.O., VOLUNTEER, VIMY, BUTTERCUP,  
LAVENDER, KRIEZIS, WARWICK will overtake.  
HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER, and WARWICK have H.F./D.F.  
(Capt.(D) Liverpool, 091144A).

Escort  
oilers in  
Trans-  
Atlantic  
convoys.

The occasions recently in which the allocation of  
escort oilers to Trans-atlantic convoys has only  
included one fully equipped oiler are noted with  
concern. This mainly applied to eastbound  
convoys. Consider two fully equipped escort  
oilers for each east and west bound convoy to be  
minimum requirements. Request necessary action  
be taken. Letter follows.  
(C. in C.W.A., 091335A to Admty.).

K.M.F.28

A.M. 060814. Convoy K.M.F.28.  
Route, reference positions etc.  
(D.O.D.(H), 091940A).

Convoy  
T.U.6.

Will be ready to leave U.K. on 13th Jan.  
(2) Escort Task Force 60 - U.S.S. TEXAS, Escort  
Oiler MERRIMACK and U.S. Destroyers BOYLE, DAVISON,  
MERVINE, PARKER, TILLMAN, ORDRONAU, KENDRICK,  
LAUB, MCLANAHAN, CHAMPLIN, MACKENZIE and NIELDS.  
(D.O.D.(H) 091943A).

J.W.57,  
R.A.57.

My 011831 para.(2).  
Owing to increased daylight in February it is  
proposed J.W.57 and R.A.57 should be supported by  
an aircraft carrier.  
(2) Aircraft in proportion 6 fighters to 9 A/S  
are considered desirable.  
(3) Request information whether ship can be made available.  
(C. in C.H.F., 092002A to Admty.).

150

9.1.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar  
G.R.Opsum  
8th Jan. Diverted at 0729 to U-Boat hunt - radius 33 miles from VGYQ 2745 (? 38.27 N. 01.15 W.) ZF. Bubbles of gas. Underwater wake and several streaks of bubbles on surface. Oil patch with bubbles.  
(Gibraltar, 090210A.)

Landing of  
U.S. troops  
at Azores. A.146, 9th January. Most urgent G.O.C. Azores should be instructed to authorize landing of American troops (? at) a.m. Sunday. Meantime I have refused to entertain any interference with my disembarkation plans but present hitch is (? embarrassing) to both sides.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 090220Z to British Ambassador, Lisbon.)

TANTIVY  
(P. 319) Anticipate you will cross 043° N. at 0330A/11th. (Capt. (S) 5, 091042A to TANTIVY.)  
F.O.G.M.A. 071612 and Capt. (S) 10 091042.  
Anticipate that TANTIVY will leave "Brown" route in 043° N. 013° 22' W. at approx. 0300A/11th.  
By proceeding on surface at 10 knots by day and night it will be impossible to reach position (P) before 2030A/12. Weather report 4872 1454.  
(TANTIVY, 091940 to F.O.G.M.A.)

T.G. 21.11  
(G.U.S.27) C. in C. Lant has ordered Task Group 21.11 to arrive Casablanca about 14th January and to sail thence about 17th January in support of G.U.S.27. (D.O.D.(H), 091201A to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A., S.B.N.O.Azores, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

U/B  
report. Am over enemy S/M in 37° 46' N. 00° 8' W. (A/C Duty 'M', 091245.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 37° 46' N. 00° 19' W. Periscope only sighted.  
(Duty 'M', 091250.)

STORM. S/M STORM sailed in K.M.S.37.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091408.)

M.M.S.252  
missing. M.M.S.257 reports M.M.S.252 last seen in 040.25 N. 050.00 W. at 022050Z very heavy weather experienced during passage.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 091621Z.)

TANTIVY,  
PIPINOS Cancel my 071612A. New route for TANTIVY, route for PIPINOS.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 091728A to TANTIVY, PIPINOS (G.S.), (R) Admty., F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 3, C. in C. Med., U.S. Commander U.S. Fleet, C. in C. W.A., C.M.S.F.)

/ U/B ...



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9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B  
attacked.

ZE. Report of air attack on U/B in 36.54 N.  
? 01.45 W. at 2214.  
(Gibraltar, 092127A, SLAZAK 090045A.)

ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN.

Portuguese G.O.C. Ponta Delgada not informed by  
Lisbon arrival of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, result he  
issued orders to local acting Commander to  
withhold authority for landing of personnel.  
A.V.M. Bromet reconciled divergent views,  
unloading now proceeds.  
Suggest acting with Army insure Lisbon instruct local Govt.  
concerning Army shipments and 2 A.V.P. Comairlant intend using  
for HEDRON delivery here.  
Believe today's misunderstanding would not have arisen except  
that friendly military Govt. Terceira removed and recalled 3  
days ago.  
(Comnav Azores, 092330Z.)

War Diary.9.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

U/B  
attacked. Have picked up survivors from Wellington Y 36th Squadron in 036° 56' N. 001° 45' W. where U-Boat was reported to have submerged.  
(SLAZAK, 090045A.)

ISIS has detached for Oran. SLAZAK, BRILLIANT, BLENCATHRA, ACTIVE, U.S.S. BENSON are formed as one unit and are carrying out sweep north-westward from diving position of U-Boat. 2 airmen missing and 2 of 4 rescued are badly injured, my 090045 refers.  
(SLAZAK, 090355A to C. in C. Med.)

U.G.S.27  
attacked. Codeword "Extended". I am being attacked by unknown aeroplane 33.00 N. 22.18 E., 090°, 10 knots.  
(USK, 090103B to Alex. W/T.)  
First wave over no damage.  
(E.G.36, 090136B.)

UNRULY. Leave present patrol area at 0003/10th and proceed on longitude 025° 01' to latitude 039° 20'. Then to patrol in accordance with my memo. W.D.7. Western boundary of your area is long. 025° 21'.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 091014B to P.49 (UNRULY), (R) SIBYL, P.55 (UNSPARING), F.O.L.E.M.)

Convoy  
attacked. Convoy "Vellum" is being attacked by enemy A/C position 37.15 N. (?) 42.00 E., course 264.  
(Escorts Convoy "Vellum", 091040Z to Algiers.)

LE FANTASQUE,  
LE MALIN. Request you will sail LE FANTASQUE and LE MALIN to Gibraltar. C. in C. Plymouth, 071331,  
(C. in C. Med., 091154A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

UNSPARING,  
UNRULY. P.55 (UNSPARING) has freedom of action in the North Aegean after 0002/10th.  
(2) P.49 (UNRULY) remains to westward Kaloyeri Rock until 1602/10th then patrol between Khios and Doro Channel.

(3) Cancel my 091014.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 091322B to P.55 (UNSPARING), P.49 (UNRULY), (R) P.217 (SIBYL), F.O.L.E.M.)

UNTIRING. Leave patrol to pass 043° 42' 008° 34' at 0100/11 through 041° 53' 008° 20' at 0200/12 thence Q.B.B.301 to arrive Maddalena 1300/12.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 091443A to UNTIRING, (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.G.M.A., 10th S/M.F., LA SULTANE.)

/LA SULTANE ...

9:1.1944.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

LA SULTANE. 2 U-Boats expected to arrive Toulon 13th and 14th. At dawn patrol in zone SU to intercept. 2nd U-Boat may be damaged, and consequently delayed.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 091557 to LA SULTANE.)

WIRIL. Swedish Govt. intimate that safe conduct vessel WIRIL will visit Cyclades and other islands as follows: arrangements.  
(3) Request you will inform Air and other Authorities concerned.  
(Admty., 091847A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Situation Report No.267. (1) My 072215, para. 3. Position has been amended to 040° 40' N. 014° 15' E. and casualty confirmed as due to mine.  
(2) JERVIS and JANUS carried out sweep between San Benedetto and Ancona during night 7th/8th Jan. Intention was to bombard Ancona result not yet reported.  
(3) Convoy U.G.S.27 was twice attacked by A/C about 60 miles West of Derna at 0113/9th and 0552/9th. No damage. One A/C claimed shot down by A/A fire.  
(4) My 082204, para. 2. A/C attacked U-Boat at 2200/8th in position 036° 54' N. 001° 45' W. and reported damaging it. The A/C was shot down 5 out of 6 crew picked up. A/C also sighted 4 U-Boats in position 038° 00' N. 000° 07' E. at 0752/9th and 037° 34' N. 000° 35' W. at 0845/9th. Hunts continue in vicinity of above 3 positions. ATHERSTONE has joined the hunting force.  
(C. in C. Med., 092110A.)

U/B attacked. Have attacked good submarine contact in 038° 36' N. 000° 30' E. No visible result but am standing by with U.S.S. BENSON till morning. Still in contact.  
(ATHERSTONE, 092202 to C. in C. Med., (R) SLAZAK, ISIS.)

PROTEE lost. French S/M PROTEE must be considered lost. She has been overdue from patrol South of Toulon since 3rd January. CASABIANCA heard very heavy explosion in PROTEE area on 29th December.  
(C. in C. Med., 092226A.)

CHITRAL. Required to sail from Port Said 15th Jan. in G.U.S.28 if possible.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 092345B.)

9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B  
estimate.

11. Poor D/F bearing at 2150Z/7 indicates a German U/Boat was probably 450 miles S.E. of East London probably moving N.E.  
(C. in C.E.F. 090410Z.)

A.K.D.11A.

Sail 0400/9.  
Escorts BANFF and ROSEBAY at 10° 00' 52° 40'  
LANGUARD and JASMINE will relieve BANFF and  
ROSEBAY, BANFF return Aden ROSEBAY proceeds  
Colombo.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 090428Z.)

War Diary.

9.1.1944.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

H.M.C.S.  
LOCKEPORT. No. 2 fan engine completely broken down No. one fan engine in poor condition running slowly using one boiler. Main boiler stopped valve leaking down to 180 pounds pressure, P.C. and S. 039° 14' 070° 25' (?232° or 260°) 40 revolutions have (2 corrupt groups) and taken all precautions require a tow refer my 090220Z (N.T. in W.R.)  
(LOCKEPORT 090502Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)  
Position 039° 02' 072° 32' hove to engine stopped need tow 6871 3067 sea 31.  
(LOCKEPORT 092210Z to Com. Eastseafon.)

T.G.21.4. Task Group 21.4 reconstituted as follows:  
Commander Markham (Comcortdiv 21) in JOSEPH E. CAMPBELL, CHASE, LOY, LANING. Depart Aruba - Curacao area 11 Jan. escorting C.T.12 to North African ports. Return Aruba escorting T.O.12 when directed by Commorseafon.  
(Comnaveu 091151.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 091357Z, Cominch 091517.)

L.26. Escorts detailed.  
(Comeastseafon 091409.)

SACKVILLE. Request you detach SACKVILLE from C.2 to join C.4 additional for C.N.220 thence Halifax (two) ship is scheduled to refit about 7th February.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 091459 to C. in C.W.A.)

EMPIRE MACKAY. Explaining how all her aircraft were smashed.  
(C. in C.C.N.A., 091529Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Adnty. F.O.C.T. N.A.S.Maydown, R.A.N.A.S.(N).)

H.X.274,  
H.X.275,  
escorts  
(Groups C.5  
B.7.) BLIGH, BULLEN, ANQUILLA, KEMPTHORNE, GOODSON, STEADFAST sail with Group C.5 additional for H.X. 274.  
2. Intend BICKERTON, SHIEL, KEATS sail with B.7 for H.X. 275.  
(F.O.N.F. 091840Z.)

Atlantic Narrows. A.M. 082052A and A.M. 091242A. In view of change of route convoys will now pass in about 42° N.  
2. If you should decide to operate a C.V.E. near these convoys suggest you adjust operating area as you may require.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 091857A to Cominch, Info. C. in C.W.A. F.O.G.M.A. S.B.N.O.Azores, C. in C.Plymouth.)

/Stragglers...

War Diary.9.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Stragglers  
report.

Stragglers arrived week ending January 8th, Jan. 6th JOHN BAKKE (Nor.) O.N.217 Leakage repairs. Jan. 8th LUCIEN BAKER MAXWELL (U.S.) N.D. H.X. 273 heavy weather damage and ALEXANDER HAMILTON (U.S.) H.X. 273. See my 091456. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 091914Z.)

Dispositions  
of Frigates.

A.M. 281959 December. It is proposed A. ETTRICK detach from C.1 ex O.N.219 on relief by ST. LAURENT thence to Halifax about January 23rd for paying off and recommissioning by R.C.N.  
B. MONTREAL and STORMONT two new frigates to sail about January 31st and February 15th respectively to join E.G.6.  
C. Consider it best for NENE to detach from E.G.6 when STORMONT joins but if earlier detachment necessary when MONTREAL joins group.  
D. Suggest transfer E.G.6 to WASKESIU temporarily pending return of NENE with R.C.N. Senior Officer on board.  
E. These changes will not interfere with E.G.9 as frigates allocated were destined for W.E.F. and weakening of these groups is being accepted.  
F. C. in C.W.A. 301129 December also refers. (N.S.H.Q. 092235Z to C. in C.W.A.)

M.M.S. 256,  
252.

M.M.S. 256 reports: Returning defect storm damage. E.T.A. 1000Z/10th T.O.O. 092100Z. Ends. 2. M.M.S. 256 is being instructed to report any information held with respect to M.M.S. 252 your 091621 refers. (C. in C.C.N.A. 092257Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Australia & New Zealand.Digest serial  
No. 719 Jan.  
8th.

9. Navy Catalina seriously damaged, two of three barges located entering Sarang Harbour (25 miles North Madang) night 7th while two motor torpedo boats sank five Jap. barges found midway between Bogadjim Saidor.  
10. Same time another two motor torpedo boats intercepted enemy submarine approaching Nambariwa (near Sio) believed damaged with depth charges. Other submarine reported digest 718 para. 7 off Saidor dusk attacked by three Mitchells. Bombs straddled ship which submerged and after resurfacing subjected to 15 minutes severe straffing. Submarine believed severely damaged possibly sunk. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090844Z.)

9.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 091432A, 091433A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary for  
24 hrs. to  
0900Z/9.

Para. A. 1. At 1235/6 in 40° 10' N. 14° 15' E. WILLIAM S. ROSECRANS reported mined, more probably torpedoed sank later. (W.D.Note: Information was amended by C. in C.Med. 092110A para. 1.)  
2. In 46° 47' N. 10° 42' W. at 1055/8 U/10 attacked surfaced U-Boat Co. 270° with depth charges.

3. At approx. 1810/8 BAYNTUN obtained radar contact in 50° 24' N. 18° 22' W. and sighted U-Boat at dusk and with SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON and CAMROSE made 8 attacks on good contact.

4. HELMSDALE, ABELIA, WINCHELSEA and BURDOCH attacked contact in 49° 42' N. 19° 20' W. prior to 0550/9.

5. At 1812/6 U/206 reported sighting U-Boat in 45° 03' N. 21° 35' W. aircraft failed to return.

6. N/179 attacked U-Boat in 36° 54' N. 01° 46' W. at 2117/8.

7. At 2135/8 in 36° 54' N. 01° 45' W. J/202 attacked U-Boat.

A.M. 031220A para. B. 2 position should read 24° 55' N. 61° 20' E (D.D.I.C. 091329A.)

U.757  
82-118

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10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

RODNEY and  
NELSON.

1. RODNEY and NELSON are to leave Scapa forthwith for Rosyth and the Clyde respectively, where they are to be de-stored and reduced to Special Complement.

Biscay  
operations.

2. The U.S. A/C Carrier BLOCK ISLAND of T.G. 21.16, with U.S. Destroyers was operating about 600 miles West of Oporto today; MAURITIUS, on passage to Gibraltar to rejoin the Mediterranean Fleet, was about 400 miles West of Ushant at 2000; and BLYTH and PETERHEAD, searching for A/C survivors about 80 miles W. by N. of Cape Ortegal, are to continue their search until 1200A to-morrow and then return to Plymouth.

North Atlantic.

Operation  
of U.S.  
Navy  
aircraft.

3(a) Co-ordination of British with U.S. Navy aircraft operating from Moroccan Sea Frontier has not been satisfactory. U.S. aircraft have to cover U.S. convoys as a first duty and they carry out much independent flying which does not conform to our Stipple signal or probability areas.

(b) The Allied A/S Survey Board have made certain recommendations, and Admiral Noble has been asked to raise the matter at Washington.

South Atlantic.

Convoy

4(a) C. in C.S.A. issued instructions today (amended on 11 Jan.) that ships from 8 to 12.9 knots for all destinations north and east of Durban are to be sailed in convoy as far as Beira.

(b) Independent sailings northwards from Beira may continue.



10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air attack  
on K.M.S.37;  
2 ships  
torpedoed.

5. Convoy K.M.S.37 was attacked by torpedo carrying aircraft about 1853A today in 36.07 N. 00.11 W. (North-west of Oran) and two ships, DANIEL WEBSTER and OCEAN HUNTER were torpedoed, the latter being sunk. DANIEL WEBSTER proceeded with the convoy to Oran. Fighters intercepted the attacking force 60 miles North of the convoy and claim some of the enemy shot down or damaged; and the aircraft of the close cover, and ships A/A also claim others.

6. The U-boat hunts in the Cape San Antonio/Iviza area continue. At 1706 today an aircraft reported a German U-boat on the surface in 39.00 N. 00.47 E.

Adriatic.

7(a) Whilst on patrol off the East Italian coast last night TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT shot up 3 trains, one of which was left burning. The destroyers again successfully bombarded San Benedetto. One schooner was hit and driven ashore. (b) Coastal forces have patrolled every night since 6th January amongst the islands off the Dalmation coast, without incident.

M.K.F.27A

8. RAMILLIES (Eastern Fleet) sailed from Suez today for the U.K; this ship with Combined Operations ships ORONTES, REINA, DEL PACIFICO, and STRATHEDEN from Port Said will form convoy M.K.F.27A.

Aegean

9. 22 mines were successfully laid outside Salamis harbour (just north of Georgios Channel) by aircraft last night whilst diversionary bombing was carried out.

East Indies.

U-boat  
S.E. of  
Maldives.

10. SS DAVID THOMPSON reported at 1520Z today being fired at by a submarine in 00.40 S. 77.48 E. At 110020Z she reported all well and that she had not been attacked.

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10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Destroyer  
Hit..

11. In the early hours of today a Naval Catalina attacked a convoy of 3 or 4 merchant ships escorted by 3 or 4 destroyers or possibly a light cruiser, heading for Rabaul of the west coast of New Ireland. One destroyer received a direct hit with a 500 lb. bomb and was left smoking.

12. Allied M.T.Bs. last night destroyed 9 out of 23 barges, 14 of which were proceeding North laden with troops between Saidor and Sio.

13. 6 Mitchells bombed Kupang last night.

War Diary.

10.1.1944.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Trawlers  
for Azores.

Cancel my 091000Z. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 091303. Intend sailing CAPE PALLISER (S.O.) and KINGSTON AMBER 2200A/10 to Milford Haven to R/V with ST. ELSTAN and for onward passage to Azores. S.O.A. 10 knots. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1600A/11th. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ships as requisite. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 101328A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

ASPIRANT  
for Med.

ASPIRANT is to be sailed with EMINENT to Moville for O.S. 65/K.M.S. 39.  
2. Cdre. D.W.A. is requested to sail ASPIRANT as requisite to join convoy to Gibraltar.  
3. A.M. 031516 Dec. refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 101556A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

ZEEHOND.

A.M. 031136 November is cancelled.  
2. Dutch submarine ZEEHOND will remain in Home Waters.  
(D.O.D.H. 101720A to F.O.S.)

RODNEY,  
NELSON.

It has been decided to reduce RODNEY and NELSON to 3/5 complement forthwith and by stages during the destoring period to special complement.  
2. Request you will sail RODNEY for Rosyth as arranged with C. in C. Rosyth and NELSON to Clyde to arrive if possible on 12th January.  
(1st S.L. 102205A to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.)

Operations.

Coastal  
Force patrols.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 101402A.)  
(C. in C. Plymouth 101805A.)  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 101948A.)

Operation  
"Stonewall".

Disposition at 102000.  
1. BLYTH, PETERHEAD vicinity 044° 12' N. 009° 42' W. on air sea rescue.  
4. MAURITIUS 049° 02' N. 016° 15' W. through 049° 08' N. 014° 58' W. thence 219° 20½ knots.  
5. TANTIVY 044° 30' N. 013° 22' W. 180° daily advance 170 miles.  
6. Greek submarine PIPINOS 044° 22' N. 012° 53' W. 180° daily advance 136 miles.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 101450A to Admty.)  
My 101213. Amend to read 20½ knots, E.T.A. 0800A/13th (MAURITIUS.)  
(C. in C. Plymouth 101508A to F.O.G.M.A.)  
B.A.D. pass to Cominch. T.G. 21.16. U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND with destroyers approx. vicinity 042° N. 018° W. My 101230A refers (C. in C.W.A. 101619A.)

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10.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Stonewall" (Contd.)  
Alter forthwith for new position MJ. 043° 01' N. 015° 23' W. thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A. (C. in C.Plymouth 101825A to MAURITIUS.)  
Sunderlands K/10, J/10, P/228 will continue search from 0830 tomorrow until you leave area.  
2. If nothing previously sighted BLYTH and PETERHEAD are to discontinue search at 1200A tomorrow or earlier if fuel shortage necessitates and return to Plymouth by reverse of outward route.  
3. If you will not be able to continue search until 1200/11th, report forthwith anticipated time of leaving area.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 102156A to BLYTH, PETERHEAD.)  
From MJ. proceed through ML. 041° 01' N. 015° 01' W. MM. 037° 01' N. 014° 59' W. thence MH. omitting MG.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 102329A to MAURITIUS.)

S/M Patrols. S/M are to leave patrol for Lerwick as follows:  
1. STRATAGEM at 1800A/13th through 064° 52' N. 002° 01' E. thence by route "Grey" to arrive p.m. 15th.  
2. TAKU at 1900A/13th by route "Grey" to arrive a.m. 15th.  
3. UNSWERVING at 2359A/13th by route "Pink" to arrive 15th.  
4. S/M to proceed diving by day when north of 062°.  
(Capt. S.9 101505A to S/Ms.)  
Request you will sail TELEMACHUS from Lerwick at 1500A/13th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and route "Black" to 064° 19' thence direct to patrol line HH. Proceeding dived by day when north of 062°.  
(Capt. S.9 101509A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/11th and movements for following 24 hours.  
A. UNSWERVING, STRATAGEM, and TAKU as in my 051529.  
B. SPITEFUL leaves patrol at 1800/11th probably on surface speed 10 knots for Lerwick.  
C. VIKING on patrol in vicinity of 50° 45' N. 10° 01' W.  
G. VENTURER leaves Lerwick 1800/11th probably on surface, speed 8 knots, through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles and 61° 28' N. 03° 30' E. to patrol in vicinity of 61° 15' N. 04° 01' E.  
(F.O.S. 101718A to Admty.)

ALERT. My 061217A. Arrived. Operations completed.  
(Cable repairs.) (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 101720A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated 359°. Tongue Sand Tower 2 miles.  
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 101815 and 111404A.)

Casualties & Defects.

TWEED (sunk on 7th Jan.) Survivors. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0030A/11th. 52 survivors on board, 12 cot cases of whom two are critical.  
(NENE 101101A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

/SHEFFIELD...

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10.1.1944.

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

SHEFFIELD  
(Removal of  
1 propeller.)

My 061557, A.M. 081406, N.O.I.C. Liverpool 091313.  
2. SHEFFIELD may give 9 days leave each watch  
starting 12th January.

3. Ship is to be operationally serviceable a.m.  
3rd February.

4. 2nd leave period will be completed with ship  
at Scapa.

(C. in C.H.F. 101147A to SHEFFIELD, V.A.2.)

BALDER.

Tug EMPIRE BASCOBEL towing SS. BALDER with  
DORINDA sailed Needles 1313/10th.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 101319A to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C. 150,  
H.X. 273,  
O.N. 219.

BALFOUR, BENTLEY, GOODALL, AYLNER. Should S.C.  
150 be in contact with enemy, and provided H.X.  
273 is not threatened, ships named should be de-  
tached to support S.C. 150.

2. Should neither H.X. 273 nor S.C.150 be  
threatened at 0600/11th ships named are to leave

H.X. 273 at that time and join and support O.N.219 at best speed.

3. O.N. 219 estimate to be in 054° 51' 019° 30' at 1000/11th  
routed through LN. 054° 43' 020° 01' thence 252° 9½ knots. O.N.  
219 in position Y.

4. Report state of fuel of these ships and name of S.Os. ship  
forthwith.

(C. in C.W.A. 101152Z and 102359A to Escorts.)

C.N.219. 63 M/Vs and 3 escort oilers. Names and desti-  
nations.

(C. in C.W.A. 101238Z to Admty.)

D/F bearings at 1248Z and 1255Z indicate U-Boat probably  
within 40 miles of 52° 30' N. 23° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 101430A to Escorts H.X. 273, S.C. 150.)

FREDERICTON sailed to overtake O.N. 219.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 101510A to Admty.)

Your 101152Z. Consider both H.X. 273 and S.C.150 have been  
contacted. Intend detailing BALFOUR (S.O.), BENTLEY, AYLNER,  
GOODALL to patrol area between the 2 convoys during the night.

Fuel remaining in these ships 47%, 61%, 58%, 65% respectively.

(HERPERUS 101646Z to C. in C.W.A.)

A.M. 101430A. D/F bearings at 1510Z indicate further

transmission from general vicinity of convoys.

(D.D.I.C. 101650A to Escorts H.X. 273, S.C. 150.)

O.S.65/  
K.M.S.39.  
O.N.220.

It is intended that FENCER should provide an A/S  
and fighter support for O.S.65/K.M.S.39 subse-  
quently returning to U.K. with an S.L.convoy.

2. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail FENCER  
to R/V with O.S.65/K.M.S.39.

(C. in C.W.A. 101207A to F.O.C.T.)

Following rescue tugs detailed EMINENT O.S.65/K.M.S.39.

ASSIDUOUS O.N. 220.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 101448A to C. in C.W.A.)

/Intend...

10.1.1944.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.S.65/  
K.M.S.39.  
O.N.220.  
(Contd.)
- Intend to sail to Gibraltar with K.M.S.39.  
B. VERITY for onward routeing to F.O.C.W.Af.  
C. VIOLET, MEADOWSWEET for onward routeing to Eastern Fleet.  
(C. in C.W.A. 102302A and 132150 to F.O.G.M.A.)
- K.M.F.28.      A.M. 060814A and 091940A. Sail Bar Light vessel 1300Z/15. All ships R/V 0900Z/16th 270° 6 miles from Oversay.  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 101215Z to N.C.S.O.Clyde.)  
Admiralty 060814, 091940. 1. Escort: A. Liverpool portion. WREN to return to Liverpool after making Oversay R/V.  
B. Clyde portion. TUSCAN, AMETHYST, BLACK SWAN.  
C. Joining at Oversay R/V from Belfast. BENTINCK S.O., BYARD, CALDER, DRURY, BAZELY, BURGESS.  
(C. in C.W.A. 101503A and 131152A.)
- EMPIRE  
HEYWOOD.      The arrival of SS. EMPIRE HEYWOOD in my command caused considerable uncertainty as to procedure required owing to rumours received that time-bombs had been placed on board by enemy agents. It is understood that Admiralty were in full possession of the facts of the case and I consider that authorities concerned should have been fully informed. It is requested that in future information may at once be promulgated to authorities together with necessary instructions for dealing with the situation. F.O.I.C. Tyne 091035A, Admiralty 091832A refer.  
(C. in C.Rosyth 101231A to Admty.)
- O.N.218.  
THEODORE  
PARKER.      Ship in distress is THEODORE PARKER not BUENOS AIRES. 8 survivors in ABOYNE. Attempting to take off remainder. P.C. and S. 045° 24' N. 059° 55' W. 040° 2 knots. Weather 1856 8749.  
(DEVERON 101430Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
No apparent change in ship's condition. Cannot get any statement regarding damage. (My 101430Z refers.) Ship stopped and riding easily. Cannot take off any more survivors until weather moderates. Weather 2856 7968.  
(DEVERON 102020Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- T.U.6.      Admiralty 091943. 1. Escort A. Bristol Channel portion. U.S.S. CHAMPLIN, U.S.S. NIELDS.  
B. Liverpool portion. WREN to R/V from Tobermory at Bar Light vessel at 1230A/13th and to proceed to Liverpool after making Oversay R/V.  
C. Belfast portion, U.S. destroyer DAVISON, MERVINE, TILLMAN, ORDRONAUX.  
D. Clyde portion, C.T.F. 60 in U.S. Battleship TEXAS.  
E. Joining at Oversay R/V from Londonderry. U.S. destroyers KENDRICK, LAUB, MACKENZIE, MCLANAHAN, PARKER, BOYLE.  
(C. in C.W.A. 101507A.)
- A.T.85.      Arrived at 2231/10th.  
(AQUITANIA.)      (D.S.F.O.Greenock 102240A.)

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10.1.1944.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Task Group 21.16. C.T.G. 21.16. Begins. On course 345°, speed 17 from 035° 30' 016° 45' W. at 0000Z/10th complying with (U.S.) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet 092012. Initial operation offensive repulsed 200 miles 6 pairs Avengers Wildcats west commencing daylight toward S/M concentration 042° N., 016° from 020° W. (C.M.S.F., 100332A to Escorts S.L.144, M.K.S.35, O.S.64, K.M.S. 38.)

Accommodation (2) The naval problem of accommodation at Gibraltar at Gib. would be largely solved if one of the battleships it is intended to pay off in accordance with A.M. 311530A December could be sent to Gibraltar as accommodation ship largely manned and officered by present shore based staffs. (F.O.G.M.A., 101259A to C. in C. Med.)

G.U.S. Convoys. Standard Routes. Cancel A.M. 171253 August and A.M. 031250 Sept. neither to all addressees and substitute following. 3. These routes are to be brought into force forthwith. (D.O.D.(H), 101505A to F.O.L.E.M.)

M.M.S.257, 252, 256. A mistake has occurred. M.M.S.257 and M.M.S.252 now in Horta. Ref. C. in C. C.N.A.'s 092257\* not to F.O.G.M.A. M.M.S.256 is presumably at Newfoundland. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 101546Z to F.O.G.M.A.) \* Re M.M.S. returning defect storm damage. Expected time of arrival 1000Z Jan. 10th. Confirm arrival of M.M.S.256 at Azores as in your 091554Z in view of C. in C. C.N.A. 092257Z and 100240Z. (D.M.S., 102215A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

GAETA. Adnty. pass to C. in C. Med. and F.O.T.A.L.I. Italian N.A. reports:- 45 89. Ship GAETA left Huelva evening/8th in tow British tug for Gib. Ends. (A.B.N.A. Madrid, 101722A.)

Gibraltar G.R.Opsum. Jan. 9th. ZE. M 202 1244 day SE not 37.46 N. 00.19 W., 270 submerging speed not estimated no attack 45 secs. before over position. ZF. ~ 2 DR? 1600 37.37 N. 00.26 W. NE M 202 2 DR 1810 VRYQ 2041 045 20 1 DR opened fire on aircraft scoring hits D 179 2 DR 0312 37.10 N. 01.14 W., 230 slow speed M 179. All times A. (A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 101755A.)

/FENCER ...

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War Diary.10.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.FENCER,  
STRIKER,  
O.S. 65,  
S.L. 144.FENCER sails January 14th with O.S.65 convoys.  
My 092012.\* Now expected pass in about 42° N.  
STRIKER is with S.L.144.  
(Comnavu, 101736.)\* Re Convoys O.S.64 and S.L.144 pass within 100  
miles each other in 44 N. 19 W. during morning  
11th Jan. etc.South Atlantic.

S.L.146.

Untend to sail S.L.146 0645/12 escorted by  
ENCHANTRESS (S.O.), NESS, BELLWORT, SNOWDROP,  
COWSLIP. Arrangements.  
7. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to arrange meet with  
M.K.S.37 and detachment of ships for Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 101240Z.)Sailings,  
Durban to  
northward.

All ships from 8 to 12.9 knots for all destinations north and east of Durban are to be sailed in convoy from Durban as far as Beira.

(2) Independent sailings northwards from Beira and Lourenco Marques may continue, ships from Lourenco Marques for destinations North of Beira being routed so as to join the lane referred to in Meiri II A 2 (A) in latitude 021° S. Independent sailings southwards from Beira and Lourenco Marques are to be suspended forthwith.

(3) Group No.4 is to be sailed as escort for northbound ships from Durban as soon as convoy can be formed, returning with available southbound ships from Beira and Lourenco Marques. Group No.1 will be available for a second convoy about 17th Jan. My 101237\* refers.

(4) Signals of anticipated sailings of any ship of under 8 knots and of 13 knots and over for all destinations north and (? south) of Durban are to be reported. No such ships are to be sailed without my approval.

(5) Memo. 016/69 is temporarily modified in accordance with the above and my 071044\* is cancelled.  
(C. in C. S.A., 101503C to all concerned.)  
(\* No Trace of either in W.R.) (W.D. Note: See amendment 111036C.)

GEORGES  
LEYGUES.In view of A.M. 071908 and C. in C. Med.  
101106 December GEORGES LEYGUES should now return to the Med. as soon as practicable unless C. in C. Med. would prefer GLOIRE or MONTCALM.  
(V.C.N.S., 101525A to F.O.C.W.Af.)



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War Diary10.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- U/B. report. Disappearing contact 34° 02' N. 00° 24' E.  
(A/C. XNOL, 100240.)
- N.V.15. To sail 9 ships, at 1330A/11 to Augusta.  
Escorts HAMBLEDON, CALPE until relieved by  
BROCKLESBY, WHEATLAND.  
(F.O.W.I.T., 101026A).
- M.K.F.27A. Request you will sail M.K.F.27A consisting of  
RAMILLIES, ORONTES, REINA DEL PACIFICO and  
STRATHEDAN escorted by BERRY, BLACKWOOD, COOKE  
DUCKWORTH, DOMETT, ESSINGTON in accordance with  
my 081217.  
(C. in C. Med. 101109A to F.O.L.E.M.)  
Suez 10th January. Departures RAMILLIES.  
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A., 101228B).
- HELP. Wreck dispersal vessel HELP has been counted upon  
to assist the Army in future operations by the  
rapid clearance of harbours in which demolitions  
have already started. Request HELP be sent as  
soon as possible to the Med. if only for a few  
months. A.M. 042011 not to F.O.W.It. refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 101301).
- Escorts I.X.F.7. ANTWERP (S.O), ALDENHAM, BELVOIR, MIAOULES,  
PINDOS.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 101350B).
- M.A.A.F. Opsum 323, U/B attacked in 36.54 N.  
01.45 W. 8/9 Jan. 3 Wellingtons sighted surfaced U-boat N.W.  
of Oran. Other Wellingtons signalled to position  
attacked with 17 x 250 lb. torpex depth charges.  
Good coverage, believed depth charges exploded  
under U/B. Oil streaks seen. Further attack made  
but no details available as Wellington was ditched.  
Crew rescued by destroyer. 9th Jan. 1 Wellington  
sighted U-boat S.E. of Alicante (Spain) attacked  
with 8 depth charges. U-boat straddled and oil patch seen.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 101531A).
- U.G.S.28. This is 100330 from C.T.F.61. 100930A escorts  
U.G.S.28 relieved by British escorts COLTSFOOT  
(S.O) HAYDON, ANEMONE, MONKSHOOD, PARRETT and  
CONVOLVULUS.  
(Comnavau, 101536Z).
- 2 German motor barges. 2 200 ton motor barges fully loaded, expect to  
pass through Dardanelles dawn 11th.  
(Capt.(S) 101621B to UNSPARING).

/ U/B...

10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean . - Contd.

- U/B report. Am over enemy S/M. in 39° 00' N. 00° 47' E. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 360° estimated speed 12 knots.  
(A/C ANFK, 101706).
- M.K.F.27A. N.O.I.C. Port Said sail M.K.F.27A p.m.14th Jan. to Alexandria. (8) DUCK (?769) COOKE, BLACKWOOD, BERRY, ESSINGTON, DOMET. (9) RAMILLIES in company. (F.O.L.E.M., 101750B.).
- Rumanian oil. I/57861 cipher 10 Jan. 6. Arrival Piraeus tanker probably BACCHUS with 1400 ton diesel represents first large intake fuel by sea from Rumania for considerable time. This success and value such cargo to enemy may encourage further attempts run tankers and/or lighters from Black Sea.  
(C. in C.M.E., 101740B.)
- SIBYL Adjust your speed to cross longitude 034° 01' at 0002/13th in order not to overtake DZIK.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 101806B to SIBYL (R) DZIK).
- Air attack on K.M.S.37, 2 ships torpedoed. 1 ship DANIEL WEBSTER torpedoed. My P.C.S.36° 07' N. 0° 11' W. 61° 7.  
(BERGAMOT, 101855A).  
My 101855 add OCEAN HUNTER sunk. Both ships by torpedo A/C.  
(BERGAMOT, 101931A).  
F.O.S. (Forrupt Group) DANIEL WEBSTER holed forehold bulkhead holding proceeding pending further orders escorted by BARLE and 1 Fleet tender. Position at 2000 35° 59' N. 00° 19' W.  
(BERGAMOT, 102050A).  
K.M.S. 71 Fleet tender searching vicinity 036° 07' N. 000° 13' W. until 2130, has 22 survivors ex OCEAN HUNTER, is then proceeding Oran. 2. 32 Survivors ex OCEAN HUNTER picked up by escort will be landed at Algiers. 3. OCEAN HUNTER ?complement reported to be 55.  
(BERGAMOT, 102133A to C. in C. Med. (R) Commob, Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers).
- Flag of C.S.15. Flag of R.A. J.M. Mansfield as F.O. 15th C.S. hoisted in SPARTAN 0900/4. Flag transferred to ORION 09 (sic) 10th January.  
(C.S.15, 101859A).
- Italian S/Ms. for A/S. training AXUM lost. My 221301 Dec. Following now on passage to Gib. for onward routeing to Bermuda MAMELI, MAREA, VORTICE, DANDOLO, SPERI. 2. Request Admty. in consultation with Cominch give onward routeing instructions direct to F.O.G.M.A. suggest S/Ms. might join G.U.S.27. 3. Regret AXUM total loss on patrol and BRIN not ready.  
(C. in C. Med. 101947A to Admty., Cominch).

/K.M.F....

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10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

K.M.F.  
convoy  
escorts.

A.M. 081917. It is not considered that the normal escort of six destroyers for K.M.F. convoys beyond 10° E. is adequate but provided that the reinforcements indicated in A.M.302331 December arrive in time it will be possible to reinforce K.M.F.31, 32 and 33 accordingly.  
(C. in C. Med. 102132A to Admty.)

Situation  
report  
No.268.

1. My 092110 para.2 JERVIS and JANUS sank 3 schooners by gunfire, damaged 2 trains and blew up 1 engine between Pedaso 043° 05' N. 013° 51' E. and Offcanati 043° 26' 013° 40'. Civita Vecchia (W.D.Note: Presumably Civitanova intended) was (?also) bombarded. Ancona was attacked from N.W. railway Area being well covered. Only opposition ineffective fire from 1 battery. 2. During the night 8th/9th TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT during sweep of East coast from San Benedetto to Ancona damaged and left abandoned 4 schooners, hit and stopped 2 trains and bombarded San Benedetto. 3. My 092110 para.4. ATHERSTONE keeping within good contact in position 038° 36' 000° 30' E. at 2202/9th and later U.S. Des. BENSON and ATHERSTONE made several attacks between Cape San Antonio and Iviza. No visible result. At 1706 tenth A/C. report U/B. (German) on surface in position 039° 00' N. 000° 47' E. Hunts continue.  
(C. in C. Med. 102257A.)

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10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MARIPOSA To facilitate movement of P.O.W. to port would appreciate early confirmation may embark up to 1,500 in MARIPOSA.  
(P.S.T.O.I., 100326Z/January to C. in C.E.F.).

U-boat (C. in C.E.F., 100451Z to Ships and Authorities disposition. East Indies Station, Admt. etc.).

M.B.61 Convoy sailing telegram.  
Escort. (6) BATHURST, KHYBER, BARODA. KHYBER escort Aden section to disperse position then return Colombo.  
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 100940Z).

SS DAVID SSSS. 00.40 S. 77.48 E. sighted submarine THOMPSON fired at him.  
attacked. (DAVID THOMPSON, 101520Z).

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10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

M.M.S.  
252. M.M.S.256 reports M.M.S.252 last seen 2023Z/2nd in  
039° 57' N. 050° 04' W. hove to heading North  
east. Your 091621\* and my 092257 refer.  
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 100240Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
\* M.M.S.257 reports position  
M.M.S.252 last seen.

G.U.S./  
U.G.S.  
Convoys. Concur your 051815. Admiralty will promulgate  
G.U.S. route and stragglers route.  
(D.O.D., 101358Z to Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.)  
W.D. Note. Routes were apparently promulgated  
in A.M. 101505 (cf. C. in C. Med. 180820)  
N.T. of 101505 in W.D. but not considered  
necessary.

Zigzagging. Your 060956 Comtenthfleet (C. and R.) has no  
objection to control of zigzagging by  
diverting authorities. It should however be  
appreciated that Comtenthfleet (C. and R.) is  
the only diverting authority in the U.S. Area of  
control.  
2. 4. Suggested proceduce.  
(B.A.D. 101515 to Admty.) Re control of zig-zagging.

U/Bs. (Cominch, 101610.)  
estimates.

Mines off  
Newfoundland. Does danger from mines off east coast  
Newfoundland still exist? Your 201432 and A.M.  
211619 both October refer.  
(D.T.D. 101630A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

S.C.149. Average speed 8.2 knots off Oversay at 1300Z/29  
All arrived.  
(D.T.D. 101725A.)

SHAH. When ready about 15th Jan. San Francisco to  
Sydney for. onward routeing to Cochin India.  
Vessel will ferry non-operational aircraft.  
(Cominch, 101845Z.)

M.M.S.256. Arrived from sea due to storm damage.  
(C.O.P, Halifax, 102051Z.)

/Operation...

10.1.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Operation  
of U.S. Navy  
Aircraft  
from M.S.F.

In connection with A.M. 032130A to Cominch please take the opportunity to raise the following points.

2. "Stipple" Procedure. We should like to apply the "Stipple" procedure to all convoys within our strategic area and afford the same measure of protection to a U.S. convoy as we would to a similar British convoy under identical circumstances.

3. Moroccan Sea Frontier. Request you will ensure Cominch understands that we wish to apply any agreement on operational control to the U.S. Navy aircraft operating from Moroccan Sea Frontier.

(1st S.L., 102120A.)

Personal for Admiral Noble.

A.M. 102120. Following are relevant points concerning operation of U.S. Navy aircraft from Moroccan Sea Frontier.

(a) The co-ordination has not been satisfactory.

(b) It is understood U.S. aircraft have a "basic mission" according to which they must cover U.S. convoys as a first duty.

(c) There is much independent flying by U.S. Naval aircraft which does not conform to our "Stipple" signal nor probability areas.

(d) Allied A/S Survey Board recommended that Moroccan Sea Frontier should be abolished and re-established as Naval Operating Base, and A/S Squadrons should be under operational direction of V.A. Gibraltar for operational control by A.O.C. Gibraltar.

(e) Since F.O.G.M.A. is now responsible direct to Admiralty for Mediterranean approaches West of Cape St. Vincent it is reasonable that U.S. aircraft in this area should operate to meet his requirements as directed by A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar.

(1st S.L., 102125A to B.A.D.)

U/B report.

Inconclusive bearings at 2050Z/10 on 7775 k/cs on transmission of 2 group B bar indicate one U-Boat (German) possibly in your vicinity.  
(N.S.H.Q., 102339Z to S.E.C. O.N.S.26, S.E.C. O.N. 218, SS. SUSSEX, DEVERON.)

SS. THEODORE  
PARKER.

St. Johns N.F. Jan. 10th departures CALLIFF, TENACITY to assist SS. THEODORE PARKER.  
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 102359Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 720  
Jan. 9th.

16. Night January 8th-9th light cruiser and destroyer Task Force successfully bombarded targets Shortland Faisi Poporang areas. Spotting aircraft report several fires started. Slight opposition encountered from shore batteries.

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10.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 720,  
Jan. 9th.  
(Contd.)

17. Dawn January 8th motor torpedo boats engaged 5 lightly loaded southbound barges off Torau Bay south-east coast Bougainville Island. Light return fire from barges intense automatic shore fire encountered.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 100632Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimates.

Nothing to report.  
(D.D.I.C., 101421A, 101426A.)

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11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Operation F.W. 1. C.S.1 in KENT (who, with BERWICK and BERMUDA will form the Cruiser Cover Force for Convoy J.W.56A now assembling at Loch Ewe) arrived at Loch Ewe at 1545A today.
- Biscay Operations. 2. At 0008 today an A/C of 19 Group sighted 5 surface vessels about 50 miles N. by W. of Cape Ortegal steering West at 12 knots.
- Convoy O.N.218. 3. The U.S. THEODORE PARKER, damaged by weather yesterday about 600 miles E. by S. of St. Johns, has had all but 19 of her crew rescued by ABOYNE, and a Tug and Trawler from St. Johns are proceeding to stand by her while ABOYNE, whose steering-gear has broken down, is being escorted by DEVERON to the Azores.  
The U.S. JOSEPH SMITH was reported at 1410Z today to be sinking about 420 miles S.E. of St. Johns, and at 2045A KINGCUP reported that she had taken off all her crew of 74 and was proceeding with them to St. Johns. At 2012Z the Rescue Trawler NORTHERN PRIDE and the Rescue Tug ADHERENT were ordered to be detached from Convoy H.X.274 to stand by JOSEPH SMITH.
- Enemy Mines. 4. Three mines were exploded in sweeps and eight more cut and exploded by rifle-fire by Sweepers off Yarmouth today.

North Atlantic.

5. TANTIVY and PIPINOS, on passage from U.K. to Gibraltar, were today diverted to patrol between the coast of Portugal and 9degs. 30 W.
- U/B Sunk. 6. C.T.G.21.16 (U.S. Escort Carrier BLOCK ISLAND, with 4 U.S. destroyers) reports a large U/B sunk at 0440Z today in 41.56 N. 20.53 W (about 360 miles E.N.E. of the Azores).



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11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

7. TYRIAN and GRENVILLE last night shelled a train and the railway at Civitanova. They were fired on by a shore battery, but suffered no damage. Pedaso (43.05 N. 13.51 E.) was also shelled.

Aegean.

Coastal craft attacked two merchant ships and a tanker in Livadia Bay, Piskopi (36.25 N. 27.22 E) last night and badly damaged all three. Later air reconnaissance located one ship on fire in the harbour but no sign of the other two. Aircraft laid mines in Khalkis (38.28 N. 23.36 E) during last night. A successful attack was made on Piraeus harbour today by 72 U.S. Fortresses escorted by 15 U.S. Lightnings.

East Indies.

9. SS. TRIONA was unsuccessfully attacked by a U-Boat at 2240Z today in 00.03 N. 80.43 E. in the Indian Ocean. The torpedo hit her net defence and exploded, causing only slight damage, and the ship proceeded.

Japanese  
Cruiser  
Sunk.

10. TALLY-HO fired 7 torpedoes at a range of 1900 yards at a KUMA class cruiser in the Malacca Straits in 05.28 N. 99.55 E. at 0913 today. Two torpedoes hit, and the cruiser sank. TALLY-HO was counter attacked but escaped undamaged.

Burma.

11. 9 U.S. Mitchells laid mines last night in the Mokplain-Sittang River, 40 mines were laid by Liberators in the South Salercen River and S.S.W. of Moulmein; and one U.S. Liberator laid mines in the Rangoon river estuary.

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11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

12. 9 U.S. Liberators bombed Takao harbour, Formosa today.

Bangkok

13. 7 U.S. Liberators laid mines in the Menam River Estuary last night.

Australia and New Zealand.

14. 14 U.S. Liberators and Venturas laid mines last night off Wotje, Marshall Islands. A small tanker and a patrol vessel were machine gunned and destroyed.

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War Diary.11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Trawlers for Azores. F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 071231A. Intend sailing CAPE PALLISER, KINGSTON AMBER, and ST. ELSTAN at 0900/12 to comply with F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 101328A.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 111235A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

GULLAND. H.M.T.GULLAND and GRAIN are required to arrive Milford Haven by 28th February for onward routing to Med.  
(D.M.S. 112039A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

GRAIN. .

GILLSTONE, Request you will sail H.M.T.GILLSTONE and KITTERN to arrive Milford Haven by 31st January for onward routing to Med.  
KITTERN. . (D.M.S. 112047Z to WESTERN ISLES.)

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall" Contact regained with 3 surface vessels position 44° (?) 33' or 26' N. 08° 22' W. course 270° speed 12 knots.  
(A/C Duty D 110008 to 19 Group.)  
My 0008. 5 surface vessels.  
(A/C Duty D 110029 to 19 Group.)

A/C unable to operate. My 102156A refers.  
2. Return to Plymouth forthwith.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 110520 to BLYTH, PETERHEAD.)

Operation F.W. Sailed HARDY to Loch Ewe.  
(R.A.D.H.F. 110809A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)  
Kola Inlet arrived Group 5 escorted by GLEANER, SPEEDWELL, HALCYON.  
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 110825A to S.B.N.O.Archangel.)

C. in C.W.A's 050048 and your 101126. Request DIANELLA and POPPY may be sailed from Lough Foyle via Minches to overtake J.W. 56A instead of Loch Ewe.  
(V.A.2 111020A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

As it is not anticipated that cruisers will use Seidis Fjord (Iceland) during this operation there is no requirement there for RAFIDOL.

2. If you concur request she may be sailed as convenient to arrive Akureyri by 21st January to assist CULPEPPER in the fuelling of Force One and remain as required by A.C.S.I.  
(V.A.2 111022A to A.C.I.C.)

Expect to sail R.A.56A on 22nd January and R.A.56B 7 days later. Number of ships in each section not yet certain.  
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 111122A to C. in C.H.F.)

Arrived CYGNET and INCONSTANT.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 111259A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 111020A. Amended instructions have been issued to ships concerned.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 111502 to V.A.2.)

/SAVAGE...

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11.1.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation  
F.W.  
(Contd.)

SAVAGE with destroyers addressed proceed passing Switha 2000A/12th to Seidisfjord routed (?through) route "Red". C. in C.H.F. 051009 refers. On arrival complete with fuel and act under orders of Capt. D.26.

2. After making Landfell detach OFFA and OBDURATE to meet convoy and assist convoy to make its Landfell off Vestrahorn. OFFA and OBDURATE are then to proceed Seidisfjord and complete with fuel.  
(R.A.D.H.F. 111515A to SAVAGE, VENUS, VIRAGO, STORD, VIGILANT, OBDURATE, OFFA.)

Arrived F.O.C.1st C.S. in KENT.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 111545A to A.C.O.S.)  
Rosyth departure 3TORD.

(C. in C.Rosyth 111700A to A.C.O.S.)

Your 111020. As this will give no opportunity to discuss such a screen with POPPY and DIANELLA request WALLFLOWER and BORAGE who are at Loch Ewe may substitute these 2.

(Capt. D.26 112237A to V.A.2.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/12th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. UNSWERVING, STRATAGEM, TAKU as in my 051529.

B. VENTURER 61° 10' N. 01° 30' W. probably on surface but dived by day within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast to patrol vicinity 61° 15' N. 04° 01' E.

C. SPITEFUL approaching Shetlands from N.E. for Lerwick, probably on surface 10 knots.

E. VIKING as in my 101718.

(F.O.S. 111759A to Admty.)

VENTURER sailed unescorted 1800A/11th through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 and 061° 28' 003° 30' E. thence patrol in K.5, Western limit extending to 003° E. eastern limit 004° 30' E. On surface at C.C.discretion until entering patrol area.

(3.0 S/M Lerwick 111803A to S/MS.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. Capt. M/S Yarmouth 091612. One moored mine exploded in sweep in 062° 4 miles 54D buoy, one cut in 347° 4 miles 57 buoy, and third mine cut or adrift in the vicinity. Request clearance sweep may be carried out as convenient by fleet sweepers.

(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth 111635 to C. in C.Nore.)

My 111633. Two more mines detonated in sweep position 347° 4 miles 57 buoy. All floating mines sunk, total bag eleven in number.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 111831A and 121423A to C. in C.Nore.)  
(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth 121540A.)

War Diary.

11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- ABELIA. My P.C. and S. 050° 54' N. 011° 20' W. 074° 6 knots. Intend adjusting speed tomorrow to arrive entrance Q.Z.S. 301 at daylight 13th. (ABELIA 111201A to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- TWEED Arrived NENE. survivors. (Cdre. D.W.A. 110215A to C. in C.W.A.)
- SANDVIKHORN Harbour service craft SANDVIKHORN sunk in collision with DUNLIN. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 111009A to Admty.)
- READING. Intend sailing READING from Cromarty at 0300 tomorrow to refit and boiler clean at Aberdeen. E.T.A. 1500 as ship can only use one engine. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 111115A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X.273. U-Boat (German) transmission at 1012Z from between the two convoys. Intend to retain destroyer escorts ?(until) daylight. (HESPERUS 110421Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.219. Inconclusive D/F bearings at 0259Z indicate U-Boat may be in vicinity of O.N.219. (D.D.I.C. 110525A to HALIFAX, Escorts O.N.219.) Sailed CELANDINE to overtake O.N.219. (Cdre. D.W.A. 110917A to A.I.G. 196.)
- O.N.219. S.O. E.G.C.1. IN ASSINIBOINE. 65 ships. Details. (C. in C.W.A. 111236A.) Stragglers ex convoy O.N.219, COMANCHEE engine defect. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 111525A to Admty.)
- O.S.64/  
K.M.S.38. Convoy probably reported by S/M. Bearing not obtained. My position 43° 56' N. 18° 29' W. (B.4 110705Z to Admty.) C. in C.W.A. 110853Z. My observed position 043° 02' N. 019° 28' W. (B.4 111001Z to Admty.)
- Convoy reported at 2032. (B.4 112050Z to Admty.) Situation as follows WASKESIU, FOLEY, LUNENBURG and EDMUNDSTON detached, hunting one possibly 2 U-Boats. B.1 joined. (B.4 112150Z to C. in C.W.A.)

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11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

O.N.218  
THEODORE  
PARKER.  
JOSEPH  
SMITH.

ABOYNE steering broken and cannot be repaired.  
2. Am unable to maintain contact with THEODORE PARKER and ABOYNE.  
3. Intend screening ABOYNE who now has all but 19 of THEODORE crew aboard.  
4. Suggest THEODORE be instructed to attempt to make Azores.  
5. No apparent change in condition of THEODORE.

6. Boat containing THEODORE C.Bs. and papers not sighted.  
7. If weather moderates intend taking ABOYNE in tow.  
8. P.C.S. 046 degs. 27' N. 039 degs 10' W. 090 degs. 2 knots.  
Weather 4771 8260. Gale, sea and swell 68.  
(DEVERON, 110900Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
H.M.R.T. TENACITY sailed St. John's 2300Z/10 to assist SS. THEODORE PARKER broken down in 45.24 N. 39.55 W.  
(F.O.N.F., 111250Z to Admty.)  
Estimated P.C.S. of THEODORE PARKER 0600Z/11 046 degs. 40' N. 038 degs. 15' W. 065 degs. 5 knots. Suggest (? tug) be diverted to assistance of this ship. My P.C.S. 1000Z, 046 degs. 30' N. 037 degs. 42' W., 120 degs, 4 knots. ABOYNE in company but not in tow. Intend making for Azores. Any other course impracticable. Fuel remaining 42% at 1000Z, 50 tons pumped overboard to make (?easier) rescue operation. Weather.  
(DEVERON, 111330Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
Am going to take off survivors from JOSEPH SMITH. Consider ship sinking. Will stand by ship and make further report.  
(KINGCUP 111410Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
Your 111539. In view of DEVERON's 111330 intend (A) CAILIFF, TENACITY be diverted to THEODORE PARKER. (B) NORTHERN PRIDE and ADHERENT be diverted to KINGCUP and JOSEPH SMITH. If ship sinks NORTHERN PRIDE, ADHERENT rejoin H.X.274.  
(F.O.N.F. 111903Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
My position 045 degs. 49' N. 036 degs 47' W. Estimated drift 090 degs, 3 knots. ABOYNE in company (my 111330Z refers). From above, estimate THEODORE PARKER position at 0600Z/11th to have been 046 degs. 09' N. 037 degs. 37' W. Weather.  
(DEVERON, 111936Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 111553. Amend as follows. Steer for 046 degs. 40', 038 degs. 15', where THEODORE PARKER estimated drifting 065 degs. 5 knots. Anticipate aircraft will assist you in junctioning.  
2. DEVERON and ABOYNE now proceeding in company to Azores. Pass to TENACITY.  
(F.O.N.F. 112011Z to CAILIFF.)  
Detach NORTHERN PRIDE, ADHERENT forthwith best speed to assist SS. JOSEPH SMITH reported disabled and screened by KINGCUP, estimated position 046 degs. 10' N. 037 degs. 25' W.  
(F.O.N.F. 112012Z to O.5.)  
Have taken off total crew of JOSEPH SMITH 74 in number. Ship left in sinking condition in 044 degs 30' N. 043 degs. W. Am proceeding to St. Johns N.F. 12 knots with survivors and to carry out urgent repairs to main engine.  
(KINGCUP 112045A to C. in C. C.N.A.)  
My P.C.S. at 2100Z 047 degs. N. 048 degs. (? 06' or 49') W., 102 degs. 9 knots.  
(CAILIFF, 112200Z to F.O.N.F.)

/T.U.6...

War Diary.11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- T.U.6. A.M. 091943A, 101851A, 1130Z/13th. Bar Light Vessel all ships R/V 0830Z/14th 270 degs. 6 miles from Oversay.  
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 110900Z.)  
Intend to sail T.W. portion including U.S. ships SANTEE and MERRIMAC escorted by C.T.F.60 in TEXAS to pass Clyde boom at 2030A/13th January to R/V in position P.B. at 0930/14th., thence in accordance with A.M. 101851A.  
(F.O. Greenock 111248A to Admty.)  
C. in C.W.A. 101507. Intend sailing Liverpool portion escorted by WREN 1230/13th to R/V. Clyde portion 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 0930A/14th.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 111321A to Admty.)  
Intend to sail. (A) 5 merchant ships U.S. escorted by 2 U.S.S. destroyers. (D) Barry Roads 0630/13th. E.T.A. P.B.270 degs. Oversay 6 miles 0930/14th.  
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 111521A to C. in C.W.A.)
- S.L.145. Sail NENE p.m.12th to rejoin group 6 a.m. 17th supporting S.L.145 in about 038 degs. N. 020 degs. W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 111051A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- EMPIRE HEYWOOD. C. in C. Rosyth's 101231, Admty. 091832, N.O.I.C. Tyne 091035. After conference with Port Regional Director and Labour Authorities Naval personnel are being used to unload orange cases from EMPIRE HEYWOOD.  
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 111220A to Admty.)
- O.S.65/  
K.M.S.39. KENILWORTH CASTLE is to sail as additional escort with O.S.65/K.M.S.39 and will subsequently be ordered to transfer to S.L.145/M.K.S.36.  
(C. in C.W.A. 111605A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- S.L.144/  
M.K.S.35. U/B. sighted and being hunted. No attack yet.  
(E.G.40 112031Z to C. in C.W.A.) See also PETUNIA 161200Z.  
On crossing 043 degs. 20' N. alter for A.L. 050 degs. 10' N. 018 degs. 30' W. omit A.P. No amendment to stragglers route.  
(C. in C.W.A. 112146A to Escorts S.L.144/M.K.S.35)
- U.C.10.  
EMPEROR. Sailed EMPEROR with convoy U.C.10 to comply with A.M. 302040A December.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 112324A to Admty.)

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War Diary.11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- G.U.S. routes. "Chop" line. Your 081829. The question of the "Chop" line has been fully considered, and it has been decided not to suggest any alteration. (D.O.D.(H), 110050A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- U.G.S.28 T.F. 61. U.G.S.28 U.S.S. EVARTS, BARBER, SMARTT, WILLIAM S. BROWN, POOKE, KIRKPATRICK and LEOPOLD of Task Force 61 arrived. (C.M.S.F., 110957.)
- Azores: local escort force. Concur in need for small escort force, scale of which will be recommended following my visit as I do not agree scale proposed in para. 2 of S.B.N.O. Azores 201720 November which was received by me on 10th January. (F.O.G.M.A., 111202A to Admty.)
- TANTIVY, PIPINOS. P.319 (TANTIVY) and P.71 (G.S. PIPINOS) are to proceed with all despatch I.S.O.H.202 refers to patrol in areas bounded by the Portuguese coast and meridian of 009° 30' W. PIPINOS is to patrol between latitudes 041° 10' N. and 041° 20' N. And TANTIVY is to patrol between latitudes 040° 50' N. and 041° N. Total bombing restrictions arranged details later. (F.O.G.M.A., 111142A to TANTIVY, G.S. PIPINOS, (R) Admty., F.O.C. (S), C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. (S) 10th, C.M.S.F., Capt. (S) 3rd, C. in C. Med., Com. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. C.N.A.) REDPOLE sailed at 1800A/11th to R/V TANTIVY and PIPINOS and escort them to Gibraltar. Arrangements. (F.O.G.M.A., 111814A.)
- L.C.T. 332. All efforts by N. Authorities to refloat L.C.T. have been unavailing. As C.O. of Craft is pessimistic about possibilities of repairs, I propose that application should be made for repatriation of crew and emergency crew could be sent out if and when craft refloated and repaired. Surveyor unable to assess damage to hull until refloated, engine has cracked cylinder head, and pump not working, my 181217 December refers. (A.B.N.A. Madrid, 111340A.)
- U/B sunk. This is C.T.G. 21.16's 111147. In 41.56 N. 20.53 W. at 0440Z sank large sub. course 270, speed 15. W.X.45711956. (Comnavu, 111537, Cominch, 112121.)
- SS. MONTE NARANCO, COBETAS. If Spanish steamships MONTE NARANCO and COBETAS due Las Palmas for orders about 13th Jan. proceed to Med. ports Straits Boarding Officer should send them in for examination. (D.E.W.D., 111545A to C.C.S.O. Gib.)



War Diary.11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.O.S. 64/  
K.M.S.38.  
U/B & A/C.

One S/M on surface bearing 230°, 9 knots course and speed unknown, my position 42° 06' N. 18° 32' W.

(HELMSDALE, 111615Z.)

I am being shadowed by enemy aircraft 41° 58' N. 18° 28' W., 180°, 8 knots.

(HELMSDALE, 111835.)

One S/M sighted contact on possible second. 5 escorts hunting request air patrol tonight round convoy my P.C.S. 041° 58' N. 019° 20' W., 180°, 7½ knots. Weather report 7580 1144.

(S.O. E.G. B.4, 111820Z to F.O.G.M.A., (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, E.G.B.1, E.G.6, Adnty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, Air Min., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S.)

S.L.144/  
M.K.S.35.

C. in C. W.A. 111517. WOODPECKER and GLENARM proceed Ponta Delgada for fuel. WATCHMAN and WANDERER to Horta. Necessary authorities informed that ships will arrive Ponta Delgada about daylight/14th.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 112150Z to E.G.B.1, (R) Adnty., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.Sailings,  
Durban to  
northward.Delete all references to Lourenco Marques in the first sentence of para. 2 of my 101503.\*  
2. All ships from 8 to 12.9 knots for all destinations on East Indies Station from Lourenco Marques are to join northbound convoy. Ships of other speeds to be reported as in para. 4 of my 101503.

(C. in C. S.A., 111036C.)

\* All ships from 8 to 12.9 knots for all destinations north and east of Durban are to be sailed in convoy as far as Beira.

Convoy north  
of Lourenco  
Marques.

Herewith repetition of my 111036.\* Addressed N.C.S.Os. Capetown, Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London, C.S.As. Beira, Lourenco Marques, (R) Adnty. C. in C. E.F., Com. i/c Durban, F.O.E.A. Begins. Delete all reference to Lourenco Marques in the first sentence of para. 2 of my 101503.

(2) All ships from 8 to 12.9 knots for all destinations on East Indies Station from Lourenco Marques are to join northbound convoy. Ships of other speeds to be reported as in para. 4 of my 101503. Ends.

(C. in C. S.A., 111123C to Adnty., C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A.)

\* N.T. of receipt in W.R.

War Diary.

11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

"Freecar"  
patrol.

Intend to sail ABRUZZI (I.S.) and DUCA D'AOSTA at (?06)00Z/12 for "Freecar" patrol. ABRUZZI (I.S.) line American inward arrives position G 0800Z/(?14th) leaves from position (?H) 1800Z/20th Jan.

DUCA D'AOSTA line E.F. inward arrives from position E 0800Z/14th Jan. leaves from position F at 1800Z/18th Jan. Both ships return Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 111242Z.)

BURGENLAND,  
and RIO  
GRANDE,  
P.O.W.

U.S. Warships have landed following prisoners at Recife. My 071320 refers. 66 ex BURGENLAND and 72 ex RIO GRANDE.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 111324Z.)  
Re survivors from blockade runners as prisoners of war.

Plan to  
tighten  
security  
of tanker  
movements.

Proposal outlined in your 311711 December is being considered by authorities concerned.  
(D.T.D., 111822A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

S.L.146.

Escorts ENCHANTRESS (S.O.), NESS, BELLWORT, COWSLIP and SNOWDROP.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 112100Z.)

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11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

- M.K.F.27A M.K.F.27A is to enter Algiers E.T.A. boom 0630A/19th to fuel sailing again at 1700A/19th. F.O.L.E.M. 101750 refers.  
(2) E.T.A. position 16 2300A/20th.  
(3) Admiralty is requested to order outer or inner route.  
(4) N.O.I.C. Port Said pass to RAMILLIES.  
(C. in C. Med., 111049 to DUCKWORTH, S.E.C., M.K.F.27A, RAMILLIES, Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers).
- U-boat 1. M.L. reports contact with submarine 090 degs. Cape Bon 5 miles.  
(A/C. FAUP, 111125A to A.H.Q. Malta).
- M.V. HALLAREN. A.M. 042344. Swedes report HALLAREN sailed 10th Jan. but will not call at Corfu and will proceed by standard route to Venice.  
2. Request you will inform Air and other authorities concerned.  
3. Strong representations have been made against this unauthorised change in programme and Swedes have been informed we can accept no responsibility for vessel's safety.  
(Admty. 111330A to F.O.L.E.M., V.A. Malta, Info. C. in C. Med.).
- M.V. WIRIL. Your 091847. Syra is already mined and no assurance can be given to WIRIL. Melos has not yet been mined but is a target given in my 021248.  
2. Do instructions in your 211235 December mean that Melos can only be mined with mines of limited life after it has once been visited by WIRIL or can unrestricted mining be employed after WIRIL's visit.  
3. Use of mines of restricted life in targets in my 021248 will considerably restrict usefulness and it appears that with present arrangements relief ships may request to visit any of the ports in question.  
4. To allow mining programme to be carried out request longest possible notice of intention of relief ships.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 111337B to Admty.). *Reply: 211926A, p. 336*  
✓ WIRIL to visit Cyclades and other islands.
- S.N.F.12. N.O.I.C. Naples is requested to sail at 1400/12th; CHANTILLY to Bone and NEA HELLAS, HAILEE, JOAN DE WITT to Philippeville. Arrangements. Escort CALPE S.O., HAMBLEDON, KRAKOWIAK.  
9. (A) On arrival convoy at Philippeville escort will detach and carry out A/S sweep through 40.27 90.74 thence Algiers E.T.A. 0500/15th, codeword "Jeanne".  
(B) U.G.S.28 is expected to be in 037 degs. 11' 007 degs. 45' at 2200 January 13th bound war channel 7½ knots.  
(F.O.W.I.T., 111441A to N.O.I.C. Naples, F.O.C. Tunisia, (R) 325 Wing, V.A.M., N.O.I.C. Palermo, Bone, Jijelli, Admty. etc.).
- Demilitarisation of Italian battleships. Personal.  
If and when move takes place it will be carried out in stages your 051101 battleships /will...

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War Diary11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Demilitari-  
sation of  
Italian  
battleships.  
(Contd.).will first go to Augusta to disembark cordite and  
projectiles and then proceed to their final  
destinations.  
(C. in C. Med. 111606A to V.A. Malta).Air  
operations  
U-boats  
attacked.8/9 Jan. Sighted 2 U-boats about 4 miles off  
Spanish Coast approx. half mile apart. Circled  
1 painted white about 250 feet in length. Bombs  
dropped from 50 feet. Crew believe they must  
have hit U-boat with all bombs. Aircraft hit by  
return fire causing fire in the port wing.9/10 Jan. 4 Hudsons, 24 Wellingtons, 4 Beaufighters  
anti submarine patrols and convoy escort, 1 Wellington sighted  
believed U/Boat at conning tower depth North East Alicante  
(Spain) attacked with 6 by 250 depth charges from 50 feet  
straddling target. Only depth charge scum visible in daylight.  
End Part 4. Final part to follow.  
(H.Q.N.A.A.F. Adv. 111647Z.)

WARSPITE.

Your 021141.

WARSPITE will not now proceed to the U.S. for  
permanent repairs but will probably return to U.K.  
2. Further signal will be made as to date of  
sailing.  
(D.O.D.(F) 111728A to C. in C. Med.)SS IMPERIAL  
VALLEY.

Master reports:-

Lower part of No. 2 hold on fire. Supposedly  
spontaneous combustion.  
(D.M.W.T.R. Augusta, 111803A.)French  
cruisers.Would prefer GLOIRE Admty. 101525\* refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 111807A to Admty.)\* Would C. in C. Med. prefer return of GEORGES  
LEYGUES to Med. or GLOIRE or MONTCALM.TANTIVY  
PIPINOS.On January 13th P.319 (TANTIVY) and P 71 (PIPINOS)  
are to leave patrol areas ordered in my (?111)  
142A so as to R/V with sloop REDPOLE in 041° N.  
009° 40' W. at 1300A 13th for escort to Gibraltar  
(route). Re. bombing restrictions arranged.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 111842A to P.319 (TANTIVY), P.71 (PIPINOS)  
(R) F.O.(S), C. in C.W.A., C.M.S.F.)M.E. Balkan  
Sitrep  
No.56.401008. 0/58303 cipher 11 Jan.  
4. Sea Ops. Partisan Naval H.Q. reports German  
ex. Italian ship ITALIA hit a mine off Rivanj on  
Uljan Island after leaving Zara 30 Dec. This  
presumably ship which was reported aground at  
Rivanj on 2nd Jan.  
(C. in C. Med., 111950B.)

/Situation...

11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
report  
No. 269.

1. Aircraft mined Rhodes Harbour during the night 6th/7th and Salamis just North of Georgios Chamel night 9th/10th. 2 motor launches sank 2 Caiques South West of Symi at 2300 9th and took prisoners.

3. While on patrol off East Italian Coast during the night 9th/10th TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT shot up 3 trains, one of which was left burning and successfully bombarded San Benedetto. One Schooner was hit and driven ashore.

4. Convoy K.M.S. 37 was attacked by approx. 20 aircraft at 18.55/10th in 036° 07' N. 000° 11' W. SS. OCEAN HUNTER sunk and SS DANIEL WEBSTER hit forward, but has reached Oran. Fighters intercepted the attacking force 60 miles N. of convoy and claim one destroyed one probably destroyed and 3 damaged. Close cover damaged 2 and + was claimed by A/A fire.

5. TORBAY reports obtaining 4 hits by gunfire on 80 ton Caique at 1600 25th December 5 miles N.W. of Candia before being forced to (?withdraw) by shore batteries.  
(C. in C. Med., 112026A.) +presumably "one" omitted.

Wreck  
dispersal  
vessels.

Your 101301. Regret every available vessel of this type must now be held in U.K. for the purpose quoted by you. Suggest you consider a temporary redistribution of lifting capacity westward from Levant and Malta (including ex-Italian Camels.)  
(Admty., 112112A to C. in C. Med.)

11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SS. DAVID  
THOMPSON.

Not attacked. All well.  
(DAVID THOMPSON, 110020Z.)

Bi-weekly  
U/Boat  
disposition  
No.16.

No change other than SS. DAVID THOMPSON (q.v.)  
(C. in C.E.F. 110334Z.)

K.15.

Delayed again.  
(S.O. S/Ms. Colombo 110914Z.)

HAWKINS,  
FROBISHER.

During the second half of 1943 HAWKINS has spent about 50% of her time and FROBISHER nearly 40% in dockyard hands.  
2. In view of these figures and the fact that these ships carry large complements, I suggest consideration should be given to their early relief.  
3. It does not appear at present that either could be spared without relief but this possibility will be watched in the light of the changed strategic situation.  
(C. in C.E.F. 111107Z to Admty.)

Diego  
Suarez  
and  
Madagascar  
bases.

Future of Diego Suarez and Island Bases. Owing to the urgent necessity to conserve Naval manpower I am proposing to Admiralty that the time has now arrived to turn over to the French the Port and area of Diego Suarez.  
2. I am also proposing that F.A.A. personnel are withdrawn from Andrakaka Aerodrome and the F.A.A. facilities at Mauritius turned over to the R.A.F.  
(C. in C.E.F. 111231Z to H.Q.E.A., A.G.Q.E.A.) As amended 121126Z.

SS. TRIONA.

SSSS Position 00.03 N. 80.43 E. torpedoed.  
(TRIONA 112240Z.)  
Informing addressees. F.O.E.A. pass to 246 Wing and A.H.Q., E.A.  
(C. in C.E.F., 112358Z to S. and A. E.I. Station  
(R) Admty., C. in C.S.A. 246 Wing, A.H.Q.E.A.)

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11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

H.X. 274. ERINNA and JAMES HARROD in collision. ERINNA sinking. Rescue ship and HEPATICA standing by. My P.C.S. 044° 21' N. 052° 45' W., 067°, 9.5. (W.5, 110805Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) HARROD damaged in collision. Met by C.5. P.C.S. 044° 40' N. 050° 42' W., 067°, 9.5 at 1400Z/11th. ERINNA escorted by HEPATICA proceeding to St. Johns N.F., speed 6 knots, requires no further assistance. (W.5, 111710Z to C. in C. C.N.A.) P.C.S. at 1500Z, 044° 43' N. 051° 21' W., 067°, 7.5. (? Both) escort oilers missing at Westomp. (?DA)GEID last seen at 0700Z not under control. ERINNA damaged and on fire after collision with JAMES HARROD last night. HEPATICA standing by ERINNA, fire under control and proceeding St. Johns N.F. KEMPTHORN rejoining with PERTH and JAMES HARROD. 37 ships in company. (S.O. E.G. C.5., 111838Z to C. in C. W.A.) Situation is 2 ships collided with tanker, one port side amidships, one on starboard side amidships. Bridge completely burned. Various lifeboats gone. No (? compasses) or (? charts). If weather gets bad may have to put in Trepassey Bay for shelter. Cargo appears intact. Rescue ship has 8 survivors, we have 24. 2 killed. 23 remaining to handle ship plus (2 corrupt groups). (HEPATICA, 112350Z to F.O.N.F.)

H.X. 274. C.5 Group escorting H.X.274 C. in C. W.A. 101913 October. A. ROSTHERN, SUMMERSIDE, DAUPHIN, DIANTHUS. (F.O.N.F., 111248A to C. in C. W.A.) KEATS proceeding U.K. additional to C.5 with H.X.274. My 091840 amended accordingly. (F.O.N.F., 111402Z to C. in C. W.A.)

M.M.S.256. My 092257 and your 101546. M.M.S.256 arrived Halifax Jan. 10th. (C. in C. C.N.A., 111310Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

U/B estimates. (Cominch, 111536; Ottawa C.C.O., 112030Z.)

A.T.86 N.K. Recommend on reaching longitude 47° W. steer direct for S omitting R. A.T., N.U., (D.O.D.(H), 111706Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.) O.N. 218, In view situation O.N.218, O.N.S.26 and H.X.274. O.N.S.26, Plus estimate sub. moving eastward your 111706Z consider continuing present route preferable. H.X. 274. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 111907Z.) Situation my 111907Z changed DY B.7 111301Z. Am altering about 2300Z today to pass astern H.X.274. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 112044Z.) As amended 120150Z. A.T.86 N.U. and N.K. alter course forthwith for new A 046° 01' 048° 59' thence position S omitting R. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 112030Z to MAURETANIA, Cinclant, (R) Admty., etc.)

/U.S. ...

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11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S. mine-  
laying in  
Pacific.

Asking for information.  
(A.C.N.S.(W), 111712A to B.A.D.)  
See Lion Copy.

S.C. 151.

In view of slow speed length of existing standard routes and consequent danger of ships becoming dangerously low in bunkers request consideration be given to routeing S.C.151 by Great Circle, Admty. 031120 Dec. and N.S.H.Q's 152058 refers. (C. in C. C.N.A., 112024Z to Admty.)

O.N. 218.

O.N.218 P.C.S. 044° 20' N. 045° 42' W. (X) 265° 5 knots. VERVAIN detached to Argentia short of fuel. 35 ships present. Weather report 4878 0876.  
(E.G. B.6, 112057Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

ATHLETE,  
ANTWERP,  
TEXAS.

To sail about 16th Jan. from New Orleans to Gib. for Mediterranean via Bermuda.  
(Cominch, 112254Z.)

Italian  
S/MS. for  
A/S  
Training.

If you concur in C. in C. Mediterranean's 101947, propose to approve sailing submarine in G.U.S.27.  
(D.O.D.(F), 112310A to Cominch.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 721.

Jan. 10th. Paragraph 13 covers South Pacific Forces.  
(2) Early hours another Navy Catalina attacked 7 - 8 ship convoy heading Rabaul off central west coast New Ireland. Convoy comprised one possible light cruiser minimum three destroyers and three or four merchantmen one direct hit amidships with 500 pound bomb claimed on one destroyer left smoking heavily.  
(10) Night January 8th-9th our Motor Torpedo Boats sank 10 south-bound barges whereof 7 were loaded north of Saidor. Following night similar craft destroyed nine out of 23 barges whereof 14 were proceeding north laden with troops between Saidor and Sio Trek. 10 Mitchells afternoon January 9th bombed strafed suspected barge base Gali village (20 miles south-east Saidor) with good coverage.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 110636Z.)



# MOST SECRET

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

**MOST SECRET**

**MESSAGE**

**OU**

(\*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :  
To B.A.D. Washington, excepted from this rule.)

Date 11. 1. 44.

O.T.P. (T/C)

From Admiralty.

*American Minelaying Request for Details.*

1. A Committee has been formed to carry out an operational analysis of attacks on shipping, and to apply the results and experience of the past to the question of attack on Japanese shipping and we are anxious to have the benefit of American experience in the employment of mines in the Pacific.
2. At the request of the American Naval Attache in London we have from time to time imparted the fullest information with regard to our own minelaying activities in Northern European waters and U.S. Operational Research Group have been given full facilities to work in the Admiralty on the actual data. It would be of great value if reciprocal information could be made available.
3. It is therefore requested that you will approach COMINGH on the above lines with a view to obtaining details under the following general headings for American Surface, Submarine, and Aircraft Minelayers:-
  - (a) Date of operation.
  - (b) Position of minefield.
  - (c) Number and type of mines laid.
  - (d) Minelayers employed.
  - (e) Weather conditions.
  - (f) Base from which minelayers operated.
  - (g) Object of operation.
  - (h) Any available information with regard to results achieved.
4. The above information would be treated on a high level of security.

111712..

D.D.O.D. (M) (359)

Approved A.C.N.S. (W)

- 1st Lord,
- 1st S.L. (2),
- D.F.S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2).
- A.C.N.S. (W).
- A.C.N.S. (A).
- U.V.R.
- N... 1st S.L.
- Asst. Contr (R and D).
- D. of P. (2).
- D. of P. (Q) (2).
- D.O.D. (H) (4).
- D.O.D. (F) (2).
- D.D.O.D. (M) (2) (O.D. 2165/43).

- D.C.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.S.D.
- D.../S.W.
- D.../U.D.
- C...O.R.
- D.T.S.D.
- D.T.Y.
- Hydrog (2)
- D.M.S.
- HG. of M. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Admiral Blake (4)

11.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 111305Z, 111305Z.)

Submarines Attacked.

Submarine attack and sighting summary for 48 hours to 0900Z/11th January.

Para. A. (1) At 0540/8 in 36° 28' N. 02° 53' W. SLAZAK sighted U-Boat on surface.  
(2) At 1145/9 in 37° 46' N. 00° 08' W. A/C 'M' sighted periscope.  
(2) At 1606/10 in 39° 00' N. 00° 47' E. A/C sighted U-Boat on surface, course 360°.  
Para. B. (1) At 1132/8 in 36° 31' N. 01° 43' W. A/C Y/28 sighted underwater wake and streaks of bubbles on surface.  
(2) At 2102/9 in 38° 36' N. 00° 30' E. ATHERSTONE

attacked good contact.

Para. C. (1) At 1520/10 in 00° 40' S. 77° 48' E. SS. DAVID THOMPSON made SSSS sighted and fired at, U-Boat. Later reported not herself attacked.  
(D.D.I.C., 111040Z.)

A/S Operations My 221059 July 1942.

in "Percussion" 1. At 1154A/8 Sunderland U/10 sank a U-Boat with Area. depth charges in 46° 47' N. 10° 42' W. About 40 survivors seen in the water.

2. Since 1st January there have been 17 aircraft attacks on U-Boats in the Bay of Biscay and an additional 10 sightings. In addition to the sinking quoted in item 1 several of the attacks show promise of having severely damaged the U-Boats.

3. Ships of Escort Group B.4 sighted U-Boat after Radar contact in 50° 24' N. 18° 22' W. at 1955Z/8. Asdic contact lost after eight attacks and slight oil-covered wreckage was recovered.

4. Commencing at 0335Z/9 ships escorting convoy O.S.64 carried out series of attacks on U-Boat detected in 49° 42' N. 19° 20' W. Contact lost at 1100Z/9 and WINCHELSEA considered U-Boat was probably sunk.

5. Series of attacks carried out by air and surface forces on U-Boats south-east of Spain commencing with attack by Wellington P/179 at 2156Z/7 in 36° 38' N. 2° 05' W. Probably two U-Boats involved. Full details not yet received.

(D.A/S.W., 112030Z.)

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12.1.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.  
Convoy  
J.W. 56A  
sails.

1. Convoy J.W. 56A, consisting of twenty M/Vs., escorted by CYGNET and INCONSTANT of the Through Escort (with DIANELLA and POPPY sailed later today to overtake) and by READY (S.O.), ORESTES, WALLFLOWER and BORAGE as Local Escort, left Loch Ewe at 1700 today for North Russia.

Capt. D.26 in HARDY (S.O. of the Destroyer Escort) left Loch Ewe at 1617A for Seidisfjord; and the remaining seven destroyers of that Escort left Scapa at 2001A to join him at Seidisfjord at 1100A on the 14th.

Biscay  
Operations.

2. In the Biscay area 500 miles West of Vigo and Cape Finisterre the A/C Carrier STRIKER with 12 available A/C is maintaining a maximum air-search throughout today; and during tonight WOODPECKER and GLENARM of Escort Group B.1. (WANDERER and WATCHMAN having been detached to Horta at 1830Z owing to defect in WANDERER) are carrying out an A/S sweep about 450 miles West of Cape Finisterre.

At 2345Z EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBURG of the 6th Escort Group supporting Convoy S.L.144/M.K.S.35 were hunting a U-Boat detected by Radar about 450 miles West of Cape Ortegal. No asdic contact or attack was made during this hunt; but at 1800 CAMROSE had reported a heavy underwater explosion, possibly that of a "Gnat", in this area.

Convoy  
O.N. 218.

3. The Rescue Ship ABOYNE with survivors from THEODORE PARKER on board is broken down about 680 miles E. by S. of St. Johns with the Frigate DEVERON standing by her. The A/S Trawler NORTHERN PRIDE was ordered at 0201Z to-day to proceed to relieve DEVERON and tow ABOYNE to the Azores.

NELSON.

4. NELSON arrived in the Clyde at 1524 today from Scapa to be de-stored.

Mediterranean.

5. TYRIAN and GRENVILLE patrolled between Ancona and Pesaro last night, but sighted nothing on account of fog.

/Aegean ...

12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

6. 8 Liberators and 8 Halifaxes successfully attacked Piraeus Harbour last night. 4 Wellingtons laid mines in Syros, Lavrion (37.42 N. 24.04 E.) and Rhodes harbours.

Black Sea.

7. The Russians report that an enemy submarine was sunk by air attack off the Caucasus coast on 27th December. Various sinkings of merchant ships, lighters and minor craft in the Black Sea are reported.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. Early this morning a Catalina attacked a destroyer escorting a merchant ship south of New Hanover. Near misses lifted the stern of the destroyer and silenced her A/A fire.

Six Naval Catalinas bombed the docks and warehouse area at Ambon last night, starting numerous fires.

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12.1.1944  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TANTALUS. Request you will sail TANTALUS for Gibraltar about 24th Jan. My 161332 Oct. refers. (F.O.(S), 121056A to Capt.(S) 3)

BRONZO. C.C.S. have approved BRONZO being allocated to the French under conditions of C.C.S. 358 (revised) para. 7 and subject to the proviso that she is employed initially outside the Mediterranean on A/S training. A.M. 311610 Dec. refers. (B.A.D. 121709Z to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall" Report number of aircraft available, together with your estimate of possibility of maintaining maximum air effort throughout today.

(2) Predawn search yielded a kill for U.S. Carrier in 041 degs. 56' N. 020 degs. 53' W. at 0540/11th. (C. in C. W.A. 120034A to STRIKER)

Your 120034A. 7 Swordfish and 5 Hurricanes. Swell across wind has made conditions unfit for flying since 1900 yesterday and it is improbable flying will be possible before daylight. If wind moderate and veers as expected, conditions should improve by forenoon. Predawn search was carried out yesterday and patrols maintained all day under difficult conditions without making contacts. Weather 1856 1147.

(STRIKER, 120102Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) E.G.40)

B.1's 121050. B.1 E.G. including WOODPECKER carry out A/S sweep during hours of darkness 12th/13th in area between latitudes of 042 degs. and 044 degs. N. and longitude 021 degs. W. and 022 degs. W. leave area daylight 13th unless in contact and proceed to Azores for fuel in accordance with S.B.N.O. Azores 112150.

(2) 6th E.G. support S.L.144/M.K.S.35 as in my 120811.

(C. in C. W.A. 121501A to B.1, E.G.6)

WANDERER and WATCHMAN detached forthwith to Horta, E.T.A. daylight 14th.

WANDERER's defect on starboard propeller has further developed and now suspect part of blade missing. Request examination on arrival. WOODPECKER and GLENARM acting in accordance with your 121501.

(B.1, 121830Z to C. in C. W.A.)

EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBERG hunting U-Boat in vicinity 044 degs. 31' N. 020 degs. 45' W. detected by Radar. Weather 8571 0862.

(E.G.6, 122345Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation, F.W. H.P. Bottom end running hot requires adjusting. Estimated time required 5 hours. DIANELLA proceeding in execution of previous orders. Am proceeding to oiler. (POPPY, 120355A to N.O.I.C.Londonderry)

Sailed /...

12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.) Sailed DIANELLA. <sup>Poppy.</sup> Poppy delayed approximately 5 hours with defects. (Cdre. D. W.A. 120618A to V.A.2) Scapa arrival. STORD. (A.C.O.S. 120738 to C. in C. Rosyth.) My 120618. POPPY sailed. (Cdre. D. W.A. 121114A to V.A.2) Intend proceeding 1600A today. E.T.A. Seidisfiord 2000A/13th. (Capt.(D) 26, 121442A to C. in C. H.F.) Request you will sail AMBITIOUS to Skaalefiord for 18th M.S.F A.C.I.C.101710 refers. (D.M.S. 121615A to C. in C. H.F.) Sailed Capt.(D) 26. (N.O.I.C.Aultbea, 121617A to A.C.I.C.) J.W.56A. (A) 1700/12th. (B) CYGNET, INCONSTANT, READY, ORESTES, WALLFLOWER, BORAGE. DIANELLA and POPPY sailing to overtake. (C) 20. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 121830) J.W.56 A. 20 M/V's. Names. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 121832 to C. in C. W.A.) V.A.2's 111020A. P.C.S. 058 degs. 12' N. 005 degs. 38' W. 004 degs. 9 knots altering to 290 degs. at 2030 for position A. (M/S 18, 121905A to DIANELLA, POPPY) Sailed SAVAGE, STORD, VENUS, VIGILANT, VIRAGO, OFFA, OBDUR- ATE to Seidisfiord, E.T.A. 1100A/14th. (R.A.D. H.F. 122001A to A.C.I.C.)

V.P. Operations. My 161649 Dec. Sailed 1000A today M.T.B. 618, 687, 625 and 653. (2) Yes. (A.C.O.S.121008A to Admty.) My 311730, Dec. Sailed at 1000A today M.T.B. 684 (S.O), 619, 666 and 681. (2) Yes. (A.C.O.S.121009A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121340)

S/M Patrols. VIKING is to leave area (P) a.m. 13th and proceed diving by day to R/V with NEAVE from Plymouth at 0900A/14th in position V.C. 000 degs. Round Island. 17. (2) NEAVE is to escort VIKING to Plymouth. Route. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121444A to VIKING)

Own Submarines 0800/13th and movements for succeeding 24 hours (A) VENTURER on patrol in vicinity 61 degs. 15' N. 04 degs. 02' E. (B) STRATAGEM 65 degs. 20' N. 001 degs. 15' E. leaves patrol 1800/13th through 64 degs. 53' N. 02 degs. 02' E. and 61 degs.59' N. 01 degs. 27' W. to arrive Lerwick p.m. 15th.

(C) /...

12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M TAKU 64 degs. 20' N. 00 degs. 57' E. leaves  
Patrols. 1900/13th through 64 degs. 00' N. 01 degs. 00' E.  
(Contd.) 62 degs. 00' N. 01 degs. 28' W. for Lerwick,  
E.T.A. a.m. 15th.  
(D) UNSWERVING 63 degs. 28' N. 01 degs. 03' E.  
leaves for Lerwick 2358/13th through 62 degs.  
02' N. 00 degs. 38' W. E.T.A. 15th.  
(E) TELEMACHUS (P.321) with REGAL arrives Lerwick from South  
1000/13th and sails unescorted 1500/13th through 090 Muckle  
Flugga 10 and 62 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 11' E. then course 030  
degs. 10 knots.  
Submarines (B) (C) (D) diving by day North of 62 degs.  
(F) VIKING leaves 50 degs. 42' N. 10 degs. 01' W. diving by day  
yo R/V with escort at 0900/14th in 360 degs. Round Island 17  
then to Plymouth 10 knots.  
(F.O.S.121746A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bremen on 13th and 20th Dec. VIENTI, FRIEDRICH BISHOR, ILE D'AIX, IVAN KONDRUP, GRANADA destroyed.  
Bremen. (A) Following shipping was destroyed by air bombardment December 13th.  
Finnish VIENTI 1771 tons. German FRIEDRICH BISHOR. French ILE D'AIX. Danish IVAN KONDRUP. Swedish GRANADA.  
(B) Attack December 20th left harbour largely undamaged. Graded C.2.  
(N.A.Stockholm, 121607 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Warships. (a) Following dispositions reported recently:  
SCHEER or LUTZOW December 30th Swinemunde.  
NURNBERG December 16th for Gdynia.  
SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN and SCHLESIEN December 30th Gdynia. GRAF ZEPPELIN December 30th Stetin.  
(b) 4 large destroyers reported at Swinemunde December 30th.  
All graded B.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 121531 to Admty.)  
Comment by O.I.C. A good report. The P/B at Swinemunde was probably SCHEER which was seen there on 5th January by P.R.U.

U-Boats.

U-Boat assessments The following assessments of anti-submarine attacks have been made:-  
(a) 2nd June C.A.M.S. 141/4E. Re-assessed Probably sunk.  
(b) 17th August Hudson O/200 }  
18th August Wellington } Probably sunk.  
HZ/697(French) }

(c) /...

War Diary.

12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boat assessments. (Contd.) (c) 16th October Liberators L/86 Re-assessed and S/59 Probably sunk.  
(d) 13th December Liberators B/53 Probably sunk.  
(2) Request you will convey Their Lordships' congratulations to those concerned with these successes.  
(1st S.L.122115A to Air Ministry)

U-Boat sunk on 8th Jan. We congratulate the crew of Sunderland U/10, R.A.A.F. on their A/S attack which sank a U-Boat on 8th January.  
(1st S.L.122125A to Air Ministry)

Casualties and Defects.

OCEAN RIDER, ROLF JARL Collision. OCEAN RIDER outward bound to Milford has collided with ROLF JARL inward bound to Newport. Both ships now anchored in Barry Roads. Extent of damage not known. Visibility low.  
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 120330A to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven.)

My 120330. OCEAN RIDER about 40 square feet plating dented and fractured 11 feet above water-line in vicinity of stem. Please state where ship should proceed for repairs. ROLF JARL has proceeded to Newport.  
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 120630A to N.C.S.O. Newport)

ABELIA. Proceed to Cardiff.  
(C. in C. W.A. 121052A to ABELIA)

CUSHENDEN. BRISSENDEN 121556. Tug not required. CUSHENDEN proceeding Plymouth under own power. Am proceeding rejoin W.P.460.  
(WENSLEYDALE, 121650A to C. in C. Plymouth)  
Proceed forthwith to assist SS. CUSHENDEN broken down in 266 degs. Eddystone 11 miles and tow her to Plymouth. WENSLEYDALE is to stand by. PORTZIE also proceeding to assistance.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121705A to ELAN II)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.145. My 111431 sailed. (NENE).  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 120120A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.218. THEODORE PARKER. JOSEPH SMITH. KINGCUP reports JOSEPH SMITH left in sinking condition. My 112012 amend as follows - proceed to 045 degs. 49' N. 036 degs. 47' W. where DEVERON is standing by SS. ABOYNE broken down drifting 090 degs. 3 knots.



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12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.218, THEODROE PARKER, JOSEPH SMITH. (Contd.) (2) On junctioning relieve DEVERON and tow ship to Azores. (3) CAILIFF escorting TENACITY proceeding to assist THEODORE PARKER. (F.O.N.F. 120201Z to NORTHERN PRIDE) Acknowledge my 120201 forthwith. (F.O.N.F. 121241Z to NORTHERN PRIDE) (7 groups missed). DORNOCH from KINGCUP. Request Dockyard assistance on arrival St. Johns N.F. to carry out repairs to main engine. Also require A/S and Radar assistance, E.T.A. 131730Z. (?Origin, 121611Z to F.O.N.F.) E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 131730Z. Details of 70 survivors from JOSEPH SMITH. (KINGCUP, 121837Z to F.O.N.F.)

U.C.10. C.T.G.21.8 in FOGG plus FOSS, GANTNER, JEFFREY, LEE FOX, and GWINGRAM sailed for U.C.10. (E.C.O. Londonderry, 120800 to C. in C. W.A.) Following ships did not sail. VIRGINIA, SANT TERESA, RIPPINGHAM GRANGE. (2) Amended destination EMPEROR to Norfolk (V.A.) (C. in C. W.A. 120901Z to T.G.21.8)

O.N.220 MEON. A.M. 101532. Intend sailing MEON with O.N.220. (C. in C. W.A. 121140Z to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

S.L.144/ M.K.S.35 46 ships. Names and destinations. (D.T.D. 121213A)

T.U.6 Admiralty 091943A January. GENERAL GEORGE SIMONDS and MARINE EAGLE will not be ready to sail. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 121215Z to Admty) Intend sailing U.S. Destroyers DAVISON, MERVINE, TILLMAN and ORDRONAUX at 1000A/Jan. 13th for exercise and on completion anchoring off Lough Foyle leaving anchorage 0700A/14th to R/V at 0930A/14th. as in Admiralty 101851A. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 121632A to Admty.)

O.N.219. WILLIAM L. MARCY Damaged. Following from: Valentia Radio at 5.59 p.m. DE TZ 27. Vessel cracked across main deck and hull, down to tween-deck. Required stand by if necessary to abandon ship. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121654Z to Admty.) From IRISH LARCH addressed Valentia Radio. My position at 1700 G.M.T. 46.01 N. 22.13 W. Can I be of any assistance re S.O.S. from TZ,27 Master ends. (Valentia Radio, 121722Z to Admty.) Am standing by WILLIAM MORCY severely damaged and threatening to abandon ship. My position 070 degs. ZZ 12 miles. (BENTLEY, 121748Z to ASSINIBOINE)

War Diary.

12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.219. Intercept 1824 G.M.T. Bearing North West.  
WILLIAM L DE TZ 95. S.O.S. Cracked forward from well  
MARCY deck to below tween deck. Stand by if abandon  
Damaged. ship.  
(Contd.) (C. in C. Plymouth, 121928A to Admty.)  
Following intercepted at 1657Z has been received  
from ship No.27 in O.N.219 begins:  
S.O.S. Hull down to tween decks require Stand-by  
if necessary to abandon ship. Ends.  
Report any action taken.  
(C. in C. W.A. 122001A to Escorts O.N.219)

K.M.F.28. A.M. 060814. Convoy K.M.F.28.  
(1) Para. 1 (b) Add SS. PAPAROA speed 15½ knots  
destination New Zealand via Cape.  
(2) Route.  
(D.O.D.(H), 121851A)

R.U.104, SS. SKJOLD leaking badly and returning to  
SKJOLD. Reykjavik, escorts standing by. E.T.A. 0500N/  
13th.  
(QUADRILLE, 122200B to A.C.I.C.)

200

12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

A/S operations. Refer to this as C.T.G. 21.16's 112359. At 2000Z location 40 North 18 West. Starting daylight from 41 North 21 West at speed 15 will sweep east and south. Sub today unknown type estimated 300 feet long very slender. A/A guns in 4 locations superstructure. No deck guns. Entire deck flat. (Comnaveu, 120401).

KING GEORGE V. Unable to decypher messages 583G and 584G. D table not held. Request R/V with Gibraltar destroyers be signalled. My P.C. and S 041 degs. 14' North 023 degs. 17' West 165 degs. 17 knots. Weather report 4865, 1156. (KING GEORGE V, 121200A to F.O.G.M.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, (R) Admty.).

Following was also made as my 111530 and 111546 (N.T. of either in W.D.). Addressed KING GEORGE V (R) ATHABASKAN, METEOR, ASHANTI, C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Med., Admty., C. in C, H.F., S.B.N.O. Azores.

(1) ANTELOPE (S.O.), ANTHONY and BRILLIANT will R/V in position (A) 037 degs. 04' North 017 degs. 05' West at 1000A January 13th. Codeword until joining "Fancy".

(2) When R/V has been made H.F. destroyers are to be detached to proceed to Horta with despatch reporting when 150 miles clear (A) P.C. and S KING GEORGE V. (B) Own position course and speed Horta and fuel requirements.

(3) From (O) proceed through (S) 035 degs. 45' North 006 degs. 30' W. and Q.B.A. 87 to Gibraltar omitting (P).

(4) P/V's are to be streamed before crossing 007 degs. West. KING GEORGE V pass to destroyers in company. Ends. (F.O.G.M.A. 121313 to KING GEORGE V, (R) C. in C.H.F., Admty. S.B.N.O. Azores.).

C.A.F.O. 1342/43.

U/boat attacked. LUNENBERG. (b) 1648Z/11th. (c) Periscope sighted by C.O. (d) 042 degs. 11' N. 019 degs. 35' W. (e) Depth charges FOLEY 6, EDMUNDSTON 3, LUNENBERG 2. Hedgehog FOLEY 1, WASKESIU 1st class+.

(f) 1100Z/12th to comply with C. in C.W.A's. 120811A FOLEY detached at 0606Z/12th to rejoin S.O.E.G.B.4. 2 unexplained underwater explosions at 2348 Z/11th not depth charges. Contact not regained after 0135Z/12th (S.O.E.G.6, 121215Z). + As received.

ABOYNE Your 111330 proceed Ponta Delgada with ABOYNE. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 121235Z to DEVERON).

SS RITA GARCIA (Spanish). Result of search (negative). (Gib. C.C.S.O. 121807A).

A/S search in Straits. At 1430A/12th Jan. Wellington on training sighted submerged U-boat

12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

A/S Search  
in Straits.  
(Contd.)

180 Europa' 5 course 90.  
(2) One yacht 5 trawlers 4B type M.L's. 4 H.D.M.L's  
searching. This is total anti-submarine force  
available at Gibraltar.  
(3) Commorseafon is sailing Task Force 61 at  
0001A Jan. to assist in Strait patrol and is also  
providing 3 M.A.D. Catalinas.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 121845A to C. in C. Med.).

South Atlantic.

Freecar  
patrol.

F.O.C.W.Af. 111242Z+ sailed.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 120604Z).  
+ DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI (I.S) and DUCA D'AOSTA.  
Arrival:- 0657Z/11 CILICIA from Ocean Patrol.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 121155Z).

War Diary.12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Russian Black Sea Operations. 1. Attacks on enemy shipping.  
 (a) Russian S/MS:- Dec. 27th two merchant vessels of about 4000 tons sunk off Cape Tarkhan. Dec. 28th two M/S sunk off Feodosia. Jan. 6th merchant vessel attacked south Cape Tarkhan. Two explosions heard, vessel presumed to have been sunk.  
 (b) Air attacks. Dec. 27th. Enemy S/M sunk off Caucasus coast. Jan. 3rd. 3000 ton merchant vessel and F lighter sunk and 3000 ton merchant vessel and two R Boats damaged in Akmechet. Jan. 4th. F lighter sunk and one damaged in Feodosia and six large barges damaged in Ochakov.  
 (c) Shore batteries:- Dec. 22nd tug, one barge and motor launch sunk in Dnieper Bay. Dec. 31st five F lighters damaged and on Jan. 5th one damaged in Kerbelach Straits.  
 (N.L.O. Black Sea, 120943C.)

G.U.S.28. Escort USK S.O., JONQUIL, VETCH, PRIMULA, SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN MAID.  
 (C. in C. Med., 121003A.)

Orders for destroyers and O. 24. ALDENHAM, ANTWERP, MIAOULES, PINDOS and BELVOIR sail at 0530/13 by Q.B.B. 123 (B) to position 212 at 0900/13.  
 2. O.24 arrives position 6 of Q.B.B. 123 (B) at 0600/13 and proceeds Malta.  
 (V.A. Malta, 121027 to O.24, ALDENHAM, ANTWERP, G.S. MIAOULES, G.S. PINDOS, BELVOIR.)

STOIC, ULTIMATUM and M.T.Bs. P.231 (STOIC) passes 034° 06' N. 029° 59' E. at 1715/12th at 11 knots and P.34 (ULTIMATUM) at 0230/13th at 8 knots, course 092°.  
 (2) M.T.B. 315 and 266 pass 034° 05' N. 030° 20' E. about 0100/13th course 345°, 25 knots.  
 (3) All times B.  
 (F.O.L.E.M., 121210B to P.231 (STOIC), P.34 (ULTIMATUM), M.T.B. 315, 266, 241, C.C.F. Eastern Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

M.A.A.F. Opsum 325. MS.1678. 11/1. Large motor torpedo boat damaged at Makarska by Thunderbolts left smoking.  
 9th Jan. 4 U.S. Spits. attacked F Boats west of Piombino. 8 x 260. 1? left on fire. Straffed gunboat, left sinking. 1 Wellington sighted  
 U-Boat west of Obiza, U-Boat submerged before Wellington reached position, dropped markers. Further hunt by 11 Wellingtons abortive.  
 (H.Q.M.A.A.F. Advance, 121432A.)

CLYDE, STORM. Detach at about 0601A/15th from K.M.S.37 in 035° 35' 016° 02' and (? proceed) as follows:  
 (A) CLYDE on surface at 13 knots through 034° 20'

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12.1.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

CLYDE,  
STORM.  
(Contd.)

020° 00' at 2159/15th thence diving by day to 033° 32' 025° 00', 033° 32' 025° 00' at 0215A/17th. (B) STORM at 11 knots on the surface through 035° 11' 019° 58' at 2350/(?15th) thence diving by day to 034° 02' 024° 59' at 1905A/17th. 201 Group's 122333 not to all addresses refers. H.M.S. BARLE pass to H.M.S. CLYDE and STORM.

(C) Capt. (S) 1st S/M.F. is requested arrange onward route for both to Beirut.

2. U-Boat patrol up to 60 miles from African coast between 020° and 025° E.

3. WT watch. 4. 201 Group is requested to arrange total and submerged bombing restrictions for both these routes.

5. S.10 pass to ?CLYDE and STORM.

(S.O. S/Ms. Malta, 121555 as amended 130602 to (?CLYDE), STORM, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1, Admty., R.A. Alex., F.O.C. Gib., S.N.O.E. Sicily, ROCHESTER, 201 Group, Escorts K.M.S.37, Air Authorities.)

Destroyers for Medtn. Your 102132. Destroyer reinforcements should be ready for service in your Command by the following dates.

Fleets: UNDINE, ULYSSES, URANIA - March.  
TERSPICHORE - March, to relieve KEMPENFELT.

JAVELIN - April. URSA - April. KELVIN - May.  
Hunts: BADSWORTH - May. AVONVALE (Aegan) - June. COWDRAY (Admiral Hastings) - July.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 121646A to C. in C. Med.)

AJAX,  
CALEDON.

A.M. 060125. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail AJAX and CALEDON to Gibraltar after 3 weeks preliminary work up, accompanied by any U class destroyers which are sufficiently worked up to make the passage. Intended date of sailing is to be reported.

2. C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange onward passage and escort from Gibraltar for final work up, (1st S.L., 121745A.)

WIRIL.

A.M. 091847 and your 111337. In view of mining of Syra, Swedes have been informed that proposed trip described in A.M. 091847 must be cancelled.

2. Revised programme will be signalled at a later date. A separate signal will be made regarding mining of Melos.  
(Admty., 121832A to F.O.L.E.M.)

UNTIRING report.

UNTIRING reports at 1135/6 in 44° 13', 09° 29' fired three torpedoes at two F lighters. One lighter sunk.  
(S.10, 121851.)

/Situation ...

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12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation  
Report  
No. 270.

(1) During night of 10th/11th Jan. TYRIAN and GRENVILLE shelled train and railway at Civitanova. Shore battery replied with accurate fire but caused no damage. Fire started following shelling of Pedaso (043° 05' N. 013° 51' E.) (C. in C. Med., 122220A.)

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12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- SS. TRIONA. Ref. U-Boat disposition No. 16 areas A. to F. inclusive no fresh information. No change in scale of air escorts. Area G. SS. TRIONA unsuccessfully attacked by U-Boat 000° 03' N. 080° 43' E. 2240Z/11. Scale of air escort Y. (C. in C.E.F. 120312.)
- MARIPOSA. Provided guards are adequate embarkation of up to 1500 P.O.W. is confirmed. Your 100326 refers. (C. in C.E.F. 120448Z to P.S.T.O.I.)
- Cruiser sunk by TALLY HO. P.317 (TALLY HO) reports sinking one cruiser off Penang North Channel Jan. 11th. Details will be forwarded when received. (C. in C.E.F. 120450.)
- Opsum No. 668. A.C. 58 12 Jan. M.S. 1677 (Part 1)  
10/11 Jan. 11 Liberators detailed minelaying south Salween River (Moulmein). 1 A/C due technical failure laid 4 x 1002 lb. magnetic mines 8 miles S.S.W. of Moulmein. 1 A/C (?operation) abortive due hang up. 9 aircraft successfully laid 36 x 1000 lbs. magnetic mines as detailed. 3 Liberators diversionary bombing attack Moulmein Martaban area to cover minelaying. Bombs target area. Fire started power house area. (S.E.A.A.C. 120957Z.)  
10th U.S.A.A.F. 10/11 Jan. 7 U.S. Liberators B.24 laid mines at Menam Estuary (Bangkok) area. 1 U.S. Liberator laid mines Rangoon Estuary. (S.E.A.A.C. 121037Z.)
- Com. (D) E.F. Broad Pendant of Commodore (D) Eastern Fleet was hauled down in NAPIER and hoisted in WOOLWICH at 0800/11. (C. in C.E.F. 121130Z.)
- SS. TRIONA. Damage slight (corrupt group) proceeding. (TRIONA 121700Z.)  
Note: Signal 112240Z from TRIONA also refers.
- U/B estimate. Two Germans between S.W. coast of India and Maldives. No other U-Boat at present evidenced on operations in northern Indian Ocean but one German in area south of Madagascar from D/F of 7th January. (D.D.I.C. 121815A.)
- U/B report. By D/F at 1900Z/12 the position of a German U/B was in the (?general) area west of the Laccadive Is. (C. in C.E.F. 122225Z to S. & A. E.I. Station.)



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12.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- M/V DAGEID. S.O.S. 46.21 N. 52.46 W. require immediate assistance steering gear damaged. Master. (DAGEID No T.O.O/12th Recd. 0916.)
- S.C.151. Your 112024\*. Request you route on Standard Route B. (D.T.D. 121036A to C. in C.N.A.)  
\* Routeing of S.C.151 by Great Circle.
- GODERICH. J.H.85C, E.T.A. F.Buoy 1500Z/12 H.M.C.S. GODERICH has leaking condenser. (THUNDER 121100Z to Care. Halifax.)
- CHARLENEST. Small Canadian vessel CHARLENEST 143 gross tons, en route Lunenburg N.S. to Cuba via Norfolk holed by ice and sunk 11th January off Chesapeake Bay. No casualties. (N.S.H.Q. 121355Z.)
- U/B report. Submarine sighted 019° 23' N. 074° 08' W. at 1350Z (S.O.I. Jamaica 121416R.)
- Italian S/MS. Inclusion Italian submarines in G.U.S. convoy not desired. C. in C.Med. 101947A refers. Suggest submarines escorted by Italian light surface unit. Advise. (Cominch and C.N.O. 121440Z.)
- SS. ELUTHERIAN. (98 gross tons) foundered January 10th off Port Mouten and abandoned in sinking condition. Ship en route Halifax to Demerara via Boston. (N.S.H.Q. 121446Z.)
- U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 121457Z, Cominch 121640.)
- CORFU. Cancel my 072045\*. (Cdr. U.S. Fleet & Opanav 121520Z to C.C.S.F.)  
\* CORFU to be sailed independently to Boston.
- BRONZO. C.C.S. have approved BRONZO being allocated to the French under conditions of C.C.S. 358 (revised) para. 7 and subject to the proviso that she is employed initially outside the Mediterranean on A/S training. A.M. 311610 Dec. refers. (B.A.D. 121709Z.)

/Damage...

War Diary.

12.1.1944.

Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- Damage to ships in O.N.218. Request brief report by signal as to the wind and sea conditions that caused major damage to Liberty ships in O.N.218 and as to extent to which Commodore was able to safeguard ships by adjustment of speed or course.  
2. This enquiry relates to U.S. representations in London last month regarding possibility and risks of over-driving Liberty ships in heavy weather. All Commodores have since been warned of this.  
(D.T.D. 121823A to B.A.D.)
- H.X.275. Escort Task Unit W.9 SAULT STE.MARIE S.O's BURLINGTON. MILLTOWN.  
(P.D.New York 121944.)
- VANQUISHER. Argentia 12 Jan. arrival VANQUISHER ex O.N.218.  
(Capt. D.Argentia 122115Z.)
- U/B reports. Para. D. Nata plane sighted wake course 090, 19. 23 N. 74.08 W. 121350Z Army B.24 sighted wake 10. 55 N. 61 W. 121500Z. Admiralty pass to Comnavu and H.Q.C.C. also Info.  
(Cominch 122126 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

- S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/12. Para. A.  
At 1615/11 in 42° 06' N. 19° 28' W. Escorts O.3. 64/K.M.3.38 sighted and hunted U-Boat.  
At 2031/11 in about 41° 45' N. 21° 30' W. Escort S.L.144/M.K.3.38 sighted and hunted U-Boat.  
Para. B. After 2202/9 between Cape San Antonio and Iviza ATHERSTONE and BENSON made several attacks on a contact. On 2240/11 in 00.03 N. 80.43 E. Br. TRIONA torpedoed.  
A.M. 091329A, para. A.1 WILLIAM S.ROSECRANS now confirmed as mined  
(D.D.I.C. 121156A.)

Submarines Reported.

- U-Boat estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 121430A, 121435A.)

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13.1.1944

Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
F.W.

1. Convoy J.W. 56A was about 60 miles S.W. of the Faeroes at 2000 to-day proceeding at  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots to make a landfall at Vestrahorn (Iceland); and C.S.1 in KENT arrived at Scapa at 1522A from Loch Ewe.

Biscay  
Operations.

2(a) Two U-Boats were sighted by A/C in the Biscay area to-day. Both were attacked with depth-charges and one appears to be disabled. (1 sunk, page 223)  
(b) Four ships of E.G.6 are to carry out an A/S sweep during the dark hours of tonight and at daylight tomorrow will proceed to join and support Convoy S.L.145/M.K.S.36 to the West of Lisbon. The U.S. A/C Carrier BLOCK ISLAND is co-operating to-day with A/C and Destroyers to the westward of E.G.6.

Explosions.

3. Three groups of three unexplained under-water explosions were heard by BALFOUR at 0330Z to-day about 450 miles West of Malin Head.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche"

4(a) BLACKMORE and LEDBURY patrolled from Drverolk to Zirje Island last night. Nothing was sighted.  
(b) An L.C.G. with motor gunboats in support shelled Split last night.  
8 Mustangs attacked shipping at Sibenik and hit and set on fire a merchant ship and hit some smaller vessels.

Group A.

5. Group A (1st B.S. ILLUSTRIOUS, UNICORN) arrived Suez today. The group sailed again on 16 Jan. to join the Eastern Fleet.

Aegean.

6. Two mines were laid by aircraft in Port Kalimno and one in Naxos harbour last night. M.T.B's destroyed a 200 ton schooner in Piskopi (36 degs. 25' N. 27 degs. 22' E) last night.

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13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

A.P/P.A.  
Convoys.

7. After A.P.58 and P.A. 66 the sailings of Aden/Persian Gulf convoys will cease until further orders.

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13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

F.O.C.  
Reserve  
Fleet.

Reference A.G.M. 250A of 31st December, 1943.  
Rear Admiral C.F. Harris has been appointed Flag  
Officer Commanding, Reserve Fleet, to date 15th  
January.  
(Hd. of M.II., 131228A to C. in C.H.F.).

Operations.

"V.P."  
Operations.

My 121008A. Force returned at 0100A today owing  
to bad weather.  
(A.C.O.S., 130215 to Admty.).

My 121009. M.T.B. 681 returned at 0100A today  
owing to engine trouble.  
(A.C.O.S., 130220 to Admty.).

My 121009 and 130220.

Remainder of force returned at 1450A today owing to bad weather.  
(A.C.O.S., 131625A to Admty.).

Operation  
"F.W."

Sailed C.S.1 in KENT.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 130855A to A.C.O.S., V.A.2.).  
C. in C.H.F.'s. 050701 para.4.F. For METEOR  
read HURON.  
(V.A.2., 131014A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).  
Position at 132000.

J.W.56A (S.O. M/S 18 in READY) 060 degs. 40' N. 010 degs. 30'  
W. 9½.

SAVAGE and 6 Destroyers 061 degs. 50' N. 013 degs. 30' W. to  
Seidisfiord, 16.

(A.C.O.S., 131201A to Admty.).

Situation at 132105A.

SAVAGE, STORD, VENUS, VIGILANT, VIRAGO 062 degs. 08' N. 014 degs.  
10' W. bound Seidisfiord 16 knots.

OFFA, OBDURATE 062 degs. 08' N. 014 degs. 10' W. to vicinity Vestra  
Horn.

(A.C.I.C., 131402A to Ships).

Scapa arrival KENT.

(A.C.O.S., 131522A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Passenger Mail and stores embarked yesterday as follows.

Details.

(A.C.O.S., 131530A to Admty.).

My 121442A. E.T.A. 11 hours late.

(Capt.D.26, 131914A to A.C.I.C.).

Operation  
"Stonewall"

My 110520A. BLYTH and PETERHEAD arrived.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131103A to Admty.).

Unless in contact with enemy all ships of 6th  
Escort Group (negative NENE) R/V in 045 degs.  
00' N. 019 degs. 20' W. at 1700Z/13th.

(2) 6th E.G. is then to carry out A/S sweep during hours of  
darkness passing through positions 045 degs. 01' N. 020 degs.  
00' W. 044 degs. 02' N. 020 degs. 30' W.

(3) At daylight 14th 6th Escort Group proceed to join and  
support S.L.145/M.K.S.36 estimated P.C.S. 0800A/15th, 037 degs.  
45' N. 017 degs. 18' W. 322 degs. 7½ knots, routed through (CM)  
039 degs. 00' N. 018 degs. 30' W. thence 000 degs.  
(C. in C.W.A. 131202A to E.G.6.).

/WASKESIU...

13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall" (Contd.). WASKESIU, CAMROSE, SNOWBERRY, LUNENBERG will be carrying out A/S sweeps in area between 044 degs. N. and 045 degs. N. 020 degs. W. and 020 degs. 30' W. from 1700Z/13 till dawn 14th, thence proceeding to position about 038 degs. 00' N. 017 degs. 30' W.

(C. in C.W.A., 131431Z to BLOCK ISLAND).

C.T.G. 21.16 reports that she will sweep easterly with aircraft starting from 42 degs. 30' N. 23 degs. 15' W. at daylight on 13th.

(D.O.D.(H), 131500A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth).

U-boat previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U-boat with depth charge. U-boat has dived, position 47 degs. 47' N. 16 degs. 15' W.

(A/C Duty 'A', 131523 to 92 Group).

Am over enemy submarine in 47 degs. 37' N. 16 degs. 25' W. Submarine was on surface.

(A/C, NXYA, 131524A to 19 Group).

Your 121525. Position and movements of Allied warships as known to Admiralty will be passed to ships in Operation "Stonewall".

(D.O.D.(H), 131705A to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 122345Z. No Asdic contact or attack made, and search abandoned at 0401.

(2) Number of days fuel at 12 knots remaining at 0800, WASKESIU 21, EDMUNDSTON 7, LUNENBERG 7, CAMROSE 10, SNOWBERRY 10.

(3) Intend detaching EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBERG at daylight tomorrow to Ponta Delgada to fuel, thence to comply with your 131202A.

(4) CAMROSE reported heavy underwater explosion at 1800 in position 044 degs. 30' N. 019 degs. 58' W. possibly "Gnat". Weather 8480, 2751.

(E.G.6, 131840Z to C. in C.W.A.).

U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND C.T.F. 21.16 with destroyers vicinity 042 degs. 30' N. 020 degs. 01' W. sweeping easterly direction 15. My 131134A refers.

(C. in C.W.A., 131848A).

Nr.1. Hunt U-boat reported in 44 degs. 15' N. 20 degs. 38' W. disabled by L.172.

(S.H.9, 132138 to A/C Duty 'N').

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 44 degs. 02' N. 20 degs. 30' W.

(A/C Duty 'L', 132205Z to S.H.9).

Nr.1. Am over enemy S/M. in 44 degs. 20' N. 20 degs. 45' W. S/M. when first sighted was on course 360 degs. speed 7 knots.

(A/C Duty 'L', 132225Z to S.H.9).

Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. U-boat on surface position 44 degs. (corrupt group) N. 20 degs. 38' W. apparently disabled. Operations completed, am returning. Need ambulance on arrival.

(A/C Duty 'L', 132255Z to S.H.9).

Nr.1. Carry out search for U-boat in area 44.15 N. 20.38 W. If not found after 01 resume patrol.

(S.H.9, 132355 to A/C Duty Y).

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131425A).

Force (C. in C. Nore, 131502A).

patrols.

/ S/MS...

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13.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

S/M. Positions of S/MS. at 0800/14th and movements  
patrols. for following 24 hours.  
(A) VENTURER patrolling vicinity 61 degs. 25' N.  
003 degs. 55' E.  
(B) STRATAGEM 63 degs. 32' N. 00 degs. 20' E.  
through 62 degs. 01' N. 001 degs. 25' W. towards Lerwick.  
(C) TAKU 62 degs. 21' N. 000 degs. 54' W. through 62 degs. 02'  
N. 000 degs. 18' W. towards Lerwick.  
(D) UNSWERVING 62 degs. 28' N. 000 degs. 05' W. through 61 degs.  
59' N. 000 degs. 37' W. towards Lerwick.  
(E) TELEMACHUS 61 degs. 38' N. 000 degs. 07' W. through 62 degs.  
01' N. 000 degs. 10' E. and 64 degs. 19' N. 003 degs. 10' E.  
towards 65 degs. 24' N. 001 degs. 20' E.  
(B), (C), (D) and (E) above dived by day when North of 62 degs.  
North.  
(F.O.S. 131801 to Admty.).  
Routed through 090 Muckle Flugga 10, then by route "Black"  
to 064 degs. 19' thence direct to patrol line HH TELEMACHUS  
left Lerwick 2020A/13th unescorted diving by day when North of  
062 degs.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 132025 to S/M's.).

Mining.

Explosions. My P.C.S. 055 degs. 02' N. 016 degs. 49' W., 086  
degs. 11.7 knots. Number 95 in company.  
GOLDSTREAMER approximately 80 miles astern  
escorting 27. At 0330Z/13 in 054 degs. 47' N.  
020 degs. 01' W. 3 groups of 3 underwater  
explosions were heard in close proximity. No  
contact by Radar at the time and nothing sighted.  
Weather 3471, 1257.  
(BALFOUR, 131401Z to C. in C.W.A.).

U-boats.

U-boat C.A.F.O. 1342/43. Sighting HELMSDALE, WINCHELSEA,  
attacked on ABELIA and BURDOCK.  
9th January. (b) 0325 HELMSDALE 0448 ABELIA and WINCHELSEA.  
(c) Asdic contact good echo with Doppler.  
(d) 049 degs, 50' N. 018 degs. 55' W.  
(e) Depth charge attack by HELMSDALE one, ABELIA  
one, WINCHELSEA 5, BURDOCK 3.  
Hedgehog WINCHELSEA 2 (unsatisfactory).  
(f) 1100 contact faded.  
BURDOCK reported echo in Q attachment but this subsequently  
faded. Conditions excellent throughout.  
(B.4, 131740Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Casualties and Defects.

SKJOLD Your 122200.  
(R.U.104). Unless condition is serious continue to  
destination with STAFNES. Indicate intentions  
and E.T.A.  
(A.C.I.C., 130315A to QUADRILLE).

/Your...

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13.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

SKJOLD  
(R.U.104)  
(Contd.).

Your 130315A. Pumps have situation well in hand. STAFNES. and myself returning Liverpool by original route. E.T.A. 0800/18th. (QUADRILLE, 130500A to A.C.I.C.).

THEODORE  
PARKER.

2nd class H/F D/F bearing 081 degs. at 0604Z/13th. Request air cover. My P.C.S. 043 degs. 24' N. 034 degs. 10' W. 135 degs. 8 knots. (DEVERON, 131247Z to C. in C.W.A.). My P.C.S. 044 degs. 01' N. 039 degs. 03' W., 110 degs. 10 knots at 2000Z/13. ADHERENT in company. Request DEVERON's P.C.S. (NORTHERN PRIDE, 131700Z to C. in C.W.A., DEVERON).  
In view of relative positions of DEVERON and NORTHERN PRIDE request you order NORTHERN PRIDE and ADHERENT to rejoin H.X.274 during daylight Friday. DEVERON's 131247 and NORTHERN PRIDE's 131700 refers.  
(C. in C.W.A., 132207Z to F.O.N.F.).

JAMAICA

Request you will sail JAMAICA to arrive Rosyth 25th January for repair of torpedo tube mounting. (C. in C.H.F. 131315A to V.A.2.).

ABELIA

Arrived ABELIA.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 132015A to C. in C.W.A.).

Shipping and Convoys.

T.U.6.

My 121632. Sailed DAVISON, MERVINE, TILLMAN, and ORDRONAUX.  
(N.O.I.C.N.I., 131157A to Admty.).  
Sailing Liverpool portion escorted by WREN.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 131241A to Admty.).  
Sailed Clyde portion in accordance with my 111248A.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 132144A to Admty.).

U.C.10

20 ships for New York and EMPEROR. Names.  
(C. in C.W.A. 131218Z to Admty.).

K.M.F.28

A.M. 091940. Onward route for EMPIRE GRACE to Capetown.  
(D.O.D.H., 131507A to N.C.S.O. Clyde).  
Intend to sail Clyde portion escorted by TUSCAN, BLACK SWAN and AMETHYST passing Clyde boom 2200A/15th to comply with A.M. 091940.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 131634A to Admty.).  
ATHLONE CASTLE will not sail with convoy.  
(2) Amend destination of CAMERONIA to read East and South Africa, and destination of DURBAN CASTLE to read Egypt.  
(D.O.D.(H), 132015A to C. in C.W.A.).



War Diary

13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.G.1, and  
S.G.5.

In order to hasten the formation of new support groups I now intend to form the two groups mentioned in para.2 (C) of my 041108 before allocating new construction to close escort groups.

2. The two support groups will be based at Belfast and constituted as follows:-

Group one: APPLECK, BALFOUR, BENTLEY, GARLIES, GOULD, GORE.

Group five: BLIGH, BULLEN, AYLNER, GARDINER, GRINDALL, GOODALL.

3. Para. four of my 041108 is therefore cancelled.

4. New construction will be allocated to close escort groups on the principles laid down in my 041108 para. two, my intentions as to reliefs and paying off being signalled as the situation develops.

(C. in C.W.A., 131731A to Admty.).

H.X.274

44 ships. Names and destinations.  
(D.T.D. 131922A).

War Diary.13.1.1944.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B sunk (corrupt group). Following from Almeria timed  
off Aquila. 121257. Report from Aquila that U-Boat sunk off  
that area. Further details are being obtained.  
(S.O.I.Gib. 130930A.)

Escorts E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1000A Jan. 14th. Require  
U.G.S.29 440 tons fuel. ASHANTI, METEOR will detach when  
& KING R/V effected and have been ordered to Ponta  
GEORGE V. Delgada due shortage fuel.  
My P.C. and S. 3723 N. 19.25 W. 274° 14. Weather  
report 3878 1962.  
(ATHABASKAN 131000A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
Your 131000. Proceed Horta for fuel with ASHANTI  
and METEOR.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 131322Z to ATHABASKAN; 131430Z  
to ASHANTI, METEOR.)  
Your 131322Z. Have insufficient fuel to reach Horta. Must call  
Ponta Delgada and embark enough fuel to continue. E.T.A. now  
0900A.  
(ATHABASKAN 131656A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
P.C. and S. of KING GEORGE V at 1300A/13 037° 02' N. 017°  
05' W. 100° 18 knots. My P.C. and S. at 1800A 037° 05' N. 018°  
38' W. 276° 16 knots. Ordered by KING GEORGE V to proceed to  
Ponta Delgada owing to shortage of fuel E.T.A. 1500A/14. METEOR  
in company. METEOR has one rating with broken leg for hospital.  
(ASHANTI 131701A to F.O.G.M.A. (R) S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
Unless you have very strong reasons to the contrary it is  
most desirable certain ships are fuelled at Ponta Delgada. Your  
131322Z refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 131852A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)  
ATHABASKAN proceed Ponta Delgada for fuel. WOODPECKER  
proceed Horta. This amends my 131322 to ATHABASKAN and my 112150  
to E.G.B.1  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 132020Z to ATHABASKAN, WOODPECKER, (R)  
F.O.G.M.A.)  
Anticipate 2 U.S.Escorts from U.G.S. 29 will require to  
fuel at Ponta Delgada about 17th January. Request you will  
inform Portuguese authorities.  
(D.O.D(H) 131327A to B.C.Ponta Delgada.)  
Proceed to Horta and fuel.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 131432Z to BLACKFLY,.)

MAURITIUS. Arrived (from Operation "Stonewall".)  
(F.O.G.M.A. 131701.)

Convoys pas- A. Unnecessary delay to Atlantic escorts and to  
sing Europa. ships for destinations short of the Tunis channel  
S.L.convoy cannot be accepted as the shipping position is now  
sailings. tight and escort lay over at Gibraltar barely  
adequate.

B. Recent timings suggest that S.L.convoys could  
be more economically sailed one day later from

Freetown. If you concur this will be tried.

Your 081631 refers.

(D.T.D. 131739A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Italian...

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13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Italian S/MS. Important to F.O.G.M.A. and C. in C.Med. To sail Italian Submarines independently to Bermuda when ready. (Route.) (D.O.D.(F) 131926A.) (Formers: C. in C.Med. 101947, 131120, Cominch, 121440.)

SS. THEODORE PARKER. Your 130442\* 247 Group can provide one long range Fortress to be on patrol dawn 14th. Request you will give estimated position of THEODORE PARKER at 0800/14th Admiralty inform THEODORE PARKER. (S.B.N.O.Azores 131931Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty.) \* re Weather infavourable for aircraft search THEODORE PARKER can aircraft from Azores assist.

U/B report. Nr. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 37° 41' N. 5° 41' E. probably S/M. (A/C C/3 OACF 132055A.) Nr. 2. My 2055 contact disappeared. (A/C C/3 OACF 132100A.)

Co-operation between Br. E.Gs. and American T.Gs. in Azores area. I am most anxious to ensure fullest co-operation between my escort groups and your task groups operating in the Azores area. I am principally concerned that enemy reports should be immediately available to all forces in the area. 2. I have observed that my escort groups have not been acting in accordance with S.P.02376 (2) para. 2.A. and B. and I am taking immediate steps to rectify this matter. 3. It would be appreciated if reports from your task groups could be made in British/U.S. cypher. 4. Reports, which are most helpful, but somewhat delayed in receipt are now coming in from C.T.G. 26.12 regarding his movements and I will take steps to keep your T.Gs. informed of the activities of my E.Gs. Request confirmation that such information will always be received if transmitted on our broadcast B.N. (C. in C.W.A. 132317A to C. in C.Lant.) (S.P.02376 (2) - Instructions for intercommunication between British and U.S.Fleets.)

13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian  
S/Ms for  
Bermuda.

Cominch's 121440. Can suitable Italian surface escort be provided for these submarines. (D.O.D.(F) 130034A to C. in C.Med.) Your 130034. No Italian escort available owing to heavy escort commitments. It is observed that further submarines will require routing to Bermuda at a later date. (C. in C.Med. 131120A to Admty.)

TERMAGANT,  
TENACIOUS,  
KEMPENFELT.

TERMAGANT, KEMPENFELT, TUSCAN were included in through escort to join Eastern Fleet in A.M. 142300A\*. No alteration to this arrangement has been received by me. It was assumed that TENACIOUS was intended to relieve TUSCAN which returned damaged to Clyde. Please inform me why

TERMAGANT, TENACIOUS, KEMPENFELT have been referred elsewhere. (V.A.1 130921B to F.O.L.E.M. N.O.I.C. Port Said, (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.Med. TERMAGENT, Admty.)

\* Hush circulation.

BOXER,  
BRUISER,  
THRUSTER.

Suez January 13th arrival. (S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 131127B.) W.D.Note: From Eastern Fleet. N.O.I.C. Port Said sail BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER when ready.

2. With despatch. 3. (Route.)  
5. Escort TENACIOUS, KEMPENFELT. 8. V.A.M. pass to 248 Wing. (F.O.L.E.M. 131319B to N.O.I.C. Port Said, Ships named and air authorities.)

Suez 13 Jan. departures BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER. (S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 131627B.)

EMILE BERTIN.

Request that if you no longer require EMILE BERTIN you will sail her for Algiers my 301253A Dec. refers. B.A.D. pass to Cominch. (C. in C.Med. 131548 to F.O.C.W.Af..)

Weekly Opsum,  
260.

11/12th Jan.  
8 Liberators and 8 Halifaxes successfully attacked Piraeus Harbour, Greece. 1 Halifax returned early bombs of 1 Liberator hung-up. Many bursts observed in vicinity of Quays (?ANDEIFHQ) (as recd.) of Halon Basin. 1 large red fire and (?several) other fires started 190 x 500 lbs. 4 Wellingtons successfully laid mines in Syros, Lavrion and Rhodes Harbours.

11th Jan. 3 U.S.Mitchells (B.25) 3 Beaufighters despatched to attack 2 M/Vs 500 tons 1 tanker 500 tons previously attacked by Naval units and reported to have put in at Livadia Bay, Piscopi Island only sighting made was 1 tanker aground and on fire but too close to high ground to be attacked. 3 Baltimores (A.30) despatched to attack same targets after dusk saw no shipping and bombed fire on shore, apparently increasing flames. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 131604Z.)

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13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

4 German Special purpose craft. 4 German craft arrived Istanbul in line ahead from Black Sea in transit for Aegean 1030 G.M.T. 13th. These are obviously special purpose craft although no armament apparent (?344) tons 24 length 19 metres beam 6 metres. Declared speed 10 knots but probably capable of 15 knots. Consider speed disproportionate to tonnage of M/V. Suitably constructed for mine-sweeping minelaying or as convoy escort.. Submit Turks be requested to detain and investigate closely, craft are at present weather bound here. T.O.O. 131645C.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 131748B to B.N.A.Ankara, (R) S.O.I.E.Med.)

Coasters. The shortage of coasters makes their speed of turn-round particularly important. Opportunities of expediting sailings should be seized.  
(C. in C.Med. 131756A.)

Situation Report No. 271. 1. Coastal craft attacked 2 merchant ships and a tanker (in?) Livadia Bay Piscopi on night 10/11th Jan. leaving all three badly damaged. Later air R/C located 1 ship on fire in harbour but no sign of other two.  
2. Aircraft laid mines in Khalkis (038° 28' N. 023 degs. 36' E.) during the night 10/11th January and in Syra and Lavrion (037° 42' N. 024° 04' E.) on 12th January.  
(C. in C.Med. 132101A.)

DRACHE. DRACHE carrying German troops appears to be running between Milo and Piraeus. You are to remain in close vicinity Milo for next 3 days.  
(Capt. S.1 132237 to SOKOL.)

SS. WENDELL PHILLIPS. K.M.S.37. U.S.S. WENDELL PHILLIPS reported in collision with unknown westbound ship 045° Cape Bon 5 miles. Request tug be sent forthwith. BRYONY standing by.  
(BERGAMOT 132335 to Tunisia.)

War Diary.

13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B disposition No. 17. (C. in C.E.F. 130449Z.)

"Seafog" system. Its purpose explained. (C. in C.E.F. 130646Z.)  
See Lion Copy.

Sailings in A.P./P.A. convoys. F.O.N.I.C. (310). Pass to N.C.S.O's. Ships of A.P.58 and P.A.66 are to be sailed in convoy as arranged. There-after sailings of A.P. and P.A. convoys will cease until further orders and Class D ships are to be released from them. (C. in C.E.F. 130652Z.)

Convoy M.N.1D. Arrived escorted by SONDRA. (D.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 130700Z.)

Use of W/T by Monsters. Admiralty states that reluctance has been noticed on the part of Monsters to use their W/T (breaking W/T silence) for the purpose of homing aircraft vide A.F.O. S.P/43 procedure B.  
2. They do not consider this reluctance justifiable.  
3. Flag and N.Os. I/C who may sail Monsters are to inform Masters that if a signal detailing homing is received it must be regarded as an order. At the same time inform them that Shore Authorities will not order homing if any serious risk is involved.  
4. Only Naval Authorities arranging air cover or C. in C.E.F. are to order homing procedure and if this is done full consideration of the above facts are to be taken into account. (C. in C.E.F. 130814 to all concerned.)

Opsum No. 669. 10th U.S.A.A.F. 10/11 Jan. 9 U.S. Mitchells B.25 laid mines Mokpalin-Sittang River. Operation successful. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 11 Jan. 9 U.S. Liberators B.24 bombed Takao Harbour (Formosa.) (A.C.S.E.A. 130928.)

SS. R.F.HOKE. Strongly recommend ROBERT F.HOKE be sent Massawa for repair. Work is beyond capacity of Aden already coping? with FORT CAMOSUN. Consider it would be a safe tow with MASTERFUL and OCEAN SALVOR in attendance. HOKE has been returned to her American Master and crew. (Com. Aden 131427Z to C. in C.E.F.)

SS. TRIONA. Reports torpedo hit net defence and exploded. My 112358 refers. 2. Vessel slight damaged but proceeding. (C. in C.E.F. 131541.)

**SECRET**

E. I.  
**SEAFOG System.**

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

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

MESSAGE

130646Z/January

IN

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date 13.1.44

Time 2319

Naval code X by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

SEAFOG system. Your 031733<sup>+</sup> refers.

(2) requirements:- It was designed to meet the following

(A) To provide one standard method for use by all services in reporting positions of aircraft for air warning purposes. (There are several methods now in force).

(B) Suitable for use by all three services particularly with the combined air warning code.

(C) Capable of use at any of our own defended ports or any captured base or during combined operations without the preparation of special maps or charts.

(3) The SEAFOG system is a copy of the MAFOG system reported on as so successful in the Mediterranean.

(4) It is hoped that a similar system may in due course be accepted as the most suitable in every Allied Command for air warning purposes.

(5) Misc. 528 and 527 were considered but found unsuitable because

(A) They do not cover the land and so are not of universal use to the other services.

(B) They are so numbered that they cannot be extended without reconstruction.

(C) To achieve the necessary accuracy of one mile required the use of an eight figure group which is clumsy and unsuitable for R.A.F. Fighter and Army A.A. Operations Rooms for air warning.

(D) This system which is designed for reporting ships' positions should not be used for air warning purposes as its constant daily use uncoded would give it no repetition no security.

(6) It is regretted that the SEAFOG has proved so impenetrable. The written instructions for its use is being forwarded.

130646Z

Advance copy Ops. O.D. Plot

+ Re - SEA FOG system.

/Distribution over..

4915

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.
- D.F.S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- V.G.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (E)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- U.W.R.
- Ops. (2)
- Plot.
- D. of P. (3)
- D. of P. (Q) (3)
- D.N.I. (5)
- H. (6)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D. Map. Room.
- D.S.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C) (2)
- Hydrog.
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)

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13.1.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

O.T. 12. Sailing telegram 1. (2) Departing Aruba 141700Z.  
Escorts U.S.S. JOSEPH E. CAMPBELL with LOY,  
LANING and CHASE.  
(C.A.F.A.C., 130215 amended 131940.)

THEODORE PARKER. Weather unfavourable for aircraft search THEODORE PARKER, can aircraft from Azores assist. DEVERON 111936\* and my 112011 refer.  
(F.O.N.F., 130442Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
\* Re position DEVERON - ABOYNE in company.

Estimated position THEODORE PARKER at 0600Z/11th.

Consider position THEODORE PARKER in DEVERON 111936\* more accurate. Suggest latitudes your 131720 to F.O.N.F. only be altered one degree to southward throughout.  
Your 131720 being passed to S.B.N.O. Azores for action, reference air co-operation.

(F.O.N.F., 132103Z to CAILIFF, (R) TENACITY, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

\* Re positions of H.M.S. DEVERON.

U/B (Cominch, 131609; N.S.H.Q. 131430Z.)  
Estimates.

MEON. To proceed to Halifax to pay off and recommission with R.C.N. crew.  
(N.S.H.Q., 131638Z.)

CORFU, Admty. 191556 December directs that A.M.Cs. CILICIA, CORFU, CILICIA and CHITRAL should be sailed to CHITRAL. U.S.A. where they are to be paid off and the crews used for manning C.V.Es.

2. These ships are to be converted to troop transports. Decision has not yet been reached whether this is to be done in U.K. or U.S.A.

3. If conversion is to be done in U.K. it is the Admiralty's intention that Merchant Navy crews will be provided to steam ships back.

4. U.S. Naval Authorities refuse to accept these ships in any U.S. port until a decision to convert them to troop transports in the U.S.A. has been reached. On the other hand the crews are urgently required for C.V.Es.

5. Your concurrence is requested to divert the ships to Halifax where they will be required to remain until the requisite decision has been made.

(B.A.M.R., 131734Z to N.S.H.Q.)

Request that Merchant Navy care and maintenance parties may be sent to take over ships as soon as possible after their arrival at Halifax.

(B.A.M.R., 132032Z to Admty.)

When ready sail CORFU independently Trinidad direct to Halifax. Advise time of departure, route, S.O.A.

(Cominch, 131927.)

/Italian ...

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War Diary.13.1.1944.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Italian S/Ms. for Bermuda. Your 121440. C. in C. Med. reports that no Italian escort is available. 2. It is therefore intended to sail submarines independently when ready by following route to Bermuda. (D.O.D.(F), 131809Z to Cominch.)

M.V. DAGEID, ERINNA. H.X.274. Bay Bulls arrival 1300Z/13th (Nor.) DAGEID collision damage. (Du.) ERINNA collision and fire damage. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 131828Z.)

SS. JOSEPH SMITH. O.N.218. (U.S.) JOSEPH SMITH left in sinking condition now believed to have sunk in 044° 30' N. 043° 00' W. owing to hull cracking in several places in heavy weather. Complete crew of 70 landed at St. Johns N.F. by KINGCUP. 2 suffered minor injuries. C.Bs. as in my 131848. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 131852Z, 141257Z.)

T.G. 27.2. Upon arrival Hampton Roads on 18th Jan. Comdesdiv 14 report with MADISON, H.P. JONES to Philadelphia for duty. Latter when ready 19th Jan. proceed Mediterranean to arrive by 1st Feb., where report with all 3 ships to Com. 8th Fleet for temporary duty. This detachment designated Task Group 27.2. Captain Ansel in PHILA, which is dissolved upon arrival Mediterranean. (C. in C. Lant, 131943 to U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA.)

Stragglers Report No. 35. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.217 JOHN BAKKE (Nor.) Jan. 6th, water in hold caused by leaky rivets. Three arrived Halifax from O.N.217 K.I. LUCKENBACH (U.S.) Jan. 6th, lost convoy; EDWARD HOUSE (U.S.) Jan.7th, lost convoy; FRANCIS VIGO (U.S.) Jan.9th, lost convoy. Two arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.273 LUCIEN B. MAXWELL (U.S.) Jan. 8th heavy weather damage; ALEXANDER HAMILTON (U.S.) Jan. 8th, reason not reported. No defect or weather damage. Appears to have been mistaken for some ship in distress and was ordered to return. Part. 2. 1 arrived St. Johns N.F. from S.C.150, FILLEIGH Jan. 9th, engine trouble. 1 arrived New York from H.X.274, ROBERT NEWELL (U.S.) Jan. 8th, cracked hull. 2 arrived Halifax from H.X.274, GEORGE S. WASSON (U.S.), Jan. 10th, boiler defects; JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER (SS.) Jan. 10th, cargo shifted. Deck damage. (N.S.H.Q., 132024Z.)

U/B reports. Para. D. P.C.1181 sound contact 22.30 74.35 130140Z. R.A.F. Lancaster sighted sub. submerging course north-west 34.30 N. 64.40 W. 121830Z. P.C. 618 attacked sound contact 23.10 N. 74.27 W. 121900Z. (Cominch, 132117.)

/U.S.S.LEA ...

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13.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S.S. LEA. In hand for temporary collision repairs 12th Jan. estimated time in dock 14 days.  
(Cdr. Supt. Bermuda, 132217Z.)

Russian minesweepers and S/M chasers. Your 062215, A.M. 041228 and A.M. 312126 Dec. Owing to routeing via Azores and lack of communications consider these ships should sail under British escort.  
2. Request you will make arrangements to sail them as convenient to join group of B.Y.M.S at Bermuda for onward passage to Londonderry via Azores.  
(D.O.D.(F), 132355A to B.A.D., Info. C. in C. H.F, N.O.B. Bermuda.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U/B Estimates. (D.D.I.C., 131419A, 131420A.)

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack and sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/13th.  
Para. A. (1) E.G.6 attacked periscope at 1648/11 in 42° 11' N. 19° 35' W.  
Para. B. (1) A/C C/179 sighted submerged U-Boat at 1330/12th January off Europa Point.  
(Subsequently reported to have been a whale).  
(2) EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBURG obtained U-Boat contact at 2345/12th January in 44° 31' N. 20° 45' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 131120Z.)

223

14.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Operation F.W.</p>  | <p>1. Convoy J.W.56A was about 200 miles N.N.W. of the Faeroes at 2100A today. Capt. D.26 in HARDY arrived at 1214A at Seidisfjord, where the remaining seven destroyers of the convoy escort join him today.</p>  |
| <p>Biscay A/S Operations.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">*(U.231)</p> | <p>2. Three U-Boats were sighted today by our A/C in the Biscay area, including one apparently disabled, and all three were attacked with depth-charges. Task Group 21.16 consisting of the U.S. A/C carrier BLOCK ISLAND and destroyers reported at 1933 that they had picked up in 44.20 N. 20.10 W. 43 survivors of a U-Boat* sunk by A/C at 2325/13 in 44.15 N. 20.38 W. (about 440 miles N.N.E. of San Miguel, Azores), and that the destroyers FARROTT and BULMER had probably sunk another U-Boat during last night about 900 miles west of Bordeaux.</p> <p>Five ships of E.G.6, who are being joined by NENE of that Group, were sweeping the area from 1300Z today.</p> <p>At 1304A Fortress (?R/206) attacked a U-Boat on the surface 460 miles W.N.W. of Cape Finisterre (position thought to be 45.15 N. 19.57 W.) Two depth charges exploded 25 to 30 feet on the port bow and the U-Boat was left circling on the surface, down by the stern.</p> |
| <p>Convoy H.X. 274. ADHERENT lost.</p>                                   | <p>3. At about 1045A today the Rescue Tug ADHERENT with convoy H.X. 274 foundered about 750 miles E.S.E. of St. Johns N.F. NORTHERN PRIDE picked up 6 of her officers and 13 ratings, but her Master was lost.</p>   |
| <p>NELSON and RODNEY.</p>  | <p>4. The de-ammunitioning and de-storing of NELSON in the Clyde, and the de-ammunitioning of RODNEY at Rosyth, were today ordered to be postponed for the present.</p>  |
| <p>Unknown operation.</p>  | <p>5. GLASGOW and WELLINGTON left Plymouth today for the S.W.</p>  |

14.1.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

(Yugoslavia)

6. Successful air attacks were made today on shipping in the Sibenik area by 59 Kittyhawks. Two 5000 ton ships were hit, and one of them was set fiercely on fire. Coastal forces entered Sumartin Harbour, Brac Island, last night. M.T.B. 226 torpedoed a small ship alongside. During the same night M.T.Bs. 651 and 226 engaged a Siebel ferry in the island area, the M.T.Bs. sustained some damage but no casualties.

Aegean.

7. DZIK reports at least one hit and the probable sinking of a 6000 ton merchant ship in 39.42 N. 26.02 E. on 7th January. On the following day she sank the Greek schooner ELENI by demolition charge in 39.37 N. 25.43 E. and a caique on 9th. Aircraft laid mines in Leros Harbour last night.

7(a). Commencing with Convoy K.M.F.28, leaving the U.K. today, Naples becomes the port of turn-round for K.M.F. convoys.

China.

8. Two U.S. Liberators of the 14th S.A.A.F. on a sea sweep off St. John's Island today damaged a freighter and badly damaged a 180 ft. gunboat.

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14.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

DRAGON. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 131706. DRAGON is placed under the orders of C. in C. H.F. who is requested to complete her working up and to arrange for her administration.

2. C. in C. H.F. is requested to report when it is anticipated that DRAGON will be ready for service.  
(D.O.D.(H), 141329A to C. in C. H.F.)  
A.M. 141329. Bombardment practice should be included in DRAGON's working up.  
(D.O.D.(H), 141824A to C. in C. H.F.)

AILSA  
CRAIG. AILSA CRAIG is required to arrive Milford Haven by 29th February for onward routeing to Mediterranean.  
(D.M.S., 141501A to LOCHINVAR.)

F.O.C.  
Reserve  
Fleet. Rear-Admiral C.F. Harris appointed F.O.C. Reserve Fleet to date 15th January.  
2. Request his flag be hoisted in MALAYA a.m. that date.  
(Head of M.II., 141849A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Plymouth  
Command.  
Request  
for four  
destroyers. My 211752 December and Admty. 250055 December. The intensive training programme now being commenced by U.S. landing craft and military forces involves the protection during coastal passage between Falmouth, Plymouth and Dartmouth of large numbers of ships in special convoys several days and nights each week with the further requirement of double protection throughout landings and re-embarkations at Slapton and the request for destroyers bombardment also. This commitment cannot possibly be met with the number of Hunt class destroyers in Plymouth Command without prejudice to the safety of P.W. and W.P. convoys. A minimum of four more destroyers to be allocated specifically to duty with U.S. forces is an immediate requirement and it is requested if these cannot be made available the matter may be taken up with the U.S. Authorities to provide American destroyers.

2. Admty. 281410 December para. 1. It is considered Tribal destroyers now being sent to reinforce Plymouth Command can contribute to the protection of these U.S. craft by carrying out offensive operations but are not suitable for close escort or close inshore defensive patrol.

3. Moreover these ships require a period of tactical training beforehand which cannot be completed before about 15th February.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 142049A to Admty.)

RALEIGH. Your 111908 January. Approval has now been given to the transfer of RALEIGH to the War Office on 1st April.  
(Head of M.II., 142137A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/NELSON ...

14.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - Contd.

NELSON. A.M. 102205. Cancel para. 4. NELSON will not now proceed alongside at Fasslane.  
2. No more ammunition is to be disembarked for the present. Ammunition already landed is not to be re-embarked.  
3. Ship is not to destore for the present.  
4. No steps are to be taken to place the armament or machinery in a state of preservation.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 142242A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

RODNEY. A.M. 102205, para. 3. RODNEY will not de-ammunition for the present.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 142253A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Operation "Stonewall". Your 131840Z. Unless you have reason to the contrary EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBURG should fuel from escort oiler with S.L.145/M.K.S.36.  
(C. in C. W.A., 140131A to E.G.6.)  
Your 140131. Cancel para. 3 of my 131840.  
(E.G.6, 140217 to C. in C. W.A.)

One F-Boat sighted at 0850Z/14 in 44° 42' N. 19° 23' W., course 360, speed 4 knots.

(247 Group, 140840Z to H.Q.C.C.)

Nr.1. Am over enemy S/M in 44° 42' N. (? longitude) on surface. When first sighted was on course 360°, estimated speed 4 knots.

(A/C Duty 'A', 140850Z to SH9.)

U/B previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge. Mark dropped.

(A/C Duty 'A', 140905 to SH9.)

Nr.1. Am over enemy submarine in 45° 15' N. 19° 57' W. at 1206.

(A/C Duty 'R' to 19 Group T.O.R. 141326.)

Have attacked U/B with depth charge. U/B on surface apparently disabled.

(A/C JWPR, 141253Z to SH9.)

Still in touch with enemy.

(A/C JWPR, 141331 to 19 Group.)

6th Escort Group consisting of WASKESIU, EDMUNDSTON, LUNENBURG, SNOWBERRY and CAMROSE will be sweeping area for 24 hours from 1300Z today between 44° 30' N. and 46° 01' N. and 19° 59' W. and 21° 02' W. NENE will be joining sixth Escort Group from the north-east.

(C. in C. W.A., 141659Z to BLOCK ISLAND.)

2 destroyers on sound contact 44.13 20.40 W. Investigated position reported damaged submarine, Admiralty 141458. Found only oil slick. Rescued 43 survivors submarine sunk by unidentified aircraft last night 42.20 (?44.20) N. 20.10 W. PARROTT and BULMER probably sank submarine last night in 44.40 N. 21.17 W. Will leave area tomorrow.

(C.T.G. 21.16, 141933 to Cinclant.)

P.C.S. at 2000Z/14th, 047° 53' N. 016° 40' W., 220°, 15 knots. Request homing procedure H from 0600Z/15th.

(NENE, 141940Z to E.G.6.)

/Unidentified ...

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War Diary.14.1.1944.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Stonewall". (Contd.) Unidentified ship M.T.B., destroyer or cruiser position 048° 55' N. 008° 42' W., course north-west, speed 18.  
(A/C Duty 'S', 141940 to 19 Group.)  
Cancel 141940 and Nr.1. Suspicious vessel in sight bearing 50°.  
(A/C Duty 'D', 142015A to 19 Group.)

BLOCK ISLAND destroyers attacked 3 subs., area 44.45 N. 21.20 W. night 13th/14th.  
(Cominch, 142053A to Admty.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 39' N. 5° 09' W. Submarine was on surface and when first sighted was on course 270°, estimated speed 14 knots.  
(A/C Duty 'F', 142121 to 19 Group.)  
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Estimate no hits seen over U-Boat.  
(A/C Duty 'F', 142121 to 19 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 47° 57' N. 5° 20' W.  
(A/C Duty 'F', 142125 to 19 Group.)  
Lost touch with U-Boat. Continuing patrol.  
(A/C Duty 'F', 142300 to 19 Group.)  
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 13' N. 7° 52' W. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 090°, estimated speed 18 knots.  
(A/C Duty 'H', 142340 to 19 Group.)  
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat has dived, position 45° 59' N. 07° 52' W.  
(A/C Duty 'H', 142355 to 19 Group.)

Unknown Operation. GLASGOW sailed 0800A/14th. My 131356 refers. (See Special File).  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 140944A to Admty.)  
WELLINGTON sailed 0800A/14th. My 131356 refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 140944A to Admty.)

Operation F.W. Seidisfjord arrival your 121617 (HARDY).  
(A.C.I.C., 141214A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)  
Situation report at 142104A.  
J.W.56A, CYGNET 064° 01' N. 014° 50' W. to N.E. 9½.  
OFFA, OB DURATE 064° 01' N. 014° 50' W. to Seidisfjord, 16 knots.  
(A.C.I.C., 141332A to Ships.)  
Arrived Seidisfjord SAVAGE, VENUS, STORD, OFFA, and VIRAGO.  
(A.C.I.C., 141438A to R.A.D.H.F.)  
Destination of SAN ADOLFO Iokanka to discharge 3000 tons fuel, then Kola Inlet.  
Ship should proceed with White Sea Section of J.W.56A which will split at position MU. In event of casualty to NOREG, SAN ADOLFO should remain with Murmansk section.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 141755A to H.F.)

Enemy A/C claimed shot down. Following action report received from H.M.S. ROUGHS FORT.  
1. Rounds fired: 14 rounds 3.7 fuse 208. 2. Control by S.L.C. Unseen. 3. 1 ST target approached from 160° at 1935 but turned away

/after ...



14.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Enemy A/C  
claimed  
shot down.  
(Contd.)after fire had been opened.  
2nd target approached from east at 1943, was engaged, passed overhead, was re-engaged bearing approximately 270° angle 70°. After 8 round response was lost by S.L.C. and shortly after a plane was heard diving. Subsequently flames were seen at surface level bearing approximately

260° near or on shore.

4. Height of target 1st 20,000 ft., 2nd 24,000 ft.

5. Destruction of 2nd target is claimed - category 1. This kill is also claimed by A.A. defences.

(C. in C. Nore, 141258A to Admty.)

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.(C. in C. Plymouth, 141321A, 141829A.)  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141511A.)  
(V.A. Dover, 141709A, 141839A.)

S/M Patrols.

Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick to patrol in accordance with F.O.(S) 04318/182 dated 6th January 1944 as follows.

(1) SEANYMPH at 1000A/16th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and route 0 to 065° 30' thence through 066° 31' 010° 42'.

(2) STUBBORN at 1800A/16th Jan. through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles and route 0 to 064° 25' thence through 064° 41' 008° 51'.

(Capt. (S) 9, 141413A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/15th and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) VENTURER as in my 131801.

(B) STRATAGEM 61° 05' N. 00° 30' W. probably on surface for Lerwick.

(C) UNSWERVING and TAKU probably on surface approaching Shetlands from north-east.

(D) TELEMACHUS (P.231) 63° 50' N. 02° 35' E. dived by day through 64° 19' N. 03° 10' E. to patrol in vicinity 65° 24' N. 01° 20' E.

(F.O.(S), 141637A to Admty.)

Mining.

Portsmouth.

One magnetic mine detonated by LL in approx. 125° 8.8 miles from Nab Tower.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141759A and 151750A.)

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy  
Destroyer  
armaments.

Your 121532A. Armament of these destroyers has now been confirmed as normal, an error having been made by ourselves in cyphering.

(2) My 081752. Referring to gun armament should therefore read. (B) 4 guns, 2 forward and 2 aft.

(C) 4 guns one forward and 3 aft.

(N.A. Stockholm, 141511 to D.N.I.)

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14.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

KRIEZIS. KRIEZIS damaged in collision will be late in sailing. Hope to get her to sea 1200/15th. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 141114A to C. in C. W.A.)

AJAX. The following defect has developed in AJAX. Details.  
2. It is understood that the work can be undertaken at Devonport and it is proposed to sail AJAX to arrive on 20th January.  
3. To comply with Admiralty's 121745 it is necessary that AJAX be ready to sail from Plymouth by 28th. (C. in C. H.F., 141422 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.U. 6. (U.S.) Com. D/S 16 in PARKER plus KENDRICK, LAUB, MCLANAHAN, BOYLE, MERVINE, DAVISON, TILLMAN, T.U. 15.11 MACKENZIE sailing for T.U.6. (U.S.E.C.O. Londonderry, 140445 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Convoy sailed composed and escorted as in A.M. 091943A with following amendments. Add SANTO TERESA, delete MARINE EAGLE and GENERAL GEORGE SIMONDS routed as in A.M. 101851A. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 141124A to Admty.)

K.M.F.28. C. in C. W.A. 101503. Intend to sail Liverpool portion including EASTWAY escorted by WREN 1400A/15th to R/V with Clyde portion 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1000A/16th. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141045A to Admty.)  
Request you will sail PRINCE ROBERT to R/V K.M.F.28 in 050° 10' N. 019° 35' W. at 1200A/18th. Admiralty 060814 refers. (C. in C. W.A., 141213A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

H.X. 274. ADHERENT lost. H.X.274. P.C.S. at 1200A 043° 47' N. 036° 52' W. 098°, 9 knots. Tug ADHERENT foundered at about 1045A in estimated position 043° 25' N. 035° 50' W. NORTHERN PRIDE has picked up a total of 6 officers and 13 ratings, master lost. KOOTENAY standing by. Both ships now rejoining. Weather 4968 0475. (C.5., 141335A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S. 27. My 141205A, para. 1. WEST KEENE sailed to overtake. (C. in C. W.A., 141413A to O.N.S.27.)

O.N.220. Owing to damage to fire-main due to an aircraft accident in EMPIRE MACABE ship cannot embark A/C prior to sailing in O.N.220. (F.O.C.T., 141510A to Admty.)

K.M.S.39. C. in C. W.A. 111415A. KILBIRNIE delayed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 142114A to C. in C. W.A.)

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14.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- U.R. 105. Your 141212A. Hove to 061° 46' N. 015° 52' W., 260°, 2. Parted convoy 1700, 061° 46' N. 015° 48' W., 295°, 3. STRATHELLA parted company 13th (? at) 0800. Weather 6852 8859. (VELETA, 142115A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S. 27. (A) 1400Z/14. (B) B.5. HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER, WARWICK, VIMY, BUTTERCUP, LAVENDER, KRIEZIS, M.A.C. EMPIRE MCMAHON. Rescue Ship FASTNET H/F R/T. (C) 40. (C. in C. W.A., 142227Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- S.C. 151. DEVERON will probably be required to sail p.m./18th to join S.C.151. (C. in C. W.A., 142228A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- O.S.C.65/  
K.M.S.39. 9 M/Vs. Names and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 142312A to Admty.)

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War Diary.14.1.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ATHABASCAN,  
ASHANTI,  
METEOR,  
WOODPECKER,  
GLENARM.

ATHABASKAN, ASHANTI, METEOR are to proceed Horta for fuel and are to have priority over WOODPECKER and GLENARM.

(2) WOODPECKER, GLENARM are to proceed Horta or lie to outside territorial waters until destroyers have left.

(3) COTILLON is in Ponta Delgada defective therefore not more than 2 destroyers are to be in

harbour at same time.

(4) Further instructions for destroyers follow.

(5) S.B.N.O. pass to N.C.S.O. San Miguel (Ponta Delgada).  
(F.O.G.M.A.140025A)

Your 140025/ METEOR insufficient fuel to reach Horta being detached to Ponta Delgada. ASHANTI proceeding Horta, E.T.A. 2330/14.

(ASHANTI, 140515A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/ re ATHABASKAN, ASHANTI &amp; METEOR to proceed to Horta etc. ASHANTI 140515A. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1500A/14. Request you will inform B.N.A. Lisbon and British Consul Ponta Delgada. Have one rating broken leg requiring operation to set on arrival.

(METEOR, 140613A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Your 140025. Request you will verify orders in para. 1 to proceed Horta. This conflicts with your 131852.

(D.D.O.D.(H), 140748A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Your / 140515 proceed to Ponta Delgada; destroyers will be required to sail p.m./today 14th.

(F.O.G.M.A.140815A to ASHANTI)

/ H.M.S. METEOR insufficient fuel detached to Ponta Delgada - ASHANTI proceeding Horta.

ATHABASKAN arrived 0900 G.M.T. 14th. Request sailing orders

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 140912C to B.N.S.O. Azores.)

My 140025 para.1. ATHABASKAN, METEOR and ASHANTI 23rd. to Ponta Delgada to fuel.

(F.O.G.M.A. 140915 to Admty.)

Orders for proceeding to join KING GEORGE V escorted by MAURITIUS, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY and BRILLIANT. When H.F. destroyers have joined Gibraltar destroyers will part company and proceed Gibraltar. MAURITIUS on relief by GLASGOW will part company and proceed Gibraltar.

(F.O.G.M.A.141301A)

ASHANTI arrived 1300 G.M.T. 14th. METEOR waiting outside. ASHANTI intends to proceed on completion on fuelling at about 1930A. in company ATHABASKAN. METEOR following when fuelled.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 141309)

Arrival WOODPECKER at Horta 141557Z.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 141701Z)

ATHABASKAN sailed 1505 G.M.T. 14th ASHANTI at 1925, METEOR at 2145. Local R/V arranged.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 141957)

PIPINOS.

Your 132220A. Proceed on the surface with all despatch to Gibraltar so as to arrive in daylight hours 15th Jan.

Total bombing restrictions arranged.

Estimate Fleet Unit escorted by 3 destroyers pass close to PIPINOS on easterly course at 1000 today speed 18 knots. U/B estimated east of O10 degs. W.

(F.O.G.M.A.140027A to PIPINOS)

Steer /...

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14.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

PIPINOS. Steer for position 034 degs. N. 008 degs. 30' W.  
(Contd.) thence to Casablanca by Q.B.A. 102 to arrive a.m.  
15th in daylight. Acknowledge forthwith by  
signal prefixed immediate.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141551A to PIPINOS (R) C.M.S.F.  
Comfairwing 15)

Your 1410(?12) Arrive position 034 degs. N. 008 degs. 30' W.  
at 150300. Thence E.T.A. Casablanca 150900A by Q.B.A. 102.  
Request pilot off Casablanca as number 1 of Folie 435 is only  
(corrupt group) chart held.  
(PIPINOS, 141445A to F.O.G.M.A.)

PIPINOS has not answered any signal and has not acknowledged  
signal diverting her to Casablanca. Submarine may therefore be  
in 036 degs. 04' N. 009 degs. W. or 036 degs. N. 007 degs. 40' W.  
at 2000/14th. My 141053A para. 2 refers.

(F.O.G.M.A. 141619A to Situation report for Area XA)

Patrol craft 474 sails from Casablanca 2200A/14th to escort  
you to Casablanca. Convoy in 034 degs. N. 008 degs. W. from  
2000A/14th (?30) 36.12 knots bound Gibraltar.

(F.O.G.M.A. 141943A to PIPINOS)

U/B sunk Cartagena reports, T.O.O. 131810. Admiral Baste  
off Aquilas. informed me today that though the Germans  
Spanish declare having lost U/B off Aquilas night Jan.  
fishing 8th/9th neither fishing boat nor Spanish  
vessel destroyer CHURRUCA found signs of U/B nor survivors  
bombed. and (2) death of Denia fisherman probably caused  
by German plane my 130930 refers. /

(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 140100A)

/ Report from Aquilas that U/B sunk.

My 140100. All officers report an A/C bombed Spanish fishing  
vessel at 0630/10th 2 miles off Denia, 4 killed, 1 survivor.  
(2) (?German Twin engined bomber crashed on beach 10 km. North  
of Denia same day at 1630.  
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 141507A)

THEODORE Arrived Horta.  
PARKER (S.B.N.O. Azores, 141342Z)  
(Damaged) (O.N.218)

3 S/M's Following is a repetition of C.T.G.21.16's 140418/  
encountered. addressed F.O.G.M.A. C. in C. W.A. begins: Encount-  
ered 3 S/Ms on course 000 degs. speed 7 in 044  
degs 44' N. 021 degs. 17' W. Left 2 destroyers  
on contact. P/T all concerned. Ends.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 140631A to Admty. C. in C. W.A. G. in C.  
Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., VIOLET, C. in C. U.S. Fleet)  
/ N.T. in W.R.

T.G.21.11. Task Group 21.11 U.S.S. MISSION BAY, GREER, TARBELL  
and UPSHUR arrived.  
(C.M.S.F. 141100)

ABOYNE, Cancel my 121235Z /. Proceed to Horta.  
DEVERON (S.B.N.O. Azores, 141135Z to DEVERON)  
/ Proceed to Ponta Delgada with ABOYNE.

Your /...

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War Diary.14.1.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ABOYNE,  
DEVERON.  
(Conta.)

Your 121235Z\* not received (your 141135Z refers.)  
(DEVERON 141355Z to S.B.N.O.Azores.)+  
\* Instructions for DEVERON to proceed Ponta Delgada  
E.T.A. 1800Z/15th ABOYNE in company weather report  
5872 1147.  
(DEVERON 142307Z.)  
+ Signal cancelling 121235.

Fuelling at  
Ponta Delgada.

On 13th January no less than 7 H.M. Ships were  
ordered by various authorities to fuel in Ponta  
Delgada. Despite the fact that COTILLON was al-  
ready there.

2. Considerable confusion is arising out of lack  
of early information of ships proceeding to fuel in Azores apart  
from international complications with Portuguese due to lack of  
warning for ships proceeding to Ponta Delgada.

3. As S.B.N.O.Azores is not in possession of all operational  
information request you will consult me before diverting ships  
to fuel at Azores and instruct Western Approach Escort Groups  
to endeavour to comply also. I will then concert arrangements  
with S.B.N.O.Azores.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 141211A to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M disabled.

Aircraft reports S/M attacked and disabled in 045°  
15' N. 019° 57' W. at 141206Z. Aircraft instructed  
to carry homing procedure O.  
(S.B.N.O.Azores 141336Z to NENE, (R) C. in C.W.A.)

SS. COBETAS,  
MONTE NARANCO.

My 111545 to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar. SS. COBETAS due  
Ceuta 16th and SS. MONTE NARANCO due Cadiz 15th.  
Request both ships be sent in for examination.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 141542A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.CAMBRIA  
(Cable ship).

Sailed 1700 for lat. 035° 39' 18" S. 054° 07' 14"  
W. escorted by Brazil escort vessel O.S.4 (GURUPA).  
(B.R.L.O.Montevideo 141925Z.)

SS. MONTE  
NAVAJO  
(Spanish).

Left Buenos Aires 7th January for Las Palmas. Re  
package for German Consul 1st Port of Call.  
(S.O.I. Buenos Aires 142313.)

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War Diary.14.1.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- S/M report. From L'AJACCIENNE. One unidentified submerged submarine in 40.04 N., 08.05 E. (Algiers W/T 140810.)
- Air reports. Daily Opsum 262. 13/14 January. 2 Wellingtons successfully laid 4 mines in Portolago Bay Leros. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 141014Z.)  
Daily Opsum 261. 12/13th Jan. 2 Wellingtons successfully laid 2 mines in Port Kalimno and one in Naxos Harbour. 1 mine hung-up. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 141413Z.)
- SS. CAMELIA.<sup>L</sup>  
My 071557C. Swedish Salvage 281 Association report CAMELIA's position one mile west of Salonika Harbour. Endeavouring to pump engine room dry. Vessel in ballast at time of explosion.  
2. Lloyds Agent here states Swedish Legation so far still unable to obtain decision from Turks regarding towage to Istanbul and permanent repair.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 141105C.)
- TERMAGENT,  
TENACIOUS,  
KEMPENFELT. Ships in your 130921 were allocated to Med. by A.M. 302331 Dec. C. in C.E.F. 090540 also refers. (F.O.L.E.M. 141216B to B.S.1.)
- STORM. Route for proceeding to Beirut, and arrangements. (Capt. S.1 141523B to STORM, (R) N. and Air Authorities, SICKLE.)  
See amendment 151015B.
- COLOMBO. Intend to sail COLOMBO at approx. 2130A/14 for Oran (route etc.)  
(Comnob Oran 141645A to Comnob Oran, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty.)  
Admty. 102305 (hush M/S) refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 142347A.)  
Note. Delay in circulation regretted due to refs. requiring correction.
- WARSPITE. A.M. 111728 January. WARSPITE is to join M.K.F. 27A off Gibraltar and proceed to U.K. Final destinations will be signalled later.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 141659A.)
- Fleet Destroyers. The following re-organisation of Fleet Destroyers is intended (details).  
3. Date of re-organisation will probably be about 28th February.  
(C. in C.Med. 041742 to Med. Station.)

/Circling...

War Diary.

14.1.1944.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Circling Evidence to support my 171604\*Dec. is as follows.  
torpedoes. A.M. 042020+ refers circling torpedoes were known to have been dropped in three air raids at Naples, but no ships were hit and no subsequent explosions heard at sea.

2. One torpedo floated ashore two days after one raid, which was towed off and exploded by rifle fire.
3. Two torpedoes were reported sighted in Naples Bay on another occasion, but subsequent search failed to find them.
4. M.L.126 had bow blown off through colliding with an object floating almost submerged considered to be a spent circling torpedo my 5328/Med. 427/7/2 of 29 Dec. refers.
5. U.S. L.S.T. 242 (N.O.I.C. Naples 022138 Dec. 1943 says L.C.T. 242) had stem blown off by a floating object almost definitely a spent circling torpedo.  
(C. in C.Med. 141745.)

\* re Circling torpedo raid on Naples.  
+ re Requesting information to support statements in 171604 Dec.

Balkan Sitrep 4. 8 Jan. 4 partisan boats successfully landed  
No. 59. stores Dalmatian coast.  
(C. in C.M.E. 141835B.)

DRACHE. DRACHE sailed from Piraeus for Milo p.m. 13th.  
German troops on board.  
(Capt. S.1 141934B to 30KOL.)

Situation 1. TYRIAN and GRENVILLE patrolled Ancona to Pesaro  
Report 272. during night 11th/12th Jan. nothing sighted due to fog. Following night BLACKMORE and LEDBURY patrolled Drvevotk to Zirje Island nothing sighted

2. Between 6th and 10th Jan. coastal forces have carried out night sweep among the islands off Dalmatian coast without incident.
3. S3. LENDELL PHILIP and ST. MAXIME were in collision off Cape Bon at 2335/13. ST. MAXIME later sank.
4. UNTIRING reports torpedoing and sinking one boarding lighter in 044° 13' N. 009° 29' E. at 1135/6th Jan.
5. (?DZIK) reports obtaining at least one hit and probable sinking of 6000 tons M.S. (merchant ship intended) 039° 42' N. 026° 02' E. on 7th Jan. She sank Greek schooner ELENI by demolition charge the following day in 039° 37' N. 025° 43' E. and sank a 30 ton caique by demolition charge on 9th in 038° 25' N. 025° 21' E.  
(C. in C.Med. 142129A.)

C.T.G. 21.11. When ready for sea and not later than 16th Jan. depart Casablanca and operate against submarines now west of Portugal moving south and southwest. Cominch 141536.  
(C. in C.Lant 142153 to C.T.G. 21.11.)



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14.1.1944.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Operations by BILLOW. Departure Khor Kuwai BILLOW 1545 G.M.T. Jan. 13th E.T.A. Muscat 1300 G.M.T/14. After arrival Muscat will return Khor Kuwai after carrying out thorough search of Coastline on return passage for possible enemy submarine shelters and interrogation of local shore authorities where possible. (N.O.I.C. Hormuz 140301Z.)

Bi-weekly U/B summary No. 17. SONOVATI (see 140424Z.) (C. in C.E.F. 140358Z.)

SONOVATI. On passage to James reports ?intercepted by two U-Boats in 007° 40' S. 089° 15' E. 0208Z/11 after attacking she considered her movements compromised and is returning to Colombo. (C. in C.E.F. 140424Z.) See later mgs. 171102Z.

Dredger situation. Dredger Situation in India now serious. (C. in C.E.F. 140504Z to Admty.)

J.C/C.J. convoys. Ships of J.C.33 and joiners from intermediate ports are to proceed in convoy as already arranged until reaching destination. 2. Further sailings of J.C. and C.J. convoy are to cease until further orders and Class D ships are to be released from those convoys forthwith.\* (C. in C.E.F. 141154Z.) [*\* negatives. 160631Z, page 263*]

PATROLLER( Ferrying aircraft.) On completion of discharge at Cochin PATROLLER will proceed to Fremantle for onward passage to U.S.A. Arrangements. (C. in C.E.F. 141336.)

Group A. Intend to sail from Suez a.m. 16 arriving Aden p.m. 19th Jan. E.T.D. Aden 1800C/20, C. in C.E.F. 090540 refers. Above programme necessitates certain boilers exceeding normal steam hours and not less than 50% of boilers of battleships and aircraft carriers will require cleaning on arrival Ceylon. (V.A.I 141507B.)

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14.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

SS. THEODORE PARKER, CAILIFF. This precedes my 141737 to CAILIFF. THEODORE PARKER has arrived Horta. Fuel permitting return St. Johns with TENACITY forthwith otherwise proceed Horta Azores. Report intentions. Pass to TENACITY. Ends.  
(F.O.N.F. 141749Z.)

Am carrying out north and south sweeps 10 miles apart to eastward. Estimated position at 151000Z 047° 20' N. 035° 00' W. request assistance of aircraft. Wind light variable sky overcast drizzle barometer 1006 visibility moderate.  
(CAILIFF 141856Z.)

Returning to St. Johns N.F.  
(CAILIFF 141950Z.)

? S/M. An A.S.V. contact possibly a S/M has been obtained in 044° 25' N. 033° 28' W. at about 0430Z/14th.  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 140651Z to G.B.7A.)

U/B estimate. (Cominch 141537Z.)

O.N.S.26. At 1620/14 sailed COLUMBIA to join you and support speed 17 knots.  
(F.O.N.F. 141640Z to S.E. O.N.S.26.)

SHAH. My 101845\* unless loading necessitates calling Sydney, change routeing SHAH (?to) Melbourne for onward routeing.  
(Cominch 141740Z to Cdr. W.S. F. San Francisco.)  
\* re Sailing SHAH.

U.G.S.30. R.D.O. Washington pass to all less C.E.S.F. R.D.O. New York pass to C.E.S.F. Sailing telegram part 1. Sail 1530/14th. Escort T.F. 63, LANSDALE, KEITH, TOMICH, J. RICHARD WARD, OTTERSTETTER, SLOAT, SELLSTROM, RAMSDEN, MILLS, RHODES, RICHBY, SAVAGE, MATTAPONI, L.C.I.(L)s. 505, 506, T.G. 21.13 CROATAN, BRECKENRIDGE, BARNEY, BLAKELEY, BIDDLE, 770 when CROATAN, MATTAPONI, L.C.I.(L)s. 505 and 506 are in formation.  
(P.D. Norfolk 141850.)

L.S.I.(L)s. It is a matter of urgency that the remaining L.S.I.(L)s. nine in number, arrive in the U.K. as soon as possible. Any steps which can be taken to expedite the passage, particularly of the last four, should be taken.

2. B.A.M.R. is requested to examine the possibility of escorting these ships to U.K. with Captain Class frigates who have completed their work up, some delay to the latter being accepted.  
3. When this is possible, B.A.D. is requested to arrange for the ships to be sailed unescorted to Bermuda from the Canal area.  
(D.O.D.(H) 141928A, 151457A to B.A.D. B.A.M.R.)

/LOUIS...

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14.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

SS.  
LOUIS  
HEBERT.

(Casualty report?) 247 gross tons en route Miami for San Juan Puerto Rico reported to be (?abandoned) 16th January off Neffi east Coast Dominica. All hands saved.  
(N.S.H.Q. 172048.)

3 U/Bs  
attacked.

Admiralty pass\* to Comnavu and H.Q.C.C.  
Para. A. BLOCK ISLAND destroyers attacked 3 Subs area 44.45 N. 21.20 W. night 13/14th. (Cominch 142053.)\* Passing action being taken by W.R.

Salvage  
areas.

In view of Salvage situation developing as results of winter weather conditions, suggest that consideration be given to dividing North Atlantic into Salvage areas each command automatically to take necessary action with respect to casualties originating in its area.

2. Further suggest that S.B.N.O. Azores having a central position be included in such a plan and have adequate salvage facilities at his disposal.

3. In the event of a command being unable to take action, assistance would be sought from the command best placed to deal with the situation.

(N.S.H.Q. 142252Z to Admiralty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/14th.  
Para. A. 1. A/C A/59 attacked U/B at 1403/13th Jan. in 47° 37' N. 16° 15' W.  
2. A/C L/172 attacked U/B at 2225/13th Jan. in 44° 20' N. 20° 45' W.  
Para. B. 1. A/C reported U/B contact at 0651/14th Jan. in 44° 25' N. 33° 28' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 141053Z.)

Submarines Reported.

U-Boat estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 141431A, 141432A.)

15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

F.O.C. Reserve Fleet. 1. The Flag of Rear-Admiral C.F.Harris (F.O.C. Reserve Fleet) was hoisted today in MALAYA in the Clyde.

Operation F.W. 2. Convoy J.W.56A has met heavy weather today and appears to be scattered. OBDURATE of the destroy escort failed to meet it in position C at 1700 and returned to Seidisfjord, and Capt. D.26 has sent SAVAGE and SFORD on the reverse Convoy Route to search.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic. 3. A 300 ft. merchant vessel was hit with a 1000 lb. bomb by Kittyhawks at Sibenik today and was left burning. Two vessels believed to be M.F.Bs. were also attacked; one received a direct hit and the other was gunned. TYRIAN, TUMULT and GRENVILLE swept the Istrian coast last night from Pola to 45° 30' N. No shipping was encountered, but Rovigno was shelled in poor visibility which prevented results from being seen.

Aegean. 4. SIBYL reports a 200 ton schooner sunk on 8th and a 30 ton caïque disabled on 9th off Cape Baba (Turkish coast north of Lesbos.) Middle East aircraft have during the past few days operated with considerable success against shipping attempting to supply the enemy occupied islands in the Aegean. Details are given in the Middle East Air Communique of 16th January. Wellingtons laid 4 mines last night in the approaches to Rhodes Harbour.

15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

5. In addition to the Japanese cruiser which TALLY HO sank on 11th during her patrol she also sank a 6000 ton merchantman today in 10.45 N. 93.08 E. (about 60 miles south of Port Blair, Andaman Is.)

China.

6. U.S. Mitchells operating in the South China Sea today sank a gunboat in the Hongay area and a vessel in the Swatow area.

America & West Indies.

7. The escort carrier SHAH sailed from San Francisco today for Cochin via Melbourne, to join the Eastern Fleet.

War Diary.15.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.F.O.C.  
Reserve  
Fleet.Flag of Rear-Admiral.. C.F. Harris hoisted in  
MALAYA.  
(MALAYA 150900A to Admty.)AMETHYST,  
BLACK SWAN,  
TUSCAN  
for Med.Sailed with Convoy K.M.F.28 and to join Command  
of C. in C. Med.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 152248A to Admty.)BELLONA,  
GAMBIA.C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail BELLONA for  
Plymouth as soon as ready for service to relieve  
GAMBIA.  
2. On relief GAMBIA is to give 4 days leave to  
each watch and then be sailed to join Eastern Fleet  
(V.C.N.S. 151038A to C. in C.H.F.)Trawlers  
for  
Azores.A.M. 221545 Dec. C. in C.W.A's 031321/Jan.  
Intend sailing KINGSTON AGATE (S.O.) and MAZURKA  
1400A/16th Jan to Azores. E.T.A. 1400A/23rd.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 151247A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)Operations.Operation  
F.W.J.W.56A. Tankers NOREG and SAN ADOLPHO have foll-  
owing cargo for Admiralty account. Oil. Details.  
(D.T.D. 150318A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Intend proceeding with Force 1 passing Hoxa Gate  
at 0940A tomorrow.  
(C.S.1. 151119A to A.C.O.S.)J.W.56 B. 1. (A) Close escort. WESTCOTT (S.O.) WHITEHALL,  
RHODODENDRON, OXLIP. (B) Local escort. WRESTLER, HONEYSUCKLE.  
2. Ships are to arrive Aultbea before dark January 18th and are  
to come under orders of V.A.2 on arrival.

(C. in C.W.A. 151129A to V.A.2, N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operation F.W. Para.6. (D). If circumstances permit intend  
to make short visit to Hvalfiord in KENT about 24th January.

(C.S.1. 151131A and 171206A to A.C.I.C.)

E.T.A. Skaale Fiord 161200A. Request onward route.

(CYGNET 151210A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Scapa arrival MUSKETEER.

(A.C.O.S. 151235A to F.O. Humber.)

Position at 152102A. J.W.56A, CYGNET. 067° 06' N. 010° 42'  
W. 053° 9½ knots. HARDY and 7 destroyers 066° 27' N. 012° 12' W.  
053° 16 knots.

(A.C.I.C. 151336A to Ships.)

J.W.56A. Destinations of local escorts on relief by destroy-  
ers escort READY and ORESTES to Skaalefiord, WALLFLOWER and  
BORAGE to Londonderry.

(V.A.2 151504A to H.F.)

Following ships of J.W.56A can be accepted in White Sea ports.  
(a) Destination (Iokanka) tanker SAN ADOLFO. (b) Destination  
Ekonomia. FORT SLAVE, EMPIRE PLOUGHMAN. (c) Destination Molotovsk  
AERT VAN DER NEER, EDWIN L. DRAKE, CHARLES SCRIVENER, JOSEPH N.  
COLLET, RICHARD H. ALVEY, JOHN A. QUITMAN, WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS and  
tanker SAN CIRILO. 2. No replacements required in event of  
casualties.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 151629A to H.F.)

/Rosyth...

War Diary.

15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.) Rosyth arrival MAHRATTA at 1715, departure MAHRATTA at 1820.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 151822A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)  
Your 151336. OBDURATE failed contact J.W.56A at position C. by 1700/15th and returned to Seidisfjord. Am sending SAVAGE and STORD on reverse "Red" route to search. (?Failing) contact by 0600/16th am proceeding escort on "Red" route to longitude 008° W. on assumption convoy has passed.  
(Capt. D.26 152357A to A.C.I.C.)

Operations "Overlord" and "Rankin". As requirements of small craft for "Overlord" and RANKIN cannot nearly be met according to present information, a committee has been formed.  
(a) To ascertain our present resources of certain small craft.  
(b) To screen demands and ensure no overlapping occurs in planning.  
(c) To recommend allocation of available craft.  
3. Request you will make reports to arrive Admiralty not later than 22nd January, giving following information where applicable to your Command.  
(Head of M.II. 151221A to C's in C. and A.C.O.S.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (V.A. Dover 151623A.)

S/M. Patrols. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/16th and movements for following 24 hours.  
(A) VENTURER on patrol vicinity of 61° 25' N. 03° 55' E.  
(C) TELEMACHUS on patrol vicinity 65° 24' N. 01° 20' E.  
(D) STUBBORN sails 1800/16th through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles and 62° N. 01° E. towards 64° 25' N. 04° 12' E. probable on the surface 10 knots.  
(E) SEANYMPH sails Lerwick 1000/16th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and 62° N. 01° E. towards 65° 30' N. 05° 44' E. probably on the surface 10 knots.  
(F.O.S. 151714A to Admty.)

Operation "Stonewall". Your 141211. 1. It is always my policy to fuel ships at sea rather than at Azores when situation allows.  
2. (a) No escorts were ordered by me to fuel at Ponta Delgada on or immediately preceding Jan.13th.  
(b) S.O. E.G.6 in his 131840 stated his intention of fuelling EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBURG at Ponta Delgada but this was not approved by me. Had it been necessary to do so arrangements would have been made through you.  
(c) S.B.N.O. Azores was requested in my 111517 to indicate at which port ship of B.1 E.G. should fuel.  
(C. in C.W.A. 152220A to F.O.G.M.A.)

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War Diary.15.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.North  
Russia.German Air Force activity Jan. 1st to 14th as reported by Russians. Details.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 151048A to C. in C.H.F.)Casualties & Defects.PRINCE  
BAUDOIN.At 2300/13 in Oban convoy anchorage dragged anchor and collided with SS. CANTAL sustaining damage. All damage above water line. Ship seaworthy. Dockyard assistance will be required to repair.  
(PRINCE BAUDOIN 151114A to Admty.)

AJAX.

Your 141422. Confirmed that AJAX can be taken in hand at Devonport on 20th January.  
(D.O.D.H. 151652A to C. in C.H.F.)

WHITEHALL.

Defective port and starboard ahead manoeuvring valves require an excessive effort to control. A minimum of six days is required for necessary repairs. It is understood that ship cannot be spared for this work now. It is strongly recommended that repairs be undertaken as soon as ship can be spared.  
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 151841 to Admty.)Unknown  
ship.Vessel ashore at Isle of Whitehorn, Kirkcudbright. Lifeboat launching and Isle of Whitehorn L.S.A. proceeding.  
(C.G. Port Patrick 152308 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Following has been read. Ship stranded near Burrow Head on rock. Want tug boat soon as possible. Forepeak badly damaged other tanks dry. Steering gear and rudder broken.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 152335Z to Admty.)Shipping & Convoys.

Troopships.

Following is Summary No.22 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during period to 8 February. Details.  
(D.S.T. 150223A.)

O.N.S.27.

WARWICK sailed to overtake O.N.S.27.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 151103A to Admty.)

C.2 E.G. are to sail as soon as possible to join and support O.N.S.27. PRESCOTT is to sail with

O.S.65/K.M.S.39 to rejoin 6th E.G.

(C. in C.W.A. 151134A to PRESCOTT, C.2.)

Ships which have not joined Convoy by 1500Z/16 are to return to the U.K.

(C. in C.W.A. 151609Z to O.N.S.27.)

Sailed ICARUS, GATINEAU, FENNEK, CHILLIWACK, FRIEZIS to overtake O.N.S.27. ST.CATHERINES sailing 1800 to overtake.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 151619A to Admty.)

Proceed ahead at 16 knots to support O.N.S.27.

(C. in C.W.A. 151703Z to ICARUS, GATINEAU.)



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15.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- O.N.220. In view of F.O.C.T's 141510A, delay in sailing EMPIRE MACCABE can be accepted to complete repairs but only until a time that will enable her to join O.N.220 by dusk on 16th January.  
(C. in C.W.A. 151234A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40. In view of delay in completing repairs to FENCER she will not be sailed with E.G.C.2 to support O.S.65. (2) It is intended that FENCER (S.O.) and BITER should sail on 24th January as an air group to provide fighter and A/S support for O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40.  
(C. in C.W.A. 151237A to F.O.C.T.)
- T.U.6. From position P.J. steer for new position P.L. 52.29 N. 18.01 W. P.M. 49.18 N. 21.49 W. thence to P.E.  
2. No amendment to stragglers route.  
3. Ships straggling and unable to rejoin before reaching longitude 17° W. are to return to U.K.  
(D.O.D.H. 151258A to Escorts T.U.6.)
- O.S.65/  
K.M.S.39. Non sailers, GUJARAT, EMPIRE CORMORANT, EMPIRE BUCKLER, H.M.S.FENCER.  
(C. in C.W.A. 151331A to Escorts O.S.65/K.M.S.39.)  
Sailed BURZA (S.O.) ROSELY, VERITY, VIOLET, PRESCOTT, MEADOWSWEET, LOBELIA, KENILWORTH CASTLE, NORTHERN FOAM, ASPIRANT and EMINENT.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 151701A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Sailed KILBIRNIE at 1800/15th speed 15 knots to overtake O.S.65/K.M.S.39 to comply with C. in C.W.A. 111415A. My 142114A refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 151804 to C. in C.W.A.)  
Sailed ACONIT to overtake O.S.65/K.M.S.39.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 152014A to C. in C.W.A.)  
(A) 1415Z/15th. (B) B.3. TOWY, BURZA, VERITY, ORCHIS, NARCISSUS, LOBELIA, ROSELYS, ACONIT, VIOLET, MEADOWSWEET, KENILWORTH CASTLE, NORTHERN FOAM, KILBURNIE. Rescue Ship MELROSE ABBEY. Tugs EMINENT and ASPIRANT. JOHN HOLT, SILVER MAPLE fitted H/F D/F. (C) 53 including H.M.S.ETHIOPIAN. Ten break off with O.S.65.  
(C. in C.W.A. 152029Z to F.O.C. W.Af., F.O.G.M.A.)  
K.M.S.39. 43 Ships. Names and destinations.  
(C. in C.W.A. 152031Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
- K.M.S.28. PRINCE ROBERT is to pass Gate at 1015A/16th and proceed through positions P.A. 180° Lizard Head 3 miles. P.B.198° Lizard Head 14 miles.  
P.C.180° Bishop Rock 10 miles and thence with convoy K.M.S.28 at 1700A/17th estimated in 053° 00' N. 015° 05' W. steering 224° 12½ knots. On joining PRINCE ROBERT to act under orders of C. in C.W.A. as A/A escort to Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 151515A to PRINCE ROBERT.)  
My 141045A. Sailed.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 151659A to Admty.)

/Sailed...

War Diary.

15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- K.M.S.28. Sailed AMETHYST, BLACK SWAN, and TUSCAN additional  
(Contd.) escort for K.M.F.28 and to join Command of C. in C.  
Med.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 152248A to Admty.)
- K.M.F.28. Sailed Clyde portion in accordance with my 131634A  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 152314A to Admty.)
- O.N.219. Cancel O.N.219.  
(C. in C.W.A. 151634Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

KING GEORGE  
V.

Request report on circumstances which led to KING GEORGE V's 121200 (Unable to decypher messages).  
(Admty., 150457A to F.O.G.M.A.)

German U/B  
reported at  
Cartagena.

Verbal message received from British Consul Cartagena via Master SS. HERMISTON that he had received report that German submarine was towed into the port one night this week but no confirmation obtained.

(3) Further details being obtained.

(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 151542.)

Comment by O.I.C.: U-Boat referred to is presumably the subject of a press report of 13th Jan. that a U-Boat was sunk off Aquilas. Only confirmation is by S.O.(I) Gib.'s 140100A to effect that Spanish Admiral had information that Germans had notified loss of a U-Boat off Aquilas on 8th Jan.

(W.D. Note: Para. (1) was contradicted by S.O.(I) Gib. 162131A)

Convoys  
passing  
Europa.  
S.L. Convoy  
sailings.

Effect of para. (A) of A.M. 131739 may also have effect of shortening lay-over of Mediterranean escort which is already less than U.K. escorts as Med. escort cannot relieve U.K. escort in darkness. C. in C. Med. is requested to comment further.

2. Concur in para. B.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 151800.)

Delay of Atlantic escorts and lay-over at Gib.

ABOYNE,  
DEVERON.

Arrival Horta DEVERON and ABOYNE 1703Z/15th.  
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 151817Z.)

South Atlantic.

"Freecar"  
Patrol.

Commence patrol outward at 0600Z/16th.  
(N.O.I.C. W.Af., 151231Z to ABRUZZI, D'AOSTA, MONTCALM.)

15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.E. Balkan Sitrep No.60. 1. Yugoslavia. Solta W.U.82 Island reported occupied by enemy and attack against Brac proceeding 11 Jan. Two landings made N.E. coast. Shelling of Sucuraj XV 51 on Hvar Island continued. (C. in C.M.E., No T.O.O./15).

UNSPARING, UNRULY. UNSPARING patrol between Tenedos and lat. 039 degs. 38'. UNRULY patrol between lat. 039 degs. 38' and Cape Baba (Turkey).  
(2) Both patrols to be close to Turkish territorial waters and submarines to be in position by noon 16th.  
(3) Cancel my 150928B.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 151241B to UNSPARING, UNRULY, (R) 1st S.L., F.O.L.E.M.).

STORM, SICKLE. Amendment to my 141523B and 141531B.+  
(Capt.(S) 1, 151015B).  
/ Submarine route.  
+ No Trace in Admiralty.

Convoy "Decade" Estimate "Decade" was sighted at 1010/15. A/C heard but not seen.  
(BERGAMOT, 151016A to C. in C. Med.).

SOKOL Proceed forthwith to patrol North Eastern Approach to Doro Channel passing North of Santoim and through Kinaros Channel to arrive not later than dawn/17th.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 151223B to SOKOL, (R) 1st S/M.F. F.O.L.E.M.).

Special convoy. Intend sailing special convoy to Bizerta at 1600/16 to relieve congestion at Augusta. 13 ships.  
Escort WILTON.  
(S.N.O.E.Sy., 151402A).

Flag of R.A.Troubridge. Flag of Rear Admiral T.H. Troubridge D.S.O. has been hoisted in BULOLO to date from 12th Jan. Request ENDEAVOUR haul down flag forthwith. Your 141258./ refers.  
(S.O. Force 'P' 151618A to F.O.L.E.M.).  
/ (No trace in W.R.).

SICKLE My 1301/18th. Route to Malta.  
(S.O. S/Ms. Malta, 151816A). Amended 161140.

/ Situation...

15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Situation
1. M.T.Bs. destroyed a 200 ton Schooner in Report No.273. Piskopi 036 degs. 25' North 027 degs. 22' East during night 12th, 13th January.
  2. L.C.G. with motor gunboats in support shelled Split during the night of 12th, 13th January.
  3. Mines were laid by aircraft at Naxos night 12th, 13th January and in Leros night 13th, 14th January.
  4. SIBYL reports sinking by gunfire 200 ton Schooner on 8th January and 30 ton Caique disabled 9th January off Cape Baba 039 degs. 29' N. 026 degs. 05' E.  
(C. in C. Med. 152125A).

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15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

KEREN,  
ROYAL  
SCOTSMAN.

KEREN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN are to be sailed to the Mediterranean as soon as convenient.  
2. Presume ships will embark their Landing Craft and crews and will carry full Group Spares and Stores.  
3. C. in C. Med. is requested to report destinations.  
(D.O.D.(F), 150020A to C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.).)

Bi-weekly  
U-boat  
summary  
No.18.

No change.  
(C. in C.E.F. 150331).

TRESPASSER

Summarized report of P.312 (TRESPASSER) 2nd Far Eastern War patrol 26th December 1943 to 15th January 1944.

1400/1 sighted 500 tons Coaster towing barge southbound between Long Island and Elephant (014 degs. 22' 097 degs. 46'). Unable to attack.

1500/5 in 011 degs. 37' 092 degs. 53' sighted Kagamaru Class seaplane carrier steering North close under land too far away for attack. Carrier did not enter Port Blair but turned round off entrance and proceeded South.

0310/6th January sighted by A/S trawler and attacked with 6 depth charges no damage.

8th, 9th and 11th January. Patrol of Blundell Island nothing sighted.

10th January off Tavoy Island several Junks, Sampans and 2 diesel fishing trawlers sighted.  
(Capt.(S) 4, 150612Z).

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War Diary.15.1.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- B.6, B.7, Groups. Intend sailing SMILAX, SHIEL, STATICE with B.6 for S.C.151 BICKERTON, CONN, BYRON, LOUIS with B.7 for H.X. 275. Amend my 091840. (F.O.N.F. 151324Z.)
- U/B estimates. No changes. (N.S.H.Q. 151525Z, Cominch 151527Z.)
- Italian S/MS for Bermuda. Endurance permitting recommend Italian submarines your 131809Z be routed South of lat. 30 N. between longs. 20 and 60 W. so that minimum interference with A/S C.V.E. groups will result. My present intention is to have a surface vessel R/V about 200 miles S.E. Bermuda and escort S/MS in. (Cominch 151647 to Admty.)
- Zigzagging. Proposals for control. (Admty. 151840A.) See Lion Copy.
- Convoy C.K.1. Postpone sailing convoy C.K.1 until 22nd January. (Cominch 151847Z to C.E.S.F.)
- U/B attack & sighting summary. Para. A. TIMLAT U.S.S.R. sunk from Marine Causes North Pacific on 11th. BLOCK ISLAND D.D. Sound contact 44.30 N. 20.40 W. 141933Z. Para. D. P.C. 1228 at 141524Z and Y.M.S. 338 at 142200Z attacked sound contacts vicinity 09.20 N. 80 W. (Cominch 152121Z.)
- C.T.F.62 Landing ships etc. for Azores. Details of convoy. (Cominch 152124Z.)
- SHAH. Away San Fran. 2130Z/15 SHAH for Cochin via Melbourne (route). (Commorseafon 152338.)

# SECRET

Zig-zagging:  
Proposals for control.

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased 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).

151840A January

SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

Addressed Comtenth Fleet (C. & R.)  
Inf B.A.D. Washington

Date 15.1.44.

C.C.M. (A)

From Admiralty

1. Independent Merships. Would following control of zig-zagging be acceptable.
  - (A) To be exercised by Comtenth Fleet (C. & R.) for U.S. areas and by Diverting Authorities either direct or through Admiralty for British Areas.
  - (b) Zig-zagging to be suspended in respective areas when and where practicable by B.A.M.S. message from Navy Department or from Admiralty at request of Diverting Authority concerned.
  - (c) Individual ships becoming threatened in a suspended area to resume zig-zagging by direct order from Diverting Authority concerned who may also request Admiralty B.A.M.S. message ordering general resumption in area.
  - (d) Basis of control to be B.A.M.S. areas subdivided when desirable to localise instructions.
  - (e) Route signals to indicate any portion of route over which ship instructed not to zig-zag.
  - (f) Instructions issued by B.A.M.S. message to be summarised daily to U.S. and British Naval Authorities concerned.
2. If you concur C.A.M.S.I.203 repetition 203 will be amended accordingly. Your 201828 December refers.

151840A.

D.T.D. (172)  
Approved A.C.N.S. (UT).

- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- U.W.R.
- Capt. Pim.
- Ops. (2).
- Plot.
- O.D. (5).
- O.I.C. (2).
- D.T.D. (4) T.D. 02271/43.
- D.T.D. (C).
- D. of S.T. (30).
- D. A/S.W.
- D. A/S.D.
- D. of S. 2 A.
- S.N.D. (2).
- W.D.
- I.P. (3).
- Ad. Blake.
- U.S.N. (3).



15.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/15.

Para. A. 1. A/C A/220 sighted U/B on surface at  
0850/14th January in 44° 42' N. 19° 23' W.

2. A/C F/224 attacked U/B on surface C.O. 170°  
at 2021/14th January in 45° 39' N. 05° 09' W.

3. A/C H/58 attacked U/B on surface C.O. 090° at  
2240/14th January in 45° 13' N. 07° 52' W.

4. A/C R/206 attacked U/B on surface C.O. 090° at 1206/14th  
January in 45° 15' N. 19° 57' W.

Para. B. 1. F.S. L'AJACCIENNE reported submerged U/B at 0810/14th  
January in 40° 04' N. 08° 05' E. Ref. A.M. 131120Z para. B. 1  
sighting now reported to have been a whale.  
(D.D.I.C. 151127A.)

Submarines Reported.

U-Boat estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 151416A, 151417A.)

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.

1. Convoy J.W.56A is still somewhat scattered off the S.E. coast of Iceland; but the main body passed Position "C" at 1000A today; and at 2247A V.A.2 ordered Capt. D.26, who had left Seidisfjord in HARDY with five other destroyers at 1819A, to collect as many ships as possible before the Convoy passes 008° W. where the Local Escort is to detach. C.S.1 has postponed the departure of Force 1 from Scapa until 0940A tomorrow at least.

Three Russian S/Ms are now patrolling in area 2A and also in those to the eastward along the northern Norwegian coast; and the weather has so far prevented any R/C of Alten Fiord.

CYGNET, originally S.O. of the Through Escort, has returned to the Faroes with her starboard engine out of action.

Captain  
class  
Frigates.

2. C. in C. W.A. considers that, in view of "grave shortcomings" in the main armament of Captain class Frigates, any proposed use of these ships against a determined air and light surface craft attack must be viewed with misgiving.

Convoy  
H.X.274.  
U-Boat  
attacked  
by BLIGH.

3. At 1123Z today the Frigate BLIGH of E.G. C.5 while escorting Convoy H.X. 274 about 300 miles North of the Azores attacked a U-Boat contact. The attack was followed by a loud underwater explosion and the appearance of oil and a large air bubble at 1145Z, after which contact could not be regained.

North Atlantic.

2 U/Bs.  
sunk.

4. U.S. Escort Carrier GUADALCANAL reports that her aircraft sank 2 U-Boats at 1845 today in 40.30 N. 37.20 W. (300 miles west by north of Flores). At least 20 survivors were seen in the water.

War Diary.

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

"Freecar"  
patrol.

5. F.O.C.W.Af. intends to withdraw the cruiser patrol in his area between 18th and 26th January, in order to ensure maximum available strength for the next moonlight period. Remote air patrol will continue.

Mediterranean.

Adriatic.

6. Further attacks were made today by Kittyhawks in Sibenik and Pasman Channel, and two merchant ships were hit, one being left on fire. Zara harbour was also attacked.

A freighter was bombed at Savona by 16 U.S. Spitfire bombers, and bombs falling amongst oil storage tanks and on the docks.

Two destroyers patrolled from Durazzo to Valona last night, but sighted nothing. They shelled Durazzo.

East Indies.

C.J./J.C.  
Convoys.

7. East coast convoy sailings are to commence with C.J.13 leaving Calcutta 18th January and J.C.34 leaving Colombo on 20th January, and thereafter at 8 days' intervals.

8. SS. PERSEUS, Trincomalee to Calcutta, was torpedoed at 0515Z today in 12 N. 80.14 E. (off Pondicheri) and sank later.

9. SS. JALADUTA reports sighting a U-Boat off Reef Light Vessel at 0810 today in Calcutta area.

War Diary.

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

10. An unknown ship reported being torpedoed at 0010 today in 52.35 N. 35 W. (about 550 miles S.E. of Cape Farewell).

Australia and New Zealand.

Air attack  
on Simpson's  
Harbour,  
Rabaul.

11. G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. today reports that on the afternoon of an unspecified date (D.O.R. gives 15th January, but W.D. considers 14th January to be intended)+36 Dauntless, 16 Avengers with 73 fighters attacked shipping in Simpson's Harbour, Rabaul, making 9 direct hits on 11 cargo vessels, and direct hits on a possible destroyer and a possible light cruiser. From 27 to 40 enemy fighters were shot down. 10 Allied aircraft (6 pilots) were lost.

Air attack  
on Convoy.

12. Before dawn today 5 Catalinas attacked a convoy of 11 ships heading south-east, 45 miles north-west of New Hanover. Three cargo ships were hit and crippled, one of which was later seen sinking and the other two on fire, with 10 to 15 lifeboats in the area.

+ Air Staff state that the attack took place on 14th January.

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

RODNEY. A.M. 102205. Pending further instructions RODNEY is not to reduce complement beyond what has already been done.  
2. Whilst RODNEY is non-operational, special attention is to be given to training of ratings.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 161306A to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.)

S/M Sanctuaries. Request S/M sanctuaries in Hebrides West and Donegal Bay area may be abolished forthwith.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161510A to Admty.)

Trawlers for Azores. My 151247. Sailed KINGSTON AGATE, MAZURKA routed through 050° N. 014° W. 047° N. 021° W. 042° N. 026° W. thence Azores.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 161625A to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation F.W. Seidisfjord arrivals OBDURATE and VIGILANT at 2219A/15th.  
(A.C.I.C. 160306 to C. in C.H.F.)  
My 151119A. Postponed at least 24 hours.  
(C.S.1 160650A to BERWICK, BERMUDA, V.A.2, A.C.O.S.)  
Separated from J.W.56A. Have one oiler and 3 merchant ships in company. My P.C. and S. at 0800, position C. 26 miles 332°, 79 knots.  
(POPPY 160901A to A.C.I.C. M/S 18, CYGNET.)  
8 Russian S/MS now manning area 2A and thus to eastward along Norwegian coast. Wild weather has prevented R/C Alten Fjord as yet.  
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 161016A to C. in C.H.F.)  
Faroes arrival CYGNET.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 161201A to H.F.)  
J.W.56A passed position C at 1000A today. Inward (?bound) Merchant Ship present. POPPY and 4 merchant ships probably in vicinity. Weather 3867 7747.  
(SAVAGE 161317A to Capt. D.26.)  
Position 2101A/16th J.W.56A, READY S.E. of Iceland position uncertain. SAVAGE, STORD vicinity Vestrahorn.  
(A.C.I.C. 161404A to Ships.)  
CYGNET reports lubrication supply pipe carried away and consequently starboard engine out of action. Will require docking. Propose sailing to Scapa a.m. 17th. Propeller has been cleared.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 161726A to A.C.O.S.)  
Seidisfjord departure 1819A.  
Capt. D.26 in HARDY, VENUS, OFFA, VIGILANT, VIRAGO, OBDURATE in company.  
(A.C.I.C. 162052A to S.B.N.O.Murmansk.)  
Your 161311. Collect as many ships as possible before convoy passes 008° W. turning convoy back for a max. of 4 hours if necessary.  
(V.A.2 162247A to Capt. D.26.)  
C. in C.H.F. 050701 para. 6B. In addition report number of ships in company.  
(V.A.2 162334A to M/S 18.)

/Operation...

16.1.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Stonewall". D/F bearings at 0417Z indicate U/B within 75' of 39° N. 15° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 160705A to Escorts K.X.13, KING GEORGE V) PRINCE ROBERT sailed as in my 151515.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161049A to C. in C.W.A.)

Disposition at 162000.

1. PRINCE ROBERT 049° 58' N. 007° 17' W. 302° 12½ knots.
2. Fleet Unit 045° 35' N. 017° 30' W. through 045° 52' N. 017° 30' W. thence 041° 24½ knots.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161454A to Admty.)

When ready for service F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail BLACK PRINCE for Plymouth.

2. On arrival at Plymouth, BLACK PRINCE is to be operated under the orders of C. in C.Plymouth.  
(V.C.N.S. 161756A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S/M Patrols. At 1410A/16th Jan. SEANYMPH left Lerwick unescorted and on the surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast proceeding by route "Orange" to 065° 30' thence through 066° 31' 010° 42' E. to patrol off Bodo.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 161417A to S/MS.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/17th and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. VENTURER on patrol vicinity of 61° 25' N. 03° 55' E.
- B. TELEMACHUS on patrol vicinity of 65° 24' N. 01° 20' E.
- C. SEANYMPH 63° 22' N. 02° 44' E. through 65° 30' N. 05° 44' E. to 66° 30' N. 10° 42' E. thence to patrol off Bodo. Probably on the surface until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast. Speed 10 knots.
- D. STUBBORN 62° 09' N. 01° 11' E. through 64° 23' N. 04° 13' E. to 64° 41' N. 08° 49' E. thence to patrol off Kya. Probably on surface until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast. Speed 10 kts.  
(F.O.S. 161736A to Admty.)

Proceeding unescorted and on the surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles Norwegian coast STUBBORN left Lerwick 2103A/16th January proceeding by route "Orange" to 064° 25' through 064° 41' 008° 51' E. to patrol vicinity Kya.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 162110A to S/MS.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 161422A.)  
(C. in C.Plymouth 161424A.)  
(V.A.Dover 161516A.)

Anti U-Boat searches in N.Channel. In view of Admiralty 151416 intend to carry out anti U-Boat searches by air and surface craft by night in the Approaches to North Channel. Air search of an area extending from North Channel to 12° W. to be carried out by aircraft of 15 Group. Surface striking forces consisting of available A/S escorts based at Merville to act in

/co-operation...

16.1.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Anti U-Boat  
searches in  
N.Channel.  
(Contd.)

co-operation with aircraft. These operations will start on night 17th/18th January. Surface forces to consist of WREN (S.O.) SCIMITAR, SALADIN, SKATE, PORCHESTER CASTLE, CARISBROOK CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE.

(C. in C.W.A. 161813A to Cdre. D.W.A., H.Q.C.C.)  
My 161813A. Surface forces will not operate until the night 18th/19th.  
(C. in C.W.A. 162346A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Mining.

L.C.T. 1029.

L.C.T.1029 blew up at 0500 today while at anchor off Skegness. Three survivors landed from GADFLY by Skegness Lifeboat and now in R.N.Sickquarters Royal Arthur. Nine missing. C.O. believes vessel was hit by a floating mine.  
(F.O.Humber 161050A to C. in C.Nore.)

Navigational.

Lowestoft.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 161511A.)  
Port now open.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 161615A.)

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 161548A.)  
Port now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 161815.)

Brightlingsea.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 161656A.)

Technical.

Shortcomings of Captain Class Frigates. It is desired to draw attention to the grave shortcomings of the main armament of Captain Class Frigates in case it should be under consideration to use these vessels in any special and offensive role. Details.

Considering the sum of these defects it is evident that any proposal to use these ships in an operation in which determined air and light surface craft attack is probable, must be viewed with misgiving.  
(C. in C.W.A. 161950A to Admty.)

War Diary.16.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

BARENDRECHT. Request you will sail SAMSONIA forthwith to assist SS. BARENDRECHT ashore in Wigton Bay about 2 miles N.E. of Burrow Head.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 160015A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown)  
Your 160015A. Sailed SAMSONIA. E.T.A. Burrow Head 0630Z.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 160055A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
BARENDRECHT is ashore approx. half a mile N.E. Isle of Whithorn. Apparently holed forward and aft. Vessel is in ballast. Kirkcudbright lifeboat standing by. Life saving apparatus available on shore. Tug SAMSONIA has arrived. Salvage vessel from Belfast expected. Tug EBRO working for Army also available.  
(N.O.I.C. Stranraer 160956A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
BARENDRECHT refloated. Request instructions which port she is to be taken.  
(SAMSONIA 161330Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Destination of BARENDRECHT is Liverpool. Report forthwith E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 161524A to SAMSONIA.)  
Your 161524A. P.C. and S. at 1701Z 095° 6 miles from Mull of Galloway, 200° 4 knots. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 1801Z/17.  
(SAMSONIA 161705Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

KRIEZIS. KRIEZIS returned with defects.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 161026A to C. in C.W.A.)

CYGNET. Your 161726. Approved for CYGNET to sail from Scapa a.m. 17th Jan. if weather permits.  
(A.C.O.S. 162006A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.F.28. Sailed BENTINCK (S.O.) BYARD, BURGESS, BAZELY and DRURY.  
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 160329A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Convoy sailed composed and escorted as in A.M.  
060814 amended by A.M.'s 062148, 091616, 101951, 111845, 121851, 131147, 132015 and 141619 and routed in accordance with A.M. 101951.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 161106A to Admty.)  
Detach VERIFY to join K.M.F.28 by dawn 17th. Estimated P.C. and S. 0800A/17th, 054° 18' N. 012° 48' W. 224° 12½ knots.  
S.O. BENTINCK.  
(C. in C.W.A. 162258A to BURZA.)

O.N.220. Sailed HOTSPUR (S.O.), BRANDON, TRILLIUM, WOODSTOCK, AMHERST, ORILLIA, SACKVILLE, SAPPER and rescue tug ASSIDIOUS for O.N.220. RESTIGOUCHE and MEON will be sailed p.m. to overtake on completion of calibration.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 160826A to Admty.)  
Sailed RESTIGOUCHE and KRIEZIS to overtake O.N.220.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 162326A to Admty.)



War Diary.

16.1.1944.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- S.L.144/  
M.K.S.35.  
Engagement  
with U/Bs on  
11th Jan.  
PETUNIA,  
MOYOLA of  
E.G.40. Admiralty G.M. 876 N of 171955A Dec. Suspected "Gnat".  
A. 112156Z Jan 2200 yards discharged vide article 10. B. Radar contact, sighted by C.O. C. Observed approaching convoy from starboard quarter by radar plot turned away at 12 - 14 knots, (?dived) 2159. D. Increased to 14 knots altering towards, illuminated with star shell. E. None. F. 2205 $\frac{1}{2}$  in depth charge pattern 250 yards astern. G. "Foxers" streamed. H. Visibility 3, wind starboard quarter 5 - 6 sea and swell 54.  
I. Screening starboard quarter of S.L.144 position H. J. No.  
K. Yes, one attacked by MOYOLA 15 miles astern 90 minutes earlier.  
L. Counter of 10 charges in pattern. 11 explosives. 1 violent. (PETUNIA 161200Z to Admty.)  
See also E.G. 40 171030A and Capt. D. Greenock 171800A.
- O.N.219. CELANDINE reports his position at 1022Z 050° 37' N. 030° 47' W. steering 270° 10 knots, fuel remaining 94. This is the result of 18th sensed bearing while homing. Have ordered him to steer direct for position LQ at economical speed. Intend homing him on to convoy later if there is possibility of fuelling him. O.N. 219 at present practically hove to in another westerly gale. My P.C. and S. 051° 26' 034° 05' 240° 3. Weather 9484 7806. (C.1 161201Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
WILLIAM L.MARCY (U.S.) returned from O.N.219 0045A/16 owing to cracked deck.  
(N.C.S.O.Belfast 161520A to Admty.)
- H.X.274. BLIGH attacked U-Boat contact at 1123Z in 045° 15' N. 027° 54' W. After second pattern heard loud underwater explosion followed by diesel oil patch at 1143Z. 20 foot air bubble seen at 1145Z. "Hedgehog" attack at 1155Z no result. Contact lost at 1203Z. Hunt abandoned at 1230Z on being unable to regain contact. P.C. and S. H.X.274 at 1400Z/16, 045° 28' N. 027° 25' W. 038° 9.8 knots. Weather 7470 0245. (DUNVER 161559Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
Sailed TOWY to Merville for fuel, thence to overtake K.M.S. 39. E.T.A. Merville 0015A/17th. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 161727A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- F.N.39M. Convoy F.N.39M is cancelled owing to lack of escorts. (C. in C.Nore 162236A to N.C.S.O.Thames.)
- O.N.S.O.27. WEST KENNE returned from O.N.S.O.27. Windlass trouble, sailed late, unable to overtake convoy. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 162250 to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

UNSEEN Arrangements for sailing, 0800A/18 for U.K.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 161529A).

T.G.21.11 161716. Intend sail T.G. 21.11 (MISSION BAY,  
GREER, UPSHUR, TARBELL) departing Casablanca  
1900Z/16 to support G.U.S.27 until further orders  
from you. Your 142153 refers.

Ref. 142153. When ready for sea and not later than 16 January  
depart Casablanca and operate against submarines now West of  
Portugal moving South and Southwest. Cominch 141536.  
(C.M.S.F., 161716 to C. in C. Lant, Info.C.T.F.61, F.O.G.M.A.,  
Admty., Comnavnaw, C. in C. Med. C.T.G.21.12, C.T.G.21.16, C.T.G.  
21.11, C.T.G.21.13, Comnavu).

Commorseafron 161716 sweep ahead of convoy and operate  
offensively against submarines crossing route for that might  
later threaten G.U.S.27. Further orders later.

(C. in C. Lant, 162054 to C.T.G. 21.11).

My 161716Z sailed 2300/16th.

(C.M.S.F., 162227).

U/boat  
at  
Cartagena.

Reference para.1. of my 151542+. British Consul  
Cartagena states this report was local rumour  
which has proved incorrect.

(S.O.(I) Gib. 162131A).

+ Re message received from British Consul  
Cartagena re German submarine.

South Atlantic.

Freecar  
patrol.

Under present circumstances intend to withdraw  
cruiser for patrol in my area between Jan.18th  
and January 26th in order to ensure maximum  
available strength for next moonlight period.  
Remote air patrol will conform  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 161421Z to Admty. Cdr.4th U.S.Fleet,  
Comar Dakar, R.A.8.(corrupt group) SUFFREN).

S.L.  
convoys.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. concerned.  
Commencing with S.L.147 which is to sail on 22nd  
Jan. all future S.L. Convoys are to be sailed  
one day later.  
(D.T.D., 161725A).

CILICIA

Your 151812. Delay not acceptable.  
2.3. Request you will sail her to Halifax forth  
with (route).  
(D.O.D.(F), 161853A to F.O.C.W.Af.).

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16.1.1944.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Air  
Operations.

Daily Opsum 273, 14th/15th January. 2 Wellingtons successfully laid 4 mines in approaches to Rhodes Harbour.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 161048Z.)

## DELHI.

F.O.L.E.M. 101750\* and 11(?00)51 being passed to DELHI and my 161144. Detach from Convoy N.S.F. 13 (? as) above 1200A/18th to join convoy M.K.F. 27A as far as (? Gibraltar).  
(C. in C. Med., 161146 to DELHI, (R) RAMILLIES, N.O.I.C. Tunisia, N.O.I.C. Algiers, S.E.C.M.K.F. 27A, F.O.G.M.A.)  
\* Sailing M.K.F.27A.

Balkan  
Sitrep.

At 1145/12 Jan 3 ships landed enemy troops at Pucisca, another 3 ship loads landed Povelja. (? B.R.L.O.) on Dalmatian Islands reports 11 Jan. Makarskakup Q41 heavily shelled by naval forces.  
(C. in C. M.E., 161945B.)

Italian  
S/Ms. for  
Bermuda.

Endurance of Italian S/Ms permitting amend route in A.M. 131809, para. 2 as follows.  
Cominch 151647 refers.  
(D.O.D.())F, 161652A to Cominch.)

Advance  
H.Q.

(Corrupt group) C. in C. Med. is setting up a small Advance Headquarters in Naples area on 17th January.  
2. Signals connected with current operation based on Naples and on any subject requiring C. in C's personal attention are to be routed to Naples (which will be automatically responsible for C. in C.) as well as to Algiers. All other signals are to continue to be routed Algiers only.  
(C. in C. Med., 161715A, 172302A.)

Convoys  
passing  
Europa.

As K.M.S. convoys normally consist of some 50 ships it is considered necessary that -  
(A) These convoys should pass through the Tunisian War Channel in daylight and  
(B) The R/V off the main North African ports should be in daylight.  
(2) This limits the times between which convoys can pass Europa unless the convoys waste time between Gibraltar and Oran which is undesirable in view of the submarine situation. It is even more undesirable to waste time further east.  
(3) Proposal in F.O.G.M.A's 081611 is strongly supported.  
(C. in C. Med., 161717A to Admty.)

German  
tanker  
PETER.

Arrived Istanbul fully laden German tanker PETER 4000 tons in transit for Aegean.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 161731A to 1st S/M.F.)

/LA SULTANE ...

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- LA SULTANE. OE patrol to pass 042° 03' 006° 20' at 0200/19th; 038° 30' 006° 20' at 1200/20th to R/V with escort for Algiers at 0900/21st in 036° 53' 003° 04'. Surface MK except during daylight on 19th.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 161748 to LA SULTANE, (R) 10th S/M.F., C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)
- Shad and Help signals. Revised rules.  
(C. in C. Med., 161825A.)
- M.K.F. 28/  
X.I.F. 8. Sailing from Port Said at first light/20th. (8) Escort EXMOOR (S.O.), ALDENHAM, PINDOS, KANARIS, BELVOIR, ANTWERP.  
(9) H.M.S. CHITRAL in company for final routing to U.S.A. Alexandria section sail p.m./20th and proceed ahead to R/V a.m./21st.  
(F.O.L.E.M., 161858B.)
- SS. WENDELL PHILLIPS in K.M.S.37. U.S. SS. WENDELL PHILLIPS who was in collision at 2215A/13 with French SS. SAINT MAXINE off Cape Bon has damage to her stern post. Will require repairs and survey on arrival.  
(BERGAMOT, 162109B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- Situation Report 274. (1) Coastal Force entered Sumartin Harbour, Brac, during night 13th/14th Jan. M.T.B.226 torpedoed small ship alongside. During same night M.T.B. 651 and 226 engaged siebel ferry in island area. Results not yet known, some damage sustained by craft but no casualties.  
(2) TYRIAN, TUMULT and GRENVILLE swept Istrian Coast during night 14th/15th Jan., from Pola to 045° 30' N. no shipping encountered but Rovigno was shelled in poor visibility which prevented results being observed.  
(C. in C. Med., 162202A.)

16.1.1944. .  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B  
dispositions  
No. 18.

No change.  
2. From report of merchant ship, it is probable enemy U-Boat was off Lourenco Marques 13th Jan. (C. in C. E.F., 160255.)

SS. PERSEUS.

SS. PERSEUS report being torpedoed at 0537Z/16th in 012° N. 080° 14' E. (C. in C. E.F., 160559Z.)  
Want help immediately. Position O.K.

(PERSEUS, No T.O.O.)

PERSEUS has sunk. Survivors are to return to Madras. (C. in C. E.F., 161641Z.)

C.J./J.C.  
Convoys.

C.J. and J.C. convoys negative released class D ships. Released class A ships.  
(2) East coast convoy sailings are to commence with C.J.13 leaving Calcutta January 18th and J.C.34 leaving Colombo January 20th and thereafter at 8 days intervals. (C. in C. E.F., 160631Z.)

Group A.

Onward route from Aden to Trincomalee detaching UNICORN screened by two destroyers to Cochin. RENOWN screened by two destroyers to Colombo. (C. in C. E.F., 160915Z.)

CLEODORA  
reports  
suspicious  
vessel.

QQQQ 011R10 N. 063R56 E. Suspicious vessel bearing towards us. (CLEODORA, 160955Z.)  
Suspicious vessel approached within range 6 miles at high speed. During distress signal turned off. (CLEODORA, 161130Z.)

U/B  
reported.

(SS.) JALADUTA reports sighting S/M off reef light vessel at 0810Z/16. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 161011Z to C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SS. ADRASTUS, Made junction with ADRASTUS and PENDANT II  
PENDANT II, position 043 degs. 10' North 065 degs. 28' West.  
GEORGE No immediate danger. Am standing by. PENDANT  
WESTINGHOUSE. (?21) proceeding independently. Easterly gale  
snow.  
(BAYFIELD, 161135Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Capt.(D)  
Halifax, N.O.I.C. Shelbourne).  
My 161135. Amend latitude to read 043 degs. 00' North.  
ADRASTUS reports she is now in dire need of tug.  
(BAYFIELD, 161224Z).  
GEORGE WESTINGHOUSE in tow approx. P.C.S. 42 degs. 55' 65  
degs. 40' 20 degs. 3.5. Homing H.M.C.S. LACHINE and tug  
energetically.  
(BAYFIELD, 162341Z).

H.X.275 No rescue trawler or tug in position for this  
assignment NORTHERN REWARD unable to sail due  
defects.  
(F.O.N.F., 161146Z).

U/b. No change.  
estimate. (N.S.H.Q., 161510Z, Cominch, 161529Z).

U-boat Para.D. Y.P.408 attacked sound contact 27.13 N.  
attack and 79.56 W. 152110Z.  
sighting Para.E. Sub. sighted 17.55 N. 76.00 W. 161155Z.  
summary. P.C.465 attacked sound contact vicinity 10.35 N.  
08.03 W. 161155Z.  
(Cominch, 161945Z).

Unidentified Torpedoed 52.35 N. 35 W. 2248Z Ends.  
ship. (WLDU/ No T.O.O.16th). / Signal letters  
unidentifiable.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial January 15th para. 15 to 20 cover South Pacific  
No.726. Forces.  
(18) Afternoon (apparently 14th Jan intended) 36  
Dauntless, 16 Avengers, 73 fighters attacked  
shipping Simpson Harbour scoring nine direct hits  
16 near misses on seven cargo vessels one direct

/hit....

War Diary

16.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial  
No.726  
(Contd.).

hit four near misses one possible destroyer one direct hit one possible light cruiser. 60-70 enemy fighters intercepted whereof 27 plus 13 probables were shot down by fighters while bombers claimed two plus three probables. Our losses 2 bombers 8 fighters whereof 4 pilots rescued. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 160620Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary for  
24 hours to  
0900Z/16th.

Para.A. (1) BALFOUR heard 3 groups of 3 underwater explosions in close proximity, no Radar contact and nothing sighted, at 0330Z/13 in 54 degs. 47' N. 20 degs. 01' W.

(2) NENE detected R.D.B. by Radar at 11,000 yards, no contact with U-boats, at 0115Z/15th Jan in 47 degs. 15' N. 17 degs. 22' W.

0646Z/16 12 degs. 00' N. 80 degs. 14' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 161155A).

Para.B. (1) SS. PERSEUS torpedoed prior to

U/boat  
estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 161415A, 161420A).

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.

1. One M/V of Convoy J.W.56A returned to Loch Ewe today with weather damage, and at 0720 the Commodore reported the Convoy badly scattered and that some further M/Vs had received structural and other damage.

At 2139A V.A.2 ordered all M/Vs and Escorts to proceed forthwith to Akureyri; and C.S.1 in KENT will proceed there from Scapa as soon as ready to report how many M/Vs of the Convoy can be made seaworthy quickly. BERWICK and BERMUDA are following KENT to Akureyri tomorrow.

Engagement  
with E-Boats.

2. An attempted attack upon Convoy P.W.461 off the Lizard by three groups of E-Boats at about 0240 this morning was successfully fought off by TALBONT and BRISSENDEN of the Convoy Escort, and at 0500 the E-Boats were retiring at high speed to the southward. There were no casualties and the Convoy was uninjured.

Owing to sickness among the Staff. Situation Reports for Foreign Stations from this date are incomplete or missing.

Mediterranean.

3. C. in C. Med. set up a small advance H.Q. in the Naples area today.

Adriatic.

4. Aircraft again today attacked enemy shipping off the Dalmatian coast, at Brac Island and Sibenik, with some success. At Sibenik, a merchant ship was hit and blown up.

Destroyers shelled Drvenik and Vela Luka harbour (Korcula Island) last night and subsequently patrolled from Zirje Island to Korcula. Nothing was sighted.



War Diary.

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

MEWSTONE. On completion of A/S work up, MEWSTONE should be sailed to arrive Milford Haven by 31st January for onward routing to Mediterranean. (D.M.S., 172138A to WESTERN ISLES.)

RAMILLIES. My 191200 December. RAMILLIES destination in U.K. is Clyde.  
2. On arrival she will give leave and then work up for bombardment in conjunction with bombardment unit at Troon.  
3. She will remain in commission for the present and will be attached to C. in C. H.F. (1st Lord, 172218A to C. in C. H.F.)

RODNEY. A.M. 102205, para. 3. RODNEY is not to de-store. (D.O.D.(H), 172240A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Operation F.W. Sailed GLEANER with HUSSAR and SPEEDWELL in company for local escort duties. (S.B.N.O. Kola Inlet, 170437A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)  
Convoy badly scattered owing to very heavy weather. Some ships have received structural damage and other deck cargoes shifted. Consider all ships should be ordered to nearest anchorage to make good damage. Ships then found unable to continue voyage to return to U.K.  
(Cdre. of J.W.56A, 170720 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Do you require tug assistance.  
(A.C.I.C., 170947A to POPPY.)  
Capt. (D) 26 161311 and my 162247. Any stragglers found after convoy has crossed 008° W. are to be sent to Akureyri.  
(V.A.2, 171131A to M/S.18.)  
Your 170947. Reply no.  
(POPPY, 171132 to A.C.I.C.)  
J.W.56B. Proceed as necessary to arrive Loch Ewe before dark tomorrow.  
(A.C.O.S., 171147 to ONYX, HYDRA.)  
Force 1 will now pass Hoxa Gate at 0915A tomorrow. My 151119A and 160650A refer.  
(C.S.1, 171200A to A.C.O.S., V.A.2.)  
Consider that unless CYGNET has defect other than that reported in N.O.I.C. Faroes 161726, she should continue operations.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171231A to V.A.2.)  
Seidisfjord arrival 0110A, departure 0830A/17th, SAVAGE.  
(A.C.I.C., 171316 to H.F.)  
J.W. 56A. NATHANIEL ALEXANDER (U.S.A.) returned, weather damage.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 171530A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Faroes departures ONYX, HYDRA.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 171642A to A.C.O.S.)  
Seidisfjord arrival at 1130A, departure at 1515A/17th,  
INCONSTANT.  
(A.C.I.C., 171924A to H.F.)

17.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.)

1. Intend to sail R.A.56A from Toros Island 1000A/24th.
2. Route B. C. in C. H.F. 051009A.
3. Speed 8½ knots.
4. British ships. Total 13. Names.
5. American ships. Total 8. Names.
6. NORLYS (tanker) (Panamanian).
7. If ready will be included. 2 further British and 2 American. Names.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 172029A to H.F.)  
V.A. 2 H.F.'s 172139A. POPPY and DIANELLA proceeding with air escort forthwith.  
(POPPY, 172132A to M/S. 18.)  
J.W.56A. All M/Vs and escort proceed immediately to Akureyri. B.A.M.S. message is being made.  
(V.A.2, 172139A to H.F.)  
Request following may be coded and passed as a B.A.M.S. message. Address convoy J.W.56A. All ships are to proceed to Akureyri forthwith.  
(V.A.2, 172158A to Admty.)  
Request you will proceed as soon as ready to Akureyri passing East of the Faroes. On arrival report number of ships in J.W.56A that can be made seaworthy quickly. If you anticipate considerable delay J.W.56B will be sailed ahead of J.W. 56A.  
(V.A.2, 172222A to C.S.1.)  
On completion of practice about 1200A tomorrow take BERMUDA under your order and follow me to Akureyri as convenient. Pass East Faroes.  
(C.S.1, 172323A to BERWICK.)  
E.T.A. Akureyri in KENT in daylight 19th. Capt. (D) 26 is to keep inner harbour and B berth clear for cruisers and have details required by V.A.2 172222A available for me on arrival. BERWICK and BERMUDA are following KENT to Akureyri.  
(C.S.1, 172331A to A.C.I.C., Capt. (D) 26.)  
V.A.2 172139A. POPPY and DIANELLA proceeding Akureyri forthwith.  
(POPPY, 172332A to M/S.18, V.A.2.)

Submarine Chaser Operation. My 071702. Sailed at 0508A today. S.C. HITRA. (2) No. (A.C.O.S., 170524A to Admty.)  
My 071631A. Sailed at 1310A today S.C. VIGRA. (2) No. (A.C.O.S., 171324A to Admty.)

Operation "Postage Able". Carry out Operation "Postage Able" today. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 170601A to Capt. (S) 5.)

TRUSTY. TRUSTY is to carry out a training patrol in line HH, leaving Lerwick 1st Feb. returning there 11th Feb., object F and A. (F.O.(S), 171011A to Capt. (S) 7.)

/ A/S ...

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

A/S sweep  
by B.1.

Carry out A/S sweep during dark hours tonight in area between 051° 00' N. and 052° 20' N. and between 018° 20' W. and 019° 20' W.  
(2) Leave area before dawn tomorrow unless in contact, thence to Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171237A to B.1.)

A/S search  
by E.G.15.

1. Ships are to form 15th Escort Group. Scheme of search for 15th Escort Group. Forces taking part - WREN (S.O.), PORCHESTER CASTLE, CARISBROKE CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE, SALADIN, SCIMITAR, SKATE.  
2. At 1900A/18th the guide of the Fleet which is to be the port wing ship is to be in 307° Tory Island Light 5 miles.  
3. Ships are to be spread on a bearing of 000° four miles apart.  
4. Ships are to carry out a Radar search on a course of 216° at a speed of 12 knots.  
5. On Guide reaching 308° Aran Island Light five miles, course is to be altered to 230°.  
6. On Guide reaching 339° Eagle Island 5.5, course is to be altered to 000° the leading ship becoming Guide. Two ships are to be detached to sweep in towards Donegal Bay leaving the area at 0700 to rejoin group.  
7. On the Guide reaching 55° 45' N. 10° 08' W. course is to be altered to 090°.  
8. On altering to 090° ships are to close the centre ships to asdic distance and commence asdic search to 7° 30' W.  
9. Ships are then to proceed as requisite to be in 320° Inistrahull 5 miles at 1900.  
12. Commodore (D) W.A. is requested to sail ships as requisite to carry out programme.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171251A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)  
My 171251. The operations will be conducted from the A.C.H.Q. Liverpool.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171925A to E.G.15.)

Operation  
"Overlord".

My 151221. "Overlord" requirements for tugs, lighters and water-boats also need immediate investigation. Request you will forward report to Admiralty not later than 29th January, stating as follows.

3. It is necessary that requirements should be kept to an absolute minimum.
4. A preliminary meeting will be held at Admiralty (Room 60 West Block I) at 1100, Thursday, 20th January, to examine this problem. Request you will arrange for representative to attend. (Head of M.II., 171328A to Cs. in C., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171331A, 171739A.)  
(V.A. Dover, 171612A.)  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 171938.)  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171300A.)

17.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.P.W. 461  
attacked  
by E-Boats.

This morning at about 0240 shore Radar plotted E-Boats approached the P.W. Convoy. P.W.461 who was then south of the Lizard Head. Convoy escort TALYBONT, BRISSENDEN successfully fought off attack which was made by 3 groups probably total of 7 boats and at 0500 enemy were retiring at H.S. to southward. Attempt to intercept by Force 111 and 112 were unsuccessful owing to their lack of speed. TALYBONT claims she damaged steering gear of 1 E-Boat. There were no casualties and convoy continued on its voyage. Minelaying is not suspected.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171527A to Admty.)

Well done. All merchant ships of P.W.462 now accounted for.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171703A to TALYBONT.)

S/M  
Patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800/18th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) VENTURER and TELEMACHUS as in my 161736.

(B) SEANYMPH 66° 07' N. 08° 48' E. to patrol off Bodo, submerged by day within 60 miles of

Norwegian Coast.

(C) STUBBORN 64° 36' N. 07° 24' E. to patrol off Kya, submerged by day within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.

(F.O.(S), 171716 to Admty.)

Operation  
"Stonewall".

Operate offensively against submarines as reported. My 061637 applies. Depart area in time arrive Hampton Roads by 29th January. (Cinclant, 172057 to C.T.G. 21.16.)

Mining.

Portsmouth.

One magnetic mine red detonated by LL in approx. 111° 6 miles one cable from Anvil Point. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171801A.)

U-Boats.U-Boat  
attacked by  
WANDERER.

U. 305 sunk

C.A.F.O. 1342/1943. (A) WANDERER. (B) 1355Z/17. (C) Asdic. (D) 050° 08' N. 019° 01' W. (E) WANDERER 2 depth charges one hedgehog. GLENARM one hedgehog. (F) Still searching. (B.1, 171915Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

CALDER.

Evaporator in CALDER still defective. Time required for making good is uncertain. (Capt. (D) Belfast, 170320 to C. in C. W.A.)

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

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

- ST. HELIER. When leaving Preston Dock ST. HELIER sustained slight bow damage at waterline. Lower fore peak is making water.  
(F.O.L.S.U., 171113A to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
- PRINCE BAUDOIN. PRINCE BAUDOIN reports following damage as result of collision with SS. CANTEL in Oban convoy anchorage after dragging anchor. Details. Ship seaworthy but dockyard assistance required to repair.  
2. Request repairs be carried out before ship is sailed south, after completion of training approximately 22nd January.  
(F.O. Force J, 171208A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- CYGNET. C. in C. W.A. 171231A. Am proceeding Scapa in accordance with (N.O.I.C. Faroes) 161726A and A.C.O.S. 162006A for examination. Fuel remaining 74 per cent. My P.C.S. at 1700A, 061° 49' N. 015° 32' W., 165°, 11. E.T.A. Scapa 181330A.  
(CYGNET, 171445A to A.C.O.S.)  
Confirm that your starboard engine is out of action. If both engines are available you should proceed to overtake convoy before it passes 007° E. If this is not possible proceed Scapa. Report your P.C.S.  
(V.A.2, 171453A to CYGNET.)  
Your 171453A. Add to my 171445. Am proceeding Scapa on port engine. Engineer Officer considers use of starboard engine inadvisable for more than short periods.  
(CYGNET, 171630A to V.A.2.)
- BARENDRECHT. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 161526. Stand by tow until relieved at Bar by local tugs at approx. 0900A tomorrow. On relief you are to proceed to Campbeltown.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 171811A to SAMSONIA.)
- LANCASTER. LANCASTER and EMPIRE FLAG in collision with HEDERA in the vicinity 14 buoy at 1835. Former ship sustained damage, but proceeding. LANCASTER maximum speed 12 knots. Damage to HEDERA unknown.  
(LANCASTER, 171900A to C. in C. Nore.)
- STRATHELLA. Request any information of STRATHELLA as no reply has been received to 171217. VELETA's 142115 refers.  
(A.C.I.C., 172345A to C. in C. W.A.)

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N. 219. C. in C. W.A. 142141A December, para. 5. At your discretion a proportion of your escort may be detached to hunt U-Boat reported in 052° 35' N. 035° 00' W. at 2248Z.
- (2) Report action taken.  
(C. in C. W.A., 170024A to Escort O.N.219.)  
Your 170024A. FORESTER, ETRICK detached. My P.C.S. 51° 07' N. 35° 10' W., 235°, 6.  
Weather 6766 1564.  
(C.1., 170041Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
FORESTER and ETRICK are to continue search for survivors and are to report state of fuel.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171119A to C.1., FORESTER, ETRICK.)  
Your 171119A. In reply to my check message Admiralty unable to identify signal letters WLDU in distress. Suspect this was bogus. My P.C.S. 050° 47', 036° 03', 235°, 4.  
(C.1., 171152Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 171119A. FORESTER 66%, ETRICK 58% fuel remaining. Admiralty's 170136A, could not identify WLDU.  
(FORESTER, 171215 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 171215Z. Search is to be continued until dark tomorrow. If nothing found proceed to St. Johns.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171557A to FORESTER.)
- K.M.F. 28. Expect to be 20 miles ahead of position in C. in C. W.A. 162258A at 0800A.  
(BENTINCK, 170115Z to VERITY.)  
Estimate K.M.F.28 will be two hours early at R/V.  
(C. in C. W.A., 170957A to PRINCE ROBERT.)  
Assume state "Y" forthwith.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171026A to K.M.F.28.)  
K.M.F.28. Proceed via Q.Z.L.58 to overtake convoy.  
Estimated P.C.S. of convoy 0800A/18th 049° 58', 016° 40', routed as follows. BURDOCK 346°, 12½ knots.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171708 to CALDER.)  
K.M.F.28. Sailed H.M.S. CALDER to overtake, routed south about through Irish Sea and Q.Z.L.58. S.O.A. 20 knots.  
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 171800A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.S. 65/  
K.M.S.39. E.T.A. Convoy 0200Z/18th.  
(TOWY, 170612Z to Escorts O.S.65/M.K.S.39.)  
Arrived, fuelled, and sailed TOWY to overtake O.S.65/K.M.S.39.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 170645A to Admty.)  
Assume state "Y" from dark tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171021A to O.S.65/K.M.S.39.)  
P.C.S. at 1600Z, 053° 22' N. 012° 56' W., 231°, 6½.  
2. Please take double easy. 6th Escort Group in company 4771 1754.  
(BURZA, 171608Z to TOWY.)
- H.X. 274. Assume state "Y" from dark tonight.  
(C. in C. W.A., 170916Z to Escorts H.X.274.)

War Diary.17.1.1944.  
Monday.HDME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.S.L. 144/  
M.K.S. 35.  
U-Boat  
attacked  
on 11th  
January.

(A) 42° 12' N. 21° 23' W. at 2156Z/11th Jan.  
(B) PETUNIA, MOYOLA. (C) 2318Z/11th due to  
loss of contact. (D) Nil. (E) Wind S.W. force  
5, sea 34. 20 depth charges and 48 hedgehog  
bombs fired.  
(E.G. 40, 171030A to C. in C. W.A.)  
PETUNIA's 161200Z. Details of attacks.  
(Capt. (D) Greenock, 171800A to C. in C. W.A.)

S.L. 146.

1. S.L. 146. 2. January 12th. 4. 7½ knots.  
6. ENCHANTRESS. 7. 26 ships for U.K. 8. Outer  
standard route.  
(D.T.D., 171155A to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N. 220.

(A) 1030Z/16th. (B) C. 4. HOTSPUR, RESTIGOUCHE,  
MEON, SACKVILLE, ORILLIA, AMHERST, WOODSTOCK,  
TRILLIUM, BRANDON, NASTURTIIUM, SAPPER. (C) 60.  
(C. in C. W.A., 171326Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

War Diary.17.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.TANTIVY,  
K.14.TANTIVY, K.14 sailed K.M.S.38.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 170903.)

SS. COBETAS. Your 141542. Spanish COBETAS thoroughly searched. Nothing found. 2. Defence security investigated all suspects. Results almost negative. 3. Ship called Las Palmas and had contact with shore but did not visit Consul to renew ship Navicert. 4. In view of 3 ship detained. Intend releasing p.m. tomorrow. (C.C.S.O.Gibraltar 170950A.)

Your 170750. Detain COBETAS until further orders. Report Master's reasons for travelling from Las Palmas to Gibraltar without a ship navicert.

(D.E.W.D. 171922A.)

Italian S/Ms  
for Bermuda.

Owing to the limited range of the wireless sets, of Italian submarines estimated at being not more than 800 miles and because Port main motor armatures of "SPERI" are burnt out the Italian Squadron Commander is somewhat apprehensive of submarines proceeding unescorted.

2. It is therefore requested that U.S. authorities may be asked to provide an escort.

3. As regards "SPERI" it is considered that submarine can be used for A/S training using starboard motors only when dived. Both diesel engines are available for surface passage. (F.O.G.M.A. 171014A to C. in C.Med.)

G.U.S.27.

Escort T.F. 61, U.S.S. SMART, EVARTS, WYFFELS, BARBER, DOBLER, W.S.BROWN, POOLE, KIRKPATRICK, LEOPOLD, CHEPACHET.  
(C.M.S.F. 171534Z, 171535Z.)

Accommodation  
at Gib.

I am averse to berthing battleship or other large vessel at Gibraltar as an accommodation ship. (C. in C.Med. 171600A.)

SS. CONGO.

It is proposed to send Red Cross Ship CONGO to Algiers to pick up German Prisoner of War Parcels for Marseilles. Proposed route. (N.C.S.O.Lisbon 171701.)

UNSEEN.

Route to U.K.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 171744A.)

Task Force  
62.9.

Com. Task Force 62.9 in L.C.I.(L) 499 arrived Horta (N.O.I.C. Horta 171915.)



17.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

DEVERON.

1. Request you will sail DEVERON to join S.C.151 during daylight 22. 2. Estimated position etc. (C. in C.W.A. 172340A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

CILICIA.

Sailed for Halifax (route).  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 171047Z, 171850Z.)

Assessment  
of attacks  
on U/Bs.

Your 122115A. Summary addressed Air Min. para. B. from tracking records it appears most likely that there were three probably four S/MS off Dakar on 17th and 18th August 1943. Further it is considered unlikely that attack by Hudson 0200 on the 17th and that by French Wellington T.Z/697 on 18th can have been on the same submarine. Request clarification before action is taken in accordance with your para. 2.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 171220 to Admty.)

Comment by O.I.C.

It is thought that only 2 U-Boats were in Dakar area on 17th and 18th August - possibly only one. Sighting 0755Z/17 the 1000/17 attack and the 0645Z/18 attack are thought to have been on same U-Boat and to have killed it.

War Diary.

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Aegean Joint Naval and R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation  
24 hours to 1000/17.  
6. Enemy clearly making major effort step up  
supply Aegean from Black Sea notably with fuel.  
(C. in C.M.E. 171840B).

Italian Request you will take action. Para. 2. of  
S/MS. for F.O.G.M.A. 171014.  
Bermuda. (C. in C. Med., 171846A to Admty.).

Escorts Concur that improved Captain Class Frigates  
based on A.M. 011315 refers could be accepted in lieu of  
Gibraltar. 13th D.F. provided that shore electric supply  
could be arranged as in para.2. of F.O.G.M.A.  
041215+. 20 knot type are not acceptable.  
2. Once this exchange has taken place it is  
desired to emphasise that there will be no fast escorts based on  
Gibraltar suitable to provide reliefs for fuelling escorts of  
forces passing through Straits of Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. Med., 172003A to Admty.).  
+ Most Secret.

Balkan 0/60488 cypher 17 Jan.  
Sitrep No.62. 1. Mljet Island reported occupied by enemy.  
(C. in C.M.E. 172010).

War Diary.17.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B dis- Area B. Slight indication U-Boat may be in  
positions. Approach to Gulf of Oman by reported sighting by  
aircraft in 023° 40' N. 060° 40' E. noon/16.  
Scale air escort W.  
Ares. F. SS. PERSEUS sunk (as 160559Z) probably  
by Japanese U-Boat plotted by D/F to be to the North Eastward  
at 1350Z/16. Scale air escort Z.  
(C. in C.E.F. 170339Z.)

SS. PERSEUS, Ref. C. in C.E.F.'s E.F. 716 H/71 para. 12.  
details of B. 012° N. 080° 14' E. 16th Jan. 0515Z.  
sinking. C. Submarine. D. Torpedoed and sunk. E. 4 one  
missed. F. Whole crew of 115 saved. G. No.  
H. Yes. I. Track of second and third torpedoes  
seen (B.V)OZ? from starboard bow. J. All C.Bs.  
thrown overboard. K. Ditto. L. Books were in a (incomplete box)  
box of heavy construction and seen to sink depth of water over  
100 fathoms. M. None. N. From Master and Third Officer.  
O. Books were satisfactorily disposed of few "special bags".  
(N.C.S.C.Madras 170508Z.)

Colombo A/S fixed defence station Colombo completed and in  
defences. full operation.  
(F.O.Ceylon 170550Z.)

SONAVATI. Investigation of attack by SONAVATI reveals my  
140424 refers that presence of U-Boats was only  
indicated by doubtful periscope sighting and sub-  
sequent A/S contacts. No evidence of damage to  
any U-Boat and presence of U-Boats cannot be con-  
firmed.  
(C. in C.E.F. 171102Z.)

Shortage of Destroyers available in Eastern Fleet. The  
destroyers. average number of destroyers that will be available  
for working up with the Eastern Fleet in Ceylon  
during February and March will not amount to more  
than twelve and in the early stages will be as low  
as seven or eight.

2. The difference between these numbers and the total number of  
destroyers allocated to the Eastern Fleet ~~are~~ due to (A) A/S  
escorts required for fast troop ships and troop convoys.  
(B) Escorts for BATTLE and SHAH. (C) Annual refit of destroyers.  
(D) Late arrival of destroyers in Ceylon from Australia and  
Mediterranean due late arrival of frigate reinforcements to the  
Eastern Fleet from U.K.
3. In addition to destroyers required for services in para. 2  
all available Eastern Fleet frigates will be required for escort  
duties.
4. Out of the fourth and seventh Flotillas NEPAL, NORMAN and  
QUIBERON are due for annual refit in May. It is for considera-  
tion whether these three ships should be sent ahead to refit  
so as to be ready for service in May. A.M. 022256 not to all  
addressees refers.
5. When the detached forces proceed the shortage of fast A/S  
escorts remaining in the Eastern Fleet will involve the battle

/fleet...

War Diary.

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Shortage of  
destroyers.  
(Contd.)

fleet being immobilised due to lack of destroyers  
if any considerable number of troop movements  
have then to take place.

6. Although I am fully aware of the urgent need  
for fast A/S escorts elsewhere I consider it  
necessary that the situation should be represented  
to you now.

(C. in C.E.F. 171531Z to Admty.) *Reply: Admty 241740A.*

Air report.

14th U.S.A.A.F. 15th Jan. 2 U.S. Mitchells B.25  
Hongay area, gunboat sunk.  
(A.C.S.E.A. 171220Z.)

SS. PERSEUS.

Ship sank. Survivors landed Madras. My 160559Z  
refers.

(C. in C.E.F. 171216Z.)

SS. ALCOA.  
PROSPECTOR

U.S. Authorities are considering towing defective  
ALCOA PROSPECTOR using commercial tugs from  
Bander Abbas to Karachi for repairs. Is this  
operation acceptable?

(D.T.D. 171713A to C. in C.E.F.)

# SECRET

278A.

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

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

MESSAGE T.H.I. 1840/17 Jan. IN  
T.H.I. 1840/17 Jan.  
From: M.W.T.R. Colombo. Date: 17.1.44  
Read: 2300

P/L

Addressed: Shipminder, London. Repeated Bombay (2477).

453. Repair and drydocking facilities at Colombo

Para 1. Owing to increasing number of naval ships and naval auxiliaries requiring drydocking and repairs such facilities at Colombo have become so over taxed that review of position is necessary.

Para 2. I have accordingly had a full discussion with officers concerned on staff of C. in C. E.F. and Admiral Superintendent Ceylon and it is now + recommends that no commercial ship or tanker be stemmed to drydock or repair at Colombo as is done on some occasions especially with tanker unless you are prepared to accept long delay.

Para 3. It is fully realised that essential repairs to merchant ships to enable them continue voyage must still be executed here and although all possible will be done to minimise delay it is anticipated some delay will in many instances be unavoidable.

Para 4. C. in C. E.F. agrees.

Para 5. Please pass copy to Admiralty.

+ suggest should be "recommended."

Received in War Registry at 1655/5 Feb.  
Circulated by Ministry of Shipping to Ministry of  
Shipping Departments and Admiralty.

A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)  
U.W.R.  
Capt. Fin.  
Ops. (2)  
Plot.  
O.D. (5)  
O.D. 8.  
O.I.C. (2)  
D.A/S.W.  
D.A.U.D.

D.M.S.  
D.M.S. Citadel.  
M.  
N.A. Mails.  
N.A. 2nd S.L. (O.D.)  
Mails.  
Movts.  
W.D.  
I.P. (3)  
C.O.W.C.O.  
C.C.R.T. (2)  
D. of P. (Q) (2)  
D. (4) } Bath by  
S.W.R. } Courier.

War Diary.17.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- U/B. (N.S.H.Q. 171349Z, Comnav 171550Z.)  
estimated.
- ETTRICK. Request you detach ETTRICK to Halifax from Westomp O.N.219 to pay off and be recommissioned by R.C.N. N.S.H.Q. 092235 refers.  
(C. in C. C.N.A. 171412Z to F.O.N.F.)
- Stragglers Stragglers arrived week ending 15th Jan.  
report. 9th Jan. FILLEIGH S.C.150 engine trouble.  
13th Bay Bulls (Nor.) DAGEID H.X.274. Collision damage. 13th Jan. Bay Bulls (Du.) BRINNA H.X.274. Collision and fire damage. 13th Jan. (U.S.) MINNESOTAN H.X.273. Lost convoy. Mine, weather damage. 13th Jan. (U.S.) SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO H.X.273. Lost convoy. 14th Jan. (U.S.) EDWARD P. ALEXANDER N.D. H.X.273. Cargo shifted lost convoy.  
(N.C.S.O. St.Johns, N.F. 171417Z.)
- VERSATILE. VERSATILE delayed due defects. Anticipate sailing ship p.m. 19th to overtake H.X.275 and rejoin B.7.  
(F.O.N.F. 171428Z.)
- T.F.64. Task Force 64 hereby constituted INGHAM, GEORGE E. BADGER, OSMOND, INGRAM, CLEMSON, DUPONT, BROUGH, STURTEVANT, CHIWAWA, plus small craft by separate despatch. Escort U.G.S.31 from Chesapeake Bay on 24 January to North Africa and return escorting G.U.S.30 when directed by Commorseafon. OSMOND INGRAM will join T.F.64 from Bermuda.  
(C. in C. Lant 171800, 181828.)  
My 171800 L.C.I.507-517 inclusive ALGORMA DIVER A.T.R. 2.3. 54 will sail as part of T.F.64. C.T.F. 64 when appropriate near Azores direct this detachment (then constituted Task Group 64.9 Com. L.C.I. Flot. 11 Comdr. Warburton in L.C.I.513 commanding) proceed Horta where upon arrival L.C.I.'s report to Com.12th Fleet for duty and tugs and diver for temporary duty. Task Group is then dissolved.  
764  
(Cinclant 172022.) Ref. 171800 Task Force 65 hereby constituted Comdr.Headden in INGHAM, Comcortdiv 13 in FROST. Cortdiv 13, Comcortdiv 1 in GEORGE E. BADGER, OSMOND, INGRAM, CLEMSON, DUPONT, BROUGH, STURTEVANT, CHIWAWA plus small craft by separate despatch.
- T.G.21.14. Task Group 21.14 hereby constituted CARD, LIVERMORE, JACOB JONES, Cortdiv 3 loss BROUGH, STURTEVANT. Depart Hampton Roads 24 Jan. and operate against S/M. concentrations giving priority to those that might menace U.G.S/G.U.S. Convoys. Fuel at Bermuda or from U.G.S/G.U.S. Tankers as necessary. My 071827 accordingly.  
(C. in C. Lant 171912.)
- U.T.7. Sail 2200Z/18. Escort Task Force 69. U.S.S. ARKANSAS. S.O. GHERARDI, HERNDON, SHUBRICK, RHIND, NELSON.  
(P.D. New York 172038Z.)

/MAGIC...

War Diary.

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

MAGIC  
Russian  
A.M.'s &  
S.C.'s.

When ready after voyage repairs about 21st Jan. sail H.M.S. MAGIC Norfolk to Bermuda. N.O.B. Bermuda route onward to Horta escorting Russian minesweepers and subchasers for further routing to Londonderry. (Cominch 172046Z to Comeastseafon, N.O.B. Bermuda, B.A.D. 172221Z.)

H.J.F.1.

Departures H.M.C.S. GUYSBOROUGH and PORT HOPE escorting H.J.F.1. (C.O.P. Halifax 172101Z.)

Message  
received  
by WILLIAM  
J. WORTH.

U.S. SS. WILLIAM J. WORTH which arrived in convoy O.N.212 reported that she had received the following message by W/T and P/L from the Commodore Begins:- G.H.D. 9 Commodore's R/V 1200 G.M.T. 29th. Nov. 47.04 N. 30.39 W. 1200 G.M.T. 30/11 44.43 N. 54.36 W. Ends. 2. Navy Dept. request that matter be investigated. (B.A.D. 172149Z to Admty.)

L.S.1 (L)'s.

Re passages to U.K. (B.A.D. 172205.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/17th. Para.A. (1) H.M.S. BLIGH attacked U/B. contact at 1123/16th Jan. in 45° 15' N. 27° 54' W. (2) SSSS from unknown ship. Reported torpedoed at 2248/16 in 52° 35' N. 35° 00' W. Para.C. (1) Br. SS. JALADUTA reports sighting U/B. off reef L/V. position unknown at 0810/16th January in Calcutta area. (D.D.I.C. 171107A.)

U/B.  
estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 171419A, 171425A.)

General A/S.  
situation,

Points from 28th Meeting A.U. Committee on 12th Jan. (a) In general tactics adopted by the enemy continue to be extremely timid thereby reducing considerably the number of U/Bs. sunk. (b) Necessary counter-tactics to acoustic torpedo hamper counter-attacks and use of "Foxy" reduces asdic efficiency of escort vessels. New methods to overcome this disadvantage are under trial. (c) In coastal Command areas the majority of sightings and attacks are still by night. (d) 14 out of 19 programmed M.A.C. ships are now operational.

/Remainder...

War Diary.

17.1.1944.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

General A/S. Remainder should be completed during the next  
situation. 4 months. Their performance has been very  
(contd.) satisfactory. (e) Policy of fitting Net Defence.  
1. Equipment of new construction ships building  
in the U.K. to cease. 2. Orders for equipment  
not completed or nearing completion should be  
cancelled for ships building in Canada. 3. Date of ceasing to  
fit ships building in U.S.A. for British flag should be based on  
U.S.A. policy. 4. Ships already fitted should continue to use  
equipment.  
(A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 171906A.)



18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Special  
operation.

1. KING GEORGE V with GLASGOW and three destroyers arrived at Plymouth at 0018A today from the Mediterranean.

Operation  
F.W.

2. Capt. D.26 in HARDY with the six other destroyers of Convoy J.W.56A's Destroyer Escort arrived at Seidisfiord at 0156A and sailed again for Akureyri at 0610A.

C.S.1 in KENT left Scapa at 0315, and BERWICK with BERMUDA at 0919, all for Akureyri, where the scattered Convoy and Escorts are re-assembling

Patrol  
shelled  
off  
Calais.

3. Six M.Ls. engaged in minelaying operation N.L.114 between Calais and Gravelines were shelled between 1924 and 1930 last night by enemy Coastal batteries. The M.Ls., who believe they were not visually sighted, abandoned the operation and retired without damage or casualty.

A/S search  
by E.G. 15.

4. The Sloop WREN (S.O.) with three destroyers and three corvettes sailed from Lough Foyle at 1340A today to carry out an A/S search of the N.W. coast of Ireland directed from A.C.H.Q. Liverpool with A/C co-operation.

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

Mediterranean.

5. Coastal forces operating from Bastia last night attacked with gunfire and hit enemy lighters off Spezia.

East Indies.

U/B off  
Cape  
Comorin.

6. M.V. LUXMI reported being gunned by a U-Boat at about 1800 G.M.T. today in 06.39 N. 79.02 E. (south of Cape Comorin.)

War Diary.

18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

7. The escort carriers TRUMPETER and BEGUM sailed from New York today in Convoy U.T.7.

18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Policy

- BUGLOSS BUGLOSS is to proceed to Gibraltar with K.M.S.40 for onward routing to Eastern Fleet.  
(C. in C.W.A., 181248A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
- ARIADNE When ready for sea request you will sail ARIADNE to Norfolk, Virginia, calling at Horta for fuel. Route.  
(D.O.D.(H), 181450A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
- JED A.M. 071708A. JED reduced to C. and M today.  
(R.N.O. Fort William, 181636A to Admty.).
- A.F.D.37 A.M. 080122. It has been decided to allocate A.F.D.37 to Invergordon for Landing Craft maintenance.  
2. C. in C. Nore is requested to arrange movements from Tilbury to Invergordon, in tow.  
4. Although the need for this dock is urgent, movements should be confined to favourable weather in view of the type concrete construction.  
(D.O.D. 181811A to C. in C. Nore).
- IROQUOIS, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 122106. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. Plymouth propose IROQUOIS be sailed to HURON. Canada for refit on 15th February.  
(2) It is anticipated HURON will join Plymouth command about 12th February and that another destroyer will replace IROQUOIS whilst in Canada.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 182146A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Defence of U.K.

- Iceland Gun Defences. Commanding General U.S. Forces in Iceland(C) informs me that owing to coming reduction of his forces he will be compelled to reduce or withdraw altogether the gun defences of our three Fleet anchorages in order to provide effective protection for essential military and air establishments in the Reykjavik and Keflavik areas.  
2. Iceland(C) number 639/00252/11 dated 27th September refers. Kanch.  
3. The changes except at Brautarholt which is being withdrawn now are not expected to take place for 60 or 90 days and are as follows. Details.  
4. This will mean that Akurayri and Seidisfiord will have no gun defences and that Hvalfiord will be protected only by 8 40 mm H.A. guns although 6-inch battery at Grotta should afford some protection to entrance.  
5. General asked my opinion on proposed changes. My reply was to effect that existing gun defences were a bare minimum for any (safe?) anchorage used regularly by H.M. Ships but suggested some reductions which in view of special circumstances might have to be accepted.

/General...

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18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Iceland Gun Defences. (Contd.). 6. General was unable to accept suggestions and stated that scope of defence available would only be sufficient for protection of military and air establishments. These latter however should have benefit of fighter protection as would Hvalfiord but not Akureyri or Seidisfiord. (A.C.I.C. 180032A to Admty.).

Portland A/S defences. Request MAY be sailed for Portland for repair of A/S fixed defences in that area. (D. A/S.M. 181108A to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operations.

Special operation. Arrived 2248A/17th KING GEORGE V, GLASGOW, ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN, METEOR. (C. in C. Plymouth, 180018A to F.O.G.M.A.).

Operation "F.W." Seidisfiord arrival Capt.(D) 26 in HARDY, VENUS, INCONSTANT, OBDURATE, VIRAGO, SAVAGE, VIGILANT, at 1631A/17th. POPPY, DIANELLA at 2207/17th. (A.C.I.C., 180156A to H.F.).  
Scapa departure BERWICK and BERMUDA. (A.C.O.S., 180919A to R.N.O. Akureyri).  
Arrived Captain D.3 in MILNE. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 180933A to R.A.D.).  
Seidisfiord departure at 0610A/18th Capt. (D) 26th in HARDY, SAVAGE, VENUS, OFFA, VIRAGO, INCONSTANT, OBDURATE in company. E.T.A. Akureyri 1700A/18th. (A.C.I.C., 180940A to H.F.).  
Please pass to F.O. 1st C/S. E.T.A. 1130 zone plus one 20th January. (BERWICK, 181322A to A.C.O.S.).  
Seidisfiord departure 1109/18 RAPIDOL escorted by FETLAR to Akureyri, E.T.A. Hrisey Island 1300A/19th. (A.C.I.C. 181916 to C.S.1, Capt.(D) 26).  
Group 6 sailed Kola Inlet 23(745)A/18th.  
Escort GLEANER, SPEEDWELL and HALCYON and 3 Russian M/S. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 182356A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

S/M patrols. Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick as follows (1) SEADOG at 1500A/19th Jan. through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 miles thence through - (X) 061 degs. 15' 001 degs. 48' (Y) 060 degs. 45' 003 degs. 20' (Z) 059 degs. 08' 004 degs. 00' to patrol in accordance with S.M. 04318/182 dated 6th January. (2) SPIRIT at 1800A/19th January through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route "Pink" to (corrupt group) 28' to patrol line FF. (Capt.(S) 9, 180955A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick).  
Own submarines at 0759/19th and movements in following 24 hours.  
1. TELEMACHUS, VENTURER, as in my 161736.  
2. STUBBORN off Kya. 3. SEANYMPH off Bodo. 4. SEADOG leaves /Lerwick...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- S/M Patrols. Lerwick 1500/19th on surface through 090 degs. (Contd.) Muckle Flugga 20, 61 degs. 15' N. 01 degs. 48' E. 60 degs. 45' N. 03 degs. 20' E. and 59 degs. 08' N. 04 degs. 00' E, diving by day within 60 miles of Norway.
5. SPIRIT leaves Lerwick 1800/19th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 and 62 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 38' W. then 030 degs. diving by day north of 62 degs. (F.O.S. 181718A to Admty.).
- N.L.114. My 171612. Operation N.L.114 abandoned owing to M.Ls. interference from enemy shore-batteries and shelled. proximity of enemy patrols. (V.A. Dover, 181101 to Admty.).  
My 181101. Between 1924 and 1930 enemy coastal batteries opened fire on M.Ls.104, 213, 573, 210, 102, 125 when in 51 degs. 4' 20" N. 1 deg. 56' 12" E. whilst engaged in Operation N.L.114. Number of salvos not known. One fell within 200 yards, one shell falling just ahead but failed to explode. The remainder all fell short. Salvos consisted of four to six guns about six-inch calibre. Accurate bearing of batteries could not be obtained but estimated that they were from Gravelines and Calais. Motor Launches do not consider that they were sighted visually although star shells were fired from the Gravelines area. (V.A. Dover, 181724A to Admty.).
- A/S search 15th Escort Group. Sailed to comply with C. in C. by E.G. 15. W.A.'s 171251A. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 181340A to C. in C. W.A.)
- Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181437A.)  
Force  
Patrols.
- Biscay A/S C. in C. Lant has ordered C.T.G. 21.16 to leave operations. patrol area in time to arrive Hampton Roads 29th January. (D.O.D.(H), 181800A to C. in C. W.A.)
- Operation "Tunnel". As ordered in my memo. O.P.T.U. dated 21st October 1943 tomorrow carry out Operation "Tunnel".  
2. Force 28 comprising ships addressed is to pass Gate at 1530A/15th, thence through (SS) 162 degs. the Lizard 12 to reach (TT) 049 degs. 00' N. 004 degs. 43'30" W. at 2215.  
3. On passing (TT) force 28 is to act as ordered by S.O. in TANATSIDE.  
4. If no contact with enemy, force 28 is to withdraw at 0001/20th.  
5. Weather permitting force 119 comprising available M.T.Bs. from Dartmouth will operate between Sept Iles and Barnouic with orders not to proceed West of 003 degs. 28' W.  
6. Attention is called to Q.Z.X.1199 and 1198.

/7. Any ...

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Tunnel".  
(Contd.)

7. Any information available from late air R/C will be signalled by C. in C. Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181920A to TANATSIDE, TALYBONT, BRISSENDEN, HAIDA, ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN, IROQUOIS.)

S/M Chaser Operation.

HITRA returned at 2235A today. My 170524.  
2. Operation successful.  
(A.C.O.S., 182245 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

M.T.Bs. patrolling in accordance with my 171300A sighted 3 or 4 E or R Boats stopped in position 245 degs. Cap d'Antifer 5 miles at 2245/17th January. Patrol was apparently not observed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 182014A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

Search for U-Boat.

My 171915Z. Hunt abandoned. Am proceeding in accordance with your 171237A.  
(B.1., 180100A to C. in C. W.A.)  
By D/F at 2021Z/18 position of U-Boat was approximately 53 degs. 40' N. 14 degs. W.  
(D.D.I.C., 182200A to B.1.)  
Admiralty's 182200A. Carry out search during dark hours tonight if weather permits.  
(C. in C. W.A., 182202A to B.1.)

U-Boat attacked.

OPHELIA reports having attacked submarine in 60 degs. 17' N. 04 degs. 10' W. at 0550.  
(A.C.O.S., 180702 to Ships.)

U-Boat reported.

By D/F at 2049Z/18 position of U-Boat was approximately 51 degs. 30' N. 16 degs. W. This frequency is not usually associated with convoy shadowing.  
(D.D.I.C., 182230A to O.S.65, K.M.S.39.)

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE TREASURE.

Lost propeller. Request assistance. Position 50 degs. 32' N. 33 degs. 15' W.  
(EMPIRE TREASURE, 180450Z to ?)  
Detach 1 corvette and BUSTLER to assist EMPIRE TREASURE reported to have lost propeller in 50 degs. 32' N. 033 degs. 15' W. at 180450.  
(C. in C. W.A., 181504Z to O.N. 219.)  
Position ZK 4 a.m. 050 degs. 27' N. 033 degs. 08' W. Lost propeller, stern frame broken at base and rudder non-operative. Require assistance.  
(EMPIRE TREASURE, 181518Z to ? )

/Your ....

War Diary

18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

EMPIRE  
TREASURE.  
(Contd.).

Your 181322. Take action in accordance with my 181504. Amended position of EMPIRE TREASURE is 50.27 N. 33.08 W. at 181518Z drifting 1 knot. If CELANDINE requires assistance this must be provided by escorts in company. FORESTER and ETTRICK are being instructed to rejoin convoy. (C. in C.W.A., 181702Z to C.1.).

Your 181702Z. GIFFORD and BUSTLER detached CELANDINE rejoined. My P.C.S. 048 degs. 40', 040 degs. 15', 240 degs. 5. (C.1., 182147Z to C. in C.W.A.).

STRATHELLA

Your 172345A. No information of STRATHELLA received since VELETA's 142115. (C. in C.W.A., 180626A to A.C.I.C.).

PELORUS

Have been on collision at 0543 with small merchant vessel in thick fog. Superficial damage to PELORUS glancing blow. Vessel name unknown. Continued on northerly course. My estimated position at time of collision 216 degs. 2 miles from 23 Buoy. (PELORUS, 180912A to C. in C. Rosyth).

PELORUS in collision in fog 0543/18th off May Island with small coastal steamer. Damage to PELORUS not serious. (PELORUS, 181335 to Admty.).

BARENDRECHT

Arrived BARENDRECHT in tow of SAMSONIA. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 181100A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).

FLINT  
CASTLE.

FLINT CASTLE has been refloated. Vessel could proceed under own steam this evening. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 181204A to C. in C.W.A.). F.O.I.C. Greenock's 181204. Request you will sail FLINT CASTLE to Belfast. (C. in C.W.A., 181728A to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES).

CYGNET

Scapa arrival CYGNET. (A.C.O.S., 181209 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

HEDERA

SS HEDERA (Swed.) ex F.N.38 in collision with LANCASTER and EMPIRE FLAG in vicinity of 15 buoy at 171835 in hazy weather HEDERA sustained damage to Port bow and propellor. 3 members of crew of HEDERA slightly injured. (F.O. Humber, 181301A to Admty.).

M.A.S.B.24,  
and  
M.A.S.B.25.

M.A.S.B.'s. 24 and 25 grounded on the Goodwins at approx. 0001/18 in 51 degs. 15' N. 01 degs. 35' E. M.A.S.B.24 was refloated at 0310/18 having sustained minor damage to port and centre

/propellers...

War Diary18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

M.A.S.B.24 and M.A.S.B.25 (Contd.) propellers and P. brackets. M.A.S.B.25 is still aground. Two unsuccessful attempts have been made to salve. Further attempt will be made tomorrow weather permitting.  
(V.A. Dover, 181808A to Admty.).

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L.145/  
M.K.S.36. Report forthwith your P.C. and S.  
(C. in C.W.A., 181013A to S.L.145/M.K.S.36).

R.U.105 On account of weather R.U.105 postponed until 0900/19th.  
(M.O.W.T., Iceland, 181430A).

S.L.145/  
M.K.S.36. 35 M/Vs. Names and destinations.  
(D.T.D. 181505A).

O.N.219.  
(E.G.C1.) By D/F at 1432Z/18. Position of U-boat was approx. 52 degs. 30' N., 33 degs. 30' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 181640A to FORESTER, ETTRICK).  
By 171557. Cancel instructions to proceed direct to St. Johns. Rejoin convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A., 181659Z to FORESTER, ETTRICK).

Stern of wreck not considered salvageable closed in position 052 degs. 24' 032 degs. 00' at 1630Z. No life. Left floating to continue search by daylight. No survivors seen.  
2. ETTRICK stopped with switchboard burnt out from 1720 to 1845. Temporary repairs affected but Asdic out of action. Proceeding at 1845Z to comply with your 181659.  
3. D/F bearing of U-boat 076 degs. over 15 miles obtained at 2012 on 5095 kc/s. In view of weather condition fuel situation and ETTRICK's condition do not intend to hunt.  
4. My P.C.S. 052 degs. 03' N. 031 degs. 52' W. 238 degs. 11 knots. Weather 2461, 1566.  
(FORESTER, 182102Z to C. in C.W.A.).

U.T.7.  
Troop convoys. A.M. 151752/December. Amend dates of U.T.7 to read Arr. 28th Jan. Dep. 2nd Feb.  
2. Troop convoy programme for February is planned as follows. Details.  
(D.O.D.(H), 182145A).



18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- UNSEEN. My 171744 refers. Sailed. Local escorts M.Ls. 176, 174.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 180905.)  
(To U.K. for refit.)
- SS. COBETAS. Your 171922\* COBETAS arrived Las Palmas 2100  
Consulate closed. Agents ordered ship proceed  
forthwith Valencia promising to (?square) Consul  
following morning. Ship sailed 2200 Master pro-  
testing at being compelled to break our regulation.  
(C.C.S.O.Gibraltar 181033A to Admty.)  
\* re Detain SS. COBETAS until further orders. Report Master's  
reasons for travelling from Las Palmas to Gibraltar without a  
ship Navicert.
- SS. MAR NEGRO. N.C.S.C.St. Vincent, C.V. reports Spanish MAR  
NEGRO sailed St. Vincent 15th Jan. due Barcelona  
24th. Contacted Italian Fascists and from en-  
quiries may be carrying papers for them.  
2. Intend to intercept and sent into Gibraltar for examination.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 181119A.)
- L.C.T. 332. Ref. my 081540. Request decision may be given.  
2. Port Captain, Gijon states that ship may re-  
float on Spring Tide when she will be towed into  
San Esteban for examination.  
3, 4. Details of damage and cargo carried.  
5. A. N. A. found that though 3 officers had almost complete  
liberty without vigilance, ratings were confined in military  
barracks and were not allowed out. He arranged for Embassy to  
send civilian suits, tobacco and other etc.'s and for all to  
receive usual Peseta allowance. Port Captain promised to improve  
conditions. Urgent (corrupt group). My 060931.  
(B.N.A.Madrid 181141A.)
- AVON. Your 171748 Jan. Destination is Eastern Fleet.  
(D.O.D.(F) 181340A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- SS. MONTE  
NARANCO. Your 141542\*. Failed to intercept MONTE NARANCO.  
Intend sending her in after leaving Cadiz if bound  
east.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 181453A to Admty.)  
\* SS. COBETAS, due Ceuta 16th, MONTE NARANCO due  
Cadiz 15th, both ships be sent for information.
- C.T.G.62.9, C.R. No. 127. C.T.G. 62.9 (in L.C.I.499) with  
T.G.120.2 P.Cs. 552, 553, 1225 and L.C.Is. 493 to 502 arrived  
Horta and reported for duty. Redesignated T.G.  
120.2.  
(Com. 12th Fleet 181633.)

/Convoys...

18.1.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Convoys  
passing  
Europa.

Your 081631 para. A. This will be done. C. in  
C.W.A. is requested to instruct N.C.S.Os.  
accordingly. C. in C.Med. 161717 refers.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.P.) 181935A to F.O.G.M.A.)

CILICIA.

Onward route to Halifax.  
(Cominch 182240Z.)

South Atlantic.

U/B off  
Bahia.

Vice Consul Lobito reports unknown S/M off Bahia  
Farta evening 15th. He did not grade report but  
believed information reliable.  
(C. in C.S.A. 180953C to Admty. (R) S.O.I.  
Freetown.)

18.1.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- G.U.S/  
U.G.S.  
Convoys.  
Standard  
route. Request verification last position para. 2B your 101505 received as 06903. Com. 10th Fleet's 051815 gave 06902.  
(C. in C.Med. 180820 to Admty.)
- Air reports. Daily Opsum 265. American transit aircraft reported submarine off Muscat, Gulf of Oman. Early morning 16 Jan. 2 Catalinas (P.B.Y.5) 2 Wellingtons searched during day and following night. Obtaining 2 contacts same area. Further details awaited.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 180944Z.)
- Re intention of F.O.G.M.A. to visit Azores in ANTELOPE. Your 171236. It is hoped that it is appreciated that it will not be possible to provide any additional A/S reinforcements from Mediterranean sources during the period of absence of ANTELOPE.  
(C. in C.Med. 181148A to F.O.G.M.A. (R) Admty.)
- Exchange of 3 escort vessels. It is noted that SANDWICH in E.G. 38 and FLEETWOOD and BIDEFORD in E.G.41 have good A.A. armament. As the threat of enemy air attack is greater in Med. than on the Gib. to Freetown run it would be appreciated if you would consider exchanging these ships for three frigates from the Med. Escort
- Groups. If you have no serious objection I will take the matter up with Admiralty.  
(C. in C.Med. 181154A to F.O.C.W.Af.)  
(Reply 191206A.)
- M.K.F.27A. M.S.C.I. 5. Request you will sail M.K.F.27A consisting of RAMILLIES, SS. ORONTES, SS. REINA DEL PACIFICO, Submarine O.24 at 1530A tomorrow 19th 2. A. 14 knots to Gibraltar thence 13½.
- B. 15. 3. Route. 8. 8 DUCKWORTH (S.O.), COOKE, BLACKWOOD, BERRY, DOMETT, ESSINGTON, A.A. escort DELHI to Gibraltar. 9. RAMILLIES and submarine O.24 with 3 escorts are to enter Gibraltar. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to issue orders for sailing RAMILLIES, WARSPITE and ATHENE and for subsequent R/V with remainder of convoy.  
(C. in C.Med. 181252A to Com. Algiers, (R) RAMILLIES, Escorts M.K.F.27A, Admty. WARSPITE, F.O.G.M.A. DELHI, ATHENE, DUCKWORTH, Comnob Oran, N.L.C.Mac.)
- STORK. Senior Engineer Officer has examined starboard gearing which is badly worn but does not preclude STORK proceeding to sea for escort duty on 20th Jan. Manoeuvring in and out of harbour will be done with aid of tug to avoid undue stresses on pinion teeth.  
(E.G.50 181727B to Capt. F.Levant Destroyers, N.O.I.C. Port Said,)

War Diary.

18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

33. LETITIA. LETITIA grounded entering Alexandria today but re-floated later. Numbers 1, 4, 5 and 6 D.B. tanks leaking.  
(P.S.F.O.M.E. 181832.)

3 Italian S/Us for A/S training. My 182356 not to all addressees. Request you will sail one Italian submarine for A/S training at Freetown and one to Eastern Fleet as soon as convenient and a second to Eastern Fleet on arrival of ARCHIMEDE.  
2. C. in C.E.F. is requested to inform you of destination of submarines allocated to him.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 181945A to C. in C.Med.)

Situation report No. 275. 1. BLACKMORE and LEDBURY shelled Durazzo during night of 15/16th January and patrolled from Durazzo to Valona but sighted nothing.  
2. Drvenik and Vela Luka Harbour (Korcula Island) were shelled by TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT during night of 16/17th Jan. destroyers also patrolled from Zirje Island to Korcula but sighted nothing.  
3. During night 17/18th Jan. Coastal Forces operating from Bastia attacked and hit enemy lighters off Spezia.  
(C. in C.Med. 182032A.)

U-Boat report. Enemy S/M H/F D/F making 72 groups signal bearing 049° over 30 miles at 2153B 2nd Class. My position 053° 10' N. 022° 02' E.  
(USK 182100Z to F.C.L.E.M.)

18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B No change.  
dispositions. (Capt. (S) 4, 180252Z.)  
Bi-weekly U-Boat Disposition No. 18.  
(C. in C. E.F., 180323Z.)

TALLY-HO Summarized report of TALLY-HO third Far Eastern  
patrol Patrol. Times FG.  
report. 0915/9th sighted KUMA class cruiser exercising.  
0855/11 sighted cruiser and destroyers mast.  
0913/11 fired 7 torpedoes range 1900 yards 2  
hits cruiser sank 005° 28' 099° 55'. Counter  
attack 18 depth charges.  
0037/12 004° 39' 099° 06' attacked by 2 S/M chasers 6 depth  
charges no damage.  
0904 accurate bombing attack by aircraft navigation lights (?)  
only damaged.  
1435/14th 1 escorted merchant ship similar to JOHORE MARU 96,000  
tons) entered Sawibay Car Nicobar from north-east out of range.  
Did not anchor but turned round and left on course 047°. Gave  
chase.  
1600 approx. enemy heeled 010°.  
0054/15th fired 6 torpedoes range 5500 yards one hit vessel sank  
position 010° 45' 093° 08'.  
(Capt. (S) 4, 181052Z.) *Further details: 220309, page 354*

M.V. LUXMI. Following has been read. SSSS from LUXMI position  
1800 G.M.T. 6 R 3 9 North 79 R 02 East gunned.  
(Colombo W/T, No T.O.O.)

War Diary.18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- T.G. 21.16. BLOCK ISLAND, 4 destroyers departing vicinity of Azores will search generally westward from 45.00 N. 17.00 W. commencing 0700Z/20th. (Radio Washington, 181231Z.)  
C.R. No.1039. Comply my 061637 which restricts operations to southward of 40 N. when East Azores. Give preference to possible further operations area north-west Azores if indicated by Cominch daily summaries. (Cinclant, 181515 to C.T.G. 21.16.)  
Ref. 061637 - not held. Previously requested for Admty. Not yet received.  
Begins. C.T.G. 21.16 speaks. N.S.S. pass to same addresses. My 181125\*. Change 17 West to read 27 West. Ends. / Admty. pass S.B.N.O. Azores. (Radio Washington, 181702Z to C.T.G. 21.16.)  
\* Circulated under T.O.O. 181231Z as Most Secret.  
/ Passing action being taken by War Registry.
- SS. ADRASTUS from O.N.W.218 arrived Shelburne N.S. January 17th with collision damage. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 181504Z.)
- U/B Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 181518Z; Washington 181611Z.)
- T.G. 120.2 (Landing craft). Request you route T.G. 120.2 to Plymouth. Cdr. 12th Fleet 171257 and 181633 refers. Vessels should be ready to sail January 20th. (Cdr. 12th Fleet, 181636 to Admty.)
- Zigzagging. Reply to A.M. 151840 (proposals for control). (Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 181638Z.)  
See Lion Copy.
- BRONZO. To be offered to French by Cominch on terms approved by C.C.S. (Admty., 182035A.)
- 2 U/Bs. sunk. No report 17th. Admiralty inform Comnavu, H.Q.C.C.  
Para. A. GUADALCANAL reports her A/C sank two U-Boats 40.30 N. 37.20 W. 1845/16. Minimum 20 survivors in water. A third U-Boat was believed sighted same area but submerged before attack could be made.  
Para. D. Sub. reported 19.28 N. 74.22 W. 1455/18. All times Z. (Cominch, 182106Z.)
- Convoy C.U.12. Sail 2200Z/19th. Escort T.G. 21.6 U.S.S. CHARLES LAWRENCE S.O., U.S.S. D.T. GRIFFIN, DONNELL, SIMS, HOPPING, REVES. (P.D. New York, 182132Z.)

*Zig-zagging.*

*295A.*

# 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.)

181638Z January.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From COMTENTH Flt. C. and R.

Date 18.1.44.  
Recd. 2038Z

C.C.M. MERO BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty.

Reference your 151840.

1. Paragraphs (A), (B), (C) and (D) concur. Paragraph (E) consider this unnecessary as current instructions regarding zigzagging will be available to diverting authorities, routing officers and merchant vessels alike through the medium of B.A.M.S. lettered and numbered messages. If however after consideration of the above Admiralty still desires to include zigzagging information in route messages COMTENTH Flt C and R will agree. Paragraph (F) concur. Suggest that summary be made part of daily diversion summary exchanged by Br. - US Naval authorities.

2. Suggest that CAMSI 203 remain as at present serving as basis air all zigzag instructions except that there be added a statement to the effect that supplementary zigzag instructions may be received by B.A.M.S.

181638Z

- A.C.N.S. (UT).
- U.W.R.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.C.
- Plot.
- D.O.D. (H) (4).
- D.O.D. (F) (2).
- D.D.I.C. (2).
- D.T.D. (4).
- D.T.D. (C).
- D. of S.T. (6).
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A/U.D.
- D. of S. (2).
- S.N.D.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2).
- U.S.N. (3).
- Adl. Blake.

War Diary.

18.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U/B attack  
and sighting  
summary.

My 221059 July 1942.

1. BLIGH with H.X.274 attacked a contact at 1123Z/16 in position 45° 15' N. 27° 54' W. Loud underwater explosion heard after second pattern followed by oil patch and large air bubble.

2. Wellington L/172 at 2255Z/13 in 44° 15' N. 20° 38' W. attacked a surfaced U-Boat with depth charges. C.T.G. 21.16 rescued 43 survivors in 44° 20' N. 20° 10' W. (D.A.U.D., 180125A.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/18.

Para. B: (1) WANDERER and GLENARM attacked U-Boat contact at 1355/17 in 50° 08' N. 19° 01' W.

(2) A/C reported sighting U-Boat at 1200/16th January in 23° 40' N. 60° 40' E.

(D.D.I.C., 181045A.)

*U.305  
sunk*

U/B  
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 181400A, 181416A.)



19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
 F.W.

1. Of the 20 M/Vs. which left Loch Ewe on the 12th January in Convoy J.W.56A one has returned to Loch Ewe, three more are presumed to be returning there, and the remaining 16 together with all the Convoy Escorts had arrived at Akureyri at 1224A today. C.S.1 in KENT arrived at Akureyri at 2354A to report the position.

A/S search  
 by E.G.15.

2. The sloop WREN (S.O.) with three corvettes and three destroyers forming E.G.15 are repeating tonight their last night's A/S search of the N.W. coast of Ireland; and at daylight tomorrow are to meet Convoy H.X.274 about 25 miles N.W. of Erris Head and escort it as a special precaution in the approaches to the North Channel.

Two U-Boats  
 attacked.

3. At 0043Z today the A/S Rescue Trawler NORTHERN SKY escorting Convoy M.K.S.36 about 480 miles W. by S. of Lands End sighted and depth-charged a U-Boat. A small oil patch was seen, but contact could not be regained.

At 1941Z the Corvette VIOLET, escorting Convoy O.S.65/K.M.S.39 about 480 miles W. by N. of Lands End made two hedgehog attacks on a U-Boat ahead of the Convoy. An explosion was observed after the second attack and a further explosion astern of VIOLET was believed to be that of a "Gnat". A large oil patch appeared and was investigated by VIOLET and ROSELYS.

*U.641 sunk*

Owing to sickness among the Staff. Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

War Diary.19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

RAMILLIES. In view of employment of RAMILLIES given in para.2 of A.M. 172218 suggest she be attached to F.O.I.C. Greenock. Para.3 refers. (C. in C.H.F. 191133A to Admty.)

Technical information for Allies.

2. Telegram No.152 space of 1 Nov. from Mr. Eden in Moscow to Foreign Office gives text agreed and will be included in protocol. (30 Mission, Moscow 191735Z to War Office.) Note by M.I.17. Text of telegram 152 Space reads as follows:- "It is agreed that in order to ensure that all information regarding the common enemy is available to all the Allies engaged in his destruction, the Allies should keep each other mutually and constantly informed of all technical military information reaching them regarding the German Army, Navy and Air Force, fighting value of enemy formation and tactics used".

Operations.

Operation F.W. C. in C.H.F.'s 050701 paras (B) and (C). CYGNET will now form part of through escort for J.W.56 B. (V.A.2 190002 to H.F.)

We must look at operation F.W. as a whole including the R.A. portions. (2) I think we can complete the operation quickest by sailing the present J.W.56A. first provided this can be done not later than 21st. Otherwise it will pay to sail present J.W.56 B. first by new short route East of Faeroes.

(V.A.2 191054A to C.S.1.)

POPPY and DIANELLA with SS. AERT VAN DER NEER arrived at 1700A/18th. V.A.2 H.F.'s. 172139 refers.

(A.C.I.C. 191140A to H.F.)

16 ships and all escorts of J.W.56A are at Akureyri 4 missing ships thought to have returned to Loch Ewe are JEFFERSON DAVIS, CHARLES BULLFINCH, JOHN A. QUITMAN, NATHANIAL ALEXANDER. Intend to sail maximum probably 14 ships on 21st.

(C.S.1 191224A to V.A.2.) C. in C.H.F.'s 051009.

Following is route "Green" which may be ordered each J.W.56B. reverse line from route "Blue" through position R. and Q. to position P. Thence to position G. and then route "Red".

(V.A.2. 191257A to H.F.)

Intend to sail Group 7 consisting of following 9 ships. (Names) 1100A/25 Jan. from ice edge to Kola Inlet. 2. Request escort may be detailed accordingly. 3. This will clear Dvina ports.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 191657A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

S.B.N.O. Murmansk 172029. Amend para.1 to read further signal will be made as to date of sailing.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 191802A to H.F.)

Akureyri arrival. (A) C.S.1 in KENT. Capt. (D) 26th D.F. in HARDY, SAVAGE, VENUS, (?OFFA) OBDURATE, VIRAGO and INCONSTANT.

(B) S.O. M/S.18 in READY, ORESTES, WALLFLOWER, BORAGE.

(C) 16 merchant ships in all have arrived. V.A.2 172139 refers.

(A.C.I.C. 192354A to H.F.)

/A/S...

War Diary.

19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

A/S. Return to Londonderry forthwith to repair Radar.  
search (C. in C.W.A. 190959 to SALADIN.)  
by E.G.15. 1. Ships are to repeat the search as in my 171251A  
tonight. 2. Today's sweep is to be ended in time  
for ships to be 307° Tory Island light 5 miles at  
1900A. 3. At daylight tomorrow H.X.274, S.O.  
OTTAWA, is to be met in 055° 05' N. 010° 40' W.  
Line abreast screen is to be formed 3 miles ahead. 4. SALADIN  
is to proceed to join search as soon as Radar is repairs.  
(C. in C.W.A. 191332A to E.G.15.)  
Sailed SALADIN 200400A to comply with your 191332.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 192355A and 200416A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation "Overlord". Copies of following signals concerning the proced-  
ure for identifying British and American Landing  
Ships and craft are passed to A.N.C.X.F. for  
information. A.M. 050259/November, Comnavu  
111333 November., A.M. 131521/December, Comnavu  
150906/December.

2. In addition to action proposed in Comnavu 11133/November,  
with which Admiralty concurs, and that ordered in Comnavu 150906/  
December, Comnavu is requested to arrange for similar action to  
be taken in regard to all British Landing Ships and Craft which  
are transferred to the U.S. Navy for manning and operation for  
"Overlord". 3. Comnavu has agreed to keep Admiralty informed  
of the identification, organisation, state and whereabouts of  
U.S. Landing Ships and Craft in the U.K. 4. A.N.C.X.F. is  
requested to arrange for information to be furnished weekly stat-  
ing which U.S. Landing Ships and Craft are under British operat-  
ional control and which control, stating to which assault groups  
they severally are allocated and at what bases they are berthed  
or accommodated.

(D.O.D. 191114A to A.N.C.X.F.)

With reference to use of Captain Class Frigate for "Overlord"  
Owing to the unique engine room equipment of these ships and  
necessity for specialist maintenance it is considered:-

(1) That they should work from one or at most two ports in the S.  
where a small specially trained staff should be kept for running  
repairs. This staff could be trained at Belfast. (2) A small  
amount of special stores and spares should be kept at this port  
or ports. (3) For long lay over periods, boiler cleaning,  
decarbonizing, etc., ships should return to their Western  
Approaches bases where full facilities are available.

(C. in C.W.A. 191418A to Admt.)

Request immediate report as to any mooring commitments in  
local waters relating to operation "Overlord" excluding PLUTO and  
BOMBARDON for which Dockyard resources are inadequate and which  
will require assistance from Boom organisation if they are to be  
implemented in time.

(D.B.D. 192302A to C's in C. and F.O.I.C's in U.K.)

Biscay U.S.S. CARD with one destroyer and three destroyer  
A/S. escorts forming Task Group 21.14 will leave  
operations. Hampton Roads on 24th January to operate against  
submarines giving priority to those that might  
menace U.G.S/G.U.S. convoys.  
(D.O.D.H. 191245A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C.Plymouth)

/Situation...

300

War Diary.19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.W. (contd.) Situation at 181957A. U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND, C.T.G. 21.16 4 U.S. destroyers in approx. 042° 16' N. 027° 30' W. to 045° N. 027° W. thence to westward 15. My 191219. Refers. (C. in C.W.A. 191339A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 191432A, 191553A.) (V.A. Dover 191528A.)

S/M. Patrols. SEADOG left Lerwick 1501A/19th proceeding through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles, 061° 15' N. 001° 48' E. 060° 45' N. 003° 20' E. and 059° 08' N. 004° 00' E. thence patrolling off Skudesnes. Unescorted and on surface at C.O. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast. (S.O. S/M. Lerwick 191507A to S/Ms.) Proceeding unescorted and on surface at C.O. discretion till 062° N. SPIRIT left Lerwick 1740A/19th through 090° Muckle Flugga 5, then by route "Pink" to patrol line FF. (S.O. S/M. Lerwick 191747A to S/Ms.) 0800/20th positions of own S/Ms. and movements for following 24 hours. (a) TELEMACHUS, VENTURER, as in my 161736. (b) STUBBORN, SEANYMPH, as in my 181718. (c) SEADOG 60° 55' N. 02° 50' E. dived by day through 60° 45' N. 03° 20' E. to patrol off Skudesnes. (d) SPIRIT 62° 10' N. 00° 30' W. dived by day course 030° to patrol vicinity of 63° 28' N. 01° 10' E. (F.O.S. 191812A to Admty.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. My 131122A. 1. One mine cut in 061° 54D buoy 4 point 5 miles. 2. 2 mines detonated in 054° 54D buoy 4 point 2 miles today. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 191447A to C. in C. Nore.)

Portsmouth. Two Magnetic mines detonated by LL in the following approximate positions:- (A) Anvil Point 115° 5 miles 9 cables. (B) Anvil Point 106° 6 miles 9 cables. (C. in C. Portsmouth 191805A and 201426 to Admty.)

N.L.114. My 191528. Operation N.L.114 abandoned due to weather. (V.A. Dover 191814A to Admty.)

Q.Z.Y.425. Search of Q.Z.Y.425 completed in "King" formation with negative results. (M/S.16 191915A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Search by  
B.l.

Report action taken last night. My 182202 refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 190948A to B.l.)  
Your 190948A. Searched within area 053° 28' N.  
013° 34' W. 053° 28' N. 014° 34' W. 054° 00' N.  
014° 34' W. retiring in 054° 00' N. 013° 00' W.  
P.C.S. 054° 18' N. 011° 46' W. 063° 16 knots.  
(B.l. 191101A to C. in C.W.A.)

Navigational.

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 191508A to Admty.)  
Port open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 191626A.)

Lowestoft.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 191541A to Admty.)  
Port now open.  
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 192122A.)

Technical.

Smoke  
Floats.

Ref. A.C.I. 141. When within range of enemy  
aircraft consideration should be given to warning  
all Merchant Ships to be prepared to burn smoke  
floats. The burning of Floats by ships in convoy  
reinforced by smoke made from suitably placed  
escort may prove effective against high-level or glider bomb  
attack.  
(C. in C.W.A. 191838B to Ships.)

Casualties & Defects.

CYGNET.

Scapa departure. CYGNET.  
(A.C.O.S. 190931 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)  
Arrived CYGNET.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 191655A to A.C.O.S.)

EMPIRE  
TREASURE.

Reported position of EMPIRE TREASURE at 0600Z/19th  
050° 11' N. 032° 03' W. drifting E.S.E. 2 knots.  
(C. in C.W.A. 190958Z to GIFFARD.)

L.C.A.865,  
L.C.A.790,  
L.C.A.783.

Your 171952. Para.3. L.C.A.865, and 790 sank in  
deep water. Salvage not practicable. L.C.A.783  
engines salvaged but craft completely wrecked and  
considered no longer existing.  
(F.O. Force "S" 191033A to Admty.)

/Unknown...

War Diary.19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

Unknown ship. Signal name of ship if known otherwise description and any particulars.  
(C. in C.W.A. 191129Z to FORESTER.)  
Your 191129Z. Only stern shown above water. Appeared to be Liberty ship. Paint in good condition above and below waterline. Single screw, square red-leaded rudder. One American 3 inch HA/LA gun, 2 Oerlikons and smoke floats on poop. No name on stern. Nothing identifiable seen on board nor among slight wreckage.  
(FORESTER 191715Z to C. in C.W.A.)

STRATHELLA. STRATHELLA sailed from Loch Ewe with U.R.105 on 11th Jan. VELETA reported STRATHELLA last seen 13th a.m. No reply has been received to W/T signals addressed to STRATHELLA since that date. N.O.I.C. Aultbea now reports nothing is known since she sailed.  
(A.C.I.C. 191237A to Admty.)

M.T.B.435, M.T.B. S.4. M.T.B.435 and Polish M.T.B. S.4 grounded off Dover on 15th January, and were both extensively damaged. They were refloated and M.T.B.435 towed to Dover and S.4 to Ramsgate.  
(V.A. Dover 191242A to Admty.)

FLINT CASTLE. Arrived FLINT CASTLE.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 191243A to WESTERN ISLES.)

Shipping & Convoys.

M.K.S.36. S/M. sighted on surface. Dived in 048° 42' N. 018° 00' W.  
(ROCHESTER 190043 to Cdre. D.W.A.)  
My 190043Z. NORTHERN SKY in position X sighted U/B. on surface which immediately dived. A/S. contact obtained and one depth charge attack carried out after which contact was lost. Small oil patch observed. NORTHERN SKY and LUNENBERG searched until 0300Z without regaining contact.  
(ROCHESTER 191501Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U.R.106. (A) 0945/19. (B) QUADRILLE, NORTHERN WAVE. Additional ERRAID, NAB WYKE. (C) 5.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 191030A to Admty.)

K.M.F.28. Am being shadowed by enemy A/C. course 090°, 45° 38' N. 21° 10' W. 180° 13 knots.  
(PRINCE ROBERT 191031 to Whitehall W/T.)  
My P.C.S. at 1200Z 045° 34' N. 015° 49' W. 220° 18 knots.  
(CALDER 191200Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) E.G.4.)  
K.M.F.28. P.C.S. 1900Z, 043° 53' N. 021° 12' W. 178° 12½.  
Negative SHAD. PRINCE ROBERT'S 191031A refers. Weather 5781 3121.  
(E.G.4. 191827Z to C. in C.W.A.)

19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- S.C.151. Cancel my 181200Z. Will comply with F.O.G.M.A's 181135A.  
(DEVERON 191045Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.221. FUSILIER detailed as Rescue Tug escort and intend to sail 1100A/22nd January to Merville.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 191055A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40. In view of BITER's 182121A request you will arrange for ACTIVITY to sail with FENCER on 24th January as First Air Group to provide Fighter and A/S support for O.S.66/K.M.S.40, S.O.40th Escort Group in EXE.  
(C. in C.W.A. 191146A to F.O.C.T.)
- O.N.220,  
O.N.S.27. Detach KRIEZIS to join O.N.S.27 forthwith.  
(C. in C.W.A. 191658Z to Escorts O.N.220.)
- R.U.105. (1) 1700A/19th. (2) VELETA S.O., NORTHERN SPRAY.  
(3) 8 knots. (4) As in my 141916A.  
(N.C.S.O. Iceland 191722A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)
- H.X.274. (1) It is intended to take further anti U/B precautions in the approaches to North Channel.  
(2) E.G.15(S.O. in WREN) meet and support H.X.274 dawn 20th, forming screen 3 miles ahead.  
(3) E.G. C.5 detach 2 escorts to join support force under orders of WREN. (4) On arrival position A. 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W. ships of C.5 E.G. return to bases.  
(C. in C.W.A. 191910A to H.X.274, E.G.15.)
- O.S.65/  
K.M.S.39. One S/M. attacked 50° 27' N. 18° 17' W.  
(B.3 191941Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
H.M.S. VIOLET has attacked S/M twice with Hedgehog ahead of convoy.  
2. Observed explosion after 2nd attack, also probably "Gnat" exploded astern. 3. ROSELYS and VIOLET now investigating large oil patch. 4. O.S.65/K.M.S.39 P.C.S. at 2000Z, 050° 28' N. 018° 17' W. 231° 5. 5. Weather 2471 2367.  
(B.3 192035Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- V.641 sunk*

War Diary.19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.SS. MONTE  
NARANCO. Your 181453, no action required.  
(D.E.W.D. 191110A to F.O.G.M.A.)SS. MAR NEGRO. Your 131119, concur.  
(D.E.W.D. 191113A to F.O.G.M.A.)F.O.G.M.A.  
visit to  
Azores.I had anticipated the likelihood of your 181148\*  
but feel that I must no longer delay my visit to  
Azores. The need to visit three islands with  
some of my staff rules out other means of trans-  
port.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 191118A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)  
\* re impossibility to provide relief for ANTELOPE  
during visit to Azores.T.G. 120.2 Ocean route to Plymouth.  
(D.O.D.(H) 191605A.)ISIS. Request confirmation that ISIS is re-allocated to  
8th Flotilla. Your 141742 (re organisation of  
Fleet Destroyers) refers.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 191630A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)C.T.G. 21.12. Modify my 172204. Commencing 0830Z/20 Jan. will  
search southwest from 44 N. 32 W. Operations Jan.  
21 and 22 in same area basing on Cominch estimates.  
ALDEN rejoin daylight 21 Jan. at 42 N. 35 W.  
T.G. to arrive Horta for fuel 24 Jan.  
(C.T.G. 21.12 192045 to ALDEN, C. in C.Lant.)South Atlantic.HAWKINS. Sailed to Kilindini.  
(M.O.I.C. Durban 191515Z to Admty.)U/B off Dakar 18 Aug. '43. Your 171220, Admiralty appreciate that only two U-  
Boats were in Dakar area on 17th and 18th August,  
possibly only one. Sightings 0755Z/17, the 1000/  
17 attack and the 0645Z/18 attack are thought to  
have been on the same U-Boat and to have killed it.  
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 191927A to F.O.C.W.Af.)



War Diary.19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

L.S.Ts. A.M. 290019 Dec. (Hush). The following is suggested as revised programme for return of 68 L.S.T.(2) to U.K. (details). (A.C.N.S.(F), 190106A to C. in C. Med., (R) B.A.D.)

P. 49 (UNRULY), P. 55 (UNSPARING). P.49 (UNRULY) leave patrol p.m. today 19th (route) to arrive Beirut 0645/24th. (2) P.55 (UNSPARING) patrols between Tenedos and Capa Baba close to Turkish territorial waters after 0002/20th. (Capt. (S) 1, 191152B to P.49 (UNRULY), P.55 (UNSPARING), (R) O.R.P. SOKOL, F.O.L.E.M.)

Exchange of 3 escort vessels. 38th and 41st Escort Group. M.G.Es. are based on and operated from Gibraltar. (2) Concur in exchange proposed in your 181154 but it is pointed out that armament of SANDWICH is only one 4-inch gun and four Oerlikons and BIDEFORD two 4-inch guns and four Oerlikons. (F.O.G.M.A., 191206A to C. in C. Med.)

TANTIVY, K. 14. All times zone minus one. Detach from K.M.S.38 at about 0559/23rd and proceed independently. (A) TANTIVY on surface at  $11\frac{1}{2}$  knots through  $034^{\circ} 21' 020^{\circ} 01'$  at 0010/24th thence on course  $103^{\circ}$  diving by day on 24th and 25th to pass  $031^{\circ} 48' 032^{\circ} 34'$  at 0330/27th arriving Port Said 0630/27th. (B) K.14 at  $11\frac{1}{2}$  knots on surface through  $035^{\circ} 11' 019^{\circ} 58'$  thence course  $106^{\circ}$  diving by day 24th and 25th to pass  $032^{\circ} 22' 031^{\circ} 47'$  at 0030/27th and proceeding via  $031^{\circ} 48' 032^{\circ} 34'$  to arrive Port Said 0801/27th.

2. 201 Group is requested to arrange total and submerged bombing restrictions for both these routes in accordance with M.J.A.O.24.
3. After 0600/23rd set watch in accordance with S.1/43 section ML table 2(3).
4. Enemy U-Boats operating up to 60 miles from African coast between  $020^{\circ}$  and  $025^{\circ}$  E.
5. DELPHINIUM pass by V/S to submarines addressed. (S.O. Subs. Malta, 191505 to TANTIVY, K.14, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.L.E.M., Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 1, (R) A.H.Q. Malta, Admty., R.A. Alex., F.O.G.M.A., DELPHINIUM, Group 201, S.E. K.M.S.38.)

K.M.F./ M.K.F. Convoy cycles. K.M.F.29 will sail from U.K. on 21st Feb. and M.K.F.29 from Port Said on 2nd March. 2. It is intended to discontinue advance information such as the above. Addressees should assume that K.M.F. convoys will sail regularly every 37 days and that M.K.F. convoys will leave Port Said 10 days later.

3. A.M. 011540 refers. (D.O.D.(F), 191607A to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), F.O.L.E.M., F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. W.A., Info. C. in C. S.A., S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)

305A

# MESSAGE

# IN

**SECRET**

191507A/Jan

**SECRET.**

From C in C Mediterranean.

RECEIVED:—

DATE 20.1.44

NAVAL CODE (X) BY W/T.

TIME 0120

**WARNING: This is an unparaphrased 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.

To Admiralty Greek C in C.

Greek L.S.T. 37 which went ashore on Plane Island near Bizerta 6th Jan is badly holed and salvage is considered impracticable at present.

191507A

Advance Copy Ops O.D.Plot  
D of Salvage.

Contr  
 Vice Contr..  
 U.W.R.  
 Ops (2)  
 Plot.  
 O.I.C. (3)  
 O.D. (5)  
 D.C.O.M. (4)  
 D.G.O.D. (4)  
 D. of Salvage.  
 S. Branch.  
 Capt Pim.  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 P.N.L.O.  
 B.N.L.O. (R.H.N) (2)

C.C.R.T. (2)  
 N.A. 2nd S.L. (O.D)  
 Hydrog (2)  
 D of N.  
 N.L.  
 D.N.C.  
 D. 57 O.B.  
 N.I.D. 10 (3)  
 W.D.  
 T/P for Dep Contr (3)  
 D. (4)  
 D.N.C. (2)

} Bath  
 } (BA274b)

*Recd. by U. D. 2 Feb. 1944*

19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- M.B.62. Sailing telegram (17 ships). 2. 0115Z/19th.  
6. SHOREHAM. ROHILKHAND, DIPAVATI. ROHILKHAND  
escort Aden section to dispersal then return to  
Colombo N.  
(N.C.3.0. Colombo 190115Z.)
- Movements  
Mauritius. Arrivals 19th NEWCASTLE, Flag of C.S.4 SUFFOLK  
and KENYA.  
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 190200Z.)
- Personnel  
Trinco. Request information if the remainder of the  
officers and men for the coastal force base at  
Trinco asked for in my letter C.786/5/7 of 17th  
May can be expected by May next. My 151000 Oct.  
refers.  
(F.O.Ceylon 190521Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)
- SAVORGNAN  
DE BRAZZA. Weather conditions are now good and I intend  
leaving Isle Sante Marie tonight for Tamatave.  
E.T.A. 0600Z/20th January.  
(SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 190815Z to N.O.I.C. Diego  
Suarez.)
- Aden  
Movements. Arrivals RENOWN and ILLUSTRIOUS with PATHFINDER.  
PETARD, PALADIN and ROCKET in company UNICORN.  
(Com. Aden 191330Z.)
- U/B estimate. One German Chagos area not fixed since D/F 12th  
January. One German possibly westbound within  
200 miles between S.W. and W. of Maldives not  
fixed since D/F 8th January. One German unfixed  
in area between Laccadives and Maldives and Indian coast. One  
Japanese not fixed since attack on SS. PERSEUS.  
(D.D.I.C. 191511A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) A.C.N.B.)

307

War Diary.

19.1.1944.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- Escort for Italian S/M. F.O.G.M.A's 171014 January. Would it be possible to provide U.S.escort. No British escort is available.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 190058A to Cominch, Info. N.O.B. Bermuda, F.O.T.A.L.I. B.A.D. C. in C.Lant. C. in C.Med. F.O.G.M.A.)
- Italian S/Ms. Your 122223, not to C. in C. Med. para. 3. Italian submarines allocated to British A/S Base will not be under American jurisdiction, but will be part of total allocation of Italian submarines to British control.
2. Number of Italians eventually coming under your control will be 3, but for the present MAMELI is only one available. C. in C.Med. is requested to inform S.B.N.O.W.At. of prospective availability of further 2 Italian submarines. A.M. 041231 and B.A.D's 061451 refer.
3. Your para. 2 concur. Presume you will discuss locally with U.S.Authorities, in view of your 301719.
4. Your para. 4. F.O.C.W.Af's 161231 Nov. and C. in C.Med's. 221450 Nov. are being repeated to you for general guidance. You will, no doubt, discuss with U.S. and Civil Authorities.  
(A.C.N.S.(F) 190732A to S.B.N.O.W.At. Info. B.A.D. C. in C.Med.)
- MAGIC. Arrived Norfolk 18th from Bermuda for repair.  
(N.S.H.Q. 190102Z to Admty.)
- PRINCE DAVID, TRUMPETER, BEGUM. New York departed 18th PRINCE DAVID, TRUMPETER, BEGUM in U.T.7.  
(N.S.H.Q. 190429Z to Admty.)
- THOMAS PAINE. O.N. 217. Have you any news of THOMAS PAINE (U.S.)  
(D.T.D. 191255A to N.S.H.Q. Info. C. in C.C.N.A.)
- U/B estimate. 1200Z/19th area estimated free of U-Boats.  
(N.S.H.Q. 191520Z.)  
No change.  
(Cominch 191530Z.)
- Russian A.Ms. and S.Cs. Ref. Cominch 171610. When ready for sea this date Soviet Union vessels A.M. 145, Senior A.M. 146 and 147, S.C. 720, S.C. 1075 and S.C. 1076 report to P.D. Miami for routine and instructions proceed Bermuda.  
(Comgulf 192002Z to A.Ms. 145, 146 and 147 and S.Cs. 720, 1075, 1076 and 1295.)

/NIEUW...

War Diary.19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - ContdNIEUW  
AMSTERDAM.

Following signal has been passed to B.A.D. by Cominch addressed Cominch, (R) C. in C. Pac. C. in C.S.W.P. C.S.W.P. Seafron from Com. 7th Fleet. Immediate. Begins.

"The New Zealand Naval Board was requested to route NIEUW AMSTERDAM to Milne Bay for discharge. In reply they advised Master of NIEUW AMSTERDAM stated that by arrangements between British and Netherlands Government and owners ship may sail only to certain areas within a specified zone which includes Milne Bay. Ship sailed today from Auckland for Sydney. To eliminate delay involved by staging large number troops through Sydney desire direct ship proceed Milne Bay upon crossing 159° E. Request instructions. 190353." Ends.

2. U.S. authorities here request ship may proceed Milne Bay. In view of short time available as ship left Auckland 0001Z/19th for Sydney request you signal immediate decision direct to Com. 7th Fleet repeated addressees of his 190353 and B.A.D. Suggest if decision favourable agreement of Netherlands Government and owners be included in your signal to ensure Master complies.

3. Agreed B.A.S.  
(B.A.D. 192047Z to D. of S.T. (R) Admty. Cominch, Com. 7th Fleet.)

HADLEIGH  
CASTLE.

Upon completion present duty about 25th Cinclant direct HADLEIGH CASTLE proceed New York for two night stay Comeastseafron sail 27th direct to Argentia for disposition as required by C. in C.W.A. (Cominch 192201Z to Cinclant, Comeastseafron.)

SEARCHER.

In view of B.A.M.R.'s 101456 and the fact that about 25 Corsair III's will be ready for shipment to U.K. by the time SEARCHER is ready, early confirmation of this ship's destination is requested.

2. She should be ready to leave Norfolk having embarked her aircraft about the 12th Feb.  
(B.A.D. 192305Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.Digest serial  
No. 729 Jan.  
18th.

6. Noon three ship convoy including one tanker, one medium merchant ship, one gunboat heading northwest attacked by patrol Liberator southwest New Hanover.

7. Night Jan. 16th/17th two allied destroyers bombarded Japanese positions Gali Point (20 miles southeast Saidor) causing large explosion fire. Afternoon January 17th same target heavily bombed strafed by nine Mitchells (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 190820Z.)

309

19.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/19th.  
Para. A. 1. ROCHESTER sighted U/B at 2343/18th  
in 48° 42' N. 18° 00' W.  
Para. D. 1. Vice Consul Lobito reported U/B p.m.  
15th in 12° 36' S. 13° 12' E.  
(D.D.I.C. 190956Z.)

Submarines Reported.

U-Boat estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 191424A, 191432A.)

310

20.1.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
F.W.

1. A second M/V from Convoy J.W.56A returned to Loch Ewe today, two more are believed to be returning there, and one at Akureyri is damaged. The remaining fifteen M/Vs. are to leave Akureyri tomorrow with Through and Destroyer Escorts for North Russia; Convoy J.W.56B is to leave Loch Ewe on 22nd January being joined off Langanes by any M/Vs unable to sail tomorrow with J.W.56A; and V.A.2 has today asked S.B.N.O. North Russia to sail the R.A. Convoys about 24 hours after the arrival of each J.W. in Russia.

TIRPITZ and 2 destroyers were seen by Russian A/C in Altenfiord at 1055A today.

C.S.1 in KENT (S.O. Cruiser Cover Force) was joined at Akureyri by BERWICK and BERMUDA at 1330A today.

One Enemy  
M/V (believed  
MUNSTERLAND)  
sunk.  
Coastal  
Battery  
engagements.

2. At 0428 today our coastal batteries engaged one large and one medium enemy M/V proceeding northward from Boulogne with about 13 Escorts. 75 rounds of 15-inch and 12 of 9.2-inch were fired; and at 0840 A/C sighted one M/V, believed to be the German MUNSTERLAND, 6408 tons, about 1 mile off Sangatte with only her bows showing. V.A. Dover considers that she was sunk by gunfire.

The enemy coastal batteries replied between 0510 and 0705 with about 30 rounds which caused damage and 29 civilian casualties (including 10 killed) at Ramsgate, Deal, and Folkestone but no naval damage or casualty.

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

311

War Diary.20.1.1944.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD. On completion of refit BRIDGEWATER is to be manned with a reduced crew and allocated to F.O.3. as submarine escort and target ship.  
3. MILFORD is to be paid off into reserve.  
(A.C.N.S.H. 201237A to C. in C.W.A.)

ARIADNE. Sailed ARIADNE at 1300 today routed in accordance with A.M. 181450A to Horta. E.T.A. 1200/23rd.  
Speed 20 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 201331A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

BRANSFIELD. A.M. 182143. BRANSFIELD will be reduced to Naval C. and M. p.m. 21st January.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 201851A to Admty.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S operations. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 48.18 N. 09.55 W.  
(A/C Duty A 200017 to 19 Group.)  
Nr. 1. No enemy sighted. Contact disappeared.  
Continuing patrol.  
(A/C Duty A 200045A to 19 Group.)

C.F.G. 21.16, U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND escorted by 4 U.S. destroyers in vicinity 045° 05' N. 027° 35' W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 201308A to Ships.)

Unidentified aircraft dropping flares over me in 47° 10' N. 18° 46' W.

(COTILLION 202055Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 2055Z. Aircraft recognized as Liberator in light of own flare which she continues to drop. Has not identified herself though fired on. My position 047° 10' N. 018° 10' W. to 047° 35' N. 018° 10' W. thence 035° 7½.

(COTILLION 202145Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation F.W. Your 191224. Concur. Intend to sail J.W.56B so as to arrive 4 days behind J.W.56A.  
2. Do you expect the 2 ships you have at Akureyri will be fit to join on to the B convoy.  
3. NATHANIEL ALEXANDER has arrived Loch Ewe.  
(V.A.2 200437A to C.S.1.)

Akureyri arrival RAPIDOL. My 181916 and V.A.2's 111022 refer.  
(A.C.I.C. 201156A to V.A.2.)

JOSEPH N. NICOLLET damaged and will be sailed Loch Ewe with local escort in suitable weather. Hope all remaining 15 will sail. Your 200437A refers.

(C.S.1 201201A to V.A.2.)

J.W.56A JEFFERSON DAVIS (U.S.A.) returned. Cracked deck plate amidships.

(N.C.S.C. Loch Ewe 201236A.)

Following are revised orders for operations F.W.

1. Available ships of J.W.56A to sail from Akureyri with destroyers and through escorts on 21st January to position G, thence via route "Red".



312

War Diary.20.1.1944.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.W.(Contd.) 2. J.W. 56B to sail from Loch Ewe p.m. 22nd Jan. via route "Red."  
3. F.O.C. destroyer flotillas H.F. is requested to sail destroyer escorts for J.W.56B to Seidisfjord in time to fuel and relieve local escort in approx. longitude 008° W.

Capt. D.3 to proceed independently to Seidisfjord to join destroyers escort.

4. F.O.1st C.3. is requested to arrange for ships of J.W.56A which are not able to sail with their convoy on 21st January to R/V with and join J.W.56B off Langanes if ready in time, being escorted there by ships of J.W.56A local escort until met.

5. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to sail R.A. convoys about 24 hours after the arrival of each J.W.

6. C. in C.H.F. 050701 remains in force in so far as it is applicable to the revised conditions.

(V.A.2 201506A to H.F.)

Intend to sail J.W.56A of 15 ships at 0900A/21st with destroyer escort and through escort direct to position G. READY and CRESTIES in company will be detached to Skaalefjord by Capt. D.26 on crossing 10° W. and ordered to report P.C. and S. of convoy when detached on crossing 065° N. JOSEPH N. NICOLLET is badly damaged and will not sail at present.

(C.S.1 201522A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Russian visual R/C Altenfjord at 201055A. TIRPITZ in usual berth with repair ship alongside. 2 destroyers, one auxiliary, and 2 merchant ships also in Kaafjord. No ships in Langfjord. Visibility good but insufficient light for photographs. No cloud.

(S.B.N.O. N. Russia 201602Z to Admt.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail O.15 from Lerwick at 1800A/21st through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles thence through 062° 13' N. 002° 48' E. and 062° 13' N. 005° 00' E. to patrol in accordance with S.M. 04318/182 dated 6th Jan.

(Capt. S.9 201121A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/21 and movements following 24 hours. A. TELEMACHUS, VENTURER, STUBBORN, SEANYMPH as in my 191812. B. SEADOG on patrol off Skudesnes.

C. SPIRIT on patrol vicinity 63° 28' N. 01° 10' E.

D. O.15 leaves Lerwick 1800/21 unescorted probably on surface through 090° Muckle Flugga 20, thence through 62° 13' N. 002° 48' E. 62° 13' N. 05° 00' E. to patrol off Stadlandet.

G. VIKING escort trawler ULVA leave Plymouth 0900/21 through 270 Longships 4 to 360° Round Island 12, thence VIKING unescorted diving by day to patrol vicinity 50° 50' N. 10° 00' W.

(F.O.3. 201621 to Admt.)

Operation "Hardtack". Carry out operation "Hardtack 26" tonight.  
(V.A. Dover 201128A to M.T.B. 359, Commando 10.)

/One...

War Diary.

20.1.1944.

Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

One enemy  
M/V (probably  
MUNSTERLAND)  
sunk.

Coastal  
Batteries en-  
gagement.

At 0428/20 2 vessels, 1 large, 1 medium, and about 13 escorts were plotted leaving Boulogne northward. M.T.B. Striking forces, which had been held in harbour due to unfavourable weather, were despatched to intercept off Gris Nez and Gravelines. When it became apparent that interception could not be made off Gris Nez all forces were ordered to R/V on the Sandettie Bank, preparatory to attacking off Dunkirk B.W. Buoy.

Coast artillery engaged with 75 rounds of 15" and 12 rounds of 9.2". At 0530 the plot indicated

that the main target had become stationary about 1.5 miles west of Cap Blanc Nez, and it then appeared to drift slowly eastwards with the tide, eventually becoming stationary about 1 mile west of Sangatte. The escort split into small groups.

At 0840, aircraft reported that 1 vessel was sighted about 1 mile off-shore from Sangatte well down by the stern with only the bow and bridge superstructure showing. An attack was made by 6 R.P. Typhoons, results not observed.

From the above reports it is considered that the vessel is probably M.28, and that it was sunk by gunfire. Between 0510 and 0705, enemy coastal batteries from Gris Nez and Calais area replied with about 30 rounds causing casualties and damage as follows:

Ramsgate - 9 rounds - no casualties - some damage to civilian property.

Deal - 5 rounds - 10 killed - 15 injured - all civilians considerable damage to property.

Dover - 1 round - no casualties or damage.

Folkestone - 5 rounds - 4 civilians injured and some damage to property. No service personnel injured. Remainder of rounds fell in sea. My 201004 refers.

(V.A. Dover 201232A to Admty.)

M.07/41. Following message from Prime Minister:-

"Hearty congratulations on the good shooting of the Dover guns."  
(Heeltool Seven 201535A to O.C. Coast Artillery East Kent, V.A. Dover.)

Coastal (C. in C. Plymouth 201420A, 201730A.)  
Force (C. in C. Portsmouth 201501A.)  
Patrols. (V.A. Dover 201558A.)

Operation "Stonewall" During present lull in activities intend taking the opportunity of sending cruisers one at a time to Azores for a period of about 4 days each in order to let them gain experience of that base and also to provide sea training.

2. ENTERPRISE will be sailed for Horta tomorrow followed later by BLACK PRINCE and BELLONA.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201503A to Admty.)

ENTERPRISE is to pass Gate at 1500A/21st and proceed through position (CA.) 180° Bishop Rock 14 (EB.) 048° 55' N. 015° 17' W. (EC.) 044° 03' N. (7023°) 07' W. and thence Horta.

5. ENTERPRISE is to be prepared to carry out anti blockade-breaker operation "Stonewall" from Horta.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201825A to ENTERPRISE.)

314

20.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Overlord" Mooring commitments. A.M. 192302A, para. 1. None are known at present. (V.A.Dover 201720A to Admty.)  
A.M. 192302. I am not aware of any mooring commitments in this sub-command in connection with these operations. (F.O.Humber 201803A to Admty.)  
Your 192302. F.O.I.C. Glasgow has no information. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 201832 to Admty.)

S.C.Operation. A. Intend sailing S.C. Operation from Scalloway. 1. 2200A/26th January weather permitting. 2. 062° 30' N. 006° 00' E. 3. RAM(?OS)E BORODIN. 4. 2 days. 5. 046° Sum-  
burgh Head. 6. No. B. Cancel my 071702A, my (?170)524, and my 182245. (A.C.C.S. 201941A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/Cs. requested. Request P.R. of Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk today to locate enemy shipping. (D.D.I.C. 200821A to A.D.I. Ph.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy. 2 cargo ships 5000 to 7500 tons, 1 merchant ship 3000 tons, all loaded, escort unknown, were expected to leave Stavanger at 0600Z/20th north-bound. (F.O.S. 201134A to S/Ms.)

Technical.

Anti Radio-controlled bombs equipment. The following is a summary of action being taken to jam enemy F.X. and H.S.293 radio controlled weapons by fitting counter measure equipment in H.M.Ships. Details. (Head of M.II 202122A, A.G.M. 353A.)

Casualties & Defects.

L.C.V. sunk. 1 L.C.V. with Bren gun carrier on board sunk off Mersea Island. In approx. 51° 48' 10" N. 1° 12' E. Request Salvage Party with equipment may be sent to HELDER. (HELDER 201021A to C. in C.More.)

EMPIRE TREASURE. My 200455. BUSTLER has EMPIRE TREASURE in tow. P.C. and S. 050° 00' N. 030° 11' W. 050° 7 knots. In view of prevailing westerly weather BUSTLER considers towing to U.K. only practical measure. Request your concurrence and instructions. All ships have 10 days endurance remaining. Weather 6471 2466. (GIFFARD 201411Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/Green...

315

20.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.EMPIRE  
TREASURE.  
(Contd.)Green rocket fired starboard beam.  
(GIFFARD 201940Z to Whitehall W/T.)

LACENNIA.

LACENNIA stranded near Reykjavik during gale on  
10th January and had to be abandoned by ship's  
company.  
2. No casualties. 3. Vessel has sustained severe  
damage but salvage is proceeding.  
(A.C.I.C. 201937A to Capt. M/3 Grimsby.)Shipping & Convoys.

H.X.274.

Leave Lough Foyle as requisite to R/V with H.X.  
274 due position A 0100/21st, S.O. OTTAWA.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 201139A to SOUTHERN SPRAY.)1. ACANTHUS is to top up with fuel on arrival at  
about 2200A tonight then sail to join E.G.15 in 054° 30' N. 010°  
40' W. at 1200A/21 or as ordered by WREN.  
2. CARISBROOKE CASTLE is to sail with ACANTHUS if repairs are  
completed.

(C. in C.W.A. 201516A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

O.S.65/  
K.M.S.39.  
U-Boat  
attacked by  
VIOLET on  
19th Jan.U.641  
StruckAmend and amplify my 192035 not to F.O.G.M.A.  
A. U-Boat detected by VIOLET in double Charlie  
on Asdic and classified submarine at 1800 yards.  
B. P.N. M. not streamed. Slow speed used through-  
out.  
C. Only one pattern "Hedgehog" fired. This was on  
first run in and resulted in 2 simultaneous ex-  
plosions 16 seconds after firing and a third 2  
seconds later. Fuse pattern 420 - 1 star.D. After this contact held continuously but classified doubtful  
and no further pattern fired.

E. Large oil patch observed during second run.

F. 17 minutes after H.H. attack muffled underwater explosion  
heard astern of VIOLET but in estimated position of submarine.  
"Gnat" now considered improbable. After explosion contact was  
lost.G. Immediately prior to this explosion breaking up noises re-  
ported by boiler room but not heard on Asdic.

H. Oil patch increased all the time.

I. Submarine appeared to remain fairly shallow all the time  
contact was held.2. Box search carried out by ROSELYS and VIOLET was prematurely  
abandoned owing to reading signal incorrectly and no further  
evidence is available.3. Consider kill probable and most creditable for first effort  
and in heavy sea.

(B.3 201355Z to C. in C.W.A.)

O.N.219.

O.N.219. Proceed direct to St. Johns N.F. Cancel  
my 181659.

(C. in C.W.A. 201441Z to FORESTER, MITRICK.)

/O.N.S.27E...

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20.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.N.S.27E. Convoy have to on course. Even if weather moderates now present escort would have insufficient fuel to round many up. Estimate destroyers can remain until 0800Z/22nd when they will be in approx. 055° 20' N. 027° 00' W. with 4½ days fuel remaining. Corvette could remain for a further day. In order to minimise further weather damage to escort propose returning Moville for fuel rather than Iceland unless weather moderates very considerably. Position 56.24.

(WARWICK 201447Z to C. in C.W.A.)

CANADA returned from O.N.S.27, main engine defects causing repeated stops. IRON BARON returned from O.N.S.U. 27, circulating-pump fractures.

(N.C.S.O.Clyde 201520A to C. in C.W.A.)

My P.C. and B. at 1900Z 060° 55' N. 023° 32' W. 002° 13. VIMY in company. HAVELOCK has broken fore top mast. Weather 1776 7467.

(B.5 201730Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 201447. If present weather persists, intentions are that WARWICK and VOLUNTEER are to remain with convoy until P.L.E. then return Londonderry. Corvettes are to endeavour to remain with convoy until HAVELOCK and VIMY rejoin, then leave convoy as necessary to proceed St. Johns for fuel.

(C. in C.W.A. 202311Z to WARWICK.)

O.N.220. CAXTON returned from O.N. 220, defective air pump. EMPIRE BLESSING returned from O.N.U. 220, mechanical defects and heavy weather. EMPIRE TRAIL returned from O.N.U. 220, steering gear failure in heavy weather.  
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 201651A to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L.145/  
M.K.S.36. Aircraft reported sighting one merchant ship of about 8000 tons at 1541 in 053° 06' N. 012° 15' W. course 250, 8 knots. If ship is sighted report her identity.  
(C. in C.W.A. 201841A to S.L.145/M.K.S. 36, E.G.6).

O.N.221. Escort group B.2. MOURNE, B.O., VESPER, CLEMATIS, SWEETBRIAR, HEATHER, GENTIAN.  
(Capt. D.Liverpool 201946 to C. in C.W.A.)

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20.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

WITHERINGTON, Your 201825 (N.T. in W.R.). No visible result of  
PIMPERNEL. attacks. Ships searched area and now sweeping  
back to resume patrol lines E.T.A. 2015A PIMPERNEL  
resuming Malabata, Cape Spartel patrol. F.O.G.M.A.  
in ANTELOPE informed by V/S.  
(WITHERINGTON 201939A to F.O.G.M.A.)

T.G.120.2. Please sail Task Group 120.2 when ready about  
20th Jan. Route in accordance Admiralty 191605A.  
Group consists of 3 P.C's 10 U.S. L.C.I. Task  
Group Commander in U.S. L.C.I. 499. Ultimate  
destination P.C's Plymouth. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to  
onward route L.C.I's to ultimate destination Dartmouth. Upon  
arrival ultimate destination Task Group 120.2 dissolved. S.O.  
P.C's report by despatch to Com.11th Phib. temporary duty. Com.  
L.C.I. Group 31 report Com.11th Phib. for duty.  
(Com.12th Fleet 200053Z to S.B.N.O. Azores, C.T.G.120.2.)

ANTELOPE, Intend to sail in ANTELOPE V.A. Sir Harold  
V.A. Burrough at 1600A/20th for Angra.  
Sir Harold (F.O.G.M.A. 201257 to S.B.N.O. Azores (R) Admty.,  
Burrough. C. in C. Med. (A) C.M.S.F.)

U/B. Following has been read by Gib. W/T. Am over  
enemy S/M. in position 35° 52' N. 6° 33' W.  
Enemy S/M. previously reported had periscope only  
sighted. When first sighted was on course 270°  
estimated speed 5 knots.  
(A/C J.M.C.T. 201315A to A.K.8.)

CIUDAD DE Following received from British Consul Las Palmas  
SEVILLA? addressed S.O. (I) Gibraltar T.O.O. 201213 begins:-  
proposed On instructions from M.E.W. I suggest for inter-  
interception. ception Spanish Mail Steamer CIUDAD DE SE ILIK  
(SEVILLA intended) sailing from here 21st midnight  
for Barcelona via Cadiz. 2. Suggest following  
week Mail Steamer sailing from here 29th midnight  
proceeding Spanish Atlantic Ports Cadiz be  
Navicerted via Gibraltar. Name will be advised later. Ends.  
(2) Request instructions.  
(F.O.G.M.A. 201747A to Admty.)

Italian Furnish appropriate escort to accompany 5 Italian  
S/M's, S/M's ready at Gibraltar to Bermuda. Make  
Bermuda. arrangements including communications for passage  
direct with F.O.G.M.A. S/M's are DANDOLO, VORTICE,  
SPERIA, MAREA and MAMYLI. All but MAMYLI which  
goes to British are allocated to U.S. for use in  
A/C. training under your control. British L.O.  
will company them to Bermuda.  
((U.S.) Cdr. U.S.Fleet and (U.S.) Chief of N.  
Operation 201750Z to (U.S.) C. in C. Atlantic  
Fleet.)

20.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

L.S.T.228 United States L.S.T.228 parted her cable and damaged. drifted ashore near Val Point Angra Bay and is holed both engine rooms and probably elsewhere tug EMPIRE SAMSON standing by, attempt will be made to refloat her tonight 20th Jan. It is doubtful if she will float but an attempt will be made to tow her Praia Bay giving best chance of salvaging her cargo. (S.B.N.O. Azores 202005Z to Admty., F.O.G.M.A.)

C.T.G.21.12. Cease operations your area in time arrive Casablanca about 26 Jan. and depart therefrom about 29 Jan. in time support G.U.S.28. (Cinclant 202229 to C.T.G. 21.12.)

South Atlantic.

EMILE BERTIN. C. in C. Med's 131548A. In view of TOURVILLE's defective state my 171740 refers it is desired to retain EMILE BERTIN until return to DUQUESNE from Casablanca about mid Feb. in order to maintain two patrol lines. (F.O.C.W.Af. 201140Z to Admty., Info., C. in C. Med., C.O.M.R.A. Dakar, F.O.G.M.A. Naval France.)

LOWESTOFT. Intend LOWESTOFT visit St.Vincent (C.V.1) a.m. 27th Jan. to deliver Consular Mail and Yellow Fever Serum. Request Portuguese Authorities may be informed. (F.O.C.W.Af. 201351Z to N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty., B.C. Saint Vincent.)

French Corvettes, proposed re-distribution. Propose after arrival of B.E.C.S. that French Corvettes CDT. DROGOU, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES and trawler PRESIDENT HOUDOUCHE be transferred to Dakar, to operate under the orders of Comar Dakar. This redistribution is in accordance with views expressed by Comar Dakar and has the following advantages. (A) French could then take over the escorting of their own coastal traffic often too slow for inclusion in convoys. (B) There would be at Dakar 3 escort vessels capable of reinforcing ?escorts of O.S. and S.L. Convoys should the need arise in northern part of my command which I consider a potentially dangerous area. Consideration is also being given to relieving the 2 French Chasseurs at Pointe Noire by a group of 3 A/S M/S trawlers. (F.O.C.W.Af. 202059Z to Admty.)

War Diary

20.1.1944.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- WARSPITE. Your 171600 and F.O.G.M.A.'s. 101259.  
2. In view of the acute congestion in U.K. ports request you will retain WARSPITE at Gibraltar for the time being.  
4. Construction of Naval Barracks will be dealt with separately. (1st S.L. 201053A to C. in C. Med. Info. F.O.G.M.A.).
- ISIS ISIS was re-allocated to 8th Destroyer Flotilla in A.M.302331 December not to you. It is not intended to withdraw ISIS at least until VANOC joins 13th (1 group omitted) D.F. and in any event due notice will be given.  
(C. in C. Med., 201054A to F.O.G.M.A. (R) Admty.).  
See F.O.G.M.A. 191630.
- L.S.T's. Following is programme being worked to for return of L.S.T. Your 190106 refers.  
(C. in C. Med., 201444A to Admty. (R) B.A.D.).
- GLOIRE French Cruiser GLOIRE arrived.  
(Com.N.O.B. Oran, 201531 to F.O.C.W.Af.,  
F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med.,
- P.55 (UNSPARING), SOKOL. (P.55) UNSPARING leaves patrol p.m. 21st (route) to arrive Beirut at 0649/26.  
2. O.R.P. SOKOL leave present patrol area a.m. 21st and proceed west of longitude 025 degs. E. to 180 degs. Sрати Island 10 miles. Thence to patrol between Cape Baba and Tenedos close to Turkish territorial waters arriving in this area at 0203/22.  
(Capt.(S)1, 201629B to P.55 UNSPARING, O.R.P.SOKOL, (R) 1st S/M.Flot. F.O.L.E.M.).
- COMMANDANT DETROYAT. French Admiralty have informed FNGB that FS COMMANDANT DETROYAT has been allocated to Oran for agreed refit.  
(2) A.M. 240432/Oct. stated that new furnaces would be shipped to Freetown. F.O.G.M.A.281121/Oct. requested that installation should be carried out in U.K. Request present position may be stated. My 301938/Oct. refers.  
(3) Would appreciate early reply so that French Admiralty be informed of arrangements made. My 261651/November also refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 201631A to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.G.M.A.).
- P.65 (UPSTART); Recommend patrol 238 degs. focal point D 41 miles 0400/21st for 12 hours "Freedom" in a westerly direction 21 miles.  
(Capt.(S) 10, 201751 to P.65 (UPSTART) ).
- M.K.F.28/  
X.I.F.S. (2) 0706B/Jan. 20th.  
(3) Sailed together with CHITRAL in company.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 201803B to Admty.).

/TORBAY...



20.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- TORBAY Passes through Kaso Strait during daylight 22nd thence west of Ophidusa through Kinaros Strait and west of Kaloyeri Rock to patrol in North Aegean north of 039 degs.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 201809B).
- Linrep No.119. Summary of Operations 17 to 19 Jan.  
2. Naval. Destroyers shelled targets at Durazzo Albania during night 15/16 January and 2 Harbours in the Island of Korcula off Dalmatian Coast during night 16/17 January.  
Coastal Forces attacked enemy fighters off Spezia.  
Decree regarding organisation of French High Command was published on 15th January. It substitutes two separate Commissariats of War and Air and of Navy for single Commissariat of National Defence and recognises President of French Committee of National Liberation as performing function of President of Council according to Law of eleven July 1938. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 202000A to W.O.).
- Situation report Number 276. 1. On 18th Jan. ORION and destroyer carried out bombardment in Terracina area in support of the attack of our troops across river Garigliano. Accurate return fire was encountered during later stage from what was believed to be mobile batteries. Slight damage suffered by ORION as a result of near misses.  
(2) TROUBRIDGE and TUMULT patrolled from Drvenik to Korcula and shelled Vela Luka Harbour (Korcula) during the night 18th 19th Jan. No (?enemy) seen.  
(C. in C. Med. 202140A).
- Bombardment Terracina area. ORION, SPARTAN, LAFOREY, JERVIS, JANUS and FAULKNER gave useful supporting fire with air spotting by 10 Corps. during Garigliano river operations on 18th and 19th Jan. Only minor opposition from shore batteries. ORION and SPARTAN fired 1500 and 900 rounds respectively.  
(2) Diversionary bombardment of Terracina area carried out by SPARTAN night 18th/19th.  
(3) 12th M.S.F. swept channel for supporting ships.  
(C. in C. Med., 202200A to Admty.)

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20.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B.

Ref. U-Boat disposition numbers 18: no fresh information.  
(C. in C. E.F. 200320)

Aden  
Movements.

Departures RENOWN, ILLUSTRIOUS and UNICORN in company. Arrivals VALIANT and QUEEN ELIZABETH in company.  
(Com. Aden, 201531Z)

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20.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B Estimate. No change since my 191520Z.  
(N.S.H.Q. 201452Z)  
(Cominch, 201604Z)

C.1. C.1 relieved W.5 in 046 degs. 26' 046 degs. 00' at 1410Z.  
Following ships straggled during heavy weather without being contacted subsequently, SUMNER KIMBAL, MOVERIA, L.H. MCNELLY. Following ships straggling but contacted astern (GLNR) MAGICIAN, NEOCAR(?D)IA, JAMES SMITH, THOMAS SIM LEE.  
(C.1, 201741Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Stragglers Report No.36. 2 arrived Bay Bulls N.F. 13th from H.X.274. DAGEID (Nor.) collision damage. ERINNA (Du.) collision and fire damage.  
3 arrived New York from H.X.275. FJORDAAS (Nor.) Jan. 13th engine defects. CHESAPEAKE Jan.14th engine breakdown. MARINA ROSKOV (U.S.) 19th boiler defects.  
3 Arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.273. SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO (U.S.) Jan. 13th lost convoy MINNESOTAN (U.S.) 13th lost convoy weather damage. EDWARD ALEXANDER (U.S.) 14th explosive cargo shifted lost convoy boats damaged 1 lost.  
1 arrived Halifax from S.C.151. SUERTE (Pan.) 15th condenser defect.  
2 arrived Halifax from O.N.218. EMPIRE COLLINS 16th main condenser defects. JOSEPH R. LAMAR (U.S.) 17th straggler and to land injured man.  
2 arrived Halifax January 17th from H.X. 275. ELIHU ROOT (U.S.) to land 5 badly injured crew members. F.J. LUCKENBACH (U.S.) engine defect.  
1 arrived Halifax from O.N.S. 26. ROMULUS (Nor.) Jan. 18th steering gear defect.  
1 arrived Shelburne N.S. from O.N.218 ADRASTAS Jan. 17th collision damage.  
(N.S.H.Q. 201849Z)

Shipping Gulf Panama and Caribbean, Sea Frontiers. Following summarised Policies to be followed as regards shipping in Gulf Panama and Caribbean Sea Frontiers.  
(1) All vessels 14½ knots or over to be sailed independently except following which shall have adequate escort.  
(A) AVGAS Tankers.  
(B) Vessels carrying troops in excess of independent allowances. My secret Dis+232001/March, 1943 refers.  
(2) Vessels under 14½ and more than 8 knots speed to be sailed in regular Trade Convoys except as follows.  
(A) Vessels in Sisal Mahogany Banana and Cuban Sugar Trade to be sailed direct and independently.  
(B) AVGAS tankers on special Navy service from Western Gulf to ports as far north as Jacksonville to be sailed independently.

(C) /...

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20.1.1944.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Shipping Gulf Panama and Caribbean, Sea Frontiers. (Contd.) (C) Tankers listed my 182059Z/December+not to Gulfseafron to be sailed independently between Aruba Curacao and Cristobal. (D) Vessels not carrying AVGAS or troops proceeding to or from ports where regular trade convoys not available are to be sailed independently via inshore routeing. (3) Vessels under 8 knots shall be sailed independently via inshore routeing. (4) Those portions of existing directives at variance with the above are hereby cancelled. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 201935Z to Cdr. Gulf Sea Fron. Cdr. Caribbean Sea Fron. Cdr. Panama Sea Fron. (R) Cdr. Eastern Sea Fron. Comnob, Guantanamo, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty.) + No trace in War Reg.

Sub.attack and sighting Summary. No report on 19th. Para. D. P.C. 1239 attacked sound contact 16.17 N. 73.37 W. 192340Z. (Cominch, 202102Z)

U.S. minelaying in Pacific. Cominch informs me that the information requested in A.M. 111712 will be available from Com. 12th Fleet in London whose records will be kept up to date monthly. (B.A.D. 202227Z to Admty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND Arrangements can be made for NEWFOUNDLAND to be routed via St. Johns in accordance with 191839. If ship carries out working up practices at Norfolk she should be ready to sail about third week in March. Suggest visit of 4 days sufficient. (B.A.M.R. 202250Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A. Re requesting H.M.S. NEWFOUNDLAND should visit St. Johns on completion.

Australia and New Zealand.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. B.A.D. 192047 and Com. 7th Fleet 190353 neither to all addresses. Regret cannot agree to diversion of NIEUW AMSTERDAM to Milne Bay. (D. of S.T. 201215A to Com. 7th Fleet, Info B.A.D. Cominch, C. in C. P.A.C., C. in C. S.W.P.A., C.S.W.P. Seafron.)

Further to your 192047 my signal indicating that NIEUW AMSTERDAM could not be ordered to Milne Bay was sent after consulting Netherlands Shipping Mission in London.

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20.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

NIEUW  
AMSTERDAM.  
(Contd.)

(2) Matter has since been discussed with Netherlands Government and they adhere to view that ships must not proceed north of Sydney.  
(3) This for your information and guidance in case matter is pressed further by U.S. Authorities.  
(D. of S.T. 202344B to B.A.D.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack  
and sighting  
Summary.

*U.641  
Sunk*

For 24 hours to 0900Z/20th.  
Para. A. (1) VIOLET made 2 attacks on U-Boats at 1941/19th Jan. in 50 degs. 27' N. 18 degs. 17' W. Ref. A.M. 190956Z Para. A. (1) NORTHERN SKY attacked U-Boat sighted by ROCHESTER.  
(D.D.I.C. 200950Z)

U/B  
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 201433A, 201445A)

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21.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
F.W.

1. Convoy J.W. 56A, consisting now of fifteen M/V's left Akureyri at 0900A to-day for the Kola Inlet escorted by the Destroyer and Through Escorts. There was still no news to-day of the two missing M/V's; and C.S.1 who intends to remain at Akureyri till 1300 on the 23rd January, considers that they may have crossed the Iceland-Faeroes minefield.

Two Enemy  
Destroyers  
or T.B's  
pass through  
Dover  
Straits.  
One damaged  
by A/C.

2. At 2255 last night two Enemy Destroyers or Torpedo-Boats which had escorted four small vessels from off Gravelines at 8 knots arrived, with them off Cap Gris Nez and then increased speed to 24 knots to avoid interception by our M.T.B. Patrol at the East Varne Buoy and were last plotted 6 miles N.W. of the Somme at 0100. Two Albacore A/C attacked them off Berck-sur-Mer and claim to have damaged one. Our coastal batteries engaged them between 2259 and 2330 with 10 rounds of 15 inch and 54 rounds of 9.2 without observed result, and the enemy coastal batteries replied with about 30 rounds of which 3 fell in Deal causing some damage to Naval requisitioned property but no casualties.

It is considered that these two vessels are now probably in Dieppe intending to move to the westward; and C. in C. Portsmouth has asked that the coastal route between Dieppe and Cape d'Antifer may be patrolled tonight by Albacore A/C.

E-Boats  
off East  
Coast.

3. Shortly after 0130 to-day the Corvette KITTIWAKE on patrol near 3 B Buoy sighted and engaged two of a group of E-Boats returning at 30 knots towards the Hook, but was out-distanced by them. It is believed that this was a diversion for a main E-Boat attack in the Humber area and that mines may have been laid both in that area and off 3B Buoy. Sweeping in both areas is in progress.

B.Y.M.S.  
2069.

4. M.M.S. 257 reports to-day that with M.M.S. 252 and B.Y.M.S. 2069 in company at 2125 on the 18th January about 500 miles W. by S. of Lands End he was fired on by Convoy Escorts. The 3 ships scattered and M.M.S. 257 and 252 have arrived independently at Falmouth; but there is to-day no news of B.Y.M.S. 2069.  
(Note: B.Y.M.S. 2069 arrived at Falmouth at 221820A)

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

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21.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- ARIADNE. On crossing lat. 48° N. steer for new position  
O. 45.01 N. 17.15 W. thence to Horta.  
(D.O.D.H. 211059A to ARIADNE.)
- UNSWERVING. Request you will sail UNSWERVING for Gibraltar  
about 30th January. My 092101 Dec. refers.  
(F.O.S. 211104A to Capt. S.3.)
- ENTERPRISE. Sailed ENTERPRISE as in my 201825A.  
(C. in C.Plymouth 211509A to Admt. S.B.N.O.  
Azores.)
- M/Vs in Norwegian Waters. All merchant ships of whatever size encountered in  
Norwegian Territorial waters are under German  
control and are therefore liable to attack. They  
may carry troops or supplies.  
2. Some ships have been reported flying Belgian,  
Dutch or Norwegian colours. In deciding whether  
to attack these ships the only consideration is probability  
of success. This point must be borne in mind in the case of  
smaller ships.  
3. Ships flying Swedish colours may also be attacked in Norwegian  
Territorial waters.  
(F.O.S. 211924A to S/Ms.)

Operations.

- Operation Group 6 escorted by GLEANER, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR  
F.W. Convoy arrived Kola Inlet. S.B.N.O. Archangel's 182356  
J.W.56B sailed. refers.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 210025A to S.B.N.O. Archangel)  
Akureyri (?arrivals) 1330A/20th BERWICK and  
BERMUDA.  
(A.C.I.C. 211006A to H.F.)
- J.W.56B, 9 knots, A. 1430/22nd, B. escorted. C. 18.  
(N.C.S.C. Loch Ewe 211050A to C. in C.W.A.)  
MUSKETEER with destroyers addressed proceed to pass Switha  
2000A/22nd to Seidisfjord routed through route "Red". C. in C.  
H.F. 051009 refers. On arrival complete and act under orders of  
Capt. D.3rd.  
2. After making landfall off coast of Iceland MUSKETEER is to  
detach 2 destroyers to meet convoy J.W.56B and assist it to make  
landfall off Vestrahorn. These destroyers are then to proceed  
to Seidisfjord to complete.  
(R.A.D.H.F. 211104A to MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, MATCHLESS,  
OPPORTUNE, SCOURGE, HURON.)  
After being scattered and damaged by heavy weather J.W.56A  
was ordered to proceed to Akureyri on 17th January where escorts  
and 16 M/Vs arrived on 19th. Revised orders for operation F.W.  
are contained in V.A.2's 201506 passed to you.  
(D.O.D.H. 211255A to Ad. Fisher.)

/J.W.56A...

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21.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation J.W.56A sailed as in my 201522A.  
 F.W. Convoy 2. JOSEPH N. NICOLLET badly cracked side and deck  
 J.W.56B abaft superstructure and is unfit for onward  
 sailed. passage. Intend sailing ship to Loch Ewe on  
 (Contd.) completion of temporary repairs about 24th Jan.  
 escorted by WALLFLOWER to detach to Londonderry.  
 3. BORAGE will sail for Londonderry p.m. 22nd.  
 4. Still no news of CHARLES BULLFINCH and JOHN A.  
 QUITMAN. Possibilities of their having crossed Iceland-Faroes  
 minefields cannot be ruled out.  
 5. Intend to sail with Force One p.m. 23rd Jan. and act in  
 accordance with para. 6D of C. in C.H.F. 050701A.  
 (C.S.1 211632A to V.A.2.)

Request following information re J.W.convoys.

1. Number of ships expected to be ready for R.A.56A and B.
2. Anticipated rate of unloading for J.W.56 and 57.  
 (D.O.D.H. 212110A to S.B.N.C.N.Russia.)

Biscay A/S Am over enemy submarine in 49° 40' N. 18° 15' W.  
 operations. (A/C Duty J 210150 to 19 Group.)  
 Situation at 211959A. U.S.Cdr. T.G. 12.16 U.S.S.  
 BLOCK ISLAND, 4 U.S. destroyers, operating in  
 vicinity 043° 01' N. 029° 59' W. My 211247A refers  
 (C. in C.W.A. 211255A to Admty.)

Operation My 201128A. Abandoned. Dory retired after being  
 "Hardtack 26". challenged on way ashore. Lack of time prevented  
 a further attempt.  
 (V.A.Dover 210541A to Admty.)  
 Carry out operation "Hardtack 26" tonight.  
 (V.A.Dover 211207A to M.T.B. 359, Commando 10.)  
 My 211207A. Operation abandoned owing to weather.  
 (V.A.Dover 211856A to Admty.)

E-Boats. Report of E-Boat activity last night 20th/21st.  
 1. Weather deteriorated during the evening especially North of Yarmouth. In view of reports  
 of bad weather all C/F units except one were re-  
 called by 2335. BENACRE reports that wave-clutter handicapped  
 performance during the night thus indicating heavier sea than  
 usual.  
 2. Soon after 0110 K.163 plotted an incoming track 6 miles E. of  
 3 B Buoy speed 14 knots. Four responses were reported. At 0120  
 KITTIWAKE on patrol 7 obtained Radar contact. At this time E-  
 Boats reached Channel 1½ miles North of 3 B Buoy and turned  
 south. On passing 3 B at 0130 they shaped course for the Hook  
 at 30 knots. KITTIWAKE sighted and engaged two of them shortly  
 after this but was out-distanced.  
 3. It is thought that this was a diversion for a main attack  
 probably in Humber area.  
 It is not known if the main body reached their objective. It is  
 possible that it turned back on account of weather which by mid-  
 night in this area was wind S.W.6 sea 43. M.T.B. 617 on A.S.R.  
 duty some 50 miles N.E. of Cromer reported his max. speed was then  
 6 knots.



21.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats.  
(Contd.)

4. It is considered mines were probably laid close North of 3 B Buoy and may have been laid in Humber area although there were no plots from shore Radar unaccounted for. E. Dudgeon to H.3 is not however covered by shore Radar and there were no patrols North of 59A Buoy. Sweeping in both areas is in progress.

(C. in C.Nore 211224A to Admty.)

1 enemy  
destroyer  
damaged by  
A/C. Coastal  
batteries  
engagement.

Yesterday, in anticipation of movements of enemy Naval units westward from Dunkirk, M.T.Bs. 211 (S. O.) 231, 358 and 209 and M.G.Bs. 43 and 41 were sent to patrol at No. 7 Buoy from 1830, with a view to their attacking off Wissant under cover of fire from our coastal batteries. A patrol by Albacore aircraft between Calais and Dunkirk was maintained from 1845.

2. At 2110 shore-based Radar detected two medium and four small vessels off Gravelines proceeding west at 8 knots and at 2139 M.T.Bs. were instructed to proceed to East Varne Buoy. The enemy reduced speed slightly when off Calais at 2235 and at one time appeared to be about to enter harbour. At 2255, when nine miles from Cap Gris Nez, the enemy increased speed to 24 knots and as a result interception was missed. The four small vessels turned off Wissant and faded off Gravelines at 0045. The two large vessels probably destroyers faded off the plot at 0100 when 6 miles north west of the Somme. Speed 18 knots.

3. One Albacore diverted from patrol to investigate and attack the plot off Gravelines sighted the enemy but failed to return. Of two Albacores which attacked off Berck Sur Mer one claims hits on one destroyer with three bombs which caused a fire on board and the other claims a near miss on the same vessel.

4. Coast artillery fired 10 rounds of 15 inch and 54 rounds of 9.2 inch between 2259 and 2330 but make no claims. The enemy replied with about 30 rounds from batteries in the Calais, Blanc Nez, and Gris Nez areas. The majority of these fell in the Deal area but only three in the town itself. No casualties reported but some damage to property including the South Eastern Hotel which is requisitioned for the accommodation of Naval personnel.

5. My 211219 refers.

(V.A.Dover 211226A to Admty.)

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 211325A.)  
(C. in C.Plymouth 211530A.)  
(C. in C.Nore 211605A.)

Interception  
of two enemy  
torpedo boats.

Tonight, request Albacores may patrol coastal route between Dieppe and Cap D'Antifer as soon as darkness permits. Two torpedo boats which passed Straits last night probably in Dieppe and may go west. Attacks may be made until 1930. Thereafter reporting for Coastal Forces.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 211610A to R.A.F.Tangmere and Thorney Island.)

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21.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of two enemy torpedo boats. (Contd.) Available M.T.Bs. are to leave Newhaven at 1700A/21st to patrol off Cap D'Antifer. Q.Z.X. 771 is to be crossed as in my 211616A. Leave patrol by 0500 and return by same route. On no account to proceed west of 00° 05' W.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 211614A to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)  
My 211610A. Attacks may be made after 1930A. Coastal forces have not sailed.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 211839A to R.A.F. Tangmere, Thorney Island.)

Operation "Overlord." Mooring commitments. Your 192302. For waters of Sheerness sub. command nil report.  
If any commitments in other waters for which Sheerness mooring centre is responsible are reported in compliance with your 192302 request full particulars and dates by which completion is necessary may be notified as soon as possible to enable decision to be made whether any assistance from boom organisation is desired.  
(Cdre. Sheerness 211622 to Admty.)

A/S sweep by E.G.15. SCARBOROUGH is to join E.G.15 temporarily. SCARBOROUGH take MAGPIE, SCIMITAR under your orders and proceed to be off Tory Island by 1900A tomorrow. Thence sweep the coast and in Donegal Bay. On reaching 010° W. proceed 000° to 055° 45' N. thence 090° altering to arrive 307 Tory Island 5 by 1900A/23rd.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211630A to SCARBOROUGH, MAGPIE, SCIMITAR.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/22nd and movements for following 24 hours.  
A. TELEMACHUS, VENTURER, STUBBORN, SEANYMPH as in my 191812.  
B. SEADOG, SPIRIT as in my 201621.  
C. O.15 61° 55' N. 01° 54' E. through 62° 13' N. 02° 48' E. and 62° 13' N. 04° 00' E. to patrol off Stadtlandet, diving by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.  
H. VIKING 50° 30' N. 08° 45' W. diving by day to patrol vicinity 50° 50' N. 10° 00' W.  
(F.O.S. 211722 to Admty.)

Negative patrol. Following damage sustained by grounding  
A. Asdics damaged and inoperative.  
B. Lower torpedo tubes operation faulty.  
C. Pressure hull leaking through forward oil fuel group.  
S/M can dive. Returning to Lerwick reverse route. My P.C. and S. 004° 35' E. 059° 20' N. 336° 9.  
(SEADOG 211803A to Capt. S.9.)  
Routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 20, 062° 13' 002° 48' E. and 062° 13' 004° E. O.15 left Lerwick 1905A/21st to patrol off Stadtlandet. Proceeding unescorted and on the surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 211926A to S/Ms.)

/Operation...

21.1.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation  
"Postage  
Able".

Operation "Postage Able" completed.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 211855A to Admty.)

M.M.S. 257,  
M.M.S. 252.  
& B.Y.M.S.  
2069 fired  
on by own  
forces on  
18th Jan.

C.O. M.M.S. 257 reports that with M.M.S. 252 and B.Y.M.S. 2069 in company he was fired on by Convoy escorts in approx. 48° 20' N. 18° 10' W. at 2125/18th Jan. Vessels scattered and M.M.S. 257 and 252 have arrived independently at Falmouth. No information available of movements of B.Y.M.S. 2069 after encounter with convoy escorts.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 212018A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

U-Boats.

Three U-  
Boats re-  
ported.

At 211130 aircraft F.W. 169 flying 11 - 12000 ft. sighted three unidentified submarines proceeding at 12 - 15 knots on a heading of 150° (M) (approx.) on the surface. Position at time of sighting 59° 50' N. 17° 45' W.  
(T.A.C. Prestwick 211802A to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE  
TREASURE.

Your 202341A. Carried out R.D.F. investigation. Nothing further to report. Suspect this to be enemy decoy. Do not intend to leave tow. Complying with your 201041. P.C. and S. 050° 37' N. 028° 51' W. 087° 7 knots.  
(GIFFARD 210029Z to C. in C.W.A.)

RAMILLIES.

A.M. 172218A. Ship will require docking for repairs to holes eroded in bottom (?of defective) shaft passages, also defective bulges.  
(RAMILLIES 210101 to Admty.)

ERINNA  
survivors.

Arriving boom 0930 G.M.T. 21st, 9 survivors nationality Chinese from Dutch tanker ERINNA.  
(PERTH 210213Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

EMPIRE  
SEAMAN.

Collision occurred in Leith Docks on 14th Jan. between HOUND and SS. EMPIRE SEAMAN causing slight damage to Merchant ship only.  
(N.O.I.C. Leith 211330A to Admty.)

SENGA.

Harbour Tender M/V SENGA sunk in collision with harbour service craft ANDRE MONIQUE. No loss of life.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 211730A to Admty.)

21.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

SEADOG. Damaged by grounding.  
(SEADOG 211803A.)  
See Operations.

SAMUEL Following has been read. At 2143 crack across  
DEXTER number four hatch and down starboard side.  
(Convoy Position at 2130 54.48 N. 22.45 W.  
O.N.220.) (Burnham on Sea Radio 212143.)  
American Merchant Ship distress signal 212206Z.  
Am proceeding to search 054° 48' N. 022° 45' W.  
Max. duration of search 1200Z tomorrow. VOLUNTEER  
in company. In view of lack of name could this be a U-Boat  
transmission.  
(WARWICK 212335Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.27. Your 201730. Proceed Hvalfjord for fuel and  
E.G.B. 5. defects.  
(A.C.I.C. 210413A to S.O.E.G. B.5.)  
Your 200958A. Names of nine ships remaining in  
convoy O.N.S.27 at 1600Z/21st. Altogether about 10 others in  
vicinity whose names could not be obtained owing to increase of  
gale.  
(WARWICK 211609Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
Hvalfjord arrival HAVELOCK and VIMY.  
(A.C.I.C. 211612A to C. in C.W.A.)  
WARWICK, VOLUNTEER, BUTTERCUP and LAVENDER are to return  
Londonderry at P.L.E.  
2. Due to present weather conditions no B.A.M.S. is being broad-  
cast.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211825Z to WARWICK.)  
Sailed HAVELOCK and VIMY. S.O.A. 14 knots.  
(A.C.I.C. 212112A to WARWICK.)

S.L.145. Sailed ACANTHUS and CARISBROOKE CASTLE.  
(E.G.15.) (Cdre. D.W.A. 210845A to C. in C.W.A.)  
CARISBROOKE CASTLE returned with engine room defect  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 211531A to C. in C.W.A.)  
On arrival KENILWORTH CASTLE and PRESCOTT are to  
form part of 15 Escort Group temporarily.  
(C. in C.W.A. 211635A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

U.T.107. Escorts detailed VIZALMA and NORTHERN SPRAY.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 211543A to Admty.)

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21.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

T.G. 21.12 Task Group 21.12 arriving Horta for fuel 221830Z, 4 destroyers, carrier, requirements. Depart for Casablanca soon as fuelled.  
(C.T.G. 21.12, 211950 to Cinclant.)

U/B. By D/F on 4190 k/cs at 2340Z/20 U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 43° 00' N. 35° 00' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 210213A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

K.M.F. 28. (1) Escort for CHAMPOLLION when detached to Gibraltar, BURGESS (S.O.) and VERITY. Your 201117A refers.  
(2) Onward escort for CHAMPOLLION to rejoin convoy in Mediterranean, BURGESS (S.O.) and BAZELY. Letter will be detached on passing Carnero Point. A.M. 060814A, para. 5 refers.  
(3) VERITY urgently requires fuelling also boiler cleaning and 24 hours repairs to main feed pump.  
(4) AMETHYST has leak in gland space and S.A. magazine but under control.  
(5) BLACK SWAN R.D.F. type 276 cabinet flooded, out of action, dockyard assistance required. Type 291 also out of action.  
(6) Request destination AMETHYST, BLACK SWAN, TUSCAN.  
(S.O. E.G.4, 210947Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Reply re para. 2, see 221829A.

UNSEEN. From position G in F.O.G.M.A. 171744 proceed dived by day via route "Green" to R/V in 180° Bishop 10 miles at 1300A/28th Jan.  
(2) On day of R/V proceed on surface during daylight at C.O.'s discretion.  
(3) Bombing restrictions follow. S. of A. 120 miles in 24 hours.  
(4) Capt. (S) 5 is requested to arrange escort for para. 1.  
(F.O.(S), 211103A to P.51 (UNSEEN), Capt. (S) 5, (R) F.O.G.M.A. etc.)

WARSPITE. Request you will report on WARSPITE's fitness for service as a bombarding vessel using not more than one turret at a time.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 211115A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Spanish Shipping, inter-ception. Your 201747. M.E.W. informed H.M. Consul, Las Palmas, of search programme approved by H.M. Ambassador, Madrid, and instructed him to propose suitable ships (A) for interception (B) to be navicerted to Gibraltar each month commencing 10th.

2. Request you will comply with his suggestions in (A) when practicable  
3. For month ending 10th February M.E.W. requests C.C.S.O. may select for examination one Spanish ship outward bound from Mediterranean port for South America.  
(D.E.W.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 211233A to F.O.G.M.A.)

/ U.S. ...

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21.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.- Contd.

- U.S. L.S.T. 228. S.B.N.O. Azores 202005Z follows (quoted). Comnavzores is requested convey appreciation to S.B.N.O. Azores for assistance and to make amplifying report to Cominch with recommendations information this command.  
(Com. 12th Fleet, 211424 to Cominch, Comnavzores.)
- U/B. An over enemy S/M in 35° 28' N. 6° 10' W. (? 4 knots) when first sighted was on surface, periscope only sighted, and was observed to submerge.  
(A/C Duty 'G', 211840A to Gib. W/T.)
- T.G. 21.13, U/B. Upon completion fuelling escort today proceed operate against submarines reported north-west of Azores, Cominch 211536.  
(Cinclant, 212029 to C.T.G. 21.13.)
- T.G. 62.5, Italian Submarines. C.T.F.62 direct 1 Cortdiv 4 ship proceed Gib. report F.O.C. Gib. as escort 5 Italian submarines to Bermuda. Provide interpreters as necessary. F.O.C. Gib. requested route this detachment (hereby designated Task Group 62.5, Task Group Commander in escort vessel) to Bermuda via Horta if necessary. I shall direct N.O.B. Bermuda relieve escort in vicinity Bermuda. Communications in separate despatch.  
(Cinclant, 212050 to F.O.C. Gib., C.T.F.62, Info. N.O.B. Bermuda, etc.)  
F.O.C. Gib. requested effect following communication arrangements my 212050.  
(Cinclant, 212115.)

South Atlantic.

- "Freecar" Patrol: Commands. Your 072238 being passed to B.A.D.  
2. Italians should not be given command over any Allied units, more particularly over French units. The use of mixed forces should therefore, if possible, be avoided.  
3. In view of your ability to exercise a large measure of tactical and strategical control from Freetown, it is hoped that in practice you will not have occasion to define command relation between French and Italians.  
4. If, however, a situation should develop when tactical control must be decided between a French and Italian ship, you should expressly place Italian ship under orders of the French, whether or not Admiral Biancheri is at sea.

/5. Admiral ...

21.1.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

"Freecar"  
Patrol:  
Commands.  
(Contd.)

5. Admiral Biancheri appears to realise the delicacy of his situation and to have resorted to the expedient of flying his flag constantly in the cruiser in port to overcome the difficulty. So long as he is ready to continue this practice which is thought unobjectionable it is considered advisable to acquiesce.

6. Italian cruisers based on Freetown may clearly come into contact with U.S. warships and you should inform Admiral Ingram of our views. B.A.D. is requested to inform Navy Department. (Head of M. Branch II, Approved V.C.N.S., 211600A to F.O.C.W.A., (R) B.A.D., etc.)

War Diary.21.1.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.A/C attack  
on Caique.

Enemy anchorage of caique 60 tons 36.36 N.,  
27.13 E.  
(A/C, CJK/Z, 211110Z to 201 Group).  
Have attacked enemy at bombs level. Result of  
attack unobserved.  
(A/C, CJK/Z, 211112Z to 201 Group).

Air  
Reports.

Med. Allied Air Force. Night 19/20th Jan.  
12 Kittyhawks bombed and strafed shipping at  
Ploca and Brigesca. They left two small vessels  
smoking.  
(Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O./21).

20th Jan. 1 Mission. 12 Kittyhawks shipping at Ploca.  
Bombed and strafed 1,500 ton merchant vessel Ploca Harbour. No  
results observed. Tug at mouth of river Nertva strafed and  
schooner North Coast Peljasac left smoking.

(M.A.A.F., Adv., 211331Z).

Balkan Sitrep. Air Ops. Bombing. 19th Jan. 3 attacks  
by total 24 Kittyhawks 12 U.S. Warhawks on shipping Makarska and  
Ploca harbours set on fire 2 schooners damaged 4 small vessels  
also machine gunned 2 Siebel ferries and schooner off Korcula  
Island.

(C. in C.M.E. 211955B).

TORBAY,  
SOKOL,  
UNSPARING.

Following patrol positions are to be assumed by  
0101B/23rd.

(A) TORBAY off South coast of Amorgo keeping  
west of Liadi.(B) O.R.P. SOKOL between Denusa and Amorgo east  
of longitude 025 degs. 50' (R) 025 degs. 50'.

(C) P.55 (UNSPARING) South of Leviha.

(2). Routeing: SOKOL is to pass west of Kaloyeri Rock, and  
Buey Rock. UNSPARING and TORBAY as ordered previously.(3) P.55 (UNSPARING) leaving patrol at 0501/24th thence as  
routed in my 201629. Westomp time 24 hours late.

(Capt.(S)1, 211247B to 1 S.F.).

1st S.M.F.  
for Malta.

Transfer of First Submarine Flotilla from Beirut  
to Malta is being arranged to take place in mid  
February.

(2) Request future shipment of Mark 8 to Pedro?

Units to Levant be transferred to Malta and Malta reserve increased  
to 150. A.M. 241723/October refers. Part of Malta reserve will  
be held at Maddalena.

(C. in C. Med., 211621A to Admty.).

Axis  
shipping  
Bosphorus.

4 craft (GRETEL, SYRIUS, MINA, MIMI) reported  
B.3 similar but large than E.M.S.type arrived  
Bosphorus from Black Sea in transit for Aegean.  
2. B.N.A. Ankara has been warned.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211635C to F.O. Levant).  
My 211739 (N.T.?211635 intended). Craft are not



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21.1.1944.  
Friday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Axis shipping Bosphorus. (Contd.) E.M.S. type.  
2. 2 are Dutch Schuyt type similar to VERTRAUEN. 2 are ordinary Darube seagoing barges similar to MAGDA. My 061740C refers. Tonnage 45 - 55 tons all under German flag. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 211920C to F.O. Levant).
- Escort Groups, exchange. Is there any objection to exchanging escort groups of BIDEFORD and AIRE since former's better A/A armament makes her more suitable for Mediterranean conditions?  
2. Exchange would take place at Gibraltar on or about 1st February.  
3. F.O.C.W.A.F., and F.O.G.M.A. concur. (C. in C. Med., 211832A to Admty.). No objection. (Admty. 231154A).
- UNTIRING Intend to sail P.59 UNTIRING, at 1100/23rd by QBB 312 thence 042 degs. 58' 007 degs. 19' at 1959/24th to patrol in zone SS. (Capt.(S) 10, 211849 to C. in C. Med.).
- Minelaying in ports, used by relief ships. Your 021248, your 091951, and your 111337. Laying of limited life mines in ports visited by Swedish relief ships is on the whole unsatisfactory. However, since Salonika is only visited at lengthy intervals, approval is given for laying of limited life mines there. At least one month's notice of visits will be given.  
2. In view of great importance of ensuring continuance of relief, no mines should at present be laid in following ports:- Piraeus, Preveza, Corfu, Venice, Missolonghi, Chios, Samos, Mitylene and Canea.  
3. Swedes are being requested to arrange substitution of Canea for Heraklion.  
4. In addition, as it is desirable that at least some of the Cyclades Islands should be provisioned, it is requested that F.O.L.E.M. will name two of the larger islands\* in this group which have not been mined and which he can agree to leave unmined in future.  
5. With above exceptions, no further restrictions are placed on the mining of Greek ports. (Hd. of M.I. Approved V.C.N.S., 211926A to F.O.L.E.M., V.A. Malta, Info. C. in C. Med.).
- Situation Report No. 277. (1) SPARTAN bombarding in Terracina area during night 18th/19th Jan. (2) ORION, SPARTAN, LAFOREY, JERVIS, JANUS, and FAULKNER with air co-operation provided fire support for 10th Corps. in Garigliano River area on 19th Jan. against minor opposition from shore battery. (3) During the night 20th/21st Jan. TYRIAN and TEAZER patrolled Hvar Channel without incident. (C. in C. Med., 212050A to Admty., etc.)

[\* Name, see page 402]

21.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition number 19.  
Dispositions. (C. in C. E.F., 210315Z.)

Convoys for Calcutta. To assist in bringing ships up river to Calcutta in best sequence the following suffixes are to be included in sailing telegrams for ships in J.C. convoys bound for Calcutta to indicate anticipated fresh water draughts in feet on arrival. Suffixes to be included immediately after name of ship in sailing telegrams.  
(U) 23 feet and below. (V) 23 feet to 24 feet. (W) 24 feet to 25 feet. (X) 25 feet to 26 feet. (Y) 26 feet to 27 feet. (Z) 27 feet and over.  
(C. in C. E.F., 211204Z to F.O. Ceylon, etc.)

VALIANT, Departure VALIANT and QUEEN ELIZABETH in company.  
QUEEN ROTHERHAM, NORMAN, PETARD, PALADIN and  
ELIZABETH, PATHFINDER in company.  
destroyers. (Com. Aden, 212109Z to Admty., etc.)

Staff Admty., 212213A to C. in C. E.F., replying to  
Organisation. his 230336Z December.  
(See Lion Copy)

# SECRET

E.I.

337A

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

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

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

OUT.

212213A/Jan.

Date : 21.1.1944.

Addressed : C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Naval Cypher (X) Plug.

From : Admiralty.

Staff Organisation

Your 230338. Experience at home has shown that unified control of all H.M. ships and landing craft is necessary in interest of most efficient and economical use of base facilities, also that priorities for repair and maintenance of fleet units, escort vessels, landing craft, coastal craft and merchant shipping can only be settled expeditiously and satisfactorily by existence of one co-ordinating authority for all resources of the area.

2. Experience has also borne out the need for all movements in an area to be co-ordinated by one Directing Authority.

3. Suggestions made in A.M. 090036/December were based on these considerations which aimed at establishment of a fundamentally sound and cohesive organisation which will cater for expansion if required and can function without dislocation wherever you and S.A.C. may find yourselves in future. Their Lordships agree however to their modification as necessary to meet special conditions in India, always bearing in mind the urgent need for economy in manpower.

4. In view of altered commitments Their Lordships do not consider that the appointment of a Flag Officer as R.A.L.C.B. is justified at present. Could a more junior officer now available on your Station undertake this duty?

5. Your paragraph 4 refers to Deputy Naval Commander (1). Assume you intend to use the title Deputy Naval Commander

# SECRET

337<sup>6</sup>.

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

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

-2-

S.E.A.C. for all purposes.

212213A.

for Head of M. II.  
Approved by First Lord.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L.  
D.F.S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
4th S.L.  
5th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (W).  
A.C.N.S. (UT). (2).  
A.C.N.S. (F).  
Vice Controller.  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
P.A.S. (S).  
D.T.S.D.  
D. of P. (3).  
D. of P. (Q). (2).  
D.C.O.D. (4).  
O.D. (5).  
D.N.I. (5).  
D. of L.D. (3).  
D.C.O.M. (4).  
D.N.A.O.  
D.T.D. (4).  
C.C.C. (2).  
D.S.D. (3).  
N.A.2.S.L. (2).  
C.W. (2).  
D.P.S. (3).  
M. II. (M. 07921/43) (35) and for W.C.O., I.O., W.O.  
dm. Blake.  
I.P. (3).  
W.D.  
Dep. Contr. (4) )  
D. of D. (4) )  
E. in C. (4) ) Bath.  
R.I.N.L.O. )  
S.W.R. )

21.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Damage to ships in O.N.218. Commodore O.N.218 reports as follows:-  
Your 121823 refers. 2. JOSEPH SMITH and THEODORE PARKER damaged during very strong southerly gales veering to W. and N.N.W. on 9th, 10th and 11th Jan. In order to safeguard ships convoy speed reduced to revolutions for 7 to 8 knots which allowed sufficient speed to keep steerage way. Course altered to bring sea 2 points on the bow. This policy maintained until weather moderated. 3. Report of meeting containing recommendations from Commodore and Master of WILLIAM CODDINGTON despatched to D.T.D. by air mail indicates that attention should be given to special ballasting of Liberty ships. See Commodore's report O.N.205. (B.A.D. 210637 to Admty.)

Use of M.A.C's. In order that we may have a more complete picture of British anti-U-Boat effort, we would be grateful for information on M.A.C. operations.  
2. The following are not known in Washington.  
3. Are M.A.C's being used with K.M.S/S.L. convoys and, if so, do they operate South of Gibraltar? 4. Are M.A.C's being used in any other theatre besides North Atlantic?  
5. What are average flying hours and number of sorties per day on trans-Atlantic routes? 6. Successes, if any, by M.A.C's. (B.A.D. 211417Z to Admty.)

U/Bs. Enemy S/M. Estimate 1200Z/21. (Cominch 211550Z.)

PATROCLUS. H.M.S. PATROCLUS departs Bermuda for Gibraltar 221230Z (Route). E.T.A. Gibraltar 021200Z. (Com. N.O.B. Bermuda 211514 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Working up Programme, Nova Scotian Bases. S.B.N.O. W.A's 191454. Offer to accept one group now in accordance with N.S.H.Q. 282150 December appreciated. C. in C. C.N.A. to take necessary action. (2) In view of your 301720 December U.S.N. were requested to give consideration for use of Chesapeake Bay by us. It is felt no future arrangements should be made now pending their decision. (3) You will be kept informed of developments. (N.S.H.Q. 211811Z to S.B.N.O.W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

U.S. Troopships War Department has proposed that American unescorted for Oran. ed troopships for North Africa discharge at Oran rather than Casablanca. Request confirmation

/that...

War Diary.

21.1.1944.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Troop-  
ships  
for Oran.  
(Contd.)

that British escort can be provided from Gibraltar approaches to Oran for these ships beginning with GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON departing Hampton Roads 22nd Jan. (Cominch 211935 to Admty.) Remarks of C. in C. Med. 221124A.

T.G.21.7.

Escort C.U.13 departing from New York Jan.31st for U.K. when directed by Admiralty escort U.C.13 to New York. This re-establishes Task Group 21.7 Comdr. Norgaard in SCOTT, Cortdiv 17. Conference date and Tankers for Escorts will be designated

by Port Director.  
(Cinclant 212010 to Comcortdiv 17.)

Co-operation  
British  
and U.S.  
forces.

(B.A.D. 212143Z to Admty.) (See Lion Copy.)

Argentina.

Relations, influence on operations C.O.S. (W) 1088. (Air Min. 212240Z.) See Lion Copy.

Amphibious  
forces for  
Pacific  
Theatre.

C.O.S. (W) 1087. 1. We have discussed with C.C.O. question of liaison with American Combined Operations and Combined Training in Pacific Theatre. In view of probable use of British Amphibious Forces in Pacific and importance of obtaining full value from American experience in that theatre, we agree that C.C.O.'s liaison with America should be strengthened and placed on a fully official basis. 2. Following are our proposals which would supersede all existing Combined Operations liaison. 3. Seven officers experienced in Combined Operations, of which two would be Naval and two R.A.F. to be sent to America. All above would come under J.S.M. 4. (Duties). 5. Would appreciate your view and American reaction to above proposals. (Air Min. 212345Z to Britman, Washington.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest  
serial No.  
1731 Jan.20th.

(12) Night Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Motor torpedo boats sank 4 barges each carrying about forty well equipped Japanese North Alexishafen. Majority Japanese killed. (15) Evening Jan. 19th 4 U.S. Destroyers bombarded enemy positions N.E. Bougainville. (16) Night Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> single landing craft gunboat bombarded Aitara Mission S.W. coast Bougainville. Following night Motor Torpedo boats shelled enemy positions Empress Augusta Bay. (C.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 210912Z.)

SECRET

Aw1

339A

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

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

SECRET MESSAGE

212143Z/January

From B.A.D.

Date 22.1.44.  
Recd. 0534.

P/L BY T/K.

Addressed Admiralty.

*Cooperation British + U.S. Forces*

Cominch in replying to my letter based on Admiralty Message 280124/November and 161907/December stated that the errors reported in the latter signal were the result of failures to carry out communication instructions. He went on to say "Having regard to ACI, ECI, and innumerable other publications having to do with escorting which when combined result in a complex problem, I am not too sanguine that this simple exchange of dispatches between the Admiralty and ourselves will solve the problems at once. Should there be other matters requiring explanation I am prepared to make available appropriate officers from my staff and from the staff of C. in C. Atlantic Fleet for conversations here in Washington with officers to be designated by you".

2. Thinking this might open the door for adoption of combined instructions for war in the East, conversations have taken place between Chief of Staff 10th Fleet and my Chief of Staff.

3. Chief of Staff 10th Fleet agreed:-

A. That on the cessation of war in the Atlantic there would likely be more combined escort work in the East than there hitherto has been in the Atlantic.

B. The desirability of having a common book of convoy instructions.

C. A Common book could only be produced by a high powered combined committee with representatives of C. in C. Pacific and South Pacific and Navy Department with representatives of Admiralty, C. in C. Eastern Fleet and possibly C. in C. Mediterranean and Western Approaches.

D. That the question of communications should not be the "tail that wags the dog".

4. Chief of Staff 10th Fleet prefers ECIS because they do not go into such detail and are not subject to so many amendments but he realised they would require considerably alterations to meet our requirements.

8  
150

5. As a result of this Admiral King writes as follows:-  
"I am informed that your Chief of Staff proposed to the Chiefs of Staff tenth Fleet, in a recent conversation the possibility of our two Navies using common escort of convoy instructions and that one of the results of this conversation was the thought that since our escort of convoy instruction book (ECI) is applicable to the entire U.S. Navy in view of prospective operations in the Pacific and in areas other than the Atlantic, the British Navy might be agreeable, with suitable amendments and additions, to the adoption of our publication."

"If you are favourably disposed to an examination of this proposition, may I suggest that the matter be taken up with the Admiralty on an exploratory basis."

212143Z

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- Nav. Sec.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(A)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(U.T.)(2)
- Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- U.W.R.
- O.D.(5)
- D.N.I.(5)
- Ops.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.A.W.T.
- D.A.U.D. for action
- D.N.A.O.
- D.S.D.(2)
- D.T.D.(4)
- B.T.D.(C)
- D.T.S.D.

✓ N/T File.

- Plot
- D. Map Room
- O.I.C.(2)
- M.(2)
- C.C.L.S.(2)
- Ad. Blake.
- I.P.(3)
- W.D.

8



339B

AWI

# 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.)

212240Z January.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To BRITMAN.

Date 21.1.44.

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

Argentina, Relations, Supplies.

003 (W) 1088

21st January 1944

OZ 366

Reference C.O.S. (W) 1080

We understand that question of Argentine relations is being referred to Combined Chiefs of Staff (F.O. Telegram No. 298 from Washington refers).

2. Papers referred to in first paragraph of C.O.S. (W) 1080 are being forwarded by bag leaving tonight. In case they should be held up en route, following are conclusions of these two reports:-

(i) Report by P.A.O's Committee

"(a) In the event of an immediate cessation of supplies from the Argentine, military operations could certainly not be continued on the scale planned for this year except by means of a severe curtailment of the meat rations of the United Kingdom civilian population. Even so we have grave doubts whether meat supplies to the Services in the Mediterranean area could be maintained.

(b) The severe reduction in the leather supply would begin to have a very serious effect on military operational capacity towards the end of 1944.

(c) The loss of 400,000 tons of wheat would have a serious effect on the implementation of the plans for Rankin Case C and would appear to us seriously to prejudice the eventual feeding of liberated territories.

(d) The shortages of linseed would undoubtedly have repercussions on the maintenance of material and the provision of essential camouflage."

(ii) Report by the Joint Planning Staff.

"By contrast with the serious results of a cessation of supplies from the Argentine the strategic implications are comparatively light. At the same time we should be presented with

/ troublesome .....

troublesome inconveniences, and possibly with some extra commitments, at a moment when there should be no unnecessary impediment to our making the maximum possible effort for the early defeat of Germany."

- 3. Please pass above to H.M. Ambassador.
- 4. If bags are unduly held up and you require further briefing, we will telegraph summary of papers.

212240Z

Received in War Reg. 220458.

Circulation.

Brigadier Jacob.  
 Foreign Secretary.  
 War Registry, Admiralty.  
 C.6 Telegrams, War Office.  
 A.H.C.S. (C).

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2).
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- A.C.N.S. (F).
- P.A.S. (S).
- D. of V.
- D.O.D. (H) (4).
- D.O.D. (F) (2).
- D.C.
- D.M.I. (4).
- D. of P. (2).
- Hd. of M. (2).
- ~~V.D.~~
- I.P. (2).
- Adl. Blake.

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21.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M. attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/21st January. Para. A.  
(1) Hudson A/C T reported periscope only at 1215/20  
in 35° 52' N. 06° 35' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 211112A.)  
U/B. Estimates.  
(D.D.I.C. 211430A, 211435A.)

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22.1.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
F.W.

1. Convoy J.W. 56A was estimated to be about 160 miles North of Seidisfiord at 0800 to-day, steering for position "G".

Convoy J.W.56B, consisting of 16 M/V's escorted by ONYX, HYDRA, WRESTLER and HONEYSUCKLE of the Local Escort and by WESTCOTT, CYGNET, WHITEHALL, RHODODENDRON, OXLIP and SEAGULL of the Through Escort, left Loch Ewe at 1430 to-day for North Russia. Capt. D.3 in MILNE (S.O. of the Destroyer Escort) left Loch Ewe for Seidisfiord at 1005A; and at 1738 the six other Destroyers of the Destroyer Escort left Scapa for Seidisfiord where they expect to join him at 241000A.

Escort  
Carrier  
Groups.

2. Ten Escort Carriers were to-day allocated permanently, and three more temporarily, to C. in C. W.A. for trade-protection. C. in C. W.A. intends to employ them in Groups of two, adding a third Fighter Carrier to any Group if required, either to support Convoys or to sail independently with Support Groups. These Carrier Groups may be detached from Convoys to operate with Support Groups against U-Boat concentrations; but it is not intended to use them where heavy air-attacks may develop against them.

Sheerness  
Bombed.

3. At 0600 to-day about forty incendiary bombs were dropped by Enemy A/C in Sheerness Dockyard. Thirty of them failed to ignite, and the damage caused by the remaining ten was negligible.

STRATHELLA  
lost.

4. The A/S Trawler STRATHELLA lost touch with Convoy U.R.105 S.E. of Iceland in heavy weather during the night 12th/13th January and is now presumed lost.

*[Was sighted on 13/1. See p. 204, January, + 225]*

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

Escort  
Carriers  
for W.A.  
Command.

The following Escort Carriers are allocated to Western Approaches Command:  
ACTIVITY, NAIRANA, VINDEX, BITER, FENCER, STRIKER, SLINGER, AMEER, CHASER, ATHELING.  
2. The following Escort Carriers are lent temporarily to Western Approaches Command:  
TRACKER, SEARCHER - Fighter, PURSUER - Fighter. Their present equipment of aircraft is to be retained.  
(V.C.N.S., 221330A to C. in C.W.A.).

S.H.A.E.F.

Name of H.Q. Supreme Command now changed to S.H.A.E.F. (Supreme H.Q. Allied Expeditionary Force).  
(D.Sig. Officer, S.H.Q.A.E.F., 222135 to D.S.O. Admty.).

Operations.

S/M  
patrols.

Submarines are to leave patrol for Lerwick as follows:-

- (1) VENTURER as convenient so as to pass through 061 degs. 26' 003 degs. 00' at 1700A/24th, thence on the surface at C.Os. discretion through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20.
- (2) TELEMACHUS at 1900A/24th through 064 degs. 52' 002 degs. 01' thence by route "Grey" proceed diving by day when North of 062 degs.
- (3) SPIRIT is to remain eastward of route "Pink" from 0100A to 2300A on 25th January.  
(Capt.(S) 9, 221001A to S/M's.).

Positions of submarines at 0800/23rd and movements for the following 24 hours.

- (A) TELEMACHUS, VENTURER, STUBBORN, SEANYMPH as in my 191812.
- (B) SPIRIT as in my 201621.
- (C) O.15 off Stadlandet.
- (F) UNSEEN crosses 43 degs. N. in 12 degs. 54' W. at 1030/23rd, dived by day, course north, 120 miles per day.  
(F.O.S., 221731A to Admty.).

Negative patrol. Returning Lerwick by reverse route.  
Request bombing restrictions. After Hydroplane gear defective, probably same reason as previous occasion. Position 061 degs. 50', 002 degs. 00' E.

(O.15, 222225A to Capt.(S) 9,).

Operation  
F.W.

Sailed D.3 in MILNE. E.T.A. destination 1000/24th.  
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 221005A to V.A.2.).

Convoy J.W.  
56B sailed.

Onward route for J.W.56A from position G. Through N, thence by reverse of route "Blue" to position L.

- (2) S.O. of escort pass to Cdre.
- (3) Admiralty is requested to order stragglers route by B.A.M.S. message accordingly.  
(V.A.2, 221352A to Admty., Escorts J.W.56A).

/Intend...

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22.1.1944.  
Saturday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Intend to sail BORAGE to Londonderry p.m. 22nd  
F.W. routed East Iceland and through 062 degs. 01' N.  
Convoy J.W. 015 degs. 01' W., thence west of Hebrides. E.T.A.  
56B sailed. p.m. 25th.  
(Contd.). (C.S.1, 221435A to Cdre. D.W.A.).  
Intend proceeding with Force One at 1600A/23rd,  
returning to Akureyri about 28th. Request  
RAPIDOL may remain until my return.

(2) Have requested R.N.O. Akureyri to sail JOSEPH N. NICOLLET  
in suitable weather in accordance with para. 2. of my 211632A.  
(C.S.1, 221440A to A.C.I.C.).  
J.W.56B. 17 M/V's. Names.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 221550A to C. in C.W.A.).  
J.W.56B. (A) 1430/22nd. (B) WESTCOTT, CYGNET, WHITE-  
HALL, RHODODENDRON, OXLIP, WRESTLER, HONEYSUCKLE, ONYX,  
HYDRA, SEAGULL. (C) 16.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 221706A).  
J.W.56B. My 221550. HENRY LOMB (U.S.) returned with  
engine trouble.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 221714A to C. in C.W.A.).  
Sailed MUSKETEER, MAHRATTA, MATCHLESS, OPPORTUNE, HURON,  
SCOURGE to Seidisfiord. E.T.A. 1000A/24th.  
(R.A.D.H.F., 221738 to A.C.I.C.).  
Your 212110 para.1. R.A.56A 23 ships. R.A.56B 18 or 19  
ships, inclusive of tankers ex J.W.56A.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 222006A to Admty.).  
Akureyri departure at 2030A/22nd January for Londonderry,  
BORAGE.  
(A.C.I.C. 222046A to Cdre. D.W.A.).  
From position G proceed through N, M, K and L.  
(D.O.D.(H), 222137Z to B.A.M.S., Stragglers of J.W.56A).

Operation Admiralty 192302A.  
"Overlord" Mooring commitments completed except as in (4)  
below and arrangements made for Sheerness to lay  
these on receipt.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 221152A to Admty.).

A/S search Sailed SCARBOROUGH, MAGPIE, SCIMITAR to comply  
by E.G.15. with your 211603A.  
(Cdre.(D) W.A. 221158A to C. in C.W.A.).  
Return to base.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221315 A to SCARBOROUGH, MAGPIE,  
SCIMITAR).  
SALADIN arrived 1420. WREN, BERKELEY CASTLE, PORCHESTER  
CASTLE, ACANTHUS arrived.  
(Cdre. D.W.A., 221440A to C. in C.W.A.).  
My 221158A. Arrived.  
(Cdre.D.W.A., 221550A to C. in C.W.A.).  
1. Sail at 1300A tomorrow and carry out search as in  
my 171251A.  
2. On completion of search as in para.(8) return to base.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221713A to E.G.15).

/Coastal...

War Diary

22.1.1944.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Coastal  
Force  
patrols.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221317A).

B.Y.M.S.  
2069.My 211600A. B.Y.M.S.2069 arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 221820A to S.B.N.O. Azores).Enemy Air ActivityISER  
attacked.Skipper of trawler ISER reports when fishing 25  
miles S. by W. of Fastnet at 1015A on January 19th  
being attacked by aircraft painted white. No  
damage, no casualties.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 221051A to Admty.).Sheerness  
attacked.C.A.F.O. 587. Para.4. (A). 0600/22nd January.  
Clear weather, overcast sky, strong westerly  
wind.(B) Considerable number of enemy aircraft  
crossed dockyard singly. One stick incendiary  
bombs fell across N.W. part of yard. Flares dropped. No moon.  
(C) (ii) about 40, of which 30 failed to ignite.  
(D) Nil (E) (i) Negligible. (ii) Nil.  
(Cdre. Sheerness, 221218A to Admty.).Mining.

Q.Z.S.401

Your 211906A.  
(1) Mile of area to eastwards of Easterly Edge  
Q.Z.S.401 searched in G formation with negative  
result.  
(M/S 15, 221501A to C. in C. Nore).Casualties and Defects.SAMUEL  
DEXTER.Report what action has been taken to SAMUEL  
DEXTER.

(C. in C.W.A., 220151A to C.4.).

Your 212335. Most unlikely.

(D.D.I.C., 220425A to WARWICK).

My 212335. Tugs ASSIDUOUS and SAPPER report they are in  
company with SAMUEL DEXTER. Further leak(s) in oil tank forced  
me to abandon search at 1100Z. Wind force 7 increasing. Add to  
my 211631Z (not to Admiralty). There are 3 oil fuel tanks port  
and starboard leaking to sea. My P.C.S. 055 degs. 16' N. 022  
degs. 28' W., 085 degs. 13. VOLUNTEER in company.

(WARWICK, 221201Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 220151A. Am escorting SAMUEL DEXTER to Clyde, rescue  
tug ASSIDUOUS in company. My P.C.S. at 1200Z/22nd, 054 degs.55' N. 019 degs. 55' W. 087 degs. 8 knots. SAMUEL DEXTER has  
3 bad cracks across deck from waterline to waterline. Tug has  
some heavy weather damage to boats and deck.

(SAPPER, 221300Z to C. in C.W.A.).

/Your...

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22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- SAMUEL  
DEXTER.  
(Contd.)
- Your 1300Z/22nd. Alter forthwith for (Y) 053 degs. N. 017 degs. W. (Z) 180 degs. Fastnet Rock 10 miles, thence QZL 58.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221720A to SAPPER).
- AVOLA
- AVOLA has fouled propeller vicinity 41 buoy now in tow of (?Z) AREBA. Ascertain if further assistance required before returning to harbour.  
(C. in C. Nore, 220920 to SUPERMAN).
- LANCASTER
- Your 181545 and 201450.  
LANCASTER can be taken in hand for defects at Leith on 27th January.  
2. Request she may be sailed accordingly.  
(D.O.D.(H), 221310A to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
- EMPIRE  
TREASURE.
- P.C.S. 050 degs. 58' N. 022 degs. 58' W., 090 degs. 7 knots. Do you require information re damage to EMPIRE TREASURE.  
(GIFFARD, 221400Z to C. in C.W.A.).  
Your 22140Z?. Yes. Report this information on next occasion of breaking or when East of W/T silence 013 degs. W.  
(2) My 201041A. Report every 24 hours is no longer required.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221956A to GIFFARD).
- STRATHELLA  
lost.
- As R.A.F. aircraft in transit to U.K. have seen nothing of STRATHELLA and as no further news of her has been received since she lost touch with convoy U.R.105 in very heavy weather during night 12/13 January, it must now be presumed she has been lost.  
(2) STRATHELLA had limited endurance and is understood to have been fitted with Marconi type 517/8 W/T only. ~~See Operations.~~  
(A.C.I.C. 222056A to Admty.).
- O.15
- Defects on patrol.  
(O.15, 222225A).  
See Operations.
- Shipping and Convoys.
- H.X.277
- Your 212207.  
As escort of H.X.277 is much depleted I should like RENONCULES to sail with this convoy.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221107Z to B.A.D.).  
Request you take necessary action on W.A. 221109. (?221107 intended).  
(C. in C.C.N.A. 221410Z to F.O.N.F.).
- O.N.221
- Your 20117A. HEATHER (S.O.), CLEMATIS detailed.  
(S.O. Group, 22109A to C. in C.W.A.).

/Independent...



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22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Independent  
Shipping.

Measures to expedite from Feb.1st.  
(D.T.D., 221215A).  
See Foreign Stations (General).

O.N.222

GLENARM, WANDERER, WATCHMAN, PORCHESTER  
CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE are  
required to sail Feb. 1st to overtake O.N.222.  
(2) CARISBROOKE CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE will  
form part of B one group for period of this duty.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221909A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

O.N.220.

Escort Group C.4's 221522Z. Alter course forthwith  
for (A) 053 degs. N. 017 degs. W. (B) 180 degs.  
Fastnet Rock 10 miles, thence QZL 58.  
(C. in C.W.A., 221928A to AMHERST).

Escort  
Carrier  
Groups.

In view of weather to be expected during this  
time of year, intend to implement following  
policy regarding initial employment of Escort  
Carriers.

1. Carriers to be grouped in pairs, one for day  
work the other for night work. One carrier of  
principal pair to be fitted for fuelling escorts. If extra  
fighter force is required a fighter carrier may be added to pair.
2. Carrier groups either to support convoys which are routed  
sufficiently far South to give a reasonable proportion of  
flying time or alternatively sailed independently with a support  
group or with their own screen when available.
3. Carrier groups to be detached from convoys for operation with  
support groups against concentrations of U-boats when and where  
suitable opportunity offers.
4. It is not intended to operate carriers in areas where heavy  
scale of air attack may develop against them.  
(C. in C.W.A., 222031A to Admty.).

My 222013A. Following programme is intended. Details.  
(C. in C.W.A., 222015A to Admty.).

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22.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

Independent Shipping. C.A.M.S.I. 203. Following measures to expedite independent shipping are to come into force on 1st February, 1944. (a) Diverting Authorities to request issue by Admiralty of B.A.M.S. messages suspending zig-zagging in waters under their control that are not considered to be threatened. (b) When necessary to resume zig-zagging in any such area Diverting Authorities to inform individual ships immediately concerned by direct message and to request issue by Admiralty of any required B.A.M.S. message ordering a general resumption in area. 2. The basic areas for this control to be those of B.A.M.S. organisation (C.A.M.S.I. 1/44). These may be sub-divided as necessary to localise zig-zagging instructions but unless messages are so amplified they are to be taken as affecting all waters in the B.A.M.S. area concerned in which zig-zagging is prescribed by C.A.M.S.I.s. Adjacent areas and British Naval Authorities affected will be included in address of above B.A.M.S. messages from Admiralty. 3. Com. Tenth Fleet (C. & R.) will similarly control zig-zagging in U.S. areas. 4. Summaries of alterations made will be exchanged between Admiralty and Com. Tenth Fleet (C. & R.) as requisite. 5. The working of this scheme should be explained to Masters as soon as possible. 6. Foregoing does not apply to Mediterranean where existing direct control of zig-zagging by C. in C. will continue. (D.T.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 221215A to C. in C. etc.)

North Atlantic.NICOLINE  
MAERSK.

Danish SS. NICOLINE MAERSK aground on Sandbanks near San Carlos de la Repita as result of operations Dec. 25th is said to be unsalvageable. If N.E. wind should come up she will be probable total loss. Meantime salvage ship gear and oil is proceeding to help of crew of 38. All Germans numbering 13 except wireless operator are at San Carlos de la Repita latter together with 4 Senegalese, 1 Hungarian and 14 French are closely guarded at Hotel in Tarragona. 2 French are reported to have escaped. (B.N.A. Madrid 221106 to Admty.) *See further signal 0517/6 AFeb/1944*

L.S.T. 228  
aground.

American L.S.T. 228 parted her anchor cable and went ashore on rocky beach near Angra. All hope of refloating her abandoned. Every endeavour being made to salvage cargo consisting of M.T. Weather conditions at present very favourable. (S.T.O.i/c. Azores 221301Z to D.S.T.)

T.G. 21.16.

Continue operations against S/Ms. Cominch 212055 until relieved by Task Group 21.13 on 24 January. Arrival Hampton Roads my 172057 modified accordingly. (Cinclant 221427 to C.T.G. 21.16.)

SECRET

MESSAGE.

221207 A/Jan.

IN

RECEIVED:—

From B.N.A. Madrid.

DATE 23/1/44.

TIME 0218.

OTF (NSC) BY CABLE.

RECIRCULATION.

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased 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.]

Addressed Admiralty.

*Received 18 Feb.*

Spanish Authorities have notified Embassy that their fishing fleet intends to operate commencing last fortnight in Feb. or 1st fortnight March in an area between 51 degs 00 North 11 degs 00' West 49 degs 00' North 8 degs 00' West. The outward and inward passages will be made 15 miles to west of 12 degs 00' West. Is this measure concurred.

221207A.

Advance Copy. Ops. D.E.W.D. C.I.C.

Note: Passed to F.C.S. H.C.C.C., C. in C.W.A., C. in C.Plymouth.

8. 12.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (U.T.)
- U.T.R.
- D.Map Room.
- Capt. Pim.
- Ops. (2).
- Plot.
- C.D. (5)
- C.I.C. (3)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (C)
- C.C.L.S.

- M. (2) for action.
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- A.L.O.
- W.D. \_\_\_\_\_

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War Diary.22.1.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.MAR  
NEGRO  
(Spanish)  
intercepted.

Your 191113B Jan. Spanish MAR NEGRO thoroughly searched. Nothing found. 3. Atmosphere in ship unsatisfactory. Chief Officer admitted being pro-German and had skilfully constructed hiding places in cabin. 4. Convinced Greaser concerned in Diamond Smuggling Racket. 5. Strongly recommend 3 and 4 be prohibited from making Ocean Voyages. 6. Ship released. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 221709A to Admty.)

K.M.F.28.

Para.2 of your 210947Z. It will not be necessary to detach BAZELY as HAYDON will join convoy from Gibraltar and BURGESS and HAYDON will escort CHAMPOLLION to rejoin convoy. 2. DELHI will join as convoy passes Europa Point and act as A/A escort. (F.O.G.M.A. 221829A to S.E.C., K.M.F.28 for Commodore.)

Spanish Shipping, protection in event of German attack.

Spanish Authorities are not yet finally convinced that Germans are beaten and therefore are still afraid of them and specially of a blockade by Germans resultant upon drastic curtailment of German activities in Spain. Ambassador has asked Consul General what protection we could offer Spanish shipping in unlikely event of German retaliation taking form of sinking Spanish ships. Ambassador really requires a brief to meet any question on this count which may arise at his forthcoming meeting with Franco. Request whether in case of German attack on Spanish ships we should (a) take Spanish Transatlantic traffic (mostly to Argentine) in Allied convoys and (b) compensate lost carrying capacity due to increased time of voyage by assistance with extra shipping. Should appreciate very early guidance on this subject. (B.N.A. Madrid, 222001A to D.N.I.)

U/B.  
attacked by  
B.Y.M.S.

S/M. sighted position 27.56 W. 739.34 N. depth charge attack carried out evidence indicates S/M damaged or sunk at 2030Z. Abandoning search. Suggest you carry out further search of area. (?B.Y.M.S.2234 222135Z to Senior Naval Officer.) W.R.Note. Passed to S.B.N.O. Azores, C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.G.M.A. and H.Q.C.C.

South Atlantic.Cruiser  
Patrols.

Intend to sail MONTCALM 1130Z/24th Jan. and AOSTA 1900Z/24th Jan. to assume lines G.H. and E.F. respectively at 0700Z/26th Jan. MONTCALM leaves patrol from G. at dusk 31st Jan. for Dakar, will be relieved by ABRUZZI. AOSTA leaves patrol from E dusk 29th Jan. Request you will sail French cruiser from Group B. to assume patrol E.F. daylight 30th Jan. (F.O.C.W.A. 221553Z to Comar, Dakar.) Positions amended, see 231648Z.

War Diary.

22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Outline of Operation "Shingle".

(Appendix to M.R. 1618 (23.1.1944).)

1. Object. An amphibious assault to cut the communications of the enemy now opposing the 5th and 8th Armies. D. day 22nd Jan. H. hour 0200.
2. Military Forces Engaged. First British Division. Third U.S. Division. U.S. Ranger Group.
3. Naval Commanders. Rear Admiral F.J. Lowry, U.S.N. - title Naval Commander Amphibious Task Force - with Flag in U.S.S. BISCAYNE, is in charge of the operation and also commands Force X. Rear Admiral T.H. Troubridge, R.N. - Senior Officer Force P. - with Flag in BULOLO is subordinate Task Group Commander.
4. Time Operation. The assault force sailed in five groups, the first leaving Salerno at 1700 on the 20th and the last leaving Naples at 1200 on the 21st. Forces concentrated about 1700 on the 21st south west of Anzio, then proceeded after dark on a ten mile front on a course 035°. There were three separate assaults:-
  - A. Force P. - BULOLO, 3 L.S.I.(L) and U.S. and British landing craft with the First British Division to assault six miles north of Anzio.
  - B. Force X. - U.S.S. BISCAYNE, 2 L.S.I.(L), U.S. and British landing craft with the Third U.S. Division to assault 4 miles east of Anzio.
  - C. Ranger Group in one L.S.I.(L) with 2 L.S.I.(M)s. to land at Anzio.
5. Gun Support. Gun support was to be provided as follows:-  
Force P. ORION (Flag C.S.15 - R.A. Mansfield.) SPARTAN.  
Force X. U.S.S. BROOKLYN, PENELOPE.  
Additional gun support as required, was to be provided by ELORES and SOEMBA, one L.C.G., U.S. and British destroyers.
6. Diversionary Operation. A demonstration was arranged to take place at H. hour off Civitavecchia including a bombardment by IIDO, French Ship LE FANTASQUE and INGLEFIELD with a dummy landing by coastal forces.

22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing in Anzio Area - (Operation "Shingle".)

Landings,  
P.Sector,  
K.Sector.

Naples. S.O.Force P reported landing P.Sector, successful 0246. No opposition on beach but beach heavily mined. Bulk of Infantry through and exits now open. Beaches soft and pontoons necessary. Ranger landing at Anzio going to plan.

2. Fifth Army reports X.Sector landing obtained surprise and successful. No ground opposition but shelling has started.

3. My 201739 refers.

(C. in C.Med. (Algiers) 220610 to Admty.)

Situation  
Reports.

"Shingle" situation as follows.

All landings comparatively unopposed but some fighting Anzio area later.

2. Beaches ?P. Sector bad requiring pontoons even for L.C.Ts. Delay also by some shelling from

unlocated mobile guns. Majority of two brigades complete with supporting arms ashore by 1800/22. Third Brigade sent to ?X. anchorage in hope of easier landing at Anzio which was in our hands by 1400.

3. No news from naval sources X.Sector. Progress assumed to be satisfactory but slow since no L.S.Ts. have yet been reported returning empty.

4. Army reports indicate both assaulting divisions have reached objective areas and are pressing on.

5. All L.S.I.(L) have now returned to Naples.

6. PALOMARES, mined in P.Sector, is returning in tow to Naples.

7. Operation "Lurcher" evidently kept enemy interested until after daylight 22nd.

8. DIDO, FANTASQUE, and 2 destroyers are keeping coast road Formia to Terracina inclusive under fire since 1600/22 until further notice. Object to check northbound flow of enemy reinforcement to "Shingle" area.

9. Enemy air activity on minor scale. A few fighter bombers only.

10. To sum up. Slow rate of discharge owing to bad beaches may produce an awkward situation if enemy is able to react strongly and rapidly but all steps being taken to delay enemy. Ample ships' gun support available.

11. Weather prospects favourable for next 36 hours.

(C. in C.Med. Naples, 222152 to Admty.)

Cositintrep No. 194 part 2.

1. Landing operations in ?Anzio area carried out during early hours of 22 Jan. by combined British and U.S. forces to synchronise with offensive on Fifth Army front. Initial landings successful and follow up and return convoys have sailed. Fire support was provided by cruisers, gunboats and destroyers.

2. U.S. Rangers reported to have landed at ?Anzio according to plan.

3. Diversionsary bombardment by cruisers and destroyers and dummy landing by coastal forces staged at (?Civitavecchia) simultaneously with landing operations.

(C. in C.Med. 222212A to Cositintrep.)

/Situation...

?  
1000/22,  
cu  
231841,  
page 364.

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22.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Landing in Anzio Area (Operation "Shingle")Situation  
Reports.  
(Contd.)

Situation report No. 273.

1. Operation "Shingle". Amphibious landing operations commenced at 0246/22nd Jan. on beaches North and East of Anzio (041° 27' N. 012° 37' E.) Landing was synchronized with offensive on 5th Army front. First landings reported successfully completed by 0500 and beaches secured after very slight opposition. Rangers reported as landing according to plan at Anzio. First returning convoys and following up convoys have sailed. Fire support for Army provided by ORION, SPARTAN, PENELOPE and U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN, gunboats and British and U.S. Destroyers.

2. DIDO, LE FANTASQUE and INGLEFIELD were to carry out diversionary bombardment and coastal force made dummy landing in Civitavecchia area simultaneously with landing operations.

3. Very little information yet available on all above operations. (C. in C. Med. 22217A to F.O.L.E.M. F.O.T.A.L.I. etc.)

Medcos No. 7.

1. Early reports indicate that "Shingle" convoys reached landing area unmolested and effected complete surprise. Offshore bar causing great difficulty in unloading landing craft necessitating use of pontoons even for L.C.Ts. Daylight may disclose passages. Effort will be made use Port of Anzio shortly. Some mines encountered beaches which held up Dukws (sic) but by 220445 bulk of infantry had passed through and beach roads were being cleared. At last report both assault divisions were reported approaching initial objectives some 4 miles inland, meeting no resistance.

2. L.S.I.(L)s. reported completed unloading at 0445 and returning Naples.

3. Fierce resistance on land front of Fifth Army where enemy appears to have thrown in bulk of general reserves leaving only weak forces in Rome area. The French Corps is scheduled to attack westward along Atina (Atita?) road today. Second Corps has bridgehead of 4 Bns. of 36th Div. across Rapido but strongly opposed. No change is reported on front of 46 Div. but 56th and 5th Army have beaten off several counter attacks. Latest reports on this front indicate probability of counter attack in strength.

4. Naval and air forces are being employed all out to cover landing, most communications along three lines between the front and the Pisa - Rimini line, and to interdict roads day and night between battles area and landing area.

5. Weather fine with favourable forecast for next 24 hours when it may deteriorate.

(Fairbanks, from Wilson No T.O.O. to Chiefs of Staff.)

Air Cositintrep No. 197. Med. Allied Air Force.

Day 22nd January. Continuous air protection given to invasion convoys and landings in Anzio Area, totalling 135 sorties over shipping, 465 over bridgehead. 6 escorted enemy fighter bomber missions intercepted, 7 F.W.190s and 2 Me.109s destroyed, 1 Me.109 probably destroyed, 4 F.W.190 and 2 Me.109s damaged. 3 own aircraft lost. Bomber effort was directed towards isolating battle area. 23 Kittyhawks attacked shipping destroying one 1,500 ton M/V and heavily damaging another. 4 direct hits scored on an (?armed) M/V which was later seen aground.

(Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O/22.)

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22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

Naples Traffic. Minimise traffic Naples and Algiers.  
(C. in C.Med. 220142 to Med. Stations 473B, Admty.)

Air reports. Daily Opsum 269. 21st Jan. 3 anti-shipping R/C Aegean by total 4 bomber Beaufighters, 4 Baltimores (A.30), 4 Beaufighters bombed caiques in Port Leraka on East Coast Greece. 1 caique 150 tons set on fire. 1 caique 80 tons left sinking. 1 caique 100 tons. 1 of 60 tons 2 of 50 tons, 1 of 30 tons all damaged by near misses and set? on fire. 1 A.A. position silenced. 2 Baltimores (A.30) bombed 1 caique 60 tons in harbour on Nisyros Island. No hits.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 221013Z.)

Pt. 5 of my A.F. 360. 21st Jan. 45 Kittyhawks, 15 U.S. Warhawks, 14 Spitfires, 8 Macchi 205 Armed R/C shipping Yugoslavian coastal waters. Attacked 1 merchant vessel 2000 tons 6 schooners at Ploca/Split/Gradac. 3 schooners set on fire (one blew up). 2 direct hits merchant vessel. Fire started. 2 direct hits schooner. Remainder badly damaged by strafing.

(H.Q.M.A.A.F. Adv., 221648A.)

Part 6. My A.F. 360. Med. Allied Coastal Air Force. 18th Jan. (add.) 6 U.S. Mitchells bombed merchant vessel off Porto Maurizio from 3,000 feet. Hits concentrated on vessel. Claimed definitely destroyed. 6 U.S. Mitchells bombed stationary merchant vessel off Leghorn. 4 strings of bombs burst across vessel amidships. Ship left sinking. 6 U.S. Mitchells bombed 3 stationary small craft between Leghorn and Piombino 1 vessel captured, 1 damaged.

20th January (add.) 4 U.S. Spitfires bombed 2 F-Boats Savona. Hits on decks. 2 U.S. Spitfires bombed factory plant south east of San Vincenzo. 4 bombs burst in central area. 4 U.S. Spitfires bombed F-Boats loading at San Vincenzo. 2 hits amidships followed by debris. 2 hits on jetty.

(H.Q.M.A.A.F. Adv., 221945A.)

Part 8, A.F. 360. 21st Jan. 6 U.S. Airacobras strafed 2 boats off Elba Island. 1 boat later found to be sunken L.S.T. Other boat believed tank landing craft left smoking. 1 U.S. Airacobra damaged by machine gun-fire from shore. 2 U.S. Spitfires on offensive R/C., strafed and left smoking 2 tugs off Spezia.

(H.Q.M.A.A.F. Adv., 222137A.)

U.S. Troop-ships for Oran instead of Casablanca. Cominch 211935. Present limited resources available do not permit undertaking this additional commitment permanently. These ships are expected on average of one every eight or nine days and it was not desired to make this additional call on the 13th D.F. at a time when all are required for A/S patrol of the Straits.

2. In the particular case of U.S.S. GENERAL ANDERSON, owing to necessity of troops in this ship re-embarking in a convoy due to leave Oran 3rd Feb. arrangements have been made to escort her direct to Oran.

(C. in C.Med. 221124A to Admty.)

/Italian...



22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Italian Navy. Unrest at Taranto.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 221227A.)  
See Lion Copy.

UNSPARING bombardment. You are to carry out a bombardment of Kandeliusa lighthouse after leaving your patrol area on 24th Jan.  
(Capt. S.1 221256B to P.55 (UNSPARING), (R)  
F.O.L.E.M.)

WAYLAND. It is now intended to retain WAYLAND in the Mediterranean until 15th April. A.M. 150011 refers  
(C. in C.Med. 222353A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)  
F.O.E.F.)

# MOST SECRET

353A

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

From F.O.T.A.L.I.

221227/January  
Date 23.1.44  
Recd. 1648

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

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)  
Naval Cypher KD Plug by W/I

Addressed F.O.W.It. for C.in C.Mediterranean  
repeated C.in C.Med.(Algiers), Admiralty, Allied Control  
Commission.

*Unrest in Italian Navy.*

IMPORTANT

There is much irresponsible propaganda and loose talk by Communist and other anti-King parties which is having effect on the large numbers of Italian seamen in Taranto. We have little to keep them busy or amused. The forthcoming political meeting at Bari on 28th January is causing considerable concern to Italian Naval Authorities. Italian Commander in Chief informs me he has little faith in some of his Petty Officers and that the morale of some of his younger officers has noticeably deteriorated in past few months. He fears mutiny in the Navy as a result of the meeting on the 28th but has as yet no solid grounds for this except the general atmosphere of unrest. Minister of Marine is more optimistic but considers trouble is likely and Marshall Badoglio is holding a council of Ministers on 24th January to decide what measures are necessary. Minister of Marine also mentioned general deterioration in morale of Italian Navy in the last few months as the result of incessant propaganda. I have also had reports of talk by scuttling or sailing to neutral ports should the King be forced to abdicate but Italian Naval Authorities do not consider this likely. I am investigating what can be done to sail as many Italian warships as possible from Taranto so as to be away on active employment between 26th - 31st January which is the crucial period. Proposals follow to C.in C.Mediterranean.

I find it difficult to believe that it is necessary to permit such an explosive political meeting at this juncture especially as it must be entirely irresponsible. If it must be held I consider a definite official statement from the Allied Governments should now be made to remind the Italians that defeat of the enemy is the first consideration and that the form of Government will not be changed until enough of Italy has been liberated to enable a really representative proportion of the people to decide what is wanted.

221227A

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
Naval Sec.  
Sec.  
P.A.S.(S)  
N.A. 1st S.L.

U.W.R.  
D. Map Rm.  
D.O.D.(H)(4)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.C.  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D.N.I.(4)  
Hd. of M.(27)  
D. of P.(2)  
D. of P.(Q)(2)  
W.D.

Ad. Blake (4)  
I.P.(2)

FK

03

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22.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Sinking of  
KUMA class  
cruiser  
by  
TALLY HO,  
11/1/44.

Following is in amplification of S.4 181052. First indication that KUMA Class cruiser might be leaving Penang was A/C. at 0845 on 11th Jan. which came from North entrance and flew directly over TALLY HO. (2) After torpedoes hit enemy at 0915 hydrophone effect stopped at once. TALLY HO increased depth to 80 feet and steered towards North entrance, that is towards the shore, as being most improbable action on her part. Consider first counter attack of 18 depth charges was made on firing position by running down torpedo tracks. No asdic transmissions guard and believe no contact made by destroyers. (3) At 1015 TALLY HO, at periscope depth some 3 to 4 miles from enemy position when hit, could see no sign of cruiser. Since S/M. was between enemy and entrance to Penang, consider cruiser must have been sighted if afloat, and high explosive heard if she had proceeded after attack destroyers moving at high speed across stern of TALLY HO. Two or more A/C. patrolling. TALLY HO dived again. (4) At 11.30 returned to periscope depth. Destroyer had also disappeared. A/C. patrolling. (5) At 1300 TALLY HO came to periscope depth 7 miles from attack position, thick puffs of black smoke which continued until 1745. (6) Consider above facts fully confirm sinking of cruiser coupled with light scale counter attack which suggests destroyer was picking up survivors. (C. in C.E.F. 220309Z to Admty.)

\* Hydrophone Effect. 1

SONAVATI.

H.M.I.S. SONAVATI left Addu Atoll Jan. 20th with stores and relief for James. (Route). E.T.A. James. 0130Z Jan. 26th. Returned to Colombo by reverse of route given in my 071550. (C. in C.E.F. 220342Z to Admty.)

22.1.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

P.C.1284  
(SABRE.)

U.S.S. P.C.1284 is being turned over to Fighting French and will be renamed SABRE. Request International Radio Callsigns may be allocated. (B.A.D. 220243Z to Admty.)  
Reply: 241134A.

SEARCHER.

Your 192305Z. SEARCHER should be sailed for U.K. after embarking Corsair III's.  
Cancel A.M. 031613.  
(V.C.N.S. 221020A to B.A.D.)

T.G.64.9.

My 171800. L.C.I. 507 - 517 inclusive ALGORMA, DIVER, A.T.R. 2, 3, 54 will sail as part of Task Force 64. Comtaskforce 64 when appropriate (?sail) Azores direct. This detachment (then constituted Task Group 64.9, Com. L.C.I. Flot. 11 Comdr. Warburton in L.C.I. 513 Commanding) proceed Horta where upon arrival L.C.I.s. report to Com. 12th Fleet for duty and tugs and DIVER for temporary duty. Task Group is then dissolved. (Cominla 221835Z to Cinclant,, Cotclant.)

NABOB,  
PUNCHER.

Your 172218. Arrangement you have made to man NABOB and your proposed manning of PUNCHER are much appreciated.  
2. Grateful for your offer to accept maintenance charges other than of aircraft.  
(Head of M.II 221723A to N.S.H.Q.)

L.S.I.(L)s.  
passage to  
U.K.

Your 172205 para. 4. Concur subject to approval of Cominch.  
(D.O.D.(H) 221816A to B.A.D.)

CILICIA.  
U/B.

Due to submarine in area 021° N. 048° W. alter for new point L. 030° N. 045° W. thence point G. omitting K. and F.  
(Cdr. 10th U.S.Fleet, C. & R. 221945Z to CILICIA.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial  
No. 732 Jan.  
21st.

6. Night search Liberator scored two direct hits quarter tons bombs small freighter, 70 miles east Lorengau early hours. Vessel claimed sunk. Shortly afterwards possible second vessel located 20 miles further west.  
7. Same time another Liberator bombed and sank medium tanker southbound 50 miles east of Wewak. Two barges seen nearby.

War Diary.

22.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest serial 17. Night 19th off Choiseul Bay one Jap. armed  
No. 732 Jan. landing craft, one barge gunboat engaged two Allied  
21st. motor torpedo boats which suffered some damage,  
(Contd.) casualties. Enemy craft apparently patrolling  
straits attacked with accurate fire including ex-  
plosive shells before escaping. Same night other  
allied patrol boats sank two barges in Choiseul  
Bay.
18. Next night two U.S. destroyers sank one gunboat, set afire five  
barges, drove two more barges aground Bougainville Strait.  
Other barges hit but escaped.
23. Coastal targets Southern Empress Augusta Bay bombarded  
evening 20th by four U.S. destroyers.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 220618Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

- Sub. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/22nd January. (No attacks.)  
& sighting (D.D.I.C. 220952Z.)  
summary. Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 221400A, 221410A.)

23.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.

1. Convoy J.W. 56A was about 240 miles N.E. of Seidisfiord at 1700A last night, steering 054 degs at 10 knots.

C.S.1 in KENT, with BERWICK and BERMUDA, left Akureyri at 1600A to-day to cover the Convoy; and at 1606 BERWICK returned to Akureyri to continue repairs to her dynamos.

All the M/V's in the original J.W. 56A Convoy have now been accounted for.

U-Boat  
attacked.

2. Escort Group 15 left Lough Foyle at 1409A to-day to carry out an A/S search; and at 2236 when about 30 miles N.W. of Malin Head the Sloop PORTCHESTER CASTLE attacked a U-Boat on the surface which was then hunted by her and SALADIN, while at 2302A KENILWORTH CASTLE and BERKELEY CASTLE had put down a second U-Boat and were joining the hunt for the first.

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

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War Diary.

23.1.1944.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Escort  
Carrier  
for H.F.

C. in C. H.F.'s 092002 request you will allocate an Escort Carrier from your Command. Ship detailed is required to come under the orders of C. in C. H.F. from about 10th February. (A.C.N.S.(H), 230200A to C. in C. W.A.)

TANTALUS.

TANTALUS leaving Scilly Isles at 0800A/26th diving by day via route Brown, daily advance 165 miles, E.T.A. in 043 degs. N. 0800A/30th thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A. (Capt. (S) 3, 231731A to F.O.G.M.A.)

F.O.Force  
"J".

A.M. 222250A. The broad pendant of Commodore First Class G.N. Oliver is to be hoisted in MARSHAL SOULT at 0900A/25th. and transferred to VECTIS at 0900A/26th. The Flag of Rear Admiral Sir Philip Vian will be hauled down in VECTIS at sunset 25th. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 232237A to F.O.Force "J")

Operations.

Operation  
F.W.

Your 221440. RAPIDOL will remain as requested. (A.C.I.C. 230006 to C.S.1)  
J.W.56A. CHARLES BULLFINCH (U.S.) returned, minor weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 230954A)

Position at 232000. J.W.56B. (S.O) WRESTLER, 060 degs. 20' N. 009 degs. 32' W. 6.

MILNE and 6 destroyers 062 degs. 40' N. 014 degs. 10' W. to Seidisfjord, 14.

(A.C.O.S. 231157 to Ships)

J.W.56A. P.C.S. at 1700A/22, Join 068 degs. 40' N. 010 degs. 00' W. 054 degs. 10 knots.

(M/S 18, 231201A to H.F.)

J.W.56B. Following ships selected for White Sea, (a) destination Ekonomia, total three. Names.

(b) Destination Molotovsk total 5. Names.

(2) No replacement required in event of casualties to personnel.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 231247A to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

White Sea Section of J.W. 56A remain as given in my 151629, loss JOHN A. QUITMAN and JOSEPH N. FYSON.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 231331A to H.F.)

BERWICK is again having trouble with her dynamos. Should further defects occur while at sea intend to detach her to Scapa direct. My 221440A refers.

(2) At present consider repairs can be continued on return to Akureyri.

(C.S.1, 231222A to V.A.2)

C.S.1's 231333A. In accordance with C.S.1's instruction have returned to Akureyri to continue repairs.

(BERWICK, 231606 to V.A.2)

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.)      Operation F.W. Intend sailing R.A.56A 1000A/29th  
 23 ships, speed  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots. As this may entail a  
 meeting with J.W. 56A in the vicinity of position  
 K request J.W.56B may be diverted to Eastward to  
 keep it clear. Undesirable to route R.A.56A  
 further to Westward for this purpose.  
 Intend sailing R.A.56B 1000A/2nd February, 18 or  
 19 ships, speed  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 231625A to V.A.2)  
 My 191802. R.A.56A sails 1000A/29th. 23 ships.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 231641A to H.F.)  
 Akureyri departure at 1600A/23rd C.S.(I) in KENT, with  
 BERWICK and BERMUDA.  
 (A.C.I.C. 231816A to V.A.2)  
 Kola Inlet sailed HUSSAR and HALCYON for local escort duty.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 231930A to S.B.N.O. Archangel)  
 My 231816. BERWICK returned Akureyri.  
 (A.C.I.C. 232044A to V.A.2)

Submarine Chaser Operation.      My 171324. VIGRA returned at 0500A today.  
 (2) Operation successful.  
 (A.C.O.S. 230530 to Admty.)

Biscay A/S Operations.      Homeward bound U-Boat estimated near you today.  
 (D.D.I.C. 230904A to ENTERPRISE, KINGSTON AGATE)  
 Cancel my 40Z 25th May and 42 Z 3rd June and  
 substitute the following: H.W.O.84 para. 8 Bay  
 of Biscay area.

All fishing vessels are to be attacked in Bay of Biscay area  
 except French Fishing Vessels east of line drawn along longitude  
 002 degs. 30' W. from southern limit of sink-at sight zone to  
 position 045 degs. 34' N. thence position 049 degs. 00' N.  
 007 degs. 30' W.

(2) Notwithstanding repeat warnings French Tunny-men are liable  
 to appear in the Bay as far west as 008 degs. west where their  
 presence cannot be tolerated. Attacks should therefore be  
 carried out on these vessels by day as well as by night.

(3) It is not desired to cause more loss of life than is necessary  
 for purpose of driving Tunneymen back into coastal waters.  
 Attempts should be made where possible to remove crews before  
 sinking.

(C. in C. H.F. 231033A to H.F.)

BLOCK ISLAND U.S.S. C.T.G. 21.16 escorted by 3 U.S. destroy-  
 ers will be operating in vicinity - 043 degs. 01' N. 029 degs.  
 59' W. My 231251 refers.

(C. in C. W.A. 231253A to Ships)

ARIADNE now reports her E.T.A. at Horta for fuel will be  
 1000A tomorrow.

(2) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to inform ENTERPRISE time at  
 which she should arrive Horta.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231341 to ENTERPRISE, S.B.N.O. Azores.)  
 232000A. Your 231341A. My P.C.S. 045 degs. 12' N. 021

degs. 27' W. 228 degs.  $16\frac{1}{2}$  knots. E.T.A. Horta 1030A/25th.

(ENTERPRISE, 232035 to C. in C. Plymouth)

S/M Patrols.      SEADOG arrived.  
 (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 231002 to Admty)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Positions of submarines at 0800/24th and movements  
Patrols. for following 24 hours.  
(Contd.) (A) STUBBORN and SEANYMPH as in my 191812.  
(B) SPIRIT as in my 201621.  
(C) VIKING as in my 221731.  
(D) TELEMACHUS leaves vicinity 65 degs. 20' N.  
01 degs. 10' E. at 1900/24th through 64 degs. 52' N. 02 degs. 01'  
E. thence course 210 degs. dived by day North of 62 degs.  
(E) VENTURER leaves patrol off Kya as convenient to pass through  
61 degs. 26' N. 03 degs. 01' E. at 1700/24th, thence to 090 degs.  
Muckle Flugga 2 O and Lerwick probably on surface when 60 miles  
clear of Norwegian coast.  
(F.O.S. 231717A to Admt.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 231424A)  
Force  
Patrols.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Following convoying of laden merchant ships passed  
Convoys. Skorpen 23rd, course North, speed 9.  
(A) at 0930Z 3 escorted by 2 patrol vessels.  
(B) at 1015Z 8 escorted by 2 T.B's and 2 patrol  
vessels.  
(F.O.S. 231404A to S/M's)

U-Boats.

A/S search Sailed MAGPIE, SCARBOROUGH, CARISBROOKE CASTLE.  
by E.G.15.  
Two U/B  
Attacked.

Both ships confirm S/M contact.  
(E.G. 15, 232005 to A.C.H.Q. Liverpool)  
(A) 055 degs. 21' N. 008 degs. 46' W.  
(B) PORCHESTER CASTLE attacking submarine sighted on surface and  
seen to dive. PORCHESTER CASTLE now in contact.  
(E.G.15, 232236A to A.C.H.Q. Liverpool)  
Your 232226. PORCHESTER CASTLE and SALADIN in contact and  
hunting. KENILWORTH CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE have put down  
second Submarine and are now hunting first. Remainder of  
group continuing search to Eagle Island. 1 Liberator sweeping  
in vicinity.  
(E.G.15, 232302A to A.C.H.Q.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

SEADOG. SEADOG Reports:  
O221A/21st, grounded in approx. 59 degs. 17' N. 04 degs. 51' E. Sustained damage as in SEADOG's 211803.  
(F.O.S. 231026A to Admty.)

WARWICK. E.T.A. Merville 1500A/24th. WARWICK in addition to numerous minor defects requires docking for repairs of tanks and compartments. In view of general condition of WARWICK's hull submit ship should proceed to her own base after taking in sufficient fuel at Merville.  
(WARWICK, 231114Z to C. in C. W.A.)

SAMUEL DEXTER. If fuel possibly permits escort SAMUEL DEXTER throughout dark hours tonight. Estimated P.C.S. at 1200A/23rd, 055 degs. 09' N. 015 degs. 05' W. 085 degs. 6 knots. SAPPER and ASSIDUOUS in company have been reported by enemy A/C.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231218A to WARWICK, VOLUNTEER)

Your 231605. My P.C.S. at 1700A, 054 degs. 43' N. 014 degs. 28' W. 075 degs. 7 knots.  
(SAPPER, 231701A to C. in C. W.A.)  
Am in company SAPPER, ASSIDUOUS and SAMUEL DEXTER. Intend remaining until daylight then proceeding (Londonderry?). Position given by SAPPER 231701A is confirmed.  
(VOLUNTEER, 232055A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40.  
O.N.221. C. in C. W.A. 181248 and Capt. D. Liverpool's 221731. Intend sailing BUGLOSS 1400A/24th January to Greenock. On completion of calibrating F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail BUGLOSS to overtake O.S.66/K.M.S.40.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 231615 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Intend sailing escorts for K.M.S.40. (A) PETUNIA a.m. 24th. to Merville for fuel.  
(B) MOYOLA (S.O), CLARKIA a.m. 24th to comply with C. in C. W.A. 201114 amended by N.C.S.O. Mersey 221159.  
(C) BURDOCK, PETUNIA, ARMERIA, STORM KING with Clyde Portion.  
(D) EXE (S.O. E.G.40) a.m. 25th to join Convoy at Oversay R/V.  
(2) Cdre. D. Western Approaches is requested to sail PETUNIA to join Convoy at Oversay R/V.  
(Capt. D. Greenock, 231632A and 241314A to Cdre. D. W.A.)  
(1) It is intended to take further anti U-Boat (German) precautions in Approaches to North Channel.  
(2) O.N.221 and O.S. 66/K.M.S.40 will be met off Oversay on 25th by ships of 15th E.G. who will support to 010 degs. W.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40.  
O.N.221.                   (3) SCARBOROUGH with (29th Division) BERKELEY  
CASTLE, SALADIN, KENILWORTH CASTLE to O.S.  
                                  (4) MAGPIE with (30th Division) CARISBROOKE  
CASTLE, ACANTHUS, SCIMITAR, PRESCOTT to O.N.  
                                  (5) 29th and 30th Support Divisions will form line  
                                  abreast screen 3 miles ahead of respective convoys.
- (6) C.2 E.G. are to form part of close escort of O.N. 221 until  
010 degs. W.
- (7) A number of ships of close escort are to be detailed to join  
and act under orders of S.O's support Division until latter are  
detached. Number will be signalled later.
- (8) Special Air Co-operation for support divisions will be  
arranged.
- (C. in C. W.A. 231805A to B.2, C.2, E.G.40)  
O.N.M.221.  
A.1935A/230.    B. H.M.T. SETTER (to Lough Foyle).
- C. 13 including 3 tankers, 1 special and 2 N.D.  
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 231952A to Admty.)
- O.N.220,  
S.C.151.                   O.N.220, S.C.151. Do not get to port of your  
routes. Your attention is called to my situation  
report central section.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231723A to Escorts S.C.151)
- O.N.S.27.                   SUDEROY returned from O.N.S. M.27, steering gear  
broken, L.P. cylinder cracked.  
EPIROS returned from O.N.S. 27, Shortage of oil  
fuel due to heavy weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 231751A to C. in C. W.A.)
- J.W.57.  
R.A.57.  
CHASER.                   Admiralty 230200A. It is intended to allocate  
H.M.S. CHASER who will be placed under your orders  
from 10th February to support North Russian convoy  
J.W.57 and R.A.57.  
(2) In order to meet requirements specified in  
your 092002A F.O.C.T. is requested to raise the  
fighter components to 6 Wildcats which are considered to be the  
best type of fighters to operate in weather conditions likely to  
prevail.  
(C. in C. W.A. 231822A to C. in C. H.F.)
- D.S.49.                   A.M. 221940. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA to break off  
from convoy D.S.49 in position, 62.20 N. 22.00 W.  
routed through following positions to New York.  
(D.O.D.(H), 232126A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

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23.1.1944.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

A/C attack on U/B. 23 Jan. Gib/Pinko (1) 23 Jan. A. 22 Jan. B. C.F.A.W.15. C. M.A.D. Cat. P.163 Squadron. D. Magnetic signals in 35.53 N. 05.45 W. and 1405A 24 contact retro bombs fired in strings of 8, in 5 to 8 mins. 4 air bubble patches indicated 4 bombs made contacts light oil appeared on surface. (A.C.H.Q. Gib. 230100A to H.Q.C.C.)

Gib/P.2 23rd Jan. A. 22nd Jan. B. C.F.A.W.15. C. Ventura. D. Sighted at periscope depth submerged 4 seconds before bombs released position 34.39 N. 07.10 W. C. 100° 2 knots at 1520A. Some debris and light oil streak with heavy patches darker oil. (A.C.H.Q. Gib. 230120A to H.Q.C.C.)

CALDER U/B. K.M.F.28. CALDER reported periscope near convoy at 1633A in 035° 30' N. 007° 00' W. Many whales seen, good contact attacked. Consider presence of U/B doubtful. (S.O. E.G.4, 231741 to F.O.G.M.A.)

O.24, refit in U.S.A. 2. B.A.M.R. Washington is requested to confirm that O.24 can be accepted for refit at Philadelphia if arriving about 1st March. 3. Subject to B.A.M.R.'s confirmation as in para.2 route for O.24. 4. S.B.N.O. W.A. is requested to arrange for sailing and onward routing of O.24 to arrive Philadelphia about 1st March or otherwise as indicated by B.A.M.R. (D.O.D. (F) 231721A to F.O.G.M.A. etc.)

T.G.21.13. C.T.G.21.13 complies Cinclant 221427. Position 24 0800Z 41.00 35.15 advancing N.N.E.12. Sweeping 170 mile circle as weather permits. Weather. (C.T.G. 21.13 232145 to Cinclant.)

South Atlantic.

DUMANA (torpedoed 24/12.) British Ship DUMANA. Corpses and wreckage from this ship found on coast near Sassandon on 28th Dec. Nine corpses apparently English and one Malay. None bore means of identification. (F.O.C.W.A. 231003Z to Admty.)

Cruiser Patrols. My 221553Z. Ships will carry out patrol inward amend positions from which ships leave patrol to read H and F respectively. (F.O.C.W.A. 231648Z to Comar Dakar.)

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23.1.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Landing in Anzio Area - Operation "Shingle".

28th M.L. Flotilla to join Force P. Following is a repetition of my 230328 (N.T. in W.R.) (Begins). Addressed N.O.I.C. Ischia (R) S.O. Force P, C.T.F. 81, from F.O.W. Italy. S.O. Force P's 221903 (N.T. in W.R.). Request you sail M/S M.L. 575 and all boats of 28th M.L. Flotilla at 0730/23rd Jan. to report to BULOLO before dark in approx. 041° 20' N. 012° 25' E.

(2) Route through 040° 51' N. 012° 46' E.

(3) Report number of boats of 31st Flotilla available for duty in Gulf of Naples. (Ends).  
(F.O.W.It., 231206A to C.T.F. 81.)

Situation Reports. Report 1630. All L.S.Ts. at Peter Beach except one on pontoon and BOXER and BRUISER discharged. 2 Liberties still unloading. Military situation ashore unchanged. Occasional shelling of beach area.  
(S.O. Force P, 231701A to C. in C. Med., C.T.F. 81.)

"Shingle" situation as follows.

1. L.S.Ts., L.C.Ts. and L.C.I.(L) now arriving back in considerable numbers to reload at Naples.
2. Army consolidating perimeter of intended bridge-head. Only patrols going further. First flights of the two divisions should be completed a.m. today 23rd.
3. No reports on fighting in area except slight shelling by mobile guns.
4. PALOMARES should arrive Naples p.m. today. Hit aft propeller and rudder out of action. U.S.S. PORTEGG (PORTENT intended) sunk by mine and L.C.I.(L) 20 burnt out by bomb in X section.
5. Anzio open and wrecks being cleared. L.S.Ts. already unloading third Brigade there.
6. P beaches very unsatisfactory above highwater mark as well as below. Will probably be closed as soon as Anzio is clear.
7. DIDO and destroyers shelled coast road Formia and westward between 1000/22 and 1100/23. Road now also blocked by bombs so one destroyer only is being left to maintain pressure.
8. Weather likely to deteriorate after 0001/23 (as received) Westerly winds up to force 5 expected.

(C. in C. Med., Naples, 231841A to Admty.)

Situation report No. 279.

1. Anzio in our hands by 1400/22nd Jan. and ships commenced unloading in the harbour. Discharge over beach slow due to bad surface. Follow up convoy programme proceeding satisfactorily. PALOMARES and U.S. M/S PORTENT mined, former is proceeding to Naples in tow. Latter sank. Enemy air activity slight up to p.m./23rd Jan. but during attack at 1815 JANUS was hit by glider bomb\* and sank.

DIDO, LE FANTASQUE, KEMPENFELT and INGLEFIELD have carried out a number of bombardments on coast road between Formia and Terracina.

2 and 3 M.G. Bs. encountered convoy of 6 F lighters, 2 trawlers and 2 E-Boats 10 miles north-west of Piombino during night 22nd/23rd Jan. One lighter and one E-Boat damaged. One E-Boat

JANUS

sunk.

\* ho. aircraft reports, see 241859A, p. 380.

/set on fire ...

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Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Landing in Anzio Area - Operation "Single".

Situation set on fire. Slight casualties and superficial  
Reports. damage to our craft.  
(Contd.) 3. BLACKMOOR and LAUDERDALE carried out  
uneventful patrol in Hvar Channel during night  
21st/22nd.  
(C. in C. Med., 232036A to Admty., etc.)

IZ. 552. Medcos. No. 11. Signed Wilson. Build-up beach-head  
area continues and landings through Anzio have commenced.  
Further lift of L.S.Ts. leaves Naples tonight.  
No major enemy reaction apparent so far.  
(Fairbanks from Wilson, 232100 to C.O.S.)

C. in C. Expect to arrive assault area in KEMPENFELT to  
at Anzio. see you about 1130 tomorrow 24th. Will berth  
alongside or close to U.S.S. BISCAYNE on arrival.  
Request arrangements be made for me to visit  
Anzio and then BULOLO subsequently, and M.L. or  
other suitable craft be available.  
(C. in C. Med., Naples, 231736A to C.T.F. 81.)

LE FANTASQUE Proceeding direct Bizerta to ammunition 315 H.E.  
(bombardeed shells required. S. of A. through position 33  
Civita- and (? 55) 22 knots, E.T.A. 0730A/24th.  
vecchia) (LE FANTASQUE, 231930 to V.A. Malta.)

JERVIS Sailed JERVIS for Naples damaged at bows by  
damaged. glider bomb. No casualties. Some of survivors  
from JANUS on board, 5 officers, 55 ratings.  
Escort URCHIN. JERVIS reporting E.T.A. Route  
"Roger".  
(S.O. Force P, 232115A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

KEMPENFELT Large amount of motor transport reported moving  
Formia west through Formia. Keep up methodical firing  
bombardment. on area.  
(C. in C. Med., Naples, 232158A to KEMPENFELT.  
(R) INGLEFIELD, F.O.W.It., C.T.F. 81.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

- EASTWAY. A.M. 191924 Dec. EASTWAY is allocated to Mediterranean Station.  
2. She should be used to make one trip to U.K. with minor landing craft before "Anvil". C. in C. Med.'s 041418 Dec. refers.  
(D. of P.(Q), 230045A to C. in C. Med.)
- A/C attack. Nr.1. Attacked submerged object V(?X)AS 1305 1213 FG (undecypherable).  
(A/C AHU/M, 230600Z.)
- A/C attack on caique. Have attacked one enemy caique of 50 tons 35.35 N. 27.25 E. at 0915Z.  
(A/C ASJ/X, 230930Z.)
- Air Reports. A.263 cipher 22nd Jan. Most Secret. Cite FHGCT FHGBI. Signed Wilson.  
Air Cosintintrep No. 196.  
Day 21st Jan. 1944. 45 Kittyhawks attacked shipping in Yugoslavia with direct hits on 1 schooner at Ploca and 1 schooner at Gradoc, near misses on 2 M/Vs at Split. 15 Warhawks scored direct hits on M/V at Split.  
(Air C. in C. Med., No T.O.O./23.)  
A.F. 365. Med. Allied Air Forces Opsum. 336.  
21st/22nd Jan. 43 Wellingtons Fiume Torpedo Works. 72 tons of 400 and 500 pounds general purpose. Excellent coverage with target straddled. Enormous explosion, fires visible 100 miles from target. Shipping strikes Yugoslavian coastal waters. 4 missions total 23 Kittyhawks, 12 U.S. Thunderbolts, 8 Italian Macchi, 205 Kittyhawks dropped 7 x 1000, 31 x 500, claim 1 motor vessel 1500 tons sunk and 1 damaged at Trogir. 4 direct hits 5000 ton vessel north of Zara. Severely damaged.  
22nd Jan. 12 U.S. Mitchells escort 12 U.S. Spits. bombed shipping Porto Ferrario. Many hits among 25 small craft. About 9 destroyed others damaged. Fires among dock installations. 2 U.S. Spits. bombed F-Boats and barge south-west of Castiglione. Bombs fell short. 4 U.S. Spitfires attacked E-Boat base Viareggio. Bombing accurate but damage obscured by smoke.  
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. Adv., 232041A, 232140A, 232239A.)  
M.E. Balkan Sitrep No. 68.  
5. Air Ops. A. Bombing. 21st Jan. 45 Kittyhawks, 15 Warhawks, 14 Spitfires, 8 Macchi 205s Armed R/C Yugoslav coastal waters scored direct hits with bombs on 2000 ton M/V causing fire, set on fire 3 schooners one of which blew up, two direct hits on another schooner, badly damaged 2 others by straffing, one Warhawk, one Spitfire missing. All shipping was in Ploca-Split-Gradoc areas. All above aircraft of N.A.A.F.  
(C. in C. M.E., 232010B.)
- Escort Groups, exchange. Your 211832 (Exchanging escort groups of BIDEFORD and AIRE). No objection.  
(A.C.N.S.(F), 231154A to C. in C. Med.)

/LAMERTON ...

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23.1.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.LAMERTON,  
QUANTOCK,  
A/S sweep.Take QUANTOCK under your orders and sail at 1700A  
January 23rd as follows:

- (a) At 18 knots to 041° N. 012° E.
- (b) Thence carry out A/S sweep at 15 knots through  
042° 00' N. 009° 55' E., 042° 40' N. 009° 54' E.,  
042° 44' N. 009° 46' E. thence to parallel 043° N.

where a continuous A/S search is to be maintained between the Corsican Coast and Island of Capraia (keeping outside the 100 fathom line).

- (2) Search is to be maintained to the prudent limit of endurance (no fuel is available at Bastia).
- (3) Codeword "Olivia".
- (4) On receipt of (? this) Bastia is requested to inform F.O.W.It. and LAMERTON of fighter protection A/S air searches and movements of our forces.  
(F.O.W.It., 231631 to LAMERTON.)

Enemy

Intelligence,  
Aegean.Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intelligence Appreciation  
24 hours to 1000 hours 23rd Jan. 1944. All times  
G.M.T.

6. Shipping summary. Every indication imminent departure from Piraeus important convoys including long inactive tanker CERERE also LEDA and 4 other merchant vessels. Cargoes reported mainly munitions. Destinations not yet certain but major portion most probably for Dodecanese remainder Crete. Photographic R/C 22nd Jan. shows Seerauber convoy still present Rhodes but sighting a.m./23rd Jan. suggests may now have sailed probably evacuating Italian prisoners to Leros. Siebel ferry and 3 landing craft seen still present Samos 22nd Jan. but early departure expected possibly for Leros. Indications from photographic R/C and C.X. intensification air transport to Rhodes possibly bringing troops and stores and evacuating prisoners. C.X. reports arrival Istanbul 21st Jan. 4 further Danube craft each 50 GRT in transit for Aegean. Although no report of departure collier P.L.M.16 from Istanbul early sailing for Aegean expected. Further indications intensive caique traffic north Aegean notably from Mitylene with olive oil to Piraeus and Salonika and foodstuffs to Chios.  
(C. in C. M.E., 231830B.)



War Diary.

23.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Attack on  
U/B 22nd Jan.

Ref. U-Boat dispositions signal No. 19. Area F.  
Aircraft report attacking U-Boat in 014° 43' N. 080  
degs. 25' E. 1330Z/22nd Jan.  
(C. in C.E.F. 230341Z.)  
Attacked again, see 240304.

Convoy  
A.J.1.

1. A.J.1. 2. 0400Z/23rd Jan. 3. Colombo 0600Z/2  
Feb. 4. 9 knots. 5. (Route). 6. LINARIA.  
10, 11, 12, 19. Ammunition, Colombo for Trincomalee.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 230451Z to Admt. etc.)

Air report.

23rd Jan. Daily Opsun No. 679.  
22nd Jan. 4 Beaufighters Mandalay - Pokokku.  
Damaged one small steamer or barge. 12 plus small  
rivercraft. 10 Hurricanes Mayu - Kaladan Water-  
ways. Small Greek steamer badly damaged. 5  
Sampans sunk, 24 damaged, 2 landing stages  
destroyed.  
(A.C.S.E.A. 230810Z.)

ILLUSTRIOUS,  
Barracuda.

R/V 0930 F.G. 27th Jan. 007° 00' N. 079° 10' E.  
mean line of advance 155° 17 knots.  
2. Hoped to disembark ILLUSTRIOUS Barracuda  
Squadron on 27th Jan. (group missing) consultation  
Cdr. Kilroy. R.N.A.S. Indian Ocean T.O.O. 191601  
refers.  
(F.O.C.A.C.E.F. 230839Z to R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean.)

23.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Codes and  
Cyphers. From Chiefs of Staff. C.O.S.(W) 1090 and C.O.S.(W) 1091. Memorandum on use of insecure cyphers by Allies.  
(Air Min. 230030Z, 230035Z to Britman, Washington).

MAGIC,  
Russian  
Sweepers. Norfolk (Vir.) sailed Jan. 22nd MAGIC for Bermuda to escort Russian Minesweepers and Sub. Chasers to U.K.  
(N.S.H.Q. 230046Z to Admty.)

CILICIA,  
U/B estimate. Enemy U-Boat (German) estimate 1200Z/23rd Jan.  
1. Estimated moving East or Northeast within 200 miles 022° 00' 046° 00'.  
(Cominch 231454Z to CILICIA, Info. Cinclant.)

Escort  
Oilers. Difficulty is being found in maintaining necessary minimum number of Escort Oilers with convoy and risk of damaging equipment at outset of voyage is not acceptable.  
2. Request that oiling at sea by Western Local Escorts be temporarily restricted to westward-bound convoys.  
(D.T.D. 231551A as amended 242002A to C. in C.C.N.A)

French  
Submarines. In para. 6 of your 181937 Dec. U.S. agreed to allocation to British of 2 of the 3 French operational submarines to be released on return to Mediterranean of ARCHIMEDE and the other one to U.S. The allocation of a French submarine for Casablanca has always been considered a separate and additional commitment, and MARSOUIN is not considered to be one of the three above.  
2. We agree therefore that U.S. should have ANTIOPE under their control in satisfaction of the agreement in para. 1 above and concur with para. 1 A and 2 A of your 211531.  
3. Although by existing agreement the one mentioned in para. 1 B of your 211521 should be allocated to us, suggest that this should be reviewed nearer the time as availability of more Italians may have altered the picture.  
4. When will GLORIEUX be ready?  
(Hd. of M.II\*231901A to B.A.D.)  
\* Approved by A.C.N.S.(F)

ARIADNE,  
weather  
damage. Have sustained damage due to heavy weather, most important of which is buckling of (?stanchions) support in deck. This and other items require early attention.  
(ARIADNE 232350N to Cominch.)

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23.1.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Digest serial Paras. 21 to 23 cover South Pacific Forces.  
No. 733 Jan. 2. Morning nine Beaufighters harassed Western  
22nd. Timor destroying two Luggers and one small  
coastal vessel.  
3. Early hours 4 ship convoy including one possible destroyer unsuccessfully attacked by Patrol Liberator 55 miles Northwest New Hanover heading Southeast. One hour later second Liberator attacked Convoy same vicinity heading west. Near miss caused one merchant vessel to slow down.  
4. Same time one merchant vessel attacked by other Liberators 35 miles East Wewak heading towards Wewak. Same aircraft unsuccessfully attacked 3 small ships 10 miles Northwest Wewak.  
8. Morning 11 Mitchells with 17 Lightnings escorted carried out one patrol, craft 500 tons sunk by direct hit crew strafed. One medium freighter set afire by direct hit seen 2 hours later by R/C aircraft burning fiercely listing badly.  
12. Evening 2 Lightnings heavily strafed sea truck off Hansa Bay. Crew abandoned ship which exploded probably carrying fuel.  
13. Ground observer reports Rocke Island apparently evacuated by Japanese leaving considerable equipment behind.  
14. Jap. submarine contacted night 20/21st off Gali by motor torpedo boats.  
15. Same night other patrol craft attacked by 7 enemy aircraft off Bagabag Island 30 miles Northeast Madang. One plane believed destroyed.  
16. Night January 22nd Navy Catalinas strafed single small freighter dead in water 55 miles East Wewak.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 230902Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack  
& sighting  
summary.

- For 24 hours to 0900Z/23rd January.  
Para. A. 1. A/C P/163 attacked U-Boat at 1305/22 in 35° 53' N. 05° 45' W.  
2. A/C attacked U-Boat course 100° at 1420/22 in 34° 39' N. 07° 10' W.  
Para. B. 1. B.Y.M.S. 2234 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 2030/22 in 39° 34' N. 27° 56' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 230957Z.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 231353A.)

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24.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.

1. Convoy J.W. 56A was about 290 miles E.N.E. of Jan Mayen at 0800 to-day, and READY and ORESTES of the Local Escort arrived at the Faeroes at 0222A this morning.

Convoy J.W. 56B was about 150 miles South of Seidisfiord at 2100A to-day. Captain D.3 in MILNE with the six other Destroyers of the Destroyer Escort arrived at Seidisfiord at 1254A, and MAHRATTA and SCOURGE left again at 2002A to meet the Convoy.

Search for  
U-Boats off  
Malin Head.

2. The search for the two U-Boats located last night off N.W. Ireland was continued to-day by ships of the 15th Escort Group assisted by one Destroyer, two Corvettes, and one Frigate from Escort Group C.2; and C. in C. W.A. intends to provide special A/S support for Convoys O.N.221 and O.S.66/K.M.S.40 in the approaches to the North Channel as well as special A/C co-operation.

Senior  
Canadian  
Flag Officer  
(Overseas)

3. Vice-Admiral P.W. Nelles, C.B., R.C.N., has to-day assumed the duties of Senior Canadian Flag Officer (Overseas).

Home Fleet.

4. C.S.10 in BELFAST left Rosyth at 2236 for Scapa; and JAMAICA left Scapa at 1629 for Rosyth.

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Report for Foreign Stations has been omitted.

War Diary24.1.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Four Destroyers and four Corvettes for Plymouth Command. C. in C. Plymouth's 142049. C. in C.W.A. is requested to transfer to Plymouth as soon as practicable 4 Destroyers from those nominated in C. in C.W.A. 041108 Para.4. (2).C. in C.W.A. is also requested to nominate 4 Flower-class Corvettes for transfer to Plymouth Command early February when they are relieved by Castle corvettes from new construction. (A.C.N.S.(H), 240233A to C. in C.W.A.).

A.M. 240233. (1) Destroyers nominated and anticipated dates of sailing are as follows:-  
SALADIN - Now. SCIMITAR - On completion of operation at present in progress. SKATE - In about 5 days time. VOLUNTEER - Further signal will be made after ships arrival at Liverpool tomorrow when extent of weather damage has been examined.  
(2) Corvettes will be nominated in due course.  
(C. in C.W.A. 241239A and 251810A to Admty.).

Senior Canadian (F.O. Overseas). Vice Admiral P.W. Nelles. C.B. R.C.N. has assumed duties of Senior Canadian Flag Officer (Overseas) to date 24th January 1944. (S.C.N.O. London, 241238A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

VINEYARD Cancel my 232013A. French Navy will take over H.M. Submarine VINEYARD on loan. (Head of M.II, 241320A to A.S.C.B.S.).

RAMILLIES A.M. 172218. RAMILLIES will be attached to the second battle squadron and administered in accordance with HGO 1. (C. in C.H.F., 241430A to RAMILLIES).

AJAX, CALEDON, UNDINE. V.A.2. 232016. Subject to ship being ready intend to sail AJAX, CALEDON and UNDINE for Gib. p.m.28th Jan. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241815A to Admty.).

Operations.

Operation "F.W." Faeroes arrivals S.O. M/S. 18 in READY with ORESTES. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 240222A to C. in C.H.F.). My 222006. Anticipated rate of unloading of J.W.56 and J.W.57, Archangel 400 tons, Murmansk 300 tons per ship per day. (2) 15 dry-cargo ships and one spirit tanker from J.W.56 to proceed White Sea, but impossible at present to predict numbers from J.W.57. (S.B.N.O. Polyarno, 240808A to Admty.).

/Request...

War Diary24.1.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "F.W." (Contd.). Request confirmation that no tanker has been sailed with J.W.56B as this will upset Russian arrangements for maintenance of oil fuel supply in Kola Inlet. My 290(7841 or 901) December asked for an additional tanker with J.W.56A.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 241238A to Admty.).

Seidisfiord arrivals (Capt.(D) 3) in MILNE with MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, OPPORTUNE, SCOURGE, HURON.

(A.C.I.C., 241254A to H.F.).

Situation at 2412103A.

J.W.56B. WRESTLER, 062 degs. 20' N. 014 degs. 20' W., 350 degs. to 064 degs. 01' N. thence 045 degs. 9 knots.

(A.C.I.C. 241318A to Ships).

Sailed JOSEPH N. NICOLET escorted by WALLFLOWER at 1400A/24th to Loch Ewe routed East Faeroes and through the Minches E.T.A. 1200A/27th. WALLFLOWER then detaching to Londonderry.

(R.N.O. Akureyri, 241435A to A.C.I.C.).

Seidisfiord departure MAHRATTA, SCOURGE.

(A.C.I.C., 242002A to H.F.).

Destination of Local Escort of J.W.56B on relief by Destroyer Escort; WRESTLER, HONEYSUCKLE to Clyde pass East Faeroes. ONYX to Seidisfiord and Akureyri, my 171354 refers. HYDRA to Scapa pass East Faeroes.

(V.A.2, 242211A to WRESTLER).

Operation "Overlord". A.M. 192303A. Reply. Details. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241042 to Admty.).

Mooring commitments.

"V.P." Cancel my 161649A December.

Operations. Carry out "V.P."

(1) Patrol AS. (2) 61 and 101A. (3) A.M.

25th January or first suitable day thereafter.

(4) Up to 2 at S.O. discretion. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 075 degs. Bressay. (8) No.

(A.C.O.S., 241238A to Admty.).

Biscay A/S operations. C.T.G. 21.13 reports position at 0800Z/24th as 41 degs. N. 35 degs. 15' W. advancing N.N.E. speed 12 knots. Sweeping 170 miles circle as weather permits.

(D.O.D.(H), 241245A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth).

VIKING diving by day is on patrol within 20 miles south of line joining 050 degs. 57' N. 009 degs. 17' W. and 050 degs. 51' N. 010 degs. 52' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241251 to AMHERST, GIFFARD).

Situation report at 242000A.

My 241253A refers. Task Group 21.13 U.S.S. CROATAN, 4 U.S. destroyers, in vicinity 043 degs. 01' N. 034 degs. 01' W.

(U.S.) Task Group 21.16 BLOCK ISLAND, 4 U.S. destroyers, operating in vicinity 043 degs. 05' N. 029 degs. 30' W.

(C. in C.W.A., 241354A to Admty.).

/Coastal...

War Diary24.1.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241335A).

S/M patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/25th and movements for the following 24 hours.  
 (A) STUBBORN and SEANYMPH as in my 191812.  
 (B) SPIRIT as in my 201621.  
 (C) VENTURER 60 degs. 41' N. 00 degs. 19' W. for Lerwick speed 8 knots.  
 (D) TELEMACHUS 63 degs. 46' N. 00 degs. 39' E. through 62 degs. 01' N. 01 degs. 29' W. to Lerwick dived by day North of 82 degs. North speed on surface 10 knots.  
 (J) VIKING as in my 221731.  
 (K) UNSEEN 47 degs. 01' N. 12 degs. 54' W. dived by day to northward, daily advance 120 miles.  
 (F.O.S. 241734A to Admty.).

Mining

Yarmouth My 131122A and 221945A. Operation completed. Check sweep of Northern Area - one mine exploded in sweep dragged from 070 degs. 54D buoy 4 point 2 miles.  
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 241931A).

U-boats.

Search for U-boats by E.G.15 and C.2. My 221713A. Cancel para.2. Report situation in due course.  
 (C. in C.W.A., 240122A to E.G.15).  
 My 232302. Both pairs have lost contact but are continuing to search in the vicinity of attacks. Remainder now sweeping back 090 degs.  
 (E.G.15, 240830A to C. in C.W.A.).

Request C.2. group may be sailed as soon as possible to join and support 15 E.G. C.2. are to act as a support group under orders of S.O.15 E.G.

(C. in C.W.A., 241033A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

Your 240950A. Position at 1100A. MAGPIE, 055 degs. 51' N. 009 degs. 03' W. course and speed 090 degs. 12. PRESCOTT, ACANTHUS, CARISBROOKE CASTLE in company.

SCARBOROUGH, SCIMITAR rejoining from Donegal Bay.

PORCHESTER CASTLE, SALADIN rejoining from Eastward.

KENILWORTH CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE still carrying out search in the vicinity of attack.

Weather 0846, 8148.

(E.G.15, 241055A to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 241035A. In view of weather intend sweep back at Radar distance to intercept U-boats coming out on the surface.

(E.G.15, 241059A to C. in C.W.A.).

Unless you are in contact search should be concentrated to detect and destroy U-boat on 055 degs. 21' N. 008 degs. 46' W. at 2236/23.

(2) It is considered that this U-boat will not be able to

/proceed...

War Diary24.1.1944.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

Search for U-boats by E.G.15 and C.2. (Contd.).

proceed more than 40 miles from this position before surfacing to charge. Search should be organised accordingly, C.2 working to eastward and remainder to westward.

E.G.15 and C.2. report dispositions made.

(3) If contact gained at least 4 ships are to carry out hunt.

(C. in C.W.A., 241223A to E.G.15, C.2.).

Sailed ST. CATHERINE, CHILLIWACK and FENNEL.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 241310A to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 241223A.

Intend ST. CATHERINE, CHILLIWACK and FENNEL to patrol as unit clockwise in north east quadrant of 40 miles circle. ICARUS and GATINEAU as unit to patrol Irish Coast from Fanad Pt. to Malinmore Hd. My P.C.S. 055 degs. 24' N. 008 degs. 11' W., 257 degs. 12 knots.

(C.2, 241555Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 241223A para.(2).

All group rejoined spread on a line of bearing 150 degs. 330 degs. course and speed 240, 10. Ships stationed 2 miles apart. My position 055 degs. 40' N. 008 degs. 35' W. proceeding to sweep out area to Westwards of attack. Weather 4572, 7147.

(E.G.15, 241600 to C. in C.W.A.).

PORCHESTER CASTLE reports S/M sighted on the surface at 2300 yards roughly. Dived on being illuminated. PORCHESTER CASTLE was over position in 6 minutes but did not gain contact, pattern of Squid on doubtful contact.

Searched area all night in company with SALADIN but found nothing. KENILWORTH CASTLE reports after fourth Squid attack heavy unexplained explosion occurred. Contact then regained on S/M on the bottom. Many odd noises heard which stopped after 5 charge pattern was dropped on stationary target. Unfortunately no material evidence of destruction was obtained.

(E.G.15, 241601A to C. in C.W.A.).

Confirm that Asdic contact was obtained at 232005 by KENILWORTH CASTLE and BERKELEY CASTLE and that this was the U-boat (German) attacked on the bottom (?) referred to in the last paragraph of your 241601A.

(2) Confirm also second U-boat (German) was sighted and put down by PORCHESTER CASTLE at 232236A without further contact.

(C. in C.W.A., 241951A to E.G.15).

Casualties and Defects.

SAMUEL  
DEXTER,  
WARWICK.

U-boats (German) are being hunted in 055 degs. 21' N. 008 degs. 46' W. and 055 degs. 42' N. 008 degs. 00' W. Keep well clear to the North of these positions.

(C. in C.W.A., 240138A and 240901 to WARWICK, VOLUNTEER, SAPPER, COTILLION).

My 231114Z. WARWICK only will arrive at time stated. VOLUNTEER detached to reinforce escort of SAMUEL DEXTER. Request final destination of WARWICK be signalled my 231114Z refers. With capstan defective do not wish to have to anchor at Moville in this weather.

(WARWICK, 240800Z to Cdr. (D) W.A.).

/Destination...



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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

SAMUEL  
DEXTER,  
WARWICK.  
(Contd.)

Destination of WARWICK, VOLUNTEER is Liverpool after taking fuel at Merville as required. (C. in C.W.A., 241029A to WARWICK, VOLUNTEER). Your 241029. Have sufficient margin of fuel and intend proceed direct Liverpool. (VOLUNTEER, 241140A to C. in C.W.A.). Arrived, fuelled, and sailed WARWICK for Liverpool, E.T.A. 0900/25th. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 241820A to Capt.(D) Liverpool).

Destination of SAMUEL DEXTER is Belfast. My 221720 refers. (2) Your destination on completion of escort is Liverpool. (C. in C.W.A. 242254A to SAPPER). Have taken off crew of SAMUEL DEXTER in 056 degs. 19' N. 011 degs. 43' W. Master considers she will break up if bad weather continues. Am standing by with tug to take in tow if weather moderates. Request instructions. (SAPPER, 241900A to C. in C.W.A.). My 241900A. Have lost touch with derelict SAMUEL DEXTER. Wind west, force 8, am steering 098 degs. 10 knots. Request instructions. (SAPPER, 242150A to C. in C.W.A.). Continue standing by. There is possibility of brief lull tomorrow. (C. in C.W.A., 242354A to SAPPER).

RAMSEY

Your 231912. RAMSEY has one boiler out of action awaiting new main steampipe which will not be ready before 27th. Consider advisable defer sailing until defect remedied unless ship acceptable in present condition. Request early decision. (N.O.I.C. Lamdash, 241212A to R.A. N.A.S.N.).

ICARUS

Following from ICARUS. Regret further delay due to defective main feed pump. T.O.O.241331. (Cdre.(D) W.A., 241350A to C.2.).

Shipping and Convoys.

E.G.2  
FENCER,  
ACTIVITY.

Cancel my 191146A. FENCER and ACTIVITY are to sail with 2nd E.G. on 28th Jan. (C. in C.W.A., 240002A to FENCER, ACTIVITY). It has been arranged for 2nd Escort Group to R/V with FENCER and ACTIVITY in 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 0900A/29th. Ship are to be sailed as requisite to comply. (C. in C.W.A., 242138A to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

O.N.221

Request you will sail ST. CATHERINES, GATINEAU, and ICARUS at 1900A/24th towards 055 degs. N. 015 degs. W. at 12 knots. (2) Corvettes of C.2. Group are to be sailed to support O.N.221. Para.6 of my 231805 refers. (C. in C.W.A., 240059A to Cdre. (D) W.A.).

/Intend...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.221  
(Contd.) Intend sailing VESPER 1700A/24th January to Merville for fuel and to overtake O.N.221. E.T.A. 0800A/25th.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241106 to Cdre. (D) W.A.).  
Sailed HEATHER and CLEMATIS for Loch Ewe portion of O.N.221. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 241410A to Admty.).  
Intend sailing VESPER 1000A/25th to overtake O.N.221.
- S.O.A. 17 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241812A to C. in C.W.A.).
- O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40. Intend sailing TEES 1800A/24th to Merville for fuel and to overtake O.S.66/K.M.S.40. E.T.A. 0800A/25th.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241108A to Cdre. (D) W.A.).  
Sailed CLARKIA to comply with para.(B) of Capt (D) Greenock's 231632A.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 241306A to Cdre. D.W.A.).  
My 241108A Jan. Sailed TEES.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241840A to Cdre. D.W.A.).  
Sailed MOYOLA to comply with Capt.(D)'s 231632A para.(B) as amended by his 241314A.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 241904A to Cdre.(D) W.A.).
- O.N.S.28 NORTHERN GEM detailed and intend to sail 1400A/27th Jan. to Merville. E.T.A. 1000A/28th.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241109A to Cdre. (D) W.A.).
- M.K.F.27A Assume state Y for Yoke from dusk tonight.  
(C. in C.W.A. 241502A to Escort M.K.F.27A).

War Diary.

24.1.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ARIADNE, Owing to damage sustained by ARIADNE on passage weather have approved that she proceed by fair weather damage. route through all positions North and West 032 degs. 15' 040 degs. 00' to Bermuda, S. of A. 18 knots thence proceeding to Norfolk (Va) at 21 knots. Sails Horta 1300B/24th. Please inform necessary authorities if you approve. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 240310Z to Admty. etc.). (D.O.D.(H), 241235A to Cinclant etc.). Sailed 1420Z/24 (S.B.N.O. Azores, 241550Z).

Air Gib. Opsum. 23rd Jan. Pt. 2 and final. Report. (G) South of 36.10 N. and E. of 07.30 W. of 92/112 at 1115 FBZH 43.00 sighted fresh half mile oil streak seemingly from 5 disturbed areas each 200 ft. diam., vicinity of attack by 111-132 on 22nd Jan. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 241540A).

Spanish My 222001. Capt. Rotaeché of Spanish Navy seconded shipping protection in event of German attack. for duty as Under Secretary Ministry of Marine, has gradually been offering increasing resistance to German influence. He wishes to impress Spanish Government with low percentage of losses of ships in convoy. Heretofore he has had to obtain German consent to all voyages of Spanish ships. He now desires to discontinue this. Grateful if you can supply some figures. (B.N.A. Madrid, 241731A to D.N.I.).

CHITRAL C. in C.E.F's. 020645. CHITRAL, due Gibraltar Feb. 1st with M.K.F.28 is to be sailed to Halifax Nova Scotia. (2) B.A.D. is requested to obtain Cominch's approval for her inclusion in G.U.S.29 and to arrange for her to be detached as convenient to Halifax. (D.O.D.(F), 241911A to F.O.G.M.A., B.A.D.).

F.O.G.M.A. Have re-embarked in ANTELOPE. Last B.N. number ANTELOPE received ashore was 472 B.N. (F.O.G.M.A. in ANTELOPE, 2423050 to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic.

LANING U.S.S. LANING attacked possible submarine contact U/B attacked. 016 degs. 21' 019 degs. 19' at 1900Z/24. Contact lost, escort rejoining. (C.T.G. 21.4, 241955Z to F.O.C.W.A.). (F.O.C.W.A., 242103 to Admty.). W.D. Note: Letter gives longitude as 11 degs. 19' W.

24.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Landing in Anzio Area - Operation "Shingle".Convoys for  
X. and P.  
Areas.Sailed N.A.M. 3 at 1800/23 E.T.A. X-ray 0900/24  
N.A.M. 4 at 0001/24 E.T.A. X-ray 1500/24 N.A.S.2  
(6 L.C.I.(L) with 3 pontoons) to Peter speed un-  
known.2. Intend sailing N.A.S. 3 (HORNPIPE, EDENSHAW with  
2 pontoon barges) about midnight to Peter also

N.A.S. 4 (identity of convoy) at 0700/24 E.T.A. X-ray 0400/25.

N.A.F. 2 (THRUSTER and G.S. THEMISTOCLES\*) about 0800/24 speed  
15 knots. 3. All routed George. 4. M.L. 338 leaves Ischia 0700/  
24 for Peter.

(F.O.W.It. 240018A to C.T.F. 81, (R) S.O.Force P.)

\* See 241252A.

My 240018. Composition of N.A.M. 3, L.S.Ts. 8, 322, 361, 349  
303, 360 with L.C.I.(L)s 216, 215, 213, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 14, 212.  
(F.O.W.It. 240035A.)Convoy N.A.S. 3 sailed 0001/24th. L.S.Ts. 410, 415, 352,  
359, 384, 197, 349, 328, 418, 379, 358, 377, 412, 420, 348, 303,  
427, 160 and 304.

(F.O.W.It. 240159A.)

JERVIS,  
survivors  
of JANUS.S.O.Force P's 232115. Have 5 officers and 77  
ratings survivors. 2 surgical cases (cot). E.T.A.  
boom 1530.  
(Capt. D.14 240954A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

N.A.F.2.

N.A.F. 2 for THEMISTOCLES read FAULKNOR. Intend  
sailing N.A.M. 5 at 241700 E.T.A. 250800. Escort  
shipping, TWOSTEP, 2 P.C. Codeword "Muriel" 216.  
(F.O.W.It. 241252A to S.O.Force P, C.T.F. 81.)Attacks on  
Hospital Ship  
LEINSTER  
damaged.Hospital ship LEINSTER hit 1621, confirm position  
41.19 N. 12.36 E. Ship on fire.  
(LEINSTER No T.O.O/24 to All ships.)  
Intercept 1754 G.M.T. to P.S.T.O.Algiers from  
hospital ship LEINSTER. Received hit on water  
ambulance. Slight structural damage. Awaiting  
instructions. Master.  
(Humber Radio 241748.)Intercept 1727 G.M.T. Getting fire under control. (Ends.)  
Acknowledged by Lands End Radio.  
(Ormesby Radio 241829.)Intercept 1748 G.M.T. Hospital ship LEINSTER bombed and hit  
position 41.19 N. 12.36 E. 1621.  
(Humber Radio 241848.)

ST. ANDREW.

S.O.S. Hospital ship SAINT ANDREW being contin-  
ually bombed lat. 40.19 N. long. 12.26 E.  
(ST. ANDREW No T.O.O/24.)Following has been read: All ships from ST. ANDREW  
Hospital ship ST. ANDREW corrected position 41.10 12.26 E.  
(Burnham Radio No T.O.O/24 to Admty.)

/ST. DAVID...

War Diary.24.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Landing in Anzio Bay Operation "Shingle" - Contd.

ST. DAVID Hospital ship ST. DAVID sunk, am going to her  
sunk. assistance.

(LEINSTER 241856 G.M.T. to Malta Radio.)

Intercept 1909 G.M.T. From hospital ship ST.

ANDREW. Hospital ship ST. DAVID sunk in 41.10 N.

12.21 E. We are picking up survivors. Master.

(Humber Radio 242011 B.S.T. to Admty.)

Have been bombed three times and ship badly shaken. Have  
now completed picking up survivors and wounded from hospital ship  
ST. DAVID which has been bombed and sunk. I am proceeding to  
Naples.

(ST. ANDREW 242055 G.M.T. to Algiers.)

Proceeding to Naples with 100 survivors of ST. DAVID.

(LEINSTER 242105 to Malta W/T.)

Request whether any additional assistance is required for  
hospital ship attacked near beach.

(F.O.W.It. 242247 to C.T.F. 81, (R) S.O. Force P.)

In tonight's air attacks hospital ship ST. DAVID was sunk and  
LEINSTER and ST. ANDREW were damaged. Request all necessary  
action be taken and those responsible added to list of war  
criminals.

(C. in C.Med. at Naples 242240 to Admty.)

Weather.

In Naples, wind is expected to persist W.N.W. force  
4 until 0700. After midday wind is expected to in-  
crease to S.W. force 7 which will bring premature  
disturbed weather for probably one week.

(C. in C.Med. 241843A to C.T.F. 81, S.O. Force P,

(R) F.O.W.It. C.S.15.)

ORION,  
SPARTAN,  
DIDO.

Naples F.O.15th C.S. in ORION arrives at Anzio  
a.m. tomorrow 25th for gun support duties.

2. SPARTAN and DIDO remain at Naples at short  
notice.

(C. in C.Med. in Naples 241848A to C.T.F. 81.)

My 241848 para. 2 for DIDO read FENELOPE.

(C. in C.Med. in Naples 242340A.)

Situation  
Reports.

Operation "Shingle", Sitrep.

1. First Echelon completed unloading 0800/24 except  
Liberty ships which are approx. 15% unloaded.2. Bridgehead consolidated, little contact with  
enemy.3. First flight of follow up, 18 L.S.Ts. sailed 2359/23 after re-  
loading at Naples.

4. P. Beaches now closed. All unloading at Anzio and X. Beach.  
Wind southwest 5 at present forbids beach maintenance. Anzio  
capacity 1 L.S.T. per hour subject to improvement later. JANUS  
sunk by aircraft torpedo 1819/23. B magazine blew up. Casualties  
feared heavy. 5 officers, 77 men saved by JERVIS. Other ships  
known to have recovered a few more. Captain feared lost.

War Diary.

24.1.1944.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Landing in Anzio Area Operation "Shingle".

Situation Reports. (Contd.)

6. JERVIS hit by Glider bomb at same time. Bows damaged as far as forward bulkhead. A magazine. No casualties. Returned to Naples at 9 knots.

7. Attacking formation of fifty was intercepted on way in by 5 Spitfires in Elba area. 6 shot down. No interceptions at time of attack. Condition was late dusk with 10/10 cloud at 1000 feet. Glider bomb observed to come through cloud base. Only one torpedo aircraft seen.

8. Fire support cruisers with exception of Brooklyn withdrawn from "Shingle" area owing to lack of targets. Ships standing by in Naples. ORICN returning by daylight 25th.

9. Destroyers maintained fire on Terracina - Formia Road night 23rd/24th and continued today. MAURITIUS taking on from 1600/24th

10. BULOLO expected to leave area p.m. today.  
(C. in C.Med. 241858A to Admty.)  
Situation report 280.

1. Operation "Shingle". Unloading continues satisfactorily over beaches and through Anzio where wreck clearance is progressing well. ~~P (corrupt group)~~ beaches which have been found difficult now closed.

Coast road between Formia and Terracina blocked by bombardment and bombing (corrupt group) shelled Formia area a.m. 24th January.

2. JERVIS was also damaged forward during glider bomb attack p.m. 23rd January. No casualties. My 232036 para. 1 refers.

3. One P.T. and 2 M.T.Bs. engaged northbound convoy of 4 F. Lighters south of Vada Rock at 0200/24th. Many hits reported on lighters and one escorting E-Boat set on fire. Heavy exchange of gunfire. No casualties or damage to our craft.

4. Hospital ships ST. DAVID and LEINSTER were attacked by aircraft in vicinity of 041° 15' N. 012° 30' E. p.m. 24th January the former was sunk and latter damaged casualties not yet known.

5. TROUBRIDGE and TEAZER carried out patrol of Italian coast south of Ancona during night 22nd/23rd but saw nothing.  
(C. in C.Med. 242236A to F.O.L.E.M. Admty. etc.)

KEMPENFELT. Be prepared to slip at 0800A/25th when G.O. C. in C. 15th Army Group and 9 (?other) officers have embarked to (?proceed) Anzio.  
(C. in C.Med. in Naples 241858A to KEMPENFELT.)

Visit of G.O.C. General Alexander anxious to visit Anzio tomorrow. Grateful if you could inform me by 0630 if landing from destroyer will be possible.  
(C. in C.Med. in Naples 241941A to C.T.F. 81.)

URCHIN. E.T.A. (PAN) (corrupt group) 2315A.  
(URCHIN 242134A to S.O.Force P, (R) ULSTER.)

WAINWRIGHT. C.T.F. 81's 242023 (N.T. in W.R.) is being passed to you. No replacement available unless you can now spare U.S.D. WAINWRIGHT.  
(C. in C.Med. Fleet at Naples 242255 to U.S.S. DUNCAN)

/URCHIN...

War Diary.

24.1.1944.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing in Anzio Area Operation "Shingle" - Contd.

URCHIN. Your 242023. Regret no fleet destroyers available except URCHIN now on her way to you.  
(C. in C.Med. at Naples 242314A to C.T.F. 81.)

BLENCATHRA, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BRUISER, PRINSES BEATRIX.	Sail at 250100 by Q.B.B. 238 and route G. to X. transport area. 2. Speed 14 knots, E.T.A. 0900. 3. ROYAL ULSTERMAN pass route to escort. 4. Codeword "Cushion" 324. 5. L.S.I.(M) required to lift L.C.A. to Naples. (F.O.W.It. 242306A to BLENCATHRA, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, (?BRUISER), PRINSES BEATRIX. (R) C.T.F. 81, S.O.Force P, C. in C.Med.)
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General.

Air reports. Daily opsum 271A. 330 24 Jan.  
 22/23 January. 7 Liberators, 6 Halifaxes attacked Piraeus Harbour Greece. 1 Halifax returned early.  
 Results generally unobserved owing to cloud and

haze over target area. 2 fires seen. 125 x 500 lbs.  
 23 Jan. 4 Beaufighters anti shipping R/C off Southern Greece. Attacked 1 M.L. and 2 caiques of 80 and 150 tons respectively. All on beach at (?Koronin), many cannon strikes on caique and launch badly damaged by bomb. 1 200 ton schooner attacked at Kalmata, numerous strikes with cannon, near miss with bomb. Vessel left burning fiercely. 2 Baltimores (A.30) anti shipping R/C south western Aegean attacked 1 60 ton caique East of Scarpanto. Bombs and M/G. Bombs missed, many M/G strikes. 6 Beaufighters attacking shipping Kos Harbour. 3 bombs fell among 6 caiques of 100 tons and cannon strikes were scored, results not observed.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 241025Z.)  
 M.S. 2461. A.F. 370, 24 January. Med. Allied Air Forces Opsum 337. M.A. Tactical A.F. 23 Jan.  
 10 Kittyhawks attacked 3 schooners San Benedetto. 9 x 1000, 5 x 500, 8 x 250 general purpose. 1 schooner sunk. (?10 or 30) Spitfires, 20 Macchi 205 flew offensive patrols Yugoslavia coastal waters. 1 schooner set on fire off Hvar Island. 94 Spitfires, 81 U.S. Spitfires, 240 U.S. Warhawks flew patrols of beaches and sea approaches.

Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Force. 21 Jan. (add.)  
 6 U.S. Mitchells attacked 10,000 ton merchant vessel escorted by 2 corvettes, 3 smaller craft heading south-west off Hyeres Island. 3 strings of bombs burst forward on bow.

(M.A.A.F. Adv., 241733A.)

/M.E....

War Diary.

24.1.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Air reports. M.E. Balkan Sitrep No. 69.  
(Contd.) 5. Air Ops. A. Bombing. 22 January.  
23 Kittyhawks, 12 Thunderbolts, 8 Macchi 205s  
anti shipping strike Yugoslav Coastal Waters sank  
one M/V 1,500 tons damaged one at Trogir scored 4  
direct bomb hits 5000 ton vessel north of Zara causing severe  
damage. 19 Spitfires anti shipping R/C Dalmation Coast without  
incident. All above aircraft of N.A.A.F.  
(C. in C.M.E. 241945.)
- SOKOL. Leave patrol p.m. today 24th passing close west-  
ward of Kinaros and Kandeliusa to arrive in 035°  
37' 027° 37' at 0301/26th thence on surface at 8  
knots through 034° 03' 031° 58' to arrive Beirut  
at 0715/28th.  
(Capt. S.1 241202B to SOKOL.)  
See also 241444B.
- TORBAY,  
SOKOL. TORBAY proceed to patrol Tenedos and Cape Babaclos  
to Turkish territorial waters. Object intercep-  
tion of SS. ELBOWCAY which may leave Istanbul soon.  
2. SOKOL O.R.P., remain on patrol to westward of  
026° 01' until 2301 tonight 24th. Thence proceed  
in accordance with my 241202.  
(Capt. S.1 241444B to TORBAY, SOKOL.)
- German Ref. telephone conversation 1245 G.M.T. today con-  
Shipping ex firm that 4 German craft passed Istanbul in tran-  
Istanbul. sit from Black Sea to Aegean 1230 G.M.T. 24th.  
MOSEL and RHEIN 44 net tonnage 77 gross tonnage  
speed 12 to 15 knots are exactly similar con-  
struction to EMS with deck cargo timber (my 131645  
and my 131730C refers.) LEONORE Dutch SCHUYT type 39 gross ton-  
nage speed about 6 knots ALMA KRUSE small Danube motor lighter  
48 gross tonnage speed about 6 knots.  
2. If craft remain in company not expected they can arrive  
Cannakale before 0830 G.M.T. 25th. MOSEL and RHEIN may go ahead  
in which case they could probably arrive at Cannakale by 2400  
G.M.T. 25th. RHEIN and MOSEL were towing the other 2 when craft  
entered Sea of Marmara.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 241620C to B.N.A.Ankara, (R) F.O.Levant, E.Med.  
Capt. S.1, D.N.I.)
- MALINES. Your 021138 Jan (requesting MALINES may be re-  
tained until March or April '44). Approved to re-  
tain till April provided no increase in personnel  
will be required.  
(D.O.D.(F) Approved by A.C.N.S.(F) on O.D. 1259/43  
241741A to F.O.L.E.M.)
- UNTIRING. Patrol in vicinity of 055° J. 34 miles until further  
notice. Target is first word in "Crystal 2".  
(Capt. S.10 241753A to UNTIRING.)

/Traffic...



War Diary.

24.1.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Traffic,                   Resume normal traffic to Algiers. My 220142 473B.  
Algiers,                   Continue to minimise to Naples.  
Naples.                   (C. in C.Med. 241802 to Med. Station 480B, Admty.)

EMILE BERTIN.   Your 131548 and F.O.C.W.Af.'s 201140.  
                  In view of A.M. 221700 (special restricted dis-  
                  tribution.) EMILE BERTIN should remain in W.  
                  Africa as requested by F.O.C.W.Af. unless there is  
an immediate operational requirement for her in the Mediterranean.  
(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. on O.D.1035/44 241851A to C. in C.  
Med.)

War Diary.24.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Attack on  
U/B.  
23 Jan.

U/B disposition. My 230341 refers. Area F. U/B attacked 1330Z/22nd Jan again sighted and attacked in 014° 13' N. 081° 05' E. at 0543Z/23rd Jan. Scale of air escort remains Z. Other areas. No fresh information. No changes in scale of air escort.  
(C. in C.E.F. 240304 to S. & A., E.I. Station.)

MAIDSTONE,  
QUILLIAM,  
QUEENBOROUGH,  
RAIDER.

MAIDSTONE will be ready to leave Alexandria for Eastern Fleet about 29th Jan.  
(2) Request QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER may be ordered to provide through escort to Ceylon. Admty. 302331 Dec. and F.O.L.E.M.'s 081932 Jan. refer. Short delay in arrival of MAIDSTONE is acceptable.  
(C. in C.E.F. 240614Z to Admty.)

My 240614. Request early confirmation of the dates on which MAIDSTONE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER will be ready to sail from Alexandria.

(C. in C.E.F. 240617Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

Capt. (D) 4 221012 and my 240614. Request MAIDSTONE be sailed not later 8th Feb. Destroyers will complete working up after arrival in Ceylon.

(C. in C.E.F. 241613Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

Air  
report.

Part 2 of our A.C.83 24 Jan.  
23 Jan. 19 U.S. Liberators (B.24) attacked shipping Mergui area. 2 small vessels sunk, 1 large vessel believed hit.  
(H.Q., A.C., S.E.A.241301Z.)

Shortage of  
Destroyers.

Your 171531 Jan. Expected you will have a total of 24 fleet destroyers in Feb. and March with an operational strength of up to 20.  
2. Regretted that the 4 "P" class destroyers could not be refitted before joining your Flag but this was unavoidable. 3. It appears that on occasion some delay to troop transports may have to be accepted, when need for their early arrival is not vital, in order that two groups should sail in company and thus conserve your escort resources. 4. Suggestion in your para.4 is concurred in. 5. Your para. 5. Date for this move is not yet firm but it is not intended that the Battle Fleet should be immobilised. In the event of escort reinforcements not reaching you before this move takes place it may be necessary for you to reduce still further the scale of A/S escort.  
(D.O.D. (F) Approved V.C.N.S. 241740A to C. in C.E.F.)

War Diary24.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SABRE (ex - P.C. 1284). Your 220243. Signal letters allocated to SABRE (F.S.) MZJR. (D.S.D., 241134A to B.A.D.).

V.A. Nelles. Vice Admiral P.W. Nelles C.B. R.C.N. has assumed duties of Senior Canadian Flag Officer (Overseas) to date 24th January 1944. (Admty. 241238A to N.S.H.Q.).

U.S. troopships for Oran. Your 211935. Confirm that arrangements have been made for GENERAL ANDERSON to be escorted direct to Oran. (2) Regretted that limited Mediterranean escort resources do not permit undertaking this commitment permanently. (A.C.N.S.(F) 241625A to Cominch).

Ex-Allied Merchant ships. Discussion with European Allied Governments as to disposal of ex-Allied merchant ships which may be recaptured in the course of operations for liberation of Europe. (Dominions Office, 241700 to Newfoundland).

Convoy cycles. Adverse weather conditions resulting in increased weather damage and reduced layover are such that longer periods in harbour at St. John's are considered necessary. (2) Suggest that difficulty might be overcome by advancing sailing date of O.N. and O.N.S. convoys by two days thus cutting down layover in Londonderry and benefitting St. John's Nlfd. by a like amount. (3) Adoption of para.2. would eliminate necessity of adding another mid-ocean group and also benefit W.E.F. cycle which has been adversely affected by late arrivals of O.N. and O.N.S. convoys. (N.S.H.Q. 241730Z to Admty.).

ROWLEY, RUPERT. At 1030Z/25th Jan. ROWLEY (B.D.E.95) and RUPERT (B.D.E.96) depart Boston Gate in company en-route Londonderry. (Route). Speed 19 knots. E.T.A. 2000Z/2nd Feb. (C.T.G. 02.1, 241930 to Admty.).

KILDWICK, KILKENNIE. KILDWICK and KILKENNIE (B.E.C. 6 and 8) departed 1800Z today for Freetown same route. My 201510. "Chop" 1800/30th Jan. E.T.A. 1500/3rd Feb. S.of A. 12. KILCHATTAN and KILDARY delayed repairing parts. (N.O.B. Trinidad, 241943 to F.O.C.W.A.).

Convoy C.K.1. U.S.S. THREAT, TIDE, P.C.1261, P.C.484, P.C.1176

/and...

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War Diary24.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Convoy  
C.K.1.  
(Contd.).

and KEWAYDIN escorting convoy C.K.1 expected time of departure Buoy 2 at Charleston 1500Q/25 for U.K. via Beyiefa and Horta. Routeing accordance Comtenthfleet 111821 Speed 7. E.T.A. Bermuda entrance Buoy 1200Q/30th Jan. (U.S.S. THREAT, 242025 to Comeastseafon, N.O.B. Bermuda).

F.O.N.F.

F.O.N.F. has taken over the duties formerly carried out by N.O.I.C. St. Johns Nfld. Request necessary signal publications may be amended and other authorities be informed as requisite. (N.S.H.Q., 242130Z to Admt.).

EBERLE

EBERLE when ready 30th Jan. proceed Hampton Roads report Cotclant as Flagship U.G.S. 32 scheduled depart 3rd Feb. When directed by Task Force Commander after arrival Casablanca about 20th Feb, report Com. 8th Fleet for temporary duty. (Cinclant, 242158 to U.S.S. EBERLE).

F.A.C.S.,  
S.C.A.F.  
messages.

For: Eisenhower.  
From: Combined Chiefs of Staff.  
Following procedure is set up for handling communications between Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force and Combined Chiefs of Staff. A new series of cables known as F.A.C.S., S.A.C.F. is hereby established. This is F.A.C.S. 1 for General Eisenhower from Combined Chiefs of Staff. Your next cable to Combined Chiefs of Staff after receipt of this message should be designated as S.C.A.F.1.  
(War, Washington, 242206Z to S.H.A.E.F. London).

ERICSSON,  
KEARNY.

ERICSSON, KEARNY when ready 30th Jan. and 4th Feb. respectively proceed Gibraltar report Com. 8th Fleet for temporary duty on arrival. (Cinclant, 242215 to U.S.S. KEARNY, ERICSSON).

Australia and New Zealand.Digest  
serial No.  
734, Jan 23rd.

3. Early hours patrol Liberator attacked medium Freighter towing one barge 85 miles West New Hanover heading towards Lorengau. One near miss brought freighter to standstill claimed damaged, same aircraft also saw second unidentified ship several barges same vicinity.

/(4) One...

War Diary

24.1.1944.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
serial No.  
734, Jan 23rd.  
(Contd.).

(4) One hour later Navy Catalina attacked single possible destroyer 65 miles east Lorengau headed thereto silencing A/A.  
(5) Earlier Navy Catalina attacked single destroyer 30 miles North East Wewak heading towards Wewak. Bombs missed, two strafing runs made firing deck amidships.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 2400646).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to, 0900Z/24th Jan.  
Para.A. (1) PORCHESTER CASTLE sighted submarine on surface which dived A/S contact obtained and attacked at 2136/23 in 55 degs. 21' N. 08 degs. 46' W.  
(2) KENILWORTH CASTLE and BERKELEY CASTLE hunted A/S contact at 1905/23 in 55 degs. 42' N. 08 degs. 00' W.  
Para.B. (1) CALDER sighted periscope near convoy and good contact attacked at 1522/23 in 35 degs. 30' N. 07 degs. 00' W.  
(2) A/C attacked U-boat at 1330/22 in 14 degs. 43' N. 80 degs. 25' E.  
Para.C. (1) A/C attacked submerged object at 0600/23 in 14 degs. 13' N. 81 degs. 05' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 241136A to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated position.  
(D.D.I.C. 241436A, 241437A).

25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.

1(a) At 0800 today Convoy J.W.56A was about 60 miles S. by E. of Bear Island; and at 1400A Capt. D.26 reported that he was being shadowed by three or possibly four U-Boats.

(b) At 0800 Convoy J.W.56B was about 90 miles S. by W. of Seidisfiord. BERWICK, having repaired three of her four defective dynamos at Seidisfiord since 23rd January, reported herself fit for sea at 1828A today.

U-Boat  
attacked.

2. At 1223Z today VERSATILE of Escort Group B.7 escorting Convoy H.X.275 sighted and attacked a U-Boat about 250 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear and 12 miles of the starboard beam of the Convoy. VIDETTE joined her in a creeping attack until 1441Z when contact was lost; and both ships are to remain in the area until dusk tomorrow.

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

War Diary.25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Broadcasts of U/B casualties. Your 241048 December. Our policy in broadcasting batches of names from the list of U/B commanders, whose boats are known to be sunk, is to arouse speculation and gossip amongst U/B men and their relations as to the extent to which our knowledge is incomplete, and to stimulate such persons to a competitive pessimism in adding other names to our list.

2. It should be emphasised that we have only included the names of which we are quite sure and that we intend to make additions as and when Ps.W. provide the relevant information.

3. The list of U/B commanders (180 to date) is following by bag. (A.C.N.S. UT. 251349A to Ad. Fisher, Moscow.)

Spanish Fishing Fleet.

B.N.A. Madrid 221207. I consider it to be most undesirable Spanish trawlers should be allowed to fish in this area for following reasons:-

(A) Interference with night A/S operations of 19 Group. (B) The area lies athwart the direct approach and departure route to and from Plymouth giving every opportunity for reporting movements of our ships and A/C. There is very good reason to believe the former was done in the spring of last year. ALM/EWD 01380/42 dated 15th February 1943 concerns CHICHA I and CHICHA II and my number PLY 1394/1 dated 14th April 1943 refers.

2. I request therefore that proposal be strongly resisted. (C. in C. Plymouth. 251812A to Admty., H.Q.C.C.)

Operations.

Search for U/Bs.

Good asdic contact obtained in 055° 43' 30" N. (?007°) 54' W. at 2224 and hunted inconclusively in deteriorating weather. Intend search vicinity for rest night. Weather 3442 7269. (C.2 250252Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Sailed ICARUS to join E.G.15 and C.2. (Cdre. D.W.A. 251035A to C.2, E.G.15.)

Return to base.

(C. in C.W.A. 251205A to E.G.15.)

SALADIN arrived.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 251735A to C. in C.W.A.)

1. It is intend to continue special anti U/B measure in approaches to North Channel when weather moderates.
2. Report as soon as known if any Asdic, Radar, H/F D/F, or other important defects in ships of 15th E.G. will not be repaired by 1600A tomorrow at which time group will probably be required to sail for further operations.
3. On return to Merville SCARBOROUGH is to take over S.O.15 E.G. PORCHESTER CASTLE is to join B.1 group and start boiler cleaning forthwith.

(C. in C.W.A. 251736A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

GATINEAU sailed.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 251835A to C.2, E.G.15.)

KEATS is to be sailed A.M. tomorrow for Merville to join 15th

Escort Group.

(C. in C.W.A. 251856A to Capt. D. Belfast.)

/Arrived...

25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Search for  
U/Bs.  
(Contd.)

Arrived MAGPIE, SCIMITAR, PORCHESTER CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, SCARBOROUGH, ACANTHUS, BERKELEY CASTLE and PRESCOTT.  
(Cdre. D. W.A. 252255A to C. in C.W.A.)  
My 251736A. Para.3. Cancel reference to S.O.15th E.G. Commander Leggassick R.N.R. is to take over S.O. 15th E.G. temporarily vice Majendie who is to assume command of B.1 E.G. Commander Leggassick is to be accommodated in KENILWORTH CASTLE and should embark before ship sails tomorrow. My 251836A refers.  
(C. in C.W.A. 252256A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Operation  
F.W.

Group 7. Sailed Dvina Roads 0920A less GEORGE WEEMS still repairing. Escorts HUSSAR, HALYCON, and 2 Soviet sweepers to be reinforced by 2 more destroyers and 2 Hunter craft off Ponoï. S.O.A. 9½ knots. My 191657 refers.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 250943B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Not met at hundred fathom line. Am returning, passing position "Charles" at noon.  
(SCOURGE 251105A to Capt. D.3.)  
J.W.56A being shadowed by 3 possibly 4 S/Ms. My P.C.S. (? 37.00, 12.13 070°) 10 knots. Weather 8597 1375.  
(Capt. D.26 251400A to C.S.1.)  
BORAGE arrived.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 251545A to C.S.1.)  
C.S.1. 251333A. BERWICK has now 3 dynamos in serviceable condition. Repairs to 4th expected to be completed p.m. 27th. Consider BERWICK is fit for sea.  
(BERWICK 251828A to V.A.2.)  
Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 251140Z. J.U.88 crossing island 1100, course S.E.  
(A.C.I.C. 251830A to Admty.)  
Seidis Fjord arrival SCOURGE, MAHRATTA, WESTCOTT, WHITEHALL.  
(A.C.I.C. 251944A to H.F.)  
Confirm that tanker did not repeat not sail with J.W.56B, owing to engine defects.  
2. Intend to sail tankers SAN AMBROSIO and BRITISH VALOUR with fuel oil in J.W.57. Your 241238A refers.  
(D.T.D. 252350A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

S/M  
Patrols.

Request you will sail SCEPTRE from Lerwick at 1800A/26th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and route Orange to 064° 05' thence through 064° 25' 008° 30' to patrol in accordance with S.M. 04318/657 dated 21st January.  
(Capt. S.9 251001A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)  
S/Ms. are to leave patrol for Lerwick to arrive 30th January as follows:- (1) STUBBORN as requisite to pass through 064° 43' 006° 00' E. at 1800A/28th thence through 064° 36' 004° 25' E. and route "Orange".  
(2) SEA NYMPH as requisite to pass through 065° 30' 005° 45' at 0001A/29th, thence by route "Orange".  
(Capt. S.9 251003A to S/Ms.)

/Position...



25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M  
Patrols.  
(Contd.)

Position of S/Ms. at 0800A/26 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SEANYMPH, STUBBORN, SPIRIT as in my 241734. (B) TELEMACHUS probably on the surface approaching Shetland from Northward (F.O.S. 251701 to Admty.)

Following is forecast of S/M. patrol.

S/Ms. are to be sailed to conform without further signals.

Submarine.	Leave Lerwick.	Return Lerwick.	Patrol.
(a) TRUSTY	1st February	11th February	<del>FF</del> FF
		(My 171011 refers)	
(b) TRADEWIND	1st February	15th February	FF
(c) STUBBORN	6th February	20th February	Kya area.
(d) UNSHAKEN	8th February	24th February	Bodo area.
(e) SYRTIS	10th February	24th February	Statlandet area.
(f) VAMPIRE	14th February	28th February	<del>FF</del> FF
(g) ULA	16th February	1st March	Skudesnes area.
(h) SEANYMPH	16th February	1st March.	Kya area.

2. On return from present patrol STUBBORN is to remain at Lerwick until required for (?further patrols).

(a) (b) and (f) are anti U-Boat patrol.  
(F.O.S. 251821A to Capt. S.) and 111926A/Febr.

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 251423A.)

Allied Air Activity.

SKAGGERAK sunk. A.B.2 report has been received that the Norwegian express ferry boat SKAGGERAK which was armed as an auxiliary cruiser was sunk by A/C. outside Egero Light on 20th January. Comment. This was probably the merchant ship of that name converted to mine-layer and presumably refers to attack carried out at 1133A/20th Jany by Coastal Command A/C.  
(D.D.I.C. 251753A to A.O.C. in C.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

CLEOPATRA. My 221051A. Skipper of Trawler CLEOPATRA reports attacked on 19th January. when 22 miles S. of Fastnet at 1030A Jan.19th being attacked by same plane as attacked Trawler ISER. Plane reported to be light coloured. No damage, no casualties.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 251001A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. S/M. sighted 50.11 N. 34.33 W. 1430 G.M.T. Reception doubtful.  
(Valentia Radio 251435Z to Admty.)  
U-Boat sighted on surface at 1927A by D/120 in 59° 10' N. 13° 47' W. course 090° speed 12 knots.  
(R.A.F. Iceland 252055A to H.C.C.C.)

War Diary.25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Parachuted  
circling  
torpedoes.Recent Mediterranean experience suggests that  
Germans are using parachuted circling torpedoes  
without the self-destructer pistol.

2. Such torpedoes when spent may remain afloat  
for several days with only a few inches of warhead  
showing above the surface, and would act as a  
sensitive drifting contact mine. 3. After an air raid on a port  
in which parachuted circling torpedoes are suspected, a keen  
look-out should be kept especially by vessels underway.  
(A.C.N.S.W. 252105A. A message 380A.)

• Casualties & Defects.SAMUEL  
DEXTER.My 241900 and 242150. Weather conditions do not  
permit me complying with your 242354. Request  
permission to return.

(SAPPER 250503A to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 250503A. Return to base. Tug to Campbeltown  
(C. in C.W.A. 250729A to SAPPER.)

SAMUEL DEXTER abandoned and derelict in 056° 19' N. 011°  
43' W. at 241900A. If sighted her position should be reported.  
(C. in C.W.A. 251056A to Admty.)

TEES.

Have following sea damage. Breakwater pushed back  
and forecastle deck torn. In view of weather  
intend to proceed Belfast Lough for instructions.  
E.T.A. 250730.

(TEES 250545A to C. in C.W.A.)

EPIROS.

Received 0530Z DE EMPIROS to N.C.S.O. Glasgow.  
Immediate assistance of salvage tug required.  
Collision causing hole in port side engine room  
and cross bunkers filled with water. My position  
is at Clyde anchorage C.8.

(Port Patrick Radio 250630 to Admty.)

All O.K. now assistance received.

(EMPIROS 250751Z to Port Patrick Radio.)

ATHEL  
PRINCE.Received 0615Z DE ATHEL PRINCE to N.C.S.O. Glasgow.  
Aground off K.1 buoy, require tugs immediately.

(Port Patrick Radio 250715A to Admty.)

Your 0615Z. Tug will be sent as soon as possible.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 250755A to ATHEL PRINCE.)

LENA  
LUCKENBACH.042° 30 R/V point at 1000Z. Rudder now gone, un-  
able to manoeuvre, ship needs immediate assistance.

(LENA LUCKENBACH 251030Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 251030Z. Rescue Tug SAUCY proceeding to  
your assistance. Report your position.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251507A to LENA LUCKENBACH.)

/Cancel...

War Diary.25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- LENA  
LUCKENBACH.  
(Contd.)
- Cancel N.O.I.C. Campbeltown's 250940. Proceed forthwith to assist LENA LUCKENBACH without rudder in approx. 56° 00' N. 06° 28' W. at 251030Z. Report when met.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251515A to SAUCY.)  
SAUCY expects to reach you at 2200A/25th.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 252153Z to LENA LUCKENBACH.)
- VANSITTART. Request you will sail rescue tug SAUCY forthwith to assist VANSITTART ashore in Loch Scridain Island of Mull.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 250933A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown)  
Proceed with all despatch to assist VANSITTART ashore in Loch Scridain Island of Mull.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 250940A to SAUCY.)  
My 250940A sailed. Endurance 10 days.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 251030A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
VANSITTART safely refloated. No appreciable further damage. Anchored Loch Scridain for night returning to Tobermory daylight tomorrow. Have informed tug SAUCY.  
(VANSITTART 251830A to WESTERN ISLES.)
- MATCHLESS. MATCHLESS had badly leaking fuel-tank temporarily plugged. Steering gear is however defective and inoperative except by hand. V.A.2 242211 requested WRESTLER be routed via Seidis Fjord to sail in company with MATCHLESS until routes diverge. Intend MATCHLESS to postpone return to Scapa until decision on above is received.  
(Capt. D.3 251104 to V.A.2.)
- ENTERPRISE. 6 out of 8 reserve food-water tank unserviceable owing to Seepage of Salt water. Except for very short periods operational speed is limited to? 24 knots.  
(ENTERPRISE 251340Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- ASSIDUOUS. Cancel previous orders. Proceed to Merville.  
(C. in C.W.A. 251846A to ASSIDUOUS.)  
Proceeding in accordance your 251846A. Have urgent heavy weather damage.  
(ASSIDUOUS 251915Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- CLARKIA. CLARKIA reports all W/T and V/S out of action. Have ordered her to Londonderry.  
(E.G.40 251937A to C. in C.W.A.)
- EMPIRE  
TREASURE. Escort EMPIRE TREASURE to Barry Roads. My 221956. Report details of damage to EMPIRE TREASURE.  
(C. in C.W.A. 252151A to GIFFARD.)

War Diary.25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- M.K.F.27A. D/F bearings at 0021Z/24 indicate U-Boat in your general vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 250217A to Escorts M.K.F.27A.)
- O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40. Sailed EXE in accordance with Capt. D.Greenock's 231632 para. D. amended by his 241314A.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 250658A to Cdre. D.W.A.)  
Sailed BUGLOSS to overtake O.S.66/K.M.S.40 in accordance with N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 231615.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 251736A to Admty.)
- CALGARY returned from O.S.66/K.M.S.40, lifeboats smashed.  
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 251825A to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.O. 221. HUGHLI returned from O.N.C. 221, requires more ballast.  
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 250857A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Amend time of Oversay R/V 1500/25th.  
(B.2 250941A to HEATHER.)
- Proceed to join and support O.N.221 as requisite during daylight today.
- O.N.221 R/V at Oversay 0930A today, course 280°, to 010° W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 251015Z to ST. CATHERINES, CHILLIWACK, FENNEL.)  
Proceed to join O.N.221 as in my 251015Z.  
(C. in C.W.A. 251217A to GATINEAU, ICARUS.)  
JOHN B.GORDON returned from O.N.221, insufficient ballast.  
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 251308A to C. in C.W.A.)  
LEE S.OVERMAN returned. Unable to find convoy.  
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 251315A to N.C.S.O.Mersey.)  
Sailed GENTIAN to overtake O.N.221.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 251435A to Admty.)  
Following returned. JAMES GORDON BENNETT from O.N.220.  
LEE S. OVERMAN from O.N.221.  
(N.C.S.O.Belfast 251440A to C. in C.W.A.)  
Sailing from Merville 1830A/25th to overtake O.N.221.  
Intend keeping 15000 yards from convoy until dawn.  
(GATINEAU 251651Z to C.2.)  
In view of damage to FENCER you should be prepared to sail in her place with ACTIVITY and second Escort Group in accordance with my 242138 January on completion of exercise with PHILANTE.  
2. In this event ACTIVITY would be required to proceed Larne on 26th January for conference and exercise.  
(C. in C.W.A. 251805A to NAIRANA.)  
GATINEAU sailed.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 251835A to C.2, E.G.15, B.2.)  
FORT MOOSE returned from O.N.O. 221.  
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 252352 to C. in C.W.A.)
- Stragglers. Admiralty's 041340B May. Stragglers return week-ending 0915/25th January.  
O.N.S.27. EPIROS, shortage of fuel due to heavy weather. SUDEROY, low pressure cylinder cracked steering gear broken. CANADA, main engine defects causing repeated stops. IRON BARON, circulating pump fracture. O.N.220. EMPIRE BLESSING, heavy weather feed pump and governor control shaft failure. CAXTON, defective air pump. EMPIRE TRAIL, steering gear failure and heavy weather. J.W.56A. JOHN A. QUITMAN, heavy weather deck cargo broke adrift.  
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 250915 to Admty.)

/Escort...

War Diary.25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Escort Carriers. My 222015A. Following is amended programme for Carriers in this Command 28th January. ACTIVITY and FENCER sailing with 2nd Escort Group. 1st Feb NAIRANA sails with B.1 Escort Group to overtake O.N.222. 4th February PURSUER sails with O.S.67. 5th February VINDEX, TRACKER sail with 7th E.G. 7th February STRIKER (plus BITER if ready) sail with O.N.223 supported by 6th E.G. (C. in C.W.A. 251109Z to Admty.)

H.X. 275. One S/M. on surface bearing 140° distant 5 miles, U/B. attacked approx. course 330°. My position 51° 17' N. 17° 40' W. (B.7 251223Z to WHITEHALL W/T.) My 251223Z. VERSATILE sighted and attacked S/M. 12 miles on starboard beam of convoy.

VIDETTE joining her. No sighting report heard. 60 ships and all escorts in company. DAPHNELLA and CHILDS straggled yesterday in gale, whereabouts unknown. P.C.S. 051° 32' N. 018° 03' W. 065° 9.5.

(B.7 251301Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
Enemy reconnaissance A/C are operating in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 251439A to Escorts H.X.275, M.K.F.27A.) My 251301Z. VIDETTE and VERSATILE carried out creeping attack at 1441Z and then lost contact. Have ordered both ships to remain in vicinity until dusk tomorrow or destruction. Weather 5865 0944.

(B.7 251710Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
GODKIN has severe weather damage and is not fit for Northabout passage. Request (change?) of destination. POYDRAS 3 foot split in hull above waterline. GIBAUT has rejoined. P.C. and S. 51° 50' N. 16° 55' W. 076° (9.5?). Weather 5865, 4189.

(B.7 251801Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
Admiralty's 252149A. Was fixed as close to position 051° 45' N. 018° 15' W. Probably U/B being hunted by VIDETTE and VERSATILE.

(B.7 252140Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
By D/F at 2011Z U/B within 40 miles of 51.30 N. 16.30 W. (D.D.I.C. 252149A to H.X.275, M.K.F.27A.)

M.K.S.27A, C. in C.W.A. is requested to signal all destinations  
RAMILLIES, (D.T.D. 251500A to C. in C.W.A.)  
ATHENE.

S.L.146. ENTERPRISE is to leave Horta at 1000A/27th and  
ENTERPRISE. proceed to close within 60 miles S.L.146 before dark 28th Jan. 2. ENTERPRISE is then to patrol within 60 miles S.L.146 acting cover against surface attack. 3. After dark 29th unless fuel shortage necessitates earlier departure ENTERPRISE is to discontinue patrol and proceed through position EA Commission 049° 30' N. 014° 02' W. and EB Commission 180° Bishop Rock 10 to Plymouth keeping W. 006° during dark hours. 4. Estimated S.L. 146(S.O. Escort in HELMSDALE) will be in 043° 23' N. 018° 30' W. at 0800A/28th, steer 000° 7½ knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 252141A to ENTERPRISE.)

War Diary25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

WARSPITE Ship fit for service as in your 211115 subject to the following.  
7. Estimated time three-four weeks with full service of major dockyards Hull.  
(F.O.G.M.A., 251002A to Admty.). (See Admty 261906A  
HUSH distribution)

ACTIVE Following is repetition of ACTIVE's 251152 (begins)  
U/boats. Addressed Gibraltar C.O. from ACTIVE.  
Have obtained H/F D/F bearing believed to be of enemy submarine transmitting Naval enigma signal. Sense determined. Third class (German) bearing 225 degs. far (Sky wave) series one. My position 035 degs. 57' North 005 degs. 46' W. (Ends).  
(F.O.G.M.A., 251602A to Admty.).

Italian Intend to sail Italian submarines MAREA, VORTICE,  
S/Ms. for DANDOLO, SPERI, MAMELI escorted by U.S.S.  
Bermuda. NEUNZER at 0700/27th for Bermuda (route). E.T.A. daylight Feb. 13th S. of A. 8 knots. Codeword "Vermouth".  
(F.O.G.M.A., 251854Z to Admty. etc.).

South Atlantic.

French Your 211600 para.2.  
Italian Since forces for anti-blockade runners at my  
Cruiser disposal consist only of four French and two  
Patrol. Italian Cruisers I have not found it practicable to employ them as separate forces in different areas. They have in fact been relieving each other on patrol and have been in company in harbour together at Freetown.

(2) French and Italian Admirals have called upon each other and they and their Captains have met together in my office on amiable terms.

(3) Necessity for tactical control of ships of different nationalities is only likely to arise should they be employed intercepting the same blockade runner. Under these conditions tactical control from Freetown would be impracticable.

(4) Admiral Biancheri has asked for definition of his status. Continuation of flying flag in other ship is undesirable and when both cruisers are at sea together is also impracticable.

(5) Intend to inform Admiral Biancheri as in para. 2 and first part of 4 of your 211600 omitting specific mention of French and to suggest to him that he hauls down his flag should he come in tactical contact with ships of the Allies under conditions necessitating control by one authority.

(6) Admiral Biancheri is the driving force of the Italian cruisers and a considerable asset to their seagoing efficiency.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 251227Z to Admty.).

/Independent...

25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Independent  
ships,  
zig-zagging.

A.M. 221295. (Measures to come into force to expedite independent shipping). Request zig-zagging may be suspended in area under my control for all independent shipping except when within 200 miles of the African Coast and within 500 miles of Freetown.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 251745Z to Admty.).

M.F.Vs. for  
E.F.

Your 182309 and your 202255. 14 M.F.Vs. (141 - 150 185/6 190/1) out of first 17 built in South Africa are now available for Eastern Fleet. They will be sailed with naval crews to destination in batches commencing late February.  
(C. in C.S.A., 251745C to Admty.).

War Diary.

25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing in Anzio Area Operation "Shingle".

- BRAVE. My position at 0700A 040° 35' 013° 42' speed 15. Request last known position of U.S. destroyer MAYO. (BRAVE 250655A to F.O.W.It.)
- KEMPENFELT. Proceed at 0800 in accordance with my 241858 (G.O.C. 15th Army Group proceeding to Anzio.) (C. in C.Med. in Naples 250658A to KEMPENFELT.)
- ST. KILDA enemy A/C. During last night's attack on ships in the vicinity of position (?97) direct hits were scored on one enemy plane which caught fire and was seen to crash by HORNPIPE. (ST. KILDA 251000A to F.O.W.It.)
- Formia area bombardments. Your 250844 (N.T. in W.D.) No movement seen on roads, but actual observation very difficult. Ammunition expended until 1030, MAURITIUS 260, INGIEFLEID 472. (MAURITIUS 251030 to C. in C.Med. at Naples.)
- Whole length of coastal part of Terracina Road well covered by bombardments today. Conditions good for visual firing. Number of buildings on road side demolished. Bombardments effective, no traffic or movements of any sort seen. Turned over to DIDO. 1410A.. (MAURITIUS 251600 to C. in C.Med.)
- Situation Reports. Medcos No. 14 25th Jan, from Wilson.  
1. Bad weather yesterday stopped all unloading across beaches. Unloading continued, however, through port of Anzio at rate of 24 L.S.Ts. a day and as many L.C.Ts. as could get there. This morning weather much improved and hoped that unloading is now proceeding on a fuller scale. Prediction is that weather is very uncertain after next 12 hours.  
Shipping off beaches was under attack by fighter bombers all day yesterday but little or no damage was sustained. At dusk a considerable raid by bombers took place and this continued intermittently throughout the night. In these attacks two more destroyers U.S. were damaged, one hospital ship sunk, one hospital ship damaged, and one hospital ship attacked but undamaged. These hospital ships were fully lighted and marked and were well out of the landing area. Latest reports are that JANUS sunk caused heavy casualties, but JERVIS got into port with no casualties. Cruisers continued interdiction fire on coast road at Terracina all day and last night. (Fairbanks 251300.)
- Operation "Shingle" Sitrep.  
1. Build up proceeding according to plan (1) and is ahead of schedule in spite of bad beaches and bad weather yesterday.  
2. One R.C.T. of 45th Division already landed. One combat command of first U.S. Armoured Division embarking now.



25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing in Anzio Bay Operation "Shingle".

Situation Reports. (Contd.)

3. Sporadic activity by fighter bombers yesterday. Dusk attack using bombs, gliders and torpedoes. Seven to nine shot down by ship's guns and Beau-fighters.

4. U.S.S. PLUNKETT, MAYO and PREVAIL damaged by bombs during dusk raid, (?) hospital ship ST. DAVID sunk, LEINSTER damaged, ST. ANDREW bombed but not hit. All were about 8 miles off shore clear of other shipping and correctly illuminated. Ships were flared and then bombed at mast height. A.M. 250047 refers.

6. S.O. Force P in BULOLO back in Naples. L.S.I.(L) except WINCHESTER CASTLE sailed for Malta and Augusta p.m. today.

7. Development of Anzio progressing well. Wind fell during night but is now rising again and expected to forbid beach work at X or working of cargo from Liberties.

8. MAURITIUS, INGLEFIELD and LE MALIN bombarded roads Formia area intermittently day of 24th and night 24th/25th. Bombardment continues. DIDO takes over from MAURITIUS p.m. today. (C. in C.Med. at Naples 251146A to Admty.)

Situation report No. 281.

1. During attack 23rd Jan. 6 enemy aircraft of Force of 50 were shot down by fighters which intercepted in Elba area.
2. Bad weather temporarily prevented unloading over beach but discharge through Anzio continuing satisfactorily.
3. During 2 hours air attack at dusk on 24th Jan. in Anzio area U.S. destroyer PLUNKETT was hit amidships but is proceeding under her own power to Palermo. U.S.S. PREVAIL damaged by near miss is proceeding Naples. U.S. destroyer MAYO has been mined aft and is proceeding in tow of H.M.S. PROSPEROUS to Naples.
4. U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN, D.S. FLORES and D.S. SOEMBA and destroyers giving fire support in assault area.
5. MAURITIUS, INGLEFIELD and F.L.C. LE MALIN bombarded coast road from Formia to Terracina during daylight 24th Jan. MAURITIUS and INGLEFIELD bombarded same area at intervals during the night 24th/25th Jan.
6. During night 24th/25th Jan. TROUBRIDGE and TENACIOUS patrolled off Italian Coast South Ancona and BLACKMORE and LAUDERDALE at Dubrovnik and Durazzo. Both report blank.
7. S/M UNRULY reports sinking 1 100 ton and 1 40 ton caique by gunfire in approaches to Doro Channel. 1 100 ton and 1 40 ton caique by gunfire in Panarmos Harbour (037° 39' N. 025° 05' E.) on 11th and 1 20 ton caique by gunfire in 037° 38' N. 024° 54' E. on 15th January. She bombarded Kandeliusa Lighthouse (036° 30' N. 026° 59' E.) on 21st Jan.

(C. in C.Med. 252035A to F.O.Levant, etc.)

Bombing of hospital ships.

To minimise danger to hospital ships intend that they should arrive assault area at 1100 sailing not later than 1430.

(C. in C.Med. in Naples 251545A to C.T.F. 81.)  
See also Admty. 290157.

/Hospital...

War Diary.

25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing in Anzio Area Operation "Shingle".

Bombing of  
hospital  
ships.  
(Contd.)

Hospital carrier ST. DAVID sunk by enemy action.  
LEINSTER and ST. ANDREW damaged by near misses.  
Temporary repairs in hand. Expected ready for  
emergency service by 27th. S.T.L.O. Naples  
reporting casualties.

(D.S.T.O. Italy 251616A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

Government following communication at earliest possible moment,  
(begins): H.M.G. have learned that three British hospital  
ships have been attacked by German aircraft today off Italian  
coast. (details).

H.M.G. protest most strongly against these attacks on hospital  
ships which were fully marked in accordance with the International  
Conventions. They request that the German authorities will issue  
most immediately categoric instructions to all naval and air  
forces operating under their command to secure full immunity from  
attack of British and Allied hospital ships. (Ends.)

(Foreign Office No T.O.O/25 to Berne.)  
(Head of M.I. 250047A to C. in C. Med.)

LE MALIN  
(from Formia  
bombardment.)

Sail at 0001/26th Jan. routed Q.B.B. 237, 33, 55,  
123 to Bizerta, E.T.A. 1400. Codeword "Noreen"  
490.

(F.O.W.It. 251831A to LE MALIN.)

L.S.Ts.

Army pressing for increase in number of L.S.T. to  
be sailed. 17 sailed 1700A/25, further 15 will be  
sailed 0800/26. Do you require more than 24 per  
diem as previously requested?

(F.O.W.It. 251906A to C.T.F. 81.)

S.O. Force P.  
(R.A. Trou-  
bridge.)

S.O. Force P sailed in BULOLO escorted by CRETE,  
THEMISTOCLES at 0730A/27th Jan. by route Baker to  
Malta. E.T.A. 0830A/28th Jan. Codeword "Nellie"  
255 normal.

(F.O.W.It. 251928A to V.A.M.)

General.

MAIDSTONE,  
destroyers  
for E.F.

Your 240614 and 240617 being passed to D.4 and S.8  
A. MAIDSTONE 31st Jan. B. QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH,  
RAIDER start trials and working up 4th Feb.  
Present intention to leave Alexandria 11th Feb. D.  
4's 221012 refers.

2. Request information how much delay to MAIDSTONE  
is acceptable.

(F.O.L.E.M. 250025B to C. in C.E.F.)

(C. in C.E.F.'s 240614 para. 2, comply.)

(A.C.N.S.(F) 250138A to F.O.L.E.M.)

/Air...

War Diary.

25.1.1944.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air reports. M.E.Balkan Sitrep No. 70. 5. Air Ops. A. Bombing. Night 22/23 Jan. 7 Liberators, 6 Halifaxes of Mid-east Command bombed Piraeus Harbour installations, cloud and haze over target prevented observation results but bursts seen target area, two fires started. 23 Jan. 10 Spitfires, 20 Macchi 205 on M.A.A.F. offensive patrols Yugoslav coastal waters attacked and set on fire one schooner off Hvar Island. 18 Thunderbolts dropped 14 1000 pound bombs on Skradin results not observed. Night 23/24 Jan. 6 Halifaxes, 8 Liberators Piraeus Harbour installations, thick haze over target results not observed though bursts seen in target areas some at main international railway station alongside Halon Basin. (C. in C.M.E. 251935B.)

Daily Opsum 272.

24. Anti shipping R/C Aegean by total 2 Baltimores (A.30) 6 R.P. Beaufighters and 2 Beaufighters armed with bombs. Two R.P. Beaufighters attacked one 150 ton caique off Keoc Island, many strikes with cannon, one believed hit with R.P., vessel left sinking. 2 other R.P. Beaufighters scores several hits with cannon on 1 150 or 200? ton caique off Monemvasia (Greece) causing extensive damage. 1 Bomber Beaufighter attacked two caiques of 100 tons each at Port Harackia (Paros) bombs fell short but strikes were scored with cannon causing damage to both caiques.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 251004Z.)

Non-mining Port Naussa, Paros, and Port Gavriou, Andros, para. 4 of your 211926 (re laying of limited life mines used by relief ships. in ports visited by Swedish relief ships - para. 4 two islands to be named which will be left unmined; (F.O.L.E.M. 251015B to Admty.)

Special Craft Re employment of "Sleeping Beauty" submersible for Aegean canoes, Welman one-man submarines, and Welfreighters. Operations. (D.D.O.D.(I) 251108A, 270008A to F.O.L.E.M.) See Lion Copy.

Axis Shipping, My 211920C. All 4 expect to sail p.m. 25th. B.3. Aegean. 2. Report B.4 that 4 canister small craft expected from (?Jibouti) priority 24 hours. (S.O.I. Istanbul 251113C to F.O.L.E.M.) 4 small German craft of between 40 and 80 tons expected to enter Aegean today 25th. 2 have deck cargo of timber and can do 12 to 15 knots. One is similar to Dutch Schuyt and one is Danube motor lighter speed both the latter is 6 knots.

2. 4 more small craft expected to enter Aegean p.m. 26th.  
3. Probably all above destined Khois.

(Capt. S.1 251253B to TORBAY.)

My 251113C para. 1. Sailed for Salonika 1130 G.M.T. 25th. E.T. entry Aegean between 1200 and 1500 G.M.T. 26th. (S.O.I. Istanbul 251554C to F.O.L.E.M.)

/UPSTART...

# 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 251108A Jan: OUT

TO: F.O.L.E.M. DATE: 25.1.44  
Info. C. in C. Middle East for  
H.Q. Raiding Forces M.E.

NAVAL CYPHER XD PLUG

FROM: Admiralty ~~R.M.S.~~

*Special Craft for Aegean Operations.*

A.M. 252028A/December not to C. in C. Middle East. Your 191809B.

Other possibilities suitable for special operations in the Aegean include:

- (a) Electric driven one man submersible canoe known as the Sleeping Beauty; speed on surface 3; submerged 3; endurance on surface 40 miles; submerged 7; weight 580 lbs; capable of being carried on deck of a mother-ship or slung beneath a caïque.
- (b) Welman one man submarine details in possession of M.O.4.
- (c) Welfreighter, development of the Welman: crew 2; carrying capacity 1; displacement 12½; speed on surface 6; submerged 2½; endurance on surface 1000 miles; submerged 15 miles without recharging.

2. It is desired to consider the possibilities of the M.F.U. and these craft in connection with the activities of the Raiding Forces Middle East commanded by Brigadier Turnbull.

3. Arrangements have been made for the despatch of three Sleeping Beauties with crews to the Levant for LIMFLT operations, reconnaissances, etc., conducted by Raiding Forces against shipping. Original crews to return U.K. after training Raiding Forces personnel.

4. Welmans can be made available for delivery at short notice. Prototype Welfreighter not yet completed acceptance trials.

5. Whilst maintenance of Sleeping Beauties is within resources of Raiding Forces, Welmans and Welfreighters would need Naval maintenance facilities and would be operated under Naval direction.

/6. These ...

MOST SECRET

2.

6. These pros and cons have arisen out of conversations between D.D.O.D. (I), M.O.4 H.Q. and Colonel Prendergast, Second-in-Command, Raiding Forces M.E.

7. Request your comments.

251103A

D.D.O.D. (I) (Ext. 1155)

1st Lord  
 1st S.L. (2)  
 D.F.S.L.  
 2nd S.L.  
 3rd S.L.  
 Vice Contr.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 A.C.N.S. (W)  
 A.M.W.  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 N.A. 2nd S.L.  
 D.O.D. (H) (4)  
 D.O.D. (F) (2)  
 U.V.R.  
 F.N.I. (4)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 Hd. of N.  
 D.D.O.D. (I)  
 N.I.D. (Q)  
 D.P.S.  
 Hd. of C.W.  
 D. of D.  
 D.N.C.  
 E. in C.  
 D. of S. (2)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D. of F. (Q) (2)

I.P. (2)  
 D.C. (2)  
 W.D.  
 Hd. of M. (2)  
 Admiral Blake (4)  
 Dep. Contr.  
 D. of D.  
 D.N.C.  
 E. in C.  
 Hd. of S.W.R. } Bath.

JH  
LAM

War Diary.

25.1.1944.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- UPSTART. Leave patrol to pass 042° 34' 007° 04' at 0800/28th 240° Monachi Rock 5 (?miles) at 0800/29th thence to Maddalena.  
(?Capt. S.10 251221 to P.65 (UPSTART), (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)
- A/C attack on caiques. Enemy anchorage one caique 100 tons 37.49 N. 26.43 E. Samos. Have attacked enemy.  
(A/C GQZQ 261247B to 201 Group.)  
Result of attack hits observed caique 100 tons 37.06 N. 25.06 E. at 1253.  
(A/C GQZQ 251436.)
- 2 enemy caiques 80 tons have been severely damaged by air attack 37.09 N. 24.32 E. at 1312.  
(A/C GQZ/K 251437 to 201 Group.)
- L.C.I.(L) Flotillas. When they can be spared request you will release 251 and 258 L.C.I.(L) Flotilla which are required for operation on East Coast of Italy.  
(C. in C.Med. 251256A to Com. 8th Phib.)
- LEOPARDI. I.S.L.D. report dated 22nd Jan., LEOPARDI ready to sail from Piraeus. This ship is capable of 16 knots. Destination possibly Dodecanese.  
(Capt. S. 1, 251543B to TORBAY, DOLFIJN.)
- Italian Navy Morale. Situation is now much easier as a result of declarations of Political Leaders, and Minister of Marine no longer expects repercussions from meeting. My 221227.  
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 251811 to F.O.W.It.)
- BIDEFORD, AIRE. On arrival at Gibraltar about 2nd February BIDEFORD will join 50th Escort Group and AIRE the 41st Escort Group.  
(C. in C.Med. 251832A to BIDEFORD, AIRE.)
- Enemy use of I.F.F. Admty. 252051A to C. in C.Mediterranean.  
See Lion Copy.
- ORPHEE. Mission completed.  
(ORPHEE (F.S.) 252237Z to N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

# MOST SECRET

WARNING - This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

## M E S S A G E

MOST SECRET

252051A January

CUT

To C. in C. Mediterranean,  
Info B.A.D.

Date 25.1.44.

Naval Cypher XF Plug.

From Admiralty.

*Enemy use of I.F.F.*

DEFERRED.

Your 5175 Med. 00520/7 of 17th December not to B.A.D. has been carefully considered and it has been decided not to inform Fleet of suspected enemy use of I.F.F. Mark 3 as this would cause loss of confidence and considerable complications which are not yet warranted.

2. Points of comment are :-

- (a) the low ranges at which enemy I.F.F. was first detected by ships compared with normal range of detection.
- (b) The fact that in neither H.M.S. PRINS ALBERT's nor H.M.S. COLOMBO's convoys were all ships unanimous that I.F.F. was shown.
- (c) H.M. Ships report that the range at which Type 242 can locate aircraft by echo is about 10 miles. H.M.S. HIGHLANDER reports that at low ranges the echo from Type 242 may be mistaken by operators for an I.F.F. transmission.
- (d) The enemy is believed to find it difficult to fit his aircraft with essential radio equipment and therefore is unlikely to divert any effort to fit our sets.
- (e) In spite of using our bombers returning from Continent to conceal the approach of his aircraft sent to bomb U.K. he has made no effort to use I.F.F. over this country, where the need to deceive defences is greater than at sea.

3. Request you continue to report all suspected incidents.

252051A

D.R.E. (588).

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

D.R.E. (3).

D.F.S.L.

D.S.D.

G.C.L.S. (2).

3rd S.L.

D.A.W.T.

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

Vice Controller.

D.A.E.

D.O.D. (H) (4).

Asst. Controller R &amp; D.

D.T.S.D.

5th S.L.

D.N.I. (4).

D. of P. (2).

W.D.

V.C.N.S.

D.S.R.

Hd. of M. (2).

Dep. Contr. } B

A.C.N.S. (W).

D.A.C.R. (2).

D.S.D. 9 (2).

D.R.E. } A

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

D.N.A.O.

D.D.I.C. (2).

Head of } F

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

D.C.N.A.E.

Ad. Blake (4).

S.W.R. } H

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

C.A.O.R.

I.P. (2).

404

25.1.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B hunts. U-Boat sighted on surface by Catalina in 014° 43' N. 080° 25' E. 1330Z/22nd Jan. and attacked with 4 depth charges; evidence of possible damage has not yet been assessed. Catalina hunt to exhaustion in area was organised, and suspicious submerged object was attacked by aircraft in 014° 13' N. 081° 05' E. at 0543Z/23rd Jan. but was later believed to have been non-submarine. Air search abandoned daylight today 25th Jan. there being no further evidence of U-Boat in the area.  
(C. in C. E.F., 250345 to Admty.)

U-Boat My 240304 refers.  
dispositions. Area (F). Attack made at 0530Z/23rd Jan. in position 014° 13' N. 081° 05' E. now believed to have been on non S/M. No further information from area. Scale of air escort - reduced to X.  
Area (B). Unknown ship reported S/M on 23rd in position 021° 41' N. 059° 57' E. A/C investigating. Scale of air escort remains W no further information.  
Other areas; no fresh information, (no changes ?) in scale of air escort.  
(C. in C. E.F., 250347Z to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

Air Daily Opsum. No. 681 23rd Jan. 14th U.S.A.A.F.  
Report. 23rd Jan. 2 Chinese American Mitchells (B.25) S.E. sweep Suichwan. 1 400 ft. freighter sunk, 1 probably sunk, 1 damaged.  
(S.E.A.A.C., 250705Z.)

Port In view of proposals for reduction of Base  
Defences. Defences in my 121136 Jan. do not intend to proceed with laying A/T baffles at Port Louis, Mauritius.  
2. Proposed to transfer this valuable Boom gear to Ceylon in KIRRIEMOOR as it seems highly improbable that it will ever be required at Mauritius under circumstances now obtaining.  
3. On completion of transfer of gear to Ceylon, proposed KIRRIEMOOR should proceed to U.K. DEVON CITY will be available at Trincomalee for any further Boom laying operations should these arise.  
(C. in C. E.F., 250953Z to Admty.)

China From U.S. Army Forces in India, weekly summary  
Sit. Rep. of events in China, for period of 13th Jan. 1944 to 19th Jan. 1944 inclusive, transmitted by U.S.A.A.F. China.  
4. U.S. Air. 13th Jan. - Hong Kong - Hainan Island sea sweep. 2 Mitchells (B.25s) destroyed a 100 foot ship, damaged three. One warehouse set afire. 14th Jan. - near St. Johns Island 2 Mitchells (B.25s) left a 275 foot boat burning, left awash a 180 foot gunboat. 15th Jan. - Swatow sea sweep. 2 Mitchells (B.25s) sank a 125 foot ship. Chikhom. 2 Mitchells (B.25s) sank a 125 foot ship. Hongay. 2 Mitchells (B.25s) damaged power plant and sank a 200 foot gunboat.  
(C. in C. India, No T.O.O./25.)



War Diary.25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

M.A.R.I. Propose following amendment for your concurrence.  
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 251307Z to Admty.)  
Concur (D.T.D. 271130Z)

U/B (Cominch, 251617Z to Admty.)  
Estimates.

Convoy CK - 1 Route etc.  
C.K.1. Escorts U.S.S. THREAT, TIDE, KEWAYDIN, P.S.s 484,  
1176, 1261, 17 ships.  
Codeword "Mainstay".  
(N.R.O. Charleston, 251807 to Admty etc.)

U.G.S.31 Sailing telegram. (2) 1825/25th. *Sail 479*  
T.F.64. (3) 0600/27th passing C.L. speed 9.  
(6) T.F.64, INGHAM, HUSER, INCH, SNOWDEN, STANTON,  
SWASEY, GEORGE E. BADGER, OSMAN, INGRAM, CLEMSON,  
DUPONT BROUGH, STURTEVANT, CHIWAWA, L.C.I.L.507  
thru 517, ALGORMA, DIVER A.T.R. 2345 T.G.21.14 HEARD, LIVERMORE,  
JACOB JONES, HAMMANN, ROBERT E. PEARY, BLAIR 790, WHEN CARD,  
CHIWAWA, L.C.I.(L)507 thru' 517 ALGORMA, DIVER A.T.R.2354 are in  
formation.  
(P.D. Norfolk, 251908 to Admty. etc.)

FLAUNT. When ready about 27 Jan. sail H.M.S. FLAUNT  
(A.T.R.94). Orange to New Orleans for deperming  
compass adjustment and final stores. Upon  
completion about 1 Feb. sail onward independently  
to St. Johns N.F. for onward routing by C. in C. C.N.A. with  
a convoy to U.K. Advise routing instructions.  
(Cominch, 252002Z to Com. 7th Navdist Miami Florida etc.)

PRINCE Advancing 16 knots H.M.C.S. PRINCE HENRY departed  
HENRY. Bermuda 261400Z for Portsmouth England (route) E.T.A.  
Point S.021700Z. E.T.A. Needles 030900Z.  
(Comnob, Bermuda, 252037Z to C. in C. Portsmouth)

MAGIC, Escorted by MAGIC, Russian L.145, 146, 147 S.C.S.  
Russian 720,1075 and 1076 depart Bermuda 1400Z/26 for  
Craft. Horta. Speed 11.5 knots. (Route).  
Cominch, 271737 December and 172046. E.T.A. Horta  
0600Z second.  
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 252243 to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Visits of Re Notification.  
U.S.Ships (B.A.D. 252305Z to Admty.)  
to Azores.

War Diary.

25.1.1944.  
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Attacked.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 0900Z/25th Jan.

Para. B. (1) U.S.S. LANING attacked possible  
U-Boat contact at 1900/24th Jan. in 16.21 N. 19.19  
W.

(2) A/C K/120 reported possible U-Boat contact at  
0443/24 in 58.40 N. 16.59 W.

(3) E.G.C.2 obtained U-Boat contact at 2224/24 in  
55.43 N. 07.54 W.

(D.D.I.C. 251001Z)

S/M's Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 251413A, 251423A)

26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Home Fleet.

1. C. in C. H.F., who arrived at Scapa yesterday at 1133A in DUKE OF YORK from Rosyth, resumed operational control of the Home Fleet at 1815 today.

Operation  
F.W.  
OBDURATE  
and 3 M/Vs.  
damaged.

2(a) At 0037A today, when about 120 miles N. by W. of the North Cape, Capt. D.26 in HARDY reported that Convoy J.W.56A had been attacked by at least six U-Boats; that three M/Vs. had been damaged; and that the destroyer OBDURATE had also been damaged but was keeping up with the Convoy. At 0039A he requested S.B.N.Q. North Russia to provide support from the local forces; and at 0217A he informed C.S.1 of the Cruiser Covering Force in KENT that the Convoy Escorts were much dispersed and were picking up survivors. At 0926A five enemy A/C had been located by Russian D/F over the Barents Sea, and the Russian Boston A/C were still grounded by fog.

(b) Convoy J.W.56B was about 65 miles N.N.E. of Seidisfiord at 0800 today; and Capt. D.3 in MILNE with five other destroyers of the Destroyer Escort left Seidisfiord at 0732A to join the Convoy in 008° W. METEOR will join the Convoy from the Faroes on the 28th to replace MATCHLESS in the Destroyer Escort.

U-Boat  
attacked.

3. At 1301Z the Frigate ESSINGTON of Escort Group 3, escorting Convoy M.K.F.27A (S.O. RAMILLIES), attacked a probable U-Boat about 35 miles N.W. of Slyne Head without apparent result.

Owing to sickness among the Staff, Situation Reports for Foreign Stations for this date are incomplete or missing.

26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

N.C.E.T.F. R.A. Sir Philip L. Vian, K.B.E., D.S.O. has today  
(Rear- assumed duty as N.C.E.T.F.  
Admiral (N.C.E.T.F., 260123 to Admty.)  
P.L. Vian)

C. in C. H.F. My 041831. C. in C. H.F. will resume  
operational control of the Fleet from 1815/26th.  
(C. in C. H.F., 261802A to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation My P.C.S. are 039° 073° N. 024° E. 25 miles,  
F.W. 090°, 10. Determined attack by at least 6  
U-Boats. 3 merchant ships damaged. OBDURATE  
damaged but keeping up. Weather 7371 8382.  
(Capt. D.26, 260037A to H.F.)

My 260037. Request support from local force p.m. today.  
(Capt. D.26, 260039A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)  
Seidisfjord arrivals - RHODODENDRON. Seidisfjord  
departure - WESTCOTT and WHITEHALL.

(A.C.I.C., 260050A to H.F.)  
C. in C. H.F. 050701 para. 4(c). RHODODENDRON delayed  
Seidisfjord with defects is unable to proceed. Intend to  
retain HONEYSUCKLE(?) standby if she has sufficient fuel and  
no limiting defects.

(Capt. D.3, 260215A to V.A.2.)  
Escorts considerably dispersed picking up survivors. If  
you think surface attack a possibility request consideration  
of closer support.

(Capt. D.26, 260217A to C.S.1.)  
Capt. (D) 3 251104. As destroyer escort of J.W.56B is  
now reduced to 6, R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail one destroyer  
as soon as possible to fuel at Faroes and then proceed to join  
Capt. (D) 3 in approximate position G.

(V.A.2, 260351A to C.S.1, R.A.D., Capt. (D) 3.)  
S.O. 3rd D.F. 251104 approved. When local escort is  
relieved WRESTLER is to proceed to Seidisfjord to escort  
MATCHLESS to Scapa via reverse of route "Red". Remainder of  
local escort to comply with my 242211.

(V.A.2, 260352A to Capt. D.3, WRESTLER, MATCHLESS.)  
Proceed as soon as ready to Skaalefiord and complete with  
fuel. On completion proceed to join Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. in  
position G and provide additional escort for convoy J.W.56B.  
Further instructions regarding meeting point will be signalled  
when position of convoy is known.

C. in C. H.F.'s 050701 and 051009 passed to you for information.  
(R.A.D., 260720A to METEOR.)

Seidisfjord departure Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE, MUSKETEER,  
MAHRATTA, OPPORTUNE, SCOURGE, HURON in company.

(A.C.I.C., 260732A to H.F.)  
Russians report that at 0853A/26 4 Junkers 88 and one  
unidentified aircraft detected by D/F over Barents Sea. No  
(corrupt group) details available.

2. Russian Bostons still grounded by local fog.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 260926A to Capt. D.26, C.S.1.)  
Sailed METEOR to Skaalefiord. E.T.A. 2100A/26th.  
(R.A.D., 261121 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.) Situation at 262101A. WRESTLER, ONYX, 068° 10' N. 008° 00' W. bound Seidisfjord 12 knots. HYDRA 068° 10' N. 008° 00' W., Scapa 12 knots. (A.C.I.C., 261320A to Ships.) R.A.(D) H.F.'s 260720. I estimate J.W.56B will cross longitude 005° E. on the "Red" route at 1630A/28th.

2. As soon as fuelled METEOR is to proceed, adjusting speed so as to join the convoy at this point.
3. If not met proceed along "Red" route, S.O.A. 12 knots, and in the absence of further information regarding position of J.W.56B proceed to Kola.

(V.A.2, 261550A to METEOR.)

Faroes arrival METEOR.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 262031A to R.A.D.)

To ensure reaching "Red" route astern of convoy pass through position G. V.A.2 261550 refers.

(C. in C. H.F., 262217A to METEOR.)

Your 250943 arrived. (Group 7 less GEORGE WEEMS).

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 262252A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Escort Carrier operation areas. My 222013. Following areas are established for operation of escort carrier when acting with support groups independent of convoy.

Area A - North of latitude 045° N., East of longitude 021° W.

Area B - North of latitude 045° N., West of longitude 021° W.

Area C - South of latitude 045° N., East of longitude 021° W.

Area D - South of latitude 045° N., West of longitude 021° W.

2. Carriers operating in A and C are not to proceed East of longitude 018° W. by day when south of latitude 049° N., or north of latitude 038° N. respectively except when in contact with enemy. They may do so by night however.

3. Carriers ordered to operate in one area may proceed into adjacent area if there are no other carrier groups operating there. This is W.A.G.M. 43 NS.

(C. in C. W.A., 261140A to Adnty.)

A/S search. Your 251736, para. 2. The following ships are expected to be ready to leave Londonderry by 1600 today: KENILWORTH CASTLE, SALADIN, SCIMITAR, ACANTHUS, KEATS.

(2) Situation regarding other ships is as follows (details).

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 261200A to C. in C. W.A.)

Request you will sail KENILWORTH CASTLE, SALADIN, SCIMITAR, ACANTHUS, KEATS and any other ships of 15th E.G. who are ready at 1600A today to carry out sweep as in my 171251A. Remainder should be sailed to join as soon as possible.

(C. in C. W.A., 261355A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

My 261355A.

1. Detach 2 ships for search in Donegal Bay when you are off Aran Islands.
2. At daylight tomorrow group should be formed for a line abreast ~~2~~ sweep towards the North Channel.

410

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Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.A/S search.  
(Contd.)

3. P.C.S. and disposition of group is to be reported at daylight tomorrow and also when all ships have joined.

4. If a U/B is definitely located concentrate on destroying it, and discontinue sweep.

5. Air co-operation will be signalled.

My 231238A refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 261441A to E.G.15.)

Have serious case of appendicitis on board. Am proceeding to Londonderry. VERSATILE is continuing search for U-Boat until dusk. My P.C.S. at 1500Z/26th, 052° 11' N. 017° 34' W., 058°, 18 knots.

(VIDETTE, 261615Z to B.7.)

Cancel my 261355A and my 261441A. Further signal will be made.

(C. in C. W.A., 261641 to Cdre. (D) W.A., E.G.15.)

There is an urgent requirement for a ship fitted with a powerful W.A. Radar set and A/C direction facilities to operate off the west coast of Ireland.

(2) Request I may be informed whether STUART PRINCE can be made available and if so the earliest date on which she can be ready.

(C. in C. W.A., 262132A to F.O.C.T.)

Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261332A.)  
(V.A. Dover, 261545A.)

S/M Patrols.

Request you will recall VIKING. H.Q.C.C.  
261145 refers.

(F.O.(S), 261702A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Position of submarines at 0800/27 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SEANYMPH, STUBBORN, SPIRIT as in my 251701.

(B) SCEPTRE 62° 10' N. 01° 11' E. to 64° 05' N. 03° 45' E., thence through 64° 25' N. 08° 30' E. to patrol off Kya probably on surface until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast, speed 10 knots.

(F.O.(S), 261742 to Admty.)

At 1800A/26th SCEPTRE left Lerwick unescorted and on the surface at C.O.'s discretion until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast. By route "Orange" to 064° 05' then through 064° 25' 008° 30' E. to patrol vicinity Kya.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 261810A to S/MS.)

VIKING is to leave area (P) p.m./27th and proceed diving by day to R/V with ULVA in position (VC) 360° Round Island 20 miles at 0900A/28th January, thence VIKING and ULVA are to return to Plymouth through position (VA) and Q.Z.S. channel. My 201130 refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261911A to VIKING, ULVA.)

Allied Air Activity.Enemy  
Convoy  
attacked.

P.C.S. of enemy 3 merchant vessels, 3 escort vessels 62° 25' N. 05° 45' E., 090°, 5 knots. Results of attack: hits observed.  
(A/C Duty 'J', 261135 to (?) GQ)

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Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

East Coast. 2 mines exploded in 076° 42 buoy 1½ and 2½ miles respectively.  
(WELLS, 261100A to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich. One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1057 in 52° 00' N. N. 01° 47.3' E. and second at 1107 in 52° 04.5' N. 01° 47.8' E.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 261154A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. By D/F at 1643Z/26 U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 69° 30' N. 01° 30' E.  
(D.D.I.C., 261916A to A.I.G.47.)

U-Boats probably sunk. The A/S attack by Wellington F/179 on 19th November, 1943, has been assessed as "Probably sunk".  
2. Request you will convey congratulations to those concerned with this success.  
(D.A/U.D., 262006A to Air Ministry.)

We congratulate CRANE and FOLEY on their anti-submarine hunt on 21st November 1943, which has been assessed as "Probably sunk".  
(D.A/U.D., 262007A to CRANE, FOLEY.)

Casualties and Defects.

LENA LUCKENBACH. Commenced towing LENA LUCKENBACH 260102A to Clyde.  
(SAUCY, 260115 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Arrived SAUCY towing LENA LUCKENBACH.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261948 to Admty.)

ASSIDUOUS. ASSIDUOUS arrived.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 260203A to C. in C. W.A.)

SAMUEL DEXTER. Request you sail ASSIDUOUS escorted by AQUAMARINE forthwith to assist SAMUEL DEXTER reported in 56.07 N. 08.57 W. at 0900A/26th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 261132A to Gdre. (D) W.A.)  
Commodore (D) W.A.'s 261135. ASSIDUOUS is unable to sail. Request you will sail a tug to assist SAMUEL DEXTER.  
(C. in C. W.A., 261553A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Immediately on being relieved of tow proceed to search for SAMUEL DEXTER reported in 056° 21' N. 009° 55' W. at 1538A yesterday and in 056° 07' N. 008° 57' W. at 0900A today. Report as soon as in contact. SS. SAMUEL DEXTER is to be taken to Belfast.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261555A to SAUCY.)  
Sailed SAUCY to assist SAMUEL DEXTER. C. in C. W.A.  
261553 refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261934 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.- Contd.

EMPIRE TREASURE. My 252151. Inform EMPIRE TREASURE her final destination is Newport.  
(C. in C. W.A., 261227A to GIFFARD.)

VANSITTART. My 251951. VANSITTART steamed to Tobermory on both engines, slow on port. Diver reports A/S dome sheared off, seating torn and piece 8 feet long hanging. Two cracks eighteen inches and twelve inches abreast hedgehog. Port bilge keel turned in from whalers after davit to funnel. Port propellor half of each blade missing. Request destination.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 261909 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Troopship movements. Following is summary No.23 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during period of 20th February.  
(D.S.T., 260150A.)

E.G. 40. VANOC sailed to overtake.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 261000A to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.F.27A. Report P.C.S. forthwith.  
(RAMILLIES) (D.O.D.(H), 261049A to RAMILLIES.)  
U-Boat P.C.S. at 1200A, 053° 32' N. 011° 22' W., 020°,  
attacked 15.  
by (RAMILLIES, 261058Z to Admt.)  
ESSINGTON. ESSINGTON attacked probable U-Boat in 53° 46' N.  
10° 47' W. Estimate no damage.  
(E.G.3, 261301Z to C. in C. W.A.)  
3. Alter course forthwith to pass through new  
(DY) 55.35 N. 10.00 W. (DY) 55.50 N. 08.15 W. Thence to North Channel.  
(D.O.D.(H), 261542A to RAMILLIES.)  
My 261542A. Omit position (DX). Proceed direct to (DS).  
(D.O.D.(H), 261612A to RAMILLIES.)  
Your (group missed) 858 ESSINGTON on advanced Radar Screen  
(group missed) low (2 groups missed) gain (2 groups missed)  
contact at 1247Z at range of 3 miles. Radar contact faded  
quickly (rest of message missed).  
(E.G.3 to C. in C. W.A., T.O.R. 262258.)  
After passing Rathlin Is. intend to detach ESSINGTON as  
escort for M.K.F.27A. Remainder of escort group 3 E.T.A. Mew  
Island 0900A. 10 officers and 60 ratings passengers.  
(E.G.3, 262331 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.222. My 211155 and F.O.I.C. Humber's 241010.  
BOMBADIER detailed as rescue tug escort.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 261201A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)  
H.M.R.T. GRIPER detailed O.N.222.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 262108A to C. in C. W.A.)



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Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- S.L.147. 1. S.L.147. 2. January 22nd. 4.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
6. BIDEFORD. 7. 21 ships for U.K.  
(D.T.D., 261326A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.221. GENTIAN detached to land critical sick case at  
Merville and rejoin.  
(B.2., 261634Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X. 275. Leave Lough Foyle as requisite to R/V with H.X.  
275 due position A 1700A/27th. Ocean Escort  
LOOSESTRIFE. No Liverpool local escort.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 262235A to SETTER.)

War Diary.

26.1.1944.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.MAYO  
(Spanish).Your 061743, seize motor vessel MAYO.  
(D.E.W.D. 260021A to C.C.S.O.Gibraltar.)  
Seized 27th, q.v.

ANTELOPE.

ANTELOPE arrived Ponta Delgada 1000 G.M.T. today  
26th.  
(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 260943C to Admty.)

MONTE ICIAR.

Spanish steamship MONTE ICIAR arrived Las Palmas  
25th and leaves for Huelva after bunkering.  
Desirable to send her in for examination as one  
of this month's quota.  
(D.E.W.D. 262042A to F.O.G.M.A.)South Atlantic.

LUCIA.

Sailed LUCIA escorted by ARCTIC EXPLORER, ST. ZENO,  
ST. LOMAN, CAPE WARWICK to Kilindini (route).  
E.T.A. Kilindini 040027/4th Feb. speed 8½ knots.  
(Com. i/c Durban 260904Z to Admty. etc.)Argentina,  
relations  
with Axis.It is officially announced that Argentina has  
broken off diplomatic relations with Axis.  
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 261458Z to Admty.)Operational  
Control.Your 202059Z Jan. approved subject to it being made  
clear to Comar Dakar that this does not impair  
fundamental principle of British operational con-  
trol.  
(Hd. of M.II Approved by V.C.N.S. 261741A to  
F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary

26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing in Anzio Area - Operation "Shingle".

DIDO bombardment. Have fired 200 rounds at Torreg (?Terrachina) and 1400 into Formia. Shall be ready for F.O.O. by 1000/26th.  
(DIDO, 260550A to C. in C. Med. Naples, (R) C.S.15, F.O.W.It.).

Minesweeping Weather unfit for sweeping, returning to Naples.  
(S.O. M/S 12, 260640 to F.O.W.It.).

Convoy N.A.M.7. N.A.M.7. P.C. and S at 0630A 040 degs. 47' 012 degs. 59' 280 degs. 4 knots. One Liberty ship in company. Convoy is scattered over 6 miles with a few L.S.T. out of control.  
(GRENVILLE, 260658A to C.T.F.81 (R) F.O.W.It.).  
ST. KILDA put in charge of 3 L.S.T. and one L.C.I.(L) which are running before wind with defective steering. Approx. positions 040 degs. 46' 013 degs. 05'. Ordered to report direct to you.  
(GRENVILLE, 260815A to F.O.W.It. (R) C.T.F.81).  
Convoy in two groups 6 miles apart will arrive vicinity Cape Papas at dusk.  
(GRENVILLE, 261355A to C.T.F.81).  
My 261355. Convoy N.A.M. 7 of 15 L.S.T. and one liberty ship hove to off position DD. Intend screening until 0400 and then complying with F.O.W.It's. 261633. Cdre. in L.S.T.402 and liberty ship have no further instructions.  
(GRENVILLE, 261857A to C.T.F.81).  
N.A.M.7. comprising 14 L.S.Ts. and 2 Liberties scattered and E.T.A. uncertain.  
(2) Intend sailing 10 L.S.Ts. at 261700 and if weather moderates a large L.S.T. convoy at 270800.  
(3) AUSTIN and MEDUCTIO sail 261200.  
(4) L.C.T. sailing cancelled until weather improves.  
(F.O.W.It. 261013 to C.T.F.81).  
At 1200/26th escort EMPIRE AUSTIN and FORT MEDUCTIC from (2 Corrupt groups) 028 degs. (119?) on arrival to transport area. Speed 9 knots codeword "Jessie" 206.  
(F.O.W.It. 261029A to FAULKNER).

Army Report 22/1. 46th Weekly Summary. Operations 16th to 22nd Jan. Sixth Corps. Elements successfully landed in the Anzio F.81 Area at 0200 hours 22nd Jan. Complete surprise achieved. Third Div. landed on beaches east of Anzio. Rangers and Commandos landed at Anzio. First Br. Div. landed area 6 miles N. Anzio. Landing proceeded satisfactorily and by night Anzio and Nettuno F8717 were occupied and beachhead was approx. 4 miles deep.  
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 260900A to W.O.).

Naples traffic. Resume normal traffic Naples. Cancel my 220142 473 B and my 241802 - 480B.  
(C. in C. Med., 261003A to Med. Station, 483 B, Admty.).

/Situation...

War Diary.

26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing in Anzio Area - Operation "Shingle" - Contd

Situation Medcos No.16 from Wilson.  
Reports. (1) Build up into beachhead is ahead of schedule despite bad weather of day before yesterday. Anzio developing well. Wind at the moment is moderating but a considerable swell is expected to continue for some time, slowing up landings over beaches. Cruisers and destroyers continued bombarding coastal road in vicinity Terracina and Formia. (Fairbanks, 261235Z).

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep.

- (1) Weather bad night 25/26 and today. No beach maintenance. L.S.Ts. unloading slowly through Anzio. Liberties not working.
- (2) Wind now veering N.W. and decreasing. Outlook improved.
- (3) It is hoped to have 8 L.S.T. berths in Anzio working tomorrow 27th.
- (4) Y.M.S.30 L.C.I.(L) 32 L.S.T.422 all mined and lost during last 24 hours in "Shingle" area.
- (5) DIDO and INGLEFIELD have been firing steadily on Formia KEMPENFELT takes over tonight and MAURITIUS tomorrow 27th.
- (6) Counter attacks against Bridgehead have been repulsed with losses to enemy.

(C. in C.Med., Naples, 261853, to Admty.).

Situation Report No. 282.

- (1) Operation "Shingle". Building up of Anzio area ahead of schedule and unloading over X beach resumed on 25th Jan. but weather has deteriorated to-day and work over beaches may have stopped.
- (2) At least 7 enemy aircraft claimed shot down by ship's A/A fire and fighters during dusk attack 24th Jan. Enemy air activity continued on 25th but no casualties or damage reported.
- (3) Y.M.S.30 mined and sunk at 1630/25th and L.S.T.422 mined and gutted by fire at 0520/26th.
- (4) Bombardment of Formia area continued on 25th and during night 25th/26th Jan. DIDO has relieved MAURITIUS.

(C. in C. Med., 262144A to Admty. etc.).

L.C.Ts. Understand you wish to maintain 30 L.C.T. special discharging merchant ships. Request confirmation and an indication of the types you require. (F.O.W.It., 261236A to C.T.F.81).

FAULKNER F.O.15th. C.S's. 261054 (N.T. in W.D.). FAULKNER is on her way to Anzio. No other relief available. (C. in C. Med. at Naples, 261642A to C.T.F.81, F.O.15 C.S.).

LAFORAY, LOYAL. LAFORAY, LOYAL E.T.A. Naples 0630/27 route "Fox". Ships require 740 tons fuel and following 4.7 mark XI ammunition. (Capt.(D) 19, 262120A to F.O.W.It.).

Enemy A/C attacks. 2 Twilight torpedo glider bomber and dive bomber attacks. L.S.T. (?366) hit badly damaged. BANVARD all steam line ruptured and other damage by

/near...

War Diary26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Landing in Anzio Area - Operation "Shingle" - Contd.Enemy A/C  
attacks  
(Contd.).

near misses.  
With constant bombing day and night, unfavourable weather damage, and breakdown small craft rate of unloading is reduced to about 6 L.S.T. per day. Recommend using L.C.I.(L) for ammunition and rations believe we can unload 36 a day in bad weather conditions.  
(C.T.F. 81, 262122A to C. in C. Med.).

GeneralAxis  
shipping,  
Aegean,  
TORBAY,  
DOLFIJN.

One merchant ship 2 destroyers passed my area at 0400/26th course 100 degs. high speed, no torpedoes fired.  
(P.47 (DOLFIJN), 260530 to Capt.(S) 1, (R) TORBAY).  
(1) TORBAY proceed forthwith to patrol South Tenedos as ordered. My 241444 para.1. Pass through positions:-  
(A) 090 degs. Cape Doro 8 miles. (B) 038 degs. 55' 024 degs. 57'.  
(C) 270 degs. Cape Baba 15 miles.  
(2) P.47 DOLFIJN proceed forthwith to patrol UJ Amorgo to intercept Milo Leros traffic.  
(Capt.(S) 1, 260818B to TORBAY, DOLFIJN, (R) F.O.L.E.M.).

Air  
reports.

A.335. Daily Opsum 273.  
25th. 1 Baltimore (A.30) 4 Mitchells (B.25) and 6 R.P. Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean. R.P. Beaufighter attacked a 100 ton Caique on stocks at Karlovass harbour (Samos) scoring 3 x 25 lb. R.P. hits and many strikes with cannon. 7 Caiques of 50/100 tons also attacked with cannon and R.P. in Khios Harbour but results unobserved. At Paroekla (Paros) cannon strikes were seen on a Caique of 100 tons. R.Ps. fell 10 yards short but probably scored hits underwater. 1 further attack was carried out by the Beaufighter at Livadhi Bay, Scriphos Island, where 2 Caiques of 100 tons and 150 tons respectively were damaged by cannon fire. R.Ps. fell short.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 261105Z).

Air Cositintrep No.200. Med. Allied Air Force.  
Day 25th Jan. Fighter bombers attacked shipping in Dubtavnik (?Dubrovnik) Harbour and scored near misses on M/V 200 ft., and damaged one barge by strafing. 6 M.A. - 205s. strafed and started a fire on M/V 150 ft. in Ploca Bay.

(Air C. in C. Med. T.O.O. Nil/26th).

/Sigma...

War Diary.

26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

"Sigma"  
Search  
scheme.

Single ship search scheme "Sigma" for U/boats.  
(C. in C. Med., 261120A, Med. Station 484D and  
281800A Med. Station B.492).  
See Lion Copy.

A/C attack  
on gunboat.

Enemy anchorage one gunboat 37.07 N. 25.11 E.(?)A.  
Have attacked enemy result unobserved.  
(A/C, FZZ/X, 261350Z).

FERNMOOR

Your 191118A. Request FERNMOOR be routed to  
Rosyth and anticipated date of sailing reported.  
(D.B.D., 262107A to C. in C. Med.).

# SECRET

418A.

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

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

MESSAGE

261120A/January IN

Date 27.1.44

From C, in C, Mediterranean

Reed, 0723

Naval Cypher O.T.P. by W/T

*Sigma Search Scheme for U/Boats*

Addressed Med, Station 484 D repeated C, in C, Western Approaches

Following single ship search scheme to be known as SIGMA search incorporating principles of BETA and VIGNOT searches is designed for use when U-Boat has been sighted or detected by Radar on the surface in the vicinity of land by ship fitted with Foxers.

- (2) Datum line is a line drawn through the diving position approximately parallel to the coast line.
- (3) On sighting or detecting U-boat increase to full Foxer speed and steer 020° inshore of bearing.
- (4) On U-boat diving steer to diving position reduce to sweeping speed on reaching U-boat "Farthest toward",
- (5) Recover within 1200 yards of estimated diving position steer course 077° to seaward of Datum line.
- (6) 3 minutes <sup>later alter</sup> ~~after crossing Datum line altering~~ course 060° inward *(amended to 092, 281800A)*
- (7) After further 3 minutes alter further 042° (? inward)
- (8) After further 3 minutes alter further 035° inward,
- (9) If contact has not by then been gained further action must be governed by appreciation of U-boat's most probable movement.

261120A

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

1st S.L.(2)

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

A.C.N.S. (W)

N.A. 1st S.L.

U.W.R.

Ops. (2)

Plot

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (2)

M. (2)

D.N.I. (5)

D. of P. (2)

D. of P. (A) (2)

D.A/S.W.

D.A/U.D.

B.S.D. (2)

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (C)

D. Map Rm.

Adl. Blake

U.S.N. (3)

D.T.S.D.

I.P. (3)

W.D.

File

(M In)

JD  
78.

War Diary26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U-boats                    Bi-weekly U-boat disposition No.20.  
                              (C. in C.E.F., 260345Z).

Air                         Daily Opsum No.682.  
Report.                    24th Jan. 1 Liberator Arakan coast. 2 possible  
                              M/Ls. attacked left sinking Akyab area.  
                              25th Jan. 14 Hurricanes waterways Mayu-Kaladan.  
                              Damaged 12 Sampans, machine gunned troops.  
1 Mosquito P.R.U. Andamans. 2 light cruisers probably Kumi Class  
10 miles east Port Blair, course 270 degs.  
(A/C S.E.A. 260701Z, 260802Z).  
Part III. 14th U.S.A.A.F. 5 U.S. Mitchells B.25 sea sweep  
(FOWNR W as recd. ?FOOCHOW) area. 5 cargo passenger vessels  
freighters sunk, 1 damaged. Enemy float plane (Jake) shot down.  
Landed water left burning. Total enemy casualties approx. 40  
4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) sea sweep South West Hong Kong. 2 A/C.,  
no offensive. 2 A/C sank 1 possible ammunition ship Nampang  
Island.  
(A.C. S.E.A. 206802Z).

TACTICIAN                Summarized report of TACTICIAN's 3rd Far East  
R. of P.                    patrol. Times zone Z.  
                              1800/8th Jan. 006 degs. 21' 093 degs. 22' 16 knots  
                              which could not be definitely identified as enemy  
                              therefore not attacked.  
2310/16th Jan. sighted KAGU MARU class seaplane carrier unescorted  
005 degs. 29' 096 degs. 30' course 295 degs. 16 knots out of  
range.  
(Capt.(S) 4, 260818Z to C. in C.E.F., Admty.).

U/boats.                    Estimated positions.  
                              (D.D.I.C., 261819A to C. in C.E.F., A.C.N.B.).



War Diary.

26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

BRONZO. A.M. 182035. Has offer yet been made?  
(Head of M.II 261552A to B.A.D.)  
Reply 272109Z.

New Con- List of ships for redirection of mails.  
struction. (B.A.M.R. 261826Z to Admty.)

PRINCE HENRY, PRINCE HENRY departed Bermuda also MAGIC escorting  
MAGIC, Russian A.Ms. 145, 146, 147, S.Cs. 720, 1075 and  
Russian A.Ms. 1076.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 261955Z to Admty.)

T.F.65. C.R No. 1024. Task Force 65 Captain Huber in EBERI  
Comcortdiv 9 in HOWARD, Cortdiv 9, Comcortdiv 46  
in MENGES, Cortdiv 48 CHICOPEE plus small craft  
given in separate despatch hereby constituted.  
Escort U.G.S.32 departing 3 Feb. from Hampton Roads to North  
Africa and return escorting G.U.S.31. SAGITTAIRE may join up  
from Bermuda.  
(Cinclant 262120 to Com. 10, etc.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial Early hours patrol Liberator attacked single  
No. 736 Jan. probable torpedo boat of about 500 tons 60 miles  
25th. east Wewak. Vessel claimed damaged.  
2. Escorted by three Squadrons, Lightnings struck  
same time seven Squadrons Mitchells Lorengau and  
Momote Areas with 500 pound bombs and heavily strafed area.  
Lugger or small freighter was left burning buildings and jetty  
were destroyed, also 8 grounded aircraft.  
7. Night Jan. 23rd M.T.Bs. sank 3 Troop laden barges 40 miles  
South East Hansa Bay, one barge near (?) Boadjid.  
8. Same night unknown number enemy aircraft bombed Dreger Harbour  
Finschhafen Area, causing slight damage and casualties.  
13. Monday January 24th 18 Avengers escorted by 84 Fighters heavily  
attacked shipping Rabaul Harbour from Masthead Height. Five  
cargo vessels, one tanker were sunk or destroyed by direct hits  
with half ton bombs while one cargo ship and one tanker were  
damaged.  
15. Night Jan. 24/25th M.T.Bs. shelled area south Motupena Point  
Empress Augusta Bay with mortar and gunfire.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 260732A.)

War Diary.

26.1.1944.  
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.

For 24 hrs. to 0900Z/26th January.

Para. A. 1. VERSATILE attacked U-Boat on surface  
at 1223/25th January in 51° 17' N. 17° 40' W.

2. A/C D/120 sighted U-Boat on surface at 1827/  
25th January in 59° 10' N. 13° 47' W.

3. Unknown ship sighted U-Boat at 1430/25th Jan.

in 50° 11' N. 34° 33' W. \*

Para. B. 1. A/C sighted suspected wake at 1720/24th January in  
33° 40' N. 09° 59' W.

(D.D.I.C. 261037Z.)

\* Para. 3 cancelled. (271022.)

My 221059 July 1942.

1. Ships escorting convoy O.S.65/K.M.S.39 carried out two  
"Hedgehog" attacks on a U-Boat at about 1945Z/19 in 50° 27' N.  
18° 17' W. Second attack produced explosion and ships reported  
investigating large oil patch at 2035Z/19.

(D.A.U.D. 261859A.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 261502A, 261563A.)

422

27.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.  
PENELOPE  
BARKER,  
ANDREW G.  
CURTIN  
and FORT  
BELLINGHAM  
sunk on 26th  
January.

1(a) S.B.N.O. North Russia reports today that in the attack by U-Boats yesterday upon Convoy J.W.56A off the North Cape the damage to OBDURATE was caused by the explosion of an acoustic torpedo close off her starboard side while she was under starboard wheel, and that the M/Vs. PENELOPE BARKER 7177 tons, ANDREW G. CURTIN 7200 tons, and FORT BELLINGHAM 7153 tons were sunk. Fifty-one survivors have been rescued from PENELOPE BARKER, sixty-six from ANDREW G. CURTIN, and a number from FORT BELLINGHAM including the Commodore. The remaining 3 M/Vs. of the Murmansk section with the Through and Destroyer Escorts arrived at the Kola Inlet at 2316A today; and the further nine M/Vs. have been met by the Local Escort and are proceeding to the Dvina Bar with the Tanker SAN ADOLFO for Iokanka. Thirty-six survivors from FORT BELLINGHAM are on board a Russian destroyer.

(b) Convoy J.W.56B was about 170 miles East of Jan Mayen at 0800 today, and METEOR left Skaalefiord (Faroes) at 0129A to join the Destroyer Escort.

Biscay A/S  
operations.

2. The U.S. Escort Carrier CROATAN with 4 destroyers (Task Force 21.13) was operating today in the western Bay approaches and is to be relieved there today by the U.S. Escort Carrier CARD and 3 destroyers (Task Force 21.14) which left Hampton Roads on the 24th January.

North Atlantic.

F.O.G.M.A.

3. F.O. Gibraltar and Mediterranean Approaches left Ponta Delgada at 0930 G.M.T. today on the conclusion of his visit to the Azores, in the destroyer ANTELOPE.

Spanish  
Shipping.

4(a) The Spanish motor vessel MAYO was seized at Gibraltar today on Admiralty instructions (D.E.W.D.)  
(b) Replying to N.A. Madrid, the Admiralty state that the acceptance of Spanish ships in Allied convoys is at present absolutely precluded on security grounds, and any assistance to Spanish tonnage from Allied resources is also out of the question.

/L.S.T. ...

27.1.1944.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

L.S.T. lost. 5. The American L.S.T.228, which grounded last week on a rocky beach near Angra, caught fire at 1000 today and exploded.

South Atlantic.

6. A submarine sighting report was intercepted at 2033 from the British tanker SAN CIPRIANO in 26.22 S. 34.45 E., but it was later established that the report was due to her seeing star shell fired by an escort trawler.

Mediterranean.

Anzio Area. 7(a) Weather improved in the Anzio area today and the forecast for the next 48 hours is good.  
(b) The cruisers DELHI and SPARTAN were ordered to report to C.T.F. 81 in the U.S.S. BISCAYNE for A/A protection cover duties.  
(c) L.S.T.427 is to replace L.S.T.422, mined yesterday. L.S.T.321 was slightly damaged in an air attack today.  
(d) MAURITIUS, cruiser, and KEMPENFELT, destroyer bombarded the coast road and town of Formia in daylight today with satisfactory results. They continued harassing fire after dark.  
(e) Leading elements of the 6th Corps. advanced beyond the support range of naval gunfire except on the flanks.  
(f) Enemy air effort, judged by the number of sorties, appears to be diminishing. During daylight today, 140 enemy aircraft were reported over the assault area, of which 25 were claimed destroyed, 3 probably destroyed and 5 damaged.

Axis  
Shipping,  
Aegean.

8(a) Eight Axis ships, including the RHEIN and MOSEL, after being detained by the Turks at Cannakale for examination, left for the Aegean at 1430 G.M.T. The submarine TORBAY was given freedom of action north of 39° N. and east of 25° E.

/(b) ...

War Diary.

27.1.1944.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Axis  
Shipping,  
Aegean.  
(Contd.)

(b) Two small German craft, LUZUE and GERDA DIERKS arrived at Istanbul this afternoon from the Black Sea in transit for the Aegean.  
(c) Middle East joint intelligence appreciation is that naval and air action against enemy small craft in the Aegean and South Poloponnese may seriously disrupt the island supply programme and compel the enemy to use more large ships.

Relief  
Ships,  
Piraeus.

9. The Germans require certain amendments of route for all Swedish relief vessels proceeding to and from the Piraeus. F.O. Levant concurs.

East Indies.

U/Bs. off  
Socotra.

10(a) News was received today that the British SURADA, independently routed from Colombo to Aden, was torpedoed at 1900 G.M.T./26th in 13.00 N. 55.15 E., about 50 miles E.N.E. of Socotra. Her crew were picked up by the DARRO, which is returning to Aden.

(b) The British SAMOURI, independently routed from Bombay to Aden was also torpedoed a.m. yesterday in 13.13 N. 56.00 E. about 95 miles N.E. of Socotra and sank later. 35 survivors are in the SHAZHADA. The U-Boat, believed German, may be moving into the Gulf of Aden.

11. UNICORN, aircraft repair ship, with 2 destroyers, arrived at Cochin this morning from Aden and U.K. RENOWN and 3 destroyers arrived at Colombo today from Aden and U.K.

America and West Indies.

H.X. 276  
collision,  
EMPIRE MANOR  
sunk.

12. EDWARD KAVANAGH (U.S.) and EMPIRE MANOR (British) in Convoy H.X.276 were in collision at 1130 today. The former was escorted to St. Johns, N.F. The latter on fire was abandoned at 0015/28 in 44.05 N. 52.35 W., and subsequently broke in

War Diary.

27.1.1944.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

H.X. 276  
collision,  
EMPIRE MANOR  
sunk.  
(Contd.)

two, the after part sinking. The escort was  
therefore instructed to sink the fore part which  
was considered unsalvageable.

Australia and New Zealand.

13. 7 Liberators which bombed Dilli water front  
(Portuguese Timor) this afternoon destroyed one  
small freighter and damaged jetty buildings.

War Diary

27.1.1944.  
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

TARTAR On completion of present refit TARTAR is allocated to Home Fleet for temporary duty in the Plymouth Command.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 270015A to C. in C.H.F.).

Support Groups. To enable C. in C.W.A. to form Support Groups it is intended that the 18 old ships nominated to C. in C.W.A. 041108 para.4. should remain in commission for the time being.  
(2) To provide some reserve of personnel in case of emergency these ships are to be subject to recall for paying off.  
(3) F.O.R.F. is requested to arrange a special organisation for rapid release of crews, if necessary at a cost to security of stores and equipment.  
(A.C.N.S.(H), 270115A to C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.R.F.).

HUMBOLDT Request you will sail U.S.S. HUMBOLDT on 29th Jan; or when ready to Casablanca. Route.  
(D.O.D.(H), 271540A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

TANTALUS TANTALUS eventually departed Scilly Isles at 271430A. My 231731 and 261849 refer.  
(Capt.(S) 3, 271847 to F.O.G.M.A.).

Defence of U.K.

O.S. Command. To meet urgent operational requirements, it has become necessary for heavy reductions to be made in the A/A defences of the United Kingdom. The Admiralty has accepted a reduction of three H.A.A. batteries and one searchlight battery in your command. It is hoped you agree that the number of A/A defences remaining to you after this reduction has been made will be a sufficient insurance against the present scale of air attack.  
(2) It is requested that you will report when these guns and lights can be made available after consultation with the local A/A Commander.  
(V.C.N.S., 272254A to A.C.O.S.).

Iceland A/A Defences. If ports used by Fleet are left entirely defenceless the facts will probably leak out, inviting attack.  
(2) Consider some form of gun defence however light should be maintained.  
(3) A.C.I.C. 180032 refers.  
(C. in C.H.F., 272340A to Admty.).

Operations.

Operation "F.W." Skaalefiord departure METEOR. Your 261550 refers.  
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 270129A to V.A.2.).

PENELOPE  
BARKER,  
ANDREW G. CURTIN  
FORT BELLINGHAM  
sunk on 26th Jan.

/Position...

War Diary27.1.1944.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "F.W." Position at 272000.  
 PENELOPE HYDRA, HONEYSUCKLE 061 degs. 40' N. 005 degs. 00' W. to Scapa and Clyde respectively, 12. (A.C.O.S., 271139A to Admty.).  
 BARKER, On your arrival in harbour request brief signalled report of J.W.56A voyage including tactical features and whether Foxers proved of value.  
 ANDREW G. CUTRIN, FORT BELLINGHAM (C. in C.H.F., 271245 to Capt. (D) 26).  
 sunk on J.W.56A. Following ships sunk. PENELOPE BARKER 26th Jan. (51 survivors), ANDREW G. CURTIN (66 survivors), (Contd.). FORT BELLINGHAM (number of survivors not yet known but Cdre. is safe).  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 271351A to Admty.).  
 Soviet Authorities have suggested that a 24 hours Soviet Armed Guard should be posted in holds of British Ships in Northern Ports during unloading to prevent thefts. Please confirm no objection.  
 (2) Similar proposal has been made to Americans. (Ad. Fisher, 271651C to S.B.N.O.'s. North Russia, Archangel)..  
 V.A.2 260331. Intend sailing at 1100A/28. MATCHLESS, E.T.A. Scapa 0800/30, WRESTLER detaching at Cantick Head for Clyde. (WRESTLER, 271820A to C. in C.H.F.).  
 Arrived Seidisfiord WRESTLER, ONYX. (A.C.I.C., 271920A to C. in C.H.F.).  
 Seidisfiord departure ONYX. E.T.A. Akureyri 1200A/28th. (A.C.I.C. 272136A to C. in C.H.F.).  
 Kola Inlet. Arrived Murmansk section J.W.56A 3 ships together with 26th D.F. through escort. White Sea section met by local escort and proceeded Dvina Bar with SAN ADOLFO for Iokanka. Russian Destroyer FELIX DZERZHINSKI has 36 survivors from FORT BELLINGHAM. My 271351 refers.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 272316A to Admty.).  
 Damage to OBDURATE caused by acoustic torpedo exploding close off starboard side while ship under starboard wheel.  
 (2) Following damage sustained. Details.  
 (3) Ship requires docking to repair leaks. It is intended also to remove starboard propeller to facilitate steering and increase speed up to a maximum of 25 knots. Present maximum speed 17 knots.  
 (5) No casualties from above.  
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 272358A to C. in C.H.F.).

Biscay A/S operations. Possible submarines sound contact 47.31 N. 21.59 W. at 1030Z by CHARLES LAWRENCE. Urgent attack with depth-charges. DONNEL left on scene for two hours.  
 U-boat attacked by CHARLES LAWRENCE. (U.S. Ship at Sea, 271051 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet).  
 Weather has prevented operations since morning 24th until today. From 270800Z positions 45.22 N. 23.37 W. search negative for homeward-bounder now out of bounds. From 44.33 N. 22.06 W. at 1900Z heading for better weather vicinity 40 N. 20 W. to refuel escort and try intercept subs estimated Cominch 27 1602. (C.T.G. 21.13, 271931 to C. in C. Lant).  
 Proceed at good speed to operate against sub concentration now vicinity latitude 44 longitude 33 as relief for Task Group 21.13.  
 (C. in C. Lant, 272139 to C.T.G. 21 -14).

/ A/S...



War Diary27.1.1944.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.A/S search  
off N.W.  
Ireland.C. in C.W.A. 262132 not to STUART PRINCE. STUART PRINCE available and ready to sail at one hour's notice.  
(F.O.C.T., 272241A to C. in C.W.A.).Operation  
"V.P.57".  
Patrol A.H.My 071947A December. Postponed indefinitely.  
(A.C.O.S., 271057A).Coastal  
Force  
Patrols.(V.A. Dover, 271604A).  
My 251821 para. 1B. Amend 15th February and FF to read 20th February and T7 T8.  
(ii) T7 T8 will be used as waiting position. As soon as convoy is clear TRADEWIND will be moved North to intercept U-boat probably in the vicinity of 073 degs. N. 016 degs. E.  
(F.O.S., 271839A to Capts. S3, S9).Enemy Intelligence.BRABANT,  
WOLSUM,  
VANTE.Following ships carrying troops reported to be leaving Harstad southbound as follows:-  
a.m. 27th BRABANT, WOLSUM, p.m. 27th VANTE.  
(F.O.(S), 272027A to S/MS.).Casualties and Defects.EMPIRE  
TREASURE.Arrived EMPIRE TREASURE in tow of BUSTLER, escort GIFFARD.  
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 270430 to Admty.).

VERSATILE

E.T.A. Merville 1730Z. Have following urgent defects. Details.  
(VERSATILE, 270926Z to Cdre. D.W.A.).

L.B.V.(M)367.

My 191816 L.B.V.(M)367 is total loss. Wreck has disintegrated in heavy seas and salvage has been abandoned.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 271030 to Admty.).

ASSIDUOUS

My 251846. Request you will undertake essential repairs to ASSIDUOUS to make her seaworthy for passage to Liverpool and sail her when ready.  
(C. in C.W.A., 271247A to Cdre. (D) W.A.).Sailed rescue tug ASSIDUOUS. E.T.A. Bar light vessel  
0500/28th.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 271736A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

VESPER

Leak in reserve feed-tank probably due to leak in hull plating.  
Have been ordered to return. E.T.A. Bar Light 1700Z/28th.  
(VESPER, 271547Z to C. in C.W.A.).

/ SAMUEL...

War Diary27.1.1944.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- SAMUEL  
DEXTER. Coastguard Kyle reports derelict drifting in N.W. direction off Greanhead Barra I. Your 261056 may refer.  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh, 271712 to C. in C.W.A.).  
My 271712. Vessel ashore at Scurrival Point west side Barra Island. Wind W.N.W. strong.  
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh, 271838 to C. in C.W.A.).  
Return to base. Ship is ashore on Barra Island.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 271849A to SAUCY).
- PINCHER Have wire round propeller. Am being towed to Yarmouth Roads by DURBAN. (?DUNBAR intended).  
Rescue tug.  
(PINCHER, 271756A to C. in C. Nore).  
Departure tug DIVERSION to assist PINCHER.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 272010A).
- JULIEN  
POYDRAS. U.S.S. JULIEN POYDRAS proceeding to Clyde damaged, is expected to pass east of Clyde light vessel about 2300A today. Request you will sail GRIPER to meet her in this position and stand by to assist until arrival Rothesay.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 272035A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).  
Your 272035A. GRIPER sailed.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 272114A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- OBDURATE Damaged with Convoy J.W.56A on 26th January. Details (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 272354A).  
See Operations.
- Shipping and Convoys.
- U.C.11. FREDERICKSBURG and TAMAROA in collision. Standing FREDERICKSBURG, by for examination.  
TAMAROA. (Cdre. Convoy U.C.11, 270110Z).  
ERIN from Convoy U.C.11 left at 1230A for Clyde reporting engine trouble. E.T.A. Clyde 2130A.  
(C.T.G. 21.9, 271352 to C. in C.W.A.).  
Report whether you have any stragglers after altering course to 000 degs.  
(C. in C.W.A., 271216A to Escorts U.C.11).  
C.T.G. 21.9 in AMESBURY plus RICH, BLESSMAN, BATES, BUNCH and BULL sailed for U.C.11 at 0735A.  
(U.S.E.C.O. Londonderry, 270820Z to C. in C.W.A.).
- O.N.221. Ships which fail to make R/V for 1200A for to-day are to return to U.K.  
(C. in C.W.A., 270155Z to Ships and Stragglers O.N. 221).  
GENTIAN arrived 270300. Fuelled and sailed.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 270525A to C. in C. Portsmouth).  
O.N.221 and O.S.66/K.M.S.40. Report number of ships present at R/V.  
(C. in C.W.A., 271126A to Escorts).

/You...

War Diary27.1.1944.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.221  
(Contd.). You were probably reported by enemy A/C at approx. 1715A/27.  
(D.D.I.C., 271843A to Escorts O.N.221).  
LENA LUCKENBACH returned from O.N. (O) 221. Lost rudder.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 272010 to C. in C.W.A.).  
Sail KEATS with despatch to join C.2. group S.O. ST. CATHERINE's. My 271642 is being passed to you.  
(C. in C.W.A., 272216A to Capt.(D) Belfast).

O.S.66 /  
K.M.S.40. Ships which fail to join convoy at R/V for 1200Z to-day are to return to U.K.  
(C. in C.W.A., 270158Z to ships and stragglers O.S.66/K.M.S.40).  
Inform Commodore ENGLISH MONARCH returned Clyde.  
(C. in C.W.A., 270232A to Escorts).  
It is hoped to sail CLARKIA from Lough Foyle at 2230 today to overtake O.S.66.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 271309A to C. in C.W.A.).  
Sailed CLARKIA to overtake convoy.  
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 272251 to C. in C.W.A.).

E.G.2,  
ACTIVITY,  
NAIRANA. FENCER will not be available to sail with ACTIVITY and 2nd Escort Group. NAIRANA will sail in her place to carry out purport of my 242138A January.  
(2) Cancel reference to (NAIRANA) in my 251305 not to all addresses.  
(C. in C.W.A. 271155A to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

S.L.146 If state of reserve feed-water tanks necessitates, it is at your discretion to cancel support of convoy and return direct Plymouth through following positions.  
My 252141 refers.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 271504A to ENTERPRISE).  
Your 271504. Intend covering S.L.146 in accordance with your 252141A.  
My P.C. and S. are 040 degs. 17' N. 026 degs. 21' W. 057 degs. 20.  
Weather 5572, 1647.  
(ENTERPRISE, 272001A to C. in C. Plymouth).

K.M.F.28A A.M. 261848.  
Convoy K.M.F.28A consisting of SS STRATHNAVER will be ready to leave Liverpool for Algiers on 1st Feb.  
(3) Escort will be provided by UNDINE, PHEASANT and ERNE proceeding to join Command of C. in C. Med.  
(D.O.D.(H), 271809A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

War Diary.

27.1.1944.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

T.G.120.3. Com. Task Group 63.9 with L.C.I. (L)s 505 and 506 arrived Horta. Redesignated Task Group 120.3 Lt. J.G. Waters in L.C.I. 505 T.G. Commander. Request S.B.N.O. Azores, sail T.G.120.3 when ready to Falmouth via route to be furnished by Admty., S. of A.9.5. (Com.12th Fleet 270921 to C.N.O., C.T.G.63.9, S.B.N.O. Azores.)

F.O.G.M.A., Sailed in ANTELOPE routed through (A) 037° 12' Visit to 020° 01' (B) 036° 12' 010° 01' S. of A. 22 knots Azores. to be adjusted to pass Gate at 0915A Jan. 29th. 2. Codeword "Umpire". 3. Intend shifting to Gibraltar broadcast at 0100A Jan. 28th. (F.O.G.M.A. in ANTELOPE 270930 to F.O.G.M.A.)

MAYO Your 260021. Spanish motor vessel MAYO ship seized. seized. (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 271015A to Admty.)

Italian My 251854Z. All times are deferred 24 hours. S/Ms. for Italian S/Ms. have private signals and single A/C Bermuda. letters only for recognition purposes. (F.O.G.M.A. 271732 to Admty. etc.)

Spanish Your 222001A. German interests in Spain are too Shipping great to make it likely that they would risk protection in the consequences of attacking Spanish ships. event of Moreover, they have also to consider the reper- German attack. cussions in Portugal. It is conceivable, however, that a single Spanish ship might be "accidentally" sunk as a warning. 2. Your will appreciate that (a) acceptance of Spanish ships in Allied convoys, and (b) assistance to Spanish tonnage from Allied resources must continue to be purely academic questions until Spain has fundamentally changed her present attitude and behaviour. (a) is at present absolutely precluded on security grounds and would present practical difficulties. (b) is out of the question in the present discussions. 3. Spanish policy would have to change to such an extent that Spain gave active assistance to the Allies and in consequence ran the risk of her ships being sunk before protection of and assistance to Spanish shipping could be favourably considered. (Head of M. (I) Approved V.C.N.S. 271810A to N.A. Madrid.)

L.S.T.228 Ref. My 221301Z. (American L.S.T.228 ashore on (U.S.) rocky beach near Angra.) Six M/T salved before destroyed. operations suspended owing to weather. Vessel is hard and fast with heavy seas breaking over and at 1000 today exploded and caught fire. Further report on prospect of salvage of cargo will be forwarded. (S.T.O.I.C. Azores 272200Z to D.S.T.)

War Diary.

27.1.1944.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Cruiser Intend to sail DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI 0700Z/29th Jan.  
Patrols. to position J, to arrive 0800Z/31st to carry out  
Freecar patrol inward DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI shifting  
to line GH daylight 1st February, leaving patrol  
from position H dusk 5th Feb. Comar Dakar is  
requested to sail 1 French Cruiser to assume line J.K. a.m. 5th  
February shifting to line GH a.m. 6th Feb.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 271433A to Comar Dakar, etc.)

HIGHLAND HIGHLAND MONARCH sails Feb. 2nd with 1600 troops  
MONARCH. for passage to U.K. Ship has accommodation and  
Captain agreeable accept 12 female passengers.  
Should they be embarked?  
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands 271601Z to D.S.T.)  
Reply 291234.

U/Bs. U-Boat (German) dispositions in F.O.C.W.Af's  
area are believed to be as follows.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 271843Z.)

"s" Following has been read SSSS 26.22 S. 34.45 E.  
Report. SAN CIPRIANO, S/M. sighted.  
(Simonstown W/T 272033.) W.D. Note. Cancelled,  
see 281655, report was due to star shell from  
escort trawler.

War Diary.27.1.1944.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Anzio Landing - Operation "Shingle".DELHI,  
SPARTAN,  
A/A cover.

On completion of fuelling proceed forthwith to "Shingle" area to report to C.T.F. 81 in U.S.S. BISCAYNE for A/A protection cover duties. (C. in C.Med. at Naples 270851A to ?DELHI.) Proceed forthwith to "Shingle" area to report to C.T.F.81 for A/A protection duties. (C. in C.Med. at Naples 270852A to SPARTAN.)

L.S.T.422  
(mined, 26th)  
relief.

Intend L.S.T. 427 should replace L.S.T. 422 in X.G. one (A) of appendix one to your 00400/7 of 19th Jan. C.T.F. 81's 261054 refers. (Capt. L.S.T. (Med.) 271029A to C. in C.Med. at Naples.)

DIDO,  
LAFOREY,  
LOYAL.

Sail at 0100A/28th to "Shingle" area, E.T.A. 0600A/28th. 2. Route 5 miles to seaward of route "Roger" 3. Codeword "Odette" 333. (C. in C.Med. in Naples 271306A to DIDO.) My 271306 passed to Capt. D.19th D.F. LAFOREY and LOYAL escort DIDO to "Shingle" area. (C. in C.Med. at Naples 272237 to Capt. D.19th D/F, DIDO, LAFOREY, LOYAL.)

THRUSTER.

Intend using THRUSTER despite damaged ramp. Discharge only possible with own crane. (F.O.W.It. 271559A to C.T.F. 81.)

MAURITIUS,  
KEMPENFELT,  
bombardments.

In addition to harassing fire on Formia coast road and town following shoots carried out in daylight today by MAURITIUS and KEMPENFELT. 4 on batteries. One met (as recd. (?) M/T intended in F. One concentration met\*. One on train. Results satisfactory. Guns silenced, attempted movements on road broken up met\* destroyed with casualties. One train bisected. Progress of own troops apparently ahead. Conditions good for visual observation. F.O.O. did well. Remaining H.E. MAURITIUS 756, KEMPENFELT 308. Continuing harassing fire after dark. (MAURITIUS 271901 to C. in C.Med. etc.) \* as recd. (?) M/T intended.

Situation  
Reports.

Medcos 31 27th Jan.  
1. Bad weather all day yesterday slowed unloading in Anzio area. One L.S.T. hit (?) Anzio by enemy air bombardment and burned out. Another hit outside of port and damaged. One L.C.I. lost by mine. Several L.C.Ts. broached but recoverable. Sixth Corps leading elements have advanced beyond range of naval gunfire support except on flanks. Cruisers continued bombardment of Formia. Weather definitely better and forecast for next 48 hours good.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Anzio Landing - Operation "Shingle".

Situation  
Reports.  
(Contd.)

4. While the enemy build-up seems to have progressed about as we estimated there are indications that mixture of units has resulted in confused organization and that he is not therefore ready as yet to take offensive.

5. Enemy air effort appears to be diminishing measured in sorties. 34 enemy aircraft were reported over the assault area during daylight of yesterday and 20 last night. Of these 10 are reported destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 4 damaged.

(Fairbanks, from Wilson 271215 to C.O.S.)

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep.

1. Weather greatly improved. Anzio and X. beach working and Liberties unloading.
  2. One L.C.I. and 11 L.C.Ts. broached to in gale expect to salvage.
  3. Two raids at dusk 26th by torpedo and dive bombing. JOHN BANVARD damaged by near miss. HILARY HERBERT hit now beached on even keel. L.S.T. 421 (?422 intended, see 271029 etc.) set on fire. L.S.T. 366 hit and badly damaged. L.C.T. 315 and L.C.T. 220 splinter damage. Three aircraft shot down by fighters\*
  4. Formia area bombarded four times by KEMPENFELT during night 26th/27th.
  5. SPARTAN and DELHI sent to Anzio to provide A/A protection.
  6. 12th M.S.F. sweeping channel between Ponza and mainland. (C. in C.Med. (Naples) 271815A to Admty.)
- \* LUDLOW also damaged, see 281809A.

General.

Special craft Operations. The originator of A.M. 251108A is Admiralty and not Admiralty D.N.I. (D.D.O.D.(I) 270008A to F.O.L.E.M.) 251108 passed to C. in C.Med. for information. (Admty. 271102A.)

Air reports. A.338, Daily Opsum 274. 26th.  
4 Beaufighters anti-shipping sweep off Southern Greece. One 80/100 ton caique attacked near Githrion - direct hit with bomb and caique blew up with violent explosion north west of Cape Matapan. A caique of 80 tons bombed with unobserved results - many cannon strikes scored. 4 caiques damaged with cannon fire on beach at Kalamata and one of 60 tons anchored off shore was also hit with 20 m.m. shells. A large caique under construction was hit many times with cannon at Koroni. 8 Beaufighters anti-shipping R/C Aegean 2 150 ton caiques attacked in Port Vathi Amorgo. Strikes scored with cannon and probably hit with bomb, both vessels severely damaged. At Naxos one 200 ton caique was sunk by cannon fire. A

/vessel

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air reports. vessel probably minelayer damaged by cannon in  
(Contd.) Paroekia Bay Paros. 10 caiques of 50/100 tons  
attacked at Khios near misses? with bombs and  
numerous cannon strikes observed. 2 Baltimores  
(A.30s) anti-shipping R/C south eastern Aegean,  
one 100 ton caique and one M/V of 400 tons attacked with bombs  
in Pegadia Bay, Scarpanti, but full results not yet known.  
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 270956Z.)

Axis Shipping. My 251554C (re sailing of 2 Dutch Schuyt type craft  
and 2 ordinary Danube barges.) Repeat 4 craft  
have also been detained at Cannakale.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 270931C to F.O.L.E.M.)

My 260930 and my 270931C. R.O.Cannakale reports that all 8 craft  
(including RHEIN and MOSEL) due to sail for Dubrovnik 1100 G.M.T.  
27th.

2. B.N.A. Ankara informed by telephone.

(S.O.I. Istanbul 271535C to F.O.L.E.M.)

My 251253 (4 small German craft expected to enter Aegean on  
25th Jan.) All these craft detained by Turks at Cannakale.  
(Capt. S.1 271119B to TORBAY.)

My (271)535C. All 8 craft left Cannakale for Aegean 1430  
G.M.T. 27th, after examination and release by Turkish Naval  
Authorities.

(S.O.I. Istanbul 271846C to F.O.L.E.M.)

TORBAY,  
Aegean.

You have freedom of action north of 039° N. and E.  
of 025° E. but you must be able to regain patrol  
ordered in my 241444 within four hours of receipt  
of signal ordering you to do so.  
(Capt. S.1 271216B to TORBAY.)

UNTIRING.

After 1800/28th proceed to patrol in Zones ST.  
and SU.  
(Capt. S.10 270935 to UNTIRING.)

M.E.Air  
Communique.

Announced from H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. today 27th January:-  
Attacks by R.A.F. Fighters and bombers against  
shipping on supply routes used by enemy among  
occupied islands in Aegean Sea continue unabated;  
in daylight yesterday at least 22 vessels were  
attacked and severely damaged, and two were sunk, one after a  
violent explosion. Piraeus Harbour was bombed on night Jan. 23/  
24 when main railway station was hit.  
(Mideast No T.O.O.)

Routes for  
Relief ships.

Swedes intimate that Germans require following amend-  
ments of route for all Swedish relief vessels pro-  
ceeding from and to Piraeus, (except present out-  
ward voyage of WIRIL, A.M. 220100 refers.)  
2. Request whether you agree.



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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Routes for  
Relief ships.  
(Contd.)

3. In view of above proposals, sailing of FENRIS has been cancelled pending agreement regarding proposed amendments. A.M. 251736 refers. (Hd. of M.I. 271749A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Aegean  
Situation.

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intelligence appreciation 24 hours to 1000 hours 27th Jan. Naval and air action against enemy small craft Aegean and South Poloponnese may seriously disrupt Island supply programme and compel enemy make more extensive use larger shipping. (C. in C.M.E. 271925B.)

Destroyer  
Organisation.

Cancel para. 2 of Station Message 462B (re-organization of Fleet Destroyers to take place about 28 Feb.)  
2. Capt. D.19 will now remain in LAFOREY and become Capt. D.14 when reorganization occurs.  
3. Capt. D.14 is transferring from JERVIS to GRENVILLE. He will remain in GRENVILLE as Capt. D.25 when reorganization takes place.  
4. Para. 1 of 462B should be amended accordingly. (C. in C.Med. 272009 to Med. Stn. 489B.)

Situation  
Report.

Cositintrep No. 129 part 2 signed Wilson.  
4. Night 21st/22nd Jan. M.Ls. attacked convoy of small tankers and two schooners north of Rhodes. Schooners possibly damaged and convoy turned back.  
5. Nothing sighted by coastal forces during patrols in Adriatic on nights 23/24 and 24/25 Jan. (C. in C.Med. 272254A to Cositintrep.)

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/Bs.

Bi-weekly U/Boat disposition No. 20.  
(C. in C.E.F., 270317Z.)

SURADA  
torpedoed.

SS. SURADA torpedoed at 1900Z on Jan. 26th in 013 degs. 00' N. 055 degs. 15' E. C.C.O. Aden pass to Air Hq. Aden. C.C.O. Kilindini pass to Air Hq. East Africa.  
(C. in C. E.F. 271228Z to E.I. Stn.) SURADA, British 5,247 tons, independent from Colombo to Aden. (D.O.R. 1623.)

My message 270512 (N.T. in W.R.) should read as follows:-  
Have picked up ship's crew SURADA, returning to Aden unless otherwise ordered.

(DARRO, 272030Z to Aden W/T.)

SAMCURI  
torpedoed.

Expect to arrive daylight 29th Jan. SHAZHADA requests us report has 35 survivors of SAMCURI torpedoed 26th Jan. a.m. in 013 degs. 13' N. 056 degs. 00' E.  
(DARRO, 271532Z to Aden.) SAMCURI, British, 7,219 tons, independent from Bombay to Aden. (D.O.R. 1623)

THOMAS  
L. CLINGMAN  
aground.

Have anchored 400 yards off shore of THOMAS L. CLINGMAN. Fresh wind and rough sea. Have passed line for tow rope. Will endeavour to get ship off at high water if tow rope can be made fast. Ship apparently undamaged but hard and fast ashore fore and aft.  
(NIGELLA 271823Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Line has parted and further attempts to get one over have failed. Am still trying.

(NIGELLA, 271947Z.)

A further 4 inch Manila rope has parted before tow line could be hauled across. Am awaiting daylight before making another attempt. Consider it unsafe to close to stranded ship any more until weather moderates allowing me to sound around her from skiff. Unable establish communication (2 groups missing) 3000 kc/s. Weather report.

(NIGELLA, 272249Z.)

War Diary.27.1.1944.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Minesweepers. Request base be advised for remaining six B.A.Ms. consisting of ELFREDA, FAIRY, FLORIZEL, FOAM, FROLIC and GARNET.  
(B.A.D., 270151Z to Admty.)

M.A.R.I. amendments. Concur in your 251307Z. Amendments to M.A.R.I. will be promulgated.  
(D.T.D., 271130Z to Connv.)

U/Bs. Estimated positions.  
(N.S.H.Q., 271401Z; Cominch, 271610Z.)

GENERAL W.A.MANN, escort to Oran. Request escort Gib. approaches to Oran GENERAL W.A. MANN sailing Hampton Roads Feb. 1st. Your 241625 refers.  
(Cominch, 271830Z to Admty.)  
Escort not possible, see C. in C. Med. 281236A.

BRONZO. Admiral King has made the offer but no reply has yet been received from the French. A.M. 261552 refers.  
(B.A.D., 272109Z to Admty.)

Attacks on U/Bs. First report since my 242106.  
C. U.S.S. CHARLES LAWRENCE attacks sound contact 47.31 N. 21.59 W. 271030Z.  
D. S.C.1349 attacks sound contact 33.35 N. 76.55 W. 270155Z.  
(Cominch, 272139Z to Admty.)

French Request for ships. Cominch as executive agent of C.C.S. has received request from Chief of French Naval Mission in Washington for additional naval vessels for French Navy under 1944 programme (list).  
2. U.S. Chiefs of Staff recommend that C.C.S. inform Chief of French Naval Mission in U.S. that General military situation Combined Construction programme and supply situation preclude allocation during 1944 of any of the combatant ships, tugs, and other items requested.  
3. We intend to agree unless otherwise instructed by noon Monday 31st January.  
(B.A.D., 272247Z to Admty.)

EMPIRE MANOR, fire. Following has been read: Fire broken(?n) out in EMPIRE MANOR.  
(KENOGAMI, 272342Z to F.O.N.F.)

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No. 737,  
Jan. 26th.

Early hours two U.S. Light Cruisers, 3 Destroyers bombarded Alexishafen Madang areas, starting one large, several small fires Madax, only opposition fire from single gun Alexishafen.  
12. Early hours January 26th Soupac search aircraft attacked 5 ship convoy about 30 miles north-west Kavieng, hitting one ship. Probably same convoy seen later by Souwespac Navy Catalina heading north-west. Composition then reported single merchantman, six escorts.  
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 270816Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/27th January.  
Para. (A). (1) Hudson Q/48 reported periscope at 1535/26th January in 34° 40' N. 06° 50' W.  
Para. (B). (1) U/B reported sighted at 0043/26th January in 08° 28' N. 82° 01' E.  
(2) A/C reports possible U-Boat sighted at 0153/25 in 25° ?' N. 57° 15' E.  
Para. (D). (1) U.S. transit A/C reported U-Boat on surface at 1214/25th in 00° 00' N. 02° 06' W.  
(2) ESSINGTON reported attack on possible U-Boat contact at 1247/26th January in 53° 46' N. 10° 47' W.  
Ref. A.M. 261037Z, para. (A) (3) sighting now cancelled.  
(D.D.I.C., 271022Z.)  
See also Cominch 272139, America and West Indies.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 271410A, 271415A.)

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.

1(a) Convoy J.W.56A. Capt. D.26 reports today that the Convoy was shadowed and reported by U-Boats from the 24th January onwards to position MU off the Kola Inlet; and that during the attack by U-Boats, which lasted from 251330 until 260730, eleven attacks were made on the U-Boats by five destroyers of the Escort of which one by HARDY was considered successful. Capt. D.26 considers that the presence of an Escort Carrier with the Convoy would probably have prevented the attack from developing. The attack was made in calm weather with very good visibility. C.S.1 in KENT (S.O. of the Cruiser Covering Force) arrived at Akureyri with BERMUDA and ONYX at 1710A today.  
(b) Convoy J.W.56B. This Convoy was about 180 miles E. by S. of Jan Mayen at 1200A today, and C. in C. H.F. anticipates a heavy concentration of U-Boats against it. Capt. D.26 in HARDY sailed from the Kola Inlet at 2030A with six other destroyers to R/V with the Convoy in the Bear Island area and reinforce the Destroyer Escort under Capt. D.3 in MILNE.

U-Boat  
sunk.

2. At 1330A about 180 miles S.W. of Blacksod Bay A/C D/461 sank a U-Boat and left 30 survivors in the sea for whom VANQUISHER from Escort Group B.6 escorting Convoy S.C.151 is searching.

North Atlantic.

3. Standard routes lettered P to T inclusive are instituted today for small craft from the Azores to U.K.

South Atlantic.

Argentine  
Shipping.

4. Following the breaking off of diplomatic relations on January 26th between Argentine and the Axis, Argentine merchant ships employed on overseas trade have been instructed to remain in port until further orders. Those on the Patagonia coast are reported to be still running.

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Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Operation  
"Shingle".

5(a) Weather today was reported excellent, and unloading is going well.  
 (b) MAURITIUS and INGLEFIELD provided nearly continuous fire support during daylight today, with very slight opposition from enemy batteries.  
 (c) S.L.534 was damaged by a near miss in an air attack today, but enemy air activity today was on a reduced scale.

Troopship  
Escort to  
Oran.

6. In reply to a request from Cominch for escort from Gibraltar Approaches to Oran for the U.S. troopship GENERAL W.A. MANN, leaving Hampton Roads on February 1st, C. in C. Mediterranean regrets that this is not possible in the present situation. The military would like to bring these fast unescorted troopships into the Mediterranean to avoid the transshipment by train from Casablanca, but the strength of 13th D.F. at Gibraltar does not permit this additional escort to be undertaken.

Air  
Operations.

7(a) 4 Beaufighter bombers on an anti-shipping reconnaissance in the Aegean destroyed a 500-ton coaster today at Port Panormo, Mykonos and scored cannon strikes on barges.  
 (b) 12 Thunderbolts dropped 12 x 500 lb. bombs on 4 naval auxiliaries and a large barge filled with troops at Sibenik today. Results are not reported.

Axis  
Shipping,  
Aegean.

8. The submarine ULTIMATUM was ordered today to patrol between Milo and Santorin.

UNSPARING.

9. The submarine UNSPARING reports that at 1605 on January 15th in Port Plati, Lemnos, she attacked caiques with gunfire; 2 were sunk, 1 probably sunk, and 2 damaged.

East Indies.Pacific  
Force.

10(a) The ILLUSTRIOUS, aircraft carrier, and QUEEN ELIZABETH and VALIANT, battleships, from home, arrived at Trincomalee today, escorted by six destroyers.

/(b) ...

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Pacific  
Force.  
(Contd.)

(b) Movements of the British Pacific Force eastward will result in Trincomalee being entirely without repair facilities except ADAMANT and MAIDSTONE (submarine depot ship). C. in C. E.F. considers it essential to allocate one hull and one engineering repair ship. For the latter, WAYLAND, due to leave the Mediterranean on April 15th, is proposed.

America and West Indies.

C.U.  
Convoys.

11. From C.U.13, which sails on January 31st, the maximum number of ships in each C.U. convoy (tankers, Curacao to U.K.) is increased to 30 until further orders.

NABOB.

12. The escort carrier NABOB, which grounded near Esquimalt during exercises on the 25th, was refloated today.

Australia and New Zealand.

13. Early this morning, Navy Catalinas attacked a scattered convoy of 15 ships, including 3 to 5 merchantmen and the rest escorts (some possibly destroyers) midway between Kavieng and Rabaul. One 8000 ton ship, believed carrying fuel, was hit by 2 1000 lb. bombs and burst into flames. A Liberator also attacked the same convoy and left 2 ships burning.

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War Diary.28.1.1944.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

AJAX. Sailed AJAX to comply with my 261849.  
2. Amend S.O.A. 23 knots, E.T.A. 1600A/31st.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281551A to F.O.G.M.A.)

GAMBIA. Intend to sail GAMBIA at 1030A/30th to Gib. for  
onward routing in accordance with A.M.151038.  
2. Route.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281651 F.O.G.M.A.)

Operations.

Precautions Cancel order to join S.C.151. Alter forthwith  
off N.W. to 305°. Further orders follow.  
Ireland. (C. in C.W.A. 280808Z to C.2.)

My 280808Z. Do not get to the northward of  
O.N.221 and if in vicinity join COMRY till  
further orders.

2. Report your P.C. and S.  
(C. in C.W.A. 281003Z to C.2.)  
(?STUART PRINCE) arrived.  
(Cdre. D.W.A., 281630A to C. in C.W.A.)

1. Information. (A) Junkers 88, Ju. 290 and Heinkel  
177 aircraft have been carrying out long range shipping R/C  
in the area bounded by 50° N. and 56° N. between 10° W. and  
16° W. from dawn until 2000 in the vicinity of convoys.

B. Shorebased aircraft available - number 235 squadron  
Beaufighters of 15 group at Castle Archdale. Maximum speed  
240 knots endurance 5½ hours at 180 knots.

C. Fighter direction ship STUART PRINCE, due to arrive  
Moville 1900/28th January, speed 10 knots, endurance at sea  
10 days. Fitted with W.A. Radar and facilities for  
directing fighters on H/F and V H/F.

D. Escort - CHURCHILL fitted with H/F D/F.

2. Intention. To operate a fighter direction ship with  
escort off north west Ireland in the vicinity of the convoy  
routes to provide warning of enemy aircraft and to direct  
shorebased fighters to intercept enemy aircraft.

3. Execution. A. A point DD is established in 55° 30' N.  
and 10° 00' W. All positions are to be reported with  
reference to DD.

B. Commodore D.W.A. is requested to sail STUART PRINCE  
escorted by CHURCHILL to arrive in position DD by first light  
on 30th January.

C. Instructions for further movements and patrols in the  
vicinity of convoys will be issued by C. in C.W.A.

D. STUART PRINCE is to report all unidentified A/C and  
unidentified Radar contacts immediately to C. in C.W.A.

E. When ordered by C. in C.W.A. CHURCHILL is to home shore  
based fighters on 3925 kes.

F. Shore based fighters will, after being homed patrol in the  
vicinity of STUART PRINCE until directed onto unidentified  
radar echoes of aircraft.

G. If C.O. STUART PRINCE decides that weather prevents the  
operation of his radar sets, he should withdraw to the Lee of  
Inistrahull, informing C. in C. Western Approaches accordingly.  
(C. in C.W.A., 281948A to Cdre. D.W.A. STUART PRINCE)  
(C. in C.W.A., 281952A.)

/Your...



War Diary.28.1.1944.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Precautions off N.W. Ireland. (Contd.) Your 262114A and my 271030A. GRIPER has been taken in hand for repairs. Estimated date of completion a.m. 2nd February. Propose sailing ALLEGIANCE in her place. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 282131A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- S/M Patrols. Cancel my 281139 Dec. Position of temporary patrol line LL is as established in my 071232 Nov. (F.O.S. 281004A to Capt. S.3., S.9.) Request you will sail SATYR from Lerwick at 1800A/29th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 miles and 062 degs 00' N. 004 degs. 00' E. to patrol in accordance with S.M. 04318/657 dated 21st January. (Capt. S.9, 281137A to S.O.S/M. Lerwick.) Positions of Submarines at 0800/19th and movements for following 24 hours.  
A. SPIRIT as in my 201621.  
B. SCEPTRE on patrol off Kya.  
C. SEANYMPH 64 degs. 22' N. 04 degs. 08' E. probably on the surface through 62 degs. 01' N. 01 degs. 01' E. to Lerwick 10 knots. (F.O.S. 281719A to Admt. y.)
- Patrol of North Channel Approaches. E.G.2. Intend to sail WREN and MAGPIE from Lough Foyle to R/V E.G.2 in 270 degs. Oversay 6 miles at 0900A/29th. (Cdre. D.W.A. 281004A to C. in C.W.A.) Intend to sail WOODPECKER 1600A/28 to comply with C. in C.W.A. 242138. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 281106 to C. in C.W.A.) Intend to sail WILD GOOSE at 1800 today for Merville to fuel, 0400A/29th. Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail WILD GOOSE to comply with C. in C.W.A. 242138. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 281116A to Cdre. D.W.A.) Sailed WILD GOOSE in accordance with my 281116. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 281848A to Cdre. D.W.A.) C. in C.W.A.'s 242138A. Sailed STARLING. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 282155A to C. in C.W.A.)
- Operation F.W. Anticipate heavy concentration of U/Boats may operate against J.W.56B. It is essential they be hunted and severely dealt with.  
2. R.A.56A is not to sail until further instructions. All destroyers of J.W.56A escort, taking extra depth-charges if practicable, are to proceed as soon as fuelled at 22 knots to R/V in Bear Island area with JW.56B which is proceeding on route "Red" and acting under orders of Capt. (D) 3.  
3. Estimated P.C.S. of J.W.56B at 1200A/28th 071 degs. 28' N. 002 degs. 10' E. 063 degs. 9½ knots. (C. in C.H.F. 281129A to S.B.N.O. Polyarno, H.F.) Convoy J.W.56B is to alter course at 1700A/28th to pass through New position Z 165 miles 270 degs. from position HW. thence through position H and route "Red".  
2. B.A.M.S. message is being made. (C. in C.H.F. 281445A to H.F.)

/J.W.56B...

War Diary.28.1.1944.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation J.W.56B. In view of casualties to ships of  
F.W. Murmansk section of J.W.56A Russians request  
(Contd.) destination of SAMUEL MACINTYRE and EDWARD  
L. GRANT be altered from Molotovsk to Murmansk.  
My 231247 refers.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 281526A to H.F.)

WRESTLER's 271820. Sailed (MATCHLESS and WRESTLER)  
(A.C.I.C. 281625A to A.C.O.S.)

Motor or generator noise could be heard today on  
frequency 1950 kcs. continuing for last 5 hours and still  
going on. It is believed to be a S/M somewhere in Ice Fjord  
because same noise was heard once before on or about 3500 kcs.  
when S/M observed in Advent Bay. At that time the noise  
disappeared when the S/M submerged. Ice fjord ?mostly ice  
free, Advent Bay partly covered.

("Locomotive" 281700A to Admty.)

Akureyri arrival C.S.1. in KENT, BERMUDA, and ONYX.

(A.C.I.C. 281710A to F.O.S., H.F.)

Your 271245A.

2. Convoy shadowed and reported by U/Boat (German) from 24th  
January onwards. U/Boat (German) reported from outside  
H/F D/F ground wave distance. Form of ?estimated shadowing  
reports was 5 group B barred.
3. Convoy was attacked from 1330/25th to 0730/26th and  
shadowed by U/Boats (German) to position MU. Very heavy  
traffic on 3750 kcs. but no guard ship result from MUSCULAR or  
CATA(?RA)CT during dark hours. Normal pack tactics were used  
by at least 6 U/Boats (German.) Strong evidence of close  
tactical control by pack leader. Some may have attacked  
submerged from bow and ahead as Radar and Asdic conditions were  
excellent, and only ?3 Radar contacts reported. Radar  
operated ?by all H/F ships suffered from lack of (corrupt  
group).
4. Weather (?calm), light airs, to northern light, very good  
visibility.
5. HARDY made 3 attacks, one considered successful,  
VENUS 3 attacks. VIRAGO 2 on 2 U/Boats. VIGILANT 2 attacks.  
STORD one attack. Reports on attacks not yet complete.
6. OBDURATE torpedoed while investigating Radar contact.
7. Star-shell considered most valuable deterrent.
8. Air attack organized for daylight 26th fell through due to  
failure of transmitter in shadower. U/Boats homed A/C on 440  
kcs.
9. Escort carrier would have been invaluable even at short  
daylight period, and would probably have prevented attack  
developing.
10. Only DIANELLA has complete Foxer and this has not yet  
been streamed.  
(Capt. D.26 281731A to C. in C.H.F.)  
Have received report on BERWICK Dynamoses. Her 251828 to  
V.A.2 only and my 231333 refer. Details.
3. Concur ship is fit for service.  
(C.S.1., 281811A to C, in C. H.F.)  
C. in C.H.F. 281129A. Intend to proceed with destroyers  
less OBDURATE at 2000A today. Route MU thence (?000 °) to  
071 degs. 40' N. thence 315° to "Red" route, thence by  
amended reverse "Red" route. Owing to weather anticipated  
S.O.A. probably 18 knots.  
(Capt. D.26 281812A to C. in C.H.F. Capt. D.3.)

/Capt...

War Diary.28.1.1944.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.) Capt. (D) 26th 281812. Sailed 2030A. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 282040A to C. in C.H.F.) Your 271651. Views of S.B.N.Os. North Russia and Archangel are awaited and agreement to proposal of Soviet Authorities should not be given without Admiralty's approval. (A.C.N.S.(H) 282359A to Ad. Fisher.)

Coastal Force Patrols. { C. in C. Portsmouth 281454A }  
{ V.A. Dover 281551A. }  
{ C. in C. Plymouth, 281750A. }

Biscay A/S operations. T.G. 21.13, U.S.S. CROATAN, 4 U.S. destroyers, operating vicinity 043° 01' N. 034° 01' W. My 281245A refers. (C. in C.W.A. 281459A.) C.T.G. 21.14 left convoy U.G.S. 51 at approximately 0001/28 January to operate against U/Boat concentration in vicinity of 44° N. 33° W. as relief to T.G. 21.13. (D.O.D.H. 281518A to C. in C.W.A.) At 2000A/27th T.G. 21.13 was in 44° 33' N. 22° 06' W. proceeding to refuel escorts in vicinity of 40° N. 20° W. (D.O.D.H. 281519A to C. in C.W.A.) Nr. 2. Have A.S.V. contact, 46.30 N. 05.30 W. Probably surface vessel. (A/C KVM.11 282015 to 19 Group.) Still in touch with enemy previously reported. P.C.S. of M/Vs 46.30 N. 05.30 W. 047, 11 knots. Shadowing sloop. (A/C KVM.11 282033 to 19 Group.) Nr. 1. 2 large vessels, 45° 38' N. 03° 57' W., course E. speed 4, Lit up. Request instructions. (A/C KVM.13 282100A to 19 Group.) Am over one enemy S/M in 47° 00' N. 5° 39' W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted speed was 12 knots. (A/C KVM.11 282338A to 19 Group.)

One M/V damaged by STUBBORN on 26th January. One merchant ship 2500 tons hit by torpedo off Villa 1115A/26th. (STUBBORN 281731 to F.O.S.)

SEA NYMPH Defective torpedoes. Patrol vicinity 066° 43' N. 013° 07' E. 25th, 26th, 27th January. 25th attacked unsuccessfully 1000 tons passenger ship, unnoticed, torpedoes not exploding. (SEA NYMPH, 282127A to F.O.S.)

/S.C. ...

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

S.C. My 201941. Sailed 2245A today S/C HITRA.  
operation. 2. No.  
(A.C.O.S. 282300 to Admty.)

U/Boats.

U/Boat U/Boat previously reported course 300° speed  
attacked. 10 knots. First sighted in 53° 15' N. 15° 52' W.  
dropped 6 depth charges. Sub-settled. No  
wreckage.  
(A/C WCM.17 281247A to 19 Group.)

U/Boat Am over enemy S/M in 52° 41' N. 14° 27' W.  
sunk S/M was on surface and when first sighted was  
by A/C. on course 360°, estimated speed 8 knots.  
(A/C D/461, 281300A to 19 Group.)  
VANQUISHER detached to search for survivors of  
U/Boat reported sunk by aircraft in 052° 41' N.  
014° 27' W., abandoning search at dark.  
(B.6, 281315Z to C. in C.W.A.)  
S/M sunk. 30 survivors in sea. Returning to base.  
Position 52° 40' N. 14° 28' W.  
(A/C JHH.18 281330A to 19 Group.)

Casualties and Defects.

WOLSEY. Steering wheel of Brinary steering gear  
Sabotage. removed and jettisoned during night 27th and  
28th Jan.  
2. H.M.S. WOLSEY secured alongside west jetty  
Immingham.  
3. No evidence available involving any individuals.  
(WOLSEY, 281051A to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

ENTERPRISE. In view of the absence of guarantee that  
permanently effective repair can be made, ship  
cannot be regarded as reliable for long  
distance operations. Request immediate  
decision.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281144A to Admty.)

VANSITTART. Your 261909. If considered fit VANSITTART is  
to proceed to Greenock for examination.  
(C. in C.W.A. 281325A to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES.)

P.556. Battery explosion occurred in H.M. Submarine  
P.556 alongside Fort Blockhouse at 1845A on  
27th January whilst submarine was charging main  
batteries on own power. Fire broke out and could  
not be extinguished due to volume of smoke and fumes.  
Submarine was completely shut down and battery compartments  
isolated and shifted to buoy in Haslar Creek as safety  
precaution in view of ammunition being in proximity of fire.  
2. Vessel was opened up at 0845A on 28th. Fire completely

/extinguished...

War Diary.28.1.1944.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- P.556. extinguished and damage confined to both battery compartments. Submarine is now ventilated and will be moved alongside jetty for stripping.
3. Four ratings, one of whom subsequently died, were seriously injured and removed to Haslar Hospital. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 281733A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N.221(E) At 0126Z U/Boat transmitted B Bar signal bearing 202° between 20 and 40 miles. My position 053° 38' N. 014° 41' W. (B.2, 280327Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- My 281003. Join and support O.N.221 forthwith. (C. in C.W.A. 281129Z to E.G.2., KEATS.)
- O.N.221 (E) 54° 01', 18° 43'. My 281228A, refers. (C. in C.W.A. 281931A to Admty.)

- U.R.108. Escorts detailed COLDSTREAMER, VICTRIX. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 281044A to Admty.)

- S.L.146/  
M.K.S.37. 55 M/Vs and Rescue Ship ABOYNE. Names and destinations. (D.T.D. 281118A.)

- X.K.14. It is intended that Convoy X.K.14 should be sailed from Gibraltar on 21st February.
2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail 4 Ocean Escort Trawlers to arrive Gibraltar in time to sail on this date. (D.O.D.H., 281817A to C. in C.W.A.)

- K.X.14. Convoy K.X.14 consisting of SS. HARROGATE destination Algiers; SS. IERE destination Gibraltar and Freetown; SS. SNELAND I destination Gibraltar; SS. ASHBURY destination Philippeville will be ready to leave Milford Haven on 5th February.
2. Speed of slowest ship 7½ knots.
3. Escort will be provided by ARIES and ANTARES of 19th M.S. Flotilla and H.M. trawlers MEWSTONE, KITTERN and GILLSTONE. (D.O.D.H., 281925A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

- E.G.10. The following ships are temporarily formed into tenth group: SPEY (S.O.) ROTHER, WEAR, LOSSIE, FINDHORN. Base Liverpool.
2. Intended programme.
- C. Group sail on completion of exercise p.m. 1st February for anti-U/Boat operations. (C. in C.W.A. 282308A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

28.1.1944.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- O.24 for Bermuda. D.S. O.24, intend sailing at 0700/29th by following route. E.T.A. at Bermuda 1220/10th Feb. S/M proceed on surface at discretion unescorted, S. of A. 11 knots. (F.O.G.M.A., 281153Z to Admty., etc.) See also 282117.
- AJAX (from Plymouth) Onward route from (AD). (AE) 040° 01' N. 015° 57' W. (AF) 036° 01' N. 014° 01' W. Channel Q.B.A.87 to Gibraltar. 2. Paravanes are to be streamed before crossing 007° W. (F.O.G.M.A., 281201A to AJAX.)
- T.G. 21.13. Cease operations in time arrive Casablanca about 4th Feb. and depart about 7th Feb. to operate against reported submarines that may endanger U.G.S. - G.U.S. convoys. (Cinclant, 281827 to C.T.G. 21.13.) Steaming on course 285, speed 15 from 2200Z position 41.45 20.14 will refuel escorts and repair Catapult tomorrow then proceed speed 17 towards 44 N. 30 W. arriving about 300900Z WX 9070 4622. (C.T.G. 21.13, 282344 to Cinclant)
- ANTELOPE (with F.O.G.M.A. from Azores). ANTELOPE has sustained unknown damage to port propeller or shaft. 2. My P.C. and probable S. of A. at 2030A 036° 01' N. 010° 47' W., 094°, 17.5 knots. 3. Tug should stand by to assist berthing if necessary. (F.O.G.M.A. in ANTELOPE, 281950Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Routes from Azores. Following standard routes for small craft from Azores to U.K. are instituted. 1. To or for onward routing from Falmouth - (P) 42° N. 26° W. (Q) 47° N. 21° W. (R) 50.20 N. 14.00 W. (S) 50.10 N. 09.00 W. (T) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. 2. West coast of England and Scotland and Northern Ireland ports as in para. 1 to (S) thence (U) 293° Trevose Head 5 miles. 3. Cancel A.M. 101215 Dec., 172039 Dec. and 231156 Dec. (D.O.D.(H), 281950A to S.B.N.O. Azores, etc.)
- Italian S/Ms. and O.24 for Bermuda. My 251854Z and 271732A. Time of sailing altered to 0700Z/29th. O.24 (D.S.) proceed in company. S. of A. 13 knots until reaching 010° W. at about 0700A/30th. Thereafter times in my 251854Z apply 2 days late. O.24 keep time stated in my 281152Z after 0700A/30th. (F.O.G.M.A., 282117Z to Admty., etc.)

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SAN  
CIPRIANO  
"S" Report  
(cancelled).  
Gunfire and flares fired around vessel over half hour period in 027° 11' S. 034° 53' E. 2033Z/27th Jan. No damage. Source of origin unidentified. Present position 028° 28' S. 033° 29' E. course 234°, speed 11 knots.  
(SAN CIPRIANO, 280430Z to Simonstown W/T.)  
Cancel SSSS by SAN CIPRIANO at 2033Z/27th Jan. in 026° 22' S. 034° 45' E. Have established that SSSS was made to ship seeing star shell fired by escort trawler at that time. (C. in C. S.A., 281655C.)

Zigzagging. C.A.M.S.I.203. Request you will deal with the suspension of zigzagging in area 3A between latitudes of 10° S. and 15° S.  
(C. in C. S.A., 281702C to F.O.C.W.A.)  
Reply: 291205Z.

Argentine Shipping. Argentine merchant ships employed on overseas trade have been instructed to remain in port until further orders. Those on Patagonia coast are reported to be still running.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 281916Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Anzio Landing - Operation "Shingle".

KEMPENFELT,  
Obia bom-  
barded.

Following received, Addressed C. in C.Med. (R)  
F.O.W.It. MAURITIUS, INGLEFIELD, C.T.F. 81, from  
KEMPENFELT.

Three road targets in Obia area bombarded at  
2030A and 2355A/27th. T.O.O. 280737A. (Ends.)  
(N.O.I.C. Naples 281037A to C.T.F. 81.)

Situation Re-  
ports.

1. Bombardment of Formia area by MAURITIUS and  
KEMPENFELT with F.O.O. spotting. Shooting during  
day 27th. 4 at batteries, 1 on road movements, 1  
on M/T concentration, 1 on trains. Result:  
batteries silenced, road movement broken up, M/T

destroyed, trains bisected.

2. During air attack on 27th L.S.T. 321 slightly damaged. on 28th  
S.L.534 damaged by near miss.

3. Air attack in para. 3 of my 271816. U.S. Destroyer LUDLOW  
damaged by near miss. (W.D.Note, on 26th.)

4. During attack yesterday fighters shot down 25 enemy aircraft.

5. Weather excellent. Unloading going well.

(C. in C.Med. at Naples 281809A to Admty.)

Medcos No. 33. 1. Yesterday unloading in Anzio area pro-  
ceeded rapidly in fine weather. Turn-round for reloading also  
went extremely well. Despite rather heavy air attacks on ship-  
ping in landing area there were no losses to ships or landing  
craft so far as known. Noteworthy that Germans are launching air  
torpedo attacks at night under conditions of visibility never  
before experienced. Weather forecast very favourable for at  
least next 48 hours. 6. I will return to A.F.H.Q. tomorrow  
morning. This report will therefore be last that I shall make  
for time being. Believed from now on regular Cositintreps will  
satisfy your requirements.

(Fairbanks, from Wilson No T.O.O/28.)

Enemy Air  
Losses.

For information, summary of enemy air losses over  
"Shingle" area is

A. By relay fighters destroyed 34, probably 8,  
damaged 12. B. By night fighters destroyed 10.

These figures do not include successes outside  
"Shingle" area. 2. Air fields in south of France were heavily  
attacked yesterday and those in North of Italy today.

(C. in C.Med. at Naples 281830A to C.T.F.81.)

MAURITIUS  
bombardment.

Nearly continuous fire support provided during  
daylight today. Batteries and transports fre-  
quently engaged with F.O.O. spotting. Results  
reported very satisfactory. Harassing fire on  
Formia - Kastelloroto and road junctions. Targets  
mostly out of destroyer's range. Enemy batteries opposition to  
ships very slight. Some advances made by Army against stiff  
opposition. Intend continuing harassing fire during night.

Ammunition remaining MAURITIUS H.E.400 C.P.B.C. 1400 Cordite 1060.  
(MAURITIUS 281901Z to C. in C.Med.)

N.A.M.12.

N.A.M.12 sailing E.T.A. 0800/29 comprised of L.S.T.  
62, 63, 428, 419, 322, 198, 303, 410, 200, 160,  
573, 214. L.C.I.(L)s. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14,  
212, 215, 216 escort MAN OF WAR, HORNPIPE, P.C.621.  
(F.O.W.It. 281914, to C.T.F.81.)



War Diary.28.1.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.General.Aegean  
Shipping  
Summary.

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intelligence Appreciation  
24 hours to 1000 hours 28 Jan. 1944.  
Further evidence stepping up supply traffic with  
larger tonnage to outer Islands and augmenting  
small craft resources from Black Sea.  
(C. in C.M.E. 281820.)

ULTIMATUM.

P.34 (ULTIMATUM) passes Kaso Strait tonight thence  
along North Coast Crete, East Coast Morea to Hydra  
to arrive on patrol in vicinity Milos on 4th Feb.  
(Capt. S.1 280951B to 1 S.F.)

Patrol forthwith between Milo and Santorin.  
(Capt. S.1 281953B to ULTIMATUM, (R) DOLFIJN, F.O.L.E.M.)

ROCKWOOD.

ROCKWOOD should be ready by 7th Feb. to proceed on  
one engine.  
2. Request final repair port may be signalled.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 281212B to Admty.)

GENERAL W.A.  
MANN, troop-  
ship escort  
to Oran.

Cominch 271830. Regret present situation does not  
permit escort to be provided for U.S.S. GENERAL W.A.  
MANN. My 221124 to Admiralty only refers.  
2. Military would like to bring these fast un-  
escorted troopships into Mediterranean as far as  
Oran to avoid transshipment by train from Casa-  
blanca and consequent delay involved. Strength

of 13th D.F. as at present constituted at Gibraltar does not  
permit this additional escort commitment. This requirement  
would virtually fully employ two escorts and necessary reinforce-  
ments to Gibraltar escort force cannot be spared from Mediter-  
ranean resources.

(C. in C.Med. 281236A to Admty.)

1st. S.M.F.  
base.

In view of material and administrative matters  
involved, requested that C. in C.Med. may be  
asked whether it is intended to base First S/M F.  
permanently at Malta and what will be the status  
of present base at Beirut.  
(F.O.S. 281551A to Admty.)

SUFFREN,  
DUQUESNE,  
TOURVILLE,  
condition.

Request F.O.C.W.Af. will signal brief summary of  
work required on USFFREN, DUQUESNE and TOURVILLE to  
keep them running. A.M. 060455 para. 2 and F.O.C.  
W.Af's 171740 refer.

5. On receipt of F.O.C.W.Af's remarks request Admty.  
may state whether ships would be of more value to  
Allied cause if laid up and crews used elsewhere.

If answer is affirmative it is intended to raise matter with  
combined Chiefs of Staff through C. in C.Allied Forces.  
(C. in C.Med. 281602A to F.O.C.W.A. Admty.)

/RETRIEVER...

War Diary.

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

RETRIEVER.

Cable ship RETRIEVER has been delayed by other commitments but should arrive Gibraltar by 20th February to lift sea units and embark equipment your 271607 refers.  
(C. in C.Med. 281855A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Balkan  
Sitrep No.  
72.

405660 O/64111 cipher 27 Jan.  
4. Sea Ops. Adv. H.Q. Force 133 reports 23 Jan. Germans captured partisan boat took it to Vela Luka S.E. 29 on Kercula where it was sunk by Allied air action.  
(C. in C.M.E. 282030B.)

Situation  
Report No.  
284.

1. "Shingle" - [already covered]  
2. P.55 (UNSPARING) reports at 1605/15th January in Port Plati, Lemnos, attacked caiques with gunfire. 2 were sunk, one probably sunk and 2 damaged.  
(C. in C.Med. 282144A to F.O.L.E.M. etc.)

War Diary.

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B Bi-weekly U-Boat dispositions signal No.21.  
Disposition. Areas A and D. Believed clear of U-Boats, scale of air escort W.  
Area B. No actual evidence of U-Boats in this area but possibility cannot be excluded.

Scale air escort X.

Area C. One U-Boat believed German operating to east Socotra by sinking SAMOURI in 013 degs. 13' N. 056 degs. 00' E. a.m. 26th Jan. and SURANDA in 013 degs. 00' N. 055 degs. 15' E. at 1900Z/26 Jan. This U-Boat may be moving into Gulf of Aden. Scale air escort Y.

Area E. One U-Boat (German) is operating in vicinity of 9 deg channel. SS. WALTER CAMP was torpedoed in 010 degs. 00' N. 071 degs. 49' E. at 2332Z/25th Jan. and U-Boat was indicated by D/F to be to westward of the Laccadive Is. at 2007Z/27th Jan. Scale of air escort Y.

Area F. No evidence that U-Boat last reported night 24th/25th Jan. is still in area but scale of air escort remains X.

Area G. Considered probable that U-Boats may be in area although there is no indication of whereabouts. Scale of air escort Y.

(C. in C. E.F. 280423Z)

Routeing. The following temporary routeing instructions are to be brought into force forthwith.

(2) All independent shipping to and from South African Ports (as far North as Durban) and (A) Ceylon and H.Q.s East Coast Ports to be diversely routed South and East of E.F.G. (Meiri 2 A 2 C) (B) Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf and Indian West Coast Ports to be routed through Mozambique Channel (Meiri 2 A 2 A).

(3) All independent shipping to and from Ports North of Durban and Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf India East and West Coast and Ceylon to be routed through Mozambique Channel (Meiri 2 A 2 (A)).

(4) Shipping from East Indies Station for Mauritius to be routed to Diego Suarez for onward routeing.

(5) Cancel F.O.N.I.C. 311 14th Jan.

(C. in C. E.F. 280511Z) *amended 310834Z*

Re: Temporary routeing instructions in Indian Ocean to be brought into operation forthwith.

Arrivals from Aden and U.K.

Arrivals ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT, QUEEN ELIZABETH, NAPIER, NIZAM, (?PALADIN), PATHFINDER, RACEHORSE, ROCKET.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 280730Z to Admty.)

TACTICIAN R. of P.

Summarized report of TACTICIAN's 3rd Far East Patrol. Times Zone Z. 1800/8th Jan. 006 degs. 21' 093 degs. 22' encountered S/M course 270 degs. speed 16 knots which could

not be /...

War Diary.

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TACTICIAN  
R. of P.  
(Contd.)

not be definitely identified as enemy therefore not attacked.  
2310/16th Jan. sighted KAGU MARU class seaplane carried unescorted 005 degs. 29' 096 degs. 30' course 295 degs. 16 knots, out of range.  
(Capt. (S) 4, 260818Z to C. in C. E.F.)

Numbering  
of convoys.

F.O.N.I.C. (323).

F.O.N.I.C. 293 of 14th Dec. refers. Single escorted ships should be given the number of the last convoy with a lettered Suffix.

(2) When routine convoys are not running on a particular route convoys of 2 or more ships should be given a new number without a lettered suffix.

(3) When routine convoys are running all intermediate convoys on that particular route should be given the number of the last routine convoy with a lettered suffix.

(C. in C. E.F. 280945Z to F.O. Ceylon etc.)

Air Report.

M S 2683. 28th Jan. daily Opsum No.684.

China Operations. 14th U.S.A.A.F.

25th Jan. 5 Chinese/American Mitchells (B.25) Sea sweep East China Coast, one patrol boat, 1 mine-sweeper, 1 tanker, 1 freighter, and 2 small freighters, sunk, one freighter hit and beached. All S.E. Wenchow.  
(S.E.A.A.C. 281120, 290900Z)

Trincomalee  
Repair  
Facilities.

Movements of British Pacific Force eastward will result in Trincomalee being entirely without repair facilities except ADAMANT and MAIDSTONE, fully occupied with submarine work. To make effective use of Destroyers and Battleships floating docks considered essential to allocate one hull and one engineering repair ship. WAYLAND due to leave Mediteranean 15th April is proposed for engineering.  
(C. in C. E.F. 281754Z to Admtx)

War Diary28.1.1944.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

EDWARD KAVANAGH, EMPIRE MANOR, (H.X.276) collision 27th. Following read by Burnham. Fire (no(t)?) serious. (KENOGAMI, 280006 to F.O.N.F.). Master and (corrupt group) men transferring to me from KENOGAMI. Intend to board EMPIRE MANOR on arrival of TENACITY. Request permission for KENGOMAI to proceed with balance of survivors. (WALLACEBURG, 281748Z to F.O.N.F.). KENOGAMI proceeding to St. Johns N.F. TENACITY here can do nothing until daylight. Master and officers will board EMPIRE MANOR then and TENACITY will take in tow, will screen until further directions. Weather report. (WALLACEBURG, 282201Z to F.O.N.F. etc.).

H.X.276. EDWARD KAVANAGH (U.S.) and EMPIRE MANOR in collision 271130 KAVANAGH proceeding escorted to St. Johns Nfld. EMPIRE MANOR on fire abandoned 280015 in 44.05 N. 52.35 W. (N.S.H.Q., 281457Z to Admty. etc.).

H.X.276. Arrival 1300B/28th January (U.S.) EDWARD KAVANAGH. Collision damage. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 281449Z).

Refits of S/Ms. in U.S.A. Reviewing our manpower resources and commitments for Japanese war it is clear that L.27 (now refitting Philadelphia) and P.553 (due Philadelphia February) could only be manned at expense of newer vessels.

(2) Intend therefore to cancel refit of P.553.

(3) Your views are requested whether refit of L.27 can be stopped without seriously disturbing U.S. Authorities. We are particularly anxious (a) not to have to man an inefficient ship in preference to a more modern one and (b) not to pay off a ship on which the Americans have done much work.

(4) Essential that refitting berths in U.S.A. vacated by these proposals are only done so temporarily. Full submarine refitting facilities must be maintained in U.S.A. and will be occupied shortly by modern submarines. (Hd. of M.II, Approved by Controller, 280045A to B.A.D.).

B.E.Cs. 3 and 5. Owing to generators defects B.E.Cs. 3 and 5 are unfit for ocean passage until necessary spares are obtained from U.S.A. All possible action to hasten spares has been taken with U.S. Authorities. Meanwhile intend to utilize ships on short escort duties in order to exercise ships companies at sea. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 280942Q).  
Note: Signal bears delivery group for Admiralty.

C.U. Convoy numbers. Affective C.U.13 sailing 31st Jan. maximum number ships per C.U. convoy increased to 30 until further orders. My 171522 Oct. modified accordingly. (Cominch, 281252Z to Admty. etc.).

/Use...

War Diary

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Use of M.A.C's. Your 211417Z.  
Para.3. No. All required on North Atlantic run.  
Para.4. No.  
Para.5. Statistics at present incomplete and do not include number of days on which flying was not carried out due to (a) weather, (b) necessity for conserving aircraft when not in U-boat areas of probability.  
Days at sea 459 in 16 voyages. 305 sorties, hours flown 619.5.  
No. of flying hours per day at sea, 1 hour 20 mins.  
No. of sorties per day at sea, 0.66. Estimated flying occurred on 30% of days at sea.  
Average number of flying hours per flying day 4½ hours.  
Average number of sorties per flying day 2¼.  
Para.6. One attack - no successes. M.A.Cs. have proved most successful, and it is through no fault of their own that successes have not been registered. Aircraft from these vessels have been operated satisfactorily under most trying weather conditions.  
(D.A.U.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 281322A to B.A.D.).

U/boat estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 281405Z to Cominch, 281556Z).

CILICIA Arrival CILICIA from Africa.  
(C.O.P. Halifax, 281605Z to Admty. etc.).

LE TRIOMPHANT Admiral Fenard has officially requested Cominch as Executive Agent of C.C.S. to give favourable consideration to proposal to refit LE TRIOMPHANT in a U.S. yard. Admty. 250911 refers.  
(2) Cominch has replied that decision is being deferred awaiting recommendation to C.C.S. by the Theatre Commander  
(3) Navy Dept. consider this case similar to that of French proposal for FORTUNE's refit stated in B.A.D. 012211 Nov. and we shall find it difficult to interest them in the contents of A.M. 261548 until the Theatre Commanders recommendation is received.  
(4) Request this may be expedited.  
(B.A.D., 282105Z to Admty.).

ARCHIMEDE As Executive Agent of C.C.S. in initial employment (Fr. S/M.) designated Mediterranean under Allied Naval C. in C.  
(Cdr. U.S. Fleet, 282110Z).

NABOB NABOB grounded in position 5 miles 302 degs. from Point Roberts (49 degs. North 123 degs. 05' West) at 2244 G.M.T. on 25th Jan. during exercises. Speed on grounding 17 knots bottom slit. Refloated this afternoon and is being docked immediately. No report of damage yet received.  
(B.A.D., 282121Z to Admty.).

/Attacks...

War Diary

28.1.1944.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Attacks  
on U/Bs.

(C) Liberator Radar Contact 34.07 North 15.33 West 1900Z/27 followed by sighting of oil slick and possible swirl in same area.  
(D) Surface Craft attacked sound contact 12.30 North 68.22 West 2015Z/20.  
(Cominch, 282137Z to Admty. for O.I.C.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
No. 738  
Jan. 27th.

(1) 7 Liberators bombed Dilli Water Front and two small freighters in Harbour afternoon. Direct hit destroyed one ship. Buildings damaged near Jetty. 3 Fighters ineffectively attempted interception.  
(10) Further reports convoy attacked northwest Kavieng early hours 26th refer Digest 737 part 12 give composition as one small transport two destroyers, two or three probable gunboats. One hit claimed one destroyer another on gunboat.  
(15) 12 ship convoy including large freighters and escorts observed early hours 27th 40 miles west Mussau Island apparently southbound.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 281615Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/28th Jan.  
Para.A. (1) Br. SAMOURI torpedoed a.m. 26th Jan. in 13 degs. 13' N. 56 degs. 00' E.  
(2) Br. SURADA torpedoed at 1900Z/26th Jan. in 13 degs. 00' N. 55 degs. 15' E.  
(3) A.M. PENELOPE BARKER, A.M. ANDREW G. CURTAIN and Br. FORT BELLINGHAM reported sunk in convoy J.W.56A.  
(D.D.I.C., 281006Z).

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.  
(D.D.I.C., 281440A, 281450A).

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
F.W.

1a. Convoy J.W.56A. The nine M/Vs. of the White Sea section arrived in the Dvina Roads at 0529A today; and at 2120A the Tanker SAN ADOLFO arrived at the Kola Inlet from Iokanka.  
b. Convoy J.W.56B. At 1700A today convoy J.W.56B was about 100 miles W.S.W. of Bear Island steering 091° at 8½ knots; and at 1807A Capt. D.3 in MILNE (S.O. Destroyer Escort) reported that A/C have been homing U/Boats on to the Convoy during today, that two U/Boats had been sighted and attacked without result, and that two U/Boats were then in contact with the convoy. On arriving 15 miles ahead of the convoy the seven destroyers under Capt. D.26 in HARDY are to reverse course, reduce speed, and act as directed by Capt. D.3.

Engagement  
off Gravelines.  
Enemy mine-  
sweeper damaged.  
M.T.B.418  
damaged.  
Coastal  
Batteries  
engaged.  
South Fore-  
land Lighthouse.  
damaged.

2a. At 2120 today M.T.Bs 417 and 418 on patrol off Gravelines engaged with gun-fire an M-class minesweeper escorting a large vessel westward from Dunkirk and set her on fire. M.T.B.418 was considerably damaged but no casualties were incurred. Four other M.T.Bs. on the same patrol fired a total of eight torpedoes at the large vessel, believed to be a 360 ft. Sperrbrecher, without observed result.  
b. Coastal Batteries on both sides of the Straits were also engaged, and damage was caused to the South Foreland Lighthouse and to the R.A.F. Station at Swingate.

Biscay  
A/S  
operations.

3. A U/Boat apparently disabled about 100 miles W. by S. of St. Nazaire was attacked three times today by our A/C; and another was bombed once by A/C, about 30 miles to the westward of the first.

Minelaying  
E/Boats  
off Humber.

4. Between 0245 and 0325 today Trawlers off the Humber located E/Boats believed to have laid mines. Three Acoustic Mines have today been detonated in the area by sweepers and one self-detonated, off Spurn Point.

North Atlantic.

Azores.

5. Winter conditions at Angra, Azores are causing serious damage to landing craft and boats, and S.B.N.O. Azores states that unless 3 L.C.Ms. and 2 strong 25 ft. motor boats are shipped in K.M.S.42 the situation will be serious.



29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

T.G.21.12.

6. U.S. Escort Carrier GUADALCANAL and 3 U.S. destroyers sailed from Casablanca this evening to support G.U.S.28.

Mediterranean.

Operation  
"Shingle".

SPARTAN  
sunk.

7a. Harassing fire was continued last night by MAURITIUS and INGLEFIELD on Formia, Castell da Furrata, and road junctions, with only slight opposition from enemy batteries.  
b. In a glider bomb raid in the Anzio area at sunset today, the cruiser SPARTAN was hit aft at about 1800A in 41.26 N. 12.41 E. and sank an hour later.

DIDO and DELHI brought survivors to Naples. The SPARTAN had been ordered on the 27th to report to C.T.F.81 for A/A protection cover duties.

c. U.S. rescue tug ATRI was severely damaged and SS. SAMUEL HUNTINGTON was set on fire (subsequently <sup>p.484</sup>blew up and sank) by enemy air attack in the Anzio area today.

d. C. in C. Med. reports that during sweeping operations 18 I type mines were swept north of Zannone Island by the 12th M.S.F.

8. UPSTART reports that whilst on patrol off the French coast she bombarded a possible seaplane station at the head of the Golfe de la Napoule on 23rd and a seaplane station near St. Raphael Light on 27th.

Adriatic.

9. Coast forces last night sank a small German tanker and a large schooner off Ploce Point (43.30 N. 15.58 E.) and took 8 prisoners.

Aegean  
shipping.

10. The sailing of an enemy convoy or convoys to the Dodecanese or Crete now appears very imminent, according to the Middle East joint intelligence appreciation

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War Diary.

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

11. SS. WALTER CAMP, American, 7176 tons, which left Aden on January 19th for Colombo and Calcutta, is overdue at the former port and from an intercepted distress message is presumed torpedoed and sunk in about 10° N. 71.49 E., at 2332Z/25. DANAE picked up the entire crew of 70 on 31st January.

China.

12. C. in C. India reports that during the week ending 26th January U.S. aircraft operating in China waters sank 3 passenger ships, 5 or 6 freighters and 2 tankers.

America and West Indies.

13. The R.C.N. minesweeper, MAHONE, reported at 0309Z that she had been holed on her port side in collision with the British SS. FORT TOWNSHEND in 45.41 N., 57.55 W. and was in need of assistance. The corvette GALT proceeded to help her and was in touch by 0812Z.

14. A Greek ship (described as YIKATERINI\* - no trace in Lloyds) due at St. John N.B. on Jan. 24th in H.F. 97 has not arrived. Air search on the 26th and 28th produced no result.

\* Should be AIKATERINI T.

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

15. There was a light enemy air raid on shipping off Huon Peninsula this afternoon; one Liberty ship was slightly damaged. A ship was also slightly damaged and had some casualties when near missed by a single Japanese dive bomber off Cape Ward Hunt.

War Diary.29.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

E.G.10. In view of present U/B situation in North Atlantic SPEY, LOSSIE, FINDHORN, ROTHER, and WEAR are allocated temporarily to Western Approaches. (V.C.N.S. 290946A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

Operation J.W.56A. JOSEPH N. NICOLLET returned. Requires  
F.W. repair due to damage.  
Two U/Bs. (W.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 290006A to A.I.G.222.)  
attacked. J.W.56A. All White Sea section arrived Dvina  
Roads. Tanker SAN ADOLFO arrived Iokanka 28th.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 290529A to S.B.N.O. North  
Russia.)

Tanker SAN ADOLFO with Soviet escort sailed Iokanka for  
Kola Inlet 0630A.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 290916A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

C. in C.H.F. 281129A. Intend 26th D.F. to act on the basis  
of A.C.I.105 particularly paras.10, 11 and 13.

2. On reaching vicinity 15 miles ahead of J.W.56B reverse course  
reduce speed, and act on enemy intelligence or as directed by me.

3. Intend ultimately that your night dispositions should be on  
extended screen as in appendix 2 para. 2 to A.C.I.105 although  
it may be impracticable to (?assume) these the first night.

4. In the event of finally becoming major threat codeword "Pack"  
signified ships not hunting U/Bs. close convoy.

5. Appendix 1 (one) to A.C.I.105. (E) (?clockwise) commencing  
position A, MILNE, MAHRATTA, OXLIP, WHITEHALL, WHITEEER,  
WESTCOTT, OPPORTUNE, SCOURGE. Commencing double letter position  
CC. METEOR, CYGNET, SEAGULL, HURON. (F) (b) PINEAPPLE (?yes) /  
(c) No.

6. My P.C.S. at 1000A/29th, 073° 43' N. 009° 00' E. 035° 8½  
knots. Weather 4772 9273.

(Capt. D.3 291102A to Capt. D.26.)

There are D/F indications that convoy J.W.56B has been  
reported by a U/B.

(D.D.I.C.291345A to A.I.G.47.)

Destinations.

1. FORT NORFOLK, FORT CREVECOUR, and EMPIRE TOURIST to Economia.
2. JOHN LA FARGE, HENRY BACON, and ALBERT C. RITCHIE to Molotovsk
3. Remainder to Kola Inlet.

(D.T.D. 291629Z to B.A.M.S.1A.)

D/F activity last transmission at 1459Z/29 indicates that  
convoy J.W.56B. is being shadowed.

(D.D.I.C. 291632A to A.I.G.47.)

Air shadowers during day homing U/Bs. 2 of which were  
sighted and attacked without result. Two U/Bs. now in contact  
one each (?on) starboard bow and starboard beam. My P.C.S.  
1700A, 073° 43' N. 012° 22' E. 091° 8½ knots. Weather 4478 8711.

(Capt. D.3 291807A to Capt. D.26.)

My 281700Z. Further investigation gives no indication  
formed any enemy activity in near neighbourhood.

("Locomotive" 291850Z to Admty.)

Arrived Kola Inlet SAN ADOLFO. S.B.N.O. Archangel's 290916A  
refers.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 292120A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Biscay  
A/S  
operations.

NR.6. Have attacked U/B with depth charges.  
Estimate 1 hit. U/B on surface apparently disabled  
position 47.00 N. 05.38 W.  
(A/C. KVM.11. 290030A to 19 Group). /By...

War Diary.29.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S operations. (Contd.) By D/F at 0026Z U/B within 75 miles of 46.30 N. 17.30 W. (D.D.I.C. 290229A to Escorts S.L.146/M.K.S.37, ENTERPRISE.) Am over enemy S/M. in 47° 01' N. 5° 26' W. Enemy was on surface on course 100, estimated speed 12 knots. (A/C. LLU.30. 290300A to 19 Group.) Have attacked U/B. with depth charge, position 46 59' N. 05 10' W. Apparently U/B. disabled. (A/C. LLU.30 290340 to 19 Group.) Have obtained contact in 46° 51' N. 05° 08' W. (A/C. TYZ.26 290401A to 19 Group.) Am over enemy S/M. in 46° 51' N. 05° 08' W. Enemy was on surface, course unknown. (A/C. TYZ.26 290418 to 19 Group.) Have attacked U/B. with bombs. U/B. was on surface. Estimate no hits. (A/C. TYZ.26 290445A to 19 Group.) Disposition at 292000.

(2) ENTERPRISE 047° 40' N. 018° 05' W. 072° 20 knots.  
 (3) TANTALUS 048° 15' N. 013° 20' W. 180° daily advance 165 miles  
 (4) AJAX 046° 14' N. 016° 00' W. 180° 23 knots.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 291505A to Ships.)  
 C.T.G. 21.13 arrived Casablanca about 4th February and departs about 7th February to operate against reported S/Ms. that may endanger U.G.S/G.U.S. convoys. (D.O.D.H. 291631A to C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.) Am over enemy S/M. in 45° 33' W. 06° 04' W. S/M. was on surface and when first sighted was on course 090° estimated speed 12 knots. (A/C. PGV.12 292106 to 19 Group.) U/B. previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U/B. with bombs. U/B. has dived, position 45° 33' N. 06° 05' W. (A/C. PGV.12 292120 to 19 Group.)

Patrol of North Channel Approaches. E.G.2. Arrived WILD GOOSE. (Cdre. D.W.A. 290321A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Sailed my 281004 plus WILD GOOSE (WREN, MAGPIE.) (Cdre. D.W.A. 290715A to C. in C.W.A.) F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 271659A. Arrived KITE. (F.O.I.C., N.I., 290840A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.) On conclusion of calibration today request you will sail KITE at best speed to join E.G.2 who are complying with my 281534. (C. in C.W.A. 291036A to F.O.I.C. Belfast.) C. in C.W.A. 291036A. Sailed KITE. (F.O.I.C., N.I., 291610A to C. in C.W.A.) Sailed WILD GOOSE in accordance with my 281116. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 281848A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

/V.P...

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

V.P. Operation. Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol A.P. (2) 63. (3) a.m. 30th January or first suitable day thereafter. (4) At the S.O's discretion. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 070° Bressay. (8) No. (A.C.O.S. 291320A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 291412A.) (C. in C. Plymouth 291609A). (V.A. Dover 291613A, 291838A.)

S/M. Patrols. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/30 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SPIRIT as in my 201621. (B) SCEPTRE as in my 281719. (C) SEANYMPH 61° 06' N. 00° 15' W. probably on surface to Lerwick speed 10 knots. (D) STUBBORN approaching Lerwick from N.E. (E) SATYR 61° 38' N. 02° 28' E. diving by day through 62° 01' N. 03° 59' E. to patrol off Stadtlandet. (F.O.S. 291727A to Admty.)  
Proceeding unescorted SATYR left Lerwick 1805A through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 and 0550 00' N. 004° 00' E. thence to patrol vicinity Stadtlandet on the surface at C.O's discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.  
(S.O S/M. Lerwick 291810A to S/Ms.)

Precautions off N.W. Ireland. Sailed CHURCHILL and STUART PRINCE to comply with your 281948. (Cdre. D.W.A. 291753A to C. in C.W.A.)

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy M/V's attacked. Nr. 1. Position and course of one merchant vessel 47° 01' N. 05° 15' W. 300°. (A/C. LLU.30 290200 to 19 Group.)  
NR.1. Position course and speed of 2 M/V 47° 05' N. 05° 30' W. 040, 10, 2000. (A/C. KHR.14. 290218 to 19 Group.)  
Have attacked 7 depth charges. My position is 47° 10' N. 05° W. 10' W. Request instructions. (A/C. KHR.14. 290232A to 19 Group.)  
Over 2 ships 47 00' N. 05 40' W. (corrupt group) 25'. Await instructions. (A/C. KUM.22. 290240A to 19 Group.)

Bristol Channel. Floating mines maybe expected on convoy route Lundy Island. (C. in C. Plymouth 291134A to Convoys.)

Humber. 2 acoustic mines detonated 1st at 0954A 134° N. 14 buoy 1.7 miles 2nd at 1047A 199° H.1 buoy 2.8 miles. (F.O. Humber 291205A, 291731A, 291732A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Mine...

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29.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Humber.  
(Contd.)

Mine self detonated at 1526 to Eastward of Spurn, bearing and distance unknown.

(F.O. Humber 291845A to C. in C. Nore.)

1. Between 0245 and 0325 E-Boats were located by Humber M/S trawlers. At 0245 CHALCEDONY at 58 buoy obtained H.E. to Northeastward and later DANE at 59A buoy reported E-Boats N. and W. of her. No reports received from trawlers at intervening buoys or at H.3 buoy.
2. No other contact was made by surface forces.
4. It appears probable that mines were laid in an area which cannot at present be defined N. of 12A buoy. Q.Z.S. 289, 380 and 314 may be affected. Sweepers have so far detonated three acoustic mines approx. 200 H.1 buoy, 2.8 miles, 200 H.2 buoy 2.7 miles, and 134 14 buoy 1.7 miles.

(C. in C. Nore 291757A to Admt.)

U-Boats.U-Boat  
probably  
sunk by  
BAZELY on  
25th  
November.We congratulate BAZELY on her A/S hunt on 25th Nov 1943, which has been assessed as "Probably Sunk".  
(D.A.U.D. 290931A to BAZELY.)U-Boat  
attacked.Lost touch with U-Boat last seen position 51° 05' N. 16° 19' W.  
(A/C. MBZ.16 291415A to 19 Group.)  
Hunt U/B reported in 51° 07' N. 16° 19' W. Have attacked ? with bombs). Negative contact.  
(A/C. MBZ.26 291455A to 19 Group.)Casualties & Defects.

ORACLE.

H.M. Yacht ORACLE has been seriously damaged by fire. Now extinguished.  
(IRWELL 290050A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)  
My 29005CA. ORACLE has bow settle on the dock bottom listed at an angle of 40° to port.  
(IRWELL 290215A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

VANSITTART.

Intend sailing VANSITTART at 1800/29. E.T.A. Greenock 0800/30.  
(WESTERN ISLES 290941A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Sailed my 290941A.  
(WESTERN ISLES 291800A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)Shipping & Convoys.O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40.(A) 1600Z/25th. (B) 40th E.G. EXE, MOYOLA, VANOC, ARMERIA, PETUNIA, CLARKIA, BUGLOSS, LADY MADELEINE  
Tug STORMKING, KEDOE, CONAMARIAN, BESTIK, EMPIRE KINSMAN, EMPIRE CABOT, ALGORAB.  
(C. in C.W.A. 290457Z.)

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29.1.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40.  
(Contd.)
- 37 ships. Names and destinations.  
(C. in C.W.A. 290511Z to F.O.G.M.A.)  
Inform Commodore SAN RAFAEL, COCHRANE and NORDLYS returning.  
(C. in C.W.A. 291248A to Escorts.)  
EMPIRE BUCKLER returned from O.S.66/K.M.S.40.  
Lost convoy owing to breakdown. LEEDS CITY returned from O.S.66/K.M.S.40. Unable to maintain speed owing to weather and trim.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 291329 to C. in C.W.A.)  
EMPIRE CONRAD returned from O.S.66/K.M.S.40. Unable to contact Convoy. COCHRANE returned from O.S.66/K.M.S.40. Unable to maintain speed owing to weather.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 292032A to C. in C.W.A.)  
If not in touch with convoy return to Campbeltown.  
(C. in C.W.A. 292143A to STORM KING.)
- O.N.222.
- My 262108. For GRIPER read ALLEGIANCE. My 262114 also refers.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 290954A to C. in C.W.A.)  
N.O.I.C. Greenock 290954A. Intend sailing ALLEGIANCE for Merville at 0700A/30th. E.T.A. 1400A.  
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 291151A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
- J.W.57.
- In view of the size of J.W.57 and the importance of providing convoy and carrier with adequate A.A. and surface protection consider one Dido class cruiser should be included in escort.  
(2) Request BLACK PRINCE may be sailed from Plymouth for this duty to arrive Scapa 10th February.  
(C. in C.H.F. 291125A to Admty.)
- H.X.276.
- 79 M/Vs. Names and destinations.  
(D.T.D. 291131A.)
- S.L.146/  
M.K.S.37.
- Proceed forthwith to join S.L.146/M.K.S.37.  
(3) You will be required to escort oiler SCOTTISH AMERICAN (Corrupt Group). S.L.146/M.K.S. to O.S.66/K.M.S.40 on a route which will then be signalled by C. in C.W.A. thence to join C.2 E.G.  
(C. in C.W.A. 291205A to KEATS.)  
My 291205. Detail one escort to proceed with KEATS and SCOTTISH AMERICAN to join O.S.66.  
(C. in C.W.A. 291210A to Escorts O.S.L.146/M.K.S.37.)
- C.U.12.
- C.U.12 outward bound convoy leaves Oversay 1500A 29th. Steering 280° 6 knots.  
(C. in C.W.A. 291304A to Escorts C.U.12.)
- O.N.S.28.
- Sailed SASKATCHEWAN, SKEENA, NAPANEE, BITTERSWEET, EYEBRIGHT, RIMOUSKI, FOREST HILL and NORTHERN GEM for O.N.S.28. PRINCE RUPERT will sail p.m. Sunday to overtake on completion of calibration.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 291405A to A.I.G.196.)

/O.N.221...



War Diary.29.1.1944.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.221. (A) 1500Z/25th. (B) B.2. MOURNE, CLEMATIS, HEATHER, GENTIAN, CHILLIWACK, FUSILIER. Tug SAMSONIA Rescue Ship PINTO. (C) 64. (C. in C.W.A. 291546Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- K.M.F.28A. Admiralty 271809, 281945. 1. Escort (a) from Clyde. PHEASANT S.O. (b) to join in position (R) Cumbrae at 1830A/2nd. UNDINE, CROMBIE Plymouth. ERNE from Londonderry. (C. in C.W.A. 291651A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- S.C.151. Leave Lough Foyle as requisite to join S.C.151 due position A. at 0700Z/30th. Ocean escort FAME. (Cdre. D.W.A. 291728A to HELIER II, AQUAMARINE.)
- K.X.14. A.M. 281925. Para.1. Add H.M.T. TARANA, destination Gibraltar. (D.O.D.H. 291816A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- T.U.7. Convoy T.U.7 will be ready to leave U.K. on 2nd February (Bristol Channel Ships 1st February) comprising the following 24 ships. Names.  
2. Escort will be provided by Task Force 69 U.S.S. ARKANSAS escort oiler KENNEBEC and U.S. Destroyers NELSON, JEFFERS, GLENNON, RHIND, BUTLER, GHERARDI, HERNDON, SHUBRICK, COWIE, KNIGHT, EARLE and DORAN. 4. Admiralty will signal route to New York. (D.O.D.H. 291958A.)

War Diary

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MAYO (Spanish motor vessel) taken in prize. Details of dimensions etc. (S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 291051A).

S/Ms. for Bermuda. Departures Netherlands S/M. O.24, U.S.S. NEUNZER, Italian S/M. DANDOLO, MARIA, G.MAMELI, TITO, SPERI, VORTICE. My 281153Z and 282117Z refer. (F.O.G.M.A., 291059A to Admty. etc.).

T.G.21.12 Sailed in accordance with my 281623. (C.M.S.F., 291746Z). N.T. in W.R.

Air attack on Portuguese CORVO. Ministry of Marine reports that 2 aircraft believed to be American approached Portuguese Armed Escort Ship CORVO in 038 degs. 11' N. 021 degs. 15' W. at 1440 local time 8th Jan. and flashed O.E. repeatedly. (2) Vessel hoisted signal letters and then stopped after several bursts of machine gun fire from aircraft. Aircraft then took no further action. (3) Suggest British and Allied Authorities be informed that Portuguese Merchant Ships:- (A) are not normally informed of Merchant Ships recognition procedure (B) and are not usually provided with signalling lanterns or similar lamps for daytime use. (N.A. Lisbon, 291809 to Admty.).

Attack on U/B. WISHART attacked firm contact in 213 degs. Cape Spartel 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ . (WITHERINGTON, 292022A to F.O.G.M.A.). Carried out second attack, good echo marked high pitch in 212 degs. Cape Spartel 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ , oil slicks from first attack. Suspect delayed explosion was depth charge on bottom. (WITHERINGTON, 291955A to F.O.G.M.A.).

AJAX (from Plymouth). C. in C. Plymouth's 281551A para.(2). S. of A. 20 knots. 13 hours late. Weather report. (AJAX, 292003 to F.O.G.M.A.).

Landing Craft, Azores. Although U.S. have brought 4 L.C.M's, winter conditions at Angra are causing serious damage to all L.C.Ms. and boats. Unloading in Feb. will be continued and unless three L.C.Ms. and two strong 25 feet Motor boats are shipped in ships loading for K.M.S.42 situation will be serious. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 292355Z to Admty.).

War Diary

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation "Tabarin". Your 10911 Dec. WILLIAM SCORESBY and SS FITZROY with "Tabarin" aboard sailed a.m. 29th. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 290945Z to Admty.).

Zig-zagging. Your 281702. (Request you will deal with zig-zagging suspension). Not clear why you desire this, observing that area is south of my "Chop" line. Request further information. (F.O.C.W.A., 291205Z to C. in C.S.A.-).

HIGHLAND MONARCH. Your 271601Z, agree. (2) Presume all are wives of service personnel. If not, (instructions). (D.S.T., 291234A to N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands).

U/B (?false) attacked by French Wellington K.344. Carried out observant round 017 degs. 32' N. 017 degs. 52' W. where aircraft GRBK dropped charges and flares. No result. Am rejoining. Consider aircraft dropped charges on wake caused by 180 degs. twin (?turn) made by MALCOLM. (MALCOLM, 292020Z to N.O.I.C. W. Africa). Dakar reports U-boat attacked by aircraft in 17 degs. 40' N. 18 degs. W. at 1910/29th. U-boat on course of 180 degs. was diving before attacked and turning to 360 degs. Debris observed after attack. (F.O.C.W.A., 292343Z to Admty.). (W.D. Note: See further signal F.O.C.W.Af., 300903Z).

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29.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- T.F.81. Re-encypherment of 343X, addressed ULSTER, from C.S.15. Proceed to Naples at 1830 for fuel returning to bombardment area on completion unless otherwise ordered by C. in C.Med. T.O.O. 271559 (ends.)  
(?Algiers C.C.O. 290100A to C.T.F. 81.)
- PENELOPE. C. in C.Med. 281648 R/V off Mondragone.  
(MAURITIUS 290140 to PENELOPE.)
- Bombing of Hospital Ships. Your 251545. For your guidance, following is position concerning protection of hospital ships:-  
A. There is nothing illegal in hospital ships being escorted by surface ships or aircraft.  
B. Only drawback of providing escort is to increase risk of unintended attack and to make any protest more difficult to substantiate, since attack on the escort is legitimate and presence of an escort may render identification of hospital ship more difficult.  
2. Question whether to sail hospital ships under escort or independently is, therefore, entirely one of policy, the decision depending on balance of risks.  
(Hd. of M.I. Approved 1st Lord 290157A to C. in C.Med. Naples.)
- K.M.S.38 H/F D/F bearing on 4549 k/cs at 0310A within 15 U/B suspected. miles 037° 18' 007° 11' E. bearing 092° being investigated by 2 escorts. Consider doubtful.  
(S.O.E.G. 50 290519.)
- M.K.F.28A. Intend to call U.K. bound convoy consisting of STIRLING CASTLE, ARUNDEL CASTLE and STRATHNAVER M.K.F.28A.  
(F.O.L.E.M. 291225B.)  
Confirmed para. 3A of A.M. 261848.  
2. Escort can be provided from Algiers to vicinity of Gibraltar.  
3. Sailing of M.K.F.28A will depend on provision of Western Approaches Escorts but could take place not less than 36 hours after arrival of K.M.F.28A at Algiers.  
(C. in C.Med. 291738A.)
- R.A.F. Organisation of R.A.F. in Mediterranean and M.E.  
(Air Min. 291319Z.)  
See Lion Copy.
- Relief ships, Piraeus, Agree your 271749 (requesting whether F.O.L.E.M. agrees with German amendments of route for all Swedish relief vessels proceeding to and from Piraeus.  
(F.O.Levant 291332B to Admty.)

/MIRROR...

SECRET

Lim  
Med.  
471A.

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

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

MESSAGE 291319Z/January

OUT

Date: 29.1.44.

To: All Commands at Home and Overseas,  
Dechief,  
RAFDEL (Webber J.795) and Air Officer-in-Charge  
Records Glos.  
26 Group.

Organisation of RAF  
in Medit. & M.E. areas.

CYPHER

From: A.M. Whitehall.

AX. 35. 29 Jan. Secret.

Consequent upon appointment General Eaker as Air C.-in-C.H.A.A.F. and Air Marshal Slessor as Deputy Air C.-in-C. M.A.A.F. and Commander-in-Chief R.A.F. Mediterranean and Middle East the organisation of R.A.F. in these areas as from 1st February 1944 is to be as follows.

2. R.A.F. element of H.Q.M.A.A.F. is to be known by short title of "H.Q.Medme" Advanced or Rear as appropriate to denote that it is the supreme R.A.F. Command for whole of Mediterranean Theatre including Middle East.

3. Headquarters M.A.A.F. will comprise  
(I) A combined U.S.A.A.F. and R.A.F. operations and planning staff.  
(II) H.Q. of the U.S.A.A.F. in Mediterranean.  
(III) H.Q.R.A.F. Mediterranean and Middle East.

4. H.Q.Medme will exercise direct control of all R.A.F. formations in M.A.A.F. except those in the Middle East Commands which it will control through H.Q.R.A.F. Middle East.

5. C. in C. Medme will be responsible for organisation and administration of all R.A.F. formations in Mediterranean and M.E. Theatres but is, subject to his overriding responsibility, authorised to delegate to A.O.C. in C. M.E. such administrative responsibilities as he may decide.

6. Control of establishments will be centralised in H.Q. Medme. If units are transferred from M.E. Command to other formations in M.A.A.F. they will move on standard M.A.A.F. L./E. If transferred to Commands outside M.A.A.F. they will move on Air Ministry basic establishment.

7. There will be a manning control under the B.P.S.O. H.Q. Medme who will deal direct with Air Officer-in-Charge Records and with Base Personnel Detachments in other parts of Medme.
8. Control and allocation of R.A.F. aircraft and re-equipment programmes will be centralised at H.Q. Medme.
9. Central master provisioning control for equipment of all kinds will be set up at H.Q. Medme under a Chief Maintenance and Supply Officer.
10. Control of maintenance and repair will be centralised under C.H.S.O. H.Q. Medme who will delegate responsibility as necessary to H.Q.M.E.
11. Senior Command Accountant Officer and Senior Financial Adviser for Medme will be at H.Q. Medme.
12. In absence of special arrangements normal service channels of command and control will be observed.

291319Z

Received in War Registry at  
1420/30 January.

Circulated by Air Ministry to  
Air Ministry Depts., War Office,  
Colonial Office, Foreign Office,  
India Office, Ministry of  
Aircraft Production and Admiralty.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

1st Lord.  
1st S.L. (2)  
D.F.S.I.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (W)  
P.A.S. (S)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Ops. (2)  
O.D. (5)  
O.I.C. (2)  
D.N.I. (5)

D. of P. (Q) (2)  
D. of P. (3)  
D.C.O.D. (4)  
M. (2)  
W.D.  
I.P. (2)  
Ad. Blako

War Diary.29.1.1944.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

MIRROR (Cable ship) Intended programme, escorted by KERRERA. (V.A.M. 291429.)

PIPINOS. Detach from K.M.S.39 in 035° 10' 01s° 39' at dawn 3rd and proceed independently on surface at 9 knots mean course 099°. 2. Capt. S.1 is requested to arrange onward route. DART pass to PIPINOS. (S.O. S/M Malta 291444 to PIPINOS.)

Damaged merchant shipping. To relieve congestion suggest that possibility of laying up damaged ships elsewhere than Gibraltar should be investigated. My 082046A Jan. refers. (D.T.D. 291723A to C. in C.Med. F.O.G.M.A.)

PAPANICOLIS. Sailed at 1700B/29th to patrol area bounded by lat. 037° 11' and 036° 15' and long. 023° 51' and 025° 00'. Passes through Kaso Straits 2000B/1st and thence south of Christiani. (Capt. S.1 291742B to 1st S/M F.)

M.E.Balkan 406250 0/64785 cypher 29 Jan. Sitrep No. 74. 4. Sea Ops. Athens Agent reports 27 Jan. his Agents had attacked three 100 h.p. diesel driven craft Nos. W.30, 32, 33 originally constructed by Greek Navy for Comm. between Piraeus and Navstahmos. W.32 wrecked in engine room, W.33 sank with loss 1 Greek, 3 Germans bomb intended destroy W.30 discovered before it exploded. (C. in C.M.E. 291900B.)

UPSTART, patrol report. UPSTART reports:  
1. A. At 1117/21 in 168 Cap Camamet 6 miles fired four torpedoes at long range at large westbound tanker, missed.  
B. At 1749/23 bombarded possible seaplane station at head of Golfo de Laonakoule (?la Napoule intended.) 22 hits. C. At 1808/27 bombarded seaplane station in position 250 St. Raphael Lt. one mile. 49 hits.  
2. Many enemy aircraft approaching the coast in the vicinity of Toulon after dusk on 23/24th. Smaller numbers on 26th, 27th. (S.10 291946.)

STORM, search for A/C. My 291059 and my 291832 not to all addressees. Orders to search; bombing restrictions. (S.O. S/MS. Haifa 292005Z, 292016B.)

/UNTIRING...

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29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNTIRING.

Patrol in position 238° J. 41 from 0400/30 or 002° H.20 from 0800/30 until dark. Freedom in westerly direction 21 miles.  
(Capt. S.10 292031A to P.59 (UNTIRING) (R) C. in C.Med.)

Situation Report 285.

1. Operation "Shingle". Enemy air activity on 28th January was on reduced scale. During glider bomb raid at sunset on 29th Jan. SPARTAN was hit aft and subsequently sank.

2. Shore batteries and M/T successfully bombarded by MAURITIUS in Formia area on 28th slight opposition from enemy battery.

3. During sweeping operation 18 I type mines swept north Zannone Island by 12th M/3 F.

4. O.R.P. SOKOL reports sinking 40 ton caique by gunfire on 12th in 036° 30' N. 024° 14' E.  
(C. in C.Med. 292133A.)

U/B attack.

One submarine in 36° 55' N. 11° 50' E. has fired torpedoes.  
(Callsign UTN 292245 to Med. Local.)

SPARTAN sunk.

At dusk today 29th SPARTAN hit aft by glider bomb and sunk off Anzio no further details at present known. DIDO and DELHI bringing survivors to Naples.  
(C. in C.Med. 292258.)



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War Diary.

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SS. WALTER  
CAMP.

SS. WALTER CAMP now overdue Colombo presumed torpedoed and sunk in approx. 010° N. 071° 49' E. at 2332Z/25 from intercepted distress message. Air (?search) of area continues. (C. in C.E.F. 290453Z.)

BANFF.

Your 281539 (not received.) Estimate I can remain on patrol at economical speed for 13 days if proceeding to Aden and 9 days if proceeding to Kilindini estimated from 0500Z/29 and passage to either destination at 9 knots. Oil fuel remaining on arrival would be one days steam at 9 knots plus 50 tons carried as ballast in accordance with Admiralty instructions. Any change in above due to higher speed being necessary will be signalled with position report my 291533Z (not received) part 2 follows. (B.A.N.F.F.), 291520Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

SS. SURADA  
sinking.

In accordance with E.F.716H/71/27.

- (A) ?SURADA
- (B) 1300 N. 55.15 E. 1751Z 26/1/44.
- (C) Submarine appears similar to Japanese one I.4.
- (D) Torpedo. Ship sunk.

- (E) One on starboard side No. two hold, one passed ahead.
- (F) All crew and passengers 103 in number picked up by SS.DARTO landed Aden 29th.
- (G) No.
- (H) Yes, but radiation bad following explosion was not received.
- (I) Boat called alongside submarine. Two officers in conning tower heard speaking German two ratings apparently Japanese on deck. Survivors treated in chivalrous manner offered water and given course and distance to Socotra.
- (J) and (K) Went down with ship in steel safes in 2000 fathoms.
- (N) Master and First Radio Officer.
- (Com. Aden, 291521Z.)

Weekly  
summary of  
events in  
China.  
20th to  
26th Jan.

3. U.S. Air 20th Jan. Hongkong (? Swatow) sea sweep. 2 Liberators sank a 350 ft. passenger boat and a 225 ft. tanker. 23rd from Suichwan 2 Mitchells sank a 400 foot freighter, a 400 ft. tanker and probably sank a 400 ft. freighter. 24th Jan. A Foochow sea sweep 5 Mitchells sank a 250 ft. passenger boat. Lishan Bay. Sank two freighters 275 ft. a 300 ft. passenger boat a 175 ft. cargo ship and damaged a 300 ft. passenger boat. Near Nampang Island. 2 Mitchells sank a 300 ft. Merchant ship. (C. in C. India, No T.O.O.)

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29.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

MAHONE. Have been in collision with FORT TOWNSHEND disabled bad hole port side proceeding to Louisberg my position now is 045° 41' 057° 55'. FORT TOWNSHEND standing by F.R.12 only set working.

(MAHONE, 290309Z to GALT.)

MAHONE reports have been in collision with FORT TOWNSHEND bad hole in my port side proceeding to Louisberg my position 045° 41' N. 057° 55' W., require assistance. Ends.

GALT (? has been) ?sent by SARNIA to assist, my position at 0400Z ?040° (group missing) N. 057° 41' W.

(SARNIA, 290309Z to C. in C. C.N.A., (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B.)

Proceeding to assist MAHONE. My P.C.S. 0500Z/29th 046° 02' N. 057° 45' W., 240°, 15.

(GALT, 290525Z.)

In touch with MAHONE and FORT TOWNSHEND..

(GALT, 290812Z.)

U/B 1200Z/29th. 1 estimated moving south-west  
Estimates. within 150 miles CL VQ.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 291525Z; Cominch, 291547A.)

Greek ship ~~AIKATERINI~~ T (Greek) due St. John N.B. 24th Jan.  
overdue. in H.F.97 has not arrived. Air search on 26th  
and 28th Jan. produced negative results.  
(N.S.H.Q., 291540Z to Admty., etc.)

LA GRANDIERE Request ship be sailed when ready to Navy Yard  
(French Norfolk for installation additional 40 and 20  
Sloop). m.m. guns prior proceeding onward to Noumea.  
Propose she be made available for escort duty  
en route. U.S. Liaison Group is on board.  
(Cominch, 291630Z to Admty.)

Convoy 1. Provided Com. 10th Fleet is agreeable there  
cycles. is no Admiralty objection to advancing sailing  
dates as proposed in your 241730Z but at least  
14 days notice is required by M. of W.T.  
2. It is appreciated that recent bad weather has  
reduced lay over at Newfoundland but it is considered that  
any alteration in sailing dates to assist escorts could best  
be arranged direct between C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. C.N.A. in  
accordance with para. 1.  
(D.T.D., 291946A to N.S.H.Q.)

SS. EMPIRE H.X.276. EMPIRE MANOR after collision with  
MANOR. EDWARD KAVANAGH (U.S.) and finally catching on  
fire broke in two approx. position 44.05 N.  
52.25 W. after part sinking. Escort has been  
instructed to sink fore part which was considered  
unsalvageable. No casualties further signal on landing of  
survivors will follow.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 291947Z.)

/MONTREAL ...

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29.1.1944.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.MONTREAL,  
STORMONT,  
OUTREMONT.

MONTREAL delayed by working up and STORMONT by defects expect to sail MONTREAL and OUTREMONT about 10th Feb. to St. Johns N.F. for H.F D.F. calibration thence to U.K. as additional escorts C.5 or C.3 to be detached by you as desired to join E.G.6. CAPE BRETON may be substituted for either MONTREAL or OUTREMONT. N.S.H.Q. 092235, paras. (B) and (C) refer.  
(C. in C. C.N.A., 291954Z, 301418Z to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE MANOR.

My 281457\* EMPIRE MANOR now sunk.  
(N.S.H.Q., 292044Z.)  
\* H.X.276 EDWARD KAVANAGH (U.S.) and EMPIRE MANOR in collision.

U/B report.  
(? O.N.220)

SS. CHARLES FOLGER reported on rejoining convoy having believed sighted submarine periscope at 1145Z/28th in d.r. position 047° 50' N. 045° 27' W. Weather report 0000 6882 1072 4551.  
(THE SOO (? SAULT STE MARIE intended), 292005Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

O.N.220.

Following 9 ships (names) missing at 2000Z.  
Weather report 0000 6882 1072 4551.  
(W.9, 292030Z.)

Convoy  
C.U.13.

Delay sailing until 1st February.  
(Cominch, 292050Z.)

U/B reports.

Para. C. Army Transport plane sighted craft with low silhouette distant 15 miles 07.10 S. 22.35 W. 281818Z. Plane passed over area without further contact.  
Para. D. SS. SKULL BAR sighted sub. 29 N. 69 W. 290051Z.  
(Cominch, 292115Z.)

T.G. 21.12  
(U.S. Escort  
carrier  
GUADALCANAL  
and 3 U.S.  
destroyers)

C.R. No.1440. 292116. Modify my 202229 so as to operate against reported submarines that may endanger U.G.S. - G.U.S. convoys. Your immediate task is to sink southbound sub. reported position 40 N. 19 W.  
Ref. 202229. Cease operations, your area in time arrive Casablanca about 26th Jan. and depart therefrom about 29th Jan. in time support G.U.S.28.  
(C. in C. Lant, 292116 to C.T.G. 21.12, Info. C. in C. Med., Comnavnav, Comnavau, Admty., etc.)

29.1.1944.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
and sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/29th.

- Para. A. 1. American ship WALTER CAMP torpedoed at 2332/25th in 10° 00' N. 71° 49' E.  
2. Aircraft E/103 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 1147/28th in 53° 15' N. 15° 52' W.  
3. Aircraft D/461 attacked U-Boat at 1200/28th in 52° 41' N. 14° 27' W.  
4. Aircraft G/304 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 2238/28 in 47° 00' N. 05° 38' W.  
5. Aircraft R/172 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0200/29 in 47° 01' N. 05° 26' W.  
6. Aircraft S/502 attacked U-Boat with bombs at 0318/29 in 46° 51' N. 05° 08' W.  
(D.D.I.C., 291055A.)

U/B  
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 291447A, 291451A.)

War Diary

30.1.1944.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation  
"F.W."  
HARDY  
sunk.  
Two U/boats  
sunk.

1(a). Capt. D.3 in MILNE (S.O. Destroyer Escort) reported at 0911A to-day that five or six U/boats and three A/C were near Convoy J.W.56B during last night and that three or four U/boats were then still in touch. At 0430 HARDY was torpedoed and sunk about 60 miles South of Bear Island Capt.(D) 26 being rescued from her by VENUS. No attack developed on the convoy itself.

(b) Capt.(D) 26 later reported the following attacks on U/boats by destroyers escorting J.W. 56B up to 1000/30:-

HARDY 1 possibly sunk (see 28th Jan.) 1 possibly torpedoed.

VENUS 1 possibly sunk, 1 probably damaged.

STORD 1 sunk (the U/boat which sank HARDY).

INCONSTANT, OFFA 1 sunk.

SAVAGE, VIGILANT 1 probably damaged.

(c) C. in C.H.F. has today requested S.B.N.O. North Russia to sail convoy R.A.56 as one Convoy escorted by both R.A. Escort Groups as soon as possible after the arrival of Capt.(D) 3 in North Russia, and C.S.1 in KENT, with BERWICK and BERMUDA, will cover this combined R.A.56 Convoy between 028 degs. and 005 degs. E. keeping his own Force to the westward of 015 degs. East.

South Atlantic.

F.S.D.1.

2. The first Freetown to Dakar Convoy F.S.D.1. sailed today, consisting of 4 Fleet tenders and 3 A.D.C.'s.

Mediterranean.

Anzio  
area.

3(a) C. in C. Med. reported this evening that the weather was excellent and unloading continues satisfactorily.

(b) PENELOPE and INGLEFIELD continued intermittent bombardment of the Formia area.

/German...

30.1.1944.  
Sunday.War DiarySITUATION REPORT.MediterraneanGerman  
attacks on  
Hospital  
Ships.

4. With reference to the attacks on the Hospital ships LEINSTER, ST. ANDREW and ST. DAVID on 24th inst. C. in C. Med. reports that interrogation of a German Air Force Officer prisoner recently shot down has established beyond reasonable doubt that German air crews are ordered not to attack Hospital ships. The inference is that either identifying was difficult or an exceptional type of pilot was guilty. +

5. UNTIRING, on patrol off Toulon attacked a westbound 7,000 ton and a 3,500 ton merchant ship today in 43.08 N. 06.45 E. and estimates 2 hits.

+ On 4th Feb. C. in C. Med. reported that throughout the attacks on the above Hospital carriers the latter were burning full lights in accordance with Geneva Convention. The attacks lasted for over an hour and the enemy used flares.

America and West Indies.

6. CARRABULLE (N.T. in Lloyds), reported at 0355R that she was attacked by submarine in 28.26 N. 79.23 W. and was sinking.

French  
Navy.

7. The Chief of the French Naval Mission in Washington has asked for an aircraft carrier of 23,000 to 26,000 tons, light cruisers or flotilla leaders, destroyers, submarine and other additional naval vessels for the French Navy under the 1944 programme. C. in C. Med. reports that the French Navy is showing gratifying signs of a renaissance and deserves encouragement in consequence. However, no ships are available at present, owing to the general military situation.

Australia and New Zealand.Air attack  
on Hansa  
Bay.

8. A squadron of South-West Pacific Mitchells attacked shipping at Hansa Bay, New Guinea this morning and sank two small freighters and two barges. The escorting Lightnings destroyed a lugger and two loaded barges in Biliau Bay, 15

/ miles....

30.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Air  
attack on  
Hansa Bay.  
(Contd.).

miles south-east Hansa Bay.

Air  
attack on  
Rabaul.

9. 16 Dauntless and 80 Avengers of the South Pacific force escorted by 50 fighters were despatched late this afternoon to attack an aircraft carrier erroneously reported at Rabaul. They attacked other shipping, sinking a freighter and leaving a destroyer and 2 cargo vessels on fire. At least 21 out of 30 enemy fighters which intercepted them were shot down. Two Corsairs and one Avenger were lost.

War Diary.30.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- DEVONSHIRE It has been decided that DEVONSHIRE is to commission using as far as possible Officers and men from NORFOLK.  
(2) On completion DEVONSHIRE will join Home Fleet.  
(1st S.L. 300105A to C. in C. H.F.)
- UNSWERVING. UNSWERVING leaving Scilly Isles at 1100A/2nd Feb. by route Red extended to 012 degs. 54' W. then by route Green to 043 degs. N. E.T.A. in 043 degs. N. 1000A/7th Feb. thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A.  
(Capt. (S) 3, 300951A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- GAMBIA. Sailed GAMBIA 1023A/30th in accordance with my 281651.  
(3) E.T.A. 1600A/2nd.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301116A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- TANTALUS Request extension Brown 4 until 2300A/31st. E.T.A. 043 degs. N. at 2200A/31st. Making good 155 miles per day.  
(TANTALUS, 301915A to F.O.S.)

Operations.

- Biscay A/S Operations. Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. 24' N. 5 degs. 53' W. at 0200.  
(A/C P.G.V.19, 300204 to 19 Group)  
Am over enemy S/M in 47 degs. 20' N. 6 degs. 20' W.  
(A/C P.G.V.22, 300213 to 19 Group)  
Am over enemy S/M in 47 degs. 33' N. 6 degs. 24' W. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 270 degs. estimated speed 15 knots.  
(A/C P.G.V.22, 300215 to 19 Group)  
Have attacked U-Boat with bombs. U-Boat was on surface. U-Boat on surface position 47 degs. 33' N. 06 degs. 30' W. apparently disabled. Returning to base, fuel.  
(A/C P.G.V.22, 300250A to 19 Group)  
Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. 43' N. 6 degs. 24' W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge and when first sighted was on course 270 degs. estimated speed 12 knots. Attack abandoned.  
(A/C P.G.V. 19, 300330 to 19 Group)  
U.S.S. CROATAN escorted by 4 U.S. destroyers operating in vicinity of 044 degs. 01' N. 030 degs. 01' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 301259A to Cominch)  
Disposition at 302000.  
(1) TANTALUS 045 degs. 37', 013 degs. 20', 18 degs, daily advance 165 miles.  
(2) ENTERPRISE 049 degs. 35' 011 degs. 30' 086 degs. 18 knots.  
(3) GAMBIA 049 degs. 25', 008 degs. 43' through 049 degs. 17' 010 degs. 03' and 049 degs. 10' 013 degs. 55', 244 degs. 22 knots  
(4) U.S. Seaplane tender HUMBOLDT 048 degs. 01' 015 degs. 59' 180 degs. 16 knots.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301540A to Admty.)



War Diary.

30.1.1944.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S  
Operations.  
(Contd.)

C.T.G. 21.12 has been told to operate against South bound submarine reported position 29th Jan. 40 degs. N. 19 degs. W. and any S/M that may endanger U.G.S./G.U.S. convoys.  
(2) A.M. 211145 refers.  
(D.O.D.(H), 302005A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation  
F.W.  
HARDY  
Sunk.  
Two U/Bs  
damaged.

My 272358 para. 4 Anticipate ship will dock at Rosta on 4th February.  
(2) Estimated date of completion 9th February.  
(3) Consider that if OBDURATE does not return to U.K. with an R.A. convoy she should do so in company with another destroyer.  
(4) I would appreciate an early direction for R.A.56 in particular whether it will now sail as one convoy. By 3rd Feb. final ship will be ready to sail. Speed  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 300808A to C. in C. H.F.)

5 or 6 U-Boats and 3 A/C in vicinity of convoy during the night.  
3 or 4 U-Boats still in touch.  
HARDY torpedoed and sunk at 0430. Capt. (D) 26 on board VENUS.  
U-Boat blown to surface by STORD but may not have been sunk.  
One U-Boat probably sunk by STEVENSTONE and INCONSTANT.  
No attack developed on convoy.  
P.C.S. at 0800A, 073 degs. 43' N. 020 degs. 42' E. 090 degs. 9.  
Weather 9190 8509.  
(Capt. D.3, 300911A to H.F.)

Convoy will alter course after dark today to pass through new position Y which is 222 degs. 38 miles from K. Thence through position MU.

(C. of W. 301018Z to B.A.M.S.)

(1) Request you sail R.A. 56 as one convoy as early as practicable after arrival of Capt. (D) 3rd D.F. who should be consulted as to date and maximum number of ships which can be included.

(2) Both R.A. escort groups should accompany convoy.  
(C. in C. H.F. 301055A to S.B.N.O. NorthRussia)  
Report how many ships in R.A. 56 would have to be omitted to maintain speed (A)  $9\frac{1}{2}$  (B) 9 knots.  
(C. in C. H.F. 301157A to S.B.N.O. NorthRussia)  
Your 301157. 39 ships are capable of convoy speed of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots.

(2) One further ship is expected to maintain this speed if propeller repairs are satisfactory.  
(3) (corrupt group) crane ship EMPIRE BARD has speed of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  knots. M. of W.T. has made repeated requests for the return of this ship stressing the importance of further duties required of her. My 121212 refers.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 301756A to C. in C. H.F.)

Force 1 is to proceed so as to cover convoy R.A.56 during its passage between meridian 028 degs. E. and 005 degs. E. keeping to westward of 015 degs. E.

(E) On completion KENT and BERWICK proceed Scapa, BERMUDA proceed Hvalfiord.

(C. in C. H.F. 301919A to C.S.1)

War Diary.

30.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M. SPIRIT is to leave patrol for Lerwick at 0600A/1st  
Patrols. by route "Pink" proceeding dived by day when N.  
of 062°.

(Capt. S.9. 300929A to S/Ms.)

Request you will sail S/Ms. from Lerwick as follows:- (1) TRUSTY at 0900A/1st through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and route "Grey" to 064° 52' thence dived to patrol line HH proceed diving by day when N. of 062°. (2) (TRADE WIND) at 1000A/1st through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 and route "Orange" to 070° 38' thence direct to patrol position T.7 and T.8 (F.O.S) 271839 refers). Proceeding on the surface at C.O's discretion until within 50 miles of Norwegian coast. (3) TAKU at 0900A/2nd through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 thence through (X) 061° 13' 00' 50' (Y) 060° 42' 00' 20' (Z) 059° 08' 00' 00' to patrol in accordance with S.M. 0438/657 dated 21st January.

(Capt. S.9. 301135A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)

Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/31st and Movements for the following 24 hours. (A) SPIRIT leaves patrol vicinity 63° 28' N. 01° 10' E. 0600/1st through 61° 59' N. 00° 38' W. dived by day when N. of 62° N. (B) SCEPTRE off Kya. (C) SATYR off Stadlandet.

(F.O.S. 301824A to Admty.)

SATYR is not to proceed S. of line joining Western point of Sando Island and Kvitenoës Point owing to possibility of enemy mining.

(F.O.S. 301911A to S/Ms.)

Operation Intend to carry out operation "Bellpush C" tonight  
"Bellpush C". (Cdre. Force "J" 300959A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Engagement of Gravelines. One M class M/S damaged. M.T.B.418 damaged. Coastal batteries engaged. South Foreland Lighthouse damaged.

Yesterday, in anticipation of the possible movement Westward of a 360 foot Sperrbrecher\* located in Dunkirk, M.T.Bs. were disposed as follows:- M.T.Bs. 236, 240 and 203 supported by M.T.Bs. 417 at "V" Buoy to attack off Gravelines in conjunction with Albacore A/C which were, however, prevented from co-operating by unfavourable weather. M.T.B's 361, 207, 205 and 211 supported by M.T.B's 708 and 721 at number seven Buoy to attack off Wissant under cover of fire from coastal batteries. 2. At 1940 shore-based Radar detected one large and at least six small vessels five miles W. of Dunkirk proceeding Westward at 8 - 10 knots. Plots were signalled in the normal manner and at approx. 2051 M.T.B's 236, 240 and 203 sighted the enemy. At approx. 2055 each M.T.B. fired two torpedoes; 236 and 240

from 1500 yards, and 203 from 800 yards. No hits were observed although 203 reports hearing an explosion. All boats then came under heavy fire, but only M.T.B's 203 and 240 sustained slight superficial damage, and there were no casualties. 3. M.T.B's 417 and 418 sighted the enemy at 2120 and having illuminated A.M. class minesweeper with star shell heavily engaged her with gun fire. She was seen to be on fire, an explosion was seen on board, and the vessel observed stopped. Hits were also observed on two E/R boats. M.T.B's withdrew under heavy fire and M.T.B 418 sustained considerable hull damage, but neither boat incurred any casualties. 4. Our coastal batteries engaged at 2154 when the enemy were just West of Calais and fired 34 rounds

\*  
Sperrbrecher  
32  
(MUR)

War Diary.30.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagement of fifteen inch and seventy eight rounds on nine off point two inch, but make no claims.

Gravelines. 5. M.T.Bs.207 and 211 lost contact with 361 and One M class 205 at 2120 and failed to intercept. M.T.Bs. 361 M/S damaged. failed to sight the main target and fired both M.T.B.418 torpedoes from 2,000 yards using director angle damaged. and firing course obtained by own ship's Radar. Coastal M.T.B. 205 closed to about 1,500 yards and fired batteries two torpedoes by visual. No hits claimed. It engaged. is considered that these M.T.Bs. were not detected South by the enemy, and they withdrew without being Foreland engaged. 6. Enemy batteries in the Sangatte and Lighthouse Cap Griz Nez areas replied with about 30 rounds, damaged. most of which fell to the East of Dover, some in (Contd.) the South Foreland area. Damage was caused to the South Foreland Lighthouse, and also to R.A.F. Swingate, where there were about eleven casualties to W.A.A.F. personnel, two of them fatal. There was also some damage to Military premises, including a Radar Station, in the South Foreland area, but no Military casualties.

7. Enemy increased speed to twelve to thirteen knots after passing Gap Blanc Nez. Two out of three Albacores of 415 Squadron flown off to intercept off Berck-Sur Mer attacked with bombs claim near misses on one or more of the escorts.

8. My 301108A refers.  
(V.A. Dover 301104A to Admty.)

M/V STUBBORN reports. 26th Jan. 1055 P.C. and S. 065° attacked 37' N. 010° 50' E. 250° and 235° 7½ knots, 2500 by STUBBORN tons ship with one trawler. Attacked with 4 on 26th torpedoes. 2 hits claimed. Result not observed. January. No counter attack.  
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick 301111A to F.O.S.)

Coastal (C. in C. Plymouth 301303).(C. in C. Portsmouth Force 301446). (V.A. Dover 301542A.) Patrols.

"Hardtack Carry out "Hardtack 23" tonight. 23". (V.A. Dover 301311A to M.T.B.25, Commando 10.)

M/V SEA NYMPH report:- 1. Owing to bad weather and attacked low visibility unable to enter leads until 24th by January. 2. 25th January 1115, P.C.S. of 1000- SEA NYMPH 1500 ton passenger ship and 1 trawler 066° 43' N. on 25th 013° 08' E. 204° 8 knots. Attacked with 4 January. torpedoes range 2,000 yards. Missed. Torpedo not heard to explode. No counter attack.  
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick 301627A to F.O.S.)

S.C. My 282300. Position at 1900A today. S.C. HIERA Operation. returning, 060° 26' N. 000° 28' course 228° speed 16 knots. 2. Operation not completed.  
(A.C.O.S. 302031 to Admty.)

War Diary.30.1.1944.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Trawler  
attacked.Have attacked trawler with two depth-charges each  
0435 mins.  
(A/C. MXP.12 300507A to 19 Group.)Casualties & Defects.

VANSITTART.

Clyde arrival VANSITTART.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 300856A to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES)  
C. in C.W.A. 281325A. Report of damage as far as  
can be seen. Details. Vessel requires docking  
and no firm is prepared to undertake at Greenock.It is considered ship is not fit to proceed away from the Clyde  
area.

(E.R.O. (C) Greenock 301658A to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

ALONSO,  
IRANIAN.ALONSO H.887 overdue since Jan. 29th but had  
provisions until Jan. 25th. Last seen Jan.13th in  
approx. 5 miles E.N.E. of 62F Buoy. S/T IRANIAN  
overdue since Jan.20th, fishing same area. A/C.  
searches of mine barrier 27th Jan. failed to trace  
vessels.

(F.O. Humber 301140 to Admty.)

STRATHELLA.

Your 30103A. STRATHELLA sailed from Oban 2nd Jan.  
to Loch Ewe for onward routing to Iceland. Crew  
list cannot be supplied, but following movements  
of ratings took place whilst vessel was at Oban.  
Names.

(N.O.I.C. Oban 301439A to EUROPA.)

PRINCESS  
ASTRID.  
Sabotage.PRINCESS ASTRID has reported damage to star-board  
HP turbine pinion and wheel caused by  $\frac{3}{4}$ " bolts and  
a short length of stud iron being placed in the  
quadrant geared rack. Considered that this is  
definitely sabotage.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 301726A to D.N.I.)

L.C.A.845  
lost.During exercise "Pheasant" on Sat. 29th Jan. LCA  
No.845 became waterlogged through stress of weather.  
Her Personnel were taken on board MMS.74 and she  
was taken in tow but eventually sank in 56° 5' 27"  
N. 2° 53' 12" W. Request Salvage be attempted  
if considered possible in her depth of water, atthis position approx. 23 fathoms.  
(G.S.1 301812 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

T.I.D.42.

Tug EMPIRE CHARLES arrived off Gt. Yarmouth Haven  
at 1452 to-day and reported T.I.D.42 ashore 4 miles  
from Haven entrance. Chief Salvage Officer in tug  
GEORGE JEWSON located casualty ashore E. side of  
South Scroby Sands and reports T.I.D.42 wellaground. Attempt will be made at daylight tomorrow to lay out  
wires for refloating. As far as can be ascertained T.I.D.42 was  
cast adrift from tug EMPIRE CHARLES at approx. 1200 in vicinity

War Diary.

30.1.1944.  
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

T.I.D.42.  
(contd.)

of Corton Sands T.I.D.43 going aground at approx.  
2 hours before high water.  
(F.O.I.C. Gt.Yarmouth 301841A and 311645A to  
C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.28.

Sailed PRINCE RUPERT to overtake O.N.S.28.  
(Cdre. D.W.A. 301639A to Admty.)

487

War Diary.30.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.U/B  
attacked.

Nr.1. Investigate depth charge attack by surface vessel position 35° 36' N. 06° 09' W. (A/C C/S LRCX, 301105A to Air H.Q. Gib.)  
 Nr.1. Have A.S.V. contact position 35.40 N. 05.53 W. probably U-Boat. Have attacked U/B with bombs. Result uncertain. (A/C C/S F4GL, 301145A.)

TANTALUS.

Route to Gibraltar. Asking for submerged bombing restrictions. (F.O.G.M.A., 301127A cancelled and superseded by 302331A.)

Proceed diving by day 165 miles comprising 24 hours through (P) 040° N. 013° W. at 0010/2nd Feb. (Q) 039° 40' N. 009° 50' W. at 2330A/2nd thence to anti U-Boat patrol between latitude 039° 30' and 039° 40' N. and between meridian 009° 50' W. and Portuguese coast.

2. Information of submerged bombing restrictions arranged.

(F.O.G.M.A., 301129A as amended by 302333A to TANTALUS.)

Following was transmitted under T.O.O. 301129 to TANTALUS and is passed to you for information. Begins. (as message). Ends.

(F.O.G.M.A., 301135A to Admty., F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., S.10, S.3, C.M.S.F., C. in C. Med., Cominch, H.Q.C.C.)

Informing addressees of amendment 302333A.

(F.O.G.M.A., 302357A to Admty., F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., S.10, S.3, C.M.S.F., C. in C. Med., Cominch, H.Q.C.C.)

GAMBIA.

Onward route to Gibraltar.  
 2. P.Vs. are to be streamed before crossing 007° W.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 301201A to GAMBIA.)

S.L.147/  
M.K.S.38.

Arrangements for R/V &c.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 301531A.)

South Atlantic.

? attack  
 on U/B  
 by French  
 Wellington  
 K.344.

My 292343. "From aircraft's report U-Boat was sighted 5 miles N.W. of convoy on surface speed 10/12 knots on course of 180° and crash dived on being sighted, turning to 360° and leaving an oil streak. Wellington aircraft circled twice then dropped four 250 pound depth charges from fifty

/feet ...

War Diary.30.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

? attack  
on U/B  
by French  
Wellington  
K.344.  
(Contd.)

feet all of which fell in track of U-Boat. Pool of oil and much black debris seen floating in area".  
MALCOLM's report says "Consider aircraft dropped charges on wake caused by 180° turn made by me". Consider report reliable.  
(F.O.C.W.Af., 300903Z.)

CENTAURE  
(French S/M)

Arrangements for sailing from Dakar 1800/5th Feb. to Bermuda.  
(Comar Dakar, 301141Z. See amendment 311115Z.)

Convoy  
F.S.D.1.

2. 1800/30th. 3. Knots 8. 4. Fleet tenders 3, 16, 19, 21. A.P.C.67, 73, 75 for Dakar.  
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 301543Z.)

U/B  
reports.

By D/F on 10525 k/cs at 1617Z/30. Position of German U-Boat was approx. 23° S. 63° E.  
(D.D.I.C., 301831A.)  
Following received from B.R.L.O. Santos. "Master FORT ASSINIBOINE reports as follows: Sighted submarine position 023° 41' S. 042° 37' W. at 1010 G.M.T./31st. Periscope and part of conning tower seen by Chief Officer and 3 gunners in close proximity to 2 masted fishing boat. Submarine submerged on approach of ship". U.S. Authority here informed.  
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 302026Z.)

War Diary.30.1.1944.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.U/B.  
reports.

PARRETT reports:- H/F D/F B barred sign received on 4444 at 0737 estimated within 100 miles bearing 350°. Ends. My position 33.01 N. 20.10 E. (AMETHYST 300740B.)

One submarine submerged in 39.59 N. 13.35 E. based on estimate.

(GLOIRE, 300815Z.)

Air  
H.Q.  
E. Med.

Air H.Q. Eastern Mediterranean forming at Alexandria on 1st Feb. 1944 and with effect same date 201 Group and Air Defences Eastern Med. cease to exist. (H.Q.M.E. 300907Z.)

KANARIS.

Your 291852 to ALDENHAM. KANARIS, BELVOIR, ALMANZORA in 037° 07' N. 004° 47' E. 0930A/30th. Course 270 S. of A. 14½ knots. Request codeword and call sign. (KANARIS 300930A to C. in C. Med.)

French  
request  
for  
ships.

The situation with regard to the ships already handed over or intended to be handed over to the French is not sufficiently clear for me to give a considered opinion. Your 272247.

2. I desire to point out, however, that the French Navy is showing gratifying signs of a renaissance and deserves encouragement in

consequence.

3. It appears that the British manning situation is by no means healthy and it is possible therefore that the granting of some of the French requests would relieve our difficulties in this respect.

4. Action in accordance with para. 5 of my 281602 not to Cominch would have the effect of reducing the number of seagoing ships and it would at least be desirable to provide sufficient vessels to keep the personnel of the paid off ships employed at sea.

(C. in C. Med. 301008A to B.A.D.)

PIPINOS.

Detach from K.M.S.39 in 035° 10' 016° 39' at dawn 3rd and proceed independently on surface at 9 knots mean course 99° Capt. S.I. is requested to arrange onward route. DART pass to PIPINOS. (S.O.S/Ms. Malta, 301030A to PIPINOS)

Operation  
"Shingle".

Expected percentage bombardment ammunition remaining 0700/31 PENELOPE 30% INGLEFIELD Nil. (PENELOPE, 301645A to C. in C. Med. in Naples.)

1. My 292258. SPARTAN was hit in 41° 26' N. 12° 41' E. about 1800A/29th and sank about 1900A.

32 officers including C.O., one Army Officer, 496 ratings survivors arrived Naples in DIDO and DELHI.

2. A.T.R. one sunk in air attack on 29th. SS. SAM HUNTINGTON set on fire.

(damaged, see 311819)

/3. ...



30.1.1944.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle".  
(Contd.)

3. Weather excellent. Unloading continues satisfactorily.

4. Intermittent bombardment of Formia area continued by PMNELOPE and INGLEFIELD.  
(C. in C. Med. at Naples 301754A.)  
The signal "SPARTAN sunk" was made in S.P. 02193(43) (Fleet code) and passed on M.A. broadcast from Malta. It is possible, therefore, that the enemy is in possession of this information.  
(C. in C. Med. at Naples, 301952A.)  
Yesterday enemy air losses 1 certain, 1 probable, 1 damaged.  
(C. in C. Med., at Naples, 301755A to C.T.F.81.)

LA GRANDIERE. Cominch's 291630 request you will take necessary action.  
(D.O.D.(F) 301708A to C. in C. Med.)

SPORTSMAN. Sailed at 1645/30th through Scarpanto Straits to patrol in North Aegean between latitude 037° 36' and 038° 59'.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 301736B to F.O.L.E.M.)

UNTIRING. If you are forced to return to Maddalena unexpectedly keep West of line passing 042° 36' 006° 46' 042° 06' 007° 48', 041° 30' 008° 15' thence by QBB.312. Several reports of enemy S/MS to east of this line.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 301753A to UNTIRING.)

1st S/M F. Following received from F.O.(S) Begins:-  
In view of the material and administrative matters involved, it is requested that C. in C. Med. may be asked whether it is intended to base the 1st S.M.F. permanently at Malta and what will be the status of the present base at Beirut.  
281551A.  
2. Request your remarks.  
(Admty., 301832A to C. in C. Med.)

Hospital ships. Special interrogation of (incomplete group) of a H.E. 177 recently shot down has established beyond reasonable doubt that German air crews are ordered not to attack ships. The officer in question resents implication that any such attacks have been deliberate Ref. A.M. 290157. \*  
2. Inference is either identifying was difficult or exceptional type of pilot was guilty.  
(C. in C. Med. 301844A to C. in C. Med. at Naples.)\*Repetition being obtained.

Greek L.S.T.37. Not considered worth salvage. My 191507\* refers. All moveable fittings being salvaged as weather permits.  
(C. in C. Med. 302002.) \* 191507/1. Greek L.S.T 37 is badly holed and salvage impracticable at present.

War Diary

30.1.1944.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly  
U-boat  
disposition  
No.22.

Area B. American aircraft report possible S/M.  
sighting in 022 degs. North 061 degs. 05' E. at  
0947Z/29 graded B.3. Scale air escort remain X.  
Other area no fresh information. No change of  
scale air escort.  
(C. in C.E.F., 300359Z).

U/boat  
reports.

U-boat reported by A/C in 17.31 N. 55.35 E.  
at 0740 course 090 degs. speed 10 knots.  
(A/C C/S S7W, 300735Z).  
U-boat reported by aircraft in 18 degs. 48' N.  
58 degs. 02' E. at 1030Z/30 course 180 degs.  
(A/C, C/S J93, 301218Z).

K.15

Intend to sail K.15 p.m. 1st Feb. to comply with  
C.T.F. 71 271537 December not to all addressees.  
(N.T. in W.D.) S. of A. 8 knots.

(2) S/M will reconnoitre Benkolen 10th Feb.  
patrol Sunda Straits from 13th to 17th, reconnoitre Christmas  
Island 20th and pass through position 15 degs. 01' S. 109 degs.  
01' E. about 0400Z/22nd thence proceeding direct to Exmouth  
Gulf to arrive 0030Z/25th February.

(3) K.15 has been ordered to report her E.T.A. at Exmouth Gulf  
if it should differ by more than two hours from 0030Z/25th.

(4) to (7) Communications.

(S.O. S/M's., Colombo, 300547Z).

War Diary.

30.1.1944.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

SS. ANDES. E.T.A. Ambrose L.V. 021000Z. Require Lloyd surveyor for sea damage. (T.A.86A 300033Z.)

SS. FORT TOWNSHEND. With general cargo and passengers service personnel destination St. Johns N.F. arrived Louisburg 1930Z/29 Jan. from H.J. 79 after collision with MAHONE in 45.41 N. 57.55 W. at 0200Z/29 Jan, details of damage to FORT TOWNSHEND. (N.C.S.O.Sydney 300137Z.)

Escort of L.S.I.(L)s. (D. of P.(Q) 300210A.)  
Note: Cancelled by 012310A Feb.

CARRABULLE. Intercept from Barbados from KDER.\*  
Submarine attack 28.26 N. 79.23 W. request assistance immediately, ship sinking. (Kingston, Jamaica 300355R.)  
\* CARRABULLE.

O.N.S.27. Your 300147Z\* and your 300154Z\*. Following ships are not in company NORSE LADY, FASTNET, PACIFIC, MAUD, ARMATHIA, BONNAIRE and VANDE VELDE. (S.O.W.3 301221Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)  
\* N.T. in W.R.

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 301410Z, Cominch 301628Z.)

U/B report. First report. Since my 040454Z\*. Para. D. CHARLES FOLGER reports periscope at 1145Z/28 in 47.50 N. 45.27 W. (N.S.H.Q. 301517Z.)  
\* Attack and sighting summary.

French Naval Personnel. Your 272247Z. Proposals for employment.  
4. Suggest that Chief of French Naval Mission should be informed that though specific requests in your para. 1A and B cannot be agreed to at this stage, proposals for the employment of such French naval personnel as are available will be considered subsequently.  
5. C. in C.Med's 281602 also refers. (A.C.N.S.(F) 301603A to B.A.D.)

Circling Torpedoes. Information has been received from the Mediterranean that the Germans are using circling torpedoes without the self destructor pistol. This type torpedo on reaching end of its run may stay afloat for several days with but a small part of its warhead showing above surface. It would then

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Circling Torpedoes. (Contd.) act as a sensitive drifting contact mine. Mediterranean Forces were warned that after an air raid on a port in which circling torpedoes are suspected that a sharp lookout must be maintained especially by W.Sy. local defence vessels underway. (C. in C.Lant 301620.)

Stragglers Report. Stragglers arrived week ending 29th January 28th (U.S.) EDWARD KAVANAGH H.X.276 collision damage. 29th (U.S.) BLENHEIM O.N.S.27 lost convoy leak in forward tank. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 301723Z.)

Fuelling at sea. Re compliance with instructions by oilers. (D.T.D. 301830A.)

U/B sighting & attack summary. SS. CHARLES J.FOLGER sighted periscope 47.50 N. 45.27 W. 281145Z. U.S.S. TOMICH attacked sound contact 34.12 N. 11.15 W. about 291647Z. (Cominch 302015Z.)

T.G.21.14. C.R. No. 1584. Position 46.12 N. 30.34 W. course 204 speed 14 at 0134Z/31 plan search through 44 N. 32 W. again monday. (C.T.G. 21.14 302330.)

O.N.S.27. H.M.C.S. BROCKVILLE detached from O.N.S.27 at 2150Z proceeding to Halifax with one rating emergency cot case. O.N.S.27 P.C. and S. at 2150Z 044° 57' N. 060° 05' W. 243° 8. My course and speed 322° altering to 294° in 044° 56' N. 062° 19' W. 14. E.T.A. No. 6 lightship 0620Z/31st. No defects. Acknowledge. (BROCKVILLE 302334Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/30. Para. A. 1. H.M. Ships sighted and attacked two U-Boats on 29th Jan. in about 73° 45' N. 12° 00' E.  
2. Halifax U/502 sighted U-Boat on surface, course 090° and attacked with bombs at 2006/29th Jan. in 45° 33' N. 06° 04' W.  
3. Halifax L/502 sighted U-Boat on surface, course 270° and attacked with bombs at 0113/30th Jan. in 47° 33' N. 06° 24' W.  
5. Halifax M/502 reported U-Boat on surface, course 270° which submerged at 0117/30 in 46° 43' N. 06° 14' W.  
Para. B. 1. WISHART and WITHERINGTON attacked firm contact twice at 1922/29th Jan. in about 35° 45' N. 06° 00' W.

/Para. D....

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack  
& sighting  
summary.  
(Contd.)

Para. D. 1. Dakar A/C reports attacking U-Boat  
sighted on course 180° which dived before attack  
and altered course to 360° at 1910/29th Jan.  
in 17° 40' N. 18° 00' W.  
MALCOLM considers U-Boat attack was made on her  
wake when she altered course at 1910/29th Jan. in  
17° 40' N. 18° W.  
(D.D.I.C. 301145A as amended by 311025Z.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 301516A, 301517A.)

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Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
F.W.

U.314 sunk

1(a) At 0800A today Convoy J.W.56B was about 120 miles N.E. of the North Cape and was intact. At 1700A Capt. D.3 reported that the Convoy had been shadowed all day yesterday by A/C and U-Boats and that one U-Boat may have been sunk or damaged by Capt. D.26 in VENUS with METEOR and WHITEHALL. Further U-Boat attacks with torpedoes were made after dark last night but were all beaten off and only two U-Boats appeared to be near the Convoy at daylight today. All the officers of HARDY were saved yesterday but about forty of her ratings are lost.

(b) C. in C. H.F. has ordered that M/Vs. not capable of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots convoy speed are to be excluded from Convoy R.A.56.

Biscay A/S  
operations.

2. The 2nd Escort Group with the Escort Carriers ACTIVITY and NAIRANA were ordered today to proceed for A/S operations to the western Biscay Approaches, where the U.S. Escort Carriers CARD and CROATAN with five and four U.S. destroyers respectively were operating today.

Convoy  
C.W.243  
attacked,  
PINE,  
EMERALD and  
CALEB  
SPRAGUE  
sunk.

3. At 0123 today while approaching C.2 Buoy (S.E. of Beachy Head) Convoy C.W.243 was attacked by three groups of E-Boats, one of which, attacking from the inshore side of the Convoy, torpedoed and sank the M/Vs. EMERALD and CALEB SPRAGUE and also torpedoed the Escort Trawler PINE which sank at 1325 while in tow off Selsey Bill. The other two groups were driven off.

M.T.B.  
Patrol  
shelled.

4. A patrol of four M.T.Bs. off Fecamp was accurately shelled during last night by the enemy coastal batteries, but suffered no damage.

U-Boat sunk  
by STARLING  
and WILD  
GOOSE.  
U.592 sunk

5. The Sloops STARLING and WILD GOOSE of E.G.2 attacked and sank one U-Boat at 1330A today about 450 miles West of Lands End.

Mediterranean.Operation  
"Shingle".

6(a) C. in C. Med. reported this evening that fighter direction and air warning system was now established. The weather continues excellent and unloading progresses well.

/(b) ...

496  
100  
31.1.1944.  
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Operation  
"Shingle".  
(Contd.)

(b) The cruisers have been withdrawn from the Anzio area to Naples, where they will remain under the orders of C.S.15, available for gun support if called for. PENELOPE returned to the Anzio area and gave fire support on the left flank of the Army.

7. UNTIRING, on patrol off Toulon reports that she probably sank by torpedoes this morning two 500 ton coasters.

East Indies.

U-Boats.

8(a) The tanker KONGSDAL reports that she has picked up in 08.19 N. 66.40 E. (400 miles S.W. of the Laccadive Islands) 8 survivors from SS. FORT BUCKINGHAM (Bombay for Durban) which was torpedoed at midnight 20th January.

(b) Socotra today intercepted an S O S which mentioned 56 survivors in three lifeboats, probable position south of Socotra. The call sign was corrupt but is thought by Com. Aden to be that of SS. FORT LA MAUNE which left Aden on 22nd January and could have been within 20 miles of two known sinkings off Socotra on 26th January.

(c) There are indications that a U-Boat is moving into the Gulf of Aden. Two sightings reported yesterday by aircraft off the Arabian coast are considered improbable by C. in C. E.F. The Arabian coast is thought to be free of U-Boats.

America and West Indies.C.U.  
Convoys.

9. Convoy C.U.15 (Curacao to U.K. tanker convoy) is to sail on 21st February and succeeding C.U. convoys at 9 days' intervals. C. in C. Lant will provide the additional escort group required by the decreased sailing interval. Commencing with C.U.16 the total of 30 ships recently established for these convoys is abolished and the figure of 24 will be re-established.

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Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Landing in  
Marshall Is.

10. It is reported by B.A.S. Washington that U.S. forces landed today in the Marshall Islands at Roi (Kwajalein Atoll) and "in the south at Enylabelan".

*Dutch New  
Guinea.*

*Attempted Japanese landing frustrated (see W.I.R. 205/15).*



31.1.1944.  
Monday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

CROWLIN. CROWLIN is required to arrive Milford Haven by 12th March for onward routing to Med. F.O.I.C. Humber's 281430 refers.  
(D.M.S. 311805A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

Operations.

S.C. My 282300 and 302031A.  
Operation. Returned 2315A/30th.  
(A.C.O.S. 310021A to Admty.)

U-Boat sunk My 281534 and my 261140. Do not join O.S.66, from  
by STARLING 050° N. 018° W. proceed area A to operate against  
and WILD U-Boats on passage. Most profitable area thought  
GOOSE. to be between 044° 30' N. to 046° 30' N. and 018°  
U. 592 sunk W. to 019° W.  
(C. in C.W.A. 310033A to E.G.2, ACTIVITY, NAIRANA,  
KITE.)

E.G.2 in contact with submarine in 050° 33' N. 017° 33' W. Weather  
9072 2047.

(NAIRANA 311120Z to C. in C.W.A.)

An attacking submarine in 050° 14' N. 017° 37' W.

(E.G.2 311305A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 311305A. U-Boat destroyed by creeping attack and follow-  
ing up attack by STARLING and WILD GOOSE. Oil wreckage and guts  
in plenty.

(E.G.2 311430A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 311430A. U-Boat initially detected at 1216A on port wing  
of line-abreast screen by asdic of WILD GOOSE who attacked with  
depth charges. MAGPIE followed shortly with unsuccessful "Hedge-  
hog" attack. STARLING then replaced MAGPIE. At 1330A STARLING  
carried out creeping attack partly by her own Q attachment and  
partly as directed by WILD GOOSE. This was immediately followed  
up by a 22-charge pattern, setting E, from WILD GOOSE.  
Explosions occurred at 1342, 1345, 1347 and 1348. Much oil  
wreckage and remains.

(E.G.2 311535A to C. in C.W.A.)

It is considered possible in this particular attack U-Boat  
released (?2) charges at STARLING. Whilst the ship was dropping a  
creeping charge a heavy explosion caused about a 10 yards bulge on  
starboard quarter throwing up a column of water to masthead  
height. This was not one of own depth charges since it was not  
immediately astern of ship. Also depth settings of pattern used  
were 500 and 700 feet. Neither do I see that it was a "Gnat" since  
STARLING had not exceeded 6 knots for previous half hour and the  
U-Boat was deep.

(E.G.2 312331A to C. in C.W.A.)

Biscay A/S  
operations.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 44° 40' N. 04° 10'  
W.

(A/C ?WHW17 0055A to 19 Group.)

Arrived ENTERPRISE.

(C. in C.Plymouth 311150A to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. (Contd.) T.G.21.13 is operating in the vicinity of 044° N. 030° W. (C. in C.W.A. 311251A to Escorts H.X.276.) U.S.S. CARD escorted by 5 U.S. destroyers 040° 48' N. 039° 58' W. to vicinity 044° 01' N. 033° 01' W. 15. U.S.S. CROATAN 4 U.S. destroyers operating in vicinity 044° 05' N. 030° 01' W. My 311238A refers. (C. in C.W.A. 311256A to Ships.) Disposition at 312000.  
1. GAMBIA 045° 13' N. 016° 58' W. through 043° 03' N. 016° 57' W. thence 155° 22 knots. (C. in C.Plymouth 311446A to Admty.)

"Hardtack 23". My 301311. Abandoned, weather unsuitable. (V.A.Dover 310413A to Admty.)

Operation F.W. Your 271651 and Admiralty 282359. No objection. 2 main objects to prevent beaching of cargoes by Russians. (S.B.N.O.Archangel 310953A to Ad. Fisher.) RHODODENDRON arrived Lerwick. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 310959A to C. in C.W.A.)

U.314  
sunk

About 40 lost in HARDY. All officers saved. Air and U-Boat shadowing all day 30th. Capt. D.26 in VENUS with METEOR and WHITEHALL may have sunk or damaged one U-Boat. 4 or 5 in touch at dark, shortly after which attacks developed and were beaten off although some torpedoes were fired. U-Boats used anti-Radar lures freely. Route diversion gave opportunity to slip U-Boats which were roughly handled by supporting destroyers. Evidence of only 2 U-Boats in the vicinity at daylight. J.W.56B intact: P.C. and S. at 0800A, 072° 33' N. 032° 55' E. 125° 9½ knots. Weather 6290 9682.

(Capt. D.3 311007A to H.F.)

Is Russian air support being given to convoy J.W.56B today. (C. in C.H.F. 311038A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Ships not capable of convoy speed 9½ knots are to be excluded from R.A.56.

(C. in C.H.F. 311043A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Your 311038. Boston A/C took off at first light today for this purpose but have been forced to return on account of fog. Further A/C are being sent when conditions permit also tomorrow.

(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 311225A to C. in C.H.F.)

1. SCOURGE is to escort OBDURATE to U.K. when ready. Your 300808 refers.  
2. SCOURGE should be included in escorts of R.A.56 to about long. Bear Island then return to Kola.

(C. in C.H.F. 311333A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

1. Capt. D.26 in VENUS, VIRAGO and SAVAGE expected time of arrival Toros Island 0030A/1st. VENUS and VIRAGO with HARDY survivors, SAVAGE with minor ice damage requires repairs.

2. OFFA with INCONSTANT, VIGILANT and STORD, E.T.A. Toros Island 0400A/1st.

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.)

3. J.W.56B E.T.A. MU. 0230A/1st.

4. ?C. in C.H.F. 301055A. If MILNE and any other ships are required to berth Polyarnoe is there any likelihood of fuel there or alternatively of fuel prior to departure to reduce congestion at oilers and avoid extensive topping up programme.

5. KIGM 153. Capt. D.26 requests any arrangements possible may be made. No serious hospital cases.  
(Capt. D.3 311603A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia, Capt. D.26.)  
Appears in view of C. in C.H.F. 311043A that EMPIRE BARD although in all respects ready for convoy with declared speed of 8 and half knots cannot be included in R.A.56. Request instructions.  
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk 312325A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 311423.)  
(C. in C.Plymouth 311501, 311724A.)

S/M Patrols. Position of submarines at 0800/1st and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SCEPTRE and SATYR as in my 301824.

B. SPIRIT 63° 11' N. 00° 50' E. through 62° 00' N. 00° 38' W. and 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles to Lerwick. Dived by day north of 62° N.

C. TRADEWIND sails Lerwick 1200/1st through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and 62° 01' N. 01° 00' E. thence course 030° probably on the surface 10 knots.

D. TRUSTY sails Lerwick 0900/1st through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles and 62° 01' N. 01° 27' W. towards 64° 52' N. 02° 03' E. Dived by day north of 62° N.  
(F.O.S., 311714A to Admty.)

Convoy C.W.243 attacked. PINE, EMERALD and CALEB SPRAGUE sunk.

1. E-Boat attack on convoy C.W.243 31st January.

2. At 0123 convoy was approaching C.2 buoy when three enemy plots were observed by shore Radar approaching from a 160° direction at about 36 kts.

3. The easterly group of about 4 boats was engaged and driven off by QUORN on port quarter of convoy. The centre group of about 2 boats was engaged and driven off by ALBRIGHTON on port bow of convoy one E-Boat possibly damaged.

4. The westerly group passed across the van of the convoy and attacked from the inshore side. SS. EMERALD and CALEB SPRAGUE were torpedoed and sunk and H.M.T. PINE, the star-board wing sweeper ahead of the convoy, had her bows blown off.

5. 3 M.G.Bs. stationed to southward of the convoy were unable to intercept owing to the E-Boats being only on the plot for ten minutes before their patrol was passed. On the retirement of centre group of E-Boats they appeared by plot to be in position to engage but contact was not made.

6. H.M.T. REHEARO took PINE in tow for Portsmouth. Tug RESOLVE took over tow after daylight but PINE sank 090½° Selsey Bill 6 miles at 1325.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 312129A to Admty.)

/M.T.Bs...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

- M.T.Bs. shelled. 4 M.T.Bs. carrying out patrol in accordance with C. in C.Portsmouth's 301446A during night 30th/31st January were engaged by shore batteries at numerous points between Fecamp and Cap D'Antifer. No damage or casualties in spite of considerable accurate fire.  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 311914A to Admty.)
- "Bellpush C". Operation "Bellpush C" completed. All craft returned. Partially successful.  
(Cdre. Force J 312146A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
- Precautions off N.W. Ireland. C.2. KEATS is to form part of C.2 Group for present operation.  
(C. in C.W.A. 312239A to KEATS, C.2.)

Enemy Air Activity.

- Brightlingsea bombed on 29th. Minor damage was caused at Blackwater site N.S. by incendiary bombs believed to have been dropped night 29/30 January.  
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 311100A to Admty.)
- PLY attacked. Skipper of trawler PLY reports when 20 miles S. by W. from Fastnet at 1010A on January 19th being attacked by twin engined plane believed to be Ju.88 Superficial damage. One casualty.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 311145A to Admty.)

Mining.

- GEORGE S. WASSON mined. SSSS from GEORGE S.WASSON, five miles off Smalls Light Vessel.  
(Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 310637.)  
Mine. No hole. Are proceeding.  
(Burnham Radio 310700.)
- Arrived GEORGE S.WASSON, damaged by floating mine while on passage from Mersey to Avonmouth.  
(N.C.S.O.Milford Haven 311344 to N.C.S.O.Mersey.)  
Arrived and safely berthed SS. GEORGE S.WASSON (U.S.) after being damaged by supposed British drifting mine vicinity Smalls a.m. today.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 311759A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

- U-Boat reported. Am over enemy submarine in 59° 33' N. 13° 46' W. Submarine was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 300°. estimated speed 6 knots.  
(A/C RLOT 311515 to Z5V.)  
Have lost touch with enemy S/W.  
(A/C RLOT to YQ T.O.R. 311844.)

31.1.1944.

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

TEDWORTH,  
TIRADE. On leaving Albert Harbour at approx. 0855 this forenoon slight collision occurred, my stern grazing stern of drifter TIRADE and then striking inner eastern arm. Slight damage just below gun-whale of TIRADE flukes of my stern anchor penetrated my stern plating approx. one foot above water line. Assistance will be required for repairs to my stern. (TEDWORTH 310955 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

At about 0900 today Monday TEDWORTH collided with TIRADE's stern fracturing plate above deck line. Seaworthiness not effected.

(TIRADE 311050A to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

IRANIAN. IRANIAN left Grimsby 12th January for North Sea fishing grounds. Has failed to return. Search by naval craft and R.A.F. without result. Owners request permission to declare vessel as loss. (N.C.S.O.Grimsby 311527A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.222. Sailed OTTAWA, DAUPHIN, SUMMERSIDE, ROSTHERN with tug ALLEGIANCE and BOMBARDIER for O.N. 222. DUNVER sailing to overtake p.m. today. KOOTENAY and DIANTHUS delayed by defects, sailing time uncertain. (Cdre. D.W.A. 310841A to Admty.)

My 221909. In view of defects date of sailing is postponed to 2nd February (re sailing of GLENARM, WANDERER, WATCHMAN, PORCHESTER CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE, to overtake O.N.222.)

(C. in C.W.A. 312237A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Atlantic Convoy Sailings. N.S.H.Q. 241730, Admiralty 291946.  
1. The shortness of Laysover in Newfoundland is appreciated but I am averse to any change in convoy sailings for the following reasons:  
A. U-Boat concentration is now in Eastern Atlantic. Sailing of escorts to overtake can therefore be accepted from Newfoundland more readily than from U.K. Moreover there are usually new-construction ships to swell escorts from Newfoundland.  
B. Present Laysover in U.K. are none too long for maintenance and training as is evidenced by the fact that I have lately had to sail convoys with only four and five escorts. The highly important training problem moreover becomes more acute as new construction comes into service.

2. It is suggested that in exceptional cases when late arrival of escorts in Newfoundland is foreseen consideration might be given to delaying sailing of Eastbound convoys.

(C. in C.W.A. 310952Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

In view of your 310952. I concur that there should be no change in sailing dates of westbound convoys.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 311910Z to C. in C.W.A.)

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.S.28. O.N.S.28 assume state "Yoke" from dusk tonight.  
(C. in C.W.A. 311015Z to O.N.S.28.)  
A B.A.M.S. has been made ordering all stragglers  
which have not rejoined by 016° W. to return to U.K.  
(C. in C.W.A. 311508A to O.N.S.28.)
- O.S.66/  
K.M.S.40. Revert to state "William" from daylight tomorrow.  
(C. in C.W.A. 311731A to O.S.66/K.M.S.40.)
- H.X.276. Am detaching from H.X.276 and proceeding to Horta  
to complete engineering and electrical repairs and  
refuelling. My F.C. and S. at 1700Z 043° 37' N.  
033° 32' W. 144° 7 knots.  
(POSTILLION 311800Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- Convoy  
Escorts. A.C.1 Article 131 para. 1. In calm weather when  
Radar conditions are good a reduction of 1 escort  
in the escort strengths is permissible.  
(C. in C.W.A. 312248A: W.A.G.M.)

31.1.1944.  
Monday.

War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- M.K.F.28 Request you sail LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by BRILLIANT and ISIS to R/V M.K.F.28 in Q.A. 039 degs. 07' 018 degs. 30' at 1230?A/Feb. 3rd.  
 (2) M.K.F.28 9 ship escort BENTINCK S.O.,  
 BAZELY, BYARD, CALDER, DRURY, BURGESS and PRINCE ROBERT.  
 (F.O.G.M.A., 311244A).
- T.G.21.14 BLAIR and LIVERMORE will arrive Horta afternoon Feb.1.  
 HAMMANN, JACOB JONES and PEARY will arrive morning of 2nd. (All for fuel - details).  
 (C.T.G. 21.14, 312000 to S.B.N.O. Azores).

South Atlantic.

- Zig-zagging I consider that as the area in my "Chop" is small, it is simpler for Masters for Zig-zagging to be retained or suspended so as to conform with your intentions for B.A.M.S. Area 3A.  
 Signals for individual ships to resume zig-zagging to be made by the authority having the "Chop". Your 291205 refers.+  
 (C. in C.S.A., 311127C to F.O.C.W.Af.).  
 + Re zig-zagging of F.O.C.W.Af.s "Chop".

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

DOLFIJN. Proceed to patrol south eastern approaches to Mykoni Channel by dawn 1st Feb.  
(Capt. (S) 1, 311107B to (P.47) DOLFIJN (R) 1st S/M F.F.O.L.E.M.)

At dusk tonight proceed to patrol Kinaros-Amorgo-Denusia area by 0301 Feb. 1st cancel my 311107\* .

(Capt. (S) 1, 311518B to H.M. S/M P.47 (DOLFIJN) (R) 1st S.M. Flot. F.O.L.E.M.) \*Instructions to DOLFIJN.

Operation "Shingle". Request you will sail Cruisers before dusk tonight 31st with instructions to return to Naples.

2. 5th Army have agreed that fire support by cruisers will be at (corrupt group) at least

5 hours notice.

3. Arrangements made with (corrupt groups) that sufficient warning will be given to enable 5.25 cruisers to be sent Anzio in the event of weather or other circumstances likely to cause fighter cover to be reduced. Ships will be at (?short notice) for this purpose.

(C. in C. Med. at Naples, 311218A to C.T.F.81 (R) F.O.W.It. C.S.15.)

## Situation report:

1. Amend para. 2 of my 301754. ATR One was severely damaged in attack on 29th but was not sunk. SAM HUNTINGTON set on fire subsequently blew up and sank.
2. Weather continues excellent and unloading progressing well.
3. Fighter direction and air warning system now established ashore.
4. Cruisers have been withdrawn from Anzio area.
5. Bombardment of Formia area continues by PENELOPE.  
(C. in C. Med. at Naples 311819A.)  
Request 350 tons oil fuel. E.T.A. 0915 1st. Request 1200 rounds 6 inch H.E. and cordite and fuse No.230. Request inspection 6 6 inch guns.  
(PENELOPE 312152 to N.O.I.C. Naples.)

1st S/M.F.  
summary  
2000B/311.

TORBAY, ULTIMATUM as in my 291640 (patrol?) between Amorgos and Stampalia.  
SPORTSMAN 34° 53' 29° 42' to Scarpanto Straits.  
PAPANICOLIS 34° 35' 28° 24' to Kaso Straits.  
DOLFIJN south of Amorgos proceeding to north of Amorgos.  
(S., 311226B, 311556B.)

Repair  
Ships.

Intend to sail L.S.E.2 to U.K. in M.K.S.39.  
2. Consider these well equipped repair ships should be manned with selected repair personnel to ensure good results.

3. Present repair personnel in L.S.E.1 and 2 drafted from L.C. bases and Port parties not considered entirely satisfactory. Your 261808 refers.  
(C. in C. Med. 311506 to Admty.)

/TORBAY...



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31.1.1944.

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

TORBAY.

Proceed to patrol close to Turkish Territorial waters in vicinity Cape Eski (Corrupt Group).

2. SS. PETER expected to sail from Istanbul p.m. 31st.  
(Capt.(s) 1 311628B to TORBAY.)

Relief of  
13th D.F.

A.M. 011315\* January and A.L.M/O.D. 1373 December to C. in C.W.A. only. It has been decided not to allocate Captain Class Frigates for the relief of 13th D.F.

2. C. in C.W.A. 041111 January.

3. Further signal will be made regarding reliefs for WITHERINGTON and WISHART.  
(D.O.D.(F) 311650A.)\* Former given most Secret distribution.

P.714  
(ex BRONZO.)

French are sending crew for BRONZO to Malta to collect submarine and bring her to Algiers. Request confirmation that ship was accepted on condition that she is to be employed initially outside Med. on A/S training. B.A.D. 121709 and

Admiralty 182035 refer. French in Algiers are not apparently aware of this condition.  
(C. in C. Med. 311744A to B.A.D. Washington.)

M.T.Bs.  
for  
French.

Request information regarding loan of M.T.Bs. to French my 171719 November and your X.21840 November refer.

2. My 311807 asking for four "D" type M.T.B for 10th M.T.B. Flotilla, suggest a complete flotilla be allocated to Med. and four boats lent to French.  
(C. in C. Med. 311803A to Admty.)

UNTIRING.

All torpedoes expended. Intend to arrive noon 1st. Estimate 2 hits on westbound 7000 and 3500 ton M/S 30th. Estimate 3 hits on a pair 500 tons eastbound Coasters 31st.  
(UNTIRING, 311901A.)

Situation  
Report  
No.286.

1. Operation "Shingle".  
My 292133 para. 1. 32 Officers including C.O. and 496 ratings survivors from SPARTAN landed Naples.

2. SS. SAMUEL HUNTINGTON hit by bomb during dusk raid 29th Jan. caught fire and later sank.

Enemy aircraft claimed during raid, one certain, one probable, one damaged.

3. Bombardment of Formia area by Cruisers and Destroyers continues. Cruisers also providing fire support to both armies flanks in Anzio area.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation  
Report  
No. 286.  
(Contd.)

4. M.G.B. 662 and M.T.B. 97 sank small German tanker and large schooner of Ploce Point (043° 30' N. 015° 58' E.) during the night 29th/30th January. 8 Prisoners taken.

5. P.65 (UPSTART) reports bombarding and obtaining 22 hits on a possible sea plane base at head of Golfe de la Napoule on 23rd Jan.

and obtained 49 hits on Sea Plane Base off St. Raphael on 27th January.

(C. in C. Med., 312042A.)

31.1.1944  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B Dispositions. Ref. my 300359Z. Areas AB DE FG. No fresh information no lighter in scale of air escort. Area C. Catalina sighted U-Boat in 012 degs 04' N. 051 degs. 05' E. 0247Z/30th January indicating U-Boat (German) moving into Gulf of Aden. Reported sightings by aircraft in 017 degs. 31' N. 055 degs. 35' E. at 0704Z/30th and in 018 degs. 48' N. 058 degs. 02' E. at 1030Z/30th considered improbable. It is considered Arabian coast free from U-Boats. Scale of air escort Y. U-Boats (German) plotted by D/F 1617Z/30th approx. position 023 degs. 00' S. 063 degs. 00' E. may be moving toward Mauritius area. (C. in C. E.F. 310339Z)

SS. SAMOURI, In accordance with E.F. 716 H/71/27.  
details of sinking. (A) SAMOURI. (B) 13.04 N. 055.45 E. 0125Z/26.  
(C) Submarine. (D) Torpedo. Ship sunk.  
(E) One only seen. (F) 35 landed Aden 30th by SHAHZADA, 14 landed Socotra from boat.  
(?G) No. (H) No. All sets put out of action  
by explosion. (J) Dumped in steel safe in over 2000 fathoms.  
(K) As in (J). (M) From Master and First Radio Officer.  
(Com. Aden, 310651Z)

SS. FORT BUCKINGHAM. Picked up 2 British 6 Native survivors from FORT BUCKINGHAM at C. 490 D torpedoed 20th Jan. 4 more rafts reported adrift. (KONGSDALE, 310805Z)

SS. WALTER CAMP. DANAE has picked up 70 survivors entire crew of SS. WALTER CAMP. My 290453Z refers. (C. in C. E.F. 311015Z)  
✓ SS. WALTERCAMP presumed torpedoed and sunk.

Operation "Thwart" Following movements take place consequent on suspension of Operation "Thwart".  
A. NEWCASTLE, BANN and R.F.A. OLYNTHUS remain Mauritius.  
B. KENYA to Simonstown, for refit.  
C. SUFFOLK to Durban if fuel permits.  
D. CANTON and BATTLER and NEPAL to Durban.  
(C. in C. E.F. 311203Z)

SS. FORT LA MAUNE. Following is a repetition of our 310629 begins. C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) from Com. Aden. Socotra reports faint W/T on 500 K/cs begins S.O.S from VUGU break three lifeboats 56 survivors three days probably position now south Socotra Ends.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SS. FORT LA  
MAUNE.

(2) Consider this should read VU 4 GU secret W/T  
Call Sigh BKBW FORT (DE) LA MAUNE which left  
Aden p.m. 22nd and would have been within 20  
miles of two sinkings off Socotra on 26th ends.  
(Com. Aden, 311817Z)

War Diary.31.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Escort of  
L.S.I. (L)(D.O.D.(H), 310152A, 312155A.)  
(Note: Cancelled by 012310A Feb.)U/B  
Report.Submarine sighted 3 miles west of Roseau,  
Dominica at 1045Z and 1250Z/31.  
(Graded C.2)  
(Kingston, Jam. 311155R, 311202)Division of  
N. Atlantic  
into  
Salvage  
Areas.N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 142252Z and your 241602A/  
Para. 1. It is considered that the present  
division of the commands in the North Atlantic  
is satisfactory as far as Salvage operations are  
concerned.Para. 2. This would be advantageous but in view  
of the shortage of tugs, and as many convoys have  
a tug in company, it is doubtful whether this is

justifiable.

Para. 3. This has been the practice in the past.

(C. in C. W.A. 311335A to Admty.)

/ Requesting remarks on N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 142242 Jan.

NABOB.

Examination NABOB reveals no damage sustained.  
My 282121/ refers.  
(B.A.D. 311432Z)  
/ Re H.M.S. NABOB grounded.U/B  
Estimates.No change.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 311448, Cominch, 311616Z)

C.U.12.

It is desired to sail 26 ships in C.U.12. Request  
your concurrence.  
(D.T.D. 311713A to Connav)SS. MICHAEL  
PUPIN,  
Tanker RED  
CANYON.MICHAEL PUPIN (U.S.) and RED CANYON (U.S.) reported  
in collision Jan. 27th off Barnecat Inlet Shoal.  
PUPIN proceeding New York RED CANYON damage unknown.  
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 311725Z)

C.U. Convoys.

Comeastseafiron sail Convoy C.U.15 21st Feb. and  
succeeding C.U. Convoys at 9 days intervals.  
C. in C. Lant provide additional escort group  
required by decreased sailing interval. Effective  
with Convoy C.U. 16, Total (?) of 24 ships for these convoys  
re-established.  
(Cominch, 311855Z)  
Effective C.U.13 Sailing 31 Jan. Maximum number of ships  
increased to 30 until further orders.

ARIADNE /...

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War Diary.31.1.1944.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ARIADNE

When ready upon completion of voyage repairs sail ARIADNE Norfolk (Va.) to Canal Zone where report to U.S. C. in C. Pacific Fleet for duty.  
(Cominch, 311916Z)

U/B sighting  
and attack  
report.

B. Army Liberator sights sub. course 065 07.35 N. 25.22 W. 0532/31st. All times Z.  
D. Sub. reported area 15.17 N. 61.24 W. 1045/31st and 1250/31st.  
(Cominch, 312032Z)

BRONZO.

French accept BRONZO under conditions laid down by C.C.S. French have a crew immediately available to man the submarine at Malta.  
(B.A.D. 312037Z)

Escort of  
L.S.I. (L)'s

Intend following allocations.  
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 312147Z)  
Note: Cancelled by 011714Z q.v.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest  
Serial  
No.741.

Jan. 30th.

(3) Unfavourable weather hindered majority Sovespac Air Operations but one Squadron Mitchells struck shipping Hansa Bay morning sinking two small freighters leaving one ? Sea Truck burning also destroying two barges. 13 escorting Lightnings destroyed one lugger two loaded barges Biliu Bay 15 miles South East Hansa Bay.

(9) Light enemy air raid shipping off South East Huon Peninsula afternoon 29th slightly damaging one Liberty ship.

(10) Same time previous day ?single Jap dive bomber scored near miss on ship off Cape Ward Hunt inflicting minor damage casualties.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 310802Z)

War Diary.

31.1.1944.  
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/31.

Para. A. (1) A/C attacked U-Boat with bombs at  
1045/30 in 35 degs. 40' N. 06 degs. 53' W.

(2) A/C reported U-Boat course 090 degs. at 0740/30  
in 17 degs. 31' N. 55 degs. 35' E.

(3) U.S.N. Liberator N/110 attacked U-Boat on course  
180 degs. at 1235/29 in 51 degs. 05' N. 16 degs.

19' W.

Para. B. (1) F.S. GLOIRE reported U-Boat on 30th Jan. in 39 degs.  
59' N. 13 degs. 35' E.

Para. C. (1) Am. A/C reported possible U-Boat at 0947/29 in 22 deg  
in 22 degs. 00' N. 61 degs. 05' E.

(2) A/C reported U-Boat course 180 degs. at 1030/30 in 18 degs  
48' N. 58 degs. 02' E.

Para. D. (1) SS. FORT ASSINIBOINE sighted periscope and part  
of conning-tower at 1010/30 in 23 degs. 41' S. 42 degs. 37' W.  
(D.D.I.C. 311025Z)

U/B  
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 311426A, 311433A)