

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

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

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

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

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

ADH 199

2289

1.2.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.W.

1a. The ten M/Vs of the Murmansk section of Convoy J.W.56B, escorted by the 3rd and 26th Destroyer Flotillas less HARDY and VENUS, arrived at the Kola Inlet at 1315A today; and the remaining M/Vs are proceeding with the Local Escort to the Dvina Bar.

b. Convoy R.A.56 is to sail from North Russia at 1000A/3rd February.

Enemy
Convoys
attacked.

2. M.T.B. 202 on patrol off Boulogne fired two torpedoes at an escorted M/V at about 0300 this morning without result; and at about 2315 last night an M.T.B. Patrol off Roches Douvres was engaged by an enemy convoy and withdrew.

Operation
"Overlord".

3. Admiralty today informed C. in C.H.F. that the demand for coaster-type tonnage for Operation "Overlord" far exceeds the available supply.

Biscay A/S
operations.

4. The six sloops of E.G.2 with the escort carrier NAIRANA and ACTIVITY are operating today in the western Biscay approaches.

General.

5. In order to expedite independent shipping, measures to ensure curtailment of zig-zagging were brought into force today.

North Atlantic.

L.L. A/Cs.
at Gib.

6. F.O.G.M.A. is asking that an additional half squadron of Leigh Light aircraft shall be based at Gibraltar for operations against U-Boats endeavouring to enter the Mediterranean. Since October, when some success was achieved against U-Boats, half a squadron of the total force of 1½ squadrons has gone to the Azores. The Admiralty reply was given on 7th February (q.v.)

/Fuelling...

War Diary.1.2.1944.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic - Contd.Fuelling
facilities
at Horta.

7. Cominch is asking the Admiralty to take steps to improve the fuelling facilities at Horta, the inadequacy of which is causing difficulties in routing and scheduling ships. F.O.G.M.A. is asking Plymouth not to order cruisers to remain at Horta for longer than two days.

Mediterranean.Enemy
Traffic off
Spanish
Coast.

8. Consideration is being given to a renewal of attempts to dislocate enemy ore traffic between Bilbao and Bayonne or Bordeaux. As we are entering upon a period of much increased political pressure on Spain it would also be advantageous if coincident attacks on enemy traffic off the east coast of Spain were to take place; and the Admiralty are asking C. in C. Med. whether it would be possible to ~~value~~ ^{take} such action during the next 2 months.

Air attack
on U.G.S. 30.

9. SS. EDWARD BATES was torpedoed and sunk and RICHARD P. HOBSON was slightly damaged (but continued with the convoy) when a torpedo exploded in her net defence during an attack by 40 enemy aircraft on convoy U.G.S. 30 at dusk today off Cape Tenez. Fighters intercepted the enemy aircraft 50 miles north of the convoy and destroyed 3 or 4 of them. One was shot down by ships' A/A fire and 4 prisoners were picked up.

Operation
"Shingle".

10. A U-Boat was reported by aircraft this evening in 40.38 N. 12.03 E. (60 miles S.S.W. of Anzio). Captain D.25 proceeded to hunt with ULSTER and two Hunts.

Adriatic.

11. M.T.Bs. last night sank two small schooners near Silba Island (44.25 N. 14.35 E.) Two German and 6 Italian prisoners were taken.

"Avalanche".

12. Coastal forces sank an enemy patrol craft by gunfire off Spezia last night. Our craft suffered no damage or casualties.

/Aegean...

War Diary.

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

13. A number of attacks were made today by aircraft on shipping running supplies to enemy-occupied islands in the Aegean. Several vessels were sunk and others severely damaged. A convoy was attacked off Portolago Bay and a motor vessel caught fire after an explosion. Rhodes harbour was bombed this evening.

13(b). Aircraft mined Suda Bay and Rhodes last night.

East Indies.

U/B east
of Aden.

14. It is reported that SS. OLGA E. EMBIRICOS (Durban for Aden) was sunk by a submarine at 2000Z, 29th Jan. in 12.30 N. 50.10 E. (300 miles east of Aden). 21 survivors have landed at Aden and 20 are missing.

Australia & New Zealand.

15. U.S. Liberators on 31 Jan./1st Feb. set on fire and claims to have sunk a medium sized freighter 30 miles east of Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea.

Solomon
Islands.

16a. U.S. destroyers made a promising attack before dawn today on a U-Boat 25 miles west of Buka Passage.

b. At the same time, other destroyers exchanged gunfire with shore positions in Buka Passage and at noon bombarded the Choiseul Bay area, where barge activity was reported the previous night.

War Diary.

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

UNDINE. UNDINE sailed with Party "Tie" referred to in
A.M. 261559 and A.M. 272209.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011626A to Admty.)

Defence of the United Kingdom.

Scapa A/A Your 272254.
defences. (1) Agree that 3 H.A.A. batteries can be
 surrendered. Guns and equipment should remain
 in Situ on a care and maintenance basis.
 (2) The present layout of S.L. is the minimum
necessary against present scale of air attack observing the
paramount importance of this form of defence for ships against
radio directed bombs of various types.
 (3) One S.L. battery was surrendered in April 1943. In view
of part 2 arrangements for a further surrender are not being
made but a proposal to reduce balloon barrage by 50% is being
forwarded by letter.
(A.C.O.S., 011529A to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation HARDY hit right aft by "Gnat" torpedo at 0404/
F.W. 30th January while investigating H/F D/F bearing
2 U-Boats with 51st Division in port quarterline. Speed
sunk. at time of attack 20 knots, revolutions staggered,
1 U-Boat zigzagging 40°, Radar out of action.
probably 2. No "Foxer" fitted.
sunk. 3. After magazine exploded approximately three
1 U-Boat minutes later.
possibly 4. Ship was finally sunk by own forces in
sunk. approximate position 73° 37' N. 18° (06') E.
2 U-Boats 5. Captain (D), all officers and 200 ratings
probably survivors, details being reported separately in
damaged. my 010103A.
1 U-Boat 6. Individual ships reports which have not yet
possibly been fully checked indicate following U-Boat
damaged. results for 26th D.F. and attached ships of
 escort of J.W.56A up to 1000A/30th January.
 HARDY - 1 possibly sunk, 1 possible damage.
 VENUS - 1 probably sunk, (reported in D.3's
311007A) 1 probably damaged.
STORD - 1 kill (surfaced after attack) this was the U-Boat that
attacked HARDY.
INCONSTANT and OFFA - 1 kill.
SAVAGE and VIGILANT - one probably damaged - reports not complete.
7. All ships closely engaged during night 30th/31st January,
INCONSTANT scoring at least one hit with 4.7 shell but details
not yet known.
8. Captain (D) and operational staff now in VIGILANT.
9. C.Bs. all destroyed and no possibility considered of any
compromise.
(Capt. (D) 26, 010101 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Request ...

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.W. Request you will sail ORESTES to Aberdeen for boiler cleaning to arrive February 14th.
 2 U-Boats sunk. F.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 311215A refers.
 1 U-Boat probably sunk. (A.C.O.S., 011051 to F.O.I.C. Faroes.)
 1 U-Boat possibly sunk. As it is probable U-Boats followed convoy J.W. 56B as far as position MU and may have formed patrol line to intercept R.A.56 request Russian anti-submarine air patrol may be operated to depth of 150 miles from Kola before convoy sails and as long as possible during its passage.
 2 U-Boats probably damaged. (C. in C. H.F., 011207A to S.B.N.O. North Russia)
 1 U-Boat possibly damaged. D.26 has transferred to VIGILANT.
 (Contd.) (Capt. D.26, 011256A to C. in C. H.F.)
 Kola Inlet arrived Murmansk section J.W.56B, 10 ships escorted by 3rd D.F., 26th D.F. less HARDY and (? VENUS). White Sea section met by local escort and proceeding Dvina Bar.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 011315A to Admt.)
 Request you sail OBEDIENT, SWIFT, and VERULAM to arrive Skaalefiord by 1800A tomorrow. On arrival destroyers complete with fuel and await further orders. Intend sailing these destroyers to R/V with R.A.56 in Bear Island area to reinforce escort.
 (C. in C. H.F., 011447A to R.A.D.)
 Your 301055 Jan. After consultation with Capt. (D) 3, Capt. (D) 26 concurring, it has been decided to sail R.A.56 at 1000A/3rd with 40 ships capable of 10 knots with convoy speed of 9½ knots.
 (2) Any ship who in first 24 hours proves incapable of maintaining this speed will be sent back to Kola Inlet with local escort.
 (3) Capt. (D) 3 intends to form (? 4) pairs (? selected) destroyers into striking group to maintain maximum offensive effort during passage Kola Inlet/Bear Island. If refuelling at sea is impracticable he requests approval to detach destroyers to refuel at Kola, Faroes, or Iceland at his discretion.
 (4) In this event he further asks that reinforcing destroyers may be held available should intelligence indicate a renewal of attack in latitude of Jan Mayen.
 (5) Your 011207 received. Maximum air A/S escort will be provided from Kola. Request similar arrangements from U.K.
 (6) Intend SPEEDWELL to sail with R.A.56 as additional escort.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 011919A to C. in C. H.F.)
 Operation F.W. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail Local Escort for convoy R.A.56 so as to arrive Skaalefiord p.m./6th Feb.
 (2) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE and LOYALTY to arrive by same date.
 (3) These vessels are to fuel on arrival and be ready to carry out local escort R.A.56 under command of S.O. M/S. 18 in READY.
 (4) C. in C. H.F. will instruct M/S.18 when to sail.
 (C. in C. H.F., 012206A to C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S.)

S/M Patrols. At 0915A/1st TRUSTY left Lerwick unescorted proceeding by route "Grey" to 064° 52' thence direct to patrol line HH. Dived by day when north of 062°.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 010925A to S/MS.)

/Proceed ...

MOST SECRET.MESSAGE.

011912A/February.

From:- F.O.(S)

Date:- 2.2.1944.

Time:- 1310.

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed 70. S.M.X. Repeated Admiralty, C. in C. Home Fleet, A.C.O.S.,
C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.

It is appreciated that enemy Main Units may pass up or down
the Norwegian Coast inside or outside the Leads.

(2). The emergency positions in para. (4) are therefore established
to enable every available submarine to be concentrated at the shortest
possible notice along the route.

(3). S/Ms will be ordered to proceed with all despatch to the
vicinity of those positions and will subsequently be ordered into the
Leads or to seaward dependent on intelligence of enemy movements. As time
for the move will probably be short, speed in reaching positions is
vital.

(4). Emergency positions. All North and East.

Lettered Position.Details of Position.

| | | |
|------|--------------|--------------|
| T1. | 70 degs. 53' | 22 degs. 06' |
| T2. | 70 degs. 45' | 21 degs. 13' |
| T3. | 70 degs. 01' | 18 degs. 01' |
| T4. | 69 degs. 44' | 17 degs. 43' |
| T5. | 69 degs. 40' | 17 degs. 00' |
| T6. | 69 degs. 37' | 16 degs. 20' |
| T7. | 69 degs. 22' | 15 degs. 45' |
| T8. | 69 degs. 11' | 15 degs. 27' |
| T9. | 68 degs. 25' | 14 degs. 04' |
| T10. | 67 degs. 15' | 13 degs. 00' |
| T11. | 66 degs. 47' | 12 degs. 10' |
| T12. | 64 degs. 40' | 10 degs. 12' |
| T14. | 64 degs. 34' | 09 degs. 57' |
| T15. | 62 degs. 31' | 05 degs. 35' |
| T16. | 62 degs. 14' | 05 degs. 16' |
| T17. | 62 degs. 13' | 05 degs. 00' |
| T18. | 62 degs. 06' | 04 degs. 56' |
| T19. | 59 degs. 00' | 05 degs. 01' |
| T20. | 58 degs. 43' | 05 degs. 25' |
| T21. | 58 degs. 29' | 05 degs. 40' |
| T22. | 58 degs. 15' | 06 degs. 10' |
| T23. | 58 degs. 11' | 06 degs. 23' |
| T24. | 58 degs. 04' | 06 degs. 27' |

(5) Positions T one to T eleven in my 231844 September 1943
and my 191544 October, 1943 neither to H.Q.C.C. are cancelled.

(6). As positions in para.(4) above may be used for reference or for
normal patrols, all signals connected with their use as in para.(3) will
be prefixed FOREMOST.

(7). Own surface and air forces will also be operating against
Main Units and will be instructed not repetition not to attack S/Ms.
Otherwise they will have complete freedom of action.

011912A.

/ Submarine temporary position.

Submarine patrol positions.

1.2.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. Proceed unescorted and on the surface at C.O's discretion till within 50 miles of Norwegian coast TRADEWIND left Lerwick 1208A/1st, proceeding by route O to 070° 38' thence to patrol positions T.7 and T.8.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 011216A to S/MS.)

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

(A) SCEPTRE and SATYR as in my 301824.

(B) TRUSTY 63° 29' N. 00° 12' E. dived by day through 64° 52' N. 02° 01' E. to patrol vicinity 65° 21' N. 01° 15' E. speed on surface 10 knots.

(C) TRADEWIND (P.329) 62° 46' N. 01° 59' E. probably on the surface course 030°, speed 10 knots.

(E) TAKU leaves Lerwick 0900/2nd to 090° Muckle Flugga 20 thence 61° 13' N. 01° 50' E. to 60° 42' N. 03° 20' E. towards 59° 08' N. 04° 01' E. probably on surface speed 10 knots diving by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.

(F.O.(S), 011732A to Admty.)

Following emergency positions (T.1 to T.24) established.

Details.

(F.O.(S), 011912A: 70 S.M.Z.) See *Folder page 6A*

A/S search Sail at 2100A today, proceed at best prudent speed by E.G.10. to 052° 00' N. 017° 00' W.

(C. in C. W.A., 011254A to E.G.10.)

Your 011254A. Intend sailing ROTHER, LOSSIE,

WEAR at 2230/1st at 10 knots, SPEY and FINDHORN

proceeding at 2230/1st to Merville to fuel thence overtake ROTHER.

(E.G.10, 012053A to C. in C. W.A.)

Biscay A/S operations.

Situation report. NAIRANA, ACTIVITY, E.G.2, STARLING, WILD GOOSE, KITE, WOODPECKER, WREN, MAGPIE operating in vicinity 044° 50' N. 018° 20' W. My 011231.

(C. in C. W.A., 011259A to Ships.)

C. in C. W.A.'s 011259A. NAIRANA, ACTIVITY, E.G.2 operating in vicinity 045° 26' N. 018° 42' W. at 011700Z. MLA 180°, S.O.A. 11 knots.

(NAIRANA, 011700Z to C. in C. W.A.)

NAIRANA (S.O. of Force) and ACTIVITY with (Second Escort Group) six frigates (S.O. in STARLING) have commenced to operate in Area A established in my 261140A January.

(C. in C. W.A., 011745Z to Cominch.)

Enemy Convoys attacked.

In anticipation of the possible movement eastward of enemy shipping the following patrols were assumed from 0100 today. M.T.Bs. 204, 202, 240 supported by M.T.B.417 at number 7 buoy to attack off Wissant under cover of fire from coastal batteries.

M.T.Bs. 25, 211, 207 at 'V' Buoy to attack at Dunkirk A.W. Buoy. M.T.Bs. 361, 205, 208 and M.T.Bs. 708 and 704 at 'V' Buoy to attack between Dunkirk B.W. and C.W. Buoys.

It was intended that Albacore aircraft should co-operate with

/attacks ...

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy attacks in the Dunkirk area but weather prevented
 Convoys their doing so.
 attacked. 2. M.T.Bs. 24, 236, 235 and 229 were sailed at
 (Contd.) 0100 to lay mines in the Dunkirk Channel. This
 operation (N.L.115) was completed without inter-
 ference from the enemy.
 3. At 0300 shore-based Radar detected one medium-
 sized vessel and about ten escorts leaving Boulogne northwards.
 Plots were signalled in the normal manner and M.T.Bs. 204, 202
 and 240 moved in to attack. M.T.B.204 developed engine defects
 necessitating the S.O. transferring to M.T.B.240 which also
 broke down immediately afterwards. The S.O. again transferred
 to M.T.B.202 but the delay resulted in failure to sight the
 medium-sized vessel. Two escorts were sighted and both
 torpedoes fired at a Radar contact believed to be the main
 target at an estimated range of two thousand yards, but no hits
 are claimed.
 4. Coastal batteries were unable to engage as the enemy, keeping
 close inshore, did not come within range of the 9.2-inch
 batteries. The 15-inch batteries are temporarily non-operational.
 5. Owing to difficulty experienced in maintaining W/T communi-
 cations from causes which are being investigated and rapidly
 deteriorating weather all other M.T.Bs. failed to intercept.
 6. Aircraft have since located a newly arrived vessel in Dunkirk.
 7. My 011017 refers.

(V.A. Dover, 011326A to Admty.)

At approximately 2315 on 31st units of 23rd (French) M.T.B.
 Flotilla patrolling in accordance with my 311501A encountered
 an enemy convoy of 2 medium M/V with 2 or more trawler escorts
 steering W.S.W. in 090° Roche Douvre 7 miles. Sighting was
 at 3 miles.

Force 113 endeavoured to close but enemy altered course towards
 and the force was accurately illuminated and engaged. Further
 attempts to close met with effective star-shell and M.T.Bs.
 finally withdrew with minor damage and no casualties. Force 114
 did not engage.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 011336A to Admty.)

Precaution E.T.A. 0715A/2nd.
 off N.W. (STUART PRINCE, 011345A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
 Ireland. ICARUS and GATINEAU detached from C.2 group to fuel
 C. 2. Merville. P.C.S. 053° 00' N. 006° 06' W., 055°,
 18 knots.
 (ICARUS, 012100Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 011430A.)
 Force (V.A. Dover, 011615A.)
 Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 012310A.)

V.P. Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol VV. (2) 33. (3) a.m./
 operations. 4th Feb. or first suitable day thereafter. (4)
 at S.O's discretion. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 043°
 Bressay. (8) Yes.
 (A.C.O.S., 011654A to Admty.)

/Carry ...

War Diary.

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

V.P. operations. (Contd.) Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol DD. (2) 34. (3) a.m./4th Feb. or first suitable day thereafter. (4) at S.O's discretion. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 043° Bressay. (8) Yes.
(A.C.O.S., 011658A to Admty.)

"Overlord". The demands for tonnage of the coaster type during "Overlord" far exceed that available. To assist in closing this gap, some loss of convenience and facilities must be accepted by the other users of this class of tonnage.
2. It has been proposed that one of the two ships on the ferry service between Scrabster and Lyness should be released for the "Overlord" period.
3. Your early remarks are requested.
(Head of M.II., 011915A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out operation "Tunnel" as laid down my memorandum O.P.T.U. dated 21st October 1943 tomorrow.
2. Ship addressed are to comprise Force 28 under command of HAIDA are to pass the Gate at 1800/2nd and proceed thence through - (ss) 161 Lizard Head 12 to reach (tt) 343 Ile Vierge Light 10 at 0130/3rd.
3. On passing (tt) Force 28 is to sweep to eastward passing through (uu) 007 Ile de Bas Light 8 miles and thence Plymouth.
4. Weather permitting Force 119 consisting of available M.T.Bs. from Dartmouth will operate between Barnouic Light and Sept Iles from about 2100/2nd with orders not to proceed West of 003° 28' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 012310A to IROQUOIS, ASHANTI, HAIDA.)

Allied Air Activity.

U-Boat attacked. T/120 at 1515 in 59° 33' N. 13° 46' W. sighted vis. U/B conning tower submerged on 310/6, attacked with four 250 torpedoes 55 ft. 10 seconds after submerging from 120° Green, 200 ft. ahead apex of swirl. Estimated straddle with Nos. 2 and 3
D/Cs. Oil patch 100 ft. diameter appeared immediately after explosions and grew in size. 1 purple 1 orange buoy dropped, nil results. Time of sighting 1515A.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 010320A to H.Q.C.C.)

Mining.

Q.Z.S.425 and 443. Request fleet sweepers be sailed to Plymouth tomorrow searching Q.Z.S.425 and 443 weather permitting.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011558 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

/Harwich ...

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Harwich. Ground mine report. My 011836. 2 mines detonated by sweepers at 011023A. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 011854A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

RODNEY. Leak of salt water into ship amounts to 1000 tons daily. Request consideration may be given to dock RODNEY for 14 days in near future. Ship was last docked in May 1943. (RODNEY, 011709A to C. in C. H.F.)

VANSITTART. Ref. E.R.O. (C) Greenock 301658. It is considered that VANSITTART is fit to proceed to another port in fine weather. Work cannot be undertaken in Clyde area for some considerable time. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 011801A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

J.W. 57. C. in C. H.F. 291125. Request you will sail BLACK PRINCE accordingly. (D.O.D.(H), 010405A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

S.L. 146E. Your 010620A and my 010334Z reporting unidentified aircraft. This was heard to circle convoy by 2 escorts at 0334Z in 053° 38' 011° 32'. No I.F.F. response. No signal seen. Weather at time thick with rain. (B.4., 010837Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Stragglers. Stragglers return for week ending 0915/1st Feb.
O.N.S. 27:
ILLINOIAN - Heavy weather unable maintain speed.
O.N.S. 28:
HEGIRA - Sailed late failed to contact convoy.
O.N.221:
LENA LUCKENBACH - Went aground lost rudder.
CAXTON - Air pump defect lost convoy.
EMPIRE CAMP - Unable to keep station (weather).
BENJAMIN H. BRISTOW - Insufficient ballast.
ELISHE GRAVES OTIS - Failure deck welds.
FORT MOOSE - Insufficient ballast.
HUGHLI - Excessive racing, ship unmanageable.
JOHN B. GORDON - Insufficient ballast.
U.C. 11:
DURHAM - Insufficient ballast.
ERIN - Piston ring cracked.

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Stragglers. O.S. 66/K.M.S. 40:
 (Contd.) NOVASLI - Lost convoy, insufficient speed.
 NORDLYS - Poor coal, defective steering.
 EMPIRE CONRAD - Contacted wrong convoy.
 COCHRANE - Heavy weather, transmitter inoperative.
 LEEDS CITY - Unable keep speed owing to draft and speed.
 EMPIRE BUCKLER - Governor failed burst steam pipe.
 ENGLISH MONARCH - Gale, unable to maintain course and speed.
 CALGARY - Lifeboats smashed, deck cargo shifted.
 H.X. 275:
 GEORGE W. CHILDS - Tween deck cargo shifted.
 (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 010915A to Admty.)

T.U. 7. Intend to sail U.S. battleship ARKANSAS with
 BORINQUEN and FREDERICKSBURG at 0400A/3rd to
 R/V at position BD as in Admty. 301705 Jan.
 (F.O.I.C.N.I., 011229A to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G. 7. In view of repairs to TRACKER it is intended that
 FENCER, FENCER should sail in her place with STRIKER and
 STRIKER. 7th E.G. on 5th February. My 291243A January
 refers.
 2. F.O. Greenock is therefore requested to sail
 FENCER to arrive Larne by 0800/4th provided
 fitting of Y.E. beacon can be completed in time. If this is
 not possible she should arrive Larne by 0800/3rd accepting
 deficient Y.E. beacon in view of STRIKER being able to maintain
 beacon guard.
 (C. in C. W.A., 011253A to F.O.C.T.)

B. 1. Sail Escort Group B.1 at 1200A tomorrow to
 proceed at best prudent speed to 052° 00' N. 018°
 00' W.
 (C. in C. W.A., 011532A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

T.A. 88 Steer immediately for new positions (B) 59° N.
 (QUEEN MARY) 21° W. (C) 55° N. 35° W. thence to position (Z).
 (D.O.D.(H), 011834A to QUEEN MARY.)

War Diary.1.2.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- PRINCE ROBERT Sailed to join M.K.F.28.
(F.O.G.M.A. 010200A.)
- MONTE ICIAR. Your 262042*. Spanish MONTE ICIAR diverted here and thoroughly searched cargo bulk wheat.
2. Found quantity 3rd party mail and quantity contraband (obviously) for trade in Spain. All removed. 3. Ship released.
(C.C.S.O.Gib. 010955A to Admty.)
* re MONTE ICIAR arrived Las Palmas.
- SS. SAYONARA. Arriving Vile Real de Santantonia at 1000 B.S.T. 2nd to embark Dutch refugees for passage to Gib.
(F.O.G.M.A. 011044A.)
- Salvage areas. N.S.H.Q. 142252 concur in para. 1 and 2.
2. As S.B.N.O.Azores has not full operational information propose the operational authority in whose area the damaged ship is should signal direct to S.B.N.O.Azores the order to sail tugs or salvage ship together with all relevant information.
(F.O.G.M.A. 011052A.)
- L.L. Aircraft for Gib. Consider that one additional half squadron of Leigh Light Aircraft should be based at Gibraltar for operations against U-Boats endeavouring to enter Mediterranean.
2. During success in October one and half squadrons were operating but since then the half squadron has gone to Azores.
3. A.O.C. is also asking Coastal Command.
(F.O.G.M.A. 011120A to Admty.)
- T.G.21.13. Leaving station 45.00 N. 25.00 W. at 010800Z
Task Group 21.13 proceeds south speed 15 compliance Cincant 281827. Arrive Casablanca about noon 4th. Weather 4170 2247, ends.
(C.T.G. 21.13 011231Z.)
- Fuelling facilities at Horta. Consider it most undesirable for cruisers to remain at Horta for longer than two days as presence of such large ships seriously compromises fuelling facilities at Horta.
(F.O.G.M.A. 011410 to C. in C.Plymouth.)
Following from Cominch and C.N.O. to Admiralty
Begins: Uncertainty of finding adequate fuel at Horta is causing difficulties in routing convoys and scheduling ships, request you take steps to improve situation and advise. Am directing Fleet Commanders give advance information to S.B.N.O.Azores

/to...

1.2.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Fuelling facilities at Horta. (Contd.)

to permit logistic planning. 281256 ends.
2. Request particulars of occasions on which U.S. ships have been refused fuel at Horta on account of A low stocks and B other reasons and your suggestions for improving situation.
(Admty. 012215A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)

M.K.F.28.

After R/V has been made with M.K.F.28 BRILLIANT, BLACKFLY, ISIS are to return with all convenient despatch through 36.30 10.01 and 2.B.A. 87 to Gib.
(F.O.G.M.A. 011700 to BRILLIANT.)

SS. MONTE AYALA.

M.E.W. would like Spanish SS. MONTE AYALA intercepted if practicable and sent in as first ship of February programme.
2. She is due Tenerife about 6th Feb. thence probably Bilbao.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 012001A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

Loss of signals.

N.L.O. Port Elizabeth reports loss ashore by orderly from GAWLER on 31st Jan. of following: Admiralty message 270110 January, A.M. 251658 January, C. in C.E.F's 260722 January.
2. Matter is being investigated.
(C. in C.S.A. 011756C.)

U/B reported between Ascension and Pernambuco.

N.O.I.C. Ascension reports that a U.S. Transit Aircraft sighted a U-Boat at 1345/1 in 08° 07' S. 20° 55' W. course 128° true speed 20 knots. S/M submerged when plane circled. No further details. Amplifying report of U.S. Transit Aircraft's sighting of conning tower and narrow wake at 0532/31 in 7° 35' N. 25° 22' W. states height of plane 9000 feet not 1000 feet and course 165° not 065°. Seen only by pilot. R.A.F. Dakar assess doubtful.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 011807Z.)

War Diary.1.2.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- M.K.F.28A. A.M. 261848 and your 291738. Situation in Western Approaches prevents escorts for M.K.F.28A proceeding S. of 43° N. Escorts from Gibraltar to 43° M. must therefore be provided from Mediterranean resources.
2. REDPOLE may be held by F.O.G.M.A. to act as through escort and on arrival in U.K. is to come under the command of C. in C.W.A.
3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail HART direct to Gibraltar as relief for REDPOLE after next operation by 7th Escort Group, reporting approx. date.
4. A.M. 251752 (N.T. in W.D.) is cancelled.
(D.O.D. (H) 010359A.)

1st S/M.F. Assume patrols in approaches to Suda Bay by 0401B/3 patrols.
as follows:-
(1) P.34 ULTIMATUM to the West of A line 027° from 035° 30' 024° 14' repeat 027° from 035° 30' 024° 14'.
(2) P.229 SPORTSMAN to East of this line.
(Capt. (S) 1 011058B to P.34 ULTIMATUM, P.229 SPORTSMAN (R) 1st S/M.F. FOLEM.)

SIBYL sailed from Beirut at 1230B/1st for Kaso Straits and patrol in North Aegean between latitude 039° 01' and 037° 36' to the (?East) of longitude 025° E. and a line drawn 134° from 038° 22' 025° 01' to cut the North Coast of Nikaria.

(Capt. (S) 1 011529B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) C. in C. Med., PAPANICOLIS. S/M.F.1.)

P.34 ULTIMATUM is to be S. and W. of 036° 15' 024° 25' by dawn 2nd thence proceed to patrol as in my 011058.

2. PAPANICOLIS G.S. is not to enter her patrol area until after dawn 2nd.

(Capt. (S) 1 011542B to ULTIMATUM (R) PAPANICOLIS 1st S/M.F., F.O.L.E.M.)

1st S/M.F. Summary 2005B/1. TORBAY in vicinity of Cape Eski Stambul DCLEFN N. of Amorgos. SPORTSMAN N. of Scarpanto proceeding to patrol off Suda Bay. PAPANICOLIS Kaso Straits proceeding to patrol in Milos Area. ULTIMATUM as in 291640. SIBYL 33° 58' 33° 56' to Kaso Straits.

(Capt. (S) 1 011608B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) C. in C. Mediterranean, Admiralty.)

U/B attacked. (?A/C) reports:- U/B sighted at and attacked 2350A (?31st.) by (corrupt group) of 96 position 040° 55' N. 012° 00' E. no result seen. After square search re-sighted submerging in 041° 00' N. (?012°) (?08') E. at 0221A/1st. course 100°. (F.O.W.I.T. 011135Z.)

Signals compromised. Messages belonged to ULTIMATUM who has been recalled from patrol and is proceeding Beirut for investigation S.1's 011835. (F.O.L.E.M. 011248B.)

Operation "Shingle". Your 011058. Dutch gunboat should be used for bombardment of Formia area unless required by F.O.W.I.T. in accordance with my 311307. (C. in C. Med. at Naples 011523A to C.S.15.)

/Your...

12.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle" (Contd.) Your 011651 addressed HAMBLEDON. Am carrying out A/S sweep to westward of route Roger with ULSTER and 2 Hunts.
(Capt. (D) 25 011852A to HAMBLEDON.) (See A/C. 012045A etc. postea.)
Return to "Shingle" area at daylight tomorrow Wed. and take over duties of S.N.O. (A) my 311307 which is being passed refers. (N.T. & W.D.)

2. Other bombardment cruisers are being held at Naples at short notice.

3. Requests for cruisers for firing support to meet the requirements of 6 Corps are to be made to C.S.15 (R) F.O. W.It., C. in C. Med.
(C. in C. Med. 012333A to PHOEBE (R) F.O.W.It., C.T.F.81, C.S.15, N.O.I.C. Anzio.)

Jamming of glider bombs. C.T.G. 80.2 reports as follows about 60 glider bomb signals intercepted in four attacks operation "Shingle". All signals in 47 to 50 mc/s band with suspicion of five signals on 43.5, 44, 46 mc/s. During last attacks several signals on air at one time. Apparently more signals than bombs to mask actual control signal and divert jamming. Present equipment probably effective for only one signal at a time. Barrage jammer to cover entire band required to combat present tactics. Jamming not too effective protection for close formation of ships as diverting from point of aim may result in hit on another ship.
(C. in C. Med. 011555A to Admty., F.O.LEM.)

M.A.A.F. Opsum 345. Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Force. 30/31 and 1 Marauder (B.26) recce. Ancondes Sansego (?Samis) no incident but sighted surfaced S/M. 25/30 miles S.S.E. Lagosta Is. Vessel submerged to periscope depth.
(M.A.A.F. Command Post 011605A.)

PIPINOS. Ordering route to Beirut.
2. The above route is covered by permanent total bombing restrictions.
3. Enemy S/M. operates within 60 miles of the North African coast between longitude 020° and 024°. One enemy S/M. is believed to be operating off Levant coast.
(Capt. (S) 1 011729B.)

Enemy traffic off Spanish coast. Consideration is being given to a renewal of attempts to dislocate enemy are traffic between Bilbao and Bayonne or Bordeaux.
2. As we are entering upon a period of much increased political pressure on Spain it would also be advantageous if coincident attacks on enemy traffic off the East coast of Spain were to take place.
3. Request your view on possibilities of such action during the next two months.
(D.O.D. (F) 011738A to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.1.2.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.U/B
report.One S/M submerged in 41° 43' N. 8° 27' E.
(remainder unread).
(FORBIN (F.S.) 011830A.)ULTIMATUM,
M/S messages
compromised.Plain language versions of 16 M/S messages originated by Capt. S.1 and 1 from Capt. S.10 between 8th and 12th January 1944, also paraphrase of A.G.M. 135A discovered today in local shop. Operational information in these signals must be considered compromised. Bombing restrictions and Aegean S/M routeing affected. In addition to the above signals there were plain language versions of 13 messages made between 7th and 12th January in Naval Aircraft code. Investigations proceeding enquiry will be held on return of S/M concerned to Malta. Written report follows to F.O.L.E.M.
(S.1. 011835B.)Air attack
on U.G.S.30.
SS. EDWARD
BATES
torpedoed.SSS torpedo port side 1 man badly wounded
(remainder unread) Q.R.M. from S.A.D.
(EDWARD BATES 011918A.)

ROCKWOOD.

Your 281212/January. Permanent repairs to ROCKWOOD will be undertaken in U.K. in due course but repair port cannot yet be nominated.
2. Request you will report your intentions for return passage of ship to U.K.
(D.O.D. (F) 011926A to F.O.L.E.M.)Glider
bomb
recovered.One damaged glider bomb has been recovered including explosive nose, tail part with fin and majority of electrical components and is now at Naples under examination by Lieutenants Haggard and Field. Should parts be flown home for examination or will Admiralty experts be sent here.
(C. in C. Med. at Naples 011930A to Admty.)

Aegean.

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intell. Appreciation 24 hrs. to 1000/1. (Extract) Every indication enemy stepping up reinforcement and supply outer islands by maximum sea and increased air effort.
(C. in C. M.E. 011945B.)U/B
report.Am over enemy S/M on surface in 40° 38' N. 12° 03' E.
(A/C VZBR 012045A and mge. T.O.R. 012105A.)
Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 40° 38' N. 12° 03' E.
(A/C. VZBR 012107A.)Am going to look for S/M reported by A/C Duty R.
(Capt. (D) 25 012133A.)

/Summary...

War Diary.1.2.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Summary of
attacks on
U/BS.

Assessed by Mediterranean Joint Assessment Board
my 302359 Nov. refers. Following attacks previous-
ly reported have been assessed as follows Serial 29
Assessment G. 34A Assessment F. Serial 37
Assessment C. Serial 39A Assessment G. Serial 41
Assessment H. Serial 42 Assessment I. Serial
43 Assessment H. Serial 44 Assessment H. Serial 45 Assessment G.
Serial 48 Assessment H. Serial 52 Assessment H. Serial 55
Assessment H. (2) Following not previously reported has been
assessed G. Serial 31 B. 110110 Oct. H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN ISLES
37° 08' N. 5° 10' E. (3) Following not previously reported has
been assessed H. Serial 57 291450 Dec. F.S. TEMPETE 38° 08' N.
06.56' E. (4) Following not previously reported and not yet
assessed Serial 38A 011718 Nov. H.M.S. WHITEHAVEN 33.32 N. 20.19 E.
Serial 45A 081848 ?Dec. H.M.S. GLOXINIA 32.06 N. 25.30 E.
Serial 746A 120714 Dec. H.M.S. ANEMONE 37.05 N. 05.34 E.
Serial 55A 191130 Dec. H.M.S.A.S. SOUTHERN ISLES 37.25 N. 07.28 E.
Serial 56A 230748 Dec. H.H.M.S. KANARIS 33.57 N. 22.36 E.
Serial 58 072245 Jan. Wellington P/179 36.38 N. 02.05 W.
Serial 59 072225 Jan. Wellington H/36 36.42 N. 02.00 W.
Serial 60 082205 Jan. Wellington B/36 36.48 N. 01.48 W.
Serial 61 082204 Jan. Wellington M/36 36.48 N. 01.48 W.
Serial 62 082245 Jan. Wellington R/179 36.54 N. 01.46 W.
Serial 63 082135 Jan. Wellington Y/36 36.54 N. 01.56 W.
Serial 64 082114 Jan. Wellington N/179 36.54 N. 01.45 W.
Serial 65 082245 Jan. Catalina J/202 36.53 N. 01.45 W.
Serial 66 090751 Jan. Wellington N/458 38.02 N. 00.04 E.
Serial 67 100621 Jan. Wellington H/458 38.56 N. 00.12 E.
Serial 68 111352 Jan. U.S.S. P.C.545 36.54 N. 11.16 E.
Serial 69 312350 Jan. Wellington N/36 40.50 N. 12.06 E.
(C. in C. Med. 012221A.) *W.D. Note. For assessments see C. Med. 012221A.*

ULTIMATUM.

ULTIMATUM leaving patrol forthwith passing through
035° 54' 024° 48' about 1801/2nd thence N. of
Sophrana Nisia and through Scarpanto Strait to
arrive 035° 37' 027° 37' at 0201/4th. Thence on
the surface at 8 knots through 034° 03' 031° 58' to arrive Beirut
at 0701/6th.

(Capt. (3) 1 012359B to P.34 ULTIMATUM, PAPANICOLIS, F.O.L.E.M.
1st S/M.F.)

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U/Boat
disposition
No.22.

Areas A. and D. believed clear of U/Boats.
Scale of air escort W.
Area B no definite evidence of U/Boats in area
but scale of air escort remains X.
Area C. one U/Boat sighted by Catalina in
012° 04' N. 051° 05' E. at 0247Z 30th Jan.
probably moving into Gulf of Aden. 2 reports

of sighting by aircraft off Arabian Coast in northern part of
area on 30th Jan. considered improbable.

Scale of air escort remains Y. Areas E. and G. no further
evidence of presence of U/Boats in either of these areas.
Reduced scale of air escort to W. Area F. no further indication
of U/Boats in the area but scale air escort remains at X.
(C. in C.E.F. 010545Z.)

SS. OLGA
E.EMBIROCOS.

Sunk by Submarine 2100Z/29th Jan. in 12° 30' N.
50° 10' E.
2. 21 Survivors landed Aden. 20 missing
believed drowned.
(Com. Aden, 010804Z.)

Attack
on U/B.

A.M. 091845 July 1942 (A) EF.26 (B) H.M.I.S.
SONAVATI (C) 0208Z 11th Jan. 1944 (D) 07° 40'
S.89° 15.5 E. (E) H (F) Ref. C. in C.E.F.'s
171102 (Re attack by SONAVATI. No evidence of
damage to any U/B and presence of U/Boats cannot
be confirmed.
(C. in C. E.F., 011048Z.)

War Diary1.2.1944.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

C.U.12 Your 31/1713. (Re sailing 26 ships in C.U.12) affirmative.
(Com. 10th Fleet C and R., 011400Z to Admty.).

U/boat estimates (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 011443Z to Cominch, 011547Z).

Escort of L.S.I.(L)'s. Your 312155. Arrangements made accordingly as regards ships from U.S.A.
(2) My 291851. The 2 Frigates which had sailed from Bermuda were CURZON and HALSTED. LAWSON came to Norfolk to embark spares before sailing. As REDMILL now will be ready at Bermuda on 11th Feb. she could make the 5th Frigate with the EMPEROR SEARCHER L.S.T.(L) Group. Your 011215 request you indicate if HALSTEAD due Argentinia 2nd February is to return to Bermuda to make sixth Frigate with this Group.
(B.A.D., 011615Z to Admty.).
Cancel my 312147. Intend allocating following escorts.
(S.B.N.O. W.At., 011714Z).
Cancelled by 021403Z q.v.
B.A.D. 011615. Sailing of HALSTEAD was cancelled in N.O.B. Bermuda 311621 Jan. at my request. HALSTEAD, DAKINS and BRAITHWAITE are leaving Bermuda today 1st Feb. for Norfolk. Allocation of escorts in my 011714 fully meets requirements of your 312155.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 012012Z to Admty.).
Your 011615. Cancel A.M.'s. 312155, 310152 and 300210.
2(a) EMPIRE ANVIL and EMPEROR are to sail from Norfolk on 5th Feb. to U.K. escorted by 2 frigates and being joined by HALSTEAD off Argentinia.
(b) SEARCHER to sail from Norfolk for U.K. on 9th Feb. with 2 frigates.
(c) EMPIRE JAVELIN to sail from Norfolk for Bermuda on 11th Feb. with 3 frigates.
(d) EMPIRE SPEARHEAD is to be diverted to Bermuda and then to U.K. in company with ships named in para. (c) above.
3. EMPEROR and SEARCHER should make passage at best speed.
4. These changes are regretted but need for early return of carriers make this necessary.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 012310A to B.A.D., C. in C.C.N.A.).

U/boat off St. Kitts. Submarine reported sighted off St. Kitts 1600Z/31st Jan. graded C.O.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 011636R).

Landing in Marshall Islands. I/34 cipher 1st Feb. 407077.
Kwajalein Group U States landing Roi and in South at Ennylabelan 31st Jan. Source War Dept.
(B.A.S., 011740Q).

CURZON, RENONCULE. Departures CURZON to S.C. 152, F.F.S. RENONCULE to H.X.277.
(Capt.(D) Argentinia, 011806Z).

/ SS QUEEN...

War Diary

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

SS. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

A.T.91 move point K my 281504Z 2 degs. South and read 37.50.
(Com. 10th Fleet C and R., 012040Z to P.D. New York).

U/boats reports.

(A) Transient (?Transport) aircraft sights sub course 128.08-07 S.20.55 W. 011345 - all times Z.
(D) A.T.C. Plane sights sub course 179.12.15 N. 61.01 W. 011339.
(Cominch, 012122).

Fitting of 1 F.F. in Pacific Theatre.

1. U.S. C.O.S. now state they find it impracticable to undertake the adaption, production and fitting of all British Forces operating in the Pacific Theatre with I.F.F. Mark IV.
2. There will be only a limited amount of I.F.F. Mark IV equipment available for use in the Pacific area and it will be used at the discretion of the Theatre Commander for the equipment of U.S. British and other United Nations Forces in his command in accordance with his judgement as to their respective needs.
(J.S.M., 012145Z).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.742.

Jan. 31. Para. 14 to 16 cover South Pacific Forces.
15. 16 Dauntless 80 Avengers escorted by 50 fighters despatched Rabaul late afternoon 30th Jan. for erroneously reported aircraft carrier there struck other shipping sinking one medium freighter leaving burning one destroyer one large one medium cargo vessels. Ack ack reported heaviest yet encountered. Interception effected by 30 aggressive fighters whereof 21 destroyed plus three probable. Two Corsairs one Avenger lost.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 010535Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M. attack and sighting summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/1.
Para.A. (1) STARLING, WILDGOOSE and MAGPIE attacked U/boat with depth charges at 1205/31st /Jan...

U.592
S.M. R

1.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.
(Contd.).

Jan. in 50 degs. 14' N. 17 degs. 37' W.
(2) A/C T/120 attacked U/boat with depth charges
at 1415/31st Jan. in 59 degs. 33' N. 13 degs. 46'
W.
(3) A/C K/172 was sighted by B/304 attacking
U/boat with depth charges at 2327/30th Jan. in
45 degs. 25' N. 05 degs. 25' W.
(D.D.I.C., 011120A).

U/boat
estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 011431A).
Liberator attack 1415Z/31st January near 59 degs.
30' N. 13 degs. 40' W. and sinking by E.G.2
1205Z/31st January near 50 degs. 15' N. 17 degs.
40' W. may indicate the approximate extremities
of main patrol disposition, which probably runs in a westward
area between these two positions.
(D.D.I.C., 011439A).

War Diary.2.2.1944.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F.W.

1(a) C. in C. H.F. has today approved S.B.N.O. North Russia's proposal of yesterday that the combined Convoy R.A.56 with a convoy-speed of 9½ knots should sail from North Russia at 1000A tomorrow; and he has also today approved Capt. D.3's intention to form four pairs of destroyers into a Striking Group to maintain a maximum offensive A/S effort during the passage of the Convoy as far as Bear Island.

(b) The destroyers VERULAM, SWIFT, and OBEDIENT arrived at Skaslefiord (Faroes) at 1203A today, and they are to R/V with the Convoy about 120 miles South of Bear Island at 0800A on the 6th February to reinforce the Escort.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche"

2. 30 Kittyhawks bombed shipping at Ancona today, but no important results are reported.

Adriatic.

3. The destroyers TUMULT and TENACIOUS last night bombarded Porto Recanati (43.27 N. 13.40 E.) and Pedaso, and patrolled between San Benedetto and Ancona.

Operation
"Shingle".

4(a) PHOEBE, who relieved DIDO at Anzio for fire support of the Army, reported a U-Boat at 0445 in 41.24 N. 11.59 E. Captain D.25, hunting for U-Boat reported yesterday 60 miles S.S.W. of Anzio (q.v.) proceeded to search in this new position.

(b) ORION and Dutch gunboat SOEMBA continued bombardment of the Formia area.

(c) Aircraft dropped 11 x 1000 lb. bombs on Formia docks, with good results it is believed.

(d) Weather continues excellent and unloading satisfactory.

(e) Six of the 11 L.C.Ts. which broached to on the beaches have been recovered, and of the 16 pontoons which stranded during the Operation 3 have been recovered and 8 more can be salvaged.

/Aegean ...

War Diary.

2.2.1944.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

5(a) Mines were laid in Rhodes and Candia harbours last night, covered by diversionary bombing.

(b) Late today aircraft attacked and set on fire off Patmos a large merchant vessel thought to be LEDA returning from Samos. This is the enemy's fastest and most valuable transport in the Aegean. LEDA's escorts were seen on 3rd February returning to Piraeus without her, and the ship is presumed to have sunk.

Eastern
Med.

6. Unescorted and schooner sailings were temporarily suspended following the sinking of 2 schooners by U-Boat in the Latakia area last night.

2.2.1944.
Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Policy

ARCHER

In order to assist in relieving the congestion of carriers and to make available an additional buoy for carrier boiler cleaning it is requested that early consideration may be given to the removal of H.M.S. ARCHER from Clyde area. (F.O.C.T., 021143 to Admty.).

Defence of U.K.Faeroes
defences.

Following revised defence plan approved for Faeroe Islands. Details. (D.L.D. 021035 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes). New Defence Plan and Scale of Attack for Faeroes approved by C.O.S. 27 January 44. Details follow. (War Officer, 021235A to O.C. Troops Faeroes).

Scapa A/A
defences.

A.C.O.S. 011529. Retention of adequate searchlight layout is especially important. Fire power of individual heavy A/A guns has improved and a thinning out of guns is therefore acceptable. (2) Reduction of balloon barrage is concurred in. (C. in C.H.F., 021058A to Admty.).

Operations.A/S search
off S.W.
Ireland.

My 012053. SPEY sail Merville FINDHORN completes oiling about 0900/2nd will signal own departure. (E.G.10, 020530 to C. in C.W.A.). E.G.10's 020530. Sailed 0900A/2. (FINDHORN, 020901A to C. in C.W.A.). FINDHORN and SPEY arrived 0230. Sailed at 0600. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 021000A to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 011254A. E.T.A. 1800Z/3. My P.C.S. 054 degs. 50' N. 009 degs. 44' W. 237 degs. 13 knots best prudent speed. ROTHER, LOSSIE, WEAR in company. FINDHORN following independently. (E.G.10, 021401Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Sailed WANDERER, WATCHMAN, BERKELEY CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, PORCHESTER CASTLE to comply with your 011532A. S.O.A. 12 knots, E.T.A. position indicated 0600/4th. STRULE sailing 2 hours later to overtake.

(Cdre. (D) W.A. 021444A to C. in C.W.A.).

A/S search
off N.W.
Ireland.

Clyde arrival, STUART PRINCE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 020828A to C. in C.W.A.). Arrived GATINEAU and ICARUS. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 021442A to Admty.).

Biscay
A/S Oper-
ations.

Estimate at 1200Z to-day three U/boats bound west or northwest between latitudes 44 degs. 45' N. and 46 degs. 20' N. in approximately longitude 18 degs. 00' W. and one eastbound in approximately 44 degs. 45' N. 19 degs. 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 020913A to E.G.2.).

/Situation...

War Diary2.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay
A/S Opera-
tions.
(Contd.).

Situation at 022001A. NAIRANA, ACTIVITY,
E.G.2., STARLING, MAGPIE, WOODPECKER, WREN,
KITE, WILD GOOSE, vicinity 45 degs. 25' N.
18 degs. 40' W.
(C. in C.W.A., 021353A to Ships).

S/M.
patrols.

Proceeding unescorted and on surface at C.O.
discretion till within 60 miles Norwegian coast
TAKU left Lerwick 0912A/2nd, through 090 degs.
Muckle Flugga 20, 016 degs. 13', 001 degs. 50'
E. and 060 degs. 42' 003 degs. 20' E. to
patrol vicinity Skudesnes.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 020942A to S/M's).

TRADE WIND is to proceed by route previously ordered to
patrol position T1 and T2 given in F.O.S. 011912. These
positions are identical with T8 and T7 as given in F.O.S. 191544
October.

(Capt.(S) 9, 021011A to S/M's).

5/
Operation
"F.W.".

R.A.56. Local escort from W.A. WRESTLER,
HONEYSUCKLE, WALLFLOWER, BORAGE.

(2) Ships are to be sailed so as to arrive
Skaalefiord p.m. 6th February.

(C. in C.W.A., 020956A to Cdre. (D) W.A.).

Ref. sailing orders for J.W.56B and earlier convoys M/F
Homing signals from U-boat (German) and enemy aircraft in Arctic
are transmitted on 365 446 448 466 400 and 527 k/cs.

(C. in C.H.F., 021008A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe).

Intend to proceed with Force 1 at 1100A/3rd in accordance
with C. in C.H.F. 301919 January.

(C.S.1, 021150A to A.C.I.C.).

Faeroes arrival VERULAM, OBEDIENT, SWIFT.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 021203A to C. in C.H.F.).

Proposals in your 011919 approved. Only available
reinforcing destroyers will proceed as in my 011447.

(C. in C.H.F., 021238A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Intend sailing ONYX p.m. 3rd Feb. to Skaalefiord routed E.
of mine barrier, E.T.A. p.m. 5th. V.A.2, 171354A Jan. refers.

(C.S.1, 021346A to A.C.I.C.).

(1) Convoy R.A.56 is due to leave Kola at 1000A/3rd Feb.
Estimated S.O.A. 9 knots, routed on Route B which includes
following positions:-

K. 072 degs. 30' 037 degs. 30' E. M. 073 degs. 22', 032
degs. 40' E. N. 073 degs. 22', 020 degs. 01' E. O. 070 degs.
28', 003 degs. 10' E. P. 062 degs. 15', 005 degs. 50' W.

(2) Estimate convoy will be in position 241 degs. of N. 20
miles at 0800A/6th. Proceed with OBEDIENT and SWIFT at 16 knots
to R/V with convoy in this position.

(3) If not met proceed at 16 knots along route B through
position N and towards position M until convoy R.A.56 is met and
join Capt.(D) 3 D.F.

(4) If not, met on reaching position 090 degs. N. 100 miles,
reverse course and inform Capt.(D) 3 D.F. Failing other
instructions return to Scapa by convoy route.

(C. in C.H.F., 021856A to VERULAM).

/Request...

War Diary2.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "F.W." (Cohtd.). Request immediate consideration provision of a fitted leader for 26th D.F. in place of HARDY. VALENTINE preferred if this can be arranged. (R.A.D.H.F., 022345A to Admty.).

"S.C." operations. (A) Intend to sail S.C. Operation from Scalloway.
(1) 2200A/3rd February weather permitting.
(2) 062 degs. 30' N., 006 degs. 00' E.
(3) RAMOSE BORODIN (II).
(4) 2 days.
(5) 060 degs. Muckle Flugga. (6) No.
(B) Cancel my 201941 my 282300, my 302031 and my 310021 January. (A.C.O.S. 021017A to Admty.).
Intend to sail S.C. operation from Scalloway.
(1) 1400A/5th February weather permitting.
(2) 065 degs. 20' N., 011 degs. 40' E. (3) RAMOSE BRIGAND.
(4) 4 day. (5) 040 degs. Muckle Flugga. (6) No. (A.C.O.S., 021027 to Admty.).

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 021516A).

Operation "Tunnel" My 012310 para.4, and 6. Owing to weather neither force 119 nor aircraft will take part. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021523A to HAIDA, IROQUOIS, ASHANTI).
Programme given in my 311658A January and 011520 February is amended.
Composition of Force 26 will be BELLONA (S.O.), HAIDA and IROQUOIS and ATHABASKAN. Force 26 will now leave Eddystone area A 1600/4 to reach position (BB) about 2100/4 and will leave vicinity of (BB) at 0700/5 to return to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021635A to Admty.).

No.10 Patrol. Starting 4th February an additional destroyer patrol will be required during the present light nights period. This patrol to be known as number 10 is to be between 62 and 62B buoy. Each Flotilla in turn starting with 16th is to detail one destroyer for 2 night patrols on number 10 proceeding to Humber for the day between patrols. (C. in C. Nore, 021644A to Capts.(D) 21, (D) 16).

Mining.

Harwich 1 Ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1254 in 51 degs. 51.9 mins. N. 01 degs. 40.7 mins. E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 021733A and 021854A).

Humber My 311802. Search completed negative result. (M/S 4, 021422A to N.O.I.C. Humber).

War Diary2.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence

Baltic

My 311549.

Press reports requisitioning of Danish Motor Vessels HAMMERHUS 1775 tons, FREM 1176 tons, and ROTNA 836 tons.

These together with four HARWICH ESBJERG vessels are believed to be intended for evacuating troops from Baltic States. (N.A. Stockholm, 021251 to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects.

Convoy O.N.221. S.O.S. 80 degs. 255 miles from (unread) T vessel CHARLES H. broken in half.

HERTY. (Ship in O.N.221, No T.O.O./2nd to Burnham Radio).

JOHN L.

Radio).

SULLIVAN.

Intercept 0045 G.M.T. 265.6 degs. approx. de R.A.45 addressed R.A.D.1. 80 degs. 255 miles from T. Vessel broke in half.

(Port Patrick Radio, 020145 B.S.T. to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

O.N.221. Following received by Commodore from R.A.45 at 0045Z/2nd. Begins S.O.S. 080 degs. 255 miles from T. Vessel broken in half. Ends. Position given is unlikely. GENTIAN searching. My P.C.S. 049 degs. 05' N. 034 degs. (?06') W. (missing group) 236 degs. 5 knots. Weather 3471, 9658.

(B.2., 020402Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Starboard side forward deck main deck between deck ships side (unread) cracked request assistance. Master. Ends.

(Ship R.A.15, 021108Z).

Position 48.36 N. 34.19 W.

(Ship R.A.15, No T.O.O. to R.A.D.1., Received 021612).

6 8 miles 216 degs. from S. Hove to heading east, fuel tank ruptured, 4 hold flooded, can make Azores. Please advise. Can we expect escort.

(CHARLES H. HERTY, 021303 to C. in C.W.A.).

Detach one escort to assist CHARLES H. HERTY and report name. In all cases disabled ships should be escorted to St. Johns N.F. if possible.

(C. in C.W.A., 022204A to B.2.).

BRAID

Following received - To F.O.I.C. Greenock. From: BRAID.

Have run aground on Sgeirtraighe. (Campbeltown, 020352A to Admty.).

N.O.I.C. Campbeltown and N.O.I.C. Oban are requested to sail forthwith rescue tug GRIPER and EMPIRE CUPID respectively to assist BRAID aground on Sgeirtraighe, Sound of Islay.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 020507).

Your 020352. Rescue tug GRIPER from Campbeltown. EMPIRE CUPID for Oban have been ordered to your assistance.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 020509A to BRAID).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of BRAID aground on Sgeirtraighe, Sound of Islay.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 020517A to SESAME).

SESAME should arrive your position 2350A tonight. Salvage Vessel SALVEDA is proceeding from Oban to your assistance.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 021128A to BRAID).

/ BRAID...

War Diary2.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.BRAID
(Contd.).BRAID has refloated. Proceed direct to
Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 021304A to SESAME).
Your 021201A. Return to Greenock.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 021506A to BRAID).L.C.I.511
lost.L.C.I.511 beached at Portslade, damaged, now
considered total loss.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 020846A to C. in C. Ports-
mouth).

VANSITTART

Greenock's 301658. Provisional estimate by
E.R.O. of time required to complete repairs is
three weeks.
(C. in C.W.A., 020945A to Admty.).

WORTHING

WORTHING can be taken in hand for refit at Hull
about 3rd week in February. Your 301929 refers.
(D.M.S., 021034A to M/S 15).

C.T.07

E.R.O. reports whilst proceeding on gun trials
C.T.07 grounded. Vessel is being taken in hand
by British Power Boat Company for shipping and
surveying. There is evidence of underwater
damage.
(N.O.I.C. Poole, 021706 to D.D. of D.).Shipping and Convoys.O.S.67/
K.M.S.41.Request you will sail PURSUER to provide
fighter protection (20 Wildcat V) with convoy
O.S.67/K.M.S.41. No A/S A/C will be carried.
(C. in C.W.A., 021152A to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

S.C.152

Sailing telegram. 31 ships. Names and
destinations.
(D.T.D., 021535A).A.T.89
(AQUITANIA)From position F pass through new L 56.01 N.
31.40 W. new M. 61 degs. N. 24 degs. W.
N. 61.30 N. 12.10 W. O. 58.00 N. 08.15 W.
thence to K.
(D.O.D.(H), 021723A to AQUITANIA).

K.M.F.28A

Amend route from position S through
X 55.25 N. 11.45 W. Y. 51.01 N. 14.25 W.
Z. 49.02 N. 19.35 W. and rejoin route at U.
(D.O.D.(H), 021729A to Escorts K.M.F.28A).

War Diary.2.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- U/B report. Gibraltar P.1 2nd Feb. Form Pink.
A. 2 Feb. B. North Front Gibraltar. C. Hudson
K/48. D. U-Boat sighted on surface seen to sub-
merge at 0905/2A in 35.48 N. 06.16 W. course
easterly speed estimated 13 knots.
(A/C H.Q. Gibraltar 020955A.)
- S.L.147/
M.K.S.38. COLUMBINE sailing at 021600A to overtake and act
as additional escort until relieved by BURZA.
2. S.O.A. 13, estimated will overtake at 031700A.
(F.O.G.M.A. 021215A to Escorts.)
My 2000Z (N.T. in W.R.) position 035° 36' N. 008°
25' W. 083° 11 knots 121 CHASSEUR* being not in company. 3.O.
Escort Group B.3 could not locate her at dusk and she does not
reply on 2410 or 2150 k/cs.
(BIDEFORD 022115Z.)
* ?CHASSEUR 61 intended. Vide F.O.G.M.A. 021057 Situation
Report for area XB. of Mediterranean.
- German ships in Spain. My reference sheet R/26/140(?) January 20th para.
1. Crew of both ships have now been taken ashore
and are detained in arsenal prior to possible re-
patriation to Germany. Only Master and one
engineer and one seaman on each ship remain on
board for maintenance.
Comment:- Reference Sheet R/26/44 of 20th January states that
following information has been received from R.O. Cartagena:-
1. The German LIPARI and CARL VINMEN have Spanish destroyers
moored alongside. LIPARI 1943 tons, CARL VINMEN (auxiliary sail)
1827 tons.
(B.N.A.Madrid 021746.)
- M.K.F.28. Request you will divert M.K.F.28 from 39° N.
through 46° N. 21° W. 48.30 N. 19.00 W. 50.30 N.
13.45 W. 55.00 N. 11.01 W.
(D.O.D.(H) 022104A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- WARSPITE. Your 011815A. WARSPITE can be ready to sail for
U.K. by 27th Feb. with two turrets fully efficient
and other work referred to in my 251002A completed.
(F.O.G.M.A. 021759A to Admty.)
- W/T states. Ref. to C. in C.W.A. 061842 Dec. on a convoy
entering your area it is requested that you will
review the W/T state and alter it as necessary to
conform to the existing U-Boat situation in order
to avoid W/T or R/T restrictions being maintained longer than
necessary.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 021809A to F.O.G.M.A.)

2.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Atlantic
Patrol.

Your 221553 Jan*. Arrived 1400/2 MONTCALM.
(Comar Dakar 021537Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

*MONTCALM and AOSTA.

Arrival a.m. 2 F.S. TOURVILLE from ocean patrol.
(S.O.I. Freetown 021223Z.)

Sailed F.C. SUFFREN 1600Z/2 in accordance with my 271905 Jan. to
assume patrol from a.m. 4th.
(Comar Dakar 021831Z.)

Sunderland
A/C sunk.

Your 021128 (N.T. in W.R.) to LEITH. Sunderland
aircraft sunk at 1405/2 in 018° 31' N. 017° 50' W.
Crew safe am rejoining. 13 knots.
(CROCUS 021411Z to Comar Dakar.)

CAMBRIA.

Movements in connection with cable repairs.
(R.O.Montevideo 021451.)

War Diary.2.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle". My P.C. and S. at 0700A 040° 43' N. 012° 08' E. 270° 15 knots, altering to 000° at 0800.
(Capt. D.25 020432A to ULSTER, (R) F.O.W.It. C.T.F. 81, KEMPENFELT, FAULKNER, BLENCATHRA.)
F.O.W.It's 01229 (N.T. in W.R.) My P.C. and S. at 1200A 041° 10' N. 012° 20' E. 180° 15 knots. HAMBLEDON in company.
(Capt. D.25 020810 to BLENCATHRA, (R) F.O.W.It.)
Am proceeding to search for S/M reported by PHOEBE in 041° 24' N. 011° 59' E. at 0445 today Wednesday.
(Capt. D.25 021017A.)
Sitrep. 1. DIDO relieved. PHOEBE at Anzio for fire support of Army.
2. ORION and SOEMBA continued bombardment of Formia area.
3. Two U-Boat hunts in progress in vicinity of 41° 00' 12° 40' E. and 40° 30' 12° 00' E.
4. Weather continues excellent and unloading satisfactory.
5. My 271815 para. two. 5 L.C.Ts. now remain broached to. Para. 3. JOHN BANVARD sailed to Naples.
6. Total of 16 pontoons stranded during operation. Three have been recovered and eight more can be salvaged.
(C. in C.Med. at Naples 021856.)

SIBYL. 1st Feb. departure SIBYL. (Note: for patrol.)
(S.O.I. Beirut 020835B.)

Danube open. My 241810C. Indications that Danube opened to navigation end of January with good water level.
B.2.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 020955C.)

UNTIRING. UNTIRING reports.
1. At 0944/30 in 43° 08' 06° 45' fired four torpedoes at two merchant ships of 7000 tons and 3500 tons, presenting a continuous target. Two explosions heard at correct running time.
2. At 1128/31 in 53 (sic) degs. 24' 06° 54' fired four torpedoes at two 500 ton coasters overlapping. Three explosions heard. Both vessels probably sunk.
(S.10 021037.)

Foggia area mine depot. Re setting up an advance A Mine Depot in Foggia area to handle mines for aircraft minelaying from local air fields.
(C. in C.Med. 021110A.)

TORBAY. Leave patrol p.m. 3rd passing 15 miles west of Psara then as in my 021459B Jan. and (?10) miles west of Kandeliusa to arrive in Scarpanto Straits about 1800B/5th.
2. Further routeing signals will be made.
(Capt. S.1 021115B to TORBAY, (R) PAPANICOLIS, Comd. D.Division 59, F.O.L.E.M.)

/My...

War Diary.2.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- TORBAY
(Contd.) My 021115B. From position 035° 32' 027° 28' at 1901B/5th proceed on surface at 11 knots through 034° 20' 030° 31' to arrive Beirut at 0701B/7th. (Capt. S.1 021836B to TORBAY.)
- PIPINOS. Your 021105. From position 034° 16' 023° 59' at 0001B/6th proceed on the surface at 9 knots through positions ordered in my 011729 to arrive Beirut 1501B/8th. (Capt. S.1 021509B to PIPINOS.)
- SPORTSMAN. My 011058B. You have freedom of action in approaches to Sunda (?Suda) Bay. (Capt. S.1 021801B to SPORTSMAN, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)
- M.T.Bs. for French. Your 311803A* January and 311807A January, regret that no further boats can be allocated to meet your requirements at present. (A.C.N.S.(F) 021849A to C. in C.Med.)
* Requesting information regarding loan of M.T.Bs. to French.
- LE TRIOMPHANT, LE TRIOMPHANT has received considerable damage. defects. Admty. 261548 to B.A.D. refers (N.T. in W.D.). Sister ships FANTASQUE, TERRIBLE and LE MALIN have been modernised in U.S.A. and are or have been engaged in offensive operations, which policy it is intended to continue. Repairs to LE TRIOMPHANT cannot be carried out in the Mediterranean area. I consider it desirable that she should proceed to the U.S.A. in order to be overhauled and modernised in the same way as the rest of her class. (Algiers 021849A.)
- SS. AKKA Standard Route. Swedish Govt. intimate safe conduct vessel AKKA will leave Piraeus 0800/6th for St. John N.B. Route will be standard route as amended at approaches to Piraeus by A.M. 271749. This route will in future be referred to as Standard Route. 2. Request you will inform air and other authorities concerned. (Admty. 022013A to F.O.L.E.M.)
- ST. JULIEN in collision. Here hospital ship ST. JULIEN in collision with vessel position lat. 40.46.5 N. long. 14.07 E. at 2140 G.M.T. (ST. JULIEN No T.O.O. Recd. 2150 G.M.T.)

/Situation...

2.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Situation Report 237.
1. TUMULT and TENACIOUS bombarded Porto Reconati 043° 27' N. 013° 40' E. and Pedaso during night 1/2 Feb. nothing sighted during subsequent patrol between San Benedetto and Ancona.
 2. 2 M.T.Bs. sank near Silba Island 044° 25' N. 014° 35' E. 2 small schooners on passage Zara to Fiume during night 31st/1st. 2 German and 6 Italian prisoners taken.
 3. 3 M.T.Bs. patrolling off Spezia sank enemy patrol craft by gunfire at 0002 first. Shore batteries fired star shell and flares no damage or casualties to our craft.
 4. Convoy U.G.S. 30 was attacked by approx. 40 enemy aircraft at dusk 1st February in 036° 38' N. 000° 50' E. torpedo exploded in A.N.D. of SS. RICHMOND P. HOBSON causing only superficial damage. Ship continued with convoy. SS. EDWARD BATES torpedoed and later sank. Enemy aircraft intercepted 50 miles north of convoy: fighters who claim 3 destroyed 1 probable 3 damaged. 1 destroyed by ships A/A.4 prisoners picked up.
(C. in C.Med. 022218A.)

War Diary.2.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B report. A.M. 012018A not to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)
Cross bearings give position of German U-Boat
within 150 miles of 04° N. 090° E.
(D.D.I.C. 020025A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) C. in
C.S.A.)

Operation "Canned." Arrival 2nd BANM.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 020231Z.)

Convoy A.J.1. Arrived escorted by LINARIA.
(N.C.S.C.Colombo 020309Z.)

SS. FORT BUCKINGHAM. 1. SS. KONGSDAL reports survivors of SS. FORT
BUCKINGHAM picked up 31st January in position
008.19 N. 006° 40' E. Survivors (2 Europeans,
6 Asiatics) state FORT BUCKINGHAM torpedoed and
sunk midnight 20th January.
2. SS. OLGA E. EMBIRICOS as 010804Z q.v.
(C. in C.E.F. 020407Z.)

Bi-weekly U/B dis- Ref. Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No. 22. Areas
position 23. A.B.D.E. and F. No fresh information no changes
in scale of air escort. Area C reports have
been intimated of sinking of OLGA EMBIRICOS in
012° 30' N. 050° 10' E. at 2100Z/29th Jan. and
FORT DE LA MAUNE sunk south east of Socotra
probably 25th Jan.
These ships were presumably sunk by U-Boat last sighted by Cata-
lina A/C in 012° 04' N. 051° 05' E. at 0247Z/30th January. In-
crease scale of air escort to Z.
Area G U-Boat (German) indicated by D/F between East Coast of
Ceylon and 005° N. 092° E. at 1853Z/1st may be moving into area.
Increase scale of air escort to X.
(C. in C.E.F. 020412Z.)

SS. ROBERT F.HOKE. Report of attack on American ship ROBERT F.HOKE on
28th December 1943 forwarded by S.O.I. Aden on
forms S.1533 indicates that Master abandoned ship
prematurely and that he refused to give reasons
for this action when questioned by S.O.I. Aden.
Recommend that this case should be further investigated and
American Authorities informed. U.S.N.L.O. on staff of C. in C.E.F.
is reporting to Cominch on the incident.
(C. in C.E.F. 020429Z to Admty.)

U/B attack assessments. A.M. 091845 July 1942. A. E.F.27. B. 0615Z/13th
December 1943. C. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. D. 011°
20' S. 056° 50' E. E. H. F. Nil. A. E.F.28.
B. 0950Z/27th December 1943. C. BERAR, D. 009°
17' N. 076° 15' E. E. H. F. Nil.
(C. in C.E.F. 021109Z.)

RAJPUTANA. E.T.A. Cochin with survivors.
(RAJPUTANA 021430Z.)

/U/B...

2.2.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U/B estimate. One probable German between Socotra and Aden.
One German patrolling Mauritius or Reunion areas
from D/F of 30th January.
One German probably southbound N.W. of Chagos
from D/F of 27th January.
One German probably westbound in approx. 03° 00' N. 79° 00' E.
from D/F of 1st Feb.
No evidence at present of any Japanese U-Boat being at sea.
(D.D.I.C. 021716A.)

War Diary.2.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U/B My 221059 July 1942.
sighting At 1247A/28/1 Sunderland D/461 sank surfaced
and attack U/Boat in 33° 15' N. 15° 52' W. About 30
reports. survivors seen in the water.
2. STARLING and WILD GOOSE attacked U/Boat
in 50° 14' N. 17° 37' W. p.m. 31st Jan. Much
wreckage and human remains came to the surface
after creeping attack.
3. Liberator T/120 attacked U/Boat with depth charges 10
seconds after diving in 59° 30' N. 13° 46' W. at 1515A/31/1.
Claims straddle across track and 100 ft. oil patch seen after
attack.
(DAUD, 021026A)
Northbound Jap replotted to area 0500 south 2200 from
sighting 1345Z/1. Enemy U/Boat estimate 1200Z/2. No fresh
information other areas.
(Washington 021602Z.)
Para. D. Merchant Vessel sighted periscope 34.10 N. 66.34W
011855Z.
(Cominch 022032Z.) Passing action being taken by W.R.

Sailing of Cancel my 011714* Allocation of escorts for
L.S.Ts. movements in A.M. 012310 will be as follows.
A. LAWSON, DAKINS and HALSTEAD.
B. BRAITHWAITE and EKINS.
C. DEANE and CRANSTOUN only. REDMILL who will
complete work up 13th Feb. to join at Bermuda for onward escort.
Only spare escort vessel available will now be PYLADES (B.A.M.
217).
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 021403Z.)*EMPIRE ANVIL, EMPEROR, SEARCHER to
sail from Norfolk to U.K. EMPIRE JAVELIN to sail from Norfolk
to Bermuda, EMPIRE SPEARHEAD diverted to Bermuda.
Admty., 012310 and S.B.N.O. W.At. 011714. The following
programme is now arranged.
2. A. EMPEROR and EMPIRE ANVIL escorted by LAWSON, DAKINS and
HALSTED sail from Norfolk dawn 6th via Argentia for escorts
fuel. Owing to changes in programme now impossible to load
EMPEROR for earlier sailing.
B. SEARCHER escorted by BRAITHWAITE and EKINS to sail from
Norfolk p.m. 9th via Argentia for escorts fuel.
C. EMPIRE JAVELIN escorted by DEANE and CRANSTOUN to sail
from Norfolk 9th Feb. to Bermuda to be joined by EMPIRE
SPEARHEAD (due Bermuda 10th) and REDMILL for onward passage to
U.K.
D. EMPIRE GAUNTLET and EMPIRE CROSSBOW have been diverted to
Bermuda for escort by MANNERS and MOUNSEY about 22nd. Feb.
E. EMPIRE ARQUEBUS to sail in C.U.15.
(B.A.D. 021717Z.)
Orders to implement 2(A) and (B) of last message.
EMPEROR and SEARCHER will ferry non operational aircraft.
EMPIRE ANVIL will carry about 1400 troops.
(Cominch, 022216Z.)

MAURETANIA. A.T.90 NU alter course forthwith for new A
044° N. 043° W. thence W. omitting V.
(Cdre. 10th Fleet 021443Z to MAURETANIA.)

/Visits...

2.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Visits of
U.S. ships
to Ponta
Delgada.

Your 252305Z para.3 concur.
(Admty. 021721A to B.A.D.)

L.27,
P.553.

Reviewing our man power resources and commitments for the Japanese war it is clear that L.27 and P.553 can only be manned at the expense of newer vessels.

2. Decided, therefore, to cancel refit of P.553 and to curtail that of L.27.

3. P.553 should continue to run for time being.

3. Further information about L.27's refit will be signalled shortly.

(Admty. 021814A.)

SS. ATHOS II. B.A.S. Washington's CO. 990 of 28th January shows that SS. ATHOS II is carrying 3017 U.S. personnel for India.

2. Request programme and route and confirmation that Cs. in C. concerned have been informed, observing that vessel's speed is such as normally to require escort when carrying such numbers, except in the Pacific. A.M. 021635 September para.3 also refers.

(D.O.D. (F) 021901A to B.A.D.)

3 A.Ps.
for Med.

Your 101601 January. As far as can be foreseen at present it is unlikely that special escort will be available.

2. If nearer the date suitable arrangements cannot be made would you agree to the 3 A.P's proceeding

to Mediterranean in a K.M.S. Convoy, scheduled to leave U.K. 14th March.

(D.O.D. (H) 021927Z to Cominch.)

T.F.60
CORE.

Task Force 60 constituted as Captain Rhea in NEVADA Comdesron 15 in DAVISON Desdiv 29 Comcortdiv 12 in FOGG. Cortdiv 12 NEWMAN, BIDDLE, ENOREE. Escort convoy U.T.8 expected depart Boston and New York 11 Feb. to U.K. and return when directed by

Admiralty escorting T.U.8. Boston section 8 A.P's escorted by 4 ships. CORE included in convoy with no operational aircraft.
(C. in C. Lant 022115.)

T.G.21.8.

Task Group 21.8 hereby established Desdiv 32 Comdr. Nelson in BOYLE plus STERN O'NEILL. Escort convoy C.U.14 scheduled depart New York 12th Feb. for U.K. and return escorting U.C.14 when directed.
(C. in C. Lant 022136.)

/CHEVREUIL...

War Diary.

2.2.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

CHEVREUIL. To permit inspections by Chief of French Naval Mission in U.S. departure of CHEVREUIL from Norfolk deferred until 13th Feb. when sail her as additional escort in U.G.S.33. On arrival Casablanca ship reports to F.O.C.W.Af. for duty. (Cominch, 022214Z.)

PRINCE Cominch reports:-
HENRY - Plane sighted Canadian A.M.C. PRINCE HENRY 44°
reply to 59' N. 33° 43' W. 1136Z/30th on course 090°
challenge. speed 15. Replies to aircraft challenges
unintelligible to four different planes. I
Ignored instructions to change course to
facilitate interception even when bombs dropped
ahead. 2 destroyers finally intercepted and identified
Merchant Cruiser at 1934Z/30th. 011357Z Ends.
2. Report on circumstances it to be forwarded.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 022231Z to S.C.N.O.(L))

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Feb. 1st. Paras. 1 to 11 cover South Pacific
Serial Forces.
743. 8. Afternoon Jan. 31st single enemy aircraft
dropped two bombs on shipping Finschhafen
causing slight damage and casualties with near
miss one merchant ship.
10. Night January 31st small allied reconnaissance party
raided Nissan Island northwest Buka successfully withdrawing
following morning. About 20 Japanese also 2 loaded barges
located on island.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 020602Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M. For 24 hours to 0900Z,
attack Para. A. 1. Br. FORT BUCKINGHAM torpedoed and
and sunk at about 2359/20th Jan. in about 070° 00' N.
sighting 69° 00' E.
summary.

? [Ent
Inter.]

War Diary.2.2.1944.
Wednesday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN .S/M
attack
and
sighting
summary.

2. Br. FORT LA MAUNE reported torpedoed and sunk on 26th/27th Jan. possibly east of Socotra.

3. Grk. OLGA E. EMBIRICOS torpedoed and sunk at 2100/29th Jan. in 12° 30' N. 50° 10' E.

4. Aircraft of 96 Squadron sighted and attacked U/Boat at 2250/31st Jan. in 40° 55' N. 12° 00' E.

5. Aircraft reported U/Boat on surface at

1945/1st Feb. in 40° 38' N. 12° 03' E.

6. Catalina aircraft sighted U/Boat at 0247/30th Jan. in 12° 04' N. 51° 05' E.

Para. B. 1. Iceland Liberator Q/120 had U/Boat contact at 0212/1st February in 60° 06' N. 11° 45' W.

2. French Destroyer FORBIN reported submerged U/Boat at 1901/1st Feb. 41° 43' N. 08° ?' E.

(D.D.I.C. 021134A.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 021418A, 021423A.)

3.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.W.

1. Convoy J.W.56B. The six M/Vs. of the White Sea section of Convoy J.W.56B arrived in the Dvina Roads (Archangel) at 0622A today. All the M/Vs. of this Convoy have thus arrived safely in North Russia.

Convoy R.A.56. The combined Convoy R.A.56, consisting of 39 M/Vs. with a convoy-speed of $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots, left the Kola Inlet at 1001A today escorted by 12 destroyers of the 3rd and 26th Destroyer Flotillas (S.O. Capt. D.3 in MILNE) with the minesweepers SPEEDWELL, HALCYON and HUSSAR. At 1610A C.S.1 in KENT with BERWICK and BERMUDA left Akureyri to cover the Convoy; and at 1705A the destroyers VERULAM, OBEDIENT and SWIFT left Skaalefiord (Faroes) to reinforce the Escort south of Bear Island.

U-Boat
attacked.

2. At 1810 today the U.S.S. GHERARDI of Task Force 69 escorting Convoy T.U.7 made five attacks upon a U-Boat about 30 miles N.W. of the Bloody Foreland and heard an underwater explosion after the third attack.

3. 704 U.S. Fortresses bombed Wilhelmshaven through cloud today; 6 aircraft are missing. 195 Liberators which attempted to bomb Emden were unsuccessful owing to the weather.

Bomber Command aircraft last night laid 75 mines at Kiel and 2 in the Cadet Channel.

South Atlantic.

4. Sailings of Argentine merchant ships, which were stopped on the rupture of relations with the Axis have been resumed.

3.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

5. Good weather continues at Anzio, but a break is expected within 24 hours.

The French cruiser GLOIRE and Dutch gunboat SOEMBA carried out bombardments in the Formia area.

Cruisers have been withdrawn from Anzio.

The U-Boat search near 40.30 N. 12.00 E. has not yet produced any known result.

British L.S.Ts. have been withdrawn from Operation "Shingle" according to plan. Nine U.S. L.S.Ts. are following tomorrow.

Control of "Shingle" maintenance has now been turned over to F.O.W.It. C.T.F. 81 has left the area.

Aegean.

6. 6 Venturas bombed Rhodes harbour last night, scoring hits on all surrounding quays and amongst small vessels anchored in the harbour. Wellingtons hit and set fiercely on fire after a heavy explosion an escorted merchant vessel between Arki and Patmos.

6 Marauders today bombed shipping in Suda Bay.

U-Boats were sighted and attacked by aircraft today 30 miles south-east of Limassol and 40 miles north-west of Latakia, Syria. After an attack on the second of these, oil and wreckage, including the keel of a boat was seen.

Australia and New Zealand.

7.3 U.S. Naval Catalinas set on fire a medium-sized merchant ship and left it sinking, 40 miles west of New Hanover (N.W. of New Ireland). In the same area at midday another escorted freighter (probably in the same convoy) was hit, set on fire, and exploded.

Marshall
Is.

8. B.A.S. Washington reported this evening that the Allies now occupy 16 islands in the Kwajalein Group. Roi and Namur were completely occupied yesterday. Three fourths of Kwajalein are occupied. The Japanese still hold Bigej, Gugewe, Loi and Ebeye. Majoro is unoccupied.

War Diary.

3.2.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

It has been decided that ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be lent to the U.S.S.R.

2. Date of arrival of Russian crew is not yet known but they will presumably arrive in R.A.57 due in U.K. 12th March.

3. ~~Russian~~ ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be prepared for handing over to ~~Russian~~ crew in full sea-going condition complete with all necessary stores, ammunition and reserves. It is important that everything should be in readiness before the Russians arrive.

4. The state of cordite and shell cage guides and roller guide rail in "Y" turret should be examined and you should state how long this gear can be expected to work.

5. Type 273 radar cannot at present be disclosed to the Russians and it may be necessary to remove this set. Request estimated time for removal. No action should be taken pending further instruction.

(1st S.L. 032144A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operations.

Operation
F.W.

J.W. (?56) B White Sea section arrived Dvina Roads complete. 6 Ships.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 030622A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

H.M.S. VIRAGO, sustained damage to stern and ship plating in fore peak during rescue operations of HARDY's survivors making her unseaworthy. Estimated time for completion of temporary repairs 3 days. Docking not required. She will return in company with OBDURATE in lieu of SCOURGE. Your 311333 refers.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 030945A to C. in C.H.F.)

Sailed R.A.56 total of 39 ships speed 9½ knots. Escorts according to plan S.O. Capt. D.3 with SPEEDWELL additional and less VARAGO. My 030945A refers.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 031001A to Admty.)

German Air Force activity January 15th to 31st as reported by Russians:

A. Sea reconnaissance flights. Barents Sea 19th 26th 5 aircraft 27th 7 aircraft 30th 2 aircraft. 31st Greenland Sea 16th, 18th, 21st two aircraft 23rd two aircraft 27th three aircraft 29th two aircraft 30th two aircraft. Some of these aircraft reported as shadowing J.W. convoys.

B. Other areas. 17th 10 aircraft (F.W.190s and Me.109s.) Motovski Gulf and entrance to Kola Inlet 20th two Me.109s Kola Inlet 29th approximately eight Me. 109s and 3 F.W.190s Murmansk, of which Russian claim 5 shot down by fighters.

C. No bombing.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 031259A to C. in C.H.F.)

Intend sailing RATTLESNAKE with COCKATRICE and LOYALTY to Skaalefiord 2000/5th.

(A.C.O.S. 031602A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Akureyri departure - C.S.1 with Force 1.

(C.S.1's 021150 refers.)

(A.C.I.C. 031610A to H.F.)

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Skaalefiord departure VERULAM, OBEDIENT, SWIFT.
F.W. Your 011447A refers.
(Contd.) (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 031705A to C. in C.H.F.)

Intend to sail HAIDA S.O., IROQUOIS, and
ATHABASKAN by standard route for Scapa passing
Gate at 0900A/4th. S.O.A. 20 knots to be
increased to save daylight at destination if weather permits.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031736 to A.C.O.S.)

1. R.A.56.

2. Toros Island. 1000A/3 (?February)

4. 9½ knots.

5. (KX), MU), (X), (C. in C. in C.H.F.'s 021846A) thence

K M N O P Q R. Route Blue (C. in C.H.F.'s 050701A Jan.)
thence

1. 058° 40' N. 005° 48' W.

2. 058° 08' N. 006° 03' 30" W.

A. 058° 03' 30" N. 005° 58' W.

B. 057° 36' N. 005° 45' W. (Naptha Buoy.)

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 031809A to H.F.)

Tanker SAN CIRILO escorted by GLEANER sailed Duina Road for
Kola Inlet at 1800A. Russian M/S BAYONET'SHER at Zimfngorski and
2 Hunter craft at Gorodetski. 11 knots.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 031821A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

1. R.A.56. 38 ships. Names.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 031945A, to H.F.)

Biscay Most profitable area now probably between 045° N.
A/S and 048° N. and between 017° 30' W. and 019° W.
operations. (corrupt) Northern half preferred. My 310035
refers.

(C. in C.W.A. 031131A to NAIRANA, ACTIVITY, E.G.2.)

Your 031131. My position 046° 51' N. 019° 24' W.

180° 12 knots. Aircraft confined to hangar due to heavy swell
(48) since 1600 yesterday. Intend to go South to find less swell
and to fuel escort vessel(s) when conditions allow. Weather.
(NAIRANA, 031200Z to C. in C.W.A.)

There is a probability area between 045° 30' N. to 047° N.
and 014° W. to 016° W. tonight. Nothing south of 045° N.

(C. in C.W.A. 032146A to NAIRANA, ACTIVITY, E.G.2.)

Am being attacked by ?one Junker in 48° 32' N. 8° 45' E.

(A/C LFY.22 032219 to 19 Group.)

Operation My 012310A. Operation was carried out but
"Tunnel". nothing was sighted.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031240A to Admty.)

A/A operation There is an urgent requirement for a ship equipped
off West coast with W.A. Radar and fighter direction facilities
of Ireland. to operate off West coast of Ireland against
enemy LR reconnaissance A/C which have been in
action in the vicinity of our convoy in the area
050° 056° N. 010° 016° W. during past 10 days.

2. This unit would be required to direct Beaufighters
operating from Castle Archdale to a depth of 200 miles.

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.A/A
operation
off West
Coast of
Ireland.
(Contd.)

3. It would be much appreciated if ROYALIST would be made available for this duty provided her present commitments permit.

4. STUART PRINCE undertook the duties successfully until forced to return due to weather damage.

(C. in C.W.A. 031247A to R.A.E.C.) ^{? Rear-Admiral} _{Escort Control}
Your 031247. ROYALIST immediately available.If conference desired can be off Moville at 0900 tomorrow.
(R.A.E.C. 031605A to C. in C.W.A.)Your 031605A. Conference desirable. Wing Commander 235 Squadron will visit ROYALIST in Bangor Bay at 1100 tomorrow.
(C. in C.W.A. 031957A to R.A.E.C.)Your 031605 and 031652. Very grateful for your co-operation. Request I may be informed if you will be in ROYALIST and for how long she will be available. CHURCHILL will act as H/F D/F.
(C. in C.W.A., 032227A to R.A.E.C.)

1. Information: (A) Ju. 88, Ju.290, and He.177 A/C have been carrying out long range shipping reconnaissances in the area 417 bound by 050° N. and 056° N. between 010° W. and 016° W. from dawn until 2000 in the vicinity of convoys.

B. Shore based aircraft available - number 235 Squadron Beau-fighter of 15 Group at Castle Archdale.

C. Fighter direction cruiser ROYALIST fitted with W.A. Radar and facility for directing fighters on H/F and V H/F.

D. Escort - CHURCHILL at Londonderry. Fitted with H/F D/F.

2. Intention. To operate a fighter direction cruiser with escort off north west Ireland in the vicinity of convoy routes to provide warning of enemy aircraft and to direct shore based fighters to intercept enemy aircraft.

3. Execution. A. A point DD is established in 055° 30' N. and 010° W. all positions are to be reported with reference to DD.

B. Request ROYALIST may be sailed to arrive in DD by 1st light on 5th.

C. Cmdre. D.W.A. is requested to sail CHURCHILL to R/V ROYALIST off Inishowen Head. The position and time R/V to be notified by R.A.E.C. to Comdre. D.W.A.

D. H.M.S. ROYALIST is requested to report all unidentified A/C and unidentified Radar contact immediately to C. in C.W.A.

E. CHURCHILL is to home shore based fighters.
(C. in C.W.A. 032228A and 041118A.)Coastal
Force
Patrols.(C. in C. Portsmouth 031407A)
(V.A. Dover, 031622A.)S/M
Patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/4th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SCEPTRE, SATYR as in my 301824.

/B. ...

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M
Patrols.
(Contd.)

B. TRUSTY vicinity 65° 20' N. 01° 13' E.
 C. TRADEWIND 69° 50' N. 13° 00' E.
 probably on surface 10 knots through 70° 38' N.
 15° 50' E. to patrol off Altenfiord.
 D. TAKU off Skudesness.
 (F.O.S. 031752A to Admty.)

Operation
"Hardtack".

Delete all reference to "Hardtack" operations
 in my X/0562/18 dated 26th January, 1944.
 Operations of this type will not now take place.
 (A.N.C.X.F. 031850A to C.C.O.)

Allied Air Activity.Proposed
Russian
attack on
TIRPITZ.

In support of full details by S.B.N.O. North
 Russia to C. in C. Soviet Northern Fleet I
 recently pressed on Soviet D.C.N.S. the urgency
 of carrying out an air attack on ADMIRAL VON
 TIRPITZ emphasising heightened effect on morale
 of successful attack so soon after loss of
 SCHARNHORST.

2. He has now replied that this will not be
 possible during next 2 or 3 months as a small number of long
 range bombers at disposal of Admiral Golovko are at present
 fulfilling their main task of indirect cover for Allied convoys
 by bombing enemy air fields and holding themselves in constant
 operational readiness for action against enemy ships at sea.
 (Ad. Fisher, 031215C to C. in C. H.F.)

U/Boats.U/Boat
reported.

D/F bearings at 0241Z indicate U/B to N.W. or
 S.E. of 62° 30' N. 29° W. possibly southbound.
 (D.D.I.C. 030951A to A.C.I.C.)

Casualties and Defects.CHARLES H.
HERTY.

Temporary repair made endeavouring to join convoy.
 (CHARLES H.HERTY 030320Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
 Estimate CHARLES H. HERTY 240° 40 miles by D/F at
 1400Z steering 240° 9 knots. My P.C.S. 048° 50'
 N. 034° 01' W. 240° 14 knots.
 (CLEMATIS 031430Z to C. in C.W.A.)

BRAID.

BRAID returned Clyde damaged by grounding.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 030838Z to Admty.)

/AMELIA EARHART...

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.AMELIA
EARHART.

O.N.221. AMELIA EARHART, reports badly damaged trying to make Azores. Approximate position at 1000Z/3rd 046° 00' N. 034° 45' W. (B.2, 031159Z to GENTIAN, CHILLIWACK.)

WILLIAM
H.PRESCOTT.

Your 031052. My P.C.S. at 1200Z, 049° 00' N. 037° 59' W. 260° 8. WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT damage increased if steering into head sea therefore prevailing weather conditions make Ponta Delgada very unfavourable. Chance of making St. Johns Newfoundland good, intend proceeding there. Ship will hold together unless weather conditions deteriorate. Weather. (GENTIAN, 031255Z.)

EMPIRE H
HEYWOOD.
Sabotage.

One case of onions ex EMPIRE HEYWOOD has been found to contain explosives. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 031642A to Admty.)

STONEFLY.

N.O.I.C. Leith's 02100 and F.O.I.C. Harwich 021800. STONEFLY unable to sail in F.S.51. Has leaky magazine and is being docked for survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 031723A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

L.27
SEANYMPH.The following arrangements are proposed with reference to B.A.M.R.'s 311751.
A. Work on L.27 should be stopped as soon as vessel can be made fit to be towed away.
B. L.27 to be offered to the U.S. authorities for scrap or any other purpose they wish.
C. SEANYMPH to be allocated for refit in place of P.553 at Philadelphia. It is anticipated the vessel could arrive there about 1st April, 1944. (F.O.S. 031753A to Head of M.II.)JOHN
L.SULLIVAN.

Your 031052 and your 031657. Proceeding to Ponta Delgada with JOHN L. SULLIVAN. My P.C.S. at 1830Z, 046° 47' N. 032° 34' W. 143° 5 knots. JOHN L.SULLIVAN holding up well. (CHILLIWACK, 031852Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.A.87.

ILE DE FRANCE delayed by defective steering. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 030046A to Admty.) ILE DE FRANCE. Amend time of R/V in A.M.261500/ to read 0600A/5. 5. Routed as in A.M. 021610. (D.O.D.H. 031756A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

T.U.7. T.U.7 sailed Clyde portion in accordance with my 311548 Jan.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 030158A to Admty.)
My 011229. Sailed ARKANSAS escorting BORINQUEN and FREDERICKSBERG.
(F.O.C.N.I., 030444 to C. in C.W.A.)
Sailed for T.U.7 U.S.S. COWIE, KNIGHT, BUTLER, HERNDON, SHUBRICK, and GHERARDI.
(U.S.E.C.O. Londonderry 030825A to C. in C.W.A.)
T.U.7 sailed; convoy composed and escorted as in A.M. 291958A January routed in accordance with A.M. 301705A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 031058A to Admty.)
Amend route as follows.
(D.O.D.H. 031227A to C.T.F.69.)
Escorting T.U.7 2000Z. Position 55.27 N. 09.15 W. to 55.24 N. 10.07 W., thence 211. S.O.A.10 increasing as weather moderates.
(C.T.F.69, 031915 to Admty.)

Troopships. Following is summary No.24 of major troopship movements In and Out of Clyde and Liverpool during period to 29/2.
(D.S.T. 030209A.)

B.2. CARISBROOKE CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE are to proceed forthwith at best speed to St. Johns N.F. 2. Request they may subsequently join B.2 Group escorting H.X.278.
(C. in C.W.A., 031032Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

K.X.14. A. 0930A/5th.
B. 1200Z/6th. 50° 27' N. 07° 22' W. 1200Z/7th.
50° 14' N. 11° 04' W.
C. S.O.A. 6½ knots.
D. E.T.A. Gibraltar 16th Feb.
E. Route as in Admiralty's 311604A.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 031052A.)

S.L.147/
M.K.S.38. Request you sail POSTILLION to R/V as convenient with S.L.147/M.K.S.38. Your 021700 and F.O.G.M.A 022225 refer.
(C. in C.W.A. 031152A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

H.X.277. 71 M/Vs. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D. 031933A.)

War Diary.3.2. 1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.U/B
report.

Have obtained H/F D/F bearing of U/B transmitting B message. Bearing 350° 3rd Class strength 4 on 3920 kc/s. My position 039° 00' N. 018° 30' W. (BRILLIANT 030731A.)

C.T.G.
21.13.
(CROATAN).

Searched area radius 85 miles from 37.43 N. 17.00 W between 0400 and 0800 this morning. All times Z. Speed 17, course 120 from 37.33 N. 16.15 W. at 0900/3rd. Propose conduct night search radius 100 miles from 35 N. 11 W. between 0200 and 0700/4th provided will not interfere ?our of Gibaltars' air operations advise. E.T.A. swept channel 1430/4th. 57 82 32 85.

(C.T.G. 21.13 030924Z, 031246.)

(Spanish)
CIUDAD
DE ALICANTE.

Las Palmas to Cadiz and Seville Navicerted here in accordance with your 211233 Jan.

2. Thoroughly searched. Removed small quantity third party mail also parcels foodstuffs and clothing addressed Germany. 4. Ship released.

(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 031035A.)

Russian
M/S. and
S.C.

Arrrived Horta 0959 Z/3 MAGIC. Three Russian M/Ss. and three Russian Subchasers. (S.B.N.O. Azores 031147Z.)

Spanish
navicerted
vessels.

Spanish PUNTA GALEA expected to leave Gandia 2nd Feb. PUNTA LUCERO left Valencia 2nd Feb. and SANTA ANA leaves Valencia 3rd Feb. all for Port Vendres. Not to be molested this voyage. (F.O.G.M.A. 031152A to 10th S/M.F.)

GENERAL
A.E. ANDERSON.

Your 021303A in view large number stretcher cases on board GENERAL ANDERSON request Southern route. (C.M.S.F. 031228A to Admty.)

Cancel my 021303. Substitute (route). Your 031228 refers.

(D.O.D. (F) 031635A to C.M.S.F.)

Fuel supplies
at Horta.

Your 012215.* Only U.S. ships diverted to Ponta Delgada were A/C carrier GUADALCANAL with destroyers FORD, EDWARD ALDEN and WHIPPLE reason being harbour congested and amount of fuel required excessive in view of stocks held at Horta and

that time ESTURIA completed discharge to EMPIRE GARDENS, CAPACITY 7th January and sailed Ponta Delgada to await convoy. Your 171810 arrived too late for her to discharge again Horta before joining convoy existing storage capacity at Horta cannot be increased as there is no room for a second tanker. If EMPIRE GARDEN is sent to Ponta Delgada considerable delay would be experienced in unmooring and mooring her. KATY is expected to arrive about 6th Feb. and it is considered that present stocks will meet requirements up to that date. (S.B.N.O. Azores 031245Z to Admty.) * Fuel supply difficulties at Horta.

/Ships...

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Ships sailed from Horta with incorrect recognition signals. Your 020948A. A.M. A.290 was not received by Horta before departure of these ships. As Horta were without any cypher staff at this time, all general messages were being passed by me by hand, resulting at times in a few days unavoidable delay due to absence of any departures from Angra. Steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence. (S.B.N.O.Azores 031400Z.)

POSTILLION, S.L.147. C. in C.W.A. 031152. Request you sail POSTILLION to R/V S.L.147 in BA. 042° 48' 017° 19' at 061600A (Route etc.) (F.O.G.M.A. 031800A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)

CHITRAL. Your 021651. Approved for CHITRAL to sail independently.
2. Unless there are special reasons for ship to call at Bermuda, she should proceed direct to Halifax by following route.
3. B.A.D. inform Cominch.
(D.O.D.(F) 031815A to F.O.G.M.A.)

M.K.F.28, supposed U/B. At 1800 in 041° (705') 019° 20' depth charge attack by BAZELY produced 2 very late explosions. No other evidence no results from further attacks. Whales. Speed of convoy 13 knots. Weather report 7371 3582.
(S.O.E.G.4 031900Z.)

South Atlantic.

Patrol. Sailed GEORGES LEYGUES 0028Z/3 in accordance with my 281151Z*Jan. to assume line JK. a.m. 5.
(Comar Dakar 030029Z.)
*Unidentifiable in W.R.

Argentine sailings. Sailings of Argentine merchant ships to all destinations resumed. My 281918* Jan. refers. Normal routes being used and vessels showing usual colours as before.
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 031834Z.)
* re Argentine merchant ships employed on overseas trade to remain in port until further orders.

CAMBRIA. (Cable vessel) sailed with escort today 3rd for position south 032° 15' W. 052° 08'.
(B.R.L.O. Montevideo 032105Z.)

War Diary3.2.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

ST. JULIEN Intercept 2312 G.M.T. Now proceeding to
(in collision destination. No loss of life. Damage not
2nd Feb.). ascertained. 022255.
(Lands End Radio, 030014A).

Polish submarines. Request you will arrange for DZIK to return to
submers. U.K. by 15th March, and SLAZAK and KRAKOWIAK by
1st April.
(V.C.N.S., 030524A to C. in C. Med.).

PIPINOS Regain route ordered in Capt.(S) 1 S/M. 011729
forthwith.
(F.O.L.E.M., 030915B to PIPINOS).
My 011729 and 021509. Amend position 034 degs.
06' 029 degs, 59' to read 034 degs. 22' 029 degs. 59'.
(2) All times advanced 2 hours.
(3) A.H.Q.E.M. is requested to adjust total bombing restrictions
accordingly.
(Capt.(S) 1, 031713B to PIPINOS).

LE A.M. 010329. Recommend that TRIOMPHANT should
TRIOMPHANT refit in U.S.A., C. in C.A.F. has also
recommended to same effect.
(C. in C. Med., 030920A).

1st S/M.F. Proceed forthwith to patrol Eastern Approaches
patrols. to Doro Channel routed as in my 021459B.
(Capt.(S) 1, 031015B to DOLFIJN (R) PAPANICOLIS,
1st S/M. F., F.O.L.E.M.).
P.47 (DOLFIJN) patrol between Naxos and Mykoni until
0001B/4th then proceed in accordance with my 031015B.
(2) P.217 (SIBYL) in not to cross latitude 037 degs. 12' before
0401B/4th.
(Capt.(S) 1, 031236B to DOLFIJN (R) PAPANICOLIS, 1st S/M F.,
F.O.L.E.M.).

U/boat Am over enemy submarine in 36.00 N. 35.10 E.
reports. Enemy submarine was sighted on surface and
observed to submerge.
(A/C, C/S CXZO, 031138Z to H.Q. 201 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 34 degs. 14' 33 degs.
15' E periscope only sighted.
(A/C C/S, CXZR, 031353).

Aegean; CAPO PINO and SUZANNE expected to leave Suda
enemy Bay shortly with Italian troops. Destination
troopships not known but probably Piraeus.
(Capt.(S) 1, 031434B to SPORTSMAN, PAPANICOLIS,
1st S/M. F.).

/ ROCKWOOD...

War Diary.

3.2.1944
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ROCKWOOD A.M. 011926/ intend sail ROCKWOOD as additional escort to M.K.S.40.
(F.O.L.E.M. 031739B)
/ Permanent repairs to ROCKWOOD undertaken in U.K., report instructions for passage to U.K.

Boom Vessels. BARCOCK, BARNDALE, BAROVA are to be sailed for Gibraltar at earliest convoy opportunity.
A.M. 252050/ refers.
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail vessel for U.K. by first suitable convoy observing that maximum endurance is approx. 1900 miles.
(C. in C. Med. 031741)
/ One Bar Vessel is being recalled from Eastern Fleet to Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep. Good weather continued at Anzio but a break is expected within 24 hours.
(2) GLOIRE and SOEMBA bombarded in Formia area.
(3) Cruisers have been withdrawn from Anzio.
(4) One U-Boat search in vicinity 40 degs. 30' N. 12 degs. 00' E. has continued.
(5) British L.S.T's have been withdrawn from "Shingle" according to programme. Nine U.S. L.S.T's are following tomorrow 4th.
(6) Control of "Shingle" maintenance has now been turned over to F.O.W.I.T. C.T.F. 81 has left the area.
(C. in C. Med. at Naples, 031809)

Enemy Air Tactics. Request confirmation that SPARTAN was sunk by H.S. 293 bomb. Request further details of this attack including whether it was combined with other forms of attack and whether parent aircraft was engaged. Request also information on following points.
(1) Whether H.S. 293 attack on JERVIS was considered
(a) normal visual attack or (b) attack through cloud browning ships in anchorage. Your 241858A refers.
(2) To what extent has enemy combined H.S. 293 and other forms of attack. Is there evidence of the use of F.X. bombs.
(3) Whether any new features not already promulgated by A.G.M. and additional to those reported in your 011555A were present in recent H.S. 293 and other attacks.
(4) Whether experience suggests any improvement in tactics such as the use of smoke particularly to counter dusk attacks.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 031819A to C. in C. Med. at Naples)

M.A.A.F. Opsum 347. M.A.C.A.F. 31st Jan/1 Feb (Add). 5 Wellingtons, 2 U.S. Beaufighters, 1 Hudson A/S patrol. Wellington sighted surfaced west of Ponziene Islands. Dropped 6 x 250 depth charges.

Submarine /...

War Diary.

3.2.1944
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M.A.A.F.
Opsum
347.
(Contd.)

Submarine hidden by swirl but still surfaced.
Later contacts failed. 2 of above Wellingtons
searching area North of Balearics made S.E. contact
on submarine but failed visual contact.
(Air Cmd. Post. M.A.A.F. 032100A)

Balkan Sitrep. R/C by Brit. L.O. has revealed there are no
No.79. (repeat no) enemy shipping concs. at Hvar WV 90
or Starigrjd W.P.12. Brit. L.O. with partisan
G.H.Q. reports German tps. concentrating at
Trogir W.U.84 there are many E-Boats in (?the)
harbour and Brit. LO. considers conc. may be prelude to attack
on Vis WZ 90. Partisan Naval H.Q. states Zemunik W.P.10 near
Zara again in partisan hands and is being shelled by enemy.
(C. in C. M.E. 032140B)

War Diary.

3. 2. 1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat disposition.
(No. 23)

My 020412Z*. Area A. D. E. F. and G., no fresh information. No change in scale of aircraft. Area B. believed clear of U-Boats. Reduce scale of air escort to W. Area C. no further news of U-Boats last sighted 30th Jan. but scale of air escort remains Z.
(C. in C.E.F. 030327Z.)
* B.l. Weekly U-Boat disposition number 22.

Dutch S/Ms.

Request information whether any Dutch S/Ms other than for A/S training are allocated Eastern Fleet and when they will arrive. The problem of their administration and accommodation is now under consideration.
(C. in C.E.F. 030441Z to Admty.)

Escort of dock.

It is proposed to use some of new corvettes joining Eastern Fleet to escort Montevideo section of dock from Aden to Colombo.
(C. in C.E.F. 030636Z to C. in C.Med.)

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Consider potential operational value justifies refit in U.S.A.
2. Defects enumerated in N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 010831 Jan. cannot be undertaken in S.Africa or on E.I. Station without seriously delaying Station refitting programme A.M. 010329 refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 030642Z.)

Ship torpedoed

Opsum 690. 2 Feb. 2 Catalinas sea search for survivors of torpedoed M/V Addu Atoll.
(H.Q.S.E.A.A.C. 030801Z.)

Operation "Canned".

Search for German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN.

N.O.I.C. Mauritius 021329 not to all addressees (N.T. in W.D.) RELENTLESS is being sent to relieve BANN in operation "Canned" and is E.T.A. Mauritius by 7th Feb.

2. Request you will sail BANN forthwith at best speed for Durban. Separate signal will be made regarding her repair.

3. On completion of operation "Canned" intend RELENTLESS to remain in Mauritius area as screen for BATTLER in any further operations.
(C. in C.E.F. 031128Z to C.S.4 (R) C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) Admty.)

Survivors ship torpedoed 14 days ago.

Lifeboat with survivors from ship torpedoed 14 days ago located in position 012° 34' S. of your position N. and 001° 16' E. of your position O at 1130Z/3. If north of this position adjust your course to pass through area. Keep a good look-out for other lifeboats. A/C will be in area. Break W/T silence and report immediately if you pick up any survivors. Acknowledge this signal forthwith and report your position.
(C. in C.E.F. 031359Z to M.V. ORA.)

/New...

War Diary.

3.2.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

New S/M
flotillas
in E.F.

The following proposals for the formation of
new S/M flotillas in the Eastern Fleet are under
discussion. 2. Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 032132A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Tanker
ANDREW A.
HUMPHREYS.Request Admty. appreciation of work done by
ANDREW A. HUMPHREYS with emergency gear may be
conveyed to Master and Chief Officer. Your
282142 refers.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 030147A to B.R.L.O. New York.)Convoy
escorts.RESTIGOUCHE has extensive defects - will require
6 to 10 days. Ship will be sailed to overtake
or rejoin C.4 E.G. in U.K.(2) Anticipate CURZON and LAWSON will be avail-
able to augment C.4 E.G. on eastbound passage.(3) Intend sailing CELANDINE additional with B.5 E.G. for H.X.
277 to rejoin C.1 E.G. in U.K.
(F.O.N.F., 031123Z.)Sailing of
L.S.I.(L)s.Orders to sail EMPIRE JAVELIN, CRANSTOUN, EMPIRE
SPEARHEAD to U.K. (Route &c.)
"Empires" are L.S.I.(L) type and EMPIRE JAVELIN
will carry about 1400 troops.
(Cominch, 031315Z.)U/B
estimate.No fresh information.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 031441Z; Cominch 031630Z.)Stragglers
Report
No. 38.3 arrived Halifax from H.X.276 - TINGSHA (Nor.)
and LOUIS D. BRANDEIS 28th Jan. both with engine
defects; ADWISTAR (U.S.) 28th Jan. straggler
unable to maintain convoy speed.One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.276. Onward
KAVANAGH (U.S.) 28th Jan. collision damage.One arrived Sydney N.S. from H.X. 276 - DAVID F. HOUSTON (U.S.)
29th Jan. lost convoy due to heavy weather and insecure deck
cargo.One arrived Sydney N.S. from O.N.220 - WILLIAM H. MEREDITH (U.S.)
30th Jan. required fuel and water.9 arrived Halifax from O.N.S.27 - AMERICAN PRAAD (U.S.) 30th
Jan., BONAIRE (Dut.) and PAN GULF (U.S.) 31st Jan., ARMATHIA (Gr.)
MAUD (Nor.), VAN DE VELDE (Dut.) and PACIFIC (Sw.) 1st Feb. - all
lost convoy due to heavy weather; WINSTON SALEM (U.S.) 31st Jan.
straggler boiler trouble; EL MIRLO 31st Jan. hull and engine
defects.2 arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.S.27 - BELNEHEIM (U.S.) 29th
Jan. leak in forward tank; DAMMOOR 31st Jan. lost convoy heavy
weather damage.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 031452Z.)

C.T.G. 21.13
(CROATAN).(Re-encypherment of C.T.G. 21.13 030924Z) (See
North Atlantic).
(Cominch, 031752Z.)

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.Operations
in Marshall
Is.

Allies now occupy 16 islands in Kwajalein Group. Roi and Namur completely occupied 2nd Feb. Kwajalein 3/4 occupied. Enemy casualties 600 dead. 45 P/W of which 25 Koreans. Japs. still hold Bigej, Gugewe, Loi and Ebeye. Unoccupied is Majoro.
(B.A.S. Washington, 031755Q.)

Routeing
of tankers.

Tankers 10 to 14.5 knots operating between Gulf and Caribbean and Eastern Seaboard not carrying A.V. Gas shall be sailed independently using following routes (details).
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 031812Z.)

U/B sighting
and attack
summary.

All times Z.
Para. D. S/M sighted headed North 05.50 S. 33.50 W. 031100. Brazilian A/C reported S/M 13.30 S. 38.25 W. 021830. Disappearing contact by Mariner 14 S. 37.41 022345.
(Cominch, 032106Z.)

Operation
of U.S.Navy
aircraft
from M.S.F.

Personal from Admiral Noble.
Your 102125 Jan. Admiral King agrees in principle to "Stipple" procedure in the Moroccan Sea Frontier, but he stipulates that the C.M.S.F. must be at liberty to fly additional aircraft when he considers it advisable. He refuses to contemplate putting M.S.F. under the operational control of F.O.G.M.A. and has made his 301615 (January) accordingly.
2. He states that - (A) Admiral Hewitt states complaints of lack of co-ordination have never been confirmed by specific instances. (B) We are incorrect in thinking that U.S. aircraft have a basic mission to cover U.S. convoys. (We doubt this denial). (C) The recommendation of the Allied A/S survey board to abolish M.S.F. was not concurred in by Admiral Hewitt nor by any U.S. Commander.
3. It is a principle of Admiral King's to back up his theatre commanders in all their opinions irrespective of any good reasons we may put up to the contrary. I think, therefore, I am up against the usual brick wall and that I would gain nothing by further discussing the matter as he has invited me to do. I suggest that a satisfactory solution to us would only be arrived at by persuading Admiral Hewitt to our way of thinking and including him to inform Admiral King accordingly.
(B.A.D., 032249Z to Admty.)

Escort of
3 A.Ps.

Inclusion of 3 A.Ps. carrying troops to capacity in K.M.S. convoy considered undesirable. Since earliest possible arrival of these ships in Med. from U.K. is mandatory, request you will reconsider provision of special escort. Your 021927 refers. Ref. 021927 - Your 101601 January. As far as can be foreseen at present it is unlikely that special escort will be available.

War Diary.3.2.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Escort of
3 A.Ps.
(Contd.)

2. If nearer the date suitable arrangements cannot still be made would you agree to the 3 A.Ps. proceeding to Med. in a K.M.S. convoy, scheduled to leave U.K. 14th March.
(Cominch, 032201 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
744.

February 2nd. Paras. 13 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces.
(4) One of 3 R/C Mitchells bombed submerging S/M proceeding south-west off Jacquinot Bay (New Britain) noon. Oil patch seen.
(13) United States destroyer contacted S/M 25 miles west Buka Passage prior dawn 1st Feb. dropping depth charges. Underwater explosions followed definitely not depth charges. Subsequently other destroyers reported oil slick and strong odour diesel oil.
(14) Same time more destroyers exchanged gunfire with shore position eastern Buka Passage and at noon bombarded Choiseul Bay area where barge activity reported previous night.
(15) Aircraft reported Jap. submarine off Wide Bay midday 1st proceeding south-east.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 030535.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

For 24 hours to 0900Z/3rd.
Para. A. 1. See A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar 020955A.
Para. B. 1. PHOEBE see Capt. D.25 021017A (Med.)
(D.D.I.C., 031029A.)

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 031435A, 031440A.)

4.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.W.

1. Convoy R.A.56 was about 160 miles N.E. of Toros Island at 0800 today.

Tilbury
bombed.

2. During an air attack upon Tilbury between 0500 and 0600 today the Tilbury Hotel (occupied by the R.N.) was burnt down and some naval damage inflicted by incendiary bombs; but there were no casualties.

A/A operation.

3. At 2007A the Fighter-direction cruiser ROYALIST left Belfast and the destroyer CHURCHILL left Londonderry at 2218A to operate together N.W. of the Bloody Foreland in directing Fighter A/C from Castle Archdale to intercept enemy A/C shadowing convoys off N.W. Ireland.

4. Bomber Command aircraft laid 92 mines off the north coast of France and Biscay ports last night.

North Atlantic.

Straits
Patrol.

5. Since 15th January the Gibraltar Straits patrols have been maintained at the maximum strength. The patrols have been reinforced at times by U.S. escort vessels lent by C.M.S.F. Only one sighting and attack by surface vessel is reported by F.O.G. M.A.

Mediterranean.

Toulon
U-Boat
base.

6a. The Admiralty report that considerable damage of a general nature was caused during the bombing of Toulon on 24th November 1943. Three or possibly 4 U-Boats were sunk or damaged. Toulon is the only operational U-Boat base at present in use by the enemy in the Western Mediterranean. No single raid is likely to affect operational facilities for long; and in view of the increasing flow of shipping and of the amphibious operations

4.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Toulon U-
boat base
(Contd.)

at present taking place the Admiralty have asked for sustained air attacks to be carried out against the U-Boat base at Toulon, as far as existing bombing facilities will permit.

b. 154 U.S. Fortresses of the Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Force set out to bomb Toulon today. The effectiveness of the attack was affected by bad weather. 96 U.S. Liberators which were despatched returned with their bombs. Photographs taken during the attack show hits on the harbour installations, the heaviest concentration being at the double dry dock in the south east part of the New Basin. A cruiser, a submarine and a merchant ship were hit or near missed.

Operation
"Shingle".

7a. C. in C. Mediterranean reports south-westerly winds rising to Force 6 this morning and a north-westerly gale expected tonight. Nevertheless he reported at 042102 that maintenance of the operation through Anzio has continued satisfactorily in good weather.

b. The U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN has proceeded to Anzio in response to an urgent call from the Army for bombarding cruisers to be available.

c. It is reported that two more glider bombs have been found in Nettuno. A damaged bomb was reported to have been recovered on 1st February.

Adriatic.

8a. The destroyer TUMULT reported this morning that she had completed her patrol and successfully bombarded Senigallia. Starigrad was shelled from 2 miles: there was no shipping in the harbour there or at Hvar, which was also shelled. Komitza was visited. No opposition was encountered throughout the operations.

b. 2 M.T.Bs. last night sank 3 schooners in Zara Channel (44.05 N. 15.12 E.) and took 85 prisoners. Off Rogoznica (43.30 N. 15.57 E.) an M.G.B. and an M.T.B. sank a small schooner and took 14 prisoners.

1st S/M F.

9. It is intended to transfer the base of the 1st Submarine Flotilla from Beirut to Malta. See 10th February.

Aegean.

10. Aircraft mined Khalkis and Rhodes last night.

War Diary.

4.2.1944.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

11. SS. CHUNG CHENG, Cochin for Aden, is reported to have been torpedoed at 0001Z today in 13.30 N. 54.20 E. (60 miles N.N.E. of Socotra.)

China.

Kurile Is.
shelled.

It is reported from New York that U.S. warships at 1300 G.M.T. (2200 Tokyo time) shelled Paramushiro, one of the Kurile Islands. The bombardment was followed shortly afterwards by air attacks on Paramushiro and Shumusho.

Australia & New Zealand.

13a. Last night 6 enemy aircraft bombed U.S. destroyers west of Buka Solomon Is., and scored near misses but inflicted no damage. One of the enemy aircraft was shot down.

b. Before dawn today three destroyers bombarded enemy positions in north-west Bougainville. Shore batteries replied and one destroyer appears to have been damaged.

4.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Captain-class Frigates. Your 311936 Jan. and A.M. 270025 para. 1. The first 8 Captain Class frigates being brought over from U.S.A. by R.C.N. runner crews are due to arrive Londonderry as follows:-
(a) Turbo electric - STOCKHAM, SEYMOUR, SPRAGGE, STAYNER - 11th Feb.
(b) Diesel Electric - HOSTE, MOORSOM, PASLEY, LORING - 14th Feb.
(A.C.N.S. H, 040143A to C. in C. W.A.)

Russian Guards in M/V's. Your 271651 Jan. I see no objection provided it is clearly understood that Guards have no jurisdiction over ships crew and that Master's Authority is in no way impaired.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 041010A to Ad. Fisher)

ADVENTURE. Arrangements have been made for ADVENTURE to be taken in hand at Liverpool, for conversion to accommodation ship.
(D.O.D.H, 041220A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. Have obtained contact in 47 degs. 37' N. 06 degs. 10' W.
(A/C JHR 17, 040125 to 19 Group)
Trawlers attacked by A/C. P.C.S. of enemy 47 degs. 40' N. 6 degs. 40' W. Course 270, speed 15 knots.
(A/C JHR 17, 040130 to 19 Group)
My 0140. Have attacked with bombs (?3) trawlers. Estimated 1 hit, 47 degs. 40' N. 06 degs. 40' W.
(A/C JHR 17, 040205 to 19 Group)
Am over one enemy S/M in 45 degs. 30' N. 07 degs. 00' W.
(A/C LLJ 28 040811A to 19 Group)
Add to NAIRANA, ACTIVITY E.G.2, STARLING, WOODPECKER, WILD GOOSE, MAGPIE, KITE, WREN approx. 047 degs. 47' N. 019 degs. 55' W. to vicinity O.N.S. 28 and O.N. 222 15 knots. Vide my 041234A.
(C. in C. W.A. 041556A to Ships)

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 52 degs. 20' N. 17 degs. 48' W.
(A/C KSLP to Plymouth, No. T.O.O. Recd. 040417)
Have obtained H/F D/F bearing of U-Boat transmitting short B message bearing 135 degs 3rd class strength 5 series one on 3920 at 0115A/4. My P.C.S. 051 degs. 13' N. 017 degs. 38' W. 235 degs. 9 knots. 50 ships in company.
(C.5, 040137A to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary

4.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. (Contd.).

D/F Bearings at 0012Z indicate U/boat may have reported one of the convoys. (D.D.I.C. 040240A to Escorts O.N.222, O.N.S.28, C.2). Have obtained M/F D/F bearing of U/boat transmitting a naval enigma message at 0435Z bearing 091 degs. strength 5 particulars series 7. My position 050 degs. 50' N. 019 degs. 30' W. Consider convoy is being shadowed. (C.5, 040353 to C. in C.W.A.).

A.M.040240A. Short signal at 0108Z and short enigma on 3920 k/cs at 0433Z indicate U/boats may be in contact with one or both convoys. No definite fix obtained. (D.D.I.C., 040745A to O.N.22, O.N.S.28, C.2). Have obtained H/F D/F bearing of U/boat transmission bearing 030 degs. sense reliable 2nd Class strength 3. Consider sky wave. My position 051 degs. 11' N. 019 degs. 56' W. (C.1, 040810Z to C. in C.W.A.).

By D/F at 0810Z U/boat within 60 miles of 52.20 N. 18 W. (D.D.I.C. 041031A to Escorts H.X.276, E.G.10). O.N.222. P.C.S. at 1400A, 050 degs. (08') N. 019 degs. 24' W. 224 degs. 9 knots. 50 ships in company. H/F D/F activity every 4 hours since my 040137A astern and to north westward. Last signal heard at 1420A bearing 029 degs. 3rd class series 7 strength 4 76 group naval enigma. Search by support group and M.A.C. ship aircraft unsuccessful. (C.5, 041647A to C. in C.W.A.).

My P.C.S. at 2130A/4th, 053 degs. 16' N. 014 degs. 24' W.18. (BYRON, 042137A to C. in C.W.A.).

A/A Operation off N.W. Ireland.

Your 032227. I shall remain in ROYALIST for the present. She is available until other orders received. (R.A. E.C., 040923 to C. in C. W.A.).

From position DD proceed to patrol in vicinity of H.X.276 estimated position at 1200A/5th 054 degs. 30' N. 015 degs. 10' W. routed through F.L.055 degs. 45' N. 013 degs. 01' W. thence 090 degs. 9½ knots. (2) Leave convoy after dark and proceed to patrol in the vicinity of M.K.F.28. Estimated P.C.S. 0800A/6th 051 degs. 35' N. 013 degs. 45' W. routed through P.C. 053 degs. N. 012 degs. W. thence 020 degs. 13 knots. (3) Assume a speed of 15 knots will be made good when not in company with a convoy. (4) H.X.276 72 ships escorted by C.1. E.G. ASSINIBOINE, S.O. M.K.F.28 10 ships escorted by 4th E.F. BENTINCK S.O. Both convoys in State Y. (C. in C.W.A. 041928A to ROYALIST). C. in C.W.A., 032228 para. 3 (B). Sailed ROYALIST. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 042007A to C. in C.W.A.). Sailed CHURCHILL. (Cdre. D.W.A., 042218A to C. in C.W.A.).

Operation "F.W."

My 031736A. HAIDA, IROQUOIS and ATHABASKAN sailed 0920. (C. in C. Plymouth, 040930A to A.C.O.S.). WRESTLER proceeds to pass Gate at 1600A/4th to Skaalefiord. E.T.A. 1100A/6th to comply with C. in C.W.A. 020956. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 041036A to WRESTLER).

62

War Diary.4.2.1944
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.) HONEYSUCKLE proceed to pass Gate 1300A/4th to Skaalefiord. E.T.A. 1600A/6th to comply with C. in C. W.A. 020956.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 041048A to HONEYSUCKLE)
Sailed HONEYSUCKLE to comply with my 041048A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 041318A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)
ONYX sailed at 1100A/4th. C.S.1 021346A refers.
(A.C.I.C. 041411A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)
Sailed WRESTLER in accordance with my 041036A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 041646A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)
My 031619A. BORAGE sailed 2157. WALLFLOWER delayed by defects, E.T.D. 1000 tomorrow, E.T.A. 2200/6th.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 042250 to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail STUBBORN from Lerwick at 0900A/6th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 15 miles and route Orange to 064 degs 05' thence through 064 degs. 25', 008 degs. 30' to patrol in accordance with S.M.04010/857 dated 27th Jan. 1944.

(2) STUBBORN is not to cross longitude 008 degs. 00' E. before 2300A/7th.

(Capt. (S) 9, 041143A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick)

SCEPTRE is to leave patrol as convenient so as to pass through 064 degs. 45', 006 degs. 00' E. at 1900A/7th thence through 064 degs. 31' 003 degs. 25' and route Black to Lerwick proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian Coast.

(Capt. (S) 9, 041147A to S/M's)

VIKING escorted by GRASSHOLM is to pass Gate at 0900A/6th and proceed to area (P) as ordered in my 201130 Jan.

(6) On arrival in area (P) VIKING is to act in accordance with F.O.S. number S.M.04310/796 of 24th December 1943.

(7) VIKING will leave area (P) p.m. 17th Feb.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041543A to F.O.S.)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/5 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SCEPTRE, SATYR, TRUSTY, TAKU as in my 031752.

(B) TRADEWIND on patrol off Alten Fiord.

(F.O.S.041801A to Admty.)

Operation "Tunnel". Programme for Force 26 as given in my 021635 is cancelled. Ships not now available.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041245 to Admty.)
Carry out operation "Tunnel" today in accordance with MEMO OPTU.

(2) Force 28 consisting of ships addressed under command of TANATSIDE is to pass gate at 2000A and proceed to reach position (SS) 008 degs. Ile Vierge Light 12 at 0130A/5th.

(3) On passing (SS) Force 28 is to sweep 100 degs. to vicinity of Ile De Bas and thence to Plymouth.

(4) Attention is called to QZX 1199 and 1198. Ships are not to come south of line joining Ile De Bas and Triagoz Lights.

(5) Aircraft will co-operate in search. Sightings from air R/C will be signalled.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041736 to TANATSIDE, BRISSENDEN, TALYBONT, WENSLEYDALE)

U/Boat /...

War Diary.4.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

U-Boat S.O.E.G.2's 312331A.
Sunk by Request following further particulars may be
STARLING provided. Details.
on 31st (A.C.N.S. (U.T.)041316A to C. in C. W.A.)
Jan. Your 312331A.
u.592 Report (1) Bearing and distance of explosion.
(2) Bearing and distance of U-Boat at time of
explosion.
(3) H.M.S. STARLING's track for previous half hour.
(4) How long U-Boat had been followed.
(5) Was any other U-Boat in vicinity.
(C. in C. W.A. 041412A to E.G.2)
Your 041412A.
(1) About 10 yards astern of ship and 5 yards to starboard of
wake.
(2) Almost exactly under ship and on same course.
(3) 165 degs. for 5½ minutes, 176 for 10½. 157 for 8, 143 for 2,
131 for 4. Average speed 3¼ knots speed during last 10 minutes
6 knots.
(4) At least 22½ minutes.
(5) No other was detected before or after attack. It should
be noted ship was transmitting on Asdic working Q attachment.
(E.G.2, 042105A to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 041420A)
Force
Patrols.

Enemy Air Activity.

Tilbury During air attack on Tilbury between 0500 and
bombed. 0600 today the following damage was sustained.
(A) Tilbury Hotel burnt to the ground.
(B) No.29 shed containing naval kite balloon
depot burnt out.
(C) P. and O. Offices behind No.32 shed destroyed by fire.
(D) N.E. corner of No.33 shed damaged by fire.
All damage caused by incendiaries. No casualties. Work of
port not affected.
(F.O.I.C. London, 041505 to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. LL sweepers detonated one red magnetic mine at
1230 in 083 degs. 1 mile from 3 B buoy.
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmout , 041325A and 041617A to
Admty.)
(Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 041842A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy One convoy of 6 good-sized Merchant ships escorted
Convoy. by 2 destroyers and one trawler expect to leave
Egersund 1600Z/4th Feb, northbound.
(F.O.S.041434A to S/M's)

4.2.1944
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

L.C.I.511. A.M. 022340. Salvage Officer confirms L.C.I.511 total loss.
 (D. of Salvage, 040032A to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

WILLIAM H. S.O.S. Lat. 48.40 N. Long. 41.10 W. at 0600
 PRESCOTT. G.M.T. vessel breaking in two 0627 G.M.T.
 (WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT, No T.O.O. Recd. 040632)
 S.O.S. received from WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT at (?06)
 OO (?Z) 4th in (?048 degs.) 40' N. (?41 degs.)
 20' W. Ship breaking in two. GENTIAN investigate.
 (B.2, 040655Z to GENTIAN)

S.O.S. in 048 degs. 40' N. 041 degs. 10' W. is WILLIAM H. PRESCOTT. Am in close company and still proceeding.
 Weather 3841 0763.

(GENTIAN 040701Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 041154Z. P.C.S. 1200Z, 048 degs. 38' N. 043 degs. 35' W. 260 degs. 10. PRESCOTT should reach St. John N.F. under present weather conditions. Gale, last night increased damage. Further heavy sea would make situation very critical. Am optimistic. Weather 3831 0853.
 (GENTIAN 041430Z to F.O.N.F.)

SWALE. SWALE arrived 1500A/4th reports weather damage to Hull above water line. Oerlikon locker torn away from deck.
 (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 041512A to N.O.I.C.Tees)

Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.F.28. Convoy M.K.F.28 is due Clyde p.m. 7/2 and Liverpool a.m. 8/2 comprising the following troop transports (a) for Clyde - 1. LEOPOLDVILLE, 2. ALMANZORA, 3. TEGELBERG, 4. RANCHI, 5. SIBAJAK. (b) for Liverpool - 6. STRATHEDEN, 7. ORION, 8. STRATHMORE, 9. CHRISTIAAN HYGENS.
 (D.S.T.040154A)

AQUITANIA. Am being shadowed by one unknown enemy A/C in 61 degs. 56' N. 18 degs. 07' W.
 (AQUITANIA, 041246Z to Whitehall W/T)
 Fighter A/C have been despatched to assist.
 (A.C.I.C. 041600A to AQUITANIA)

T.U.7. At 1810/3 U.S.S. GHERARDI obtained sound contact.
 U-Boat 5 attacks carried out as follows.
 attacked on 1812 55 - 32.5 09 - 03.1 1845 55 - 32.4 09 - 03.3
 3rd Feb. 2015 55 - 33.3 09 - 04.1 2107 55 - 33.3 09 - 07.9
 2207 55 - 34.4 09 - 04.5. Underwater explosion followed third attack but no visual evidence obtainable. Sea conditions rendered sound equipment useless after last attack, but holding-down tactics employed until 2325 when search abandoned. C.T.F.69 believes explosion possibly mine. T.U.7 position 2030/4. 51.01 N. 14.32 W. S.O.A. 14. course 240.
 (C.T.F.69, 041625 to Admty.)

4.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

6 Russian small craft. Following from S.B.N.O. Azores ref. H.M.S. MAGIC, three Russian A.Ms. and three Russian S.Cs. Begins. Ships ready for sea in 48 hours. Request shortest route to Londonderry as S.Cs. have range of only 1000 miles and 1300 miles with deck fuel cargo. Portuguese anxious they should not stay long. Ends.
2. Request you take necessary action.
3. A.M. 312126A December also refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 040021A.)

T.G. 21.12. At 0811/4 position 35.08 N. 19.18 W. intercepted 45 group enigma 6290 k/cs bearing 353.
(C.T.G. 21.12, 040930.)
Intend operate vicinity 35.00 N. 20.00 W. February 5th and 6th then refuel Ponta Delgada 7th. 4 destroyers.
(C.T.G. 21.12, 041945.)

Straits Patrol. Beginning on Jan. 15th Strait patrols have been maintained at maximum available strength.
(2) Following aircraft sighting WITHERINGTON attacked firm contact 298° Cape Spartel 17½ at 1708A Jan. 20th. Three destroyers searched area throughout night but there was no further contact.
(3) C.M.S.F. lent 8 American D.Es. of T.F.62 to reinforce patrols. Four were maintained on patrol from p.m. Jan. 21st to p.m. Jan. 25th when withdrawn to escort G.U.S. Convoy to U.S.A.
(4) WISHART, WITHERINGTON and PIMPERNEL attacked and buoyed good contact in 35° 37.6' N. 06° 03.2' W. but on investigation by divers this proved to be the wreck of an old sailing ship.
(5) C.M.S.F. has again lent 5 D.Es. of T.F.63 to reinforce patrols.(F.O.G.M.A., 041021A.)

T.G. 64.9. T.G. 64.9 consisting L.C.I.(L) 507 to 517 less 516 plus ALGORMA, DIVER, A.T.Rs. 2, 3, 54 detached 1300Z/4th 033° 33' N. 032° 24' W. 23rd Horta direct. S. of A. 12, E.T.A. 051800Z. C.C.D. 13 in U.S.S. HUSE escorting to vicinity of Horta then rejoining T.F. (? Cdr.) Warburton S.O. in L.C.I.(L) 513.
(C.T.F. 64, 041200.)

CHITRAL. Intend to sail CHITRAL for Halifax at 2000Z/5.
(Route &c.)
(F.O.G.M.A., 041231A.) (For conversion to trade).

66

4.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SUFFOLK,
BATTLER
(Eastern
Fleet).

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 041354Z.)

FROBISHER
(Eastern
Fleet).

Sailed to Kilindini (route &c.)
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 041653Z.)

Security
of tanker
movements.

Your 311711 December.
Oil interests foresee serious difficulties in
way of your proposal. Request you will suspend
action pending receipt of Admty. Letters.
(D.T.D., 042129A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

67

2.
4. 5. 1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- PIPINOS. Pass through position 034° 16' 023° 59' at 1802B/5th. Then proceed as previously routed to arrive Beirut at 1001B/8th.
(Capt. S.1 040524B to PIPINOS.)
- U/B report. Nr. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact, probably S/M in 14° N. 23° E. U.X. at 0522B.
(A/C C/S CXZY 040535.)
- TUMULT patrol. Patrol completed Senigallia successfully bombarded. Starigrad shelled from 2 miles no shipping in harbour, which was confirmed by fighter escort. Hvar shelled from 2.5 miles no shipping present. No opposition encountered open throughout. Komiza visited.
(TUMULT 040812A.)
- French refugees from Spain. All authorities concerned confirm the number of French refugees now left in Spain is about 700 and this number may be increasing at rate of about 180 per week. There will be no further evacuation from Malaga till mid Feb.
(C. in C.Med. 041030A.)
- 1st S/M F. patrols. Proceed with all despatch to patrol west of Kos during dark hours tonight 4th/5th Feb.
(Capt. S.1 041031B to TORBAY.)
Proceed to patrol in North Aegean N. of 039° and E. of 025°. Object destruction of Dardanelles Piraeus traffic.
2. You are to patrol so that you will be able to be close to Turkish territorial waters between Cape Baba and Temedas within 4 hours of receipt of a signal instructing you to do so.
(Capt. S.1 041142B to (SIBYL) (R) 1st S/M F. PAPANICOLIS, F.O.L.E.M.)
Leave patrol ordered in my 041031 at 0501/5th and proceed through 035° 32' 027° 28' at 2330/5th, then as routed in my 021836 to arrive Beirut. My 1331/7th.
(Capt. S. 041159B to TORBAY.)
Leave patrol a.m. 5 through Kinaros Channel and 10 miles W. of Kandelusa to arrive position 035° 32' 027° 28' at 0301/7th thence on the surface at 8 knots through 034° 20' 030° 31' arrive Beirut 0703/9th.
(Capt. S.1 042304B to DOLFIJN, (R) 1st S/M F. PAPANICOLIS, F.O.L.E.M.)
- Base of 1st S/M F. As far as can be forecast it is intended to base the First Submarine Flotilla permanently at Malta.
2. F.O.L.E.M. is requested to reply as regards future status of Beirut. Your 301832* January.
(C. in C.Med. 041044 to Admty.)
* Requesting remarks as to whether it is intended to base the 1st S/M F. permanently at Malta.

/Opsum...

68

4.2.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Opsum 282. Submerged submarine sighted at periscope depth 30 miles south east of Limassol Cyprus by 1 Ventura B.34 which attacked with 1 depth charge. No results observed. Second Ventura B.34 sighted submarine 40 miles north west of Latakia Syria submarine submerged on sighting and aircraft attacked with depth charges 1 of which fell 200 feet ahead of swirl. Oil pattern 50 yards square appeared after attack together with some wreckage which included keel of a boat.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 041141Z.)

LITTORIOS' crews. 1. F.O.T.A.L.I's T.A. 1156/2 of 21st Jan. and my 011204* Jan. Reduction of crews of Italian battle-ships in Bitter Lakes is to be carried out forthwith.
2. C. and M. parties of 550 each proposed by Minister of Marine seem excessive and if F.O.L.E.M. can effect further reductions so much the better.
(C. in C.Med. 041451Z.)
* Reduction in complement of LITTORIO class.

Operation "Shingle". 5th Army advance H.Q. reports probable German effort to eliminate (?the or British?) bridgehead. Attack now in progress in northern sector of the front may be preliminary of major effort in which all possible sealand and air forces will be employed. Suggest that E-Boats, S/MS and mining will be used on maximum possible scale.
(N.O.I.C. Anzio 041532.)

Air attack on ST. ANDREW, ST. DAVID, LEINSTER 24 January. Hospital carriers ST. ANDREW, ST. DAVID and LEINSTER were lying off Anzio beaches about one mile from shore on 24th Jan, 1944. At approx. 1730 all three ships were ordered to put to sea for the night by C.T.F.81 in BISCAYNE.
2. LEINSTER. At 1750 while in the swept channel in company with ST. ANDREW and ST. DAVID, air raid warning was received. At 1830 received a direct hit forward starboard side. Fire broke out, but was brought under control, ship remaining on her course. From 1845 to 1935 continuous bombing attacks were made on the ship, bombs falling very close but no damage apart from severe shaking. 1950 signal received from a lifeboat stating ST. DAVID had been sunk. Water ambulances lowered and 101 survivors picked up. Arrived Naples 0830 on 25th Jan. Damage: One water ambulance destroyed, 4 damaged. Superficial damage to superstructure, no casualties.
3. ST. ANDREW. At 1830 while in the swept channel in company with LEINSTER and ST. DAVID, observed the former hit by a bomb. Closed LEINSTER to give assistance, but was told none required. At 1932 a deliberate low level attack was made on ST. ANDREW, bombs falling within 50 feet of the ship. At 1935 continuous bombing started, at about 1940 signal received that ST. DAVID had been sunk, and survivors were observed in the water. Boats were lowered and survivors picked up. At 2130 sailed for Naples. Damage. Ship severely shaken. No casualties.

War Diary.4.2.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Air attack on ST. ANDREW, ST. DAVID, LEINSTER 24 January. (Contd.)
4. ST. DAVID. Ship sunk at approx., 1940 by air attack in 41° 10' N. 12° 21' E. No reports have been received from the survivors of this ship.
5. General. Throughout these attacks, all three hospital carriers were burning full lights in accordance with Geneva Convention. Enemy were also using flares. A.M. 030235 refers. (C. in C.Med. 041533A.)
- M.T.Bs. Reply to C. in C.Med. 141448A Dec. 1943 re armament. (Admty. 041751A.)
- Bombing of Toulon 24th Nov. 1943. Routine. Considerable damage of general nature was caused during bombing of Toulon on 24.11.43. Three or possibly four U-Boats were sunk or damaged. Owing to wide dispersion it is appreciated that these are not easy targets. Repair and maintenance facilities, stores and accommodation, which present larger targets, are however of great importance. No single raid is likely to affect operational facilities for long. Since Toulon is only operational U-Boat base at present in use in Western Mediterranean, and in view of increasing flow of shipping and of amphibious operations at present taking place, Air Ministry has been asked to inform Mediterranean Air Authorities of importance of carrying out sustained attacks against U-Boat base at Toulon so far as existing bombing facilities will permit. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 041758A to C. in C.Med.)
- Operation "Shingle". Weather dull? this forenoon with south westerly winds rising to force six. North westerly gale expected tonight.
2. BROOKLYN has proceeded to Anzio in response to urgent call for bombarding cruisers to be available.
3. Two more glider bombs have been reported found in Nettuno and are being sent for. (C. in C.Med. at Naples 041643.)
- Situation report No. 288.
1. Maintenance of operation "Shingle" through Anzio has continued satisfactorily in good weather.
2. GLOIRE and SOEMBA bombarded in Formia area on 3rd Feb.
3. 2 schooners reported sunk by U-Boat in Latakia area during the night of 1st /2nd crews saved. Unescorted and schooner sailings temporarily suspended. (C. in C.Med. 042102A.)
- U/B search. U-Boat sighted in 034° 13' 033° 23' at 0533/4th. 2. A/C and surface forces will be carrying out a search in vicinity during daylight tomorrow. 3. Total bombing restrictions are in force for your route. (Capt. 3.1 041934 to ULTIMATUM.)

/Joint...

4.2.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Joint Intel. 24 hours to 1000 hours 4th Feb. 1944. All times
appreciation. G.M.T.
6. LEDA not located 3rd February and escorts seen
returning Piraeus without her. Presumed there-
fore sunk by air attack after leaving Samos p.m.
2nd Feb. representing less to enemy of fastest and most valuable
transport in Aegean.
(C. in C.M.E. 041950B.)

FORMOSA.

Swedish Government intimate safe conduct vessel
FORMOSA will leave Piraeus 0800/9th for St. John
N.B. by Standard Route.
2. Request you will inform air and other authori-
ties concerned.
(Admty. 042057A to F.O.L.E.M.)

War Diary.

4.2.1944.

February.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U/B.
disposition
signal 22.

Areas A.B.D. and E. believed clear of U/Bs. Scale of air escort W area C. No further news of U/Bs. sighted by A/C. in $012^{\circ} 04' N.$ $051^{\circ} 05' E.$ on 30th Jan. Reduce scale of air-escort to Y area F no indication of U/Bs. but possibility exists of Japanese short range patrol in this area. Scale of air escort remains X area G Japanese U/Bs. plotted by D/F to be within 200 miles of $006^{\circ} N.$ $089^{\circ} E.$ at 031418Z may be moved into area. Scale of air-escort remains. (C. in C.E.F. 040330Z.)

Operation
"Canned".

Departure 4th BANN.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 040507Z.)

Survivors.

2 Life Boats and 2 Rafts with survivors sighted by air today spread from a position $005^{\circ} 35' S.$ and $008^{\circ} 50' E.$ of reference EJ in direction 090° for 25 miles. Adjust course and speed to be in this area by daylight/5. Aircraft will be in area.

Please acknowledge this signal and report at once details of any survivors picked up.

(C. in C.E.F. 041041Z to ORA.)

Your 041041Z received. Carrying out your instructions.
(ORA 041800Z to C. in C.E.F.)

SS. CHUNG
CHENG
torpedoed.

FISHGUARD reports SS. CHUNG CHENG torpedoed at 0001Z today 4th in $013^{\circ} 30' N.$ $054^{\circ} 20' E.$
(C. in C.E.F. 042016.)

A/S
search.

My P.C. & S. $013^{\circ} 30' N.$ $055^{\circ} 03' E.$ 320° 12 knots BANFF is in company. Intend sweeping in the vicinity for further 24 hours then joining A.K.D.14 with BANFF.
(FISHGUARD 042320Z to N.O.I.C. Aden (R) SNOWFLAKE, SIGFRA.)

4.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SS. POLY-
CASTLE.

H.M.S. HAUKEN sailed 0930R to endeavour tow SS. POLYCASTLE to Kingston. Ship disabled in 17 degs. 30' N. 74 degs. 31' W. at 032330Z. (Capt. i/c Jamaica, 041223R).

U/boat
estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 041520Z, Cominch, 041620Z).

T.F.66

Constitution. To escort U.G.S.33. (C. in C. Lant, 041628). L.C.I. 525- 530 inclusive plus BRANT will sail as part of Task Force 66. When appropriate near Azores C.T.F. 66 direct this detachment (then constituted T.G. 66.9 Lieut. Tornberg in BRANT). Proceed Horta where upon arrival Landing Craft report Com. 12th Fleet for duty BRANT for temporary duty. Task Group then dissolved. (C. in C. Lant, 041708).

Shipping
policy; Gulf,
Panama and
Caribbean.

During next three months British controlled ships loading sugar in San Domingo for U.K. will average 10-15 per month. Request consideration may be given to applying para. 2 (A) of your 201935 Jan. to these ships if ship time can be saved thereby. (D.T.D., 041806Z to Connav).

U/boat
probably
sunk.

Comfairwing 7's 311238 to Cominch stated that H.Q.C.C. had informed him "The attack on a U/boat on 12 Nov. by C/103 U.S. Navy was assessed by the Admty. Assessment Board on 20 December. Their finding was that the U/boat was probably sunk". Cominch 011755 to Com. 12th Fleet follows. "Comfairwing 7 311238 Jan. Attack now in process Assessment Cominch Committee accordance Cominch 081404 and Admiralty 102232B May". Admty. is requested to draft message to Cominch clarifying this and other assessments known to have been made by Admty. Assessment Board of U.S. attacks when under operational control of Admty. (Comnav, 041811 to Admty.).

W.D. Note: W.D. have no information of a U/boat attacked by U.S. A/C C/103 on 12 Nov. A/C E103 attacked a U/boat at 1035/10 Nov. in 43.40 N. 08.35 W. and several other attacks were made by aircraft on 10th Nov. on U/boats, one of which was reported sunk, (see Diary); but it is not known whether these aircraft were working under the operational control of the Admiralty. No air attacks on U/boats are reported on 12 November.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Your 202250. Concur in visit of four days. Request you will make necessary arrangements. (Admty. 041918A).

P.553

Admty. 021814 at present P.553 hydroplanes and both compressors are defective. When repairs

/ have...

4.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- P.553.
(Contd.) have been made it is estimated that P.553 could remain in operation of about two months.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 042145Z.)
- C.T.G. 21.14
(CARD). Due undesirable operating conditions north of Azores and presence land based planes that area proceeding from 39 N. 35 W. 2227Z/4 to submarine now estimated 38 N. 36 W. Plan follow this sub. south for few days using day and night tactics.
(C.T.G. 21.14 042320.)

Australia & New Zealand.

- A/C attack on America MARU on 6th Sept. 1943. A.C.N.B. advise that U.S. aircraft (Liberator) of Fifth A.F. report having dropped 4 bombs on a merchant ship approx. time and position stated in your 231048 December. Ship was of American MARU class and was inadequately marked as a hospital ship. Photographs taken reveal no damage.
(A.C.N.B. 040500Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

- S/M attack & sighting summary. For 24 hours to 0900Z/4. Para. A.
1. A/C F/53 reported U-Boat sighted at 0711/4th Feb. in 45° 30' N. 07° 00' W.
 2. U-Boat sighted by A/C at 1138/3rd Feb. in 36° 00' N. 35° 10' E.
 3. U-Boat sighted by A/C at 1253/3rd Feb. in 34° 14' N. 33° 15' E.
- Para. B.
1. A/C reports A.S.V. contact on 4th Feb. in 52° 20' N. 17° 48' W.
(D.D.I.C. 041157A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 041438A, 041446A.)

5.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.W.

1. Convoy R.A.56 was about 190 miles E.S.E. of Bear Island at 0800 today. Two M/Vs. have returned to the Kola Inlet escorted by SEAGULL.

A/S
operations
off
Western
Ireland.

2. ROYALIST sighted two Enemy A/C off N.W. Ireland this morning, and at 0800A the Frigate BYRON joining E.G.B.1 was hunting a U/Boat about 240 miles West of Cape Clear. The 10th and 7th Escort Groups with STRIKER and FENCER are to sail from Lough Foyle tomorrow to operate as an independent Striking Force off Western Ireland.

Engagement
off Ile de
Bas.
One M.class
Minesweeper
probably
sunk.
One
destroyer
and one
M.class
Minesweeper
damaged.

3. At 0210 today the destroyers TANATSIDE, TALYBONT, BRISSENDEN, and WENSLEYDALE engaged three enemy destroyers and probably two M.class minesweepers off the Ile de Bas. They probably sank by gun-fire one of the minesweepers and certainly damaged another and one destroyer, leaving both minesweepers on fire and withdrawing at 0335 without damage or casualty.

Biscay
A/S
operations.

4. Two U/Boats, one apparently disabled, were attacked today by our A/C about 240 miles west of Rochefort; and the 2nd Escort Group with the A/C carriers NAIRANA and ACTIVITY are operating today in the western Biscay approaches.

SLINGER
mined.

5a. At 1210 today the Escort Carrier SLINGER was mined off Orfordness and is being towed to Sheerness.
b. C. in C. Nore considers that, having regard to the recent and constant sweeping of this area and the large number of ships recently passed through it, SLINGER appears to have been damaged by a mine having characteristics not hitherto encountered.

North Atlantic.

Azores.

6. It is expected that U.S. Aircraft will shortly commence operations from the Azores.

5.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Anzio
Area.

7. It was reported this evening that the weather had deteriorated in the Anzio area. Wind was Force 6.

Adriatic.

8. Destroyers last night bombarded Starigrad on Hvar Island. TUMULT and TEAZER bombarded Dubrovacka (Korcula Island) before proceeding to patrol south of Mljet, during which nothing was sighted. TUMULT and TEAZER also shelled Starigrad (43.10 N. 16.35 E.) last night.

Aegean.

9. 4 Mines were laid last night by aircraft in Rhodes harbour and 12 in the approaches to Khalkis harbour.

China.

6 large
Japanese
ships
sunk.

10. 2 U.S. Liberators and 2 U.S. Mitchells today attacked a convoy of 9 ships in the Kowloon - Swatow area and report that they sank 6 and probably 7 large vessels.

Australia and New Zealand.

11a. 38 Mitchells and 24 Bostons with escort attacked Hansa Bay, New Guinea this forenoon and sank a small freighter, a lugger and several barges.

b. In the afternoon 3 Mitchells attacked shipping at Wewak, New Guinea and claim to have sunk a freighter loaded with ammunition and a probable gunboat, besides barges.

War Diary.

5.2.1944.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Tug requirements. Very heavy requirements for seagoing tugs 600 H.P. and over will arise in connection with forthcoming operations, and it is apparent from a review of national tug resources that these requirements can only be met by considerable withdrawals from normal services.

2. A joint enquiry by Admiralty and Ministry of War Transport is being initiated forthwith, under direction of Vice-Admiral H.T. Baillie-Graham. Details.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 051833A.)

Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland.

My 041633 and my 041635 are cancelled. STRIKER, FENCER and 7th E.G. are to exercise in Clyde area, as arranged by F.O.C.T. on 5th and 6th Feb. proceed to Red Bay in time for conference with 10th E.G. on 6th.

2. 10th E.G. are to proceed on completion fuel to Red Bay as in para. 1.

(C. in C. W.A., 050013A to E.G.10, E.G.7, STRIKER, FENCER.)

Following areas for operations against U-Boats are established.

Area (P) bounded by 054° N. and 057° N. 016° W. and 020° W.

Area (Q) bounded by 051° N. and 054° N. 016° W. and 020° W.

(C. in C. W.A., 050018A to FENCER, STRIKER, E.G.7th, E.G. 10th, B.1., C.2., E.G. 2nd., ROYALIST, CHURCHILL, ACTIVITY, NAIRANA.)

My 0500B. 10th E.G. comprising SPEY (S.O.), ROTHER, WEAR, FINDHORN, LOSSIE. 7th E.G. comprising WOODCOCK, CRANE, WHIMBREL will form hunting group with STRIKER, FENCER. S.O. screen is S.O. 10th E.G.

(C. in C. W.A., 050035A to E.G. 10, E.G.7, STRIKER, FENCER.)

Am hunting U-Boat in 051° 15' N. 017° 45' W.

(BYRON, 050800A to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.F.28 estimated P.C.S. 0800A/6th 052° 10' N. 012° 56' W., 025°, 13½ knots.

(E.G.4., 050950Z to ROYALIST.)

One A/C detected by R.D.F. bearing 300° distant 2 miles position 260° DD 35 miles.

(S.O. E.C., 051004 to Ships.)

A/C previously reported lost sight of steering north-east.

(S.O. E.C., 051020 to Admty.)

WHIMBREL, WOODCOCK, CRANE sailed.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 051023A to C. in C. W.A.)

If not in contact detach PORCHESTER CASTLE forthwith to proceed to Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A., 051051A to B.1.)

One A/C in sight approx. true course 180° approx. height 2,000 ft. Position 257° DD 67 miles.

(S.O. E.C., 051205 to Admty.)

My 050800. Am searching area within 4 miles of diving position. A/S contact not made.

(BYRON, 051215A to C. in C. W.A.)

On passage home sweep position 051° 15' N. 020° W., 053° 05' N. 016° 40' W. during dark hours. This is considered a likely U-Boat area. Unlikely that U-Boats are east of 017° W.

(C. in C. W.A., 051222A to C.2.)

/One ...

5.2.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. (Contd.) One enemy A/C detected by R.D.F. bearing 030° distant 4 miles direction position 54° 20' N. 14° 46' W. (ASSINIBOINE, 051438Z to Admty.) My 051438Z. A/C was sighted by Swordfish on patrol. (ASSINIBOINE, 051454Z to Admty.) My P.C.S. 054° 39' N. 013° 14' W., 074°, 16.

E.T.A. Merville 0500Z/6th. (E.G.10, 051501Z to C. in C. W.A.) My 031136. LOUIS defective and will not sail to join escort group B.1. (C. in C. W.A., 051905A to B.1.) E.T.A. 0700A/7th weather permitting. My P.C.S. 051° 44' N. 016° 02' W., 050°, 14 knots. (PORCHESTER CASTLE, 052202Z to C. in C. W.A.) My 050013A. STRIKER (S.O.), FENCER, Escort Group 10, and Escort Group 7 are to sail as an independent striking force after exercise and conference tomorrow if F.O.C.T. is satisfied Carriers are on all respects ready for operations. Operation orders follow. (C. in C. W.A., 052341A to F.O.C.T., STRIKER, FENCER, E.G.10, E.G.7.)

Biscay A/S operations. Am over enemy submarine in position 45° 50' N. 8° 50' E. (A/C SVN.11, 050140 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy submarine in 45° 54' N. 6° 30' W. Submarine was on surface. (A/C SVN.11, 050150 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy submarine in 45° 54' N. 6° 45' W. (A/C SVN.11, 050210A to 19 Group.) 11 lights, probably convoy, heavy gunfire, 45° 47' N. 06° 45' W. (A/C SXJ.11, 050210 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy submarine in 45° 54' N. 6° 45' W. Submarine was on surface. (A/C SVN.11, 050220 to 19 Group.) Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat previously reported course 090°, speed 10 knots. Aircraft damaged. (A/C PPM.24, 050226A to 19 Group.) Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat on surface, position 45° 54' N. 06° 30' W., apparently disabled. U-Boat course 090°, speed 12 knots. Over U-Boat second position 45° 54' N. 06° 45' W. Have fuel for 3 hours left. (A/C SVN.11, 050240 to 19 Group.) Over U-Boat. Still in touch with enemy previously reported 090°, 12 knots, 46° 15' N. 06° 25' W. (A/C SVN.11, 050355A to 19 Group.) Probably two destroyers, one cruiser, position 48° 50' N. 03° 56' W., course 09, uncertain knots. Heavy flak. Recognition signal appear to be one pink star. T.O.O. 2140. (A/C SXJ.17, 050400A to 19 Group.) Remaining in vicinity O.N.222 while searching for missing air crew, position 046° 53' N. 022° 38' W., 225°, 7 knots. ACTIVITY fuelling WREN. STARLING, WOODPECKER, KITE fuelled

/yesterday ...

War Diary.5.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S
operations.
(Contd.)yesterday. Intend proceeding eastwards on
completion of search.
(NAIRANA, 051131Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Best probability area is now between 046° 30'
and 048° 01' and 017° 01' and 018° 30'.
(C. in C. W.A., 051209A to NAIRANA, ACTIVITY,
E.G. 2.)046° 40' N. 018° 10' W. is approximately position of
NAIRANA, WOODPECKER, ACTIVITY, E.G.2., STARLING, WREN, WILD
GOOSE, MAGPIE, KITE.
(C. in C. W.A., 051559A to Admty.)S.C.
operations.Intend sail S.C. Operation from Scalloway.
(1) 2300A/5th weather permitting. (2) 058° 20'
N. 006° 10' E. (3) RAMOSE, AQUATIC. (4) 2.
(5) 124° Sumburgh Head. (6) No.
(A.C.O.S., 050921 to Admty.)My 021017. Sailed at 2200A today S.C. HITRA.
(2) No.
(A.C.O.S., 052210 to Admty.)V.P.
operations.Sailed 0945A today M.T.B. 618 S.O., M.T.B. 619,
M.T.B.623, and M.T.B. 653.
My 241238A January. (2) No.
(A.C.O.S., 051016 to Admty.)
Sailed at 1120A today M.T.B.687 S.O., M.T.B.681,
M.T.B.683, M.T.B.685.My 211057A Dec. as amended my 251236A January.
(2) Yes.

(A.C.O.S., 051214 to Admty.)

My 291320A January. Sailed at 1235A today M.T.B. 666 (S.O.),

M.T.B. 684, M.T.B.625.

(2) No.

(A.C.O.S., 051310A to Admty.)

My 051310A. M.T.B.684 returned at 2230A today owing to
engine trouble.

(A.C.O.S., 052325A to Admty.)

Operation
F.W.By Russian D/F from 0910A to 1010A Ju.88 and 2
Heinkel 115 operating in Barents' Sea.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 051115A to Capt. D.3.)
WALLFLOWER sailed.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 051207A to C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy R.A.56. P.C.S. at 1430A/4th 071° 42' N. 039° 16' E.,
326°, 9½ knots.2 ships EMPIRE PICKWICK and PHILIP LIVINGSTONE unable to maintain
speed of convoy: they have been brought back to Kola Inlet by
SEAGULL from whom above report has been received.
No incidents up to time of parting company.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 051310A to C. in C. H.F.)

Arrived Kola Inlet SAN CIRILO. S.B.N.O. Archangel's
031821A refers.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 051430A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

/Scapa ...

5.2.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation Scapa departures RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE, LOYALTY
F.W. E.T.A. 2100/6.
(Contd.) (A.C.O.S., 052224 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
Scapa arrival HAIDA, IROQUOIS and ATHABASKAN.
(A.C.O.S., 052237A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
V.A.2's 111022 and your 301919. Should RAPIDOL
now return to Seidisfjord.
(A.C.I.C., 052216A to C. in C. H.F.)

Coastal (C. in C. Plymouth, 051240A, 051423A.)
Force (C. in C. Portsmouth, 051434A.)
Patrols.

Operation At 0210/5th Force 28 (TANATSIDE S.O., TALYBONT,
"Tunnel". BRISSENDEN, WENSLEYDALE) made Radar contact in
294° Isle de Bas 7.5 with an enemy force
consisting of 1 ELBING class destroyer and
probably 2 M-class minesweepers on a westerly
course. Force 28 altered course to westward and engaged, the
enemy apparently being surprised. The ELBING was hit 2 or 3
times by TANATSIDE's opening salvo and then escaped to westward
at high speed under cover of smoke. The minesweeper turned
inshore followed by Force 28, range closing to 2000 yards with
our Force 2½ miles from shore, 1 minesweeper burning fiercely
and the other stopped. Radar then disclosed 1 possibly 2
destroyers attempting to cut off our Force. Force 28 turned
to northward and engaged 2 ELBINGS who returned an accurate
fire without however doing any damage. The enemy destroyers
soon retired to west at high speed and Force 28 returned to
finish off the minesweepers. At this time "headache" reports
indicated an impending attack by E-Boats and, as enemy were
well on fire and apparently about to sink, at 0335 the S.O.
ordered Force to withdraw to northward. At about 0338 2 heavy
underwater explosions were heard. No damage or casualties in
Force 28. One enemy M-class minesweeper heavily damaged probably
sunk, one minesweeper damaged, one ELBING destroyer damaged.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051511 to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/6th and movements
for following 24 hours.
(A) SATYR, TRUSTY, TAKU as in my 031752.
(B) SCEPTRE leaves patrol in Kya area to pass
through 64° 45' N. 06° 00' E. at 1900/7th diving by day when
within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.
(C) TRADEWIND on patrol off Soroy.
(D) STUBBORN leaves Lerwick at 0900/6th through 090° Muckle
Flugga 15 miles and 62° N. 01° E. towards 64° 05' N. 03° 45' E.
probably on the surface 10 knots.
(F.O.(S), 051742A to Admty.)

U-Boat sunk We congratulate STARLING and WILD GOOSE on the
by STARLING destruction of a U-Boat on 31st January, 1944.
on 31st Jan. (1st S.L., 051820A to STARLING, WILD GOOSE.)

5.2.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.A/C
sighted.Indication 051001 aircraft returned flying very low just outside gun range.
(B.3., 051229Z to C. in C. W.A.)Thames
Estuary.Enemy aircraft engaged by Knock John Fort and Shivering Sand (Army) Fort at 0456/4th was seen by both Forts to fall in flames and explode on water. Joint claim considered justified.
(C. in C. Nore, 051650A to Admty.)Mining.SLINGER
mined.

If practicable SLINGER is to proceed in tow to Sheerness.

(C. in C. Nore, 051311A to GARTH.)

SLINGER on passage to Greenock was mined 3 cables 120° from Number 3 Buoy at 1210. Tugs are proceeding from Harwich to tow SLINGER to Sheerness.
2. Extent of damage not yet known but engine room flooded to depth of 2 feet and main engines out of action.

(C. in C. Nore, 051554A to Admty.)

SLINGER in tow tugs in the vicinity 3 Buoy proceeding.
GARTH remaining in company.

(Capt. (D) 21, 051656A to C. in C. Nore.)

My 051554A. Area was swept by four LL/SA sweepers at 0330A this morning and by three LL/SA sweepers at 0940A this morning. There has been no report of enemy minelaying in this vicinity either by surface craft or aircraft, since E-Boats operated there on the night of 7th/8th October, since when about 5,300 ships in Convoy have sailed through it, in addition to many independently moving ships such as Patrol Destroyers, etc., and the area swept several hundred times.

2. It appears that the Germans must be using mines fitted with characteristics not hitherto encountered.

(C. in C. Nore, 051834A to Admty.)

Departure ST. MELLONS to assist SLINGER.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 052038A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.DUKE OF
ROTHESAY.

Have been in collision. Returning and require to dock.

(DUKE OF ROTHESAY, No T.O.O. Recd. 051047.)

ERNE.

Port engine bearing running and starboard engine bearing heated up. Explosive gas given off by lubricating oil supplied by N.S.O. Londonderry. Intend returning Londonderry maximum 8 knots.

P.C.S. of K.M.F.28A at 1100Z, 048° 12' N. 019° 30' W., 180°, 17 knots.

(ERNE, 051230A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 051230A. Diesel fuel tank leaking into lubricating oil tank. P.C.S. at 1700Z, 049° 00' N. 018° 56' W., 040°, 9.

(ERNE, 051809A to C. in C. W.A.)

5.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HDME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

WOODCOCK.

Arrived WOODCOCK with A/S defects.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 051700A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)
My 051700A. It will be necessary to dock
WOODCOCK for fitting of new A/S dome. This can
be undertaken at Belfast at approximately noon
tomorrow.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 052229A to C. in C. W.A.)

WILLIAM H.
PRESCOTT.

E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1900 local time. PRESCOTT
in company with D.G. defective. No charts and
cannot work cable but is still in one piece.
Pilot required.
(GENTIAN, 051715Z to F.O.N.F.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.222.

If convoy is not further threatened return
Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 050958A to C.2.)

M.K.F.28.

On reaching position (PE) 050° 02' N. 014° 29'
W. PRINCE ROBERT is to be detached and proceed
as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A., 051548A to M.K.F.28.)

5.2.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

C.T.G. 21.14 (CARD & destroyers.) C.T.G. 21.14 has signalled his intention of proceeding from 39° N. 35° W. at 2330/4 towards U-Boat estimated to be in 38° N. 36° W. and to follow it to the southward for a few days.
(C. of W. 050615A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)
One Fortress aircraft operating in area 035° N. to 036° 30' N. by 036° 30' W. to 038° west from 0955Z/6th to 1330Z/6th. W/T call sign SUCY on 6480 k/cs R/T call sign "Caffrock Yoke". Homing call sign NWTM on 385 k/cs. Informing him of aircraft operating in the area.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 051937Z.)

STORK. C.S.Gibraltar's 041042 recommends that ship should proceed to U.K. to make good defects.
2. Intend to sail STORK by M.K.S.39 to U.K. for installation of new gearing.
(F.O.G.M.A. 051116A.)

BURZA. It has been necessary to dock O.R.P.BURZA for defective dome. Docking revealed split in ships side repairs to which will not complete until p.m. 6th February. When ship will be sailed to overtake S.L.147.

2. COLUMBINE has been sailed as additional escort to S.L.147 and must be recalled a.m. 7. Request relief escort be sailed from U.K.
(F.O.G.M.A. 051140 to C. in C.W.A.)

MAGIC and 6 Russian small ships. Six small Russian ships arrived Horta at 0759/3rd escorted by MAGIC they are now ready for sea but MAGIC has defective steering gear - Portuguese are demanding that Russian ships be sailed forthwith but I have directed S.B.N.O.Horta not to sail them until MAGIC is in all respects ready for sea. Time of completion of defects cannot as yet be given but is not expected to be long. My 031615 not to Admty. your 040021 and Admty. 041444 refer.

(S.B.N.O.Azores 051235Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

Russian ships should be sailed forthwith escorted by one of your trawlers to patrol outside territorial waters off Horta until MAGIC is ready for sea. Your 051235 refers.

(F.O.G.M.A. 051746A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)

Secret Embassy Telegram to Foreign Office No. 202, 3rd Feb. Major General of Armada informs me Russian Men-of-War who entered Horta Feb. 3rd were 3 S/M chasers and 3 M/3s. on passage from Bermuda to U.K. with one U.S. N.L.O. on board. British M/3 entered with them. Portuguese Government very upset over visit on account of absence of diplomatic relations with Russia but agreed to his suggestion to regard visit as due to Force Majeure. Fuel and repairs had been approved but crews not allowed ashore.
2. He added confidentially and in friendly spirit that while he personally understood the necessity for such small craft fuelling on passage across Atlantic Portuguese Govt. would probably adopt

/very...

War Diary.

5.2.1944.

SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

MAGIC and
6 Russian
small ships.
(Contd.)

very difficult attitude if such visits were repeated. He suggested that no questions would arise if on future occasions Russian ships entered Horta under white ensigns as was done in case of Free French Men-of-War entering Azores ports in the past.

(N.A.Lisbon 051812 to Admty.)

MAGIC and 6 Russian ships sailed at 1635Z/5th. MAGIC returned to Horta with engine defect 2200Z/5th. Russian ships contrary to orders proceeded. Attempting to contact on port wave. Russian A.M. 145 guards Washington F.18 k/cs. Request instructions.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 052359Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

UNSWERVING,
TANTALUS.

Onward routeing diving by day 125 miles per 24 hrs. through S. 044° N. 013° W. at 2359A/8th. R. 040° N. 009° 50' W. at 100220A thence to anti U/B patrol between lat. 039° 50' and 040° N. and between meridian 009° 50' W. and Portuguese coast.

2. TANTALUS is on similar anti U/B (German) patrol between lat. 039° 30' and 039° 40' N. and between 009° 50' W. and coast.

3. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged 10 miles either side of your route as in I.S.O.H. section VI appendix 5. Submerged bombing restriction arranged to cover your patrol area from 2200A/9th.

(F.O.G.M.A. 051544A to UNSWERVING (R) C. in C.W.A. Capt. S.10, Capt. S.3, C.M.S.F. C. in C.Med. TANTALUS, Admty. F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth, Com. U.S.Fleet, (H.Q.C.C?))

WARSPITE.

It is intended on arrival in U.K. to complete WARSPITE to temporary 1944 manning standard less two turret crews.

4. A separate signal will be made with regard to escorts and date of sailing.

(D.O.D.(F) 051655A.)

SS. NICOLINE
MAERSK.

My 221106* January British Vice Consul Tarragona reports that arrangements for salvage have now been made by Spanish company and all necessary appliances have arrived for immediate operations.
(B.N.A.Madrid 051716A.)

* re Danish SS. NICOLINE MAERSK aground on Sandbanks said to be unsalvageable.

Spanish
Fishing Fleet.

My 221207 January, Ministry of Marine inform me that fishing outside zone has been strictly prohibited request reply.

(N.A.Madrid 051953A to Admty.)

Spanish
shipping.

Your 241731A. Two statements have recently been made about losses in convoy to which you may think it worth while drawing the attention of Capt. Rotaeché:-

A. The Assistant Chief of Staff, American 10th Fleet stated that our losses for shipping sailed in convoy were over the whole war less than half of one per cent, and that the figure had been steadily improving.

/B...

War Diary.

5.2.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Spanish
shipping
(Contd.)

B. The following is an extract from para. 4 of the July statement "The decline in the effectiveness of U-Boats is illustrated by the following figures. In the first six months of 1943, the number of ships sunk per U-Boat operating was only one quarter that in the first half of 1942."

2. For quasi-political reasons, it is not possible at the moment to give more figures. It may be possible in four or five weeks time, and your request will be borne in mind.
(Admty. 052151A to B.N.A.Madrid.)

?ACTIVE.

Your 052010A. Patrol established between 036° 29' N. 006° 23' W. and 036° 36' N. 006° 26' W.
Speed 15 knots.
(?ACTIVE 052300Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

TOURVILLE.

My 041613Z*. Amend penultimate sentence to read -
Leave patrol Dusk 9 and proceed Dakar.
(F.O.I.C.W.Af. 051156Z to Comar Dakar, TOURVILLE,
(R) Com. 4th Fleet, GEORGES LEYGUES, Admty.)
* F.S. TOURVILLE for patrol.

CENTAURE
(for U.S.A.)

Sailed 1756Z/5 escorted by M.L. 188 and 261. My
031445Z refers.
(Comar Dakar 052050Z.)

5.2.1944.

Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.A.A.F. 4 Feb. 154 U.S. Fortresses B.17 Toulon Harbour 19
Opsum 349. returned early 30 ran into bad weather and did not
bomb. 33 aircraft dropped 348 x 500 Anteor Via-
duct with unobserved results 37 aircraft dropped
420 x 500 Toulon with poor results remainder
dropped unreported number bombs Toulon reporting some hits target
and to east approx. 30 enemy aircraft encountered, 6 enemy A/C
destroyed Fortresses B.17 landed widely dispersed fields due
weather later reports show 2 destroyed and 3 unaccounted for 96
U.S. Liberators B.24 Toulon due weather returned bombs. Fuller
report follows when received.
(M.A.A.F. Command Post 051510A.)

TUMULT. No shipping sighted, short bombardment carried out
at Dubrovacka (?Dubovica). Result not observed.
Heavy rain over coast. No opposition. No hits
seen at Sveti and Rrija which was close 1000 yards.
(TUMULT 050745A.)

PIPINOS. Amend route from position 034° 17' N. 024° 00' E.
at 1800/5th proceed on the surface through 033° 12'
N. 025° 00' E. at 0400/6th 033° 12' N. 028° 00' E.
at 2200/6th direct. E.T.A. 1800/8th.
2. S.O.A. 8½ knots.
3. Total bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.L.E.M. 051009B to PIPINOS.)

TORBAY. Amend route in Capt. S.1 041159* from 035° 32' N.
027° 28' at 2330/5th on surface through 034° 25' N.
032° 25' E. at 2230/6th to Beirut E.T.A. 1200/7th.
2. S.O.A. 11 knots. 3. Total bombing restrictions
arranged.
(F.O.L.E.M. 051253B to TORBAY, (R) A.H.Q.E.M. N. & A
Levant, Capt. S.1.)
* Leave patrol and proceed to Beirut.

DZIK. You are re-routed as follows:
A. 032° 43' 033° 33'. B. 033° 40' 033° 33'.
thence direct Beirut.
2. Estimate you are in position A at 2000 today.
3. Bombing restrictions for new route arranged.
(Capt. S.1 051817B to DZIK, (R) ?F.O.L.E.M.
A.H.Q.E.M.)

German U-Boat reported in 033° 01' N. 034° 31' E. at 1615/5th.
Air and surface search will take place from 1900 tonight; warned
of your route ordered in my 051817.
(Capt. S.1 051846B to DZIK.)

/Attack...

5.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Attacks on U/Bs 2nd June and 18th Aug. 1943. French have received information from Comar Dakar that attacks on U-Boats by ANTAIRES on 2nd June 1943 and by WELLINGTON H.Z.697 on 18th Aug. 1943 have been reassessed by Admiralty as probably sunk. 2. Request this may be confirmed. (C. in C. Med. 051800 to Admty.)
- R.A.F.H.Q's. Further to our signal A.F. 197 (N.T. in W.R.) dated January 29 addresses for various headquarters are as follows. Permanent H.Q. Caserta to be called H.Q. M.A.A.F. Administrative H.Q. at La Marsa to be called H.Q. M.A.A.F. La Marsa. Plans Liaison and R.A.F. Maintenance and supply at Algiers to be called H.Q. M.A.A.F. Algiers. Ultimate move of H.Q. La Marsa and Algiers to Caserta will be notified when completed. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. Command Post 051941A.)
- TUSCAN, CALPE, DZIK. Estimate DZIK P.C. and S. 2000/5th 032° 30' N. 033° 20' E. 000° 8½ knots. 2. Estimate destroyers pass position 033° N. 033° 20' E. 0400/6th course 063° 20 knots. (F.O.L.E.M. 051941B to TUSCAN, CALPE, DZIK, (R) N. & A. Authorities Levant.)
- Cositintrep 208 pt.2. Signed Wilson. 2. Destroyers bombarded Starigrad (43° 10' N. 16° 35' E.) during night 4/5 February. (C. in C. Med. 052004.)
- Situation report 289. 1. Weather has broken in Anzio area and wind now force 6. 2. During night 4/5 TUMULT and TEAZER shelled *Starigrad* ~~Starigrad~~ 043° 10' N. 016° 35' E. 3. 2 M.T.Bs. sank 2 medium (?craft) one small schooner during night 3/4 sighted in Zara Channel (044° 05' N. 015° 12' E.) and took 85 prisoners 20 of them German. (74). One same night one M.G.B. and one M.T.B. sank small laden schooner off Rogoznica 043° 30' N. 015° 57' E. taking 10 German and 4 other prisoners. 5. TUMULT and TEAZER bombarded Dubrovacka (Korcula) during night 4/5th. Nothing sighted during subsequent patrol south Mljet. (C. in C. Med. 052018A.)

War Diary.5.2.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Operation "Canned." Arrival 5th BANN.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 050145Z.)

Bi-weekly U-Boat dis-
position. No. 23. Coast Wellington reports sighting S/M approx. 35 miles west of Pasni at 0430Z/3rd Feb. Graded D.4. Scale of air escort remains W. Areas B. D. and E. believed clear of U-Boats scale of air escort remains W. Area C. CHUNG CHENG (as 042016), scale of air escort remains Y. Area F. LILAVATI reports sighting S/M in approx. 013° N. 084° E. on 4th no further information and scale of air escort remains X. Area G. no fresh information but scale of air escort remains X. (C. in C.E.F. 050331Z.)

U/B in Bay of Bengal. LILAVATI reports attacking S/M in 018° 05' N. 084° 14' E. at 1210Z/4th.
(C. in C.E.F. 050429Z.)
W.D.Note: Considered non-sub., see C. in C.E.F. 070339Z.

FORT BUCKINGHAM: survivors. After picking up survivors remain in vicinity of 006° 10' S. and 008° 45' E. of reference EJ. during daylight tomorrow 6th Feb. until met by RAJPUTANA who will take you under her orders. Then transfer survivors and proceed to destination, rejoining your route at P.
(C. in C.E.F. 051052Z to ORA.)

Your 051052Z (corrupt group). Shortly (gp. omitted) dark today in position 0 190 P picked up 11 European survivors including Chief Engineer all of good health 26 Indians several much exhausted one dead. 12 more survivors to be picked up tomorrow. (ORA 051830Z to C. in C.E.F.)

FORT LA MAUNE. Have you any news of FORT LA MAUNE due Cochin 31st January from Aden. Com. Aden's 311817 January to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) refers.
(D.T.D. 051256A to S.O.I. Colombo.)
W.D.Note: See NIGELLA 071624Z.)

Your 051127Z (N.T. in W.D.) NIGELLA detached at 1800Z to embark survivors in 015° 07' N. 051° 10' E. My P.C. and S. 012° 18' N. 051° (?18' or 31') E. 134° 8½.
(SNOWFLAKE 051801Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

2
5.1.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SS.
AIKATERINI T. SS. AIKATERINI N. (?T) (Greek) overdue and presumed foundered about 24th January. My 291540* January refers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 050121Z.)
* AIKATERINI not arrived.

ABRAHAM BALDWIN. 36 ships arrived. ABRAHAM BALDWIN unaccounted for. (P.D. New York, 050230)
Convoy O.N. 220.

G.U.S.27 Convoy G.U.S.27. New York Section. 30 ships arrived. SS. HENRY H. RICHARDSON unaccounted for. (P.D. New York, 050232.)
HENRY H. RICHARDSON.

U/B Re-encipherment of C.T.G.21.12 050925. report. 050730 position 36.12 N. 19.03 W. intercepted Enigma 49 75 kcs. bearing 003. WX.4785 3015. (Radio Washington 051237Z)

U/B No fresh information. estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 051522, Cominch 051557Z.)

Sugar Vessels referred to in your 041806Z now being ships. sailed independently within Caribbean Area. (Com.10th Fleet C. and R. 051854Z to Admty.) (British controlled ships loading sugar in San Domingo for U.K.)

Co-operation of air and surface forces for defence of convoys. As it is expected that U.S. aircraft will shortly commence operations from the Azores Cominch desires a decision of the rules for the use of A.C.I.S. and E.C.I.S. propounded in your 280124 November and his 222055 December he wishes to know if you intend to promulgate them. 2. Cominch expected that you would reply to his 222055 December. My 212143 January also refers. (B.A.D. 052043Z to Admty.)

ARIADNE. Report to C.T.G. 02.5 for duty as additional escort troops (corrupt group) leaving Norfolk 10th Feb. (Cdr. E.S.F. 052043Z to ARIADNE.)

CHEVREUIL. Will sail in U.G.S.33 and will be ordered report to you for duty on arrival Casablanca. (C. in C. Lant, 052108Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

5.1.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial 746.
Feb. 4th.

Paragraphs 16 to 19 cover South Pacific Forces.
6. Submerged submarine seen midday 60 miles North Garove Island course 360°.
18. Night 3rd February six enemy bombers and floatplanes bombing United States Destroyers west of Buka scoring near misses but inflicting nil damage. One plane shot down.
19. Prior dawn following morning three destroyers bombarded enemy positions Sarima plantation North West Bougainville. Return shore fire encountered damaging ? one unit.
(G.H.Q.A.W.P.A. 050730Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary.

Para. A. 1. Chinese CHUNG CHENG reported torpedoed at 0001/4 in 15° 30' N. 54° 20' E.
2. A/C D/53 sighted surfaced U/Boat course 090° 12 knots at 0040/5 in 45° 54' N. 06° 30' W. and attacked with depth charges.
3. A/C M/172 sighted surfaced U/Boat course 090° 10 knots at 0110/5 in 45° 34' N. 06° 46' W. and attacked with depth charges; A/C damaged.
4. A/C D/53 sighted surfaced U/Boat course 090° at 0110/5 in 45° 54' N. 06° 45' W.
5. H.M. ship hunting U/Boat at 0700/5 in 51° 15' N. 17° 45' W.

Para. B. Ref. A.M. 041157A, para. A. (2 and 3): both U/Boats were attacked.

Para. C. U.S. A/C L/108 reported disappearing A.S.V. contact at 1211/4 in 51° 48' N. 20° 37' W.
(D.D.I.C. 051140A.)

U/B estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 051425A, 051430A.)

90

6.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.W."

1. Convoy R.A.56 was about 70 miles South of Bear Island at 0800 to-day.

A/S. operations
off Western
Ireland.

2. The Escort Groups 10 and 7 with the Escort Carriers STRIKER and FENCER are to form Escort Group 16 and are assembling in Red Bay to-day for a conference to-morrow. R.A. Escort Carriers in ROYALIST with CHURCHILL was operating to-day off N.W. Ireland.

Convoy
T.U.7.
attacked
by U/boat.

3. At 0047Z to-day the U.S. Troop Convoy T.U.7. was attacked by a U/boat about 820 miles West of St. Nazaire without result.

Biscay A/S
operations.

4. A U/boat about 180 miles West of Rochefort was attacked to-day by our A/C, and two Enemy Ships were also attacked later by our A/C in the same position. The ships of E.G.2 with NAIRANA and ACTIVITY were operating in the Biscay area.

5. Bomber Command aircraft laid mines last night at Frederichstad and Oslo.

North Atlantic.

6. Convoy S.L.147 reported being shadowed by a B.V.222 West of Finisterre this morning.

South Atlantic.

U/boat
sunk.

7. Gominch reports that at 1030Z today a Liberator from Ascension attacked a U/boat on the surface in 10.40 S. 23.10 W. (540 miles S.W. of Ascension Island). Survivors were reported

/in...

6.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U/boat
sunk
(Contd.).

in the water, and SS FRANKA, Montevideo for Freetown was diverted to pick them up. Fourteen survivors were picked up by the U.S. cruiser OMAHA.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle"

8(a). C. in C. Med. reported at 0125 today that the weather at Anzio had moderated and small quantities of supplies had been landed through the port by L.S.T. The swell persisted until 0800 today, limiting discharge from Liberty ships to 550 tons, but 2850 tons were landed from L.S.T. during the 24 hours ending 2000 today.
(b) Intermittent bombing throughout the day and glider bomb attacks at dusk caused no damage. The port was under long range shell fire which killed 3 port party ratings.
(c) MAURITIUS and Dutch gunboat FLORES have carried out bombardment in the Formia area. The U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN has been recalled from Anzio, where there are no targets suitable for naval fire support. ULSTER and URCHIN fired at targets in the Anzio area.

East Indies.

U/boat off
Socotra.

9. 56 survivors of SS. FORT LA MAUNE have been picked up on the Arabian coast by NIGELLA. FORT LA MAUNE was torpedoed on 25th January in 13 N. 56.40 E. (about 120 miles E.N.E. of Socotra).

War Diary.6.2.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.A/S operations off
Western
Ireland.

My 052341. U-Boats believed to operate submerged by day in area P and Q given in my 050018.
2. Force is to operate initially in P subject to following A. Carriers are not to proceed between long., 016° W. and 020° W. by day unless in continuation of contact.

B. If weather conditions or forecast do not permit night flying, force may still proceed through area by night.

3. Report intention nightly by 1800.

(C. in C.W.A. 060027A to STRIKER, FENCER, E.G.10, E.G.7.)

Sailed STRIKER, FENCER, WHIMBREL and CRANE. C. in C.W.A. 050013A refers.

(N.O.I.C. Belfast 060835A to C. in C.W.A.)

Endurance in days at 12 knots from 060800Z. STRULE 10½, WANDERER 4½, WATCHMAN 5, BYRON 7.

(B.1 061040Z to C. in C.W.A.)

A. ROTHER, B. 060021. C. Asdic. D. 055° 21' N. 009° 28' W. E. 2. F. 060302.

(ROTHER 061045Z to Admty.)

Arrived SPEY, LOSSIE, FINDHORN, WEAR, ROTHER.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 061110A to C. in C.W.A.)

Ships addressed are temporarily to form 16th Escort Group.

(C. in C.W.A. 061123A to STRIKER, FENCER, E.G.10, E.G.7.)

Owing to defects in ships of 10th E.G. conference with carriers and 7th E.G. cannot take place today.

2. Intention is for groups and carriers to assemble at Red Bay a.m. 7th.

3. N.O.I.C.N.I. and Cmdre. D.W.A. are requested to report what time WOODCOCK and ships of 10th group respectively can arrive at Red Bay.

(C. in C.W.A. 061245A to N.O.I.C.N.I.)

C. in C.W.A. 052341A. (?Propose) sailing be delayed 24 hours

(R.O.C.T. in STRIKER 061401A to C. in C.W.A.)

Leave M.K.F.28 after dark tonight and proceed to patrol in the vicinity of 270° DD. 110 miles. At daylight 9th proceed to patrol in the vicinity of O.N.223 estimated position at 0800A/9th. 055° 10' N. 011° 24' W.

2. Position DD. is established as 055° 30' N. 010° 01' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 061442A to ROYALIST.)

Detected unidentified aircraft bearing 130° (corrupt group). My position 161° 140 miles from DD.

(S.O.E.C. 061545 to Whitehall W/T.)

My 061545. Faded, steering 140°.

(S.O.E.C. 061550 to Whitehall W/T.)

Your 061245. Para. 3. E.T.A. Red Bay 1300/7th.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 061610A to C. in C.W.A.)

Proceed passing Gate at 0730A/7th for Red Bay, E.T.A. 1230A.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 061728A to HART.)

Arrived STRIKER, FENCER, WHIMBREL and CRANE.

(N.O.I.C.N.I. 061807A to C. in C.W.A.)

My position 215 DD. 80. Steering southward until midnight and will be in vicinity of Ayr 1000/7th. C. in C.W.A. pass to 15 Group.

(R.A.E.C. 061845A to C. in C.W.A.)

Biscay A/S
operations.

Have A.S.V. contact position 045° 45' N. 005° 51' W probably U-Boat. 29 bombs dropped.
(A/C 27 060157A to 19 Group.)

/Position...

6.2.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. (Contd.) Position of three enemy merchant vessels is 47° 05' N. 05° 45' W.
(A/C MKY II 060535A to 19 Group.)
Have attacked with 6 depth charges, result not observed, position 2 enemy vessels 46° 48' N. 06° 08' W. course 075, 22 knots.
(A/C UUG 29 060620A to 19 Group.)

D/F bearings at 0625Z indicate U-Boat may be within 120 miles of 44° N. 31° W.
(D.D.I.C. 061000A to H.X.277, S.C.152.)
Owing to heavy Leigh Light commitments in both north western approaches and Bay of Biscay it is not possible at the present time to reinforce you with a further half squadron of Leigh Light aircraft. In the meantime the importance of area V has lessened and whenever U-Boats are in the vicinity of Gibraltar all your effort should be put on to them. If at any time the situation demands immediate additional effort M.A.C.A.F. should be asked to assist and you should report to H.Q. coastal command in case it is possible to divert aircraft from Azores or 19 Group. Admiralty concur.
(H.Q.C.C. 061240A to A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar.)
P.C. and S. of NAIRANA, ACTIVITY and E.G.2 at 1600Z 047° 30' N. 021° 45' W. 140° 14 knots. Making for 044° 42' N. 018° 12' W. Fuelling 2nd Escort Group completed. Search abandoned.
(NAIRANA 061612Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation F.W. Faroes arrival HONEYSUCKLE.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 060847A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
On arrival of BERMUDA at Hvalfjord you are to come under her orders. R.A.D.H.F. 050945 refers.
(C. in C.H.F. 061033 to BLYSKAWICA.)

ONYX arrived Faroes.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 061036A to A.C.I.C.)
Arrived Faroes WRESTLER.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 061055A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Arrival Faroes BORAGE.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 061142A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
Skaalefjord arrival RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE, LOYALTY.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 061831A to A.C.O.S.)
Arrived Kola Inlet EMPIRE PICKWICK and PHILIP LIVINGSTONE ex R.A.56.
Vessels returned on orders of escort and can furnish no explanation why this order was given categorically denying any suggestion of straggling or inability to maintain convoy speed. Request for fullest possible enquiry has been (?formulated) by both masters and their reports will be forwarded at first opportunity.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 062007A to Admty.)
Arrived Faroes WALLFLOWER.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 062020A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

S/M Patrols. STUBBORN left Lerwick 0908A/6th unescorted and on the surface at C.O. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast by route "Orange" to 064° 05' then through 064° 25' 008° 30' to patrol vicinity

Kya. Ordered not to cross long. 008° E. before 0300A/7th.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 060922A to S/Ms.)

/TRADEWIND...

War Diary.6.2.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. TRADEWIND proceed diving by day anti U-Boat patrol (Contd.) within 25 miles $073^{\circ} 01' N.$ $019^{\circ} 58' E.$ Estimated P.C. and S. convoy at 0800A/6th, $073^{\circ} 18' N.$ $019^{\circ} 08' E.$ $241^{\circ} 9\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Convoy escort is being informed of TRADEWIND movements.
(F.O.S. 061246A to S/Ms.)

Own submarine positions 0800/7th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. TRADEWIND approx. $73^{\circ} N.$ $20^{\circ} E.$ on patrol.

B. TAKU, TRUSTY and SATYR as in my 031752.

C. SCEPTRE $64^{\circ} 37' N.$ $08^{\circ} 40' E.$ passing through $64^{\circ} 45' N.$ $06^{\circ} 01' E.$ at 1900/7th and $64^{\circ} 30' N.$ $03^{\circ} 25' E.$ then course 210° to Lerwick. Speed 10 knots.

D. STUBBORN $63^{\circ} 27' N.$ $02^{\circ} 52' E.$ through $64^{\circ} 05' N.$ $03^{\circ} 45' E.$ and $64^{\circ} 25' N.$ $08^{\circ} 30' E.$ to patrol off Kya.

(F.O.S. 061738 to Admty.)

TRADEWIND will be operating in the vicinity of $073^{\circ} 01' N.$ $019^{\circ} 58' E.$ from 0600A/7th, approaching from south.

(C. in C.H.F. 061859A to Escorts R.A.56, C.S.1.)

V.P. My 051016A. M.T.B. 623 returned at 1125A today
Operations. owing to engine trouble.

(A.C.O.S. 061227A to Admty.)

My 051016A. M.T.B. 653 returned at 1530A today.

2. Operation V.P. 101A successful. 14 refugees brought back in addition.

(A.C.O.S. 061652A to Admty.)

My 051016. M.T.B. 618 and M.T.B. 619 returned at 2230A today.

2. One enemy patrol vessel engaged with gunfire in Sognesjoen and left on fire.

3. M.T.B. 619 suffered 2 hits and has 5 men wounded.

(A.C.O.S. 062358A to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C.Portsmouth 061351A.)
Force
Patrols.

S.C. My 021027A. Sailed at 1810A today S.C. VIGRA.
Operations. 2. No.

(A.C.O.S. 061820A to Admty.)

One ex American submarine chaser passing Muckle Flugga about 2100A/6th, thence direct to Norwegian coast in vicinity of $065^{\circ} 20' 011^{\circ} 40' E.$ Probably leaving Norwegian coast and returning direct Sumburgh Head so as to arrive Shetland 10th Feb.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 061829A to SCEPTRE, STUBBORN.)

Mining.

SLINGER
(mined 5th
Feb.)

Sheerness arrival SLINGER in tow of tugs KENIA, SUPERMAN and ST. MELLONS escorted by Capt. D.21 in GARTH.

(C. in C.Nore 061146A to Admty.)

War Diary.6.2.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Convoys. B.2 report at 1115Z/6th one loaded merchant ship course N. 9 knots passed Skor westbound 061° 36' N. escort one trawler ahead and astern. 1030Z/6th one loaded 10,000 ton tanker and 3 loaded merchant ships about 6000 tons passed Skor southbound 9 knots, escort 3 armed trawlers and one minesweeper and air escort. (F.O.S. 061428A to SATYR, TAKU.)

Casualties & Defects.

LYDD. Tug EMPIRE LILLIPUT in collision with LYDD while berthed alongside Alexandra Dock, Grimsby at 1600 approx. on 5th Feb. No casualties. LYDD sustained following damage. Details. Permanent repairs being taken in hand. Estimated completion 14 days. (Capt. M/S Humber 061520A to Admty.)

ANTARES. ANTARES proceeding to Plymouth with serious condenser trouble. (ARIES 061727 to C. in C.W.A.)

ERNE. K.M.F.28A. ERNE is returning to Londonderry with defect. (C. in C.W.A. 062147A to F.O.G.M.A.)

WOODCOCK. My 052229A. Repairs completed. Intend to sail WOODCOCK to arrive Red Bay 1230A/7th. C. in C.W.A. 061245A refers. (F.O.I.C.N.I. 062320A to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

T.U.7. Convoy T.U.7 attacked by U-Boat at 060047Z without results in 47.03 N. 22.04.8 W. Number involved unknown but one torpedo sighted and heard. Convoy on course 193 at time. Torpedo track sighted coming from 237. GLENNON hunting. Convoy speed of advance 15.5 on course 212, at (?18) knots, sky clear, visibility excellent. Convoy will resume zigzag and convoy speed at 0800Z/6th. (C.T.F. 69 060353 to Admty.)

O.S.67/
K.M.S.41. Request you will sail 6th Escort Group when ready to join O.S.67 during daylight 8th Feb. as support. (C. in C.W.A. 061116A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
Your 061037A. Visibility 2 cables. It has not been possible to muster convoy which is very scattered. (ROCHESTER 061250A to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

6.2.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Q.U.13.

23 M/Vs. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D. 061429A.)

H.X.277.

Your 061040.
2. My 061113. If destroyers cannot fuel from
convoy on 8th February they are to proceed to
Azores. STRULE and BYRON are to continue with
convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 061621 to B.1.)

War Diary.6.2.1944.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Lagens
R.A.F.
Station.

My 232030/Oct. Approved to establish R.N. Air Section at R.A.F. Station under construction at Lagens, Terceira Island, Azores, to provide accommodation and maintenance facilities for 12 reserve aircraft.
(4) S.B.N.O. Azores' letter No.22/1420 of 6th Dec. 1943 refers.
(Admty. 060403A.)

MAGIC and
6 Russian
ships.

C. in C.W.A. is requested to initiate any action necessary on S.B.N.O. Azores 052359. S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to report route given to Russian ships.
(F.O.G.M.A. 060620A.)
Your 060620. Route for Russian ships to Londonderry.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 061220Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

S.L.147/
M.K.S.38.

One shadower sighted 0950Z.
2. S.L.147/M.K.S.38 (81 ships) P.C. & S. at 1000Z 042° 10' 016° 40' 328° 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.
3. Weather report 4882 3833.
(S.O.E.G. B.3. 061012Z.)

My 061012.* Shadower is B.V. 222.
(S.O.E.G. B.3. 061147Z.)

* Re shadower sighted S.L.147/M.K.S.38.

COLUMBINE is to part company with S.L.147 at 1000A Feb.7th and proceed to Gibraltar (route).
(F.O.G.M.A. 061149A.)

BURZA.

Sailed BURZA to overtake M.K.S.39.
(F.O.G.M.A. 061701A.)
BURZA O.R.P. sailed at 061700A to overtake. Route etc.
(F.O.G.M.A. 061715A to S.E.C., M.K.S.38, S.E.C., S.L.147.)

Troop
Convoys
route.

N.O.I.C. Port Said's 031829* para.8. Admiralty policy at the present time is that troop convoys shall proceed to U.K. by outer route. (A.M. 052006/August 1943 para.3 not to F.O.L.E.M. or N.O.I.C. Port Said refers).
2. Request that in future troop convoys be given outer route only.
(F.O.G.M.A. 061111A to F.O.L.E.M., N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

Responsibil-
ity for
Azores.

A.M. 042357* not understood, observing that Azores lie in the area for which I am directly responsible to Admiralty.
(F.O.G.M.A. 061113A to Admty.) * Requesting Fleet Tender for Azores should be addressed to C. in C. Med.

6.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Attack
on U/B.

Following information received from VIOLET contact was lost following Hedgehog firing, and bomb explosion did not show on recorder ?trace. My 301124A* January refers. (F.O.G.M.A. 011125A to C, in C.W.A.) * Re:- From preliminary investigations of H.M.S.VIOLET's attack on 19th Jan. 1944, all available evidence points to the presence of a U-Boat.

South Atlantic.

VERITY,
GARLAND.

Intend to sail VERITY from Freetown to arrive Ascension daylight/13th, and GARLAND from Takoradi to arrive Ascension last light/13th. VERITY will have stores. GARLAND (S.O.) and VERITY are to leave Ascension as necessary to meet HIGHLAND MONARCH in position 00° 00' S. 015° 00' W. at 0900Z/14th and escort to Freetown in accordance with N.O.I.C. Falkland Island's 031917Z. Request you will (?arrange) air co-operation if available. (F.O.C.W.Af. 061043Z to N.O.I.C. Ascension.)

Freecar
patrol.

Intend sailing DUCA D'AOSTA 1300Z/8 for line EF Freecar not inwards, arriving position E. 0700Z/10 leaving from position F 1900Z/13th for Freetown. (F.O.C.W.Af. 061530Z.)
Departure 1408Z/6 TOURVILLE on Ocean Patrol. (S.O. (I) Freetown 061738Z.)

6.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

"Shingle"
Situation
Report.

Weather at Anzio has moderated but unloading of (corrupt groups) has not been possible. Small quantities of supplies have been landed through the Port by L.S.T.

2. MAURITIUS, FLORES have bombarded in Formia Area. BROOKLYN has been recalled from Anzio where Naval fire support has not been accorded adequate targets.
(C. in C. Med., 060125.)

Air
attacks
on K.M.S.
37 and
U.G.S.30.

AX.709 6th Feb. Request following details of attacks on K.M.S.37 10th Jan. and U.G.S.30 1st Feb.

1. What Fighter Escort was detailed to cover the convoy during this period of its passage.
 2. Was air escort over convoy at time of attack.
 3. Were intercepting aircraft on convoy escort or free-lance patrol.
 4. Were intercepting aircraft under G.C.I. control. Were they scrambled or airborne for interception.
 5. Time of first warning and position of E/A, time of attack, time of interception.
 6. Weather conditions and state of light at time of attack.
 7. Any other details of interest.
- (Air Min 061045Z to M.A.A.F.(Adv.)

Shipping
off east
coast of
Spain.

Analysis of scale of enemy controlled coastal traffic off East coast of Spain shews that employment of S/Ms on surface patrols in this area would be very uneconomical.

2. If sufficient information can be made available it will normally be possible to send fast ships such as LE FANTASQUE to intercept any enemy controlled shipping running along Spanish/French Seaboard.
(C. in C. Med. 061542A to Admty.)

M.A.A.F.
Opsum 350.
Damage at
Toulon
3rd Feb.

Damage at Toulon Harbour 3rd February (? 4th February intended). Bomb strike photographs show heaviest concentration at double-dry dock in southeast part of New Basin. Direct hits old Battleship hull South West Unit dry dock and on 400 feet Merchant Vessel in South East Unit. Near misses 500 feet Merchant Vessel in North West Unit. Direct hits or near misses Cruiser

hull South West corner of old basin on Cruiser South of Coal Depot and on a submarine North of Stores Depot. Scattered hits harbour installations Coal Depot Arsenal Stores Repair Shops also near S/M Station.
(M.A.A.F. 061556A).

SS.
HALLAREN.

Swedes inquire whether we can agree to safe conduct vessel HALLAREN sailing from Venice to Trieste thence to Venice, Corfu and Piræus.

/Proposed...

6.1.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SS. (Proposed route) Request early signal whether
HALLAREN. you agree to call at Trieste and proposed route.
(Contd.) (Admty., 061927A to V.A.M.)

Balkan 4. Adv. H.Q. Force 133 reports Italian
Sitrep.82. Destroyer and other small craft successfully
evacuated 25 Italians from Albania. Night 3/4
Feb. 3 Brit. Officers. 2 O.Rs. one American
successfully infiltrated by sea. Gen. Infante
was successfully evacuated on return trip.
(C. in C.M.E.? 06193+OB.)

101

6.2.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U-Boat disposition. My 050331Z. Area A, B, C, D, E. No fresh information. No change in scale of air escort. Area F. S/M reported sighted by H.M.I.S. LILAVATI was attacked with depth charges in 018° 05' N. 084° 14' E. at 1210Z/4th and is reported to have been temporarily forced to surface and to have been seen by all in ship. Scale of air escort Y. Area G. Japanese U-Boat plotted by D/F to be within 200 miles of 006° N. 089° E. on 3rd could now have reached area. Increase scale of air escort to Y. (C. in C. E.F., 060415Z.)

Operation "Canned". Arrival 6th RELENTLESS. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 060610Z.)

FORT BUCKINGHAM: Your 060238Z* received. Picked up 37 survivors from 3 rafts. Senior survivor reports that one more raft adrift with 4 Europeans on board. (ORA, 060730Z to C. in C. E.F.)
* N.T. in W.R. C. in C. E.F. 051052Z and ORA 051830Z appear to be formers.
Your 060620Z* received. Now all survivors from FORT BUCKINGHAM accounted for. (ORA, 060930Z to C. in C. E.F.)
* N.T. in W.R.
Have transferred 35 survivors to H.M.S. REDOUBT. 2 natives died. Now proceeding to my destination. (C/S NUMS1 ? ORA, 061445Z.)

SS. FORT LA MAUNE. 56 survivors FORT LA MAUNE picked up on Arabian coast by NIGELLA. Ship was torpedoed in position 13° N. 56° 40' E. on 25th January no time given. (Aden, 061357Z.)

? FORT BUCKINGHAM survivors. 061230Z found abandoned raft 325 miles south my position E. Met British Man of War who reported she has most of the survivors aboard. Have arrived position 006° 10' S. 000° 15' E. of my position E have not found any lifeboat. Shall I continue search or proceed towards position F. (SACKETT'S HARBOR, 061615 to Admiral Colombo.)

HIGHWAY, EASTWAY. Request H.M.S. HIGHWAY may be sailed to Suez on completion of current operations.
2. She is allocated to the Med. Station on arrival at Suez.
3. H.M.S. EASTWAY was allocated to the Med. by

*A.M. 230045 Jan. and will be available for operations after bringing minor landing craft to U.K.
4. C. in C. Med. *271034 Jan. refers. (A.C.N.S.(F), 062020A to C. in C. E.F.(S.E.A.C.), C. in C. Med.)
* both BIGOT.

6.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/boat report. U/boat by D/F of 94 Group Enigma at 0132Z on 4190 k/cs within 90 miles of 48.30 N. 46.00 W. (N.S.H.Q., 060432Z, 061501Z).

EMPEROR, EMPIRE ANVIL. EMPEROR, EMPIRE ANVIL U.K. via Argentinia departed Cape Henry 061407Z. Escorts BRAITHWAITE, DAKINS, HALSTEAD. (P.D. Norfolk, 061428).

T.G.21.16 This constitutes T.G. 21.16 BLOCK ISLAND. Comcordiv 48 in THOMAS BOSTWICK, BREEMAN, BRONSTEIN, CORRY Task Group Comdr. in CVE. Depart Hampton Roads 16th Feb. and operate against S/M concentrations with priority to those that might menace U.G.S./G.U.S. convoys. Fuel from U.G.S./G.U.S. tankers if necessary. Further orders later. (C. in C. Lant, 061505).

U/boat estimates. Extract. Northbound Japanese estimates within 500 miles north of St. Paul Rocks. (Cominch, 061507Z).

U/boat sunk. Latest report my 032106. A. 061030Z Liberator from Ascension attacked submarine surface 10.40. S. 23.10 W. Survivors in water. (Cominch, 061940).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.747 Feb. 6th. Paragraphs 14 to 17 cover South Pacific Forces. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 061002Z).

6.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. (1) Two schooners reported sunk by
U/boats in Latakia (Syria) area night 1st/2nd Feb.
(2) U/boat reported 30 degs. 01' N. 34 degs. 31'
E. at 1415Z/5th February.

Para.B. (1) Q/311 obtained A.S.V. contact and
dropped 2 depth charges 40 degs. 45' N. 05 degs. 51' W. 0057Z/
6th February.

(2) R/304 sighted 11 lights in water and encountered heavy flak
possibly from U/boat in middle of fishing craft in 45 degs. 57'
N. 06 degs. 45' W. at 0110Z/5th February.

(3) H.M.I.S. LILAVATI attacked U/boat 18 degs. 05' N. 84 degs.
14' E. 1210Z/4th February.
(D.D.I.C., 061011Z).

U/boat
estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 061355A, 061358A).

104

7.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F.W.

1. Convoy R.A. 56 was 500 miles East of Jan Mayen at 1000A today.

Three
U-Boats
attacked
by A/C.

2. One U-Boat was attacked by A/C at 2038 today about 240 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear; another, which appeared to be disabled after the attack, at 2130 about 320 miles W. by N. of Cape Clear; and a third at 2050 in about this latter position.

X.22
feared
lost.

3. At 0350 today in the western entrance of the Pentland Firth, while searching for her own Officer of the Watch who had been washed overboard and was lost, the S/M SYRTIS struck the X-type S/M X.22 which she had been towing; and, though searched for until 1133A, X.22 did not reappear and is feared lost.

Mediterranean.Operation
"Shingle".4(a) MAURITIUS and FLORES carried out 5 harassing shoots last night and 8 successful observed shots today in the Formia area.
(b) Anzio had a fairly quiet day to 0800/8. About 20 fighter bomber attacks caused damage and casualties to L.C.I.(L) 211. Intermittent shelling of the harbour continued. 3600 tons were discharged.China.

5. A U.S. Mitchell on a sea sweep off the Yangtze today attacked a group of vessels, sinking 4 small freighters, and probably 2 more freighters and a barge.

7.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

WILLOWHERB WILLOWHERB is to be sailed to Gibraltar with K.M.S.42 for onward routeing to Eastern Fleet. (C. in C.W.A., 071532A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

GORLESTON Request you will sail GORLESTON to Tobermory for short work up prior to her sailing with K.M.S.42 to join Eastern Fleet. (D.O.D.(H), 071652A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

Operations.

Operation "F.W." If VERULAM has joined and U/boats are not in contact with convoy on reaching 012 degs. E. detach OPPORTUNE, OFFA, VENUS, VIGILANT and SAVAGE to proceed Scapa at best speed keeping to route "Blue" as far as position Q. When there, destroyers report E.T.A. number of survivors on board, and last known P.C.S. of convoy is to be reported. (C. in C.H.F., 070031A to Capt.D.3.).

Estimate convoy R.A.56 will be in 024 degs. position P 165 miles at 1200A/9th. Proceed with local escort to R/V in this position at this time. If not met advance along route "Blue" to meet convoy.

(C. in C.H.F., 071138A to M/S 18).

Situation at 072101A.

BLYSKAWICA 062 degs. 13' N. 017 degs. 00' W. to Hvalfjord.

(A.C.I.C., 071306A to Ships).

My 071338. Add E.T.A. 1400A/8th.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 071914A to C. in C.H.F.).

Your 070031A. P.C.S. of R.A.56 at 1000A/7th, 071 degs. 08'

N. 007 degs. 00' E., 241 degs. 9.5.

(2) My P.C.S. at 2200A/7th 068 degs. 00' N. 000 degs. 20' E.

203 degs. 18.5 E.T.A. 0830A/9th.

(4) Weather 3862, 7776.

(Capt.(D) 26, 072202A to C. in C.H.F.).

Proceeding Skaalefjord at 1500A tomorrow to comply with your 071138.

(M/S 18, 072238A to C. in C.H.F.).

A/S operations off Western Ireland. Two U/boats attacked by aircraft. Cancel my 061845. Complying with your 061442. My position 054 degs. 35' N., 011 degs. 05' W. Weather 4873, 1658.

C. in C.W.A. pass to 15 Group. (R.A.E.C., 070031A to C. in C.W.A.).

Arrived ST. LAURENT and PORCHESTER CASTLE. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 070827A to A.I.G. 196).

STRIKER's 062235. Sailed STRIKER, FENCER, WHIMBREL and CRANE.

(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 070839A to C. in C.W.A.).

My 062320A. Sailed WOODCOCK.

(F.O.I.C. N.I., 071012A to C. in C.W.A.).

As flying exercises are cancelled am forming up screen and proceeding to Belfast for conference. Weather is unsuitable in Red Bay and I consider conference most important.

(STRIKER, 071314A to C. in C.W.A.).

/Cancel...

7.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. Two U/boats attacked by aircraft. (Contd.).

Cancel my 052341.
(2) STRIKER and FENCER are to leave Red Bay so as to join O.N.223 at 1400A/8th in 055 degs. 48' N. 007 degs. 50' W. course 280 degs. 8½.
(3) Escorts of 16th Escort Group are to leave Red Bay at 0001/8th and proceed to operate in dark hours only in an area latitude 051 degs. and 053 degs. and longitude 016 degs. 30' and 021 degs. 30'.
(C. in C.W.A., 071327 to F.O.C.T., E.G.16).
Your 071327. Have detached escort of E.G.16 to Red Bay. In view of weather intend remaining under way in Clyde area tonight passing Clyde light vessels at 0600 tomorrow to R/V with O.N.223.
(STRIKER, 071709A to C. in C.W.A.).
Am over enemy submarine in 50 degs. 20' N. 16 degs. 00' W. 2000. Enemy submarine was on surface. When first sighted was on course 048 degs. estimated speed 10 knots.
(A/C 14, 072038 to 19 Group).
Lost touch with U/boat last seen 50 degs. 17' N. 15 degs. 48' W. U/boat previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U/boat with depth charge. U/boat course 045 degs. speed 10 knots.
(A/C 14, 072038 to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 51 degs. 56' N. 18 degs. 31' W. submarine was on surface and when first sighted was on course 180 degs. estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C 15 Group 072100Z to 1 H.O.).
U/boat previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U/boat with depth charge.
(A/C, 15 Group, 072130 to 19 Group).
U/boat on surface apparently disabled.
(A/C 15 Group, 072135A to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 51 degs. 56' N. 18 degs. 31' W. Submarine was on surface, when first sighted was on course 180 degs. estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C, MAZW, 072158 to 19 Group).

Biscay A/S operations.

A U/boat may be in vicinity of convoy to-day. (D.D.I.C. 070056A to H.X.277).
Your 070740Z. Admiralty bearings confirm U/boat in your immediate vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C., 071116A to H.X.277).

"V.P." operations.

My 051214. Force returned at 0010A today with 7 refugees.
(2) V.P. 107A successful. Subsequent sweep for shipping not carried out owing to bad visibility.
(A.C.O.S., 070117A to Admty.).
My 151310. M.T.B. 666 and 625 returned at 1330A today.
(2) No report yet available on operation.
(A.C.O.S., 071850A to Admty.).

/Coastal...

107

7.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 071644A).

S/M
patrols.

Position of submarines at 0800A/8th and move-
ments for following 24 hours.

(A) TRADEWIND patrolling vicinity 73 degs, N. 20
degs. E.

degs. 50' E.

(B) STUBBORN patrolling 64 degs. 30' N. 009

(C) SATYR vicinity Stadlandet.

(D) SCEPTRE 63 degs. 54' N. 002 degs. 22' E. for Lerwick 10
knots through 62 degs. 01' N. 000 degs. 09' E.

(E) TRUSTY vicinity 65 degs. 20' N. 001 degs. 12' E.

(F) TAKU patrolling of Skudesnes.

(F.O.S., 071742A to Admty.).

SCEPTRE

Activity in Kya area as follows. A/S patrol of
one or 2 trawlers and one aircraft on coastal
route throughout daylight hours. No night
activity. Missed one 1500 ton merchant ship 1st

February. Attacked U/boat 3rd February, result unknown. Both
(corrupt group) (corrupt group). Escorts 3 and 5 trawlers
respectively.

(SCEPTRE, 071932A to F.O.S.).

Allied Air Activity.

TIRPITZ.
Proposed
attack by
Russian
aircraft.

Admiral Fisher's 031215.

Golovko in long interview to-day 7th February
again expressed his determination to carry out
this operation as soon as possible with present
aircraft 2. He is aware of Soviet D.C.N.S's views.

(2) There is often a difference between Russian
promise and performance but Golovko seemed
sincere and agreed that this target should take

precedence over enemy air fields remarking it would be a feather
in cap of Northern Fleet to hit German Battleship ADM. VON.

TIRPITZ.

(3) He also stated his intention of bombing Hammerfest which
he stated was being used as submarine base for attacks on convoys.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 071701A to C. in C.H.F.).

Mining.

Harwich

1 Ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1028 today in
51 degs. 48' N. 01 degs. 44.3" E.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 071245A and 071819).

One mine detonated by sweepers at 061448A in 51
degs. 49' 38" N. 01 degs. 40' 54" E. Details.

(2) Sunkhead Fort reported underwater explosion at 2046 on 7th
bearing and distance unknown. Not heard by Roughs Fort. No
ships in vicinity. Presumed ground mine.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 072317A to Admty.).

War Diary

7.2.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy shipping. 5000 ton ship reported beached near Ervik 062 degs. 10' N. 005 degs. 07' E. heading 080 degs. (F.O.S., 071643A to SATYR).
Departure February 4th Enemy controlled HENK.
February 6th. Enemy controlled THRIANTHA,
BAYONE, FLUORSPAR.
(Gijon, 071729A to Admty.).

TIRPITZ (A) TIRPITZ sighted Kaafjord January 14th. Hospital ship, repair shop, destroyer, and auxiliary vessel were also sighted in Fjord. 2 destroyers often lie at Bosekopp Bay. Graded B.2.
(B) Large naval floating crane which left Trondjem late January for Kaafjord stranded off Norwegian coast at Folla soon after sailing. Subsequent enquiries reveal that German Naval Command attach great importance to safe arrival of this crane in connection repairs to TIRPITZ. Graded C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 071818 to Admty.).
N.I.D. Comment; Para. A. Vessel referred to as Hospital Ship is probably MONTEROSA which is being used as accommodation ship for workmen employed on repairing TIRPITZ.
Para.B. The large 100 ton floating crane normally stationed at Trondjem was seen to be very badly damaged by photographic reconnaissance carried out on 20th Jan.

Casualties and Defects.

ERNE My P.C.S. 054 degs. 00' N. 011 degs. 50' W., 050 degs. 10 knots. E.T.A. Merville 0700A/8th.
All bearings on both engines require examination 2 to be re-metalled.
(ERNE, 071000A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

X.22 Capt.(S) 12's 311155A January. Tow parted about lost. 0350A/7th in heavy weather Western entrance Pentland. SYRTIS collided with X craft. Search by destroyer and trawlers unsuccessful. SYRTIS safe, but X.22 feared lost.
(A.C.O.S., 071158A to Admty.).

My 071158.
At 0338 when approaching Pentland Officer of Watch SYRTIS washed overboard. At 0350, when searching for officer of watch SYRTIS, who was not recovered, SYRTIS struck X craft which went under and was not seen to re-appear. Speed of hitting (?one) to 2 knots. X craft had induction raised, hatch shut. 3 hard bumps felt, oil fuel smelt in the vicinity about 15 minutes later. Surface search continued in gale until 1133A when abandoned. X craft spare officer considered survival of X craft unlikely. No apparent damage to SYRTIS.
(A.C.O.S., 071943 to Admty.).

SLINGER Your 051554. Representative of D.N.C. is on his

War Diary

7.2.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

SLINGER
(Contd.) way to Sheerness. Stability of SLINGER in damaged condition is such that no weights should be removed from low down in the ship until D.N.C's. representative arrives. Anything which can be done to remove water from engine room and to reduce free surface effect should be proceeded with.
(Adnty. Bath, 071223A to C. in C. Nore).

TAVY Very serious leak starboard condenser. Returning to (?Moville). Request instructions. (Corrupt group).
(TAVY, 071510A to C. in C.W.A.).
E.T.A. Moville 1830A.
(TAVY, 071615A to Cdre . D.W.A.).

HARDY survivors. Your 070031. Distribution of survivors reported to A.C.O.S. in my 051515.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 071656A to C. in C.H.F.).

VANSITTART VANSITTART proceed passing gate 1300A/8th to Liverpool. E.T.A. Bar light vessel 0900A/9th. Adnty. 051535 refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 072024A to VANSITTART).

ATTENTIF ATTENTIF has engine trouble. Maximum speed $4\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Has been ordered to proceed Harwich by inshore route.
(VANITY, 072159A to C. in C. Nore).

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.67/
K.M.S.41. WANDERER returning with steering gear defects. My P.C.S. 055 degs. 34' N. 009 degs. 26' W., 254 degs. 3 knots. Weather 3562, 1068.
(ROCHESTER, 071101A to C. in C.W.A.).

S.L.147/
M.K.S.38. NAIRANA and ACTIVITY are to be taken in convoy as soon as practicable before dark today.
(C. in C.W.A., 071215A to S.L. 147/ M.K.S.38).
56 M/Vs. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D. 071849).

S.C.152 Request you sail CHILLIWACK when ready to overtake and join S.C.152, routed as in my 071232.
F.O.G.M.A's. 071016 refers.
(C. in C.W.A., 071615A to S.B.N.O. Azores).

OXFORDSHIRE Intend sailing 2000Z/9th Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE Gibraltar for orders 14th February. Route.
(N.C.S.O. Swansea, 071620A to Adnty.).

E.G.6. LUNENBERG sailed to overtake E.G.6.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 072015A to C. in C.W.A.).

110

7.2.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Escorts. Reallocation intended with the objects of:-
1. Eventual withdrawal of all old destroyers from West Africa.
2. Simplifying maintenance of escorts at Freetown.
3. Replacing defective destroyers in 13th Flotilla
4. Concentrating all cutters in the Eastern Fleet.
(D.O.D.(F) 071236A.)
See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.

4 U.S. des- American destroyers JOHN D.FORD, ALDEN, J.D.
troyers re- EDWARDS, WHIPPLE not allowed to fuel Ponta Delgada
fused fuel as previously fuelled here two weeks ago. Above
at Ponta ships will proceed Horta and require a total of
Delgada. 1250 tons special fuel oil. E.T.A. 1900/7.
(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 071136C.)
Arrived and left same day 7th 0930, 1330 G.M.T.
ALDEN, JOHN D.FORD.
(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 071221.)

Spanish Your 051953 and 221207 January. You should take
Fishing early opportunity of warning Spanish Authorities
in Bay. that owing to developments in war situation,
extension of declared danger zone in Bay of Biscay
is under active consideration, and that announce-
ment may be expected shortly. For your own infor-
mation, strongest exception is taken to Spanish vessels fishing
north of 49° N. in present circumstances. Contemplated new area
will extend north to 51° N. and west to 14 or 15° W.
2. In view of your 221207, natural course would be to make
announcement during next few days. Request you consult H.M.
Ambassador as to timing of announcement and advise us of earliest
acceptable date.
(Admty. 071552A to N.A.Madrid.)

SS. JOHN L. SS. JOHN L.SULLIVAN arrived Ponta Delgada p.m. 6th
SULLIVAN, and AMELIA EARHART from Horta a.m. 7th stragglers
A.EARHART O.N.221 with heavy weather damage. Former will
damage. require approx. 14 days to effect repairs, latter
10 days.
2. SS. THEODORE PARKER will be ready for sea a.m.
10th. Instructions are requested.
(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 071745 to Admty.)

/L.L....

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 071236./February OUT

TO : C. in C. Western Approaches. Date. 7.2.44.
F.O.C. W. Af.
C. in C. Med.
F.O.G.M.A.

Reallocation of
Escorts.

INFO. C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
Commodore (D) W.A.

NAVAL CYPHER (AOO OTP)

From Admiralty,

The following reallocation of escorts is intended with the objects of :

- (i) The eventual withdrawal of all old destroyers from West Africa.
 - (ii) Simplifying the maintenance of escorts at Portsmouth.
 - (iii) Replacing defective destroyers in the 13th Flotilla.
 - (iv) Concentrating all cutters in the Eastern Fleet.
2. The allocation of ROTHER and WEAR to Eastern Fleet is cancelled. These ships are allocated to the West African Command.
 3. When ROTHER and WEAR join West African Command -
 - (a) VISCOUNT is to return to U.K.
 - (b) GARLAND is to be transferred to the Mediterranean Command to join 8th Destroyer Flotilla.
 - (c) DOUGLAS is to be transferred to Gibraltar to relieve WITHERINGTON in the 13th Destroyer Flotilla. On relief WITHERINGTON is to return to U.K.
 4. DOVEY and WYE are allocated to the West African Command.
 5. Upon the arrival of DOVEY and WYE in West African about mid April.
 - (a) VERITY is to return to U.K. to join Western Approaches Command.
 - (b) MALCOLM is to be transferred to Gibraltar to replace WISHART in 13th Destroyer Flotilla. On relief WISHART is to be sailed to the U.K.

/(c) WOLVERINE..

(c) WOLVERINE is to join 13th Destroyer Flotilla at Gibraltar until replaced by ARROW.

6. One or more of the destroyers mentioned in Para. 5. may, if necessary, be retained by E.O.C.W.Af. until the move of the 82nd West African Division is completed.

7. GORLESTON and TOTLAND are transferred from the West African Command to the Eastern Fleet.

DITTANY and WILLOWHERB are allocated to West Africa to replace GORLESTON and TOTLAND.

8. Consideration will be given in due course to the allocation of two River Class frigates to the Eastern Fleet to replace ROTHER and WEAR.

9. (a) C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail ROTHER and WEAR to join the West African Command at the first convenient opportunity on completion of their present service.

(b) F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to sail TOTLAND to join the Eastern Fleet as soon as she can be spared.

(c) Authorities addressed are requested to take other action necessary to implement the foregoing intentions.

10. Further signal will be made on the ultimate disposition of VISCOUNT WITHERINGTON and WISHART.

071236A

for D.O.D.(F) (164)

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

D.F.S.L.

2. S.L.

3. S.L.

V. Contr.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)

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

U.W.R.

D. Map Room

Capt. Pin

D.O.D.(H)(4)

D.O.D.(F)(2) (OD.1054/44)

D.C.

PILOT

D.D.I.C. (2)

B.A/S.W.

D.R/U.D.

N.A. 2. S.L. (O.D)

W.D.

I.P. (2)

C.O.W.C.O.

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M. (2)

D.T.D. (4)

D. of S. (2)

D. of V.

D.P.S.

N.A. 2. S.L.

D.S.D.

N.I.D. 10. (2)

Ad. Blake. (4)

D. of D.

D.T.S.D.

D.G.D.

Dep. Contr.

D. of D.

Hd. of S.W.R.

Bath.

149

111

7.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

L.L. A/Cs.
for Gib.

Your 011120. For reply see H.Q.C.C. 061240 (see Home Commands.)
(D.O.D.(H) 071932A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

Routeing.

In order to shorten routeing signals propose for consideration that an extra position be established on each "Copper" and "Silver" route for use by ships proceeding to Rio and Santos.

2. If this is approved in principle suggest positions be spread between following points "Silver" route 241 21° 30' S. 30° 30' W.
260 25° S. 26° 40' W. "Copper" route 241 21° 50' S. 32° 30' W.
260 24° 50' S. 28° W.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 071424Z to Admt.)

U/B sunk
6th Feb.

Americans report sinking submarine by Navy Liberator operating from Ascension at 1027Z/6 in position 10° 40' S. 23° 10' W. Have diverted FRANKA bound Freetown to pick up survivors which were seen in water.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 071644Z, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 091414Z.)

War Diary.7.2.1944.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

A.H.Q.E.M.

201 Naval Co-operation group and air H.Q. Air Defence Eastern Med. have been merged in to an organization named Air H.Q. Eastern Med. Short title A.H.Q.E.M.
(C. in C.Med. 070959A.)

State of
Escort
vessels.

FOWEY and CAMPION of 37th E.G. which joined station from U.K. in November are already in hand for repairs which will take at least two months to complete. In addition main gearing of STORK who also joined with 37th E.G. is defective and necessitates ship returning to U.K.

2. To assist planning can information be given as to whether any reliefs may be expected for these ships or for SLAZAK and KRAKOWIAK.

(C. in C.Med. 071302A to Admty.)

PIFINOS.

Proceed diving during daylight 8th adjust speed to pass through position 033° 44' N. 033° 40' E. at 1830B/8th Feb. to arrive Beirut 0530B/9th.
(Capt. S.1 071500B to G.S.PIFINOS.)

DZIK.

P.52 (DZIK) sailed from Beirut at 1730/7th to pass Scarpanto Strait a.m. 10th. Thence patrol N. of 039° and E. of 025°.
(Capt. S.1 071751B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) S/M F.1.)

DOLFIJN.

You are to proceed diving by day on 8th and 9th to arrive Beirut at dawn 10th February.
2. P.52 (DZIK) diving by day may be encountered about 2230/8th.
(Capt. S.1 071851 to DOLFIJN.)

Operation
"Shingle."

Sunday 6th swell persisted until 0800 limiting discharge from Liberties to 550 tons, but 2850 tons were loaded in vehicles from L.S.T. during 24 hours ending 2000.

2. Intermittent bombing throughout the day and glider bomb attacks at dusk caused no damage. Port under long range shellfire which killed three port party ratings.

3. MAURITIUS and FLORES bombarded in Formia area.

4. ULSTER and URCHIN fired at targets in Anzio area.

(C. in C.Med. 071854.)

4. A/C mined Suda Bay during night 31st/1st Khalkis on 3rd/4th and Rhodes on both nights.

(C. in C.Med. 072249A.)

M.E.Balkan
Sitrep No.
83.

4. Sabotage recently carried out on tanker POPI of 350 tons in Piraeus Harbour 80 tons fuel oil lost when tanker sank in shallow water. Ship has since been raised.

(C. in C.M.E. 072010B.)

113

7.2.1944.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U-Boat disposition. My 060415Z. Area A, B, D, and E (? believed) clear of U-Boats. No changes in scale of air escorts.
Area C. U-Boat indicated by D/F to be approximately 240 miles north-east of Gong at 1835Z/5th. Scale air escort Y.
Area F. It now appears probable that contact attacked by LILAVATI on 4th was non-sub. Reduce scale air escort to X.
Area G. No further information but scale air escort remain Y. (C. in C. E.F., 070339Z.)

Opsum. 694. 5th Feb. 1 Catalina located lifeboat 2 raft with 30 persons west of Maldives. Directed rescue ships. 49 survivors torpedoed motor vessel picked up. 1 Wellington anti-submarine escort off Bombay recalled early. 1 Wellington escort to shipping off S.E. India.
5th Feb. 2 U.S. Liberators (B.24) 2 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) attacked 9 ship convoy Kowloon-Swatow area. 3 400-foot or longer, 3 250-foot vessels confirmed sunk. 1 other large vessel probably sunk. (S.E.A.A.C., 071026Z.)

U/B activity in Socotra area. Request information of surface and air dispositions to meet U-Boat activity in Socotra area. Is Ras Karna airfield being used? (V.C.N.S., 071153A to C. in C. E.F.)

Staff organisation. Reply to A.M. 212213 Jan. (C. in C. E.F., 071211.)
See Lion Copy.

Attack on whale. A.M. 091845 July 1942. A.E.F. 25.
B. 281044Z Dec. 1943. C. Catalina D/413.
D. 1° 19' N. 72° 17' E. E. 1. G. Whale. (C. in C. E.F., 071220Z.)

U/B in Socotra area. D/F bearing at 2140Z/6 on 7880 k/cs indicates a U-Boat in vicinity of a position (?240) miles north-east of Socotra. Aden C.C.O. pass to Air H.Q. Aden. (C. in C. E.F., 071512Z.)

Survivors of SS. FORT LA MAUNE. Report of 56 survivors of SS. FORT LA MAUNE. (Ref. A.F.O. 3814/43). All officers and men saved. (NIGELLA, 071624Z.)

STORM, TANTIVY (from U.K.) Arrivals P.233 (STORM), P.319 (TANTIVY). (Com. Aden, 071625Z.)

113A

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.)

071211/February

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

From C. in C. E.F. Date 9. 2. 44.

NAVAL CYPHER Recd. 0358
X PLUG BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated C. in C.E.F.
S.E.A.C.

Your 212213 January paragraph 4.

Appointment of RALCB repeat RALCB if the assault craft of the Forces mentioned in paragraph 2 of A.M. 132320 January require accommodation and maintenance. in India it will be necessary to provide for the full completion of the originally projected scheme of bases and training centres in India. My 270335 January refers. In this case it is considered probable that a Flag Officer to carry out the duties envisaged will eventually be required. Meanwhile S.R.M.O. Bombay will continue to carry out these duties.

2. Further proposals will be made in due course.

3. Your paragraph 5, paragraph 4 of my 230336 December as originated and transmitted does not refer to the Deputy Naval Commander India and it must have been received by you corrupt. It is confirmed that the title in use is Deputy Naval Commander South East Asia.

071211

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st Lord | D. of P. (2) | Hd. of M. II (M. 07921/43) (3) |
| 1st S.L. | D. of F. (9) (2) | (& for W.C.O. I.O. |
| D.F.S.L. | D.C.O.D. (4) | W.O.) and for action |
| 2nd S.L. | D.O.L. (H) (4) | Ad. Bleke |
| 3rd S.L. | D.O.D. (F) (2) | I.F. (2) |
| 4th S.L. | D.N.I. (4) | W.D. |
| 5th S.L. | D. of L.D. | Dep. Contr. |
| V.C.H.S. | D.C.O.M. (4) | D. of D. |
| A.C.N.S. (W) | D.N.A.O. | E. in C. |
| A.C.N.S. (UT) (2) | D.T.D. (4) | R.I.N.L.O. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | C.C.O. (2) | Hd. of S.W.R.) |
| Sec. | D.S.D. (2) | |
| Naval Sec. | N.A. 2nd S.L. | |
| P.A.S. (S) | Hd. of C.W. | |
| D.T.S.D. | D.T.S. | |

BATH

AR
13.

114

7.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

O.N. 221. Your 061556. 8 ships (names) stragglers East Westomp. 2 stragglers since Westomp. E.T.A. Homp 0700Z/8th. EMPIRE MACALLUM plane crashed and lost yesterday but crew saved. (SHEDIAC, 070135Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Stragglers report. Stragglers arrived week ending 5th. February. 31st. Jan. DALEMOOR - O.N.S.27 lost convoy heavy weather damage. 4th Feb. A.S.A. LATHROP - S.C.152 detached from convoy owing to special lifting gear. 5th Feb. (U.S.) W.H. PRESCOTT - O.N.221 heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 071355Z.)

CARISBROOKE CASTLE. Your 071814 and 071933. Am unable to comply because of engine defect. Proceeding direct St. Johns N.F. towed by BERKELEY CASTLE. (CARISBROOKE CASTLE, 071400Z, 071800Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 071500Z; Cominch 071654Z.)

CHITRAL, CILICIA, CORFU. S.B.N.O.W.At. has approved of the 3 A.M.C. referred in A.M. 191556 December being held at Bermuda pending U.S.N. decision in regard to conversion. (B.A.M.R., 071654Z.)

U/B attacked. Surface craft attack sub. contact 20.46 N. 74.22 W. 070930Z. (Cominch, 072025Z.)

O. 24. To avoid convoy G.U.S.30 N.S/M. O.24 proceed direct to new point (T) 031° 00' 061° 00' omitting point (S). A.M.92 will R/V O.24 at point (T) about 091420Z and escort to Bermuda. A.M. 92 (call NA CK) and base (call NWU) break guarding 2716 k/cs. O.24 acknowledge. (Comnob. Bermuda, 072039 to O.24.)

7.2.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Australia
to U.K.
route.

Request whether British controlled shipping for U.K. from Australia is permitted to proceed via Mediterranean.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 070546Z to Admty.)

Digest
Serial
748.

Feb. 6th. Paragraphs 14 to end cover South Pacific Forces.

14. Allied M.T.Bs. and Gunboats contacted four loaded southbound barges off shore south of (Mouupena) Point night 4th. One barge destroyed remainder turned back north and beached. After

daybreak next morning all destroyed on beach by our patrol craft.

15. Three United States destroyers bombarded Eastern Approaches Bccu Passage daybreak 5th.

20. Single large Jap. barge heading north-west sunk by destroyers six miles west Nissan Island early hours 6th.

21. Submarine sighted midday 6th southern entrance Saint Georges Channel.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 070856.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. E. (1) H.M.S. ROTHER attacked U-Boat at 0021/6th 55° 21' N. 09° 28' W.
(2) Wellington A/C reported U-Boat at 0430/3rd in approx. 25° 11' N. 62° 55' E.
(D.D.I.C., 071106A.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 071416A, 071422A.)

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.W.

1.(a). Convoy R.A.56 was about 240 miles S.E. of Jan Mayen Island at 0800 today, and at 1035 its position was probably reported by an F.W. A/C.
(b). At 1547A the eight ships of the Local Escort (S.O. in READY), left Skaalefjord to R/V with the convoy at noon tomorrow; and the three cruisers of the cover force and Capt. D.26 in VIGILANT with 4 other destroyers from the Escort are returning to Scapa.

A/S operations
off Western
Ireland.

2. At 0001A today the nine ships of the newly-formed Escort Group 16 (S.O. in SPEY) left Red Bay to operate about 300 miles west of Cape Clear. The Escort Carriers STRIKER and FENCER are supporting convoy O.N.223 off the Bloody Foreland; and R.A.E.C. in ROYALIST, with CHURCHILL, is still operating in that area.

North Atlantic.

3. Air-craft from Gibraltar attacked U-Boats today at 1548 in 36.00 N. 06.09 W. and at 1645 in 35.35 N. 07.53 W.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4.(a). MAURITIUS and FLORES carried out further shoots last night in the Formia area, before returning to Naples. PENELOPE and DIDO supported the 10th Corps attack in the area today, the former carrying out 5 shoots.
(b). At 0440 today one (another report says 3) glider bomb landed harmlessly near the U.S. destroyer DAVIS after being intercepted and jammed. No aircraft was seen or heard.
(c). In response to urgent calls from the 6th Corps at 081100 ORION, PHOEBE and BROOKLYN sailed for Anzio to assist in breaking up a heavy concentration of artillery on the left flank of the 1st Division.

/(d)...

117

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".
(Contd.)

(d). At 1000 today U.S. destroyer LUDLOW was hit by a 5" shell which caused only slight damage and wounded the captain.

(e). The weather stopped the unloading of Liberty ships this evening: 4200 tons were unloaded in the port and over the beaches to 2000 today.

(f). There were three air attacks on Anzio today by a total of 20 Me.109, and casual shelling of the town, port and channel. No damage was caused except to the town.

East Indies.

U/B threat
in approaches
to Aden.

5. (a). The Admiralty yesterday asked C. in C.E.F. for information of the surface and air dispositions being made to meet the U-Boat activity in the Socotra area.

(b). Up to now, the only action which has been taken is furnished by air patrols backed up by an occasional light striking force consisting of two cutters and one frigate. C. in C.E.F. would like to provide an adequate striking force, and the question of the provision of such a force is dependent on a statement of Admiralty policy, for which C. in C.E.F. asked in a message today. Available escorts are insufficient to allow of shipping from Australia bound for the Middle East to be put into convoy or to be attached to convoys on the Colombo - Bombay and Bombay - Aden routes; and lack of escorts has made it necessary to put ships out of convoy on the run between the Persian Gulf and Bombay where there is no immediate threat of attack though one may well develop without warning.

(c). Meanwhile, in order to provide destroyers to meet the threat in the Gulf of Aden QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH and RAIDER who have been on loan to the Mediterranean Station, are to proceed at best speed to Aden.

(d). There appears to be every indication that another U-Boat attack on the approaches to the Gulf of Aden may be impending.

Diversion of
merchant
shipping.

6. C. in C.E.F. today cancelled the existing orders for the diversion of merchant shipping and issued fresh orders for the Station.

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Hospital ship
KARAPARA
bombed.

7. The hospital ship KARAPARA reported being bombed in 17.55 N. 84.44 E. in the Bay of Bengal at 2134 G.M.T. today. (Note. S.E.A.A.C. 111001Z states that KARAPARA was bombed 95 miles E.N.E. of Vizagapatam (approximately the above position) 9/10th February. Nothing more of this is known by W.D.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Shipping,
Australia
to U.K.

8. In reply to a query by C.S.W.P.S.F. yesterday, the Admiralty have informed him that there is no objection to British controlled shipping from Australia proceeding to the U.K. via the Mediterranean provided there is a saving of time and the U-Boat situation in the Indian Ocean justifies this route.

Air attack
on Rabaul.

9. 5 Avengers carrying 1 ton bombs, made another attack on Rabaul early this morning. It appears from the report of the attack, that a submarine may have been damaged.

War Diary.

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SUNFISH, UNISON, UNBROKEN, URSULA. The following submarines are to be prepared for transfer on loan to the U.S.S.R.
2. SUNFISH, UNISON, UNBROKEN, URSULA.
3. Arrangements are to be made for submarines to be ready for transfer by 14th March 1944.
4. They are to be in full seagoing condition, complete with all necessary stores, ammunition and reserves. It is important that everything should be in readiness before the Russians arrive.
5. The nature of the service for which the ships are required is for the present to be regarded as most secret.
(V.C.N.S. 080320A to F.O.S.)

WILLOWHERB. Cancel my 071532. WILLOWHERB is to be sailed to Freetown with O.S.68 to join flag of N.O.I.C.W. Af. Admiralty 071236 refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 080944A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

NORTHERN SKY, A.M. 281817 Jan. and C. in C.W.A.'s 301723 Jan.
NORTHERN WAVE, and 081247 Feb. Intend to sail NORTHERN SKY (S.O.)
NORTHERN GIFT. NORTHERN WAVE and NORTHERN GIFT 1700A/9th Feb. to Gib. E.T.A. 2300A/16th Feb.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 081515A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Tug Situation. A.M.051833A. Vice Admiral Ballie-Grohman's Committee will also discuss, in general terms, the resources of tugs under 600 h.p.
(A.C.N.S.H. 082121A to Cs. in C.)

Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. E.G.16. 16th E.G. sailed Red Bay to comply with your 071327.
(E.G.16 080001A to C. in C.W.A.)
CHELMER, PORCHESTER CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE sailed for O.N.223.
PINK sailing at 1100 after calibration.
SUNFLOWER sailing to overtake at 1230.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 080656A to Admty.)
Add to my 080656. Sailed H.M.R.T. SAUCY.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 080816A to A.I.G.196.)
Unable to operate A/C owing to movement on ship. Your 281952A para. 3B refers.
(PURSUER 080818A to C. in C.W.A.)
U-Boat previously reported was sighted on surface and seen to submerge.
(S.O E.C. 080951 to Admty.)
Am now maintaining patrol of 2 A/C.
(PURSUER 081144A to C. in C.W.A.)
SUNFLOWER sailed to overtake O.N.223.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 081206A to Admty.)
Para. 3 of my 071327A. Amend area to between latitudes 051° and 052° 30' longitude 018° 30' and 021° 30'.
(C. in C.W.A. 081226A to E.G.16.)

War Diary.

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S ROYALIST cancel instruction in my 061442A. Proceed to position 240° DD. 120 miles by daylight tomorrow off Western Ireland. 2. STRIKER (S.O.) and FENCER will provide fighter and A/S cover with O.N.223. Estimated position of O.N.223 at 0800/9th 055° (48'?) N. 010° 45' W. routed through QP. 053° 20' N. 020° 01' W. 9 kts. 3. R.A.E.C. is requested to order Radar, reporting wave. STRIKER to inform R.A.E.C. frequency being used by her aircraft. 4. O.N.223, 60 ships escorted by E.G.B.7 (CHELMER S.O.). Position DD. is established as 055° 30' N. 010° 01' W. ROYALIST will be directed from Beaufighter. My 281952A January refers. STRIKER to report if unable to operate her own aircraft. (C. in C.W.A. 081303A to ROYALIST, STRIKER.) PINK returned with steering engine defects from O.N.223. (Cdre. D.W.A. 081630A to Admty.) ROTHER's 061045Z. After investigation with C.Os. concerned it is not considered that this contact was a U-Boat. (E.G.16 081825Z to Admty.)

Operation Capt. Back of BERMUDA dangerously ill. Have de-
F.W. tached BERWICK to Hvalfjord. Your 301919A Jan. refers. 2. My P.C. and S. 066° 12' N. 002° 22' W. course 185, 21 knots. BERMUDA in company. 3. Estimate BERWICK will cross 015° W. about 0900A/8th. (C.S.1 080201A to C. in C.H.F.) D/F of transmission at 0435Z indicates U-Boat within 100 miles of 62° 30' N. 2° 30' E. (D.D.I.C. 080652A to S/Ms.) Return Scapa forthwith at best speed. (C. in C.H.F. 080935A to BERWICK, BLYSKAWICA.) Position at 08200. KENT, BERMUDA approaching Scapa from North-westward. VIGILANT, OPPORTUNE, OFFA, VENUS, SAVAGE 061° 20' 005° 20' to Scapa 18½. (A.C.O.S. 081133A to Admty.) My P.C. and S. at 1300A, 066° 23' N. 013° 45' W. 120° 26 kts. (BERWICK 081357A to C. in C.H.F.) E.T.A. in KENT, BERMUDA in company 0001/9th. (C.S.1 081409 to A.C.O.S. C. in C.H.F.) Your position was probably reported by an F.W. 200 aircraft at 1035. (D.D.I.C. 081525A to R.A.56.) Sailed READY with RATTLESNAKE, WRESTLER, COCKATRICE, LOYALTY, HONEYSUCKLE, WALLFLOWER and BORAGE. Your 071138A refers. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 081547B to C. in C.H.F.)

Biscay A/S You were probably reported by enemy aircraft at
Operations. 0715. (D.D.I.C. 080846A to Escorts S.L.147.) One S/M on the surface bearing 275° three miles, course and speed unknown. My estimated position 44° 47' N. 22° 22' W. (MAGIC 082130Z to Whitehall W/T.)

/Proceed...

121

War Diary.8.2.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S
Operations.
(Contd.)Proceed to 44° 47' N. 22° 26' W. and square
search for submarine course unknown sighted by
MAGIC 2130Z.

(19 Group 082220Z to A/C KSUN.)

My 082130Z. S/M submerged. Attacks were carried
out, but contact was subsequently lost.
(MAGIC 082230Z to Admty.)V.P.
Operation.My 071850A para. 2. Sweep for shipping carried
out but none except fishing craft seen during
time M.T.Bs. were in leads.
(A.C.O.S. 081014A to Admty.)

S.C.Operation.

My 282300A. HITRA returned at 1015A today.
2. Operation unsuccessful owing to weather.
(A.C.O.S. 081106A to Admty.)My 061820A. VIGRA returned at 1500A today.
2. Operation unsuccessful owing to weather.
(A.C.O.S. 081726A to Admty.)Coastal
Force
Patrols.(C. in C. Portsmouth 081404A.)
(C. in C. Plymouth 081429A.)
(V.A. Dover 081553A.)

S/M Patrols.

TRUSTY is to leave patrol at 1900A/9th February
through 064° 52' N. 002° 00' E. and route "Grey"
to Lerwick proceeding on the surface when N. of
062°.

(Capt. S.9 081449A to S/M.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/9th and movements for following
24 hours.

A. TRADEWIND, STUBBORN, SATYR, TRUSTY, TAKU all as in my 071742.

B. SCEPTRE arriving Lerwick from north east.

C. VIKING 50° 40' N. 08° 50' W. diving by day to patrol in area P.
(F.O.S. 081708A to Admty.)Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
Convoy.Six cargo ships escorted by 2 destroyers and one
armed whaler expected to leave Egersund northbound
1730Z/8th February.
(F.O.S. 081654A to S/Ms.)Casualties & Defects.

ATTENTIF.

Cancel my 072159. ATTENTIF now able to maintain
convoy speed and still in company.
(VANITY 080032A to C. in C. Nore.)

ERNE.

ERNE arrived.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 080724A to C. in C.W.A.)

/X-type...

122

War Diary.8.2.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

X-type S/M. Cancel my 080730A. Tow parted. Am searching on chance. My position Sanda 000° 5 miles. X craft last sighted 0305/8th 055° 33' N. 006° 34' W. (CAMELLIA 0832A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CAMELLIA's 080832. Request air search for craft between 55.31 N. 006.34 W. and 180° Sanda Island 5 miles and subsequently the area between Kintyre Peninsula and Islay. (Capt. S.12 081049A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

My 080832. Have searched to my 0305/8th position, also entered Lagan Bay. Nothing sighted. Continuing search on original route to Sanda Island. (CAMELLIA 081558A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 081902. Anchor for the night in Lamlash proceeding as requisite to arrive 180° Sanda 5 miles at daylight tomorrow. Continue search until further orders. A/C will co-operate. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 082135A to CAMELLIA.)

VANSITTART. Sailed VANSITTART in accordance with my 072024A. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 081308A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

FRIEDIG sunk. SS. FRIEDIG from Aberdeen to Liverpool foundered at about 1130A yesterday in vicinity Strathy Point. Two survivors and five bodies brought into Thurso at 1800A today by Thurso lifeboat and further two, believed to be from same ship, drowned before they could be reached when ships lifeboat went ashore. (A.C.O.S. 082227A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

Shipping & Convoys.

R.A.57. EMPIRE BARD is to be included in convoy R.A.57. Opportunity is therefore to be taken to include in R.A.57 all slow ships which are destined return U.K. before the summer. (C. in C.H.F. 080032A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Stragglers. Stragglers return for week ending 0915/8th Feb. Nil. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 081000 to Admty.)

Stragglers return for week ending 0915/8th Feb. Cancel my 081000 and substitute O.N.S.O. 28, CANTAL, boiler and condenser trouble. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 081828A to Admty.)

U.R.108. Convoy U.R.108 is hove to and may be in difficulty. Present position estimated in 061° 30' N. 010° 30' W. routed as in my 061012A. It would be appreciated if BLYSKAWICA could be diverted to assist if necessary. (C. in C.W.A. 081155A to C. in C.H.F.)

If fuel permits comply with C. in C.W.A. 081155 subsequently returning to Scapa. (C. in C.H.F. 081340A to BLYSKAWICA.)

War Diary.

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

S.L.147/
M.K.S.38.

Your 080916. Proceed direct to join S.L.147/
M.K.S.38. Estimated position at 2000A 048° 34' N.
017° 28' W. speed 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 081221A to BURZA.)

U.R.108A.

U.R.108A cancelled. Cancel my 061532A.
(N.C.S.O.Loch Ewe 081226A to Admty.)

LLANDOVERY
CASTLE.

After completion of preparation for service hos-
pital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE should be sailed
a.m. 12th February to North Africa, calling at
Gibraltar for orders.
(D.S.T. 081838A and 101623A to D.S.T.O.Avonmouth.)

124

8.2.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Unknown light. Transit aircraft report light from unknown source on surface in 040° 30' N. 034° 51' W. at 0115Z/8th light extinguished after one minute. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 080438Z.)
- M.V. SHIRRABANK. Intercepted by Lands End Radio 0954 G.M.T. 500 k/cs S O S 33.44 N. 7.44 W. collision at 0945 G.M.T. (SHIRRABANK, 091056.)
- Biscay danger zone. Please repeat limit of new area. Your 071552*. (N.A. Madrid, 081102A.) * Warning Spanish authorities extension of danger zone in Bay of Biscay. Your 071552. Ambassador is agreeable to announcement of extension of danger zone being made today week 15th February. (3) I am warning Spanish authorities on line suggested. (B.N.A. Madrid, 081316A to Admty.)
- T.G. 21.12. Destroyers from T.G. 21.12 left Horta 1039Z/8th after fuelling. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 081227Z.) Departed Horta 080500Z course 260, speed 12 expected time of arrival Bermuda 141100Z. Hunting sub. reported north-west Flores January 8th. *Will hunt one report. Cominch 080829 January nine*. (C.T.G. 21.12, 081755.) * As received.
- U/Bs. attacked. Aircraft attacked U-Boats (1) 35.05 N. 07.53 W. 1600A. (2) 36.00 N. 06.09 W. 1548A. (C.M.S.F., 081932.) W.D. Note: Latitude in (1) was amended by 090220A to read 35.35 N. Gib. Opsum. (090445) gives time of first attack 1645A. A.M.091144A gives time 1525 (= 1625A).
- O. 21 TANTALUS, UNSWERVING. Intend sailing O.21 painted light grey for U.K. escorted by KILBIRNIE at 100752, S. of A. 10 knots (route and arrangements). (3) TANTALUS and UNSWERVING are to leave patrol so as to R/V with KILBIRNIE in a position (T) 039° 20' N. 009° 40' W. at 111950. Bombing restrictions arranged (details). KILBIRNIE is to escort TANTALUS and UNSWERVING back to Gibraltar (route &c.) (F.O.G.M.A., 082007A, 082111.)

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Sailing of
B.Y.M.S.s.
to Eastern
Fleet.

Intend to sail B.Y.M.S. 2043, 2044, 2045 and
2046 to Eastern Fleet at earliest opportunity
after arrival in Freetown B.Y.M.S. 2142, 2225,
and 2264 now in United States. C.O. of B.Y.M.S.
2043, 2044 and 2046 are prepared to make passage
without a third Officer and are considered
competent to do so, 2045 carries three skippers.

If this is not approved suggest passage C.O. from 2142. 2225
and 2264 could be transferred.
(FOWEY, 080946Z to Admty.)

126

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- PIPINOS. Adjust your speed to arrive Beirut at 0801/9th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 081136B to PIPINOS.)
- LA GRANDIERE. To sail from Casablanca 16th Feb for Norfolk for installation additional 40 and 20 m.m. guns and onward routing to Noumea. Navale France states ship will be available for escort duties as required on passage.
(C. in C. Med., 081510A.)
- Operation "Shingle". MAURITIUS and FLORES carried out 5 harassing shoots night 6th/7th and 8 observed shoots on 7th in Formia area. Shoots successful. One ammunition dump blown up and casualties inflicted on fleeing Germans. Further shoots night 7th/8th after which ships returned Naples. PENELOPE and DIDO in Formia area today to support 10 Corps. attack.
(2) Anzio had fairly quiet day to 0800/8 about 20 fighter-bomber attacks causing damage and casualties to L.C.I.(L) 211 and two (? dumps). Intermittent shelling of harbour continued. 3600 tons discharged.
(3) 0440/8. Three glider bombs landed near U.S. destroyer DAVIS after being intercepted and jammed. No aircraft seen or heard. No damage caused.
(4) 081000. U.S. destroyer LUDLOW hit by six inch shell in bridge. Shell did not explode. Slight damage, Captain wounded.
(5) In response to urgent call from Sixth Corps. at 081100 ORION, PHOEBE and BROOKLYN sailed for Anzio to assist in breaking up heavy concentration artillery on First Div. left flank.
(C. in C. Med. Naples, 081856.)
- SPORTSMAN. You have freedom of action within 25 miles of north coast of Tortola between Agria Grabusa and Cape Sidero.
2. It is the present intention that you pass through Kaso Strait a.m./11th for Beirut.
(Capt. (S) 1, 081926B to SPORTSMAN, (R) F.O.L.E.M., 1st S/M.F., PAPANICOLIS.)
- QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER. Request you sail following from Suez to comply with C. in C. E.F. 081202 (re proposed movements to meet U-Boat threat in Gulf of Aden).
(A) p.m./10th QUILLIAM, RAIDER in company with GAMBIA.
(B) p.m./11th QUEENBOROUGH (C) MAIDSTONE to arrive Massawa by 19th Feb. and await orders.
(F.O.L.E.M., 082318B to S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)

127

8.2.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U-Boat
threat in
approaches
to Gulf of
Aden.

There appears to be every indication that another U-Boat attack may be impending.

- (2) Report (a) surface disposition.
- (b) dispositions of R.A.F. squadron.
- (c) air patrols being carried out.

(C. in C. E.F. 080117Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

From information available seems likely that the hunting ground for further U-Boat attacks will lie between approach to position No.1 and G.A.S. and it is proposed that B.A. convoys and all independently route shipping approaching Gulf of Aden except that from South and East Africa should now be diverted through approach position No.2 and position X on G.A.N.

(2) Independents from South and East Africa to continue to pass through Guardafui Channel.

(3) Request your remarks.

(C. in C. E.F. 080518Z to Com. i/c Aden.)

Concur with alteration of approach route proposed in your 080518 to be brought into force at departure ports. Ships at sea not to be diverted. Continuous air cover will be maintained over No. 1 Approach Route for the time being.

(Com. Aden, 080943Z to C. in C. E.F.)

(A) PLYM is in Socotra area. My 070821B not to Admiralty refers. SIMBRA ordered to join PLYM. HELFORD E.T.A. Aden 9th will be sent to join PLYM after fuelling. Boiler cleaning deferred. ROCKROSE defer boiler cleaning and retain at Aden at short notice. MITNELLA boiler cleaning ready to escort A.B.31. MONKSHOOD to escort 3 S/M's to entrance of Gulf E.T.D. 11th and then remain in area. Remainder of escort force on escort duty ORNOT (sic) in Aden Area.

My 281543 Jan. not to Admty. and your 080117 refer.

(B) Aircraft available. Socotra 3 Catalinas four Wellington. Scuisuiban 2 Wellington. Bendar Kassim 2 Wellingtons. Khormaksar 3 Catalinas 6 Wellingtons. Riyan 3 Wellingtons. Salalah 3 Wellingtons. Masirah 2 Catalinas 4 Blenheims. Sharjah 4 Blenheims.

(C) Continuous close escort to troop convoys. Limited escort on other convoys. Continuous sweeps in most threatened areas in your 080518. Occasional sweeps over other areas.

(Com. Aden, 081003Z)

The recent U-Boat attacks in the Approaches to the Gulf of Aden indicate that more positive action is required than that furnished by air patrols backed up by an occasional light striking force consisting of two cutters and one frigate.

(2) With the escorts and destroyers at present available and allowing for essential refits it is not practicable to:

(A) put shipping from Australia bound for M.E. into convoy by routing to Cochin and Colombo or

(B) attack these ships to convoys on Colombo-Bombay and Bombay-Aden routes, since these convoys are already insufficiently protected by light scale of escort available.

(3) Lack of escorts has made it necessary to put ships out of convoy on run between Persian Gulf and Bombay where there is no immediate threat of attack but one may well develop without warning.

8.2.1944
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat
threat in
approaches
to Gulf of
Aden.
(Contd.)

(4) The best solution appears to be the provision of an adequate striking force to work in conjunction with air in approaches to Gulf of Aden.

(5) The only forces from which this can be furnished are destroyers of Fourth and Seventh Flotillas at present required for Fleet training of ships under V.A.E.F., the majority of which are very green and backward. Destroyers of 11th Flotilla and 16th Division are all earmarked

for troop convoys, important ships and escort carriers until early March.

(6) In the absence of a definite policy for this theatre it is not possible for me to determine whether it is acceptable for ships proceeding further east to proceed only partially trained. If this is acceptable I will use destroyers of Fourth and Seventh Flotillas and Fleet training must be in abeyance.

(7) Should this not be acceptable can reinforcements be furnished from theatres in which geographical conditions and availability of striking forces have reduced the threat of attack as compared with the Indian Ocean.

(C. in C. E.F. 081057Z to Admty.) *Rally: 181352, p. 308*

In order to provide destroyers to meet U-Boat threat in Gulf of Aden, following movements are proposed.

(A) QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER to proceed at best speed to Aden.

(B) MAIDSTONE proceed unescorted to Massawa as convenient and wait there until ships in A are available to provide onward escort for MAIDSTONE to Ceylon.

(2) It is estimated destroyer striking force will be required at Aden for about one week.

(C. in C. E.F. 081202 to F.O.L.E.M., (R) S.N.O. R.S.C.A., Com. Aden, Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Operation
"Canned".

Departure 8th NEWCASTLE flag of C.S.4 RELENTLESS in company.
(N.O.I.C.Mauritius, 080207Z)

Bi-weekly
U-Boat
disposition
No.23.

Area A S/M reported sighted by coastwatcher north of Karachi at 0730Z/5. Graded D 4 scale of air escort remaining W.

Area B S/M reported sighted by aircraft in position 023 degs. 30' N. 060 degs. 25' E. at 0725Z/7th Graded O scale of air escort remains W.
Area C, U-Boat was in approx. position 240

miles N.E. of Socotra at 1835Z/6th by D/F. Scale of air escort remains Y.

Area D and E believed clear of U-Boats. Scale of air escort remains W.

Area F. Scale of air escort X.

Area G no further news of Japanese U-Boats indicated by D/F to be approx. 500 miles east of Ceylon on the 3rd Feb. but may be in area. Scale of air escort remains Y.

(C. in C. E.F. 080348Z)

129

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.Diversion
of Merchant
Shipping.

E.I. Station 405 C of 29th Sept. is cancelled. The control of all merchant shipping movements on the E.I. Station is vested in the C. in C. E.F. (2) Diversions on account of the presence of enemy vessels.

(A) These will normally be made by C. in C. E.F. but authority to issue such messages is delegated to N.O.I.C. E.A. and N.O.I.C. Aden as follows:

(B) To N.O.I.C. E.A. for convoy and shipping on the east coast of Africa.

(C) To N.O.I.C. Aden for convoy and shipping in the Gulfs of Aden and Oman and on the coastal route between these two areas.

(D) The dividing line between N.O.I.C. E.Africa and N.O.I.C. Aden area is normally to be taken as lat. 010 degs. N. It is not intended to establish a "Chop" line.

(E) Diversion will usually be effected either by issuing A.F. messages or by signalling revised route and/or destination.

(F) In the Gulfs of Aden and Oman where the use of A.F. message is not suitable, N.O.I.C. Aden is authorised to issue an immediate warning in P/L of enemy vessels. In addition, he will if necessary divert convoys or independently routed ships which are inside the approaches position in force at the time.

(G) Diversion outside the coastal route (para. 2 (C)) and the approaches position (para. 2 (F)) will be the responsibility of C. in C. E.F.

(3) Diversions for mercantile or trade reasons.

(A) To avoid uneconomical diversion through lack of knowledge of precise cargo stowage, signal requesting diversion are to be made to C. in C. E.F. and are to be repeated to the following authorities:

(B) For a ship loaded in the U.K: to Admiralty.

(C) For a ship loaded abroad: to M.W.T.R. or S.T.O. of the area in which loading took place.

(D) Signal requesting diversion must contain:

(1) The authority on whose behalf the request is made.

(2) The reason for diversion. If cargo, then what cargo and whether all or part.

(3) Suitable priority must be prefixed.

(E) C. in C. E.F. will order the diversion after waiting long enough for the authority in (B) and (C) above to intervene if necessary.

(4) F.O's in charge and N.O's i/c pass to S.O.(I) N.C.S.O. and S.T.O.

(C. in C. E.F. 080523Z to E.I. Station 624C)

U-Boat off
Gulf of Aden.

SSSS. Sighted S/M on surface lat. 12.20 N.
Long 44.21 E.
(EMPIRE BARRIE, 080803Z)

SS. CHUNG CHENG /..

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

SS. CHUNG
CHENG,
Report of
sinking.

Forwarded in accordance with E.F.716 H.71/27
(A) CHUNG CHENG. (B) 13 degs. 26' N. 054 degs.
30' E. 2352Z/3rd Feb. (C) Submarine.

Torpedo. Ship sunk.

(E) 1 hit on port side between Nos. 4 and 5 holds.

(F) 52 landed Aden on 7th 20 missing.

(G) No. (H) Sent but not received.

(I) Submarine surfaced after attack. Interrogated survivors,
remained on surface 45 minutes, left in northeast direction.
Large submarine painted light grey. One gun forward, twin
periscopes.

(J) and (K) went down with ship in steel safes in over 1000
fathoms.

(M) From Master.

(S.O.(I) Aden, 081406Z)

SS. FORT
BUCKINGHAM
survivors.

Particulars of 33 survivors brought in by REDOUBT.
(REDOUBT 081702Z)

131

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

EMPEROR. My 030105. EMPEROR sailed with 338 tanks as follows.
(B.A.D., 080109Z.)

CHITRAL. Alter course forthwith as follows (for Bermuda).
(Admty., 080110A to CHITRAL.)

U/B reports. U-Boat sending BT transmissions on 6795 k/cs at 0031Z has been fixed by D/F within 100 miles of 039° 25' N. 036° 20' W. Another BT on 5100 k/cs at 0103Z fixed general area 038° 00' N. 034° 20' W. U.S.S. SCOTT pass to C.T.G. 21.7. (Cominch, 080143Z to C.T.G. 21.7, Cinclant, H.M.S. STAYNER (Escort E - 564).)

? CARISBROOKE CASTLE. Departure CAILIFF to assist CARISBROOKE.
(F.O.N.F., 080216Z.)

O.24. Your 080125A. U.S.S. EFFECTIVE (A.M.C.V.) will R/V with O.24 at point T about 091420Z and escort to Bermuda. O.24 proceed to new point T latitude 031° 00' longitude 061° 00' omitting point S to avoid G.U.S.28. O.24 acknowledge.
(Comnob. Bermuda, 080443.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 081506Z, 081601Z.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Your 052000. Unable to sail A.T.92 other than as in N.S.H.Q.'s 061630 (p.m./15th) on (? owing) to scheduled train connections for embarkation. Will route shortest possible to expedite arrival Clyde as in your 052000.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 081507Z.)

O.N.222. O.N.222 you will be relieved in Westomp established 044° 22' N. 047° 28' W. at 1400Z/10 by Group W.2 PORTAGE (S.O.), MIDLAND, H.M.C.S. SHERBROOKE.
{ 2) Upon relief C.5 proceed St. Johns.
{ 3) "Chop" 1400Z/9th.
(F.O.N.F., 082014Z to Escorts O.N.222.)

H.J.81. MEDICINE HAT detached in accordance with your 081811 was escorting pendant 31 and pendant 22 in 045° 22' N. 065° 08' W.

/GODERICH ...

8.2.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.J. 81.
(Contd.)

GODERICH escorting pendant 21 in 045° 35' N. 054° 05' W. Heavy weather prevented function today. My 080535Z refers. Weather 3867 1076. (GODERICH, 082205Z to F.O.N.F.) Coastal convoy summary 2100/8th. FOUNDATION ARANMORE detached 0505/8 to assist vessel in distress. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 082213Z.)

Escort carriers.

It has been decided that - (a) C.V.Es. PREMIER, EMPRESS, QUEEN, RULER, SPEAKER and NABOB. (b) All tanker M.A.C. ships, are to make at least one ferry trip to U.K. with aircraft of combined programme.

2. M.A.C. ships to be fully operational westbound but to return with own aircraft non-operational on board. (D.T.D., 082352A.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
749.

Feb. 7th.
(7) Solitary Jap. aircraft bombed Arawe jetty area afternoon wounding few personnel.
(18) For third successive day submarine sighted Saint Georges Channel area, this time 40 miles south Cape Saint George midday 7th. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 080500Z.)

Shipping,
Australia
to U.K.

There is no objection to British controlled shipping from Australia proceeding to the U.K. via Mediterranean provided there is a saving of time and U-Boat situation in Indian Ocean justifies this route.

(2) (A) Through Mediterranean slow convoys sail between Port Said and Gibraltar every 5 days each alternate convoy proceeding onwards from Gibraltar to U.K. and U.S.A. minimum speed for inclusion through Med. 8½ knots thereafter from Gibraltar to U.K. 7½ knots and to U.S.A. 9½ knots.

(B) A fast convoy is sailed in each direction between U.K. and Port Said every 37 days minimum speed for inclusion 15 knots.

3. Diesel ships with critical speeds in the proximity of 8 knots should not normally be routed to U.K. via Med.

4. There is no independent sailing through Med.

6. C. in C. Med. is requested to keep A.C.N.B. advised of any change in convoy arrangements in Med.

(D.T.D., 081924A to C.S.W.P.S.F., A.C.N.B.)

8.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

- Para. A. (1) SCEPTRE attacked U-Boat on 3rd Feb. in 64° 30' N. 10° 00' E.
(2) Halifax P/58 attacked U-Boat on surface with depth charges at 1938/7 in 50° 17' N. 15° 48' W.
(3) Wellington O/407 attacked U-Boat course 170° at 1950/7 in 51° 45' N. 18° 50' W.
(4) Wellington U/407 attacked U-Boat course 180° at 2000/7 in 51° 56' N. 18° 31' W.
(5) Halifax D/518 reported A.S.V. contact and intense A/A cannon fire at 0752/7 in 56° 06' N. 16° 33' W.
(6) U.S. Transit Dakota A/C reported U-Boat on surface, stationary, at 1330/7 in 35° 10' N. 14° 05' W. (W.D. Note: A.H.Q. Gib. gives time 1413/7.)
Para. B. (1) Liberator D/120 reported A.S.V. contact which was lost after four minutes at 0048/7 in 59° 10' N. 22° 00' W.
Para. C. (1) SS. EMPIRE BARRIE (see 080803Z [East Indies]). (D.D.I.C., 081200A.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 081441A, 081505A.)

9.2.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.W.

1. At 1430A today convoy R.A.56 was about 140 miles N.E. of the Faroes, steering S.W. at 9 knots. C.S.1 in KENT, with BERMUDA, arrived at Scapa at 0051A; and Capt. D.26 in VIGILANT, with OFFA, OPPORTUNE, VENUS and SAVAGE arrived at Scapa at 1142A. The local escort (S.O. M/S 18 in READY) has today relieved the destroyer escort (S.O. Capt. D.3 in MILNE) who, with nine other destroyers, is returning to Scapa at 18 knots. BERWICK returned to Scapa at 1231A.

A/S operations off
Western
Ireland.
Three U-
Boats sunk.

- (1) U. 762
 - (2) U. 734
 - (3) U. 238
- } sunk

2. (a). Between 2348N last night and 1506N today five of the six sloops of E.G.2 which, with the escort carriers NAIRANA and ACTIVITY, were supporting the escorts of convoy S.L.147/M.K.S.38, destroyed three U-Boats about 280 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear. The first was sunk by WOODPECKER at 082348N; the second, abeam of the convoy, was sunk by STARLING and WILD GOOSE at 0944N; and the third by MAGPIE, directed and followed up by STARLING, at 1506N.

(b). The convoy itself, consisting of 57 M/Vs and 24 L.S.T. craft, had been shadowed by A/C all night but was not attacked. NAIRANA and ACTIVITY are to remain with it till it arrives home; and at 1954A today C. in C.W.A. ordered E.G.2 to leave the convoy, if still not threatened, at daylight tomorrow and to continue the A/S search in area Q.

North Atlantic.

3. Five ships were in collision in fog 10 miles outside Casablanca today and all were damaged in a greater or less degree.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4. (a). ORION, PHOEBE and BROOKLYN who came up from Naples at the request of the Army yesterday, remained at Anzio for fire support, leaving at 1500 today.

(b). The destroyer LOYAL is reported to have been hit off Anzio by shell fire, and left for Naples on one engine.

/ (c) ...

9.2.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle"
(Contd.)

4.(c). The unloading of Liberty ships recommenced at 1730 today.
(d). There were 10 alerts today with attacks by a total of 20 enemy aircraft, of which A/A fire shot down 2 and probably 2 more.

Adriatic.

5.(a). 46 Kittyhawks attacked shipping in Dalmatian coastal waters today. They hit and set on fire two 2000 ton ships at Zadar and Split, and hit two landing craft which were subsequently beached.
(b). M.G.Bs. last night sank a small tug with a raft in tow off Rogoznica. Shore batteries opened fire but caused no damage.

Aegean.

6.(a). Successful air attacks on enemy supply ships and harbours in the Aegean continued today.
(b). Mines were laid in Melos harbour by aircraft last night.

East Indies.

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN
sunk.

(on 12th Feb.)

7. C. in C.E.F. reports that the destroyer RELENTLESS, which left Mauritius yesterday, sank the German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN at 2040Z today in 23.23 S. 74.37 E. (about 960 miles E.S.E. of Mauritius) whilst making a R/V with U-Boat, and picked up 41 survivors.

Note - RELENTLESS 140327 indicates sinking was on 12/2.
p.232
SH

America & West Indies.

8. SS. KELMSCOTT was disabled today by 2 explosions whilst approaching St. Johns N.F. in about 47.33 N. 52.30 W. The cause was not established, but is considered probably to have been torpedoes. The ship reached St. Johns the same day.

136

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Solomon Is.
Coastal
Craft opns.

9. (a). M.T.Bs. last night attacked enemy island positions off northwest Bougainville whilst gunboats shelled shore installations on the southwest coast of Bougainville Strait.
(b). Patrol craft operating off Choiseul Bay last night were ineffectually gunned by a single Japanese floatplane.

137

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

GLASGOW. A.M. 082208A. Intend to sail GLASGOW a.m./10th to arrive Gibraltar 13th and subsequently to act under orders of C. in C. W.A. as A/A Escort for M.K.F.28A.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091245 to Admty.)

Pass gate at 0900A/10th and proceed through position (GA) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. (GB) 049° 01' 010° 59'. (GC) 046° 01' 017° 01'. (GJ) 043° 04' 016° 59' and thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.G.M.A. My 091244 refers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091331A to GLASGOW.)

WILLOWHERB My 081810A. Sailing delayed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 092153A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

NORTHERN SKY, My 081515A. Sailed NORTHERN SKY (S.O.), NORTHERN
NORTHERN WAVE, NORTHERN GIFT.
WAVE,
NORTHERN GIFT.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 092354A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Operations.

Operation Scapa arrival F.O.C. 1st C.S. in KENT with
F.W. BERMUDA.

(A.C.O.S., 090051A to H.F.)

My 282316. Returned Hvalfjord. Operation completed. (SAN ZOTICO).

(A.C.I.C., 090247A to C. in C. H.F.)

Scapa arrivals Capt. (D) 26 in VIGILANT with OPPORTUNE, OFFA, VENUS and SAVAGE.

(A.C.O.S., 091142A to H.F.)

Positions at 092000. R.A.56, S.O. M/S.F.18 in READY, 063° 40' N. 004° 30' W., 9½. Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE with 9 destroyers 063° 00' N. 004° 00' W. to Scapa 18.

SAVAGE leaves Scapa 1815 to Hull 18.

VENUS leaves Scapa 1830 to Rosyth 18.

OPPORTUNE, VIGILANT 058° 43' N. 004° 10' W. to Greenock, 18.

(A.C.O.S., 091203 to Admty.)

Intend to sail OBDURATE with VIRAGO in company by following route. From Toros Island through XFF 073° 01' N. 029° 59' E. KKS 073° 22' N. 025° 00' E. N 073° 22' N. 020° 01' E. HH 071° (? 45' or 58') N. 004° 00' E., thence Scapa. Thus passing clear of area given in C. in C. H.F.'s 061859. E.T.D. Toros Island 1530A/10th. S.O.A. 20 knots.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 091210A to C. in C. H.F.)

Scapa arrival BERWICK.

(A.C.O.S., 091231A to H.F.)

TRADEWIND is on patrol in vicinity 73° 01' N. 19° 58' E., and leaves for Lerwick 16th February.

(C. in C. H.F., 091538A to OBDURATE, VIRAGO.)

My 091210. Sailing delayed 24 hours.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 091731A to C. in C. H.F.)

Leave convoy forthwith and proceed to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F., 091732A to INCONSTANT.)

Scapa arrival BLYSKAWICA.

(A.C.O.S., 091805 to A.C.I.C.)

/S.O. ...

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.W. (Contd.) S.O. escort to R.A.56 passed to escorting aircraft P.C.S. at 1430A as 063° 49' N. 003° 05' W., 225°, 9 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth, 092253A to H.F.)

A/S operations off Western Ireland. 3 U-Boats sunk. ^{U.762} Convoy still being shadowed at 2247 and A/C probably making homing signals for U-Boats. (D.D.I.C., 090101A to Escorts S.L.147, E.G.2, ACTIVITY, NAIRANA.) U-Boat destroyed by WOODPECKER and WILD GOOSE 6 miles from S.L.147. (E.G.2, 090217A to C. in C. W.A.) One submerged submarine 054° 48' N. (sic), 016° 37' W. (B.3., 090751Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 090751. 2 submarines being attacked. At least one more in contact. (B.3., 090830Z to C. in C. W.A.)

^{U.238}
^{U.734} My 090830Z. KITE and MAGPIE attacking one, STARLING and WILD GOOSE another. Probably one still loose astern.

2. No attack on convoy yet.

3. S.L.147 (81 ships) P.C.S. at 1000Z, 050° 02' N. 016° 23' W., 032°, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

4. Weather 0934 3973. (B.3., 091006Z to C. in C. W.A.) U-Boat destroyed in 2 creeping and follow up attacks by STARLING and WILD GOOSE in 049° 43' N. 016° 23' W. Oil wreckage and human remains. (E.G.2., 091142Z to Admty.) Add to my 091006Z. Convoy was shadowed by aircraft all night.

2. Visibility now good to patchy, permanent improvement expected later today. (B.3., 091045Z to C. in C. W.A.) E.G.B.3 090830. Hunt is considered of utmost importance but report immediately when any ships become free for other operations. It is intended that carriers shall remain with S.L.147/M.K.S.38 until you consider your present operations are concluded. (C. in C. W.A., 091147A to E.G.2.)

^{U.734} My 091006. STARLING and WILD GOOSE have sunk their submarine. (B.3., 091209Z to C. in C. W.A.) Your 091147A. WOODPECKER and WREN are available and with convoy. Remainder hunting. (E.G.2., 091425A to C. in C. W.A.)

^{U.238} My 091006Z. MAGPIE's S/M sunk by STARLING and MAGPIE. (B.3., 091635Z to C. in C. W.A.) This is 3rd U-Boat eventually destroyed by creeping depth charge and hedgehog attacks by MAGPIE directed by STARLING with following up attack by latter ship. 2 hedgehog explosions after 21 seconds. Oil wreckage and human remains. Am sweeping back to S.L.147 with WILD GOOSE, KITE and MAGPIE in company. Approximate position of kill 049° 44' N. 016° 07' W. (E.G.2., 091730A to C. in C. W.A.) NAIRANA and H.M.S. ACTIVITY are to proceed home with S.L.147. Ships of 2nd E.G. still with S.L.147 are to leave at daylight 10th if convoy no longer threatened and rejoin 2nd E.G. who are

/to ...

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S
operations
off Western
Ireland.
3 U-Boats
sunk.
(Contd.)

to continue A/S search in area between latitude 050° and 051° and longitude 016° 30' and 019°. 2nd E.G. should withdraw from area by day if conditions are unsuitable for efficient Asdic operation.

(C. in C. W.A., 091954A to E.G.2., NAIRANA, ACTIVITY.)

STARLING and KITE have only 4 and 17 depth charges remaining respectively. Rest of group have 66 or more.

(E.G.2., 092000A to C. in C. W.A.)

Summary of operation 8th/9th February around S.L.147.

(1) At 2235N/8 WILD GOOSE obtained Radar contact of U-Boat which dived fine on port bow of convoy. She held contact and was joined by WOODPECKER and later STARLING. Meanwhile WOODPECKER attacked at 2348N and by the time STARLING arrived sea was covered with wreckage etc.

(2) At 0555N/9 H/F D/F bearing obtained ahead of convoy. KITE and MAGPIE were sent and U-Boat was detected by KITE. It was held and attacked intermittently by both ships until it was eventually destroyed by STARLING and MAGPIE at 1506N.

(3) At 0617N WILD GOOSE obtained Radar and A/S contact port beam of convoy. She was (joined) by STARLING at 0800N, creeping and following up attacks were carried out at 0845 and 0944N, after which oil, wreckage, and human remains appeared.

(4) Both ships then joined KITE and MAGPIE 18 miles away. The U-Boat survived creeping and follow up attacks by STARLING and KITE at 1246 and 1400N, but she succumbed to creeping depth charge and hedgehog attack by MAGPIE directed and followed up by STARLING at 1506N. 2 hedgehog hits and oil, wreckage etc.

(5) Several "Gnats" fired during operations but all avoided by use of low speed.

(6) An H/F D/F bearing at 0640N probably from another U-Boat ahead of convoy has not become contacted.

(E.G.2., 092030A to C. in C. W.A.)

A/S
operations
off N.W.
Ireland.

PINK sailed to overtake O.N.223.

(Cdre. (D) W.A., 090821A to Admty.)

Estimated oil fuel remaining at 0800A/11th, ROYALIST 40%, CHURCHILL 22%. Position 54°, 11°. (R.A.E.C., 091933A to C. in C. W.A.)

V.P.
operation.

Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol A.H. (2) V.P.58 and 107. (3) a.m./11th Feb. or first suitable day 71 P.I.L. (4) One. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 065° Bressay. (8) Yes.

(A.C.O.S., 091004A to Admty.)

2 Convoys
and U-Boat
attacked
by SCEPTRE.

SCEPTRE reports: (1) (A) 1st February 1041, P.C.S. of convoy of 2 M/Vs. escorted by 3 trawlers 64° 35' N. 10° 43' E. course 064° 8 knots. Attacked 1500 ton ship with 4 torpedoes which missed. Range 1900 yards. 4 explosions heard

/between ...

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

2 Convoys
and U-Boat
attacked
by SCPETRE.
(Contd.)

between 4 and 5 minutes later. A hunt was carried out but no counter attack.
(B) 3rd Feb. 0901, P.C.S. of convoy of one 1500 ton ship and one 500 ton S/M escorted by 5 A/S trawlers 64° 35' N. 10° 38' E., 040°, 10 knots. Attacked U-Boat with 6 torpedoes from 4400 yards. (? 3) explosions heard 8½ minutes, thought to be depth charges. Torpedo apparently missed. Counter attack with 21 depth charges, no damage. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 091235A to F.O.S.)

Biscay A/S
operations.

P.C.S. of enemy one merchant vessel 43° 40' N. 8° 52' W., 240°, 8 knots. No name. Spanish 5. (A/C KGZ18, 091430A to 19 Group.) Alter sharply to starboard and keep 40 miles to starboard of your route during dark hours. (C. in C. W.A., 091916A to MAGIC.)

S/M Patrols.

P.214 is to leave patrol as necessary to pass through position (X) 061° 02' N. 004° 01' E. at about 0500A/11 thence through (Y) 061° 05', 000° 01' E. to Lerwick.

2. P.214 is to keep within 40 miles of coast of Norway until past position (X).
3. Passage is to be made diving by day while within 60 miles of Norwegian coast thereafter on surface at C.O.'s discretion. (Capt. (S) 9, 091533A to S/MS.)

Request you will sail S/MS. from Lerwick as follows to patrol in accordance with S.O.04010/857 dated 27th January 1944.
(1) SYRTIS at 1200A/10th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and route "Orange" to 063° 05' thence through 062° 53', 005° 00'.
(2) UNSHAKEN at 1800A/10th through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles and route "Orange" to 065° 30', thence through 066° 31', 010° 45'.

(Capt. (S) 9, 091703A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of submarines 0800/10th and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) TRADEWIND, STUBBORN, TAKU, SATYR all as in my 071742.
(B) TRUSTY 63° 37' N. 0° 39' E. dived by day while North of 62° N. proceeding through 62° 01' N. 01° 20' W. to Lerwick, speed on surface 10 knots.
(D) SYRTIS leaves Lerwick 0900/10th through 61° 59' N. 00° 59' E., thence course 030° probably on surface speed 9 knots.
(F.O.(S), 091727A to Admty.)

Operation
"Overlord".

There is an urgent requirement for expendable ships for "Overlord" and it is now under consideration to ask the French to release COURBET and PARIS.

2. Request you will forward alternative proposals for carrying out service which PARIS now performs.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 091546A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

141

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. Enemy aircraft believed Ju.88 sighted over Budareyri 065° 02' N. 014° 13' W. at 1216A, flying high. Aircraft was sighted about 8 miles east of Seidisfjord at 1222 and disappeared course north-east. This may be of special interest in view of information contained in my 180032 January. (A.C.I.C., 091444A to Admty.)

Mining.

Harwich. 1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1521 in 51° 51.5' N. 01° 39.9' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 091614A to Admty.)

Humber. Underwater explosion probably caused by self-detonated mine seen at 1527 4 cables 090° from East Burnham Flats Buoy. (F.O. Humber, 091825 to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy. B.2 report states, one merchant ship 7,500 to 10,000 tons, one merchant ship 5,000 to 7,500 tons, 6 merchant ships 2,500 to 5,000 tons all loaded, escorts 2 destroyers of 1,800 tons, one armed whaler, 2 Siebel ferries departed Egersund today at 1600Z, course north. (F.O.(S), 092049A to S/MS.)

Casualties and Defects.

RESTORE. Inverness non arrival. Your 050902A. Request information. (N.C.S.O. Inverness, 090958A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

X.22 lost. Proceed forthwith to West Loch Tarbert where X.22 has been located. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 091024A to CAMELLIA.) Cancel my 091024A. Proceed forthwith to Kames Bay and report to Capt. (S) 12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 091228A to CAMELLIA.) My 091024A, for X.22 read X.24. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 091247A to CAMELLIA.) Regret X.22 must be considered lost with all hands. A.C.O.S. 071943 refers. (F.O.(S), 091526 to Admty.) My 071943. Further search by A/C yesterday unproductive. Board of Enquiry is being convened by Capt. (S) 3 on return of SYRTIS to Holy Loch from patrol. (A.C.O.S., 091529 to Admty.) CAMELLIA arrived Kames Bay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 092246A to C. in C. W.A.)

/BLYSKAWICA ...

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- BLYSKAWICA. E.T.A. 1630. Can enter by Hoxa. Emergency steering gear only available. (BLYSKAWICA, 091133A to A.C.O.S.)
- SLINGER. C. in C. Nore's 081601. Extreme beam of ship at present prohibits passage through K.G.V. lock. Some delay inevitable. Submit postponement of movement for at least 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. London, 091310A to C. in C. Nore.) My 081601A postponed 24 hours. F.O.I.C. London's 091310A refers. (C. in C. Nore, 091434A to F.O.I.C. London.) C. in C. Nore's 091434 and my 091310. Now arranged ship can enter gallions shipping entrance at approximately high water p.m./11th and not later than 1600. (F.O.I.C. London, 091750A to C. in C. Nore.)

- KEPPEL. N.O.I.C. Humber's 071704A. Delayed by heavy weather. E.T.A. Greenock 1500A/10th. Hedgehog mounting damaged. (KEPPEL, 092148A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.S. 67. My 081738A. Sailed (TAVY). (Cdre. (D) W.A., 090955A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.29. VESPER is to be sailed with B.6 E.G. as additional escort to O.N.S.29. (2) Intention is for VESPER to rejoin B.2 E.G. escorting H.X.278. (C. in C. W.A., 091708A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- OXFORDSHIRE. My 071620. Sailed 2130Z/9. Gibraltar 14th Feb. (N.C.S.O. Swansea, 092230A to Admty.)

143

9.2.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic.

Gib. 111/132-1548 (?day) visual 36.00 N. 06.09 W.
 Opsum 8 Feb. 090-2 Periscope only attacked - 4 Mark 47 D/Cs
 150 Green-silhouette clearly visible as aircraft
 passed over - 2 D/Cs landed centre of Silhouette
 10 short third 50 ft overshoot fourth not
 observed - 2½ minutes after 3 air bubbles and thin film fresh
 oil 400 yards from attack on track - 1 hour later large con-
 centrated fresh oil blob at 200 ft rust coloured streak.
 B 62/111 1645 day-visual 35.35 N. 07.53 W. stationary heading
 285 attacked 120 deck green 20 seconds after submersion - 6
 D/cs 5 explosions - thin oil slick. All times A.
 (A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 090445)

C.G.86 Convoy returned Casablanca due to fog.
 (C.M.S.F. 091107A)

5 ships in collision. R. DUNAP (?DUNAV intended) SHIRRABANK and
 WINSUM inward bound for Safi and JAARSTROOM,
 EMPIRE TANA outward bound to Gibraltar all in
 collision about 10 miles outside of Port owing
 to fog. DUNAP fully loaded phosphates badly
 holed fore. One and two holds awash. Engine room and after
 end dry hope to raise steam tonight and commence discharge
 (?two) hold tomorrow morning JAARSTROOM not badly damaged fore
 peek and one hold full of water. Now discharging cargo
 except one hold. Two holds dry. Starboard side EMPIRE TANA
 some plates well above water line damaged. Two lifeboats
 carried away. SHIRRABANK five plates on waterline in way of
 engine room dented. Slight leak to engine room. Water well
 under control WINSUM slight damage to fore-castle.
 (M.W.T.R. Casablanca, 091944)

South Atlantic.

DUQUESNE, Summary of refitting and renewal work required.
 SUFFREN, (F.O.C.W.Af. 091744Z)
 TOURVILLE.

Frecar Departure 1306Z/8 DUCA D'AOSTA.
 Patrol. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 091032Z)
 Arrival 1112Z/7 ABRUZZI.
 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 091254Z)

U/B sunk U.S. Cruiser OMAHA picked up 14 survivors from
 6th Feb. U-Boat, my 071803 refers. /
 (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 091414Z to F.O.C.W.Af.
 091801Z)
 / Re: sinking of U/B by U.S. Naval A/C.

144

9.2.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Report on Glider Bomb Attacks. A.M. 031819. Confirmed SPARTAN sunk by H.S.293 bomb.

2. Attack was carried out in manner already promulgated in A.G.Ms.

3. At the time of the attack, SPARTAN was anchored in Anzio Bay. DIDO, DELHI and LAFOREY were under way. Smoke had been ordered in anchorage but was not fully effective owing to short time in operation and strong breeze. SPARTAN was making smoke from bow and stern, but was not herself covered.

4. Approx. 18 A/C detected by ULSTER QUEEN and shore radar approaching from the north. These circled over ?land 20 miles to northward and beam attack was delivered from the landward side, ships being silhouetted against afterglow. Timing of attack prohibited aircraft from being sighted except by few witnesses. SPARTAN and one merchant vessel hit.

5. Not more than 6 bombs seen to fall in anchorage. Fire opened by ships in general direction of aircraft as soon as sighting reports were made. This was same time as bombs were seen approaching. Barrage fire and fixed range fire set to burst at (5000) yards were used. Shore batteries also opened fire after bombs were released. U.S.S. JONES and DAVIS present and reported 14 signals detected some of which were jammed.

6. Type 281 radar ineffective in all ships owing to land echoes. Also evidence of interference to type 281. Type 285 radar ranges were obtained by SPARTAN at (6000) to (8000) yards shortly before the attack.

7. H.S.293 attack on JERVIS now considered normal visual attack. Although aircraft were not seen.

8. H.S.293 was combined with torpedo bomber attack against JERVIS? and JANUS. No evidence of combination of attacks with H.S.293 since then. No evidence of F.X. being used in "Shingle".

9. Only new features are exceptional accuracy of timing so that parent aircraft were scarcely visible, and general use of red lights on bombs.

10. Consider it of highest importance to make max. amount of smoke. Particularly white, to cover ships in good time. Consider it important that fighters are in area until completely dark as position of release of H.S.293 can be forecast with comparative accuracy.

(C. in C.Med. at Naples 091041.)

GNAT, CRICKET. No employment can be foreseen for GNAT and CRICKET justifying cost of maintenance. Request approval to use these ships as bombing targets for which need exists.
(F.O.L.E.M. 091225B to Admty.)

Safe conduct route. L.T.M. 628 para. 4 safe conduct route to Piraeus is amended as follows: from position J to 037° 20' 024 degs. 00' to 036° 10' 024° 00' to position F.
(Capt. S.1 091300B to 1st S/M F.)

Orange vessels. It is desired to load some of the orange vessels at Castellon, your views are requested. A.M. 011947 and your 061137 both October refer.
(D.T.D. 091305A to C. in C.Med.)

SIBYL. Assume following patrol by daylight 10th area bounded by 026° E. 027° E. 038° 12' N. and north coast of Samos and Nikaria.
(Capt. S.1 091515B to SIBYL.)

BARBARIGO. Italian Naval Authorities state that S/M BARBARIGO left Bordeaux 10th June '43 and was not heard of again.

War Diary.9.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- BARBARIGO. (Contd.)
2. They believe she was sunk by a force including an aircraft carrier and destroyers on 14th or 15th July near Ascension Island.
 3. Request information whether details of loss are known and if so names of survivors of any.
(C. in C.Med. 091648A to Admty.)
- UNRULY.
- P.49 (UNRULY) sailed at 1730/9th to pass Kaso Straits p.m. 12th. Thence along north coast of Crete, and east coast of Morea to Hyroa area to arrive in Milos area on 19th.
(Capt. S.1 091748B.)
- Turkish Territorial Waters.
- Caiques flying Greek flag may be attacked in Turkish territorial waters when north of Samos.
(Capt. S.1 091841B to 1st S/M F.)
- Situation Reports.
- Weather stopped unloading of Liberties Tuesday evening (8th). Wind has dropped during Wednesday but swell has persisted. 4200 tons unloaded in port and over beaches to 2000/8th.
2. During 8th there were 3 air attacks by a total of 20 Me.109 and casual shelling of town port and channel. No damage except to town.
 3. PENelope carried out five shoots in Formia area during 3th.
 4. ORION, PHOEBE and BROOKLYN remained at Anzio for fire support leaving at 1500 today.
 5. LOYAL hit off Anzio and lubricating pipes cut. Ship proceeding Naples on one engine. Two ratings injured.
(C. in C.Med. at Naples 091843A.)
- Operation "Shingle". Glider bomb intercepted and jammed by U.S. destroyer DAVIS at 0440/8 and landed harmlessly in sea.
4. Coastal forces in 2 groups operating from Bastia during the night 7th/8th Feb. sighted 2 escorted convoys south of Leghorn and one off Grosseto Rocks. Bright moonlight made torpedo attacks impracticable. Enemy gunfire from escorts and shore batteries caused no damage.
 5. During the night 8th/9th Feb. M.G.Bs. sank small tug with raft in tow off Rogoznica. Shore batteries opened fire but caused no damage.
(C. in C.Med. 092228A.)
- SPORTSMAN.
- Leave patrol as requisite to pass through 035° 14' 026° 30' at 0401/11th thence diving by day on 11th and then on the surface through 034° 22' 029° 59' to arrive Beirut 0630/13th.
2. You may encounter UNRULY westbound about 0001/12th.
 3. You should report number of torpedoes fired 24 hours before arrival Beirut.
(Capt. S.1 092229B to SPORTSMAN.)
- PAPANICOLIS.
- Last U-Boat (German) report dated a.m. 7th indicated one south east of Cape Greco (Cyprus.)
(Capt. S.1 092302B to PAPANICOLIS.)

/Leave...

War Diary.

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

/ Mediterranean.

PAPANICOLIS.
(Contd.)

Leave patrol p.m. 10th passing close to south of
Cristiani to arrive in a position $035^{\circ} 14' 026^{\circ}$
 $30'$ at 1602/11th. Thence diving by day on 12th
and subsequently on the surface through $034^{\circ} 22'$
 $029^{\circ} 59'$ to arrive Beirut 0702/14th.
2. You may encounter UMRULY westbound about 0301.
(Capt. S.1 092356B to PAPANICOLIS.)

147

9.2.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U-Boat dis-
position No.
24.

No fresh information. No changes in scale of
air escort except area G reduced to X.
(C. in C.E.F. 090324Z.)

SS. FORT
LA MAUNE.

Torpedoed and sunk in 13° 56' N. 40° E. on 25th
Jan.
(S.O.I. Colombo 090356Z.)

S/Ms on
passage.

To avoid incidents leading to the transmission of
distress messages by friendly merchant ship who
may encounter our submarines on passage. Request
you will instruct submarines joining Eastern Fleet,
and when proceeding unescorted, to take all

possible steps to avoid being sighted by merchant ships, but to
remain on the surface.

2. If sighting is unavoidable submarines should signal by V/S
the words "I am British" as early as possible and steer a course
well clear.

(C. in C.E.F. 090507Z to S.N.O.R.S.C.A. Com. i/c Aden.)

FORT LA MAUNE
Report of
sinking.

Forwarded in accordance with E.F. 716H/59/27.
B. 13° 04' N. 56° 49' E. 1920Z/25 Jan. C. S/M.
D. Torpedo. Ship sunk. E. One hit port side No.
two hatch. F. 56 landed Aden by NIGELLA 8 Feb.
G. No. H. S.S.S.S. sent four times on main set
and thereafter daily on lifeboat set.

I. Submarine surfaced after attack remained on surface 40 minutes.
Interrogated Third Mate. Description 300 feet to 350 feet. Net
cutter on bow. Fore part of conning tower built with forward
slant.

J. and K. Dumped in steel safes by Master and First R.O. in
over 1000 fathoms. M. Master.

(S.O.I. Aden 090903.)

Force F.

The broad pendant of Cmdre. Douglas-Pennant as
S.O. Force F will be struck at sunset 9th Feb.
2. All H.M. Ships and craft of Force F are to
be placed under S.R.N.O. Bombay with the exception
of major landing craft allocated to N.A.F.C.A. in
my 011221.

(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 091004Z.)

Japanese A/Cs
over Ceylon.

Two Japanese aircraft carried out reconnaissance
flight over Ceylon on night 7/8th Feb. (Details)
It is considered that the first of these aircraft
intended to reconnoitre the Trinco area but mis-
took Batticaloa for Naval Base. Second aircraft
reconnoitred Palk Strait anchorage before proceeding Madras.

(C. in C.E.F. 091130Z.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U-Boat threat off Gulf of Aden. Following is brief report of events connected with U-Boat operating in approaches to Gulf of Aden between 25th Jan. and 6th Feb.

1. On January 25th all shipping on the Kilindini/Aden and Bombay/Aden routes were out of convoy having been released on the 13th December.
2. On 27th January information was received of the sinking of the SAMOURI and SURADA in positions to the eastward of Socotra. Ships were diverted clear of the area and convoy on the routes mentioned in para. one was reinstated. Commodore Aden diverted BANFF from her small troop convoy and both BANFF and strong air forces commenced operations in the threatened area.
3. On 13th Jan. one of the aircraft reported a U-Boat sighted off Cape Guardfui. As it appeared likely that this was the same U-Boat shipping was diverted to the eastward of Socotra.
4. On receipt of the U-Boat sighting Commodore Aden ordered FISHGUARD and DERG who were the only surface craft available and who were designated as escort for convoys about to sail from Aden to proceed to the area and SIGFRA was diverted to join them on completion of her duty with S/M SURF.
5. On the 31st information was received that FORT LA MAUNE had been sunk on the 25th Jan. and on the 1st Feb. the sinking of OLGA E. EMBIRICOS N.W. of Cape Guardfui was reported by a British ship arriving at Aden.
6. Diversions of shipping in the narrow entrance to the Gulf of Aden becomes quite ineffective when reports of attack are as stale as they were on the occasion, since by the time the information has been received the U-Boat could be anywhere in the area. It has therefore been the policy in the past to concentrate the air available on one selected shipping route and endeavour to shepherd the independent ships through the threatened area. (C. in C.E.F. 091227Z.)

U/B estimate. (D.D.I.C. 091258A.)

Air attack on KARAPARA (hospital ship.)

Intercept 2143 G.M.T. 500 k/cs from unknown station AAAA DE GRZF (KARAPARA) position 17.55 N. 84.44 E. (Humber Radio 092143A.) Bombed in 17.16 N. 83.50 E. (KARAPARA No T.O.O/9 recd. 2226.) Following has been received. Aircraft attack signal. Repetition position 17.55 N. 84.44 E. (KARAPARA No T.O.O/9.)

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U-Boat S/M sighted 021 degs. 27' N. 076 degs. 15' W. at
off N.E. 1515Z/10.
Cuba. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 101236R)

U-Boat (N.S.H.Q. 091410Z to Cominch, 091623Z)
Estimates.

SS. KELMS- W.H.X.278. Cancel my 041442/ Ship sailed but
COTT. returned to port after explosion on board.
 (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 091424B)

ILE DE T.A.87 your early arrival is desired. Proceed
FRANCE. at best prudent speed (route).
 Report your E.T.A. and S. of A.
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 091509 to T.A.87 ILE DE FRANCE
 091731Z, C. in C. C.N.A. 092003Z)

Defects in Your 270151/Jan. ELFREDA, FAIRY, FLORIZEL, FOAM,
U.S. FROLIC, GARNET will form 42nd M.S.F. in U.K.
built M.S. (3) Following defects have been found in earlier
 vessels of class on their arrival in U.K.
 (4) Owing to congestion in British Dockyards a
 delay of two of three months in ships becoming
 operational results.
 (Admty. 091615A to B.A.D.)

COLUMBIA O.N.222. At. 1730Z/9th February sailed W.10
 H.M.C.S. COLUMBIA to support W.2 from Westomp.
 (F.O.N.F. 091804Z to W.2 S.E.C. O.N. 222)

Dutch Your 082113/December.
S/M's, Disposition of Dutch S/M's in Eastern theatre
Operational The Dutch authorities have been consulted and we
Areas. agree that the Dutch operational S/M's are most
 profitably employed in the N.E.I. Waters
 particularly for S.I.S. and S.O.E. operations.
 As, however, O.19 is the only Dutch minelaying
submarine, minelaying would take precedence over S.I.S. and
S.O.E. activities.
(2) Accordingly it is intended that during 1944 -
(a) K. 14 and K.15 shall normally operate from the S.W.P.Area.
(b) O.19 ZWAARDFISCH and O.23, becoming available end May 1944,
Mid June 1944 and February 1945, respectively shall operate
from the S.E.A. Command.
(3) Since O. 21 and O.24 will not be available for service for
some 12 months, it is considered premature to allocate them
to a particular command but it is intended that they should both
operate in N.E.I. waters.
(4) It is intended to review the Dutch S/M dispositions again
in July.
(V.C.N.S. 092245A to B.A.D.)

9.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

SEARCHER.

If LAWSON not ready on 10 Feb. C.M.A. sail SEARCHER escorted by EKINS to R/V with U.T.8 off New York for inclusion of SEARCHER in convoy. EKINS to be detached to Argentia when R/V effected (Cominch, 092245Z to C.E.S.F.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
serial
No.750.

Paras 8 to 12 South Pacific Forces.

(10) 5 Avengers carrying 1 tonners struck Rabaul shipping early morning Feb. 8th. 1 Avenger attacked single cargo ship later reported smoking, another Avenger reported direct hit and oil on water. (1 S/M causing much smoke).

(12) Motor Torpedo boats night Feb. 7th/8th strafed large schooner at entrance Queen Carola Harbour North West Buka Island. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 090704Z)

U-Boat Campaign.

Submarines Attacked.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) U.S.A/C attacked stationary U-Boat with depth-charges at 1525/8 in 35 degs. 35' N. 07 degs. 53' W. (But see W.D. Note to C.M.S.F. 081932).

(2) U.S. A/C attacked U-Boat with depth-charges at 1448/8th in 36 degs. 00' N. 06 degs. 09' W.

(3) MAGIC attacked submerged U-Boat previously sighted on surface at 2130/8th Feb. in 44 degs. 47' N. 22 degs. 22' W.

(4) H.M. Ships WOODPECKER and WILDGOOSE attacked U-Boat before 0017/9th Feb. in approx. 49 degs. 30' N. 16 degs. 30' W.

(5) E.G.B.3 reported one submerged U-Boat and a possible second at 0015/9th Feb. in 49 degs. 04' N. 17 degs. 21' W.

Para. D. (1) A/C sighted U-Boat at 0725Z/7th Feb. in 23 degs. 30' N. 60 degs. 25' E.

(2) Coast watcher sighted U-Boat at 0730/5th Feb. in approx. 25 degs. 00' N. 66 degs. 30' E.

(D.D.I.C.091144A)

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C.091455A, 091500A)

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.W.

1. Convoy R.A.56 arrived off Cape Wrath at 2300 today. Capt. D.3 in MILNE with ten other destroyers of the Destroyer Escort arrived at Scapa at 1212A.

Operation
"Posthorn".

2. At 1035A today V.A.2 in ANSON, with FURIOUS, RICHELIEU, BELFAST, NIGERIA and seven destroyers left Scapa to attack enemy shipping off the Norwegian coast.

A/S
operations
off Western
Ireland.

(1) U 545 sunk
(3) U 666 sunk

3. Two U-Boats in company were twice attacked by A/C this morning about 450 miles West of Lands End; and a third U-Boat was attacked and claimed sunk by Swordfish A/C from FENCER at 1338 about 270 miles West of Slyne Head. Five frigates of E.G.3 left Moville at 2008A to operate off Cape Clear; and ROYALIST and CHURCHILL are to leave the area after the last fighter sortie tomorrow.

Seidisfjord
bombed.
EL GRILLO
damaged.

4. Three enemy A/C attacked Seidisfjord at 1250 today, and the tanker EL GRILLO was damaged. MIDDLETON has been ordered to proceed to assist EL GRILLO.

Mediterranean.

1st S/M.F.

5. The 1st Submarine Flotilla was to cease to operate from Beirut at 2359 today when F.O.L.E.M. assumed operational and administrative control of the flotilla until 2359/13 when the base will open at Malta. (Nevertheless S/Ms of 1st Flotilla were still arriving at Beirut and sailing from there for patrol up to 14th February.)

Operation
"Shingle".

6(a) A strong south-west wind got up at 1300 today and the westerly swell made further unloading impossible. Sailings to Anzio were stopped at 1730.
(b) DIDO and MAURITIUS and 2 destroyers were at Anzio during today, to give gun support. PENELOPE remained off Formia.
(c) There was no enemy air activity and no bombardment of the port of Anzio today.

/Aegean ...

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aegean.

7(a) Aircraft laid mines successfully last night in Heraklion harbour and approaches. Diversionary bombing was used.

(b) SPORTSMAN reports that a.m./8, whilst on patrol off the north coast of Crete she sank a ship, thought to be SS. CAPO PINO (Italian, ex-AVEYRON.)

East Indies.

U/B off
Calcutta.

8. SS. ASHRIDGE reported having been missed by a torpedo in 21 N. 90.35 E. at 0400Z today.

Australia and New Zealand.

Marshall
Is.

9. The defence organisation of Kwajalein Atoll is reported to be well in hand and preparations for the withdrawal of assault troops proceeding rapidly.

New
Guinea.

10. A Naval Catalina reported a concentration of possibly 150 barges and a small ship at Muschu Island off Wewak early this morning and attacked, damaging about 18.

Moluccas.

11. Liberators last night bombed Halong Seaplane Base (Ambon.)

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BOREAS
SALAMIS.

BOREAS is to be transferred on loan to Greek Navy and renamed SALAMIS as from 9th February 1944.
(Head of M.II 100215A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

GLASGOW.

My 091330Z. GLASGOW sailed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 100922A to Admty.)

CALEDON.

Intend sailing CALEDON at 0800A/12th to Gibraltar.
2. Route.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101809A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland.

A/A defences. See Air.

Operations.

A/S
Operations
off
Western
Ireland.
Three U/Bs.
attacked.
One U/B
claimed
sunk.

Am over enemy S/M in 50° 33' N. 17° 30' W.
(A/C C/S 126 W.4, 100045A)
My 0045. Am over enemy S/M in 50° 10' N. 17° 46' W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 290° speed 8 knots.
(A/C 126 W.4, 100120A.)
4. U/B previously reported course 262° speed 8 knots, when first sighted in position 50° 10' N. 17° 46' W.
(A/C C/S 126W4 No T.O.O. 10th. Recd. 100351.)
My 0120. No depth charge but Marker dropped.
(A/C C/S 126W4/3 100215 to 15 Group H.Q.)

H.X.277 - aircraft attacked U/Boat in position 050° 08' N. 017° 25' W. another in vicinity WANDERER and BYRON searching.
(S.O. E.G.B.5, 100420Z to C. in C. W.A.)
By D/F on 2920 kc/s at 0307Z U/B within 60 miles of 50.30 N. 17.30 W.

(Admty., 100446A to Escorts H.X.277, E.G.2., E.G.6.)
Am over 2 enemy S/Ms in 49° 53' N. 17° 20' W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 252° speed 12 knots.

(A/C 126 W.4, 100508A to 15 Group.)
Two U/B previously reported course 252° speed 12 knots, position 49° 53' N. 17° 20' W. Both attacked one R(corrupt) U.N. U/B has dived, believed damaged.

(A/C 126W4, 100620A.)
H/F D/F bearing on serial 7 estimates close possible sighting report bearing 251°. My P.C.S. 054° 06' N. 016° 51' W 253° 9½.

(S.O.E.G.7, 101115Z to Connav.)
Have detected one unidentified A/C bearing 060° (?distance 5 miles) height 12,000 ft. My Position 235° DD 104 miles.
(R.A.E.C., 101116 to Whitehall W/T.)

/Recalled...

10.2.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. Three U/Bs attacked. One U/B claimed sunk. (Contd.)

Recalled W.T. His position 220° DD 25. Chasing Bogey 12,000 feet (steering?) N.E. (R.A.E.C. 101139 to C. in C.W.A.) My 101116. One enemy aircraft course 070° height 12,000 ft. my position 235° DD 104 miles. (R.A.E.C. 101149 to Whitehall W/T.) Cancel my 101139. (?Recall) W.I. "Bogey" was Ju. 290 escaped in cloud. (R.A.E.C. 101155 to C. in C.W.A.) If weather is suitable for flying STRIKER and FENCER are to leave O.N.223 before dark tonight and operate with 16th E.G. to give cover to both O.N.223 and C.U.13. If considered advisable Group may be divided to form 2 separate carrier

forces.

2. If weather unsuitable for flying carriers are to remain in O.N.223 and group is to act in support till daylight 11th Feb.

3. At daylight 11th if convoys are not threatened 16th E.G. and carriers are to proceed for operations against U/Boats in area between latitude 045° and 047° N. longitude 017° to 020°. (C. in C.W.A. 101233Z to E.G.16, STRIKER, FENCER.)

Fighter Direction Operations of ROYALIST and CHURCHILL are to cease after last fighter sortie tomorrow. CHURCHILL is then to proceed to Merville. R.A.E.C. is requested to signal intentions for ROYALIST.

(C. in C.W.A. 101241A to R.A.E.C., ROYALIST.)

One submarine on the surface bearing 105° 7 miles course unknown. My position 53° 53' N. 17° 25' W.

(CHELMER, 101338Z.)

My 091959. Request you will sail third E.G. at 2000/10th to pass 053° N. 014° W. at economical speed.

(C. in C.W.A., 101353A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Have detected one unidentified A/C bearing 160° (?course 70°) height 8,000 feet. My position 235 DD 134.

(R.A.E.C. 101438 to Whitehall W/T.)

My 101338 (N.T. in W.D.). Swordfish from FENCER straddled U/Boat 4 miles on port quarter of convoy at 1338Z. She claims probably sunk. Consider convoy sighted. My P.C.S. 053° 47' N. 017° 57' W. 245° 9½. Weather.

(B.7, 101530Z to Connav.)

Your 101241A. Intend ROYALIST arrive Greenock a.m.12th.

(R.A.E.C. 101911A to C. in C.W.A.)

In view of threat to O.N.223 instructions in para. 1 of my 101233Z are cancelled and you should use your own discretion.

(C. in C.W.A. 101917A to B.7.)

DUCKWORTH, BERRY, BLACKWOOD, COOKE, DOMETT sailed.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 102008A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation F.X.

Following is operation F.X. Object safe passage of convoy J.W.57 and R.A.57.

2. D day is day J.W.57 sails from Loch Ewe and will be 19th February unless otherwise ordered.

3. Routes are defined in my 100937. Enemy

information is being sent to S.O. of Force.

4. Force taking part(a) Local Escort for both convoys. 2 escorts from W.A. and 4 of 18th M/S Flotilla.

b. Through Escort. KEPPEL, BOADICEA, BEAGLE, WALKER, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, STARWORT, LOTUS.

c. Minesweepers of 1st M/S Flotilla GLEANER, SEAGULL with R.A.57.

/d. ...

10.2.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation F.X. (Contd.)
- d. Fleet destroyers Escort. MILNE (Capt. D.3.), METEOR, MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, IMPULSIVE, ONSLAUGHT, OBEDIENT, ORIBI, OFFA, VIGILANT, VERNLAM, SAVAGE, SWIFT, SERAPIS (Capt.(D) 23).
(e) A/A Cruiser Escort BLACK PRINCE (wearing Flag of R.A.(D) H.F.)
- f. Carrier Escort CHASER.
- g. Cruiser Covering Force, Force one, BELFAST (C.S.10), CUMBERLAND, NIGERIA.
- h. Local Escort from Kola as arranged by S.B.N.O. North Russia.
5. Preliminary movements.
S.O.'s concerned are requested to order preliminary movement as follows. Escort proceeding Loch Ewe should arrive in daylight if possible.
Reference para. 4 above A. local escort for J.W. convoy to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. D Minus one. Local escort for R.A. convoy to arrive Skaalefiord not less 24 hours before convoy is due to pass Faroes. B. to arrive Loch Ewe by day minus one C. As ordered by S.B.N.O. N. Russia (D) S.O. Fleet destroyers attend conference at Loch Ewe on D day then to Skaalefiord independently. Remainder of fleet destroyers escorts except 2 are to arrive Skaalefiord a.m. D plus one and fuel. E. R.A.D. H.F. in BLACK PRINCE to attend conference at Loch Ewe on D day then to return Scapa.
- Conduct of operation (a) J.W.57 is sailing p.m. D day escorted by through and local escorts. Route "green" unless otherwise ordered. All ships are capable of 10 knots
- (b). Fleet destroyer escorts are to join J.W.57 about latitude of 063° N. a.m. day plus 2 when local escort is to leave. One of the local escorts is then to be detached to proceed into Skaalefiord to report through N.O.I.C. Faeroes addressed A.I.G. 47 last known P.C.S. convoy. (c) BLACK PRINCE (R.A.(D) H.D.) with CHASER escorted by 2 fleet destroyers is to proceed to join J.W.57 about latitude 063° N. The 2 destroyers escorting CHASER are then to proceed Skaalefiord fuel and rejoin convoy at 17 knots. d. Force one is to proceed from Scapa to cover J.W.57 during its passage between Meridian 015° East and 032° East keeping westward of 015° E. Then proceed Akureyri. Further orders will be issued if required to cover R.A.57.
7. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to sail R.A.57 as soon as practicable after arrival J.W.57. Route "Brown" unless otherwise ordered. Slowest ships probably 8½ knots.
8. If necessary to alter route by signal new positions are to be ordered with reference to lettered positions on route "Green" and "Brown".
9. Attention is called to N R C I article 142(D), (E) and (F).
10. Movement on completion.
- a. Local escort. 18th Minesweeper Flotilla to Skaalefiord remainder as ordered C. in C.W.A.
- b. Through and Fleet destroyer escort as ordered C. in C.W.A. and R.A.(D) H.F.
- c. Force 1 BLACK PRINCE and CHASER return to Scapa.
- C. Convoy coneword: J.W.57 "Dodge". R.A.57 "Tomtom".
(C. in C.H.F., 10023A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/Operation...

War Diary.10.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Operation F.X. (Contd.) | Operation F.X. route. | Route "Green". |
| | A. 058° 56' N. | 005° 28' W. |
| | B. 059° 24' N. | 004° 33' W. |
| | C. 062° 15' N. | 005° 50' W. |
| | D. 069° 47' N. | 001° 40' W. |
| | E. 073° 04' N. | 011° 43' E. |
| | F. 073° 32' N. | 028° 59' E. |
| G. 072° 09' N. | 036° 50' E. | thence position M.U. Route "Brown". F as above. |
| H. 072° 10' N. | 010° 40' E. | |
| J. 069° 15' N. | 002° 10' E. | C as above. My 100230 refers. (C. in C.H.F., 100937A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.) |

S/M Patrols. Postpone all times in my 091703 48 hours. (SYRTIS, UNSHAKEN). (Capt. S.9, 100841A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.) TRUSTY is to remain North of 063° 30' until further orders. (Capt. S.9, 100910A to S/Ms.)

Cancel my 091533. SATYR is to remain on patrol until further instructions. Delay will probably be 48 hours. (Capt. S.9, 100917A to S/M.)

S/Ms. are to leave patrol for Lerwick as follows:-

1. TRUSTY diving by day when north of 062° by route "Grey" so as to cross latitude 063° 30' at 1800A/11th.
2. SATYR as necessary so as to pass through 062° 01' 004° 03' at 0800A/13th, thence through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast. (Capt. S.9, 101719A to S/Ms.)

Position of S/Ms at 0800/11 and movements following 24 hours:

- A. TRADEWIND, STUBBORN, TAKU, SATYR as in my 071742.
- B. TRUSTY on patrol vicinity 63° 30' N. 00° 30' W. (F.O.S. 101727 to Admty.)

Proceed to dive by day to anti U/Boat patrol within 25 miles of 073° 01' N. 015° E. (F.O.S. 102004A to TRADEWIND.)

Operation "Posthorn". Scapa departure V.A.2, H.F. in ANSON with FURIOUS, RICHELIEU, F.O. 10th C.S. in BELFAST, NIGERIA, IROQUOIS, SERAPIS, ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, IMPULSIVE, HAIDA, ATHABASKAN. (A.C.O.S. 101035A to H.F.)

Operation F.W. R.A.56, E.T.A. Ewe buoy 0600A/11th. 37 ships. (M/S 18, 101037A to C. in C.H.F.) Scapa arrival Capt. (D) 3rd in MILNE with MAHRATTA, MUSKETEER, SCOURGE, VERULAM, METEOR, SWIFT, OBEDIENT, INCONSTANT, HURON and STORD. (A.C.O.S. 101212A to H.F.)

/Intend...

157

10.2.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation Intend detaching HALCYON, HUSSAR, SPEEDWELL to
F.W. Scapa on arrival at Q about 1915A. Propose
(Contd.) READY, RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE, LOYALTY enter
and remain at Loch Ewe.
(M/S 18 101617A to C. in C.H.F.)
My 091210A. Amend position HH to read 070° 00'N.
005° 00' E.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 101951A to C. in C.H.F.)
One W.A. escort is to be detailed to escort ships for
West Coast ports to North Channel.
Ships thence to proceed independently and escort to base.
2. Commander of W.A. Escort to base at daylight tomorrow.
(C. in C.W.A. 102102A to Escorts R.A.56.)
Your 101617. Proposals for ships of 18th M/F approved.
(C. in C.H.F.102350A to M/S 18.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101334A.)
Force (V.A. Dover, 101620A.)
Patrols.

S.C. My 021027. Sailed at 1800 today VIGRA from
operation. Balta Sound.
2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 101828A to Admty.)

Biscay Submarine sighted on the surface and dived in
A/S 048° 21' N. 016° 10' W.
operations (ROCHESTER, 102310Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)
(Convoy O.S.
67/K.M.S.41)

Enemy Air Activity.

Seidisfjord Attack on Seidisfjord carried out by formation of
attacked. 3 enemy aircraft believed F.Ws. at 1250. 3
EL GRILLO bombs dropped. Tanker EL GRILLO hit forward.
damaged. attempting to beach ship. Aircraft departed
course East at 1255.
(A.C.I.C. 101450A to Admty.)
My 101744A. Three aircraft were sighted by

coastwatching post Dalatangi approaching from eastward. They
flew up fjord in 4/10 cloud and each dropped one bomb believed
500 pound from about 5000 feet. Two straddled EL GRILLO
forward third missed by 100 yards. Hull plating forward badly
sprung causing ship to sink by bow which is on bottom in 25
fathoms with about 100 feet of stern above water.

2. U.S. Army A/A Batteries opened fire before bombs were
dropped one aircraft believed hit.
3. There was no injury to any personnel.
4. In view of inadequacy of AA.Defences and that there is no
air warning radar at Seidisfjord it is suggested that a relief
tanker for EL GRILLO not be sent to Seidisfjord until
definitely required there. Accordingly SAN ZOTICO is being
held in readiness to sail from Hvalfjord if and when required.
5. Observing that the A/A Defences at Akureyri are equally

/light...

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Seidisfiord light, it is for consideration whether it would not be advisable for CULL PEPPER and RAPIDOL to return to Hvalfjord until their services are damaged. required at Akureyri.
(Contd.)

6. My 180032 January.
(A.C.I.C. 102146A to Admty.)
Request you will sail MIDDLETON for Seidisfjord with all convenient despatch as soon as she is available and fuelled. MIDDLETON is to provide A/A protection for EL GRILLO and render her any assistance possible acting under the orders of A.C.I.C.
(C. in C.H.F. 101948A to GEORGETOWN.)

Mining.

Operation Request you will sail RUBIS for operation
F.D. B.T. F.D.B.T. so as to part company with escort in position YY 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0100A/20th
Thence RUBIS diving by when south 049° 30' N. via route "Gold" to position:
RA 047° 01' N. 006° 01' W. thence to RB 045° 01' N. 001° 59' W. at 0400A/23rd February and to Eastward for operations.
2. RUBIS is to return by reverse route leaving RB at 0600A/26th to R/V in YY at 0800A/29th.
(F.O.S. 101204A to Capt. S.5.)
My 101204.
A. RUBIS. B. About 24th Feb. C. In groups between 044° 56' N. 00° 21' W., 045° 01' N. 001° 20' W.
(F.O.S. 101206A to Capt. S.5.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy 8 loaded merchant vessels, (1 x 7500/10000 tons, off 1 x 5000/7500 tons, 6 x 2500/5000 tons) escorted Norway. by 2 "M" class minesweepers and 1 armed trawler, left EGGERSUND (58° 28' N. 06° 00' E) at 1600A/9th, course North. Graded B.2.
(D.D.I.C. 101144A to V.A.2, C.S.10.)

U/Boats.

U/Boat U/B previously reported was on surface. U/B has reported. dived, position 60° 42' N., 14° 20' W.
Returning to base.
(A/C RCPD 100100A to N.D.3.)
Am over enemy S/M. Flak.
(A/C RCPD, 100217A to Artunshofdi.)

U/Boat Am over enemy submarine in 58° 17' N. 13° 22' W. attacked. Submarine was on surface and when first sighted was on course 170°, estimated speed 5 knots.
(A/C RVCO 102350 to 1 H.O.)

/Have...

War Diary.

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U/Boats.

U/Boat
attacked.
(Contd.)

Have attacked U/Boat with depth-charge.
Straddled. Dropped mark.
(A/C RVCO 102350 to 1 HO.)
Lost touch with U/Boat, last seen position
58° 28' N. 13° 22' W.
(A/C RVCO 102350 to 1 HO.)

Casualties and Defects.

KEPPEL.

My 092148A. Amend E.T.A. 1230A Feb. 10th.
Speed 20 knots.
(KEPPEL 100845 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Arrived KEPPEL.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101348A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

SLINGER.

Admty.'s 071617A and N.O.I.C. Port of London
091750. Weather permitting intend sailing
SLINGER in tow tug EMPIRE BEN, CRESTED COCK,
CHALLENGER, and SUNTUG at 0800 tomorrow.
E.T.A.1600.
(N.O.I.C. Sheerness, 101143 to N.O.I.C. Port of
London.)

TYRANT.

TYRANT has arrived as tender to R.N.C. for
training classes. Vessel requires docking and
minor repairs and alterations. Request this be
taken in hand as soon as possible.
(R.N.C.Greenwich, 101530 to F.O.I.C. London.)

Shipping and Convoys.

LADY
NELSON.

After completion of preparation for service and
embarkation of invalids hospital ship LADY
NELSON should be sailed to Halifax on 15th Feb.
(D.S.T. 101000A to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.)

U.R.108A.

My 091510A. Postponed eighteen hours.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 101428A to A.I.G.258.)

War Diary10.2.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

O.21 Sailed (for U.K.).
(F.O.G.M.A., 100703Z).

LUCIA C Italian ship LUCIA C sailed from Vigo 2145/10th. Vessel is proceeding direct to Gibraltar along coast and Master wishes to receive all possible protection.
(E.C. Vigo, 101015C to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

SS MONTE (Spanish) sent in, examined (your 211233 Jan.).
NURIA. Found in order, released.
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 101105A to Admty.).

Biscay Full text of Admiralty declaration is being
danger telegraphed by Foreign Officer to H.M. Ambassador.
zone. Your 081102 refers.
(Admty., 101327A to N.A. Madrid).

S/M. Fishing boat reports having seen at daybreak Feb.
leaving 10th large grey submarine leave Ferrol proceed
Ferrol. South.
I consider report reliable.
(Coruna, 101415B).

THEODORE Following ship ex O.N. convoys destined for U.S.
PARKER, put into Ponta Delgada for repairs THEODORE PARKER
AMELIA now ready, AMELIA EARHART ready about 17th Feb.
EARHEART, and JOHN L. SULLIVAN ready about 21st Feb. Grate-
J.L. ful if they could be included in appropriate
SULLIVAN. G.U.S. convoys.
(D.T.D. 101704A to Connav).

CORRIENTES Your 251258 Jan. What is the present location of
(German). CORRIENTES, is she in the inner or the outer
harbour.
(D.N.I., 101742A to H.M.C. Las Palmas).
+ Re German ship CORRIENTES moved from Buoy L
Inner Harbour and moved alongside old breakwater
north of Danish vessel.

U/boat off Transit aircraft of U.S. Navy sighted U/boat
Newfoundland. (German) in act of surfacing at 1530Z/10th in 047
degs. 50' N. 050 degs. 15' W. thence 300 degs.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 102240Z to Admty.).

War Diary

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Exchange of
Italian
cruisers.

Request your views on the desirability of effecting a change round between the two Italian cruisers under your command and two of those at present in the Mediterranean A.M. 252047 October refers.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 101043A to F.O.C.W.Af.).

EMILE
BERTIN.

To sail 1400Z/12th to Oran.
(Comar Dakar, 101205).

B.Y.M.S's.
for Eastern
Fleet.

Your 080946Z approved that B.Y.M.S. 2043, 2044 and 0246 should sail without third officer.
(D.M.S., 101254A to F.O.C.W.Af.).

M.F.V's.

Your 282156. In view of infrequent opportunity by ships with necessary lifting power. Intend to steam M.F.Vs. to India.
(C. in C.S.A., 101746C).

Escort
vessels.

Ref. A.M. 071236A.
(1) Consider essential to retain MALCOLM WOLVERINE, VERITY until completion of movement of 82nd Division. As these are the only reliable ships of sufficient speed to escort fast transports - estimate they can leave Freetown for Gibraltar mid July.
(2) (?TOTLAND) can be released to E.F. on arrival of WILLOWHERB about mid March but HESS+ Radar type 271 burnt out which will require renewal. Might be taken in hand on passage as no spares available Freetown.
(3) DOUGLAS and VISCOUNT machinery and hull worn out consider further employment of these ships uneconomical.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 102357Z to Admty.).

War Diary

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Opsum 285. A. 320 10th February. M.S. 3558.
8th/9th February. 2 Wellingtons successfully
laid mines in Melos Harbour.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 101007Z).
- UNTIRING Intend to sail for patrol 1330/12.
(Capt.(S) 10, 101153).
Cancelled by S.10. 120602.
- 1st S/M.F. Operation and administration. First submarine
flotilla from Beirut cease 2359/10, request you
assume operational control of submarines on
patrol from 2359 10th to 2359/13th. Submarine
summary and intentions follow to F.O.L.E.M.
(S.1, 101246 to F.O.L.E.M.).
- SIBYL Leave patrol p.m./12 passing westwards of
Stampalia to position 035 degs. 12' 026 degs. 43'
at 0201/14th. Thence as follows.
(A) 034 degs. 28' 026 degs. 40' at 0601/14th.
(B) 034 degs. 12' 026 degs. 01' at 0930/14th.
(C) 34 degs. 20' N. 23.00 E. at 2330/14.
(D) 035 degs. 20' 015 degs. 20' at 2203/16th.
- Your speed on surface is estimated as 11 knots.
 - You are to dive during daylight on 15th.
 - Total bombing restrictions arranged.
 - All time zones B.
- (Capt. (S) 1, 101321B, 110957B).
- DZIK Proceed to patrol between Kos and Stampalia.
(Capt.(S) 1, 101332B).
- Beirut Apart from the removal of C.O.M.L.A. whose duties
will be taken over by N.O.i/c P.P. it is not at
present intended to alter the status of Beirut.
C. in C. Meds. 041044.
- Apart from the political issue, once we have handed over
Beirut to French control I feel somewhat doubtful whether present
output of repairs will be maintained, moreover I suspect refits
there of French Naval craft would become long drawn out.
 - This base is of importance to certain of our smaller craft
activities A.M. 261421 December not to V.A. Malta, F.O.S. also
refers.
(F.O.L.E.M. 101410B to Admt.).
- Minefield Request any available information on detection
detection. of shallow laid minefield by air photography and
air R/C may be signalled. Effect of varying
conditions of light wind state of sea depth of
water and variety of aircraft are urgently required.
- (2) It is desired to survey minefield off Elba to enable light
force to attack enemy shipping in Piomino Channel.
(C. in C. Med., 101421A to Admt.).

/Attacks...

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attacks on U/boats. Your 051800. Confirmed.
2. French C.A.M.S. 141/4E re-assessed probably sunk on 3rd January 1943.
3. French Wellington HZ/697 assessed probably sunk equally shared with Hudson O/200.
4. Admiralty's 122115 (N.T. in W.D.) and 191927 January not to C. in C. Med. refer. (D.A.U.D., 101810A to C. in C. Med.).

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 20 for period 091800 to 101800. Previous 19 have not been numbered.
(1) Unloading of Liberties was restarted at 091730.
(2) Strong southwest wind got up 101300 and is expected to persist at gale force throughout Friday.
(3) Ten alerts during 9th with attacks by total 20 enemy aircraft. Two shot down and two probables by Ack Ack fire.
(4) DIDO and MAURITIUS have been at Anzio during 10th to give gun support. PENELOPE has remained off Formia. (C. in C. Med. at Naples, 101824).

Use of aircraft torpedoes in Med. Air Ministry have under discussion a proposal from Air Marshal Slessor that torpedo should definitely be abandoned as air anti-ship weapon in Med. Theatre. This would simplify training and equipment and enable M.T.U. and Specialist torpedo personnel and equipment to be released for Indian Ocean. The view of A.M. Slessor and A.M. Park is that the bomber R.P. weapon and cannon are adequate for all purposes in the Mediterranean.
(2) Request your remarks. (1st S.L., 101842A to C. in C. Med.). *Concur (A.C.H.) (41855A)*

LOYAL damage. Report of damage by shell burst.
4. Temporary repairs in hand Naples. Ship will proceed Taranto for permanent repairs at high priority. (C. in C. Med., Naples, 101844).

SPORTSMAN (Encountered)+A.M. 8th SS CAPO PINO 5 torpedoes expended. Require one (?S) D circulating pump impeller, shaft and bush. (SPORTSMAN, 101902B).
+ Alternatives - "Attacked by torpedo" - "Expected sailing".

SS CAPO PINO sunk. Photographic R/C Suda a.m. 9th Feb. confirms departure SS CAPO PINO reported by CX sunk a.m./8 and probably also coaster SUSANNE for Piraeus. CX reports suggest CAPO PINO may have been removing Italians from Crete. (C. in C.M.E., 101930B).

War Diary.

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B My 090324Z. Area A B C D and G (?No) fresh
Disposition. information, no change in scales of air escorts.
Area E (?one) probably on passage indicated
by D/F 2006Z/9 within 150 miles 016 degs. N.
062 degs. E. Air escort remaining W. Area F
Japanese U/B indicated by D/F off N.E. coast India at 2106Z/9
Increase scale of air escort to Y.
(C. in C. E.F. 100328Z)

R.F. HOKE Discharging and salvage operations in hand.
(Massawa S.S.T. O., 100819C)

Air Attack. Codeword "Wiseacre". I am being shadowed by
one enemy A/C course 130 degs. speed 3 knots.
Position 20 degs. 55' N. 80 degs. 10' E.
(Originator corrupt, 101710Z to Ceylon W/T)
Am being bombed.
(Originator corrupt, 101720Z to Ceylon W/T)

War Diary.10.2.1944
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. No report 30th Jan to 9th Feb.
S/M attack A. SS. KELMSCOTT disabled by 2 explosions about
and sighting 47 degs. 33' N. 52 degs. 30' W. 1300Z and
Summary. 1404Z/9th. Plume 100 feet observed at latter
time. Cause not established probably torpedoes.
(N.S.H.Q. 100830Z)

U/B (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 101443Z, Cominch, 101540Z)
Estimates.

Asdic LOSSIE obtained Asdic contact believed U/B.
Contact. (? 053 degs) 01' 020 degs. 47' (S).
Still hunting with WEAR my P.C.A. 053 degs.
05' 020 degs. 27' (S) 060 degs. 16 knots.
Remainder of E.G.16 in company.
Weather report 4470 2712.
(16 E.G. 101510Z)

CILICIA Intend transfer to Red Ensign shall take place
a.m./16.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 101514Z)

SEARCHER. Orders to sail SEARCHER escorted by EKINS to
R/V with U.T.8, thence EKINS to destination via
Argentina.
(Comeastseafon, 101535 amended 110011)
Cominch 092245 (not to all addressees) including SEARCHER in
U.T.8 was made at request of B.A.D. because LAWSON was unlikely
to sail and this left SEARCHER with only one escort.
(2) LAWSON has defective shaft. Estimated time for repair 7
days. Cominch, 092245 is therefore being carried out.
(3) EKINS due Argentina about 14th Feb. will be available as
additional convoy escort to U.K.
(B.A.D. 101707Z)

A/S A/S contacts obtained by SWANSEA and FRONTENAC
Search. in 045 degs. 12' N. 056 degs. 18' W. Two attacks
each ship. Contacts subsequently lost at
1514Z. Consider very doubtful am sweeping
area but if nothing found by 1700Z intend to
proceed in accordance with your orders weather and ice reports
0045 9937 1432.
(E.G.9, 101815Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
Have abandoned search and am proceeding. Consider it
was false alarm as number of non submarine contacts were ob-
tained in area swept.
(E.G.9, 101820Z)

U/B Report. American transport A/C reports sighting S/M
in 047 degs. 50' N. 050 degs. 15' W. at 1520Z/10th
(C. in C. C.N.A. 101856Z)
E.G.9 /...

10.2.1944
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

E.G.9. Your 091745 (N.T. in W.R.). In view of releasing 16 Bangors to U.K. and consequent weakening of local forces retention E.G.9 in Canadian Coastal Zone necessary for the time being. (N.S.H. Ottawa, 101947Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Stragglers Report No.39. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from S.C.152 ASA LOTHROP 4th Feb. damage to special lifting gear. Two arrived Halifax from O.N.S.27 EMPIRE DUCHESS 4th Feb. stragglers engine defects. EMPIRE SEVERN 3rd Feb. lost Convoy bad weather and steering engine defects. 4 arrived St. Johns N.F. 6th Feb. from O.N.221 WILLIAM PRESCOTT (U.S.) cracked deck and hull plate. RUPNG DAWES (U.S.) slight weather damage and lifeboat lost. EMPIRE ORTOLAN straggler lost convoy. CHARLES H.V. HENRY (U.S.) heavy weather damage. 3 arrived Halifax from O.N.221 JOHN HENRY (U.S.) 7th Feb. DWIGHT L. MOODY (U.S.) 8th Feb. EMPIRE NUGGET 9th Feb. and straggled lost convoy. CONE arrived Halifax from H.X. 278 HARVEY CUSHING (U.S.) 9th Feb. engine defects. One arrived New York from H.X. 278. VACPORT 9th Feb. Fire in boiler room. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 102115Z)
X as received.

U/B sighting and attack summary. (A) A/C sighted S/M 47.50 N. 50.15 W. 1520Z/10. MSTA U.S.S.R. sunk marine causes area 58 N. 151 E. date unknown. S.W. SOMERS U.S. 110 tons sunk marine causes 23.15 N. 82.05 W. on 1st. (D) R.A.F. plane sighted sub. 10.50 N. 61.15 W. 1510Z/10. A/C sighted periscope and wake 21.27 N. 76.15 W. 1515Z/10. No report 8th or 9th. (Cominch, 102130Z)

Definition of Operational Control. British Admty. and Air Min. and Cominch have agreed upon following definition of Operational Control as to Forces of the Services concerned. "Operational Control comprises those functions of Command involving composition of Task Forces or Groups or Units, assignment of Tasks, designation of objectives and co-ordination necessary to accomplish the Mission. It shall always be exercised where possible by making use of normal organisation Units assigned, through the responsible Commanders. It does not include such matters as Administration, Discipline, Internal Organisation and training of Units. U.S.Units assigned to the operational control of a British Commander or vice versa operating without a Combined Staff shall normally be assigned a Mission which sets forth the Tasks for which the Unit is assigned. It is recognized that the Operational Authority may in emergency or unusual situations employ assigned Units on any task that he considers essential to effective execution of his operational responsibility". (Cominch and C.N.O. 16, 102212)

167

10.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
751.

(12) M.T.B's strafed enemy Island positions off Northwest Bougainville night 8th - 9th while gun boats shelled shore installations Southwest Coast Bougainville St.

(13) Same night single Jap Floatplane ineffectually strafed patrol craft operating off Choiseul Bay where one enemy barge effectively attacked.

(14) 5 Avengers attacked Lakunpi airfield prior dawn 8th starting fires. These aircraft saw probable Jap S/M prior dawn 8th heading West midway between Buka Cape Saint George.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 100746Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) STARLING, WILDGOOSE, KITE, MAGPIE attacked U-Boat at 0850/9th in 49 degs. 43' N. 16 degs. 23' W. U.734
mark

(2) STARLING and MAGPIE attacked U-Boat at 1635/9 in 49 degs. 44' N. 16 degs. 07' W. U238
mark

(3) A/C G/53 attacked 2 U/Bs course 252 degs. at 0425/10 in 49 degs. 53' N. 17 degs. 20' W.
(4) A/C D/120 sighted U/B at 0001/10th in 60 degs. 42' N. 14 degs. 20' W.
(D.D.I.C.101141A)

U/B
Estimates.

Sightings and D/Fs in last 24 hours have been numerous and indicate that main disposition extends from approximately 61 degs. 00' N. 13 degs. 00' W. to 48 degs. 30' N. 18 degs. 00' W.

Density probably greater in both northern and southern portions of area.

(D.D.I.C.101440A to A.I.G.331)

No change indicated.

(D.D.I.C.101501A to A.I.G. 332)

168

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Operation F.W.. 1. The destroyers OBDURATE and VIRAGO left the Kola Inlet at 1830A today for Scapa.
- A/S Operations off Western Ireland. 1 U-Boat apparently sunk. 2. At 0252N today the sloops WOODPECKER and WILD GOOSE of E.G.2 apparently sank a U-Boat about 500 miles west of Lands End. Much oil and wreckage seen. *U. 424 sunk*
- Biscay A/S Operations. One U-Boat probably damaged. 3. At 2312Z last night a U-Boat approaching to attack convoy O.3.67/K.M.S.41 about 480 miles west of Ushant was detected and attacked twice by the corvette GERANIUM; and, during the subsequent search by GERANIUM and SCARBOROUGH, it surfaced twice and fired two torpedoes (probably "Gnats") without result. GERANIUM and SCARBOROUGH are to continue the search until daylight tomorrow. The U-Boat is considered probably damaged. Another U-Boat was attacked by A/C at 2325 about 270 miles west of the Gironde.
- Spanish Fishing Fleet. 4. On 15th February Admiralty intend to extend the Biscay danger area to the N. and W. of its present limits to enable us to exclude Spanish fishing vessels from waters between 49° and 51° N. and the current sink-at-sight instructions will then also be extended accordingly.
- U-Boat attacked. *U. 283 sunk* 5. Two U-Boats in company were twice attacked by our A/C about 150 miles W. by S. of the Faroes early this morning and one of the U-Boats was reported apparently disabled.
- Damaged U-Boat at Ferrol. 6. (a). Coruna yesterday sent a report, which he considers reliable, that a submarine was seen leaving Ferrol southward at daybreak yesterday. (b). It is reported today that the U-Boat re-entered Ferrol yesterday in a damaged condition; this is confirmed by the Minister of Marine; and this evening O.21 was ordered to establish a patrol off the port.
- TIRPITZ bombed. 7. During last night four Russian D.B.3 A/C attacked TIRPITZ in Altenfjord and one near miss is claimed. The aerodromes at Hammerfest, Kirkenes and Luostari were also bombed last night by eleven further Russian A/C who had failed to reach Altenfjord owing to fog.

War Diary.

11.2.1944.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Tabarin."

8. The auxiliary minesweeper WILLIAM SCORESBY with SS. FITZROY, carrying a wintering party arrived today at Port Locroy, Graham Land and set about establishing a base and removing Argentine marks.

*1 x 66°S 60°W Antarctic
South of Falkland Is)*

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

9.(a). A westerly gale with a very heavy swell continued throughout today.
(b). The enemy resumed his air attacks and shelling of Anzio today. No naval damage was caused.

"Avalanche".

10.(a). The destroyers TROUBRIDGE and TENACIOUS last night carried out a sweep between San Benedetto and Ancona and shelled two trains. No shipping was seen.
(b). ULSTER and KEMPENFELT both suffered damage in Torre Annunciata harbour (Gulf of Naples) when a merchant ship broke adrift.
(c). SS. ILE DE BREHAT was mined and sunk in the Gulf of Naples today.

Aegean.

11. Middle East aircraft again carried out successful operations against enemy supply shipping in the Aegean today.

East Indies.

U/Bs.

12.(a). SS. ASPHALION in convoy J.C.36 was torpedoed at 0219Z today in 17.21 N. 83.32 E. (about 20 miles south east of Vizagapatam.) The escorts LAUNCESTON, IPSWICH and JUMNA attacked a U-Boat sighted near the position and report oil bubbles and an oil patch 9 square miles in extent, and the U-Boat is considered probably sunk in 17.25 N. 83.21 E. ASPHALION reached Vizagapatam.
(b). At 0930 today SS. MARWARRI reported that she had picked up the entire crew of SS. VIVA (Cochin for Aden and U.K. independently), which was torpedoed at 091800Z in 12.30 N. 57.50 E. (about 195 miles east of Socotra.)

/ (c) ...

War Diary.

11.2.1944.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

U/Bs.
(Contd.)

12. (c). At 1516D today an aircraft reported a U-Boat and a tanker in company in 23.00 S. 73.11 E. (900 miles E.S.E. of Mauritius.)

H.C/C.H.
Convoys.

13. Owing to the increased threat of air and U-Boat attack C. in C.E.F. intends that all ships eligible for convoys (9 knots and over) sailing between Calcutta and Chittagong shall be escorted. His intentions for the institution of C.H. convoys are given in messages today and on 15th and 14th February. The first convoy to sail will be C.H.4 on 17th inst. H.C. convoys (Calcutta to Chittagong) are to continue to leave every 3 days as at present. (However, on 14th February, H.C.S.O. Chittagong reported that convoy C.H.1 had sailed escorted by KATHIAWAR and KALAVATI.)

America & West Indies.

U.T.8.

14. The U.S. battleship NEVADA left New York today escorting convoy U.T.8.

War Diary.11.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Damaged
U-Boat
at Ferrol.

Please investigate urgently report damaged German sub. entered Ferrol at 1000 Feb. 10th and was taken in afloat same afternoon. Please signal full details and extent of damage.
(B.N.A. Madrid 111314 to Corunna.)
Comment: This incident has been previously reported.

Biscay
Danger
Area.

It is intended to issue by broadcast on Admiralty Notice on February 15th amending existing Bay of Biscay danger area in following particulars:-
A. Northern Boundary. The line drawn through the following positions (i) the Bishop Rock Light (lat. $49^{\circ} 52'$ N. long. $06^{\circ} 27'$ W. (approx.))
(ii) $51^{\circ} 00'$ N. $07^{\circ} 00'$ W. (iii) $51^{\circ} 00'$ N. $15^{\circ} 00'$ W.
B. Western Boundary. The meridian of $15^{\circ} 00'$ W.
2. Reason for the extension north and west is to enable us to exclude Spanish fishing vessels from waters between 51° N. and 49° N. into which area the Spanish Authorities have announced their intention of sending their fishing fleet.
3. (a). Fishing vessels from U.K. are at present permitted to fish north of 50° N. and as far westwards as 16° W. and it is necessary that this fishing should continue.
(b). Allied convoys and miscellaneous shipping proceeding south of Eire are sometimes routed east of 16° W.
4. In view of para. 2 standing sink-at-sight instructions are not to be issued within the newly declared area (a) north of 49° N. or (b) west of 12° W.
5. C. in C. Plymouth is, however, authorised to bring into force at any time full sink-at-sight instructions either in area (a) or (b) in para. 4 subject to our own shipping being safeguarded.
6. The general result of the new declaration, therefore, is that current sink-at-sight instructions for Bay of Biscay continue to apply both for fishing and other vessels except when extended by C. in C. Plymouth under para. 5.
7. North of $42^{\circ} 15'$ N. east of $15^{\circ} 00'$ W. and south of $49^{\circ} 00'$ N. authority to attack, outside sink-at-sight zone, vessels over 2,500 tons whose movements have not been notified, remains in full force.
(V.C.N.S. 111902A to A.I.G. 21, F.O.S. A.O.C. in C.C.C. F.O.G.M.A.)

Defence of United Kingdom.Faroes A/A
defences.

Both 5.5 gun Naes battery now placed out of action. 2 Bofors at Klaaksvik and 1 Bofors Tverra dismantled with effect from 11th February. Admiralty's 021035 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 111717A to Admty.)

Iceland.

Admiralty letter N 883/44 dated 17th January. As a first measure propose that 16 of the 25 coast-watching posts in Iceland (C), be closed down. Thereby releasing approx. 50 leading and Able Seaman immediately.

War Diary.11.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.

Iceland.
(Contd.)

2. The retention of the remaining nine posts is considered necessary. These are

A. Akranes, Raufarhofn and Dalatangi where coast-watching personnel maintain M/F D/F beacons and supply meteorological data and

B. Atfeyri, Isafjord, Siglusjord, Eskifjord, Hofn and Vestmannaeyri which are clearance ports and retention of coastwatching personnel is desirable for reasons of security.

3. The Commanding General U.S. Army has been informed of this proposal and is prepared to accept the consequent reduction in security.
(A.C.I.C. 112020A to Admty.)

Operations.

A/S
Operations
off Western
Ireland.
One U-Boat
apparently
sunk by
WOODPECKER
and WILD
GOOSE.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 51° 10' N. 19° 20' W.
(A/C NPR 22 to 19 Group T.O.R. 110055.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 50° 08' N. 16° 10' W.
(A/C JNR 17 110610 to 19 Group.)

Cancel my 101233. If not threatened leave O.N. 223 forthwith and proceed on course 215° speed of advance 14 knots if weather permits.
(C. in C.W.A. 110931Z to E.G.16, FENCER, STRIKER.)
My 110931. A U-Boat on patrol is making signals regularly between the hours of 0001A and 0100A also between 0800A and 0930A daily.

2. Carry out sweep for this U-Boat in area 100 miles radius of 047° 30' N. 027° 01' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 111003Z to E.G.16, STRIKER, FENCER.)
My 101353. Proceed at economical speed direct to area between 050° N. and 052° 30' N. long. 019° W. to 021° 30' W. Carry out A/S search in this area. If conditions are unsuitable for efficient Asdic operations Group should withdraw from area by day. Present intentions are that Group will be required to meet M.K.F.28A in position AA. 041° 33' N. 018° 30' W. at 1600A/16th and escort to N.Channel.
(C. in C.W.A. 111104A to E.G.3.)

Have detected one unidentified A/C bearing 130° distant 30 miles height 2000 feet. Position 241° DD. 82 miles.
(R.A.E.C. 111104 to Whitehall W/T.)

Consider U-Boat sunk by WILD GOOSE and WOODPECKER at 0252N/11th in 050° N. 018° 14' W. STARLING not in company at the time. Much oil now rising. A few bits of wood picked up. Probably human remains sighted. Remaining in vicinity for the present.
(E.G.2 111130A to C. in C.W.A.)

Intend to pass through position DD. at 2015A. CHURCHILL E.T.A. Merville 0200A. ROYALIST E.T.A. Greenock 0600A tomorrow.
(R.A.E.C. 111405 to C. in C.W.A.)

Propose NAIRANA and ACTIVITY part company with S.L.147 at 2000A today and proceed to Tail of the Bank for fuel stores and to land crashed A/C. E.T.A. 1400A/12th.
(NAIRANA 111550A to C. in C.W.A.)

RATTLESNAKE (S.O.) COCKATRICE and LOYALTY can be made available now for anti U-Boat operations in Northern Area of North Western Approaches.

U.424
Sunk

173

War Diary.11.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

A/S
Operations
off Western
Ireland.
One U-Boat
apparently
sunk by
WOODPECKER
and WILD
GOOSE.
(Contd.)

2. If required request you assume operational control of these ships forthwith.
3. They must return to Loch Ewe by p.m. 18th Feb. (C. in C.H.F. 111718A to C. in C.W.A.)
1 unidentified aircraft bearing 060° (?) course 150 height 2000 ft. My position 240 DD1. (R.A.E.C. to Whitehall W/T No T.O.O. Recd. 112052.)
My 111130A. WILD GOOSE obtained asdic contact at 0104N in patch fresh smelling of diesel oil and attacked with depth charges. WOODPECKER then attacked followed by WILD GOOSE again. 13 explosions were heard after this 10 charges pattern. This was followed by hammering and breaking up noises and 2 lesser explosions confirmed by MAGPIE. Much oil and some wreckage of which several pieces wood were recovered. Oil still rising 1030N and it now extends over 6 miles. Consider kill fully confirmed. (E.G.2 111945A to Admty.)

ENRIGHT and FRAMENT detached 112245Z to investigate radar target 55.12 N. 11.22 W. Believe possible sub. Target astern of convoy faded at about 5 miles upon approach of escort. Escorts directed to search area for two hours.

(C.T.G. 21.7 112333A to C. in C.W.A.)

Leave Lough Foyle as necessary R/V H.X.277 due position A at 0800Z/12. No Liverpool local escort available. Ocean escort HADLEIGH CASTLE.

(Care. D.W.A. 112340 to SOUTHERN BREEZE.)

Biscay A/S
Operations.
One U-Boat
probably
damaged.

D/F's at 2141/10, 2216/10, 2258/10 and 2324/10 on series 7 indicate one or more U/Bs. in vicinity of 48° N. 16° W.
2. Maintain high speed between lat. 48° N. and 46° N (D.C. 110116A to GLASGOW.)

My 102310Z. U-Boat hunted by GERANIUM and SCARBOROUGH surfaced at 0311Z and dived again at 0338. Hunt continuing, but ships not at present in contact.

(ROCHESTER 110450Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U-Boat detected by GERANIUM modified radar approaching to attack convoy O.S.67/K.M.S.41 at 2312Z/10th. GERANIUM forced him to submerge and attacked twice with depth charges. During subsequent search U-Boat surfaced at 0325/11th at range 5 miles. Both ships chased and he dived, fired a torpedo which exploded at end of run probably "Gnat". After further A/S search both ships obtained contact and attacked with Hedgehog without result and lost contact in very bad A/S conditions. U-Boat again surfaced at 0601 but was again forced to dive firing 2nd "Gnat". Am continuing hunt not in contact in 043° 18' N. 016° 07' W. U-Boat probably damaged. Request A/C.

(SCARBOROUGH 110730Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Am being attacked by one Ju.88 in 43° 15' N. 09° 30' W.

(A/C 16 111040A to 19 Group.)

A. 2305/10, 6800 yards starboard beam of convoy O.S.67/K.M.S.41
B. Radar contact sighted on surface twice. C. Dived on sighting rocket flares and altered course towards U-Boat. E. At least 5 decoy balloons were sighted. F. 2318/10th and 0619/11 believed astern. J. A/S contact by SCARBOROUGH decreased, not in immediate vicinity. L. Explosion was heard when initial contact of A/S was 1500 yards.

(GERANIUM 111111Z to Admty.)

/Have...

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. One U-Boat probably damaged. (Contd.) Have A.S.V. contact 47.21 N. 08.52 W. probably U/B. (A/C 21 111202 to 19 Group.) Continue to search until 2359Z/11th, then rejoin unless other orders are received. (ROCHESTER 111228Z to SCARBOROUGH, GERANIUM.) ROCHESTER's 111228Z. Search is to be continued until daylight. (C. in C.W.A. 111747A to SCARBOROUGH, GERANIUM.) Am over enemy S/M in 45° 32' N. 8° 34' E. course

35°. Enemy was, when first sighted, on course 250° speed 10 kts. (A/C 16 112320 to 19 Group.) Have attacked U-Boat with 6 depth charges. U-Boat has dived position 45.32 N. 07.26 W. (A/C MCD16 112325 to 19 Group.)

Operation F.W. Scapa arrivals SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR and HALCYON. (A.C.O.S. 110133A to C. in C.Rosyth.) Arrived RATTLESNAKE, COCKATRICE, READY. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 110733A to C. in C.H.F.) R.A.56. Arrived off Cape Wrath 2300A/10th. Ships proceeding direct to destinations. (D.T.D. 111738A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Kola Inlet. Sailed OBDURATE and VIRAGO. My 091210 and 101951 refer. (S.B.N.O.N.Russia 111830A to C. in C.H.F.)

S.C. Operations. A. Intend sailing S.C.Operation from Scalloway (i) 2200A/14th weather permitting. (ii) 062° 30' N. 006° 00' E. (iii) RAMOSE BORODIN 3 (iv) 2 days. (v) 060° Muckle Flugga. (vi) No. B. Cancel my 021017, my 052210 and my 081106. (A.C.O.S. 111229A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 111407A.) (C. in C.Portsmouth 111531A.)

V.P. Operation. My 011658. Sailed at 1140A today M.T.B. 627 S.O. and 653 in tow of MOLDE. 2. Yes. 3. S.O. has discretion to carry out my 011654 instead according to circumstances. (A.C.O.S. 111455A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. My 111411 for in the vicinity 062° 50' or 065° 10' read between 062° 50' and 065° 10'. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 111727A to TRUSTY, STUBBORN.) Positions of submarines at 0800/12th and movements for the following 24 hours.

/A...

175

11.2.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. (Contd.)

A. TRADEWIND vicinity 73° N. 15° E.
B. STUBBORN off Kya.
C. SATYR off Stadlandet leaving patrol to pass through 62° N. 04° E. at 0800/13th, thence Lerwick dived by day within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.
D. TAKU off Skudesnes.
E. TRUSTY 61° 35' N. 01° 01' W. probably on surface for Lerwick.
F. SYRTIS sails Lerwick 1200/12th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 62° N. 01° E. 63° 05' N. 02° 25' E. 62° 53' N. 05° 01' E. to patrol off Stadlandet. Dived by day when within 60 miles off Norwegian coast.
G. UNSHAKEN sails Lerwick 1800/12th through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 62° N. 01° E. thence course 030° probably on surface. (F.O.S. 111744A to Admty.)

O.21. Damaged U-Boat has entered Ferrol. Proceed forthwith to establish anti U-Boat patrol within vicinity of port. Total bombing restrictions arranged details follow. Acknowledge and report P.C. and S.
(F.O.G.M.A. 111904A to O.21.)

In view of British Naval Attache Madrid's report of damaged U-Boats at Ferrol, T.O.O. received corrupt, O.21, has been instructed establish anti U-Boat patrol in vicinity of Ferrol. F.O.C.S/MS is requested to assume operational control on O.21 crossing 043° N. at 1800/12th.
(F.O.G.M.A. 111922A to F.O.S.)

Operation "Posthorn." My P.C. and S. 060° 53' N. 001° 28' W. 210° 15 knots. E.T.A. 0610/12th. RICHELIEU, FURIOUS and 7 destroyers in company.
(V.A.2 111931A to A.C.O.S. C. in C.H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

Hammerfest. Proposed Russian attack. Your 091531A. It is desired to encourage Russians to undertake this operation and not to restrain them.
(A.C.N.S.H. 110048A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

TIRPITZ Hammerfest Kirkenes and Luostari bombed. My 071701. Russians carried out raids last night on German battleship ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ, Hammerfest, Kirkenes and Luostari aerodromes.
2. 4 D.B.3's were sent to Altenfjord each carried 2000 pounds of bombs. No hits observed on TIRPITZ but one near miss claimed by first machine in the light of flare.
3. Conditions were good with full moon.
4. There was only light opposition from two or three shore batteries, none from TIRPITZ.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 111001A to Admty.) *See also p. 195*

War Diary.

11.2.1944.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Orkney area. At 102155A. Prep X was issued on hostile plane 090° Able Buoy 50 miles 23000 feet, course 270° Radar showed A/C turned S.W. for 30 miles before proceeding W. again to cross mainland just S. of Duncansby Head.
Over Thurso A/C turned due S. and passed out of area on same course at 2223A/10 when negative prep X was given. 2 Spitfires airborne but made no contact. Not considered cloud conditions would have permitted reconnaissance of Flow.
(A.C.O.S. 111157A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats attacked. Am over 2 enemy submarines in 60° 32' N. 14° 39' W. Submarines were on surface.
(A/C LCSC 110235 to 1 H.O.)
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. My posn. is 060° 33' N. 015° 25' W. Submarine now submerged. Result not observed.
(A/C LCSC 110310A to 1 H.O.)
Am over enemy submarine in 59° 45' N. 13° 42' W. Submarine was on surface and when first sighted was on course 290° estimated speed 8 knots.
(A/C LCSD 110408A to 1 H.O.)
Have attacked U/B with depth charge. U/B on surface position 59.35 N. 13. (corrupt group) W. apparently disabled.
(A/C LCSD 110408A to 1 H.O.)
U-Boat has dived position 59.35 N. 13. (?42') W.
(A/C LCSD 110435A to 1 H.O.)
Correct position U-Boat 60° 45' N. 12° 50' W.
U. 283 sunk (A/C 110654A to 1 H.O.)

Casualties & Defects.

EL GRILLO. My 101744. EL GRILLO sank at 1930N/10th.
2. EARNER will remain at Reykjavik.
3. Salvage officer will proceed AKERSHUS escorted by EARRAID. C. in C.H.F. 101948 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 110030A to Admty.)
Intend sailing MIDDLETON to Seidisfjord at 0330A/11th. E.T.A. 1800A/12th, C. in C.H.F.'s 101948 refers.
(A.C.O.S. 110327A to A.C.I.C.)
My 110327. Sailed.
(A.C.O.S. 110401 to A.C.I.C.)

HELMOND. Received by North Foreland radio 0637Z. Broken down, require towing from 2 miles North No. 4.
(HELMOND 110727A.)
Departure H.M.T. KROOMAN to assist merchant vessel with engine trouble, vicinity 4 buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 110839A to C. in C.Nore.)
Arrival H.M.T. KROOMAN towing SS. HELMOND with engine trouble straggler from F.S.57.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 111259A to C. in C.Nore.)

/SLINGER...

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

SLINGER.

My 101143A. Postponed, weather.
(Comdr. Sheerness 110921 to F.O.I.C. London.)
Tilbury 11th February arrival SLINGER and secured
alongside stage.
(F.C.I.C. London 112040A to C. in C.Nore.)

ERNE.

ERNE docked a.m. today at Londonderry.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 111130A to Admty.)

WILLOWHERB.

WILLOWHERB arrived.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 111211A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

GEORGE S.
WASSON.

Sailed GEORGE S.WASSON as in my 101552 plus
SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN in attendance.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 111944A to N.C.S.O. Barry.)

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 278.

63 M/Vs. Names and destinations.
(D.F.D. 111716A.)

War Diary.11.2.1944
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gibraltar (A) Y A 48 V 233.
Opsum (F) A/S. (G) 35.22 N. to 37.04 N. by 06.10 W.
10 Feb. to 07.03 W. V 233 divered to Hunt U-Boat 35.22 N.
07.50 W. off patrol 1228 - (?1243 or 1743).
ZE (A) 48 - 1206 - Day - 35.22 N. 06.50 W. -
Periscope Feather only seen from 2500 feet course
360 disappeared in 10 secs to attack.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar, 110340A)
Received in W.R. at 111340/Feb.

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 36.22 N. 6.19 W.
Reports. UUQR T.O.R. 110624)
Am over enemy S/M in 36.22 N. 6.18 W. S/M was
on surface and when first sighted was on course
110 degs. estimated speed 15 knots.

(A/C UMAR, 110632)
Am over enemy S/M in 36.12 N. 6.08 W.
(A/C C/S GTU 6, 110920)
Nr. 2 Contacted submerged 36.12 N. 06.08 tracking.
(A/C C/S GTU 6 110935)
Nr. 3. Contact identified submerged (?wreckage)
36.14 N. 06.07 E.
(A/C C/S GTU 6, 110950A)

Damaged Large grey S/M sighted at daybreak Feb. 10th
U/B at leaving Ferrol proceeding South.
Ferrol. O.21 pass to KILBIRNIE.
(F.O.G.M.A. 110936A to TANTALUS, UNSWERVING, 0.21)
Large grey vessel sighted at daybreak Feb. 10th
leaving Ferrol proceeding South. D.S. O.21 pass
to H.M.S. KILBIRNIE.
(F.O.G.M.A. 110936A to TANTALUS, UNSWERVING, 0.21).

My 111314 Ministry of Marine confirms arrival of U-Boat.
Full extent of damage will be known tomorrow, but so far as is
known she has small hole in hull. She is alongside tug which
is pumping out water and is anchored between La Grana and ship
in shallow water in event of U-Boat sinking. As a ship occupies
dry dock repairs cannot be taken in hand.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 111740A) Note: A.M. 120306 refers.
At time of circulation N.T. in W.R.
My telegram, 101415/10th. German S/M re-entered Ferrol
Feb. 10th apparently damaged will be dry docked today Feb. 11th.
(Coruna, 112011B to Admty.)

Your 111? received and understood. My P.C.S. at 2100
039 degs. 45' N. 009 degs. 52' W. 360 degs. 11 knots.
(O.21, 112105A to F.O.G.M.A.)
Reference received corrupt.

Gibraltar /...

179

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Gibraltar
Opsum.

(A) LR 179 - 0616 - night - M.K.111 - 36.24 N.
06.20 W. - 110 - 15 - 517 ton type large C/T -
surfaced seen by moonlight - 90 red - 6 X 250 Tor-
pex from 150 ft. OA undershot - 50 - 100 short
of C/T to port - no result seen U/B C circled
for 15 mins. after attack firing intermittent
and inaccurate heavy flak until R.179 lost contact
All times A.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 111320A).

SS. NICOLINE
MAERSK
(aground)

Your letter February 4th re NICOLINE MAERSK.
Request you will arrange for close watch on
Salvage Operation and report progress by signal.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 111342A to (?British Vice Consul
Tarragona), (R) Admty.)

S/M's on
passage.

S/M's on passage to Foreign Commands necessarily
carry much additional gear and spares which tend
to reduce efficiency and habitability.
(2) They should therefore only be diverted for
patrol duties in emergency. Your 301135/Jan.
and 051544 Feb. refer.
(V.C.N.S. 111541A to F.O.G.M.A.)

CORRIENTES

Your 101742/. Vessel mentioned is moored along-
side Old Breakwater in inner harbour opposite
end of Catalina Wharf.
(R.O. Las Palmas, 111645 to Admty.)
/ Is CORRIENTES in the inner or outer harbour.

MAX
ALBRECHT.

My 091956 Ministry of Marine has given direction
for strict watch on MAX ALBRECHT and for only
sufficient food stuff for crew to be allowed to be
taken on.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 111751A)

4 Shipwrecked
Personnel.

Ministry Foreign Affairs states in note dated 29th
to H.M.Ambassador that 4 shipwrecked personnel
picked up by Spanish destroyer Jan. 2nd have
been interned. My 031147. (N.T. in W.D.)
(B.N.A.Madrid, 11831A)

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

VERITY,
GARLAND.

Reference F.O.C.W.A.F's 06/1043Z. Sailed 9th
Feb.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 111040)

Exchange
of Italian
Cruisers.

Your 101043. ABRUZZI and AOSTA are working well and their personnel have settled down and are very well behaved. In 90 days on station they have been 45 and 49 days at sea respectively which is very creditable for Italian ships. ABRUZZI can only use one engine due to defective propellor. She will be docked at Freetown on February 22nd for temporary repairs pending arrival of new propeller in March. AOSTA much reduced in endurance and also requires docking and repairs which are provisionally planned for end of March or later. Consider there is no necessity for these ships to be relieved until mid-May after 6 months on station and that they can be maintained at Freetown provided certain spares and material are supplied from Italy.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 111544Z to Admty.)

181

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

BARBARIGO. Your 091648A. No survivors are in our hands nor are details of loss known. It is considered that a destroyer attack in Bay of Biscay may have sunk BARBARIGO.
(D.N.I., 110131A to C. in C. Med.)

ILE DE BREHAT. Intercepted by Niton Radio 055 G.M.T. 500k/cs begins: Port Officer Napoli ILE DE BREHAT require immediate assistance. Master. Ends.
(ILE DE BREHAT, 110155.)

Beirut - S/M movements. 9th Feb. 1944 arrival PIPINOS. 10th Feb. 1944 arrival DOLFIJN. Departure TORBAY.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 110842B.)

Opsum. 289. (9/10 or 8/10?) Feb.
6 Liberators and 8 Halifaxes? mining and diversionary bombing Heraklion Harbour, Crete. 4 aircraft returned early due to weather. 21? mines successfully laid in approaches to and in harbour. 3 other mines hung up. (3 salvoes?) three-quarters of a mile off shore. Bombing resulted in many bursts across gun positions. 1 small fire seen. Other hits near warehouses and power station.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 111030Z.)

Shipping, Australia to U.K. A.M. 081924 (see Australia and New Zealand). In order to assess the additional escort commitments, request information may be provided regarding the number of ships which will have to be accepted in (A) slow, (B) fast Med. convoys.
(C. in C. Med., 111050A to Admty.)

Orange vessels. No objection to proposal in A.M. 091305.
(C. in C. Med., 111054A.)

Operation "Shingle". S.O.P.A. situation report to 0800/11th. Except weather a quiet day. Unloading continued until noon when westerly swell made this impossible. Weather then deteriorated generally, wind sea and swell increasing from west with heavy breadth. Conditions better this morning but no harbour work possible. Enemy have ceased shelling anchorage and there have been no air raids during 24 hours. A/S search continued during day but without result. 3 M.Ls. cut 2 mines clearing approach to P beach. 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers bombarded from 0830 to 1500 on left flank. Army situation apparently static.
(Capt. (D) 19, 111111A.)

/CURIE ...

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

CURIE. Cancel my 071446 (N.T. in W.D.) Instructions to detach from G.U.S.30 and proceed to Malta. Arrangements.
(S.O. S/Ms. Malta, 111211A.)

BRUNHILDE (German) Tons 1030 (probably nett) entered Dardanelles 2200 G.M.T./10th bound for Black Sea.
2. Cannot stop at present. Have you any information which would enable arrest here.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 111245C to S.O.(I) E. Med.)
Reply to para. 2 of your 111245C* is no.
(S.O.(I) E. Med., 111521B to S.O.(I). Istanbul.)
* German BRUNHILDE entered Dardanelles. Have you any information which would enable arrest here.

WAYLAND. Ref. my 222353 Jan. Considerations affecting repairs.
(C. in C. Med., 111210A to C. in C. E.F.)

PRINCIPESSA GIOVANNA. Have taken possession of PRINCIPESSA GIOVANNA today, being transferred to British Registry tomorrow and intend to sail her for Algiers 15th Feb. in M.K.S.40 by which time all relevant action as in your 281330 will have been complied with.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 111540.)

Italian S/Ms (training) for Freetown and Eastern Fleet. Names and dates of readiness.
(C. in C. Med., 111741A.)

Exchange of Italian cruisers. Admty. 101043 being passed F.O.T.A.L.I. no objection to exchange, one new arrival would be GARIBALDI F.O.T.A.L.I's 281853 Jan. not to Admty. refers. MONTECUCCOLI appears most suitable as other relief F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to remark.
(C. in C. Med., 111744A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

U. 593 (sunk 13th Dec. 1943). U.S. Navy Dept. p.m./3rd Feb. Announced sinking of enemy S/M in Med. by CALPE and WAINWRIGHT.
C. in C. Med. was not consulted beforehand.
(C. in C. Med., 111746A.)

"Avalanche" :- Situation Reports. Operation "Shingle" Sitrep. No.21. Westerly gale with very heavy swell has continued throughout the day. There have been no sailings to Anzio since 101730.

11.2.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

"Avalanche":- (2) ULSTER and KEMPENFELT both suffered damage
Situation in Torre Annunciata harbour as a result merchant
Reports. vessel breaking adrift. Both non-operational
(Contd.) pending docking and repairs estimated at three
and two weeks respectively.

(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 111815A.)

Situation Report No. 292.

(1) Operation "Shingle". Weather prevented unloading in Anzio
on 9th and p.m./10th Feb. and gale still persists but shows
signs of moderating tomorrow 12th.

(2) No bombardment of port since 9th Feb.

(3) A/A claim 2 enemy aircraft shot down and 2 probables during
air raids on 9th. No enemy air activity on 10th.

(4) DIDO, MAURITIUS and 2 destroyers gave firing support to left
flank of army in Anzio area on 10th.

(5) SS. ILE DE BREHAT was mined and sunk in Gulf of Naples on
11th Feb.

(C. in C. Med., 111855A.)

War Diary.11.2.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ASPHALION Ship torpedoed position 017 degs. 35' N. 083 degs. 40' E.
torpedoed. (JUMNA, 110219Z)
My 110219/ correct position 017 degs. 21' N. 083 degs. (?32') E.
(JUMNA, 110436Z).
/ Re attack by torpedo.

Informing addressees as JUMNA 110219Z.
(C. in C. E.F. 110340Z to S. and A. E.I. Station. Admty. Air Authorities. E.Af.)
LOVSTAD of J.C. 36 arrived. LAUNCESTON (?and) IPSWICH continuing hunt.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam, 110456Z)
Vessel referred to in my 110340/ is ASPHALION. Ship is still afloat and tugs proceeding to assistance. Air and surface hunt instituted in area.
(C. in C. E.F. 110937Z)
/ Ship torpedoed 11th Feb.

Bi-weekly Area A.B.D. and E. believed clear of U-Boats.
U-Boat Scale air escort W.
Disposition Area C position of U-Boat indicated D/F at
No.24. 2006Z/9th is now thought to be within 200 miles of (?012 degs) 30' N. 059 degs. E. This is probably the U-Boat which then D/F North East of Socotra on 6th.

Area F. SS. ASHRIDGE reported having been missed by a torpedo in position 021 degs. N. 090 degs. 35' E. at 0400Z/10th.
A Ship in convoy J.C. 36 was torpedoed in 017 degs. 35' N. 083 degs. 40' E. at 0219Z/11th. It therefore appears that in addition to the Japanese submarine indicated by D/F at 2106Z/9th off North East Coast of India there is another submarine in area.
Scale air escort Z.
Area G. No further information of U-Boat (German) in this area but scale air escort remains X.
(C. in C. E.F. 110401Z)

Routeing. Routeing to and (?from) South Africa.
Amendment to M.E.I.R.I.
(C. in C. E.F. 110442Z)

SS. VIVA Picked up 37 survivors all hands of Norwegian
Sunk. VIVA torpedoed 012 degs. 30' N. (?057 degs.)
50' E. 18 G.M.T. /9th.
(MARWARRI, 110830Z, C. in C. E.F. 111101Z)

Details /...

11.2.1944
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Details of sinking of FORT BUCKINGHAM. Ref. C. in C. E.F. 716 H/71/27 dated 23rd April 1943.
 (A) FORT BUCKINGHAM.
 (B) 1942Z/20th Jan. position not known by survivors interrogated but estimated to be approx. 008 degs. 50' N. 066 degs. 25' E. according to route and S. of A.
 (C) S/M. (D) Torpedo sunk. (E) Port side No.4 hold.
 (F) 32 excluding 5 who died before landing. (G) No.
 (H) No. Reason not known but ship sank in 6 minutes.
 (I) Total survivors seen at daybreak 21st Jan. numbered 51 on 5 rafts. Survivors under F were on three rafts leaving balance of 14 on two rafts. No boats were used.
 (J) and (K) Went down with ship.
 (N) Chief Engineer and Apprentice.
 (S.O.(I) Bombay, 110924Z)

Opsum No.698. Enemy activity. 9/10 Feb. Probable flying boat bombed hospital ship KARAPARA 95 miles E.N.E. of Vizagapatam.
 (S.E.A.A.C. 111001Z)

~~re~~ Institution of HC/CH convoys. Owing to the increased threat of air and U-Boat attack it is considered desirable that all ships eligible for convoys sailing between Calcutta and Chittagong and vice versa should be escorted
 (2) Intend that:- (a) Eligible ships sailing between Calcutta and Chittagong should proceed in H.C. Convoy.
 (b) C.H. Convoy should be instituted leaving Chittagong for Calcutta every 3 days. The C.H. convoy to sail as soon as possible after the arrival of an H.C. convoy to ensure a quick turn round for escort.
 (3) Port congestion at Chittagong may prevent adoption of alternate returning convoy plan but as many ships as possible would be included.
 (4) Request your very early remarks.
 (C. in C. E.F. 111041Z to N.O.I.C. 's Calcutta and Chittagong)

U/B and Tanker. A/C report one tanker and one U-Boat in 023 degs 00' S. 073 degs. 11' E. at 1516D/11th.
 (C. in C. E.F. 111509Z)

VICTORIOUS. A.M. 172010/December and 022240/January. The departure of VICTORIOUS to join your flag will be delayed.
 (2) A further signal will be made.
 (A.C.N.S.(F), 112006A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.)

11.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Co-operation
of air and
surface forces
for defence
of convoys.

Your 052043Z. Cominch's 222055 December left certain points of major importance unsettled, notably use of convoy escort code, method of reporting positions relative to a convoy, method of surface homing. These we have been discussing with C. in C.W.A.
2. We are also discussing with C. in C.W.A. your 212143Z and it hoped to reply to it very shortly.
(V.C.N.S., 110114A to B.A.D.).

SEARCHER,
EKINS,
ARIADNE.

Norfolk (Va.) departed 10th Feb. SEARCHER escorted by EKINS. Former to join convoy U.T.8 off New York and latter then to proceed Argentia. ARIADNE to escort U.S. Troop convoy to Canal zone.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 110330Z).

U/boat

The following has been read 000 000 000 V AJ 1 S/M 4336.
(Newfoundland, 110355Z.)

N.S.H.Q.
S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

B. U.S. Transport A/C sights S/M 47.50 N. 50.15 W. 1520Z/10th.
D. SWANSEA and FRONTENAC attack doubtful contact 45.12 N. 56.18.
2. Contact lost at 1514Z/10th.
(N.S.H.Q., 110919Z.)

EMPIRE
JAVELIN
(L.S.I.)

Norfolk (Va.) departed 9th Feb. escorted by DEANE and CRANSTON for U.K. via Bermuda.
(N.S.H.Q., 111301Z.)

H.X.278.
BERKELEY
CASTLE.

BERKELEY CASTLE sailed Argentia 1100Z/11th to overtake and join B.2. E.T.A. convoy during daylight 16th Feb.
(F.O.N.F., 111450Z.)

U/B
estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 111504Z; Cominch 111557Z).

A/S sweep
by E.G.9.

BADDECK, NORTH BAY, OWEN SOUND have joined (corrupt group). My P.C.S. 047 degs. 11' N. 050 degs. (?38') W., 020 degs., 13.
Intend to turn 200 degs. on reaching datum point. Request instructions. Weather 0012 4772 1963.
(E.G.9, 112030Z to C.C.N.F.)

187

11.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack ^{U.545} Para. A. (1) A/C O/612 attacked surfaced U-Boat and sighting ^{sunk} course 230 at 2250/10 in lat. 53 degs. 18' N. long. 13 degs. 22' W. summary.

^{U.666 sunk} (2) A/C from FENCER attacked surfaced U-Boat at 1338/10 in lat. 53 degs. 53' N. long. 17 degs. 25' W.

(3) A/C attacked surfaced U-Boat at 0210/11 in lat. 60 degs. 33' N. long. 15 degs. 25' W.

^{U.183 sunk} (4) A/C attacked surfaced U-Boat course 290 degs. at 0308/11 in lat. 60 degs. 45' N. long. 12 degs. 50' W.

(5) A/C attacked surfaced U-Boat course 110 degs. at 0532/11 in lat. 36 degs. 22' N. long. 06 degs. 18' W.

(6) A/C N/612 reported U-Boat at 1559/10 in lat. 60 degs. 32' N. long. 14 degs. 02' W.

(7) A/C reported two surfaced U-Boats at 0135/11 in lat. 60 degs. 32' N. long. 14 degs. 29' W.

(8) A/C A/48 reported U-Boat at 1116/10 in lat. 35 degs. 22' N. long. 06 degs. 50' W.

(9) GERANIUM and SCARBOROUGH sighted surfaced U-Boat at 2310/10 in lat. 48 degs. 21' N. long. 16 degs. 10' W.

(10) Unknown ship reported torpedoed at 0219/11 in lat. 17 degs. 31' N. long. 83 degs. 40' E. (W.D.Note: This position differs from both those given in JUMNA 110219Z.)

(11) A.M. 051140A, para. A. (1) CHUNG CHENG previously reported torpedoed now reported sunk.

Para. B. (1) LOSSIE with WEAR obtained A.S.V. contact at 1500/10 in lat. 50 degs. 00' N. long. 20 degs. 50' W.

(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2355/10 in lat. 51 degs. 10' N. long. 19 degs. 20' W.

(D.D.I.C., 111227A.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 111418A, 111421A.)

War Diary.

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Posthorn."
EMSLAND
damaged.

1. At 0742 today V.A.2 in ANSON with FURIOUS, RICHELIEU and seven destroyers returned to Scapa from the Norwegian coast and were joined at 1134 by BELFAST and NIGERIA. No shipping targets were found under way but an enemy M/V believed to be EMSLAND lying in two halves on the beach at Ervik Bay was attacked by A/C from FURIOUS and hit with 8 bombs. One enemy A/C was shot down, one probably shot down, and two more damaged. One Seafire A/C was lost.

Damaged U-
Boat at
Ferrol.

2. At Admiralty's request F.O.G.M.A. has today cancelled the proposed patrol of S/M O.21 off Ferrol; but the damaged U-Boat dry-docked there today and N.A.Madrid is to approach the Spanish authorities with a view to securing her early internment.

Convoy
O.S.67/
K.M.S.41
attacked.

3. At 1910 today a mixed force of seven enemy A/C attacked the escorts of convoy O.S.67/K.M.S.41 about 430 miles W. by S. of Cape Ortegal. They were intercepted by A/C from PURSUER who shot down two enemy A/C and damaged a third. The convoy and escorts were undamaged.

Mining.

4. Bomber Command aircraft last night laid 152 mines off the north and west coasts of France.

South Atlantic.

U/B in
St. Pauls
Rocks area.

5. At 1340 R.A.F. Liberator G/200 reported having attacked a U-Boat sighted on the surface in 06.10 N. 27.15 W. and claimed one probable hit. The aircraft was damaged by the U-Boat's A/A fire. The U-Boat crash dived after the Liberator's second attack.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

6. (a). The wind moderated yesterday evening and the swell decreased today, permitting the unloading of Liberty ships at Anzio to recommence at 0800 today. Sailings to Anzio were resumed this morning.

189

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Operation "Shingle". (Contd.) 6. (b). Air attacks and shelling continued during today. About 12 bombs (including 9 radio controlled) were dropped by some 150 aircraft but no damage was caused to the port.
(c). PHOEBE gave fire support off Anzio and DIDO off Formia today.
- "Avalanche". 7. SS. CORFITH was mined off Ajaccio today but was subsequently anchored off the port.

East Indies.

- Convoy K.R.8 attacked. U/B sunk. 8. (a). SS. KHEDIVE ISMAIL in convoy K.R.8 was torpedoed by a Japanese U-Boat at 0905Z today and sank in less than two minutes in 00.57 N. 72.16 E. (about 100 miles north-north-west of Adu Atoll.) PETARD picked up 200 survivors out of a total of 1497 passengers and crew.
(b). PALADIN and PETARD, which with the cruiser HAWKINS constituted the escort of K.R.8, attacked the U-Boat when it surfaced an hour later, and after a running fight PALADIN rammed the U-Boat and PETARD finally destroyed it by a torpedo hit in 01.25 N. 72.22 E. PALADIN was damaged by ramming the U-Boat and was taken in tow by PETARD for Adu Atoll. One survivor of the U-Boat was picked up.
- 7 south*

China.

9. 3 U.S. Mitchells sank two 125 ft. trawlers in Tonking Gulf today. Yesterday 6 U.S. Mitchells heavily damaged and set on fire a 400 ft. freighter in the South China Sea, and left it sinking.

190

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Coastal
Force
Operations.

10.(a). M.T.Bs. of the S.W.Pacific forces machine gunned a floating dock at Malaga (10 miles south of Madang, S.E.New Guinea) in the early hours of today and also attacked buildings in a harbour 17 miles north of Alexishafen.

(b). A force of M.T.Bs. of the South Pacific forces intercepted two barges leaving Choiseul Bay, Solomon Is., on the night 10/11th February whilst other units attacked shore positions in south west Bougainville, Empress Augusta Bay and the western Buka Passage area. Last night M.T.Bs. supported by floatplanes bombing, attacked the Southern shores of Empress Augusta Bay.

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

Damaged U/boat at Ferrol. Request immediate enquiry be made of Spanish Authorities concerning the U/boat reported by Consul Corunna to have left Ferrol a.m. February 10th and returned today 11th in damaged condition.

(2) If facts are confirmed immediate representations should be made with view to securing early internment.

(3) If Spaniards insist U/boat has right to make repairs to render her sea-worthy you should request immediate fixing of time within which repairs are to be made.

(Head of M.I. 120306A to N.A. Madrid).

Damaged German S/M. Ferrol dry docked afternoon Feb. 12th. (Corunna, 12225B to Admty.).

CALEDON My 101809. Sailed (CALEDON).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 120821A to F.O.G.M.A.).
My 120821, para. 3. Add E.T.A. 160800Z.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121000A to F.O.G.M.A.).
Amended route.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121241A to CALEDON).

Bombardon H.Q. It is proposed to transport H.Q. of Bombardon from VERNON (P) to Portland a.m. 14th Feb. (A.B.B.O. Portsmouth, 120921A to S.N.O. Bombardon).

IROQUOIS C. in C.H.F.'s. 111915.
Request you will sail IROQUOIS as soon as convenient after arrival Plymouth on 15th Feb. direct to Halifax for refit.
2. Route.
(D.O.D.(H), 121625A to C. in C. Plymouth).

CUMBERLAND, SUSSEX. When ready C. in C.H.F. is requested to sail CUMBERLAND to Clyde to embark passengers and stores before proceeding to Eastern Fleet.
(2) On arrival of CUMBERLAND in Eastern Fleet C. in C. E.F. is requested to sail SUSSEX for U.K. to join C. in C.H.F.
(D.O.D.(H), 122302A to C. in C.H.F., C. in C. E.F.).

Operations.

O.21. Request your 11904 and your 111922 may be cancelled, as this would seriously interfere with A/S operations of Coastal Command.
Patrol off Ferrol. Request you will re-route O.21 up route "Green" forthwith.

(Admty. 120211A to F.O.G.M.A.).

Cancel my 111904. Alter forthwith for (G), thence in accordance with F.O.S. 101519. Total bombing restrictions to-day requested between 041 degs. N. and 043 degs. N. and 009 degs. 20' W. and 013 degs. 20' W.

(F.O.G.M.A., 120501A to O.21).

/ Cancel...

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

O.21
Patrol off
Ferrol.
(Contd.).

Cancel my 111922.
(F.O.G.M.A., 120539A to F.O.S.).

A/S
operations
off Western
Ireland.

R.A.E.C. in ROYALIST arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120718A to Admty.).
Negative results reported by ENRIGHT and FRAMENT.
See 11233.
(T.G. 21.7, 120750A to C. in C.W.A.).
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 53 degs. 44' N.
21 degs. 18' W. Probably a S/M.
(A/C SUT.27, 120815A to 19 Group).

Operation
"Posthorn"
Enemy M/V
(believed
EMSLAND
damaged).

Operation "Posthorn" carried out 11th February
by 10 Barracudas and 12 Seafires. Weather
suitable for flying operations but cloud conditions
were poor for dive bombing.
(2) No shipping targets found under way.
Attacks were therefore directed at ship found
beached in 2 halves in Ervik Bay. This ship which
is thought to be EMSLAND of 5200 tons had been
prepared for tow. At least 4 hits with bombs
confirmed on each part of the vessel.

(3) Fighter opposition of at least 2 F.W. 190's and 3 M.E.109's
was airborne before arrival of striking force. They were
engaged by 4 Seafires who claim one shot down, one probable,
and damage to 2 more.

(4) We lost one Seafire. Only light flak experienced and
remainder of striking force returned safely without casualties.

(5) Considerable difficulty in fleet in identifying friendly
air escort, but general impression was that fleet had not been
sighted or shadowed.

(6) Valuable A/S and fighter escort provided by Sunderlands
and Beaufighters throughout the day.
(V.A.2, 120805 to C. in C.H.F.).

Scapa arrivals at 0742 V.A.2 in ANSON with FURIOUS, RICH-
ELIEU, IROQUOIS, SERAPIS, ONSLAUGHT, HAIDA, IMPULSIVE,
ATHABASKAN, ORIBI. At 1134 BELFAST and NIGERIA.

(A.C.O.S., 121156A to H.F.).

Biscay
A/S
operations.

I am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing
140 degs. distance 8 miles 007 degs. 12 miles from
44 degs. N. 18 degs. W. Course 180 degs. speed
7 knots.
(PURSUER, 120945Z to Whitehall W/T).

Enemy reconnaissance aircraft from Biscay Airfields
have been shadowing convoys by night as well as by day due to
the prevalence of a large amount of cloud cover, day fighters
in escort carriers are seldom able to intercept before the
shadower enters cloud.

2. It is, therefore, considered that a requirement exists
for night fighters to operate in a carrier on a U.K. Gibraltar
convoy. Valuable experience might be gained in making the
simple interceptions offered by the presence of one shadower.

12.2.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S
Operations
(Contd.).

3. Since it is improbable that a shadower would expect to be attacked by night or in cloud, it is not likely that he would be making use of his high speed to escape and therefore an aircraft, such as a Fulmar might be employed, unless Fireflies can be made available.

4. SEARCHER and PURSUER, Fighter Carriers, have been temporarily allocated to this Command. Since they have no other night flying commitments, it is considered that they would be suitable for operating night fighters. It is anticipated that SEARCHER will be available to operate at the end of February on return from U.S.A. It is suggested that a selected detachment of three or four night fighters be embarked for a convoy from United Kingdom - Gibraltar and return which is a cycle of about one month.

(C. in C.W.A., 121005A to Admty.).

My 0945. Shadower was Ju. (?290), driven off, damaged.

(PURSUER, 121012Z to Whitehall W/T).

By D/F at 0714Z U/boat estimated within 100 miles of 48 degs. 40' N. 17 degs. W.

(D.D.I.C., 12103A to CHILLIWACK, GERANIUM, SCARBOROUGH).

Enemy air attack must be expected by He. 177 aircraft.

(D.D.I.C., 121820A to Escorts O.S.67).

7 planes bearing 090 degs. distant one mile position 43 degs. 56' N. 17 degs. 50' W.

(?Escorts O.S. 67, 121912Z to Gibraltar).

It is intended that 2nd E.G. shall support H.X.278 which is likely to pass through a U/boat area between p.m. 16th and p.m. 18th. It is most important that 2nd E.G. should have sufficient fuel for possible operations during and immediately subsequent to these dates. Proceed forthwith to fuel from and support H.X.278. Routed through position,

DG 043 degs. 57' 039 degs. 10'

DH 043 degs. 00' 030 degs. 01'

DJ 048 degs. 18' 024 degs. 12'

Speed of advance 9 knots. E.T.A. at DH 1930A/14th Feb.

2. Escort oilers FJORDAAS and OVULA have 60 depth charges each. BELGIAN GULF has 60 and SOVAC has 40.

(C. in C.W.A., 121955A).

P.C.S. STRIKER, FENCER, 16 Escort Group at 2000Z, 049 degs. 15' N. 026 degs. 50' W., 185 degs. 12 knots.

(STRIKER, 122003Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Bay of Biscay area will be amended as follows. By Admiralty Broadcast on 15th Feb. northern limit to A line through following position.

1. Bishop Rock light.

2. 051 degs. 00' N. 007 degs. 00' W.

3. 051 degs. 00' N. 015 degs. 00' W. Western limit to meridian 015 degs. 00' W. Southern limit latitude 044 degs. 05' N. to existing limits.

(2) Sink at sight instructions are not to be applied within the new declared area north of 049 degs. 00' N. and west of 012 degs. 00' W. unless specifically ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(3) Existing instructions vide W.A.G.O. 61 continue to apply only within the Bay of Biscay area in force prior to 15th Feb. except that French fishing-ships encountered are now to be attacked within the area declared prior to 15th Feb: provided they are west of the line denoted in para.5. Amend para.3. accordingly.

(C. in C.W.A., 122227A to Ships).

/ U-boat...

War Diary12.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

U/boat
sunk on
31st
January. Your 061859A U/boat was certainly deep 24½ minutes before STARLING's attack at 1130N. It was probably deep for whole period between WILD GOOSE's initial attack at 1020N. until its destruction at 1136N.
(E.G.2, 121037A to C. in C.W.A.).

S/M
patrols. Remain submerged west of 010 degs. 30' W. from 2300A tonight until after dark tomorrow. No aircraft will exercise with you. Aircraft will be hunting in the vicinity of 050 degs. N. 008 degs. W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121154A to VIKING).
At 1208A/12th SYRTIS left Lerwick unescorted and on surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles Norwegian coast routed through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 then by route "Orange" to 063 degs. 05', thence through 062 degs. 53' 005 degs. 00' E. to patrol vicinity Stadlandet.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 121223A to S/M's.).
Own submarines 0800/13th and movements in following 24 hours.
(a) STUBBORN, TRADEWIND, TAKU as in my 111744.
(b) SATYR 61 degs. 59' N. 04 degs. 01' E. to 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 15 and Lerwick diving by day within 60 miles of Norway then 10 knots on surface.
(c) SYRTIS 62 degs. 57' N. 02 degs. 15' E. probably on surface through 63 degs. 05' N. 02 degs. 25' E. and 62 degs. 53' N. 05 degs. 01' E to Stadlandet diving by day within 60 miles of Norway.
(d) UNSHAKEN 61 degs. 50' N. 00 degs. 48' E. probably on surface to 65 degs. 30' N. 05 degs. 45' E., then 66 degs. 31' N. 10 degs. 45' E. 9 knots.
(F.O.S. 121731A to Admty.).
SATYR is to make brief report when well clear of coast.
Capt. (S) 9, 101719 para.2. refers.
(F.O.S., 121754A to S/M's.).
Routed through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 15 and by route "Orange" to 065 degs. 30' thence through 066 degs. 31' 010 degs. 45' E. to patrol vicinity Bodo, UNSHAKEN left Lerwick 1808A/12 unescorted and on the surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 121812A to S/M's).

Coastal
Force
patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121252A).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121420A).
(V.A. Dover, 121620A).

Operation
"F.X." Operation "F.X.". C. in C.H.F. 100230 para. 4 (a) Ships addressed are detailed as local escorts for J.W.57.
RATTLESNAKE is S.O.
(M/S 18, 121442A to RATTLESNAKE, ORESTES, LOYALTY, HYDRA).

/ Operation...

195

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Overlord" Request you report final total requirements for "Overlord" of small administrative craft.
2. Reports are to reach Admiralty not later than Thursday 17th February.
3. Reports are to cover all craft of types referred to including those already demanded and those required for servicing merchant ship assemblies, indicating where practicable the services on which they will be employed.
4. Owing to the acute shortage of all types of craft demands must be cut to minimum and consideration given to use of craft for more than one service if these need not be simultaneous. No allowance can be made for reserves.
5. Reports are also required of any craft that ultimately can be released through the movement of forces away from your command at different stages of the operation.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 122015A to C's. in C.).

Allied Air Activity.

TIRPITZ My 111001A. Now ascertained that 11 additional aircraft failed to reach Altenfiord due to fog and chose alternative targets. Golovko enormously pleased with results and intends repetition of operation first suitable opportunity using all available aircraft. Confirmed one near miss with thousand pound claimed.
(S.B.N.C. North Russia, 121352A to Admty.).

Mining.

Operation "Q.L.10" Carry out Operation "Q.L.10" 034 degs. on first suitable night on or after 15th February. Force 22nd M.T.B. Flotilla, 21st M.T. Flotilla, 51st M.L. Flotilla. Laying instructions. Scattered lay along convoy route.
Bases are to prepare to carry our further lay 48 hours after completion of "Q.L.10".
(C. in C. Nore, 121056A and 130915A to BEEHIVE, MANTIS).

Humber Acoustic mine detonated 1023 in 289 degs. 58A Buoy 3.75 miles.
(F.O. Humber, 121173A to C. in C. Nore).

Portsmouth One magnetic mine blue detonated by LL in approx. 266 degs. 2 cables from E.A.1. Buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121752A and 131155A).

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Bergen P.C.S. of enemy 2 M/V's. 60 degs. 00' N. 4 degs. 45' E. northerly, 10 knots.
(A/C TNXH, 121520 to 18 Group).

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Assessments. Comnavu's 0418/11 February.
Twenty-four attacks by U.S. aircraft under operational control of Coastal Command carried out since May 15th 1943 have been assessed by Admiralty Assessment Board.

(2) Request you will regard these as provisional assessments made in order to keep U-Boat statistics up to date pending receipt of your confirmed assessments.

(3) Details of attacks in question follow.

| Date and Time | Attack by | Position | Assessment |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 251605/May | Catalina F/84 | 62.25 N. 14.52 W. | B |
| 241620/June | Catalina G/84 | 59.00 N. 26.18 W. | B |
| 201218/July | Liberator F/19 A/S | 45.10 N. 09.42 W. | A |
| 201045/July | Liberator B/19 A/S | 45.30 N. 09.30 W. | D |
| 281756/July | Liberator N/4th A/S | 45.53 N. 09.25 W. | A |
| 020920/August | Liberator T/4th A/S | 46.27 N. 09.59 W. | A |
| 041758/October | Ventura B/128 | 61.00 N. 26.53 W. | A |
| 101035/November | Liberator E/103 & Liberator E/110 | 43.40 N. 08.35 W. | A |
| 120322/November | Liberator C/103 | 46.00 N. 07.30 W. | B |

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 121745Z to Cominch.)

Casualties and Defects.

EL GRILLO. Arrival your 110327 (MIDDLETON).
(A.C.I.C., 121341A to A.C.O.S.)
Propose MIDDLETON proceed to Akureyri to give protection to tankers at that place.
My 102146 refers.
(A.C.I.C., 122014A to C. in C. H.F.)

SLINGER. Arrival SLINGER.
(N.C.I.C. London, 121630A to C. in C. Nore.)

197

12.2.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CILURNUM. As second inward ship of February search programme M.E.W. selects Spanish SS. CILURNUM. (D.E.W.D., 120047A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Gibraltar Opsum. (A) MB N202, M BAK JRN 202. (G) 1350 - 37.00 N. by 06.00 to 09.00 W. M 202 diverted to hunt U-Boat in 36.20 N. 06.21 W. (A.C.H.Q. Gib., 120210A, 120215A.)

TANTALUS. Cancel my 302331A, 051542A and 0820001A. (F.O.G.M.A., 121047A to R.A.F. Gibraltar.)

Patrol. Arrivals U.S. Seaplane Tender CLEMSON, U.S.D. DUPONT, STURTEVANT from Casablanca and patrol. (F.O.G.M.A., 121939A.)

South Atlantic.

Carriage of Diplomatic mail to St. Vincent. R.A.F. Sunderland aircraft from Bathurst recently visited St. Vincent to deliver yellow fever vaccine at the request of Portuguese authorities. In view of recurring and increasing difficulties of arranging for an H.M. ship to call there with Diplomatic mail propose this duty should be done by aircraft. (Sierra Leone, 121104Z to B.N.A. Lisbon.)

Naval Air Development in S.Africa. Expressing concern at the delay in decision and asking for very early decision on (A) development of Wingfield and Merebank, and for very early decision on (B) Additional personnel for 726 Squadron. (C. in C. S.A., 121122 to Admty.)

U-Boat in St. Paul's Rocks area. R.A.F. aircraft in 06° 10' N. 26° 15' W. reports sighting surfaced U-Boat. Attacked with depth charges and claims one hit probable. Aircraft was fired on. T.O.O. of report 121340. (F.O.C.W.Af., 121446 to Admty.) My 121446. Amended position of U-Boat 6° 10' N. 27° 15' W. Course 180° when first sighting. (F.O.C.W.Af., 122202Z to Admty.)

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/Boat report. U/Boat fix at 0208A, 042° 40' N. 009° 50' E. by D/F.
(C. in C. Med., 120709A to S. and A. in Areas G.B. and G.C., 10th S/M F.)

10th S/M.F. Patrols. Intend sailing P.59 (UNTIRING) at 1330 14th via QBB 312 through 042° 30' 006° 48' at 1800 15th to patrol in zone S.T.
(Capt. 10th S/M Flotilla, 120949 to C. in C. Med.)

UPROAR is to leave patrol to pass 042° 47' 007° 03' at 0800 15th, 042° 30' 007° 36' at 1800 15th thence by QBB 312 to arrive Maddalena 1201 16th.

2. ULTOR is to leave patrol to arrive Maddalena 1159 17th passing through 042° 30' 007° 36' at 1759 16th.

3. For information LE CURIE arriving West end of QBB 312 from southward at 0800 15th.

(Capt. S.10th S/M, 121015 to UPROAR, ULTOR, (R) 10th S/M F. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.G.M.A., LE CURIE.)

Exchange of Italian cruisers. Your 111744. I am averse to the cruisers from Freetown being sent back to Taranto. If GARIBALDI cannot be employed from Freetown would prefer she is operated here from some other base and present cruisers left there. Italians have asked for their relief. Italians have submitted a schedule of refits but from experience gained I do not consider it desirable to take any of these in hand.
(F.O.T.A.L.1, 121147 to C. in C. Med.)

1st S/M F. Patrols. Leave patrol in my 111944 as necessary to comply with Capt. S.One's 101321.
(F.O.L.E.M. 121151B to SIBYL (R) 1st S.M/F.)
SOKOL sailed at 1635/12th and proceeds through (Scarpanto?) Straits p.m. 14th to (?patrol) in Aegean to the westward of 025° 01' and North of 038° 02'.
(S.O.(S) Beirut 121635B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) 1st S/M F. PAPANICOLIS)
Establish patrol on Suda Bay Milos route.
(F.O.L.E.M. 121916B to UNRULY (R) 1st S.M.F.)
P.55 UNSPARING sailed at 2101/12th and passes through Scarpanto Straits a.m. 15th to patrol between lat. 037° 36' and 039° 01' to eastward of longitude 025° and a line drawn 134° from 038° 22' 025° 00' to cut the North coast of Taknikaria.
(S.O. S/Ms Beirut 122103.)

Damage to BELVOIR. Details of damage caused by fire in No. 1 boiler room and by recent heavy weather. Consider ship is unfit for service and request she may be taken in hand for repairs forthwith.
(Capt. (D) 5, 121244A to C. in C. Med.)

/Operation...

199

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep No.22.

Wind moderated evening 11th and swell decreased during 12th permitting unloading of Liberties to restart 120800.

2. Sailings to Anzio resumed a.m. 12th.

3. Air attacks and shelling continued 11th and 12th.

4. PHOEBE off Anzio and DIDO off Formia giving fire support 12th.

(C. in C. Med., 121837A to Admty.)

Cositintrep
215.

Part two. 1.a.m. 12th. Sailing of landing craft convoys resumed.

2. During night 10/11 February destroyers^x carried out sweep between San Benedetto and Ancona and bombarded two ?trains. No shipping

was seen.

3. H.M. S/M reports sinking small Caique on 31st January during patrol in Northern Aegean.

(C. in C. Med., 122010A.)

X TROU BRIDGE, TENACIOUS

(DOR, 14/2)

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Weekly U-Boat dis-
 position
 No. 24. 23(?00). Areas A. B. D. E. and G. No fresh in-
 formation. No change in scale of air escort.
 Area C. SS. VIVA reported sunk in 012° 30' N. 057
 degs. 50' E. at 1800Z/9th presumably by U-Boat
 D/F at 2006Z/(?11th). Scale of air escort remains
 Y.

Area F. LAUNCESTON and IPSWICH and JUMNA attacked
 (?S/M sighted) in vicinity of SS. ASPHALION torpedoed at 0219Z/
 11th in 017° 21' N. 083° (?32') E. Oil bubbles and oil patch 2
 square miles observed. Scale of air escort reduced to Y.
 (C. in C.E.F. 120335Z.)

TAURUS, Arrivals P.339 (TAURUS), P.316 (TEMPLAR.)
 TEMPLAR, (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 120447Z to Admty.)
 from patrol.

SS. LAUNCESTON, IPSWICH with torpedoed ship ASPHALION
 ASPHALION. from J.C.36 arrived discharged.
 (N.C.S.O.Vizagapatam 120611Z.)

K.R.8, SS. KHEDIVE ISMAIL torpedoed and sunk in 000° 57' N.
 KHEDIVE 072° 16' E.
 ISMAIL sunk, (HAWKINS 120905Z, C. in C.E.F. 121101Z to all
 U/B sunk, concerned.)
 PALADIN Reference HAWKINS 120905 S/M surfaced am engaging
 damaged. by gunfire and (?depth charges) 088° 001° 00' N.
 72° 18' E.
 (PALADIN 121115Z.)
 My 121115, Japanese submarine blown up.
 (PALADIN 121155Z.)

1. 2. Summary of formers.
 3. Ships and aircraft being sent to assist in rescuing survivors.
 (C. in C.E.F. 121324Z.)

PALADIN damaged in collision with U-Boat, engine room (?gun
 tower) gear room and after magazine flooded. Am taking her in
 tow. My P.C. and S. 001° 05' N. 072° 22' E. 075° 10 knots have
 200 survivors from KHEDIVE ISMAIL. One survivor from S/M.
 (PETARD 121352Z.)

Am remaining with convoy. Your 121227Z (N.T. in W.R.) refers.

2. PETARD has 200 survivors. Ship sank in 2 minutes.
 3. Your 121111Z (N.T. in W.R.) Unless surface A/S escort is being
 sent propose to leave convoy to reach PETARD at dawn and transfer
 tow. PETARD to rejoin convoy.

(HAWKINS 121532Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) PETARD.)

PALADIN in danger of sinking am proceeding Addu Atoll. My
 P.C. and S. 000° 51' N. 072° 10' E. 160° 8 knots. E.T.A. 0600Z/
 13th. Request portable pumps may be sent. Have all survivors
 from KHEDIVE ISMAIL and half of PALADIN ships company on board
 PETARD.

(PETARD 121600Z to C. in C.E.F.)

Japanese submarine torpedoing position 001° 05' N. 072° 22' E.
 (PETARD 121822FG.)

Do you require assistance with survivors if so I will join
 you. Your 121600 refers.

(HAWKINS 121836Z to PETARD.)

/CHARLOTTE...

War Diary.

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN
(German)
sunk ~~on Feb~~

RELENTLESS reports sinking a tanker in position
023° 23' S. 074° 37' E. She has been instructed
to amplify but it is possible a reply may not be
received until this evening owing to W/T conditions
(C. in C.E.F. 120956Z to Admty.)
My 120956. Tanker was CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. 41
survivors.
(C. in C.E.F. 121249 to Admty.)

Convoy 1A.

Convoy Durban, Mauritius 1A arrived.
(N.C.S.O.Mauritius 121345Z.)

Q report by
RIVER BURDEKIN.

3200 02.54 N. 79.42 E. suspicious.
(RIVER BURDEKIN No T.O.C/12.)

Diego
Suarez.

Your 110747. 2. If it is decided to retain Diego
Suarez as British Base and Dockyard no dilution
and only minor reduction in existing establish-
ment (already at minimum) can be recommended.
5. Control, and not collaboration, is now the
dominating ambition of the French, and I am steadfast in my
opinion that no form of compromise is practicable and that Diego
Suarez must in future remain a British Naval Base or be evacuated
and transferred entirely to the French.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 121936Z.)

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 121428Z; Cominch 121645Z.)
Estimates.

EMPIRE U.S. Navy reports EMPIRE KNIGHT aground 1945Z/11
KNIGHT on Boon Island ledge position 043° 08' N. 070°
wrecked. 24' W. Salvage and rescue operations hampered
by continued gales. Vessel abandoned 0722Z/12
and broken in two at 1330Z/12 but stern portion
afloat on even keel salvage efforts continuing.

Report indicates only 12 survivors. Will advise further on
arrival of rescue craft.

(B.V.C. Portland, 121609Z to Admty.)

U/B Para. C. Army plane sighted S/M 02.07 N. 28.38
sighted. W. 121015Z course 210.
(Cominch, 122117Z.)

Operational (Extract).
and Admini- (J.S.M., 122123Z.)
strative
areas.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Feb. 11th. Paras. 11 to 18 cover South
Serial Pacific forces.
753. (8) Afternoon 2 Beaufighters on barge sweep south
New Britain coast saw surfaced submarine 40 miles
south Cape Dampier heading towards Gasmata.
(9) Night 10th/11th single Jap plane ineffectively bombed motor
torpedo boats west of Gasmata.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 120836Z to Admty.)

Suspicious Suspicious vessel freighter type (description)
vessel. no guns seen appeared to be determined to close
distance despite our (group missing) change in
course (2 corrupt groups) bearing 180° 0920 G.M.T.
(ELISHA WALKER, 121020Z.)

12.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) Nor. VIVA torpedoed at 1800/9 in
12° 30' N. 57° 50' E. Survivors picked up by
Br. SS. MARWARRI.

(2) A/C reported U-Boat and tanker at 1116/11 in
23° 00' S. 73° 11' E.

(3) WILD GOOSE and WOODPECKER attacked U-Boat at
0152/11 in 50° 00' N. 18° 14' W.

(4) A/C B/304 attacked U-Boat, course 250° with depth charges
at 2225/11 in 45° 32' N. 07° 26' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C reported A.S.V. contact at 1102/11 in 47° 21'
N. 08° 52' W.

(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0715/12 in 53° 44' N. 21°
18' W.

Para. C. (1) Br. ASHRIDGE missed by torpedo at 0400/10 in
21° 00' N. 90° 35' E.

(2) Escort to U.C.13 reported Radar contact astern of convoy
before 2245/11 in 55° 12' N. 11° 22' W.

(D.D.I.C., 121148A, 151135A.)

U-Boat
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 121425A, 121445A.)

204

13.2.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.E-Boats off
East Coast.
CAP d'ANTIFER
sunk.

1. A force of E-Boats, believed from Ijmuiden, was operating off the Humber between 0030 and 0145 today, and at 0330 a patrol 25 miles N.E. of Smiths Knoll sighted three E-Boats. At about 0125 the M/S trawler CAP d'ANTIFER on patrol close to 57D Buoy was attacked and sunk, and it is thought likely that her survivors were taken prisoner. Minelaying by the E-Boats is suspected, and the area is being swept.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

2. The six frigates of E.G.16 with the escort carriers STRIKER and FENCER are operating about 1000 miles west of St. Nazaire and intend to join convoy H.X.278 on the 15th in about 45° N. Two inward-bound U-Boats in company were depth charged by an A/C on patrol about 380 miles W. by S., of Bordeaux at 0419 today.

STRATHELLA
sighted.

3. The A/S trawler STRATHELLA, which lost touch with convoy U.R. 105 off S.E. Iceland during the night 12th/13th January and on 22nd January was presumed lost, was sighted today about 650 miles W. S.W. of Iceland by A/C of the Greenland Patrol.

Mediterranean.Operation
"Shingle".

4.(a). The wind remained light today.
(b). DIDO carried out 7 day bombardments and 5 registered night shoots during 12/13th. PHOEBE remained off Anzio.
(c). There were several alerts p.m. today and 4 bombs fell in the town. Shelling was persistent, but all shots fell in the sea, though closer to the port than previously.

"Avalanche".

5.(a). Coastal forces operating from Bastia engaged a southbound convoy of 6 F-Lighters and an E-Boat off San Vincenzo (about 25 miles south of Leghorn) at 2345 today. Hits were seen. Our forces suffered only superficial damage and no casualties.
(b). The destroyers TROUBRIDGE and TERMAGANT last night shelled Vela Luka and Brato, Korcula Island (Dalmatia) and patrolled from Hvar to Korcula, but sighted nothing.

War Diary.

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Enemy cruiser
hit.

- 6.(a). On return from patrol TEMPLAR reports that at 1610/26th January she secured one torpedo hit on a southbound cruiser in 05.00 N. 98.25 E. (off Langsar Bay, northern Sumatra.)
(b). TAURUS sank a schooner and a tug off Sibolga northern Sumatra, on 6th February.

China.

7. U.S. Mitchells on a sea sweep today in the Hainan - Amoy - Hong Kong and Foochow areas sank one large and 5 medium sized ships and damaged 4 others.

Australia & New Zealand.

8. Two U.S. destroyers last night bombarded gun positions in the Cape Iris area, west of Saidor (northwest coast of New Guinea.)

9. It is reported that a small submarine was attacked (presumably by aircraft) this morning 50 miles south of Cape Orford (New Britain) and hits are claimed.

206

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Damaged My 122225. Submarine continues dry dock.
U-Boat Endeavouring obtain report damage.
at Ferrol. (Consul, Coruna, 131235B to Admty.)

LONDON, Intend sailing LONDON and CUMBERLAND for Clyde
CUMBERLAND. arriving early a.m. 18th in accordance with your
020030 and 122302. Ships to leave Clyde p.m.
18th Feb. for Gibraltar and onward passage.
(C. in C. H.F. 131500A to Admty.)

WARSPITE. Convoy M.K.F. 29 due to pass Straits of
Gibraltar on 9th March consists of 24 fully laden
troopships and 2 or 3 storeships.
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail WARSPITE in
this convoy for U.K. (A.M. 051655 refers).
(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide an additional group
as escort from Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 132325A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A)

Operations.

S.C. My 050921.
Operation. S/M Chaser HESSA sailed at 0200A today.
(2) No.
(A.C.O.S. 130210A to Admty.)
At 0200A/13th one ex American S/M Chaser left
Shetland proceeding direct to 058 degs. 20' 006 degs. 10' E.
Probably returning direct to Sumburg Head to arrive 15th Feb.
(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 130210 to TAKU)
My 130210. S/M Chaser HESSA returned 1700A/13th owing
to weather.
(A.C.O.S. 131830A to Admty.)

Biscay Am over 2 enemy S/Ms in 44 degs. 21' N. 09 degs
A/S 30' W. S/Ms were sighted on surface and
Operations. observed to submerge. Course 060 degs. speed
Two 7 knots.
U-Boats (A/C MUR 24, 130304 to 19 Group)
attacked U-Boats previously reported course 060 degs.
by A/C. speed 7 knots. When first sighted in 44.21 N.
09.30 W. U-Boats were on surface and seen to
submerge. Have attacked U-Boats with 6 depth
charges.
(A/C MUR 24, 130419 to 19 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 48 degs. 15' N. 10 degs. 22' W. S/M was
sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 090 degs.
speed 10 knots.
(A/C PMA 25, 130546 to 19 Group)

Area crossed in good flying conditions. No transmissions
heard yet. In case these are skipping us request immediate
information of (?favourable) future transmissions. Intend
fuelling escorts to westward today, then continuing search in

area /...

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay area keeping clear O.N.S.223. My P.C.S. 046 degs.
 A/S 56' N. 027 degs. 27' W. 185 degs. 14 knots.
 Operations. (STRIKER, 130900Z to C. in C. W.A.)
 Two It is anticipated that 16th E.G. with STRIKER and
 U-Boats FENCER will join you on 15th.
 attacked (2) Columns adjacent to the Cmdre's are to be
 by A/C. clear of all ships with exception of the leaders
 (Contd.) by a.m. 15th for occupation by STRIKER and
 FENCER.

(C. in C. W.A. 131135A to Escorts, H.X. 278.)
 Anticipate joining H.X. 278 at 150900Z in 044
 degs. 50' N. 028 degs. W. My P.C.S. 046 degs. 22' N. 39 degs.
 45' W. 103 degs. 12½.

(BERKELEY CASTLE, 131201Z to C. in C. W.A.)
 16th E.G. STRIKER S.O., FENCER, SPEY, FINDHORN, ROTHER,
 LOSSIE, WEAR, WOODCOCK, HART, CRANE, WHIMBREL operate in vicinity
 047 degs. 25' 027 degs. 01'.

(C. in C. W.A. 131307A to Ships)

While U-Boats are concentrated in an area where weather
 conditions are rarely suitable for night flying it is intended
 to operate escort carriers with U.K. to Gibraltar convoys to
 give fighter cover and to attack U-Boats in the outer Bay area.
 If the concentration of U-Boats moves southward into better
 weather or when circumstances are favourable escort carriers
 will be taken out of a convoy to hunt in a probability area with
 a support group.

(2) Intended programme as follows.
 Details.

(C. in C. W.A. 132109A to Admty.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 42 degs. 55' N. 09 degs.
 25' W.

(A/C RJU 24, 132130 to 19 Group)

S/M Negative patrol.
 Patrols. (TRADEWIND, 130520A to F.O.S.)
 TRADEWIND returning to Lerwick through 069 degs.
 01' N. 009 degs. 56' E. and route B diving by
 day North 069 degs. and reporting P.C.S. and
 result of patrol when south of 069 degs. N.

(F.O.S. 131014A to S/M's)

TAKU is to leave patrol for Lerwick as necessary so as to
 pass through

(X) 060 degs. 24' N. 003 degs. 50' E. at 0700A/17th, thence
 through (Y) 061 degs. 15' N. 001 degs. 52' E.

(Z) 055 degs. Muckle Flugga 15 miles proceeding on the surface
 at C.O's discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast.

(2) TAKU is to signal brief Situation Report when well clear of
 area.

(Capt. S.9, 131725A to S/M's)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800/14th and movements for following
 24 hours. (A) TRADEWIND approx. 71 degs. N. 013 degs. E.
 dived by day to 69 degs. 01 N. 009 degs. 56' E. thence probably
 on surface towards 62 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 09' E.

(B) /...

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M
Patrols.
(Contd.)

(B) STUBBORN on patrol vicinity Kya Light.
(C) SYRTIS patrolling vicinity Stadtlandet.
(D) SATYR 60 degs. 58' N. 00 degs. 02' E.
probably on surface through 090 degs. Muckle
Flugga 15 miles to Lerwick 10 knots.
(E) UNSHAKEN 64 degs. 54' N. 004 degs. 56' E.
through 66 degs. 30' N. 010 degs. 51' E. probably on surface
to patrol S. of Vest Fjord.
(F.O.S. 131737 to Admty.)

Request you sail ULA from Lerwick at 1600A/16th through
(1) 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles. (M) 061 degs. 34' 002 degs.
06'. (N) 061 degs. 02' 003 degs. 30'. (O) 059 degs. 10'
004 degs. 18', to patrol RB.
(2) ULA is to be ordered not to pass position (M) before 0600A/17.
(Capt.(S) 9, 131835A to S.O.S/M Lerwick)

V.P.
Operations.

My 091004. Sailed at 0905A today M.T.B's
623 (S.O) 681 and 685.
(2) Yes.
(A.C.O.S.130914A to Admty.)
(Corrupt Group) My 130914. Force returned at
1300A today owing to weather.
(A.C.O.S.131314A to Admty.)
My 111455A. MOLDE returned at 1400 today.
(2) M.T.Bs 627 and 653 slipped in 63 degs. 34' N. 3 degs. 36' E.
at 1200/12th and proceeded towards 63 degs. 17' N. 08 degs. 00' E.
(A.C.O.S. 131603A to Admty.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131227A)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131355A, 131935A, 131947A)

A/S
Operations
off Western
Ireland.

Situation at 132000.
6th E.G. NENE, SNOWBERRY, PRESCOTT, LUNENBURG,
EDMUNSTON, WASKESIU vicinity 053 degs. 45' N.
023 degs. 50' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 131302A to Ships)
Am in contact with S/M detected by Radar in
052 degs. 40' N. 024 degs. 52' W.
(E.G.3, 131940Z to C. in C. W.A.)
By D/F at 1916Z J-Boat estimated probably within 75 miles of
52 degs. 30' N. 22degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 132118A to E.G.3)

E/Bs off
Humber.
CAP d'ANTIFER
Sunk.

Regret to report loss of H.M.T. CAP d'ANTIFER
believed sunk by E-Boat about 0125 today in
approx. 320 degs. 57D buoy 6 cables.
(2) During search MONIMIA observed oil coming
to the surface, part of CAP d'ANTIFER's name
board, and 2 Oropesas in this position.
(3) No survivors have been picked up.
(F.O. Humber, 131723A to Admty.)

209

13.2.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E/Bs off Humber. CAP d'ANTIFER Sunk.

(1) Unknown number of E-Boats operated in area north 58 Buoy between 0030 and 0145. No indication of their intentions but minelaying is considered probable.

(2) Humber M/S Trawlers were on patrol at all Buoys between 59A and 57B inclusive. At 0130 O.K.U. at Dudgeon reported H.E. Later MONIMIA on failing to (?) CAP d'ANTIFER about 0500 reported that while at 57B S.A. fire had been seen at 0123 in direction of CAP d'ANTIFER. No other Trawler reports received until daylight when oil was found coming to surface 6 cable N.W. of 57D Buoy and part of name board of Cap D'ANTIFER was recovered. Regret she must be considered lost. German Radio has reported sinking of one patrol vessel. Consider it likely that survivors were taken prisoner as in case of FRANC TIREUR and WILLIAM STEPHEN.

(3) When area containing E-Boats was established C/F units were redispersed to intercept on return passage. It is thought interception was narrowly missed by two units near Haddock Bank. Unit 25 miles N.E. of Smiths Knoll Buoy sighted 3 E-Boats at 0330 after hearing H.E. Lack of speed prevented unit bringing enemy to action. Two Units north of Brown Ridge made no contact nor did M.T.B's ordered to cover Ijmuiden. E-Boats may have steered for position off Texel thence to Ijmuiden. 16 Group A/C sent off at first light did not locate them.

(4) Shore Radar. E-Boats appear to have been mostly outside range of shore stations. Two possible tracks obtained by K.65, one near 58 buoy from 0120 to 0144 close East of 57 D Buoy where it faded at 0150. CHALCEDONY at 58 Buoy made no report. Second track started 5 miles East of 57 D by 0120 and continued approximately 090 for 14 miles fading at 0207. Ranges of these tracks were between 20 and 27 miles. Sweeping is in progress.

(C. in C. Nore, 131756A to Admty.)

My 131756.

(1) E-Boat traffic read by Sheringham and Trimingham from 0036 to 0147. Early bearings clearly not of this traffic. Later bearings ranged from 350 degs. from Sheringham to 020 degs from Trimingham. 6 possibly 8 call signs heard including 2 of which may have been R-Boats.

(2) Speech included reference to buoy to firing at patrol destroyer and to firing green starshell. At 0135 speech indicated units were forming up and at 0147 signal close down was heard when all traffic ceased.

(3) No indication of minelaying heard by above stations but at 0145 R.A.F. Station at Sheringham heard speech referring to minelaying or firing of torpedoes.

(C. in C. Nore, 131801A to Admty.)

Operation
"Cucumber".

Report of C/F Operation "Cucumber" last night.

(1) Unit D. M.T.Bs 241 (S.O), 223, 244, 232, 224, 345, 360 after sailing were ordered by signal to initial position 52 degs. 50' N. 4 degs 32' E. by 2300A to sweep south for convoy seen by air R/C. leaving Hook at 1645. 16 Group A.S.V. Wellington and 4 Torpedo Beaufighters were expected to attack convoy about 0030. It was hoped Unit D. might be able to attack during confusion caused by air attack.

(2) /...

210

13.2.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Cucumber" (Contd.) (2) Unit reached initial position by D.R. at 2340 and swept south. At 0108 actual position found to be 10 miles west of D.R. This caused Unit to pass well to seaward of convoy. At 014 flares seen E.N.E. and course was set to close. At 0308 arrived in 52 degs. 59' N. 4 degs. 33' E. Unit then swept south for convoy and to cover Ijmuiden for returning E-Boats as ordered by C. in C. Nore. from position of convoy sighted by A/C at 0900/13th Unit D must have been still south of convoy at 0308.

(3) At 0517 when unit was 17 miles to seaward of Ijmuiden H.E. of high speed engines was heard and wakes seen, but speed engines was heard and wakes seen, but speed of 32 knots was not enough to overtake E-Boats before they closed the land.

(4) At 0630 course was sent 300 degs in accordance with orders from C. in C. At 0743 an aircraft identified as a Beaufighter opened fire on M.T.B. 223 causing casualties given in BEEHIVE's 131700 not to all addressees and slight material damage. This incident is being investigated. (C. in C. Nore, 132309A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

EL GRILLO. Your 122014. Regret MIDDLETON cannot be made available. Request she may be sailed for Scapa as soon as her presence in Seidisfjord is no longer required. (C. in C. H.F. 131516A to A.C.I.C.)

STRATHELLA sighted. Following received from Com. Green Pat. T.O.O.131953Z. Trawler STRATHELLA from U.K. bound Reykjavik out of fuel and adrift five weeks sighted from air today approximately 60.03 N. 45.24 W. Assistance proceeding and should arrive tonight. Can you verify authenticity. Ends. (A.C.I.C. 132346A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.29. Convoy K.M.F. 29 will be ready to leave U.K. 21st February.

(2) 17 M/V's. Names and destinations.

(3) A/A escort H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT. A/S escort will consist of 6 ships of 4th E.G. (S.O. in BENTINCK) also H.M.S. URANIA and TERPISCHORE.

(4) SS. ANTENOR will part company to proceed Azores escorted by URANIA and TERPISCHORE and thence after disembarkation to Gibraltar where the two latter ships will come under the orders of C. in C. Med.

(8) No freight ships are available as rescue ships. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, FRANCONIA, VOLENDAM and MONARCH OF BERMUDA will be empty. (D.O.D.(H), 131315A to C. in C. W.A.)

211

War Diary.

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

- J.W. 57. Ministry of War Transport has asked that up to 6 extra ships may be included in J.W. 57. (D.O.D.(H), 131329A to C. in C. H.F.) B.1 Group, STRULE S.O., BYRON, WANDERER, WATCHMAN are available to support J.W. 57.
(2) Am recalling them from present operations south of Iceland to arrive Scapa 15th February.
(3) Ships are not arcticised. I should appreciate what you can do for them in time available.
(4) Group has been at sea since 2nd February and it is hoped that they can return to Londonderry by 2nd March. (C. in C. W.A. 131937A to C. in C. H.F.)
- O.S.68,
K.M.S.42. Sailed TRACKER in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 091742A. (N.O.I.C.Greenock, 131346 to C. in C. W.A.) TAFF sailed to overtake. (Cdre. D. W.A. 131801A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S. 29. NORTHERN PRIDE sailed to overtake. (Cdre. D. W.A. 131539A to Admty.) FAME sailed to overtake. (Cdre. D. W.A. 131631A to Admty.) VESPER sailed to overtake. (Cdre. D. W.A. 132015A to Admty.)
- LADY
NELSON. Intend to sail. LADY NELSON (Hospital) from Breaksea 1430A/15th Halifax. Route. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 131719A to Admty.)

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. German controlled French Ship SAUMUR 2955
SAUMUR. gross tonnage left Barcelona 2000/12th.
(F.O.G.M.A., 130642A to 10th S.F.(R) S.O.10th.)
From Barcelona SAMUR left for unknown
destination on 12th Feb. carrying 60 German and
(?Spanish) passengers.
F.O.G.M.A. 131844A to 10th S/M Flotilla (R)
Capt. S.10.)

GLASGOW Arrived.
(from (F.O.G.M.A. 130850.)
Plymouth.)

Landing Your 292355Z Jan. No further L.C.M. are
craft, available for unloading and every effort
Angra. should be made to obtain assistance from local
resources.
2. No 25 ft. M.B. are available but 2 20 ft.
M.B. could be made available if considered
suitable. Request early reply.
(D.C.O.D., 131141A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

UNSWERVING Arrived escorted by KILBURNIE. (From U.K.)
(for Med. (F.O.G.M.A., 131410A.)
Fleet)
TANTALUS
(for Eastern
Fleet.)

S/Ms. A.M. 111541. These S/Ms. were diverted to
on passage patrol to await escort in order that their
to Foreign bombing restrictions should not hamper
Commands. anti-U/Boat operations in approaches to Strait
of Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A. 131650A.)

South Atlantic.

Kissy As a preliminary step towards the occupation
Dockyard. of Kissy Barracks and Dockyard, PHILOCTETES,
the Freetown Escort force and U.Y.M.S. will
move to Fourah Bay on 15th April. EDINBURGH
CASTLE will remain at her present moorings and
continue to act as accommodation ship until that date after
which she will be stored and paid off on 15th May.
EDINBURGH CASTLE now has no steam available for any purpose
as after a recent examination of the three remaining boilers

/revealed...

213

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Kissy
Dockyard.
(Contd.)

revealed extreme cracking of furnaces and other defects and I ordered fires to be drawn and steam not raised in them again. Propose to turn EDINBURGH CASTLE over to M.W.T. on 15th May.
(F.O.E.A.F., 131203 to Admty.)

Operation
"Tabarin".

Following has been received:
"TABARIN" arrived Port Lockroy (Graham Land) (64.50 S. 63.29 W.) p.m. 11th February. Am removing Argentine marks and establishing base (a) here. No other suitable site available. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 131707Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

Gr.Opsum.
184.

Period ending 1800/12.

3. A - Liberator G.200 - B - Blockade runner patrol - C - 1256 - D - 06.10 N. 27.15 W. - E - 180 F - 12 - H - 8250 DCS plus cannon - Item - 1 DC observed to fall 10 feet behind crash

diving U/Boat oil and air bubbles seen in position swirl after attack.

(A.H.Q. W.Af., 131740.)

214

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

C.S.15. Intend to transfer my flag temporarily to PHOEBE at 1500 tomorrow Monday and that ORION sail for Malta for a storing and defects at (17?26)/14th. Office of F.O.I.C. will remain in ORION and administrative matter should continue to be sent there. Only operational matter will be dealt with by C.S.15 in PHOEBE who holds F.Os. set of S.Ps.
(C.S.15 131633A.)

SS. CAPO PINO sinking. S.1's 311840 Jan. para. 3. SPORTSMAN (P.229) returned from patrol having fired five non contact torpedoes. Salvo of four fired at 4800 ton merchant vessel lightly loaded estimated draught 12 feet torpedoes set 18 feet firing interval 20 seconds or over range 3000 yards track angle 120. Two non contact hits. Back broken but ship not sunk. Four hours later ship sunk with one non contact torpedo depth setting 18 feet draught of target then varying between zero and 30 feet. 2. TORBAY returned from patrol having fired five non contact torpedoes at merchant vessel: all torpedoes missed owing to under estimation of target speed.
(S.O. S/Ms. Beirut 131730.)
re SPORTSMAN and TORBAY are now on patrol carrying non contact pistols.

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 23.
1. 300 tons unloaded at Anzio in 24 hours ending 122000 wind has remained light today.
2. About 12 bombs dropped by some 50 aircraft which attempted to attack Port of Anzio on 12th no damage.
3. DIDO carried out seven day bombardments five registered night shoots during 12th/13th PHOEBE remained off Anzio.
(C. in C.Med. at Naples 131819A.)

Special craft. Asking for M.F.U., sleeping beauties, Wersans, Wel freighters.
3. We have so few means of hitting at enemy in the Aegean that it is hoped all these craft may be sent with least possible delay.
(F.O.L.E.M. 132019B to Admty.)

War Diary.

13. 2. 1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat dis- My 120335Z. Areas A. B. C. D. E. and F. no fresh
position. information, no change in scale of air escort.
Area G. KHEDIVE ISMAIL torpedoed and sunk in po-
sition 000° 37' N. 072° 16' E. at 0905Z/12th by
Japanese U-Boat which was later destroyed by the
escort at 1155Z/12th. Scale of air escort remains
Y.
(C. in C.E.F. 130354Z.)

SS. KHEDIVE My 121324 refers. SS. KHEDIVE ISMAIL sank in two
ISMAIL. mins. with regrettably heavy loss of life.
2. Total of approx. 1318 passengers and 188 crew
including naval draft, military units of East
African Brigade, American Troops, W.R.M.S., A.T.S.,
W.T.S., and nursing sisters on board.
3. 200 survivors reported rescued. Search continues but it
appears unlikely there are any further remaining.
(C. in C.E.F. 131359Z, 130502Z.)

1318
158
1506 = 1306
700

PALADIN. PETARD's 121352Z. S/M hydroplane caused split 12
inches below waterline between station 64 and 82.
Am (corrupt group) condition before (?res tructing)
top weight, transferring fuel and ammunition,
(groups missing and corrupt.)
Ship now upright with 4 feet free board aft.
(Corrupt group) Captain on board.
(PALADIN 131716Z.)

TAURUS, Following is a summary of TAURUS third Far East
TEMPLAR, Patrol. 1015/6th Feb. sank 50 ton schooner
patrols. carrying oil fuel and 80 ton tug by gunfire off
Sibolga. 0534/7 bombed by aircraft off Nias Island
at periscope depth minor damage. Special opera-
tion successful.
2. Following is summary of TEMPLAR fourth Far East Patrol. 0504/
24th Jan. in 04° 20' N. 100° 20' E. attacked Japanese U-Boat
with six torpedoes but missed it owing to enemy zig-zagging.
1610/26th Jan. in 05° 00' N. 98° 25' E. attacked southbound
cruiser with eight torpedoes range 6000 yards one hit. 0442/31st
Jan. in 04° 20' N. 100° 21' E. attacked northbound Japanese U-
Boat with last three torpedoes range 8000 yards. Two torpedoes
exploded with possible but unlikely hit.
(C. in C.E.F. 130556Z.)

H.C/C.H. Intend all ships of 9 knots and over to proceed
convoys. escorted convoy when sailing between Calcutta and
Chittagong and vice versa.
2. H.C. convoys to continue to leave Sangor every
3 days as at present.
3. C.H. convoys to leave Chittagong every 3 days. Convoys shall
be sailed approx. 24 hours after the arrival of the previous H.C.
convoy. The first convoy to sail will be C.H.5 on 20th Feb.
Convoy numbers C.H.1 to C.H.4 inclusive will not be used.
4. Following are additional instructions for C.H. convoys.
C. Time of sailing may be adjusted to suit local conditions pro-
vided that escorts are not unduly delayed.
D. N.O.I.C. Chittagong has authority to sail ships independently
if much delay or (?congestion) is being caused by them waiting for
convoy.
(C. in C.E.F. 130559Z.) See amendment 140615Z.

/Convoy...

216

War Diary.

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy
C.H.1.

Sailing signal. Escort KATHIAWAR, KELAVATI.
(N.C.S.O. Chittagong 130604Z.)
See 140845Z.

SS. ASPHALION, My 110937 refers.

details of
attack.

2. A confirmed asdic contact attacked by IPSWICH
at 0254Z/11 and further attack by JUMNA and
LAUNCESTON followed. Bubbles and oil were brought
up and at 0421Z/12 the oil patch was 9 square
miles in extent.

3. Object resembling U-Boat and including traces of conning
tower indicated by echo sounder bottomed in 40 fathoms immediately
below source of oil and bubbles in 017° 25' N. 083° 21' E.

4. Although no wreckage seen evidence available indicates U-
Boat was probably destroyed.
(C. in C.E.F. 130613Z.)

K.R.9.

Additional escorts are being provided for convoy
K.R.9 which will necessitate delay in sailing
convoy till approx. 24th Feb. Request you will
report names of escorts available from Kilindini
Escort Force to provide escort as far east as
approx. 66° E.

(C. in C.E.F. 130639Z to N.O.I.C. E.Af.)

NEWCASTLE.

Arrival 13th NEWCASTLE Flag F.O.4th C.S.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 131431Z.)

SAVORGNAN DE
BRAZZA.

Sailed 1500Z for Fremantle in company BIALYSTOK
to 019° 00' S. 060° 00' E. Arrangements.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 131510Z, 140549Z.)

CARADOC.

Allocated as escort base ship at Colombo on
completion of duties at Durban.
(D.O.D.(F) 131808A.)

War Diary.

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X., Your 082352 refers. Experience will show with
O.N. EMPIRE MACCOLL and ANCYLUS and extent which it
convoys. may be possible for M.A.C. Tankers to catch the
 first H.X. after arrival at New York.
 2. It is now our practice under favourable
 conditions to recommend that faster ships in
westbound convoys be permitted to proceed independently ahead
of the convoy to New York, e.g. O.N.220 and O.N.221. Request
information whether this would be acceptable for M.A.C.
Tankers when by so doing the additional loading time gained
will prevent them missing the first available H.X. convoys.
(B.A.D. 130145Z to Admty.)

Stragglers' Stragglers arrived Week Ending 12th February.
Report. 6th Feb. U.S. RUFUS DAWES O.N.221 slight heavy
 weather damage, one lifeboat lost.
 6th Feb. EMPIRE ORTOLAN, O.N. 221 straggler lost
 convoy. 6th Feb. U.S. CHARLES H. HERTY,
O.N.221 heavy weather damage.
11th Feb. RABY CASTLE O.N.221 cargo shifted leak in number one
hold.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 131351Z.)

U/B (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 131403Z, Cominch, 131500Z.)
estimates.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Feb. 12th. (Paragraphs 11 to 17 cover South
Serial Pacific Forces.)
No. 754. 3. M.T.Bs. machine gunned floating dock at
 Malaga (10 miles south Madang) early hours
 also strafed buildings (?Mugil) harbour
 (17 miles North Alexishafen).
6. Rooke and Sakar Islands Northern Vitiaz Straits occupied
12th without opposition.
12. Motor torpedo boats effectively intercepted two barges
departing Choiseul Bay night 10th - 11th whilst other similar
units strafed shore positions south west Bougainville,
Empress Augusta Bay also Western Buka passage area. Following
night motor torpedo boats supported by floatplane bombed
strafed Southern shores Empress Augusta Bay.
16. Submarine seen ten miles south east cape Saint George
midday 12th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 130930Z.)

13.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Paragraph A. 1. KHEDIVE ISMAIL torpedoed
and sunk 00° 57' N. 72° 16' E. 0905Z/12.
2. H.M.S. PALADIN heavily attacked Japanese
U/Boat with depth charges and gunfire
approx. 01° 03' N. 72° 15' E. at 1115Z/12th.
3. JUMNA, LAUNCESTON and IPSWICH attacked
U/Boat probably Japanese 17° 21' N. 83° 31' E.

at 0219Z/11th.

4. A/C sighted and attacked two U/Boats course 060° in 44° 21' N. 09° 30' W. at 0214Z/13.

5. U/Boat believed German reported entered Ferrol a.m./10.

6. U.S.N.A/C sighted U/Boat course 090° in 48° 15' N. 10° 22' W at 0446Z/13.

Para. B. R.A.F. A/C sighted U/Boat on surface course 180° and attacked with depth charges 06° 10' N. 27° 15' W. at 1240Z/12.

Ref. A.M. 121146A, Para. A.(1) VIVA has sunk.

Ref. A.M. 111227A Para. A (9) U/Boat hunted and attacked until 0601Z/11.

(D.D.I.C. 131113A.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 131319A as amended by 141952A to
F.O.C.W.Af., 131331A.)

219

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

STUBBORN
damaged.

1. The S/M STUBBORN on patrol off Kya Light (near Bergen) reported at 1845Z to-day that she had been damaged by depth-charge and bottoming, has lost her rudder, and cannot dive. She has asked for an Escort and towing-vessel.

A/S
Operations.

2. Ships of E.G.3 attacked a U-Boat during last night without result about 560 miles West of Galway.

Damaged
U-Boat at
Ferrol.

3. The damaged U-Boat at Ferrol was still in dry-dock there tonight and some diving parts have been taken ashore for repair.

Mediterranean.

Anzio
area.

4.(a) The weather remained fine at Anzio yesterday and to-day and 3577 tons were discharged.
(b) The U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA, escorted by 3 destroyers gave fire support at Anzio to-day.

"Avalanche".

5.(a) A shore battery at Rogoznica (Yugoslavia coast) fired at our M.T.B's on patrol last night, but caused no damage. No shipping was seen.
(b) 36 U.S. Mitchells attacked Leghorn twice to-day, sinking 6 barges and doing damage ashore.

East Indies.

New
Convoys.

6. The first Seychelles-Mauritius convoy arrived to-day at Mauritius, and Convoy M.N.1 arrived at the Seychelles. It is reported that Convoy C.H. 1 sailed from Chittagong for Calcutta (arrived at Calcutta 16 Feb.).

220

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Concentration at Trincomalee. 7. RENOWN (V.A.1) and ILLUSTRIOUS (R.A.A.) returned to Trincomalee to-day with EMERALD and Dutch cruiser TROMP and 9 destroyers. QUEEN ELIZABETH and VALIANT are at Trincomalee.

SALVIKING sunk. 8. The salvage vessel H.M.S. SALVIKING was sunk by a U-Boat at 1630Z to-day in approx. 03.30 N. 76.30 E. (270 miles south-west of Colombo) whilst proceeding from Colombo to Addu Atoll escorted by the trawler FARA. 30 survivors were picked up.

America and West Indies.

U/B attacked. 9. Liberator aircraft Q/10 Sqn. of Eastern Air Command attacked a German U-Boat at 2038 G.M.T. to-day in 46.13 N. 44.52 W. (350 miles East of Cape Race) and estimated two hits with depth charges. The U-Boat submerged without any forward motion after a second attack at 2040 G.M.T. but no result other than oil slick was seen on account of darkness.

221

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Damaged
U/Boat
at
Ferrol.

Your 120306 Ministry of Marine have no information about U/Boat having left Ferrol February 10th. Corunna's 101415 refers. 2. They state some cells of batteries had been muzzled to get at a hole in pressure hull. Hole is small and repair expected will take short time.

3. Full particulars of extent of damage expected today and Minister of Foreign Affairs will be informed of time for repair.

4. Damage believed caused by striking submerged object.

5. Please see H.M. Ambassador telegram number 244 13th February to Foreign Office.

(B.N.A. Madrid, 141431A to D.N.I.)

Report received from N.A. Madrid states that although full details are not yet obtainable repairs to damaged U/Boats in Ferrol will not take very long.

(D.D.I.C. 141758A to C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

My 131235. S/M continues dry dock working day and night. Keel plates damaged and diving parts have been taken ashore to be repaired (?hull defect) unknown.

Italian Consul informs me steamer EDERA will leave Ferrol 0600/16th, for Gibraltar.

(Corunna, 142215B to Admty.)

Operations.

A/S
operations
off
Western
Ireland.

My 131940Z. Under very unfavourable asdic conditions 3 depth-charge attacks have been made but only occasional hydrophone effects and whistle detected. Accurate attack improbable until weather moderates since U/Boat appears to be deep. Am sitting over him until he has to surface. If not result by day intend detaching 3 escorts to comply

with your 131621 and remainder follow later.

(DUCKWORTH, 140201Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 140201. Contact lost after 0245Z in gale conditions. Escorts now spread on 5 mile circle about last known position which was approx. 052° 40' N. 024° 50' W. in hope of Radar contact.

(E.G.3. 140510Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 140201. By D/F bearings at 0805Z U/Boat was close North of me. Am retaining all ships for 12 hours in anticipation of approval.

(DUCKWORTH, 140813Z to C. in C.W.A.)

D/F of B-Barred Message at 0757Z, 0806Z and 0809Z all on series seven indicates U/Boat still in immediate vicinity of E.G.3.

(D.D.I.C. 141025A to E.G.3.)

My 0813Z. U/Boat not detected on Radar by daylight today now probably submerged in vicinity 53° N. 25° W. datum, course 340°. Consider prospect of asdic detection is very remote.

(E.G.3, 141031Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 140813. Approved, but all ships must comply with my 131624A.

(C. in C.W.A. 141115A to E.G.3.)

/My...

222

14.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. (Contd.) My 141031. Intend to abandon search at 1500Z unless contact is regained. Weather moderating, S.O.A. 12 knots on 150° from 1500Z. (E.G.3, 141131Z to C. in C.W.A.) Return to Londonderry for fuel. (C. in C.W.A. 141307A to E.G.6.) Situation at 142000. 6th E.G.NENE, WASKESIU, PRESCOTT, LUNENBURG, SNOWBERRY, EDMUNDSTON 53° 41' N. 23° 42' W. to Londonderry, 12. (C. in C.W.A. 141546A to Admty.)

Southerly gale. Condition becoming unsuitable for fighters. (BITER 141655Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Biscay A/S operations. D/F of transmission at 0042Z indicates U/Boat probably within 75 miles of 46° 30' N. 27° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 140228A to E.G.16.) P.C.S. of 1 small vessel, 1 escort vessel 43° 00' N. 06° 18' E. 280, 5. (A/C BVZQ 141121A to 40 L.)

3 HF/DF bearings investigated last night by air and surface strikes. Regret no contact. Believe we would get him soon with practice and patience. Your 140426A. Intend joining HX278 at daylight 15th. After short experience with O.N.223 2 carriers seem to unwieldy in one convoy specially for night operations. As flying weather cannot be forecast intend sending FENCER to join H.X.278 escorted by 5 frigates who will subsequently form outer screen with E.G.2. Intend STRIKER escorted by 4 sloops cover convoy at distance of 50 to 100 miles. Endeavouring to fuel SPEY, ROTHER, CRANE today. My P.C.S. at 1200Z, 047° 03' N. 025° 34' W. 210° 9. (STRIKER 141311Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Am being attacked by one enemy aircraft in 46° 27' N. 9° 46' W. (A/C MFM.19 141332 to 19 Group.)

On parting company tonight have (corrupt group) FENCER to consider herself detached. SPEY and frigates to reform 10th E.G. STRIKER and sloops to remain 16th E.G. (STRIKER, 142143Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Have obtained ASV contact in 43° 25' N. 8° 39' W. (A/C LND.14 142259 to Fort Southwick.)

One submarine on surface bearing 200° (?13) miles, unknown course. My position 47° 10' N. 26° 49' W. (STRIKER 142359Z to E.G.2, B.2, C. in C.W.A.)

S/M patrols. My P.C.S. 064° 31' N. 004° 30' E., 210° 7½ knots. Returning to Lerwick by outward route. Have leak in after battery. Unable to dive for long periods owing to presence of gas. (UNSHAKEN, 140901A to F.O.S.)

ZEEHOND sailing for patrol off Norway on 14th February. (Capt. S.7, 140941A to B.D.Z.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/15th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. TRADEWIND 69° 01' N. 09° 56' E. probably on the surface towards 62° 01' N. 00° 09' E.

B. STUBBORN and SYRTIS as in my 131737.

/c. ...

223

War Diary.14 2. 1944.
Sunday. MANDAYHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M patrols. (Contd.)

C. UNSHAKEN 62° 15' N. 01° 18' E. through 62° N. 01° E. to Lerwick, 7½ knots.
 D. TAKU on patrol vicinity of Skudesnes.
 E. VAMPIRE 62° 10' N. 00° 28' W. dived by day to patrol vicinity 63° 30' N. 01° 10' E. (F.O.S. 141747 to Admty.)

Negative patrol. S/M damaged by depth charge and bottoming and cannot dive. Rudder has now broken adrift. Attempts to steer by main engine unsuccessful due to free rudder and damaged port screw. Request an escort and towing vessel. My position 064° 12' N. 005° 34' E. Weather. (STUBBORN, 141845Z to F.O.S.)

UNSHAKEN in 063° 35' N. 003° 05' E. at 1800A returning to Lerwick on the surface by route "Orange" speed 7½ knots. (Capt. S.9, 141845A to S/MS.)

Patrol blank. My P.C.S. 068° 56' N. 009° 28' E. 210°, 10 knots.

(TRADEWIND, 142102A to F.O.S.)

Operation F.X. J.W.57, It will be possible to accept in White Sea all ships of suitable draft for River Dvina plys 8 to 10 deep draft dry cargo ships and 2 tankers at Molotovsk. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 141042A to S.B.N.O. Polyarno)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 141403)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141441A.)

SATYR Patrol. Four Enemy M/Vs attacked. SATYR reports in accordance with I.S.O.H. 30:-
 1. A. 3rd February 1110, large motor patrol vessel entered Vanelv Gabet having been first sighted on course 240° at 8 knots from Sandoy. 1501 sighted 400-500 ton, 3 masted schooner flying Nelson Flag southbound close inshore following coast off Stadtlandet.
 B. 5th February 1558 sighted 5,000 M/V apparently at anchor off Ervik. Fired 4 torpedoes singly in heavy swell. No explosion heard but column of spray sighted abreast of bridge 2¼ minutes after firing last torpedo. Range 3200 yards.

C. 6th February 0950 - 1015. 2 Trawlers apparently carrying out search south and west of 062° 18 min. N. 005° 14' E. and disappeared to southward.
 D. 9th February 1327 in very bad weather one M/V passed out of range. Unable to attack.
 E. 10th February 0841, P.C.S. of one M/V and 2 trawlers 062° 17' N. 005° 16' E. 050° 9 knots. Fired 5 torpedoes at 5,400 yards. Explosions heard 4 minutes 22 seconds and 4 minutes 33 seconds later and one (at ?) 6 minutes. SATYR went deep. 13 minutes later 1 trawler in sight just passing to north-east of Sandoy.

/F. ...

War Diary.

14.2.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

SATYR
Patrol
Four
Enemy
M/Vs
attacked.
(Contd.)

F. 11th February 0904. Approximate P.C.S. of 2 M/Vs, 1 northbound, escorted by Mowe class destroyer and 1 trawler, and 1 southbound escorted by 1 trawler 062° 13' N. 005° 12' E., 093° and 260° 8 knots. Attacked the former with 3 torpedoes. No explosions heard. Result not observed.

G. 12th February 1020, 2 unescorted M/Vs passed out of range in 062° 13' N. 005° 09' E. 1325 fired stern torpedo at M/V now beached off Ervik and seen to have large hole inside bridge. Range 2800 yards. Torpedo seen to explode at about 1500 yards.
2. Very bad weather and visibility experienced throughout patrol.
(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 141702A to F.O.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
O.S.67/
K.M.S.41
attacked
on 12th
February.
Two Enemy
A/C shot
down.
One Enemy
A/C damaged.

In 042° 56' N. 017° 50' W. escort O.S.67/K.M.S.41 was attacked by mixed force of 7 Heinkel 177s and Fockwolfe 200s at 1910/12th February. 6 detected by Radar at 1852. 4 Wildcats airborne by 1902. Sunset was at 1838. Last fighter patrol had landed on at 1844. 9 10th cloud, cloud base 2500. Fighters intercepted and shot down one Heinkel 177, one F.W.200 and damaged one F.W.200. No bombs in convoy 1 previously reported bomb 1000 yards from MIGNONETTE no damage. QJ transmissions were heard by ROCHESTER on 48.62 MCS. 3 Enemy A/C remained in vicinity until 2000. Fighters were vectored but too dark for interception.

Squadrons are not trained night fighters and enemy saw them easily due to exhaust flames. All fighters landed on by 2040 without damage in complete darkness strong lights had to be used to home them. Weather report. (Position to nearest deg. 3914.

(PURSUER 141046Z to C. in C.W.A.) *Interval for Radar search to airborne. 10 mins*

Capt H.D. Graham

Mining.

Sweep
off
Bristol
Channel.

Proceed forthwith to carry out searching sweep in H Formation at a depth of 17 fathoms through the following positions:
(A) 180° Lizard Head 3 miles.
(B) 180° Bishop 10 miles
(C) Thence 265° to 7° W. and return to Falmouth for fuel.

2. On completion of fuelling, sweep Q.Z.S.347, 452 and 433 to Lundy and return to Lizard, thence 410 and 443 to Plymouth, using own discretion as to anchoring.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141100A to M/S 16.)

fighters 3 minutes in air before attack

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

WITTEKIND,
and
ENTRERIOS
sunk.

A. WITTEKIND 4028 tons sunk near Lista about Jan. 20th with cargo consisting 6600 tons ore from Narvik for Germany.
B. ENTRERIOS 5179 tons also sunk Lista date unstated. She was carrying 9000 tons ore from Narvik to Germany. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 141307 to Admty.)

Enemy
Convoy.

Convoy of 3 large merchant ships, 1 large tanker, 1 small merchant ships escorted by 2 patrol vessels and 1 T.B. passing Skorbon (061° 36' N.) at 1340A/14th, course North. (F.O.S. 1416128A to S/Ms.)

E/Boats.

085 T.A.B.8 at 2238 unknown surface craft detected by R.D.F. course 26°.
(C. in C. Nore, 142245A to 395 and 394 Aux. M/S Groups.)
090° T.A.B.4 surface craft detected by R.D.F.

course 260°.

(C. in C. Nore, 142252A to SHEARWATER.)

040° 51 buoy 2 miles at 2304 unknown surface craft detected by R.D.F.

(C. in C. Nore, 142307 to 394, 395 Aux. M/S Groups.)

Casualties and Defects.

STRATHELLA.

U.S. Aircraft from Greenland reports trawler identified as STRATHELLA drifting off coast of Greenland. Ship says she was enroute U.K. to Reykjavik and has been drifting for 5 weeks. Assistance has been sent from Greenland. Can you confirm identity of this ship.

(F.O.N.F., 140216Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 140216Z. Confirmed. STRATHELLA separated from U.R.105 on 13th January in heavy weather and has not been heard of since.

(C. in C.W.A. 140630A to F.O.N.F.)

My 132346. Comgopat reports 140720 STRATHELLA in 60° 01' N. 45° 45' W. in tow for Simiutak. Crew of 22 in good health. Names have been asked for and will be reported.

(A.C.I.C. 141502A to Admty.)

SHARPSBURG.

Collision with gasoline tanker. Ship afire. Please send assistance.
(Convoy No.62 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool. No T.O.O. Recd. 141340.)

My 141623A. Escort Oiler BRALANTA sailing with O.N.224 in collision with U.S. Tanker SHARPSBURG inward bound a.m. 14th February in Queens Channel Liverpool resulting in fire in SHARPSBURG. Fire reported under control 1700 and SHARPSBURG anchored clear of Channel will enter Harbour a.m. tomorrow. 31 injured suffering from shock. U.S. personnel landed Birkenhead from LAWFORD. 34 personnel picked up by M.M.S. 1047 now returned to ship.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 142035A to Admty.)

/GREY...

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

GREY
FOX. S.G.B. GREY FOX has developed defect to main inlets valve trunking that necessitate docking. Anticipate. Anticipate the repair to GREY FOX can be completed within 48 hours. Request instructions.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 141515A to Admty.)
S.G.B. GREY FOX can be taken in hand by S.R. Co. Southampton, forthwith for docking.
(D.O.D.H., 142324A to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

TRUMPETER. F.O.C.T. 131211A/Feb. Certain essential defects in TRUMPETER must be completed at Dundee to make ship operationally seaworthy and otherwise efficient prior to sailing. Main items are as follows. Details. Estimated time for this work 7 weeks.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 141532A to Admty.)

KITE. Have detached KITE to Liverpool from 046° 00' N. 027° 32' W. with one condenser defective and the other shaky.
(E.G.2, 142014Z to C. in C. W.A.)

STUBBORN. Damaged. See Operations.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.224. ICARUS, GATINEAU and CHAUDIERE are to leave Londonderry p.m. 15th February to overtake O.N.224 a.m. 18th February and support.
(C. in C.W.A. 141304A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

227

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.K.F.28A. N.U. keep 30 miles to Westward of route between 038 degs. 30' and 041 degs. 00' N. (F.O.G.M.A. 141137A to S.E.M.K.F.28A)

Landing
Craft at
Angra.

A.M.131141A. Motor Boats suitable request early dispatch. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 141147Z).
Re: Suitability of M.B. in lieu of L.C.M.
Ref. A.M. 131141A/Proposal to build wooden lighters in Pico. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 141246Z).
/ No further L.C.M. are available for unloading and every effort should be made to obtain local assistance.

SS. NICOLINE
MAERSK.

My 051716 / Salvage operations expected to take (1) one month but depends on weather conditions. Spanish tug R.R. 18 assisting. (B.N.A. Madrid, 141640A)
/ Re arrangements for salvage of Danish SS. NICOLINE MAERSK been made and necessary appliances arrived.

South Atlantic.

Exchange of
Italian
Cruisers.

F.O.T.A.L.I.'s 121147 AOSTA and ABRUZZI can be maintained and operated from Freetown vide my 111544. Should welcome GARRIBALDI also if available. (F.O.C.W.Af. 141212A).
Your 111742. Not to Admiralty unless specially required, it seems a pity to remove Tarcheri so soon. He is being most co-operative and helpful and is main influence in keeping Italian ships at sea and good behaviour of their personnel. (F.O.C.W.Af. 141214Z to C. in C. Med.)

U/B in
St. Paul's
Rocks area.

My 122202Z. U-Boat crash dived after second attack by Liberator G/200. One gun forward twin guns aft conning tower. A/C damaged by flak and 2 of crew minor injuries. This U-Boat possibly the one estimated west of St. Vincent in your 131359A but no alternative position off Freetown. A second U-Boat can already be in Freetown area and a third off Takoradi. Shall appreciate your remark. (F.O.C.W.Af. 141222Z to Admty.)

Your /...

228

14.2.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U/B in
St. Paul's
Rocks area.
(Contd.)

Your 141222Z. U-Boats in your area are estimated as in / A.M. 141431A. U-Boat estimated west of St. Vincent in A.M. 131319A could not have reached position of attack 121240Z. Now that attack by G/200 is confirmed cancel estimate in A.M. 131319A of one alternatively within 200 miles of Freetown.

(D.D.I.C. 141952A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

/ W.D. Note: See U-Boat Campaign.

229

14.2.1944.
Monday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

1st S/M.F. patrols. 13th Feb. arrivals SPORTSMAN. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 140845B). SOKOL establish patrol on route Salonika - Skiathos Channel keeping South QB 25 O. (2) UNSPARING establish patrol between Cape Drepano (Gulf of Kassandra) and Lemnos. (F.O.L.E.M., 141242B to SOKOL, UNSPARING, Info. 1st S/M. F.). From position 035 degs. 20' 015 degs. 20' at 2101A/16th proceeding on surface at 10 knots to (route). To arrive Marsamxett at 0850A/17th. (Capt.(S) 1, 141603A to SIBYL). At 0301A/15th leave present patrol and proceed to patrol north of 039 degs. and east of 025 degs. (Capt.(S) 1, 141650A to DZIK (R) 1st S/M. F., F.O.L.E.M.). G.S. NEREUS sailed at 1730/14th to pass through Kaso Strait a.m. 17th for patrol in the vicinity Milo. (S.O. S/M's. Beirut, 141735B).

U/boat reports. Walrus reported U/boat contact at 0950/14th in 041 degs. 10' N. 009 degs. 34' E. Contact attacked and air bubbles reported. Square search by 2 Walruses proceeding. (F.O.I.S., 141154A). S/M. sighted in 032 degs. 29' 020 degs. 01' at 0631A/14th. (Capt.(S) 1, 141805A to SIBYL).

U.593 (sunk 13/12/43). Your 111746A. B.A.D. has already informed Admiralty that release was made owing to a mid-understanding and that steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence. (D. of P.D., 141226A to C. in C. Med.).

SS. HALLAREN (safe conduct vessel). Cancel my 061927+ Swedes now intimate that HALLAREN will leave Venice 0800 local time/20 direct for Piraeus by standard route. (2) Request you will inform Air and other Authorities concerned. (Agmty., 141226A to V.A.M., F.O.L.E.M., F.O.T.A.L.I., Info. C. in C. Med.). + Routeing for safe conduct vessel HALLAREN. Swedes enquiring whether we agree.

Proposal to abandon torpedo as air anti-ship weapon in Med. Theatre. Concur in proposal in A.M. 101842. (C. in C. Med., Naples, 141855A).

KAIA KNUDSEN (Black Tanker) seriously underarmed and requires 18 days D.E.M.S. work. Request this may be taken in hand Port Said on release state area. Machinery defects would also be taken in hand. (F.O.L.E.M., 142011B to Admty.).

/Boundaries...

230

War Diary14.2.1944.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Boundaries of Air Commands. The following arrangement has been agreed between the Naval and Air C's. in C. Med. and come into force with effect from 19th Feb. 1944.

Para.1. The dividing line between areas of responsibility of A.H.Q.E. Med. Command M.A. Coastal C.F. will be adjusted to conform with the naval boundaries as follows:-

F.O.L.E.M. at Alexandria whose Western boundary is a line from Isurta to meet a line due West from Cape Matapan in longitude 19 degs. 30' E. F.O.T.A.L.I. A.E. Taranto whose Southern boundary is a line from Cape Colonne to meet F.O.L.E.M's. Western boundary line in longitude 19 degs. 30' E. and then due East to Cape Matapan. V.A. Malta and Flag Officer Med. (V.A.M.) in Malta, whose Eastern boundary is a line from Cape Colonne and a line from Isurata meeting in longitude 19 degs. 30' E. (H.Q. M.A.A.F., 142012A).

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep No. 24.

Weather remained fine at Anzio on 13th and 14th. Tonnage discharged to 13 2000 was 3577.

(2) Several alerts p.m. 13th 4 bombs in town. Persistent shelling on 13th shots falling in sea, but closer to port than previously.

(3) PHILADELPHIA giving fire support on 14th at Anzio. (C. in C. Med., 142121A).

Situation report No. 294. (1) SS CORFIRTH reported damaged by mine one mile from entrance to Ajaccio on 12th Feb. Now anchored off Port.

(2) DIDO bombarded in Formia area throughout 12th February. One gun from shore battery replied. PHOEBE escorted by INGLEFIELD, URCHIN and U.S.S. WOOLSEY also gave fire support in Anzio area on same date.

(3) Air attacks and shelling of Anzio resumed on 11th 12th and 13th February. No (?Naval) damage caused. Minor damage to buildings ashore. 9 radio controlled bombs dropped between 1807 and 1838 12th Feb.

(4) SPORTSMAN reports sinking a 4800 ton merchant ship by torpedo in 035 degs, 35' N. 024 degs. (?09') East at 0832/8.

(5) Coastal forces operating from Bastia engaged southbound convoy of 6 F lighters and an E3boat off San Vincenzo 043 degs. 06' N. 010 degs. 32' E. at 2345/13. Hits were observed. Superficial damage to craft no casualties. (C. in C. Med., 142140).

Attack on K.M.S.37 on 10th Jan. & U.G.S.30 on 1st Feb. Details.

(1) to (3) 4P 39's and 2 Beaufighters were over convoys and 4P 39's and 1 Beaufighter scrambled to augment. Two other Beaufighters on patrol were diverted.

(4) Two interceptions were made by escort and 3 by Force Landing aircraft. No G.C.I. or Scramble interceptions.

/ (5)...

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Attack on
K.M.S.37 on
10th Jan &
U.G.S.30 on
1st Feb.
(Contd.).

(5) Sighting 12 unidentified aircraft by Allied Destroyer passed to Oran Sector at 1820 hours. First Plots 1836 hours 20 miles North of Cape Tenes.

(6) Weather almost cloudless wind nil visibility ?12 or 11 miles plus.

(7) Fighter cover also increased to nearby convoy reference attack on K.N.S (sic ? U.G.S.30 intended) Feb. 1st.

(One to Three) 6P 39's were giving close escort and 10 patrolling north of convoy further 8 P 39's were scrambled. Six Beaufighters were patrolling off Ibiza Island for Free Lancing north of convoy and three were scrambled.

(4) Two interceptions made by close escort 4 by Free Lancing Beaufighters with G.C.I. assistance and 5 by Ibiza Patrol.

(5) First plot just after 1800 hours 50 miles North of Algiers.

(6) Bad visibility cloud 8/10ths to 10/10ths 500 to 1000 feet.

(7) Attack took place 30 to 40 minutes after sunset.

(H.Q. M.A.A.F., 142158A).

War Diary.14.2.1944.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Sinking of
tanker by
RELENTLESS,
on 12.2.44.

Your 121243*. On receipt of aircraft's first sighting report at 1106Z proceeded 30 knots to position.

Altered course to intercept at farthest on position as indicated by aircraft 1210Z of 11th Feb. Arrived in position 2020D, no contact made.

Altered course to make farthest on at tankers best speed (11 kts.) on course 142°.

Arrived in position at 2120D, nothing sighted. Considered tanker must be in S.E. quadrant. Reduced to 25 knots and carried out curve of search through farthest on positions to E.

Contacted tanker by R.D.F. at E. corner at 2325D, closed to fire torpedo.

All enemy actions were evasive. Came up moonlight and fired 8 torpedoes, 3 hits. Tanker stopped and abandoned ship, scuttling charges evidently set. Sank in 10 minutes at 0030D, then searched for suspected submarines. Closed and picked up survivors. Some would not approach ship and owing to time in area had to be left as submarine known to be close. Set course to return and made sinking signal in accordance with C.S.4's instructions.

Report of patrol proceedings and narrative have been forwarded to C.S.4.

(RELENTLESS 140327Z to C. in C.E.F.)

* N.T. in W.D.

U-Boat
disposition.

My 130354Z areas A. B. D. E. and G., no fresh information. No change in scale of air escort. Area C reduce scale air escort to X, area F U-Boat attacked in 017° 21' N. 083° 32' E. on 11th Feb., my 120335 refers, considered destroyed.

As no recent indication of second U-Boat in area reduce scale air escort to X.

(C. in C.E.F. 140401Z.)

My 140401Z area G. Scale of air escort to be increased to Y.
(C. in C.E.F. 141851Z.)Disabled
ship.Intercepted by Niton Radio 0305 G.M.T. Unread send assistance at once to, for tow ship disabled lat. 20.47 long. 74.50. Ends.
(Originator not known 140405.)HAWKINS,
FROBISHER.

My 111107 Jan. After further consideration I am of the opinion that these 2 cruisers can be spared in the near future.

2. It is proposed therefore that HAWKINS should be sailed for U.K. before the end of this month and that FROBISHER should follow early in March.

3. These ships will afford a useful opportunity of sending home some of the men who have been relieved on the station.

(C. in C.E.F. 140526Z to Admty.)

H.C/C.H.
convoys.

Cancel reference to convoy number in para. 3. my 130559.

2. Omit convoy number C.H.2, C.H.3 and sail C.H.4 on 17th Feb. Subsequent numbers and escorts as in my 130554 not to all addressees.

(C. in C.E.F. 140615Z.)

War Diary.

14.2.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy Arrived.
Seychelles (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 140731Z.)
Mauritius 1.

RELENTLESS. Arrival 14th.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 140831Z.)

Compromise Amongst the information which the Japanese may be
of S.Ps. able to obtain from the compromise of S.P.02398
(10) to (15) reported in C.O.I.S. E.F. 070503
and 080637.

1. A clear indication of the size of the convoys
moving around the coast of India together with an approximation
of the convoy cycle. Information of the weakness of the escorting
force is also apparent.

2. The Composition and command of our amphibious force in the
Arakan area.

3. Instruction to 151 M.S.F.. to proceed to Chittagong.

4. The establishment of a NAOR (as received) at Vizagapatam.

5. The unsatisfactory state of the runway at Coimbatore.

6. The sinking of SS. PERSEUS on 16th Jan.

(C. in C.E.F. 140831Z to Admty.)

Convoy C.H.1. My 130604 sailed.
(N.C.S.O.Chittagong 140845Z.)

CHARLOTTE 1. German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN sunk in
SCHLIEMANN 023° 23' S. 074° 37' E. at 2040Z/9th Feb. while
(sunk ~~12th~~ 12th Feb.) making R/V with U-Boat. 41 survivors picked up
by RELENTLESS who has been instructed to carry out
preliminary interrogation to establish whether or
not refuelling was actually carried out.

2. Survivors will be landed at Mombasa date to be
indicated later. Re detailed interrogation.

3. Suitable security arrangements should be made to prevent dis-
closure of sinking of tanker as it is desired to withhold this
information until further notice.

(C. in C.E.F. 140909Z to F.O.E.A.)

Addu Atoll Your 312102Z opportunity for removing surplus
and Diego garrison from Addu Atoll and Diego Suarez will
Suarez, occur in near future. Request early decision on
garrisons. this question.
(S.A.C.Sea 140915Z.)

Convoy Arrived.
MN.1. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 141645Z.)

/Sinking...

234

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Sinking of KHEDIVE ISMAIL and U/B 12th Feb. My 121324. Following information from masters of ships in convoy. Convoy included HAWKINS and 5 snips in 3 columns. 3 cables apart 13 knots no zigzag. PALADIN and PETARD about 45° on bows of convoy carrying out broad zigzag.

2. Two torpedoes apparently hit KHEDIVE ISMAIL at 0905Z. Ship on beam ends in 45 seconds and disappeared in under two minutes.
3. Destroyers turned to reciprocal course of convoy dropping depth charges.
4. HAWKINS now Addu Atoll reports that one hour after sinking submarine surfaced a mile from destroyers running fight took place until PALADIN rammed and submarine finally destroyed by torpedo hit from PETARD.
5. Have ordered F.O.Ceylon to hold board of enquiry into circumstances attending loss of the ship.
(C. in C.E.F. 141846Z.)

235

14.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B
Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 141342Z, Cominch, 141623Z)

M.M.S.

M.M.S. 241 (S.O) M.M.S. 238, M.M.S. 239, M.M.S. 240. Sailed St. Johns N.F. 1315Z/14th for Horta (Route etc.)
(F.O.N.F. 141432Z)

H.X.
O.N. Convoys.

Concur in para. 2 of your 130145Z.
(D.T.D. 141743A to B.A.D.)

T.G.21.9
Cortdiv 20.

MARCHAND is Task Group Commander of T.G. 21.9 reconstituted as Cortdiv 20. Escort convoy C.U. 15 departing New York for U.K. 21st Feb. and return to New York escorting U.C. 15 when directed.
(C. in C. Lant, 141834) (as amended by 151859)

KILMARNOCK.

Departs Bermuda for Gibraltar 1300Z/15 (route etc).
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 141944)

T.F.61.

T.F. 61 is hereby constituted as Comdr. Sowell in CAMPBELL Comcortdiv 5 in EVARTS, Cortdiv 5 WILHOITE COCKRILL Desdiv 60 in DALLAS Desdiv 60 less DUPONT. CHEPACHET. Escort U.G.S. 34 departing Hampton Roads for North Africa 23rd Feb and return escorting G.U.S. 33 when directed CHEROKEE will join from Bermuda in accordance my 102225. When appropriate near Azores C.T.F. 61 direct A.T.R. 13 and 97 proceed Horta where upon arrival direct them report Com. 12th Flt. for temporary duty. French sloop CHEVREUIL may sail as part of Task Force. If she does direct her upon arrival Casablanca report to F.O.C. W.Af. for duty.
(C. in C. Lant, 141945, 151850)

4 fast U.S.
Troopships.

Departures of fast unescorted troopships from North Africa scheduled as follows: GENERAL H.W. BUTNER 21 Feb. GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON 27 Feb. GENERAL WILLIAM MITCHELL 29 Feb. GENERAL W.A. MANN 4 March. Please advise if British Escort can be provided within the Med. for all or any of the above ships to permit discharge at Oran rather than Casablanca. Cincomeds 281236 of Jan. not to Commorseafron refers.
(Cominch, 142025)

U/B
attacked.

Nr. Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. 13' N. 44 degs. 52' W. enemy S/M was on surface, when first sighted on course estimated 030 degs. estimated speed 12 knots flak.
(A/C AADQ, 142055, C. in C. C.N.W.A. to G.B.7A)

My /...

236

1421944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B
attacked
(Contd.)

My 142055, estimate 2 hits.
(A/C AADQ, 142120Z)

CHEVREUIL.

Delayed due to collision with Boom Defence my
041317 refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 142305Z)

Australia and New Zealand.

Shipping,
Australia
to M.E.

C. in C. Med. 111050/. Present indications
monthly (A) 1 (B) 1.
(Comsouwestpac, 140541Z to Admty.)
/ To assess the additional escort commitments
information may be provided regarding the number
of ships which will have to be accepted in
(A) slow (B) fast Med. convoys.

Digest
Serial
755.

Feb 13th: (9) Navy Catalina, after daybreak
saw probable small S/M 30 miles East Saidor.
(12) Enemy positions Cape Iris area West of
Saidor bombed strafed forenoon by 6 Aircobras.
Previous night 2 United States destroyers
bombaraded reported gun positions this area.
(16) S/M seen morning 13th 20 miles North Nissan Island, heading
South East. Same time another small S/M surfaced was attacked
50 miles South Cape Orford and hits claimed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 140742Z, 140800Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
Summary.

Para. A. (1) Escort Group 3 attacked U-Boat with
depth charges at 1940/13th in 52 degs. 40' N.
24 degs. 52' W.
Para. B. (1) A/C reported A.S.V. contact at
2030/12th Feb. in 42 degs. 55' N. 09 degs. 25' W.
(D.D.I.C. 141116A)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 141431A, 141432A)

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Engagement
with E/Boats
off Southwold.

1. At about 2300 / ¹⁴ ~~today~~ MALLARD and SHEARWATER on patrol off Southwold engaged six E/Boats which turned about one mile short of the swept channel and retired to the N.E. No hits are claimed on the E/Boats, but C. in C. Nore considers that they were undoubtedly prevented from laying mines in the channel.

Engagement
with Convoy
off
Ijmuiden.

2. At 0400 today our M.T.B. patrols engaged an enemy convoy off Ijmuiden. M.T.B.455 claims two torpedo-hits on a trawler, and other M.T.Bs damaged a second trawler and a flak-ship. A confused action followed in which one F/Boat and one E/Boat were claimed sunk and four E/Boats damaged. All the M.T.Bs. returned safely to Lowestoft; but M.T.B.444 had her C.O. and 3 ratings killed and 2 ratings wounded, while 3 ratings in M.T.B.443 and one in M.T.B. 455 were wounded.

STUBBORN.

3. The S/M STUBBORN, damaged by depth-charges yesterday while on patrol off Kya, reports today that she has sunk or damaged five M/Vs in that area. She reported at 2230A today that she was drifting about 80 miles N.W. of Christiansund; and MUSKETEER, SCOURGE, NARVIK, METEOR and SWIFT are proceeding to assist her.

M.L.210
~~and sunk.~~
M.L.573
~~sunk.~~
~~damaged.~~

4. At 2232 today while laying mines in 18 fathoms of water 24 miles N.N.W. of Dieppe the Norwegian-manned M.Ls. 210 and 573 were mined, M.L.210 being sunk and M.L.573 damaged. The C.O., two other officers, and three ratings of M.L.210 are missing and ten of her ratings injured.

Mediterranean.

Anzio.

5. The weather remained fine and calm today, and 5830 tons were landed, making a total to date of 81000 tons. Desultory shelling of the port continued. In an air raid at 1825 today Liberty ship ELIHU YALE with 57% cargo remaining was hit by a bomb and ammunition exploded and caught fire; it is hoped to save the fore part of the ship. An American L.C.T. was also hit in the same raid. Two L.C.T. have been salvaged from the beaches.

/Avalanche...

15.2.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

"Avalanche".

- 6a. The duties of F.O.W.I.T. and N.O.I.C. Naples, which were combined in the past, have now been split. F.O.W.I.T. is now responsible for policy and operations in the Western Italy Sub-Command, and N.O.I.C. Naples area for the defence of the Gulf of Naples, the administration of all ports in this area and all minor war vessels based on Naples, and for the provision of all dockyard and local facilities.
- b. SS. FORT ST. NICOLAS is reported to have sunk in the Gulf of Salerno in 40.34 N. 14.35 E. today as the result of an explosion. Nothing further is known but destroyers carried out a U/Boat hunt.
- c. Destroyer patrols in the entrance to Quarnero Gulf last night sighted no shipping.
- d. 16 U.S. Mitchells attacked Leghorn today.

East Indies.

7. The first Mauritius - Tamatave convoy sailed today.

America and West Indies.

U/B
sunk.

8. C.T.G.21.13 reports the U.S. escort carrier CROATEN's aircraft attacked a submarine at 0712Z today in 27.40 N. 40.40 W. (about 900 miles south-west of the Azores) and probably sank it, though no prisoners were obtained and the nationality of the U/Boat could not be determined.

Australia and New Zealand.

Solomon Is.

- 9a. Allied forces occupied Nissan Island
/north- ...

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Solomon Is.
(Contd.)

north-west of Buka Island in the early hours of today, against slight enemy opposition. The Allied surface force operating in the Northern Solomon Sea last night was attacked by enemy dive bombers and minor damage and casualties to one vessel were caused. At least two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

b. Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked the Kavieng area (New Ireland) this forenoon and did considerable damage amongst shipping in harbour, as well as on shore.

Marshalls.

10. B.A.S. Washington reported this evening that Kwajalein Atoll was completely occupied on 8th February. Subsequently air attacks were carried out on Jaluit, Maloelap, Wotje, Ujai and Ujelang, and Maloelap and Taroa were bombarded by the Navy.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

LONDON,
CUMBERLAND.

Request you sail LONDON and CUMBERLAND for Gibraltar when ready. My 151727, Admty. 020030 and Admiralty 122302 refer.
(C. in C.H.F. 151728A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Damaged U-
Boat at
Ferrol.

Ministry of Marine states
A. Only work being done on U-Boat is concerned with removing batteries.

Ministry of Marine which will not be given until full particulars which is expected Feb. 16th has been received and submitted to Minister of Foreign Affairs (Corunna's 142215 refers.)

Ministry of Marine have now received report that submarine entered Ria de Ferrol apparently damaged about 0700/10th Feb. but turned round and had left Ria de Ferrol about 0800. Craft did not enter Ferrol (Corunna 101415) Ministry of Marine are of opinion that Capt. intended to enter for repair changed his mind but had to return because damage was more serious than he first believed.

D. It may be time required for repair will be very short.
(Madrid 151754A to D.M.I.)

IROQUOIS.

Cancel A.M. 121625. Request you will sail IROQUOIS as soon as convenient after arrival Plymouth on 15th February to Halifax for refit calling at Horta for fuel. 2. Route.
(D.O.D.H. 151755A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

ORACLE.

IRWELL's 290050A Jan. and 290215A Jan. Meeting of Salvage Authorities today has decided that ORACLE must be regarded as unfit for further service. Suggest she be paid off a.m. 21st.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 151845A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

Your 141311. Concur.
2. If fuelling is not possible send those escorts which cannot remain with convoy until p.m. 17th February direct to Londonderry or Azores and report action taken.
(C. in C.W.A. 150002A to STRIKER.)

Remain in vicinity and search for U-Boat. Will fly dawn patrols if conditions permit will send ROTHER to relieve CRANE at daylight.

(STRIKER 150156Z to E.G.10.)

Have ordered E.G.10 to remain in vicinity of my 142359Z and search for U-Boat. I will bring FENCER to H.X.278 with my escort.

(STRIKER 150158Z to E.G.B.2.)

/Transmission...

241

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/3 Operations. (Contd.) Transmission not of sighting type intercepted at 0832Z indicates U-Boat in your general area. (D.D.I.C. 151125A to E.G.16.) STRIKER's 150158Z. Nothing found. Proceeding now to join H.X.273 by dusk today. My P.C. and S. 47.25 N. 25.32 W. 290, 15. (E.G.10, 151331Z to C. in C.W.A.)

V.P. Operation. My 101828A. Returned at 0315A today. 2. Operation successful. (A.C.O.S. 150912A to Admty.)

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. Your 141304. Ships leave Lough Foyle 2359 today, 15th. (Cdre. D.W.A. 151105A to C. in C.W.A.) Recent experience has shown that the following tactics are being adopted by enemy L.R. aircraft against U.K. - Gibraltar convoys. A. Shadowing by night as well as by day. B. A striking force of bombers locates a convoy at about sunset. This force remains in the vicinity of the convoy (probably in Air Radar contact) until last light before closing the convoy to attack. 2. On 12th February PURSUER flew off 4 Wildcats half an hour after sunset which destroyed 2 enemy aircraft and damaged a third before landing on successfully in complete darkness. On this occasion transmissions were detected on 48.62 M.C/S. (C. in C.W.A. 151256A to Auxy. A/C Carriers in W.A.) One aircraft detected by Radar bearing 235° height 16,000 feet. My P.C. and S. 55° 07' N. 12° 15' W. 224° 4 knots. (Escort O.S.68/K.M.S.42 151400Z to Whitehall W/T.) ICARUS, GATINEAU, and CHAUDIERE are to proceed as soon as practicable to overtake and support O.N.S.29 at dawn 17th. 2. Cancel my 141304. (C. in C.W.A. 151539A to ICARUS.) One aircraft detected by Radar bearing 330° height 12000 ft. My P.C. and S. 54° 56' N. 12° 27' W. 231° 4 knots. (Escorts O.S.68/K.M.S.42 151630Z to Whitehall W/T.) I am being shadowed by enemy aircraft bearing 250° height 4000 feet. P.C. and S. 54° 55' N. 13° 9' W. 231° 4 knots. (Escorts O.S.68/K.M.S.42 151655Z to Whitehall W/T.) My 151655. Unidentified aircraft left on southerly course at 1711Z. (BITER 151732Z to C. in C.W.A.) Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing 160° height unknown. My P.C. and S. 54° 34' N. 13° 30' W. 224° 5 knots. (Escorts O.N.S.29 151740Z to Whitehall W/T.) Unidentified aircraft reported in my 151400Z was detected by Radar and passed ahead of convoy on a northerly course at a range of 60 miles. Unidentified aircraft reported in my 151630 and 151655 was detected 50 miles to the northward closing to 24 miles and altered course to starboard till 30 miles ahead of convoy then closing to 13 miles and was sighted but not identified. A/C turned away and disappeared on a southerly course. Anticipate conditions will be suitable for carrier fighters by 0800 tomorrow. (BITER 151750 to C. in C.W.A.)

/STRIKER...

War Diary.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. (Contd.)

STRIKER and FENCER are to enter convoy first light 16th February.

2. Highest priority is to be given to refuelling 7th E.G. and FINDHORN.

3. Support groups may be required to support O.N.S. 29 on 17th February.

4. My 061123. 16th E.G. is disbanded as from 0800/16th when S.O.E.G. 2nd is to assume command of all support groups.

(C. in C.W.A. 152010A to STRIKER, FENCER, E.G.16 E. 29)

Sailed ICARUS, GATINEAU, CHANDIERE to overtake and support O.N.S. 29 (Cdre. D.W.A. 152209A to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M Patrols. TRADEWIND proceed to establish patrol in vicinity 065° 01' N. 006° 30' E. until further orders. My 150221 and 150739. Delete reference to MOLDE in latter signal. (F.O.S. 151229A to S/MS.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/16th and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. TRADEWIND on patrol vicinity 65° 00' N. 06° 30' E.
- B. SYRTIS off Stadtlandet.
- C. UNSHAKEN approaching Shetlands from N.E. Can only dive for short periods.
- D. VAMPIRE on patrol vicinity 65° 00' N. 01° 10' E.
- E. STUBBORN approx. 64° 50' N. 06° 01' E. unable to dive or proceed.
- F. TAKU leaves patrol off Skudesnes to pass through 60° 24' N. 03° 50' E. at 0700/17th thence to 61° 15' N. 01° 52' E. Dived by day within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.
- M. ULA sails Lerwick 1600/16th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10. 61° 34' N. 02° 06' E. and 61° 02' N. 03° 30' E. probably on surface till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast then dived by day. (F.O.S. 151731A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 151510A. (V.A. Dover 151700A, 151705A.)

Operation F.W. OBDURATE, VIRAGO P.C. and S. at 1600A, 060° 30' N. 002° 40' W. 195° 8 knots. E.T.A. 0800A/16th. (OBDURATE 151606 to A.C.O.S.)

Engagement with E-Boats off Southwold. E-Boat activity night February 14th/15th. MALLARD and SHEARWATER confirm that E-Boats did not reach the swept channel but checked approx. one mile E. in vicinity of 3A Buoy. SHEARWATER sighted 5 boats described as having black hulls, light upperworks, and very little superstructure. Contact reported by SHEARWATER as in channel N. of 3A now considered to have been MALLARD. GUILLEMOT reports nothing detected of unidentified plot in vicinity Sunk Light Float. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 151645 to C. in C.Nore.)

Report of E-Boat activity last night 14th/15th Feb.

War Diary.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Engagement
with E-
Boats off
Southwold.
(Contd.)

1. At 2231 about 6 E-Boats were detected by K.163 approaching 3A buoy at high speed. MALLARD and SHEARWATER (patrols 7 and 8) engaged them at about 2300 near 3A buoy whereupon E-Boats turned about a mile short of Swept Channel and retired N.E. passing North of Z.51 and then altering to 110° at 30 knots.

2. Minelaying is suspected after action with corvettes and a ground mine swept today about 1½ miles N.E. of 3A Buoy appears to confirm this.

3. C/F Units at Z.51 and Z.50 heard H.E. at 2245 but could not intercept. They appeared well placed during Corvette action but enemy's turn to N.E. took them clear of the M.L. unit at Z.51. Two fast units sent to Southern end of Brown Ridge did not make contact.

4. Shore Radar. K.163 and K.164 detected E-Boats at range of 16½ miles and followed them well throughout until plot faded at 2342 at range of 23 miles.

5. 16 Group A.S.V. Wellingtons were delayed going on patrol by weather until after E-Boats had passed through their patrol lines. Subsequent reports from them were too inaccurate to be of value.

6. SHEARWATER reports that the five E-Boats seen had black hulls, light upperworks and very little superstructure. They were engaged with 4 inch H.E. which appeared close.

Although no hits are claimed corvettes by their prompt action undoubtedly prevented minelaying in the Channel.
(C. in C.Nore 152006A to Admty.)

Engagement
off Ijmuiden.
1 F-Boat, 1
E-Boat, and
1 trawler
claimed sunk.
4 E-Boats,
1 trawler &
1 flak-ship
damaged.

Following from MANTIS begins:

Unit M. and O. acted on C. in C.Nore's 142318 and proceeded 130° 50 miles at full speed arriving in position at 0103 and 0118 respectively. M.T.B. 456 unable to maintain speed was ordered to stop. At 0149 unit O. received H.E. effect proceeding E. and decision was made for M. and O. to join forces and proceed E. Units R/V at 0300 in 252° I.J.M. 19. At 0315 H.E. effect was received to eastward and so decided to sweep to 270° I.J.M.5. At 0345 when in 265° I.J.M. 5 Radar contact was received bearing "Green" 40, 4000 yards. Unit altered course 3. 70° E. 10 knots to close. At 0350 small ship was sighted and S.O. detached

M.T.B. 455 (only M.T.B. carrying torpedoes) to attack.

Following is narrative of M.T.B. 455. At 0353 M.T.B. 455 detached to starboard and almost at once observed that ship already sighted was a trawler and was followed by an F-Boat L.C.T. Type 3 and another trawler. Proceeded to attack F-Boat at 10 knots. When Radar range was 1000 yards both trawlers and a shore station challenged M.T.B. who increased speed to 14 knots and at 0400 fired both torpedoes at F-Boat Radar range 600 yards speed on sight 4 knots track angle 90° depth setting 5 feet. When torpedoes left tubes all ships opened fire. M.T.B. 455 disengaged at speed to port returning fire hitting trawler with Pom-pom. Both torpedoes hit (this confirmed by remainder of Unit and Lt. Leaf reported to 1st Lt. that he had seen mast collapse.. Whilst disengaging M.T.B. 455 endeavoured to rejoin Unit but owing to confused action was unable to do so and took no further part in the action.

/Following...

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagement
off IJmuiden.
1 F-Boat, 1
E-Boat and
1 trawler
claimed sunk.
4 E-Boats, 1
trawler and
1 flak-ship
damaged.
(Contd.)

Following is narrative of the remainder of the Unit. M.T.B. 455 Unit continued on opposite course turning so as to engage the rearmost trawler from her starboard quarters. At 0400 fire was opened on rear trawler at range of 700 yards and closed to 100 yards. Fire was returned by rear trawler Unit circled to port and came in to attack again trawler being silenced and was left heavily damaged and on fire forward. Unit retired to N.W. at 0405. At 0407 Unit was in seven order at 30 knots when fire was opened on the S.C. from the N. by a small flak ship at range of about 200 yards fatally injuring S.C. of Unit and killing the Coxswain and 2 other ratings and putting W/T out of action causing boat to lose temporary control and lose touch with remainder of unit.

Following is narrative of 1st Lt. M.T.B. 444. At 0410 having disengaged and cleared the bridge and taken control with Signalman steering, observed confused action to S.E. Boat not in a fit state to re-engage and M.T.B. 444 proceeded to Lowestoft.

Following is narrative of M.T.Bs. 439, 443, 441. Seeing S.O. disengaging Unit engaged small flak ship each boat in turn and altered course to W. and stopped and reformed at approx. 0415 under the command of C.C. of M.T.B. 439. Decision was made to retire to W. and endeavour to rejoin M.T.Bs. 444 and 455. At 0420 four Radar contacts received bearing S.E. 1000 yards course maintained and echoes proved to be 4 E-Boats shadowing on port quarters in line ahead. E-Boats were allowed to close the range to 600 yards when course was altered 90° to port Unit crossing E-Boats bows which turned to port fire being opened by all boats on leading and 2nd E-Boats. Leading E-Boat ceased fire and stopped heavily damaged and on fire aft.

2nd E-Boat was hit and damaged by Pom-pom shells. During this action other Radar contacts were picked up on both bows and S.O. considered he was running into a trap so disengaged to W. in order to engage units separately. On this turn M.T.B. 441 lost contact. 6 echoes were almost immediately obtained ahead 1000 yards and 6 E-Boats were sighted. Unit again crossed bows of enemy at ranges from 500 to 100 yards. Fire was opened on leading and 2 E-Boats both of which were badly damaged. Unit proceeded N.W. and 2 more E-Boats were encountered and engaged at range of approx. 500 yards. Hits were obtained but damage could not be assessed. Unit proceeded W. and encountered a further 3 E-Boats on parallel and opposite course. Fire opened at 500 yards with inconclusive results. Unit then returned to Lowestoft.

Following is narrative of M.T.B. 441. M.T.B. 441 avoiding possible depth charge attack by own Unit turned to starboard and ran ahead of E-Boats engaging leading E-Boat then turned to port to rejoin S.O. but sighted 2 vessels on port bow presumed to be remainder of Unit. These proved to be E-Boats and fire was opened and at same time fire was opened on M.T.B. 441 and 3 more E-Boats on starboard quarter. M.T.B. 441 proceeded on S.Wly. course with E-Boats on either quarter engaging. Attempt to rejoin was frustrated by E-Boats on either quarters. M.T.B. 441 gained bearing on pursuing E-Boats eventually outdistancing them. During this action hits were observed on port E-Boats. Damage was caused but cannot be assessed.

Enemy probably sunk: 1 F-Boat L.C.T. type 3 (2 torpedo hits) severely damaged, 1 trawler (silenced and on fire), 1 E-Boat (stopped and on fire). Damaged 4 E-Boats, 1 trawler, 1 small flak ship.

/Casualties...

245

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement off Ijmuiden.
1 F-Boat, 1 E-Boat and 1 trawler claimed sunk.
4 E-Boats, 1 trawler and 1 flak-ship damaged.
(Contd.)

Casualties M.T.B. 444 C.C. and 3 ratings killed, 2 ratings wounded.
M.T.B. 443, 3 ratings wounded.
M.T.B. 455, 1 rating wounded. 151539 Ends.
(C. in C.Nore 152007A to Admty.)

Mining.

Humber.

Request you arrange for 4th M.S.F. to carry out a high percentage formation search of the area bounded by lines joining the following points:
A. 53° 04' 12" N. 01° 33' 36" E.
B. 53° 06' 00" N. 01° 34' 48" E. C. 53° 02' 54" N. 01° 47' 06" E.
D. 53° 01' 00" N. 01° 45' 48" E.
(C. in C.Nore 151105A and 151835A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)
C. in C.Nore's 151105. Intend sailing KELLETT, SUTTON, ELGIN, SELKIRK from Immingham at 0830 tomorrow.
2. E.T.A. Sheringham emergency anchorage 1530.
3. Request 25th Group be sailed independently to join me at Sheringham.
(M/S 4 151835A to C. in C.Nore.)

East Coast.
M/S 15.

One Acoustic mine was swept at 1145 today by 15th M.S.F. in position 044° 3A Buoy 1.8 miles. Two mine detonations were felt by FYCHLEY using S.A. gear at 1935 and 1940 respectively today when in position one and a half miles west of 3A Buoy.

E-Boats returning course on which they probably jettisoned their mines was approx. 060° from 3A Buoy for 10 miles.

(C. in C.Nore 152235A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Return to Harwich Harbour at daylight tomorrow, sweep position
(C. in C.Nore 152344A to M/S 15.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Improved Enemy Destroyers.

Two improved Roeder Destroyers each mounting two five inch guns forward and two ditto aft passed sound southbound this afternoon. A two.
(N.A. Stockholm 151612 to Admty.)

Comment: These destroyers were probably two MAAS class which were seen at Kristiansand South by P.R.U. on 30th Jan. Two Narvik class also seen at Kristiansand South on 30th Jan. are probably still there.

MARIA.

Dutch coaster MARIA ¹⁵⁰~~34~~ tons was sunk off Kirkenes, cause unknown early Feb.
(N.A. Stockholm 151617 to Admty.)

/Norwegian...

War Diary.15.2.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Norwegian Coast. Following passed Skorpen 061° 36' N. at 1530Z/15th northbound 9 knots.
1 loaded merchant ship about 5000 tons, 1 merchant ship in ballast about 8000 tons with 1 armed whaler
1 T.B. 2 patrol vessels. Graded B.2.
(F.O.S. 152111A to SYRTIS.)

East Coast. 110° No. 4 Buoy (off Lowestoft) 5 miles at 2340 one unidentified vessel 0340.
(C. in C.Nore 152345A to Nore Local.)
Surface craft detected by R.D.F. bearing 090° No. 4 Buoy (off Lowestoft) 5 miles at 2351.
(C. in C.Nore 152353A to Nore Local.)

Casualties & Defects.

STUBBORN disabled.
5 enemy M/Vs sunk or damaged.

STUBBORN in 064° 12' N. 005° 34' E. at 1845Z/14th. Cannot dive or steer due to depth charge damage.
2. C. in C.H.F. is requested to provide surface escort and towing ship. H.Q.C.C. is requested to provide air escort.
(F.O.S. 150156A and 150259A to C. in C.H.F. H.Q.C.C.)
Your 141845. 2 destroyers are being sent from Scapa forthwith to escort you. Regret you are outside range of continuous fighter cover but Beaufighter sweeps are being maintained in your area as long as practicable.
(F.O.S. 150216A to STUBBORN.)

STUBBORN damaged and cannot dive in 064° 12' N. 005° 34' E. at 1845A/14th. MUSKETEER and SCOURGE leaving Scapa forthwith to tow STUBBORN. Have been warned UNSHAKEN position.
(F.O.S. 150221A and 150739A to S/Ms.)
Your 141845. Expect relays of 2 Beaufighters patrolling your vicinity at lo. altitude from first light. Communication V/S.
(C. in C.Rosyth 150235 to STUBBORN.)

1. STUBBORN damaged and unable to dive or proceed in position 64° 12' N. 05° 34' E. at 1845A/14th Feb.
2. Take SCOURGE under your orders and proceed with all despatch west of Orkneys and Shetlands to render assistance.
3. UNSHAKEN estimated P.C. and S. at 0800/15th 62° 15' N. 01° 18' E. 210° 8 knots.
(C. in C.H.F. 150237A and 150436A to MUSKETEER, SCOURGE.)

STUBBORN is unable to steer or dive in position 064° 12' N. 005° 34' E. at 1845Z/14th.

2. MUSKETEER and SCOURGE are being sailed from Scapa west of Orkneys and Shetlands to assist.
3. Sail NARVIK and MOLDE with despatch through 062° 10' N. 000° 01' E. to assist with tow.
(A.C.O.S. 150323A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
NARVIK and MOLDE have been sailed to assist with towing.
(F.O.S. 150739A to S/Ms. N. of 51° N.)
NARVIK only sailed, speed 12½ knots for R/V. Fuel on board for 6 days at 12 knots. MOLDE is unfit with capstan winch defect.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 150745A to A.C.O.S.)

/Suggest...

War Diary.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

STUBBORN disabled.
5 enemy M/Vs sunk or damaged.
(Contd.)

Suggest STUBBORN Home Destroyer on S.S.F. from 2000A today Tuesday if practicable, and that a W/T H/F wave be established on which homing by M/F could be conducted if S.S.F. fails.

(MUSKETEER 150826A to C. in C.H.F.P
MUSKETEER and SCOURGE P.C. and S. at 0635 028° 45' N. 003° 25' W. 30 knots to northwards.
(F.O.S. 150938A to S/Ms. N. of 51° N.)
My 150235. Last pair of Beaufighters will with-

draw approximately 1131 owing to weather at base.
(C. in C.Rosyth 151058A to STUBBORN.)

STUBBORN damaged and unable to dive or proceed in 064° 12' N 005° 34' E. at 1845/14th. MUSKETEER and SCOURGE P.C. and S. 058° 45' N. 003° 25' W. 347° 30 knots at 0635A/15th are proceeding to assist. Proceed and reinforce routed west of Orkneys and Shetlands.

(R.A.D.H.F. 151133A to METEOR, SWIFT.)

My P.C. and S. 059° 33' N. 003° 02' W. 033° 24 knots. SWIFT in company.

(METEOR 151501A to MUSKETEER.)

Estimate my position 064° 20' N. 005° 50' E. Estimate my drift now $\frac{5}{4}$ knots 020°.

2. Have sunk or damaged 5 merchant ships in Kya area. Consider area should not be re-entered yet due to increased A/S activities.

3. Cancel my 151738. Weather report 4872 1845.

(STUBBORN 152230A to F.O.S.)

M/V SEBASTIAN disabled off Skye.

S.O.S. SEBASTIAN 57.58 N. 6.39 W. drifting on Glaseilean.

(Malin Head Radio 150629Z, Recd. 6.29 G.M.T.)

Request you will sail tug forthwith to assist SS. SEBASTIAN in distress in position 57. 48' N. 6° 39' W. drifting on Glaseilean. PHRONTIS has been diverted to stand by.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 150807A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Your 150626Z. Assistance is being sent.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 150813 to SEBASTIAN.)

Intercept 0825 G.M.T. de Wick Radio.

S.O.S. 57.47 N. 6.45 W. Anchors down and holding. Propeller blades gone. Require 2 tugs urgently. Southerly gale and heavy swell.

(SEBASTIAN 150815.)

Sailed tugs EMPIRE SPRITE and EMPIRE PIXIE to assistance of SAN SEBASTIAN position 57.47 N. 06.45 W.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 151038A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Tugs EMPIRE SPRITE and EMPIRE PIXIE left Aultbea 1030A to your assistance.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 151059 to SEBASTIAN.)

Tug EMPIRE PIXIE returned to harbour owing to stress of weather. My 151038 refers.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 151216A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Dragging slightly inshore position 57.49 N. 6.44 W. seven cables distant from shore. How soon can I expect assistance?
151125 Ends.

(SEBASTIAN 151232A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Am abandoning. Part of crew taking to boats. Trawler not fast.

(SEBASTIAN 151540 to Wick Radio.)

Proceed forthwith to 57° 49' N. 6° 44' W. SS. SEBASTIAN in distress. Investigate and report.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 151653A to LADY BERYL.)

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

M/V SEBASTIAN disabled off Skye. (Contd.)
Can do no more tonight. SEBASTIAN crew aboard lifeboat. Gale large swell, visibility nil. (PHRONTIS 150000A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

UNSHAKEN. My P.C. and S. 061° 58' N. 001° 04' E. 210° 3½ knots. Port engine out of action. E.T.A. Lerwick 0700/17th. (UNSHAKEN 151801A to F.O.S.)

P.C. and S. of UNSHAKEN at 1800A/15th 061° 58' N. 001° 04' E. 210° 3½ knots. (C. in C.H.F. 152011A to MUSKETEER, SWIFT, METEOR, SCOURGE.)

F.T. FRELINGHUYSEN. We are aground position 56.39 N. 6.33 W. (F.T. FRELINGHUYSEN to Ships. No T.O.O. Recd. 151817.)
We are aground but it is possible to get off with the aid of a tug our position is 56.39 N. 6.33 W. (F.T. FRELINGHUYSEN to Ships No T.O.O. Recd. 151845.)

Tug EMPIRE PLANE from Oban is proceeding to your assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 151853A to F.P. FRELINGHUYSEN.)

GEORGE W. CHILDS. Cannot use engine, need tug and dry docking. (GEORGE W. CHILDS 152050Z to Admty.)
G.W. CHILDS now afloat. Anchored entrance to Loch Sunart. Main engines cannot be used as auxiliary circulator out of action. Ship making very little water. (WESTERN ISLES 152300 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

5 M.T.Bs. grounded and damaged near North Goodwin Buoy. My 150945. Following M.T.Bs. sustained damage due to grounding in approx. 5 cables Eastward of North Goodwin Buoy at about 2030/14th, while proceeding to carry out operation N.L. 116. M.T.B. 235 hull damage beyond local resources, M.T.Bs. 229, 231, 204 and 359 shaft and underwater damage which can be repaired locally. (V.A. Dover 152036A to Admty.)

RODNEY, RAMILLIES, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, WARSPITE. A.M. 141220A February confirmed as follows:
1. RODNEY can be docked 28th February for blanking of torpedo tubes, repacking of stern glands and limited amount of work on essential defects.
2. RAMILLIES can be docked Monday 6th March for temporary repairs to hull plating in vicinity of shaft passages and bilges and limited amount of work on essential defects. Ship should arrive in time to de oil and de ammunition, if necessary prior to this date.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

RODNEY,
RAMILLIES,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN,
WARSPITE.
(Contd.)

3. ROYAL SOVEREIGN can be berthed in basin until end of March and opportunity will be taken to progress repairs to inner bottom.
4. WARSPITE. No berth in basin will be available but berth at buoy or anchor can be provided. It is noted that no work is required.
(C. in C. Rosyth 152350 to Admty.)

VICTORIOUS.

Arrangements have been made for VICTORIOUS to be taken in hand on 16th February at Liverpool.
(D.O.D.H. 151332A to F.O.C.F.)

KILREA.

Tug LYNCH with L.B.V. in tow north-bound and B3. KILREA south-bound in collision at 0200/15 in vicinity 17 Buoy. KILREA sunk. Master and crew all saved by LYNCH and brought into Tyne.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 151830A to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.224.

Sailed ASSINIBOINE, FORESTER, ST. LAURENT, HALIFAX, FREDERICTON, GIFFARD, SAPPER for O.N.224. Latest messages held Q.J.A. 263.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 150903A to Admty.)

Stragglers.

Stragglers return for week ending 0915/15th Jan. O.S.67/K.M.3.41. BARON FORBES engine defects. LYRAS heavy weather damage unable maintain speed. SILVER LAUREL heavy weather damage cargo adrift.

WANDERER fractured steering quadrant.

O.N.223. LOMBARDY unable maintain speed in heavy weather deeply loaded ship.

U.C.12. UNTATA cracked deck plates.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 150915A to Admty.)

C.U.14.

23 M/Vs. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D. 151844A.)

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B. Hunt U/Boat reported position 035° 28' N.
006° 28' W. 1300A.
(?NHY), 151324A to A/C 166VJ (R) C80Q.)

SS. My 120047 SS. CILURNUM sailed Las Palmas 14th
CILURNUM due Malaga 17th Feb.
(Spanish). (D.E.W.D., 151519A to F.O.G.M.A.)

T.G.65.9 Task Group 65.9 consisting of OWL L.C.I.516
T.G.120.5. 520 to 524 inclusive redesignated T.G.120.5
Lieut White in OWL Task Group Commander upon
arrival Horta today. Request S.B.N.O. Azores
sail Group to Falmouth when ready. Upon arrival
Falmouth Task Group dissolved.
(Com. 12th Fleet, 151627.)

L.S.T.(2) Reference to L.S.T.(2) 237 in your 011738 Feb.
237. not understood.
C. in C. Plymouth 121504 and 131122 refer to
arrival of only four British L.S.T.(2)
(D.O.D. 151805A to F.O.G.M.A.)

German My 021746*Ministry of Marine state personnel
ships who were disembarked have been sent Germany.
in Spain. (B.N.A. Madrid 151806A.)* Crew of both ships
have been taken ashore.

No A letter has been received by S.B.N.O. Horta
facilities from Cdr. Defence Maritime informing him he has
for Russian received instructions that no facilities or
ships at supplies shall be given to Russian ships in
Azores. future and that fuel will only be allowed to
such ships that be forced to call from
absolute necessity of force majeure and that this
does not include a ship calling for fuel owing
to lack of (space?). This appears to be contrary to
agreement which specifically states facilities are granted to
ships of United Nations and it is requested I may be informed
the correct procedure in the event of future visits by Russian
Ships.
(B.S.N.O. Azores, 152308Z to Admty.)

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SUFFREN. Intend SUFFREN on completion of patrol 22nd
Feb. Proceed Recife E.T.A. p.m./25th.
SUFFREN will be wearing the flag of R.A. Barthes.
Request you will sail her (p.m. 3rd.) March to
patrol in area given in my 101407Z.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 151159Z to Com. 4th Fleet.)

D'AOSTA. Arrivals 1045/15 from Ocean patrol.
(S.O.(1) Freetown, 151730Z.)

War Diary.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

A.S.I.S.
CROMARTY
FIRTH. Your 092326. Request you will advise when it is expected that A.S.I.S. CROMARTY FIRTH will return to U.K. as previously agreed. Crew are much overdue for relief and living conditions on board very congested. M.W.T.R. Med. has advised it will be necessary to despatch reliefs immediately if vessel being retained further in order to avoid serious crew trouble.
(D. of S.T. 150054A to C. in C. Med.)

S/M's
Beirut. 14th Feb. arrivals PAPANICOLIS departure SPORTSMAN, NEREUS.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 150852B?)

SS. BRUNHILDE. My 121022C. Now confirmed here that BRUNHILDE is former BACCHUS.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 150940C)

LA SULTANE Intend sailing LA SULTANE at 1600/18 on the patrol. surface through 038 degs. 09' 006 degs. 14' at 1200/19th and 039 degs. 56' 006 degs. 14' at 0001/20th.
(2) Zone preferred/ SS. or S.T.
(3) All times Zone minus one all positions N. and E.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 151125A)
/ As received.

U/B report. Have A.S.V. contact position 35.28 N. 06.20 W. probably U-Boat.
(A/C C80Q, 151215)

F.O.W.I.T.
N.O.I.C.
Naples. In the past it has been necessary to combine the duties of F.O.W.I.T. and N.O.I.C. Naples. These duties have now been split; F.O.W.I.T. being responsible for policy and operations in the Western Italy Sub. Command and N.O.I.C. Naples area for the defence of the Gulf of Naples, the administration of all ports in this area and all minor war vessels based on Naples, and for the provision of all dockyard and local facilities. Signals and correspondence should be addressed accordingly.
(C. in C. Med. 151620A)

French
Refugees. (?F?JX). French Admiralty have passed to me report from F.L.O. Gibraltar dated 21st Jan. giving proposals resulting from recent conference at Gibraltar for evacuating French refugees through Gibraltar allowing French Vessels to lie at Gibraltar for occasional periods as reception ships.

253

War Diary.15.2.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

French Refugees. (Contd.) (2) Please confirm that this scheme is acceptable to Governor and Conference.
(3) French propose that SIDI BRAHIM should arrive Gibraltar about 19th Feb. to accumulate refugees during subsequent 10 days.
(C. in C. Med. 151724A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.25. 4178 tons discharged at Anzio on 14th, weather has remained fine and calm on 15th.
(2) Desultory shelling of port continued.
(3) Twelve aircraft raided Anzio damaged confined to buildings.
(4) 2 L.C.T. salvaged from beaches.
(C. in C. Med. at Naples, 151731A)

DZIK. Patrol on Leros-Rhodes traffic route. My 151210 and 142320. Do not proceed East of 027 degs. 05'.
(Capt. (S) 1, 151917A to P.52 (DZIK) (R) F.O.L.E.M P.55 (UNSPARING)).
Intend DZIK leaves Malta on 1st March to join G.U.S.32 for Gibraltar thence to U.K. C. in C. Med. 051612.
((S) 1, 151922)

New Type Italian Mine. New type Italian moored contact mine has been recovered at Ras El Bar.
(R.A. Alexandria, 151951B) Re: disposal.

M.E. Balkan Sitrep No.91. (4) Sea Ops. Croatia. Yev force 133 reports. 11 or 12 Feb. 2000 ton enemy vessel sunk off Uljan W.O.90.
(C. in C. M.E. 152020B)

U.732. We congratulate IMPERIALIST and DOUGLAS on the destruction of U.732 on 31st October, 1943.
(1st S.L.152046A)

Situation Report No.295. (1) Operation "Shingle". Discharge continues in Anzio in fine weather on 13th and 14th Feb.
(2) U.S. Cruiser PHILADELPHIA escorted by 3 destroyers gave fire support in Anzio area on 14th Feb.
(3) Vela Luka and Brato (Korcula) bombarded by TROUBRIDGE and TERMAGENT during the night 12th/13th Feb whilst patrolling Hvar to Korcula.
(4) M.T.Bs on patrol off Rogoznica during night 13th/14th Feb. engaged by shore batteries but suffered no damage.
(C. in C. Med. 152114)

254

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Convoy
Mauritius
Tamatave 1.Sail 0200Z/15th. Escort PRETORIA.
(N.C.S.O.Mauritius, 150207Z)Weekly
U-Boat
dispositions
No.25.Areas A.B.D. and E. believed clear of U-Boats.
Scale of air escort W. Area C. no fresh
information since German U-Boat indicated by
D/F East of Socotra on 9th Feb. but U-Boat may
be in the area scale of air escort Y. Area F
no fresh information since suspected U-Boats
attacked by CALCUTTA 020 degs. 09' N. 086 degs.
54' E. at 1945Z/11th, scale air escort X area G
scale air escort to remain Y.
(C. in C. E.F. 150328Z)

RELENTLESS.

Departure 15.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 150440Z)

STRATHELLA.

(F.O.N.F. 140216Z See Home Commands, (Casualties
and Defects.))SALVIKING
sunk 14th Feb.S/M attacked H.M. Ship in 003 degs. 30' N 076 degs.
30' E. at 1620Z/14.
(C. in C. E.F. 150555Z to S. & A. E.I.S. Admty.
C. in C. S.At. Air Authorities.)
SALVIKING sunk by U-Boat in approx. 3 degs.
30' N. 76 degs. 30' E. at 1630Z/14th whilst proceeding from
Colombo to Addu Atoll escorted by FARA.
(2) 30 survivors picked up.
(C. in C. E.F. 151001Z)BRAGANZA,
SALSETTE.(2) Amalgamation will facilitate administrative
arrangements and effect a saving in personnel.
(3) Intend to merge BRAGANZA and SALSETTE 1 into
one establishment. To be entitled BRAGANZA
on 1st April, SALSETTE 2 and SALSETTE 3 to remain
as at present but to be renamed BRAGANZA 2 and BRAGANZA 3 when
amalgamation takes place.
(C. in C. E.F. 150636Z)

NEWCASTLE.

Departure 15th.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 150810Z)

A.F.D.26.

Arrived towed by HESPERIA, EMPIRE SANDY,
EMPIRE HARRY escorted by BATHURST, CUTTACK,
DIPAVATI, NETRAVATI and BERAR.
(Comic, Trincomalee, 151145Z)

AUSONIA /...

255

War Diary.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

AUSONIA.

Your 281754 Jan.

H.M.S. AUSONIA is due to complete in April 1944 and has been allocated to the Eastern Fleet.

(2) If a gap occurs between the departure of

H.M.S. RESOURCE and arrival of AUSONIA at Trincomalee this must be accepted.

(3) Decision regarding WAYLAND's final destination in the Eastern Theatre will be made later.

(Admty. 151333A to C. in C. E.F.)

STOIC.

Encounter with submerged object probably a whale in 008 degs. 40' N. 067 degs. 02' E has caused considerable noise in the port gunnery (2 corrupt groups) hull. Consider propeller only

is damaged but that docking will be required. Prudent maximum speed now 10 knots (corrupt group) 10 (corrupt group) 0300Z.

(STOIC, 151520Z to Capt. (S) 4)

Sitrep
No.34.

(A) West of Mayu Range attempted raid by own tps on Ind in night 13/14 Feb unsuccessful due to a strong surf. One party landed and drew fire from Japanese posns.

(Adv. 11 Army Gp. S.E.A. 151920FG)

256

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. S/M Para.A. Newfoundland A/C. attacks U/boat 46.13 N.
attack and 44.52 W. at 2120Z/14th.
sighting (N.S.H.Q., 150203Z).
summary.

U/boat Further to my 142130Z. Aircraft carried out
attacked at attack. Results unobserved due to darkness.
142120Z. Heavy flak encountered.
(C. in C.C.N.A., 150532Z).
/ Re German U/boat sighted.

G.R. Opsum 161, period ending 0100/15th G.M.T. All times
G.M.T.

(3) (a) Lib. Q/10 Sqdn. (b) A/S sweep. (c) 2035 G.M.T.
sighted KDX 46.20 N. 45.07 W. (3) 010 degs. (?trimmed) down.
(g) N.A. (h) 6 250 lb. D/C 1st attack 2038 G.M.T. 2 250 lb
D/C 2nd attack 2040 G.M.T. 1 600 lb. D/C final attack.
(1) Heavy flak orange red tracer and bursts. Returned by A/C
1st attack smoke from nose gun obliterated sub. from view D/Cs.
undershot last 15 yards from conning tower. 2nd attack D/Cs.
beside conning tower submerged without any forward motion.
Slick observed and 600 lb. unit dropped ahead of oil slick.
No debris observed.
(H.Q. E.A.C. Canada, 151045Z).

Salvage British and Canadian operational authorities in
action. North Atlantic are to initiate tug movements and
any other salvage action required in respect of
casualties in their areas.

(2) When such action is beyond the resources available the
authority best placed to render the required assistance should
be asked to do so. Requests for tug made to S.B.N.O. Azores
or A.C.I.C. must include all relevant information as complete
shipping plots are not maintained by these authorities.

(3) Information as to available tugs and salvage facilities
should be exchanged as necessary.

(4) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 142252Z Jan. refers.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T), 151103A).

U.T.8. N.K. Recommend diversion from CF through
CK 44.30 N. 24.25 W. CL 54.01 N. 1600 W.
thence to CJ.
(D.O.D.(H), 151235A to Com. 10th Fleet C and R).
Instructions to alter route.
(Com. 10th Fleet C and R., 151618Z to C.T.F. 60).

U/boat N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 151450Z, Cominch 151514.
estimates

O.N.S.28 Due to weather uncertain whether all Halifax
ships joined. Request B.A.M.S. broadcast to
XB 96 and to ships in O.N.S.28 bound for U.S.A.
begins Cdre's. P.C. and S 1500Z/15, 043 degs.

257

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

O.N.S.28 (Contd.) 04' N. 064 degs. 00' W. (S) 272 degs. 6 knots R/V 1500Z/16 043 degs. 10' North 067 degs. 40' W. Ends. Weather report 0042 4734 9357. (BATTLEFORD, 151501Z to C. in C.N.A.).

Marshall Islands. One Marshalls Atoll Kwajalein completely occupied 080720Z. Subsequent air attacks Atolls Jaluit Maloelap Wotje Ujai and Ujelang with naval bombardment Maoelap and Taroa. (B.A.S. Washington, 151840Q).

ROCKAWAY Departs Chesapeake Bay at 2000Z/16 for Casablanca. Route etc. (U.S.S. ROCKAWAY, 151850).

T.G.21.11 Task Group 21.11 hereby constituted Captain Dunn in BOGUE, Comcordiv 51 in HAVERFIELD, SWENNING, WILLIS, JANSSEN, HOBSON. Operate against S/M. concentrations departing Hampton Roads 26th Feb. giving priority to those that might menace U.G.S./

G.U.S. convoys. Fuel in U.G.S./G.U.S. tankers available. (Cinclant, 152047).

PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS, CELANDINE. Your 051907A+ and C. in C.W.A's. 021556ø. Concur in release of PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS and CELANDINE to C. in C.W.A. (N.S.H.Q. 152322Z to Admty.). + Intend to approve 021556 from C. in C. Western Approaches. ø Re. Requirements to allocate corvettes away from Western Approaches Command.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial February 14th.
No. 756. Para. 13-18 cover South Pacific Forces.
4. Southbound submarine observed 70 miles east Lorengau noon.
11. Night 12th/13th M.T.Bs. contacted enemy submarine 65 miles south east Gasmata possible same (?one) reported Digest 755 para. one.
12. Same night navy Catalina saw submarine 20 miles north east Finschafen proceeding slowly north.
15. Photos Rabaul 13th. Harbour coverage shows one large one small submarines, five escort vessels, two tankers including one previously damaged 17 small freighters about four hundred barges also 17 floatplanes one flying boat.

/17...

258

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest serial 17. Forenoon same date (14th) submarine seen 80
No. 756 miles North East Ieta +.
(Contd.). 18. Our forces occupied Nissan Island North West
of Buka Island night 14th February.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 150746).
+ As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Sub. attack For 24 hours to 0900Z/15th.
and sighting Para.1. (1) A/C attacked a surfaced U/boat with
summary. D/Cs. at 2120/14 in 46 degs. 13' N. 44 degs. 52'
W.
(2) STRIKER reported surfaced U/boat at 2359/14
in 47 degs. 10' N. 26 degs. 49' W.
(3) U/boat was sighted at 0531/14 in 32 degs. 29' N. 20 degs.
01' E.
Para.2. (1) Walrus A/C attacked U/boat contact at 0850/14 in
41 degs. 10' N. 09 degs. 34' E.
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2159/14 in 43 degs. 25' N.
08 degs. 39' W.
Para.3. (1) AUBRETIA reported a contact at 1400/14 in 33 degs.
49' N. 07 degs. 27' W.
(D.D.I.C., 151135A).

U/boat (D.D.I.C., 151415A to 151420A).
estimates.

Attacks My 221059 July 1942.
on U/boats. 1. E.G.2 S.O. in STARLING claims destruction
of four U/boats as follows:-
(a) At 0120Z/9 in 49 degs. 04' N. 17 degs. 2' W.
about 6 miles from convoy S.L.147.
(b) In 49 degs. 43' N. 16 degs. 23' W. at 1142Z/9 by creeping
and follow up attacks.
(c) By creeping, follow up and Hedgehog attacks at 1730Z/9 in
49 degs, 44' N. 16 degs. 07' W. Hedgehog explosions after 21
seconds.
(d) At 0252/11 in 50 degs. 00' N. 18 degs. 14' W. All above
attacks with exception of (a) produced oil, wreckage and human
remains.
2. Swordfish from FENCER straddled U/boat in 53 degs. 47' N.
17 degs. 57' W. at 1338Z/10. Considers U/boat probably sunk.
3. Liberator G/53 sighted two U/boats on the surface at
0508A/10 in 49 degs. 53' N. 17 degs. 20' W. Claims straddle on
one with 6 depth charges and straddle with remaining two depth
charges on second U/boat. U/boats were about 400 yards apart.
Three minutes after attack about a dozen yellow planks seen
in the area.

15.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attacks
on U/boats
(Contd.).

4. At 2350A/10 Wellington O/612 straddled a U/B. with depth charges in position 58 degs, 17' N. 13 degs. 22' W. Five minutes after attack some oval objects and small orange lights were seen on the surface.
5. Wellington D/407 straddled a U/boat with depth charges at 0410A/11 in 60 degs. 45' N. 12 degs. 50' W. A large flickering red glow was seen on the surface for one minute after the attack.
6. At 1256/12 Liberator G/200 attacked crash diving U/boat in 61 degs. 10' N. 27 degs. 15' W., and estimates one depth charge exploded 10 feet behind diving swirl. Oil and bubbles seen after attack.
7. After torpedoing of merchant vessel in 17 degs. 25' N. 83 degs. 21' E. at 0219Z/11 escorting ships attacked asdic contact. Oil patch covering 9 square miles resulted and echo sounder trace gave indication of U/boat on bottom in 40 fathoms.
8. PALADIN engaged Japanese U/boat with gunfire and depth charges at 1155Z/12 in 1 degs. 25' N. 72 degs. 22' E. U/boat blew up and one survivor was picked up.
(D.A.U.D., 152314A).

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

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

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

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

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

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.

ADH 199 2290

260

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy
O.S.68/
K.M.S.42
attacked.

1. Two Ju.290 A/C which attacked convoy O.S.68/
K.M.S.42 with a Glider bomb at about 1000Z today
240 miles W.S.W. of Erris Head were shot down by
A/C from BITER.

U-Boat
attacked.

2. A U-Boat was attacked by A/C at 2150A today
about 360 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear.

North Atlantic.

CALEDON.

3. CALEDON arrived at Gibraltar today from the U.K.
to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

2 Hudson
Squadrons
from Gib.

4. Owing to the short-fall in deliveries of
Dakotas from U.S.A. the British build-up of air-
borne forces for Operation "Overlord" has been
seriously delayed. In order to compensate for
the deficiency the two Hudson Squadrons at Gib-
raltar are to be withdrawn forthwith, their crews
being required for conversion to Dakotas. The
U.S. authorities are being asked to replace the
Hudsons by two Ventura Squadrons, and at daylight
on 17th U.S. aircraft of Fleet Air Wing 15 which
is based in the Moroccan Sea Frontier took over the
duties of the Hudson Squadrons.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle"

5.(a). C. in C.Med. reports that the U.S. destroyer
H.C.JONES has been near missed by two Glider
bombs and suffered light structural damage.
(b). Unloading at Anzio was slowed down today by
increased and more accurate enemy shell fire, though
in spite of this 3586 tons were unloaded. There
were a few naval casualties.
(c). L.S.T. 418 sank after two unexplained under-
water explosions off Ponza Island, 30 miles west
of Naples, one mile outside the swept channel this
afternoon. She was returning empty from Anzio.
(d). MAURITIUS bombarded the Formia area today,
with some effect.

/ "Avalanche" ...

261

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

"Avalanche". 6. Destroyer patrols in the Hvar Island area last night sighted no shipping.

East Indies.

U/B in Bay
of Bengal.

7. The tanker CHARLES S. JONES reports that two torpedoes were fired at her by a submarine at 0550Z today in 11.36 N. 80.02 E. (150 miles south of Madras.)

Convoy Sey-
chelles -
Diego Suarez
One.

8. The first Seychelles - Diego Suarez convoy sailed today.

Force F.

9. S.A.C.S.E.A. reports that the broad pendant of Commodore Douglas Pennant as S.O. Force F was struck at sunset on 9th February and the Force disbanded.

Arakan.

10. S.A.C.S.E.A. sends today a report on the activities of the Arakan Coastal Forces. Heavy fighting is going on in Arakan where the Japanese troops are attacking with the object of capturing Chittagong.

China.

14th
U.S.A.A.F.

11. S.A.C.S.E.A. reports that American aircraft are now operating from Suichwan airfield, only 250 miles from the coast. During the period 27th Jan. to 9th Feb. 13 ships are reported to have been sunk and several others damaged. Liberators attacked Bangkok and Mitchells Tourane harbour. today.

War Diary.

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Solomon Is.
area.

12.(a). Four Liberators and 3 naval Catalinas last night attacked shipping in the New Hanover - Mussau Island area, where 2 ships in convoy and an escorting destroyer were hit and damaged and a large tanker was hit and was last seen beached.

(b). This forenoon air strikes were despatched against a large southbound convoy and about 43 escorted Mitchells attacked from mast-head height, destroying 5 ships, including a 7500 ton tanker, 2 merchant ships and 2 corvette type escort vessels.

(c). 2 enemy aircraft over Cape Gloucester this morning destroyed an Allied landing craft and damaged a second, besides inflicting a few casualties on board a small U.S. army ship.

13. In the early hours of today 9 Liberators bombed Halong Seaplane Base and Dutch Mitchells attacked Ambon Jetty and barracks area.

Truk Island.

14. It is reported in the press, from Washington, that Allied forces attacked Truk Island this morning. Surface and air forces appear to have been engaged.

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ORACLE Your 151845. Concur.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 161307A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Ships for Med. Working-up. Is is intended that cruisers and destroyers allotted to the Mediterranean Station should first have a preliminary working-up period at Scapa under C. in C. Home Fleet and then complete their working up in the Mediterranean under C. in C. Med.

2. This period should not exceed, for a cruiser three weeks with the Home Fleet and for a destroyer two weeks. During this period ships should be able to adjust and test their material and reach a sufficient standard of efficiency to make the passage.

3. Should these periods be exceeded the C. in C.H.F. is requested to signal the reason therefor to C. in C. Med. (1st S.L., 162318A to C. in C.H.F.).

Operations.

A/S Have sighted one unidentified aircraft bearing operations off 200 height unknown. P.C.S. 53 degs. 40' N. Western Ireland. 14 degs. 51' W. course 211 degs. speed 5 knots. Two enemy (Escorts O.S.68/K.M.S.42, 160941Z to Whitehall A/C shot down. W/T).

CITY OF My 160941Z. A/C shot down in flames by carrier CALCUTTA fighters. bombed. (BITER, 161030Z to Admt.).

Have sighted one unidentified aircraft bearing 315 degs. speed 8 knots. P.C.S. 53 degs. 32' N. 14 degs. 58' W., 210 degs. 6 knots. (Escort O.S.68/K.M.S.42, 161107Z to Whitehall W/T).

Enemy aircraft ahead of detected 0940Z bearing 200 degs. 13 miles from convoy. Two Wildcats were flown off by BITER at 0945Z. Enemy crossed convoy's stern twice at distance of 7 to 8 miles and released one Glider bomb which fell into sea between aircraft and convoy. Wildcat's attacked at 1005Z as enemy entered cloud and shot one starboard engine away. Enemy subsequently crashed in flames. Pilots identified enemy aircraft as Junkers 290. Wildcats landed on safely.

(BITER, 161155Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 131435A.

WEAR has been detached to Liverpool with engine defects maximum speed 11 knots.

(E.G.2, 161201A to C. in C.W.A.).

NENE (S.O.), WASKESIU, ICARUS, GATINEAU, CLAUDIER are temporarily to form 18th E.G. Amend paragraph 3 of my 152020 accordingly.

2. EDMUNDSTON (S.O.), SNOWBERRY, CAMROSE, LUNENBERG, PREST-COTT are temporarily to form 17th E.G.

(C. in C.W.A., 161205A to E.G.6.).

Am over enemy submarine in 54 degs. 20' N. 21 degs. 25' W. Sighted periscope only.

(A/C AUHW, 161224 to 19 Group).

/ Detach...

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. Two enemy A/C shot down. CITY OF CALCUTTA bombed. (Contd.).

Detach 1 ship of support groups to assist ship believed CITY OF CALCUTTA reported bombed in 048degs. 10' N. 018 degs. 00' W. at 1100A/16th. (C. in C.W.A., 161303A and 161431A to E.G.2.).

1 enemy aircraft course 250 degs., height 3000 feet shadowing convoy position 52 degs. 55' N. 16 degs. 46' W. course 230 degs. speed 8. (Escort Convoy "Siege" 161502Z to Admty.).

My 161155Z. A second enemy aircraft later identified as Ju.290 was detected by Radar at 1534Z 220 degs. 30 miles. Beaufighter BS DW 7 vectored on to target and Wildcats from TRACKER flown off. Beaufighter shot down enemy at 1550Z in position 300 ZZ 45. Believe 3 survivors. Searching in progress. (BITER, 161617Z to C. in C.W.A.).

O.N.S.29 probably reported by 2 enemy aircraft. Both finally shot down by BITER. Weather 6481, 3063. (B.6, 161805Z to C. in C.W.A.).

If not in contact with enemy 10th E.G.15 is to leave HX. 278 at dawn 17th and is to sweep toward and join O.N.S.29, during daylight 17th.

(2) On joining O.N.S.29 S.O. 10th E.G. is to act S.O. 10th and 18th Escort Group. (C. in C.W.A., 161836A to E.G.2, E.G.10).

Confirm that total of two enemy aircraft have been shot down, one by Wildcat from BITER and other by Beaufighter. B.6 161805Z which is being passed to you, refers. (C. in C.W.A., 162142A to BITER).

Your 162142. Confirmed. BITER was controlling Beaufighten (BITER, 162240Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Biscay A/S operations. Request you will sail 5 corvettes of 6th E.G. as soon as practical to join and support S.L.148. (2) S.O. in EDMUNDSTON, ships are temporarily to form Escort Group 17th. (4) My 141307 refers. (C. in C.W.A., 161208A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 45 degs. 37' N. 7 degs. 33' W. probably a submarine. (A/C, K.Z.X.12, 162325 to 19 Group).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161308A). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 161442A).

S/M patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/17 and movements following 24 hours. (A) TRADEWIND on patrol vicinity 65 degs. 01' N. 06 degs. 30' W. (B) SYRTIS on patrol off Stadtlandet. (C) VAMPIRE on patrol vicinity 63 degs. 30' N. 01 degs. 10' E. (D) STUBBORN approx. vicinity 64 degs. 50' N. 06 degs. 01' W., unable to dive or proceed.

/ (E) TAKU...

265

16
15.2.1944.
Wednesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M (E) TAKU 60 degs. 36' N. 03 degs. 30' E. through
patrols. 61 degs. 15' N. 01 degs. 52' E. and 055 degs.
(Contd.) Muckle Flugga 15 miles to Lerwick diving by day
when within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.
(F) ULA 61 degs. 31' N. 02 degs. 01' E. through
61 degs. 34' N. 02° 06' E. 61 degs. 02' N. 03
degs. 30' E. 59 degs. 10' N. 04 degs. 18' E. to patrol off
Skudesnes diving by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.
(N) VIKING as in my 131737.
(R) ZEEHOND leaves Lerwick 1800/17 probably on the surface
through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 8 and 63 degs. 25' N. 01 degs.
05' W. to patrol vicinity 65 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 13' E.
(F.O.S., 161749 to Admty.).

TRADEWIND proceed diving by day through following positions
T.A. 064 degs. 28' N. 008 degs. 15' E. T.B. 063 degs. 01' N.
005 degs. 01' E. T.C. 062 degs. 31' N. 003 degs. 01' E., thence
on surface at C.O.'s discretion by day through 090 degs. Muckle
Flugga 10 to Lerwick.

(F.O.S., 162242A to S/Ms.).

TRADEWIND leaves patrol about 0001A/17th through 064 degs.
28' N. 008 degs. 15' E. thence parallel to Norwegian coast to
Lerwick.

(C. in C.H.F., 162317A to MUSKETEER).

Enemy Air Activity

Northern German Air Force activity Feb. 1st to 15th as
waters. reported by Russians.
Murmansk (a) Sea R/C flights. Greenland Sea first eight
bombed. 2 aircraft 11th 2 aircraft 15th. Barents Sea
fourth 3 aircraft of which one shadowed a coastal
convoy off Sbyatoi Nos, fifth 5 aircraft sixth
4 aircraft seventh 2 aircraft eight (?13th or 15th).
(b) Other R/C. At night 14th - 15th one Ju.88 over Murmansk
dropped 3 flares and another A/C blocked entrance to Kola Inlet.
(c) Bombing. 13th 2 Me. 109's dropped one bomb in Murmansk
Town.
(S.B.N.O. Polyarno, 161357A to C. in C.H.F.).

Mining

Yarmouth Coastal Force vessels report acoustic mine
exploded at 0648A today in 360 degs. 3A buoy 2
cables.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 160819A to C. in C. Nore)
F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 161555A. One Acoustic mine detonated by
Sweeper at 161320 in 358 degs. 3A Buoy. 16 Cables. Details.
(Cdr. M/S. Lowestoft, 161915A to C. in C. Nore).
Acoustic mine detonated at G 1227 in position 178 degs. 3
cables 15 Buoy.
(F.O. Humber, 161330A and 162220A to C. in C. Nore).

Operation My 161445. From position (YY) RUBIS proceeds
"F.D.47" diving by day through position
(RD) 049 degs. N, 006 degs. 01' W.

/(RA)...

War Diary16.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation "F.D.47" (RA) 047 degs. 01' N. 006 degs. 01' W, to position (RB) 045 degs. 01' N. 001 degs. 59' W. to carry out operation as in F.O. (S) 101204 Feb. (2) S.O.A. 120 miles per day. (Capt.(S) 5, 161450A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operation "N.L.117" Regret to report M.L.210 was sunk and M.L.573 damaged at 2232 yesterday in 50 degs. 16' 36" N. 01 degs. 12' 50" E. while carrying out N.L.117 M.L.210 had laid six mines when an explosion with blue flash blew off her bows and midship section. The after part sank after 45 minutes. Her next astern M.L. 573 was damaged by a second almost simultaneous explosion close under her stern. Both are considered to have been caused by enemy moored mines in 18 fathoms of water. C.O., First Lieutenant, Sub. Lieutenant and 3 ratings of M.L. 210 are missing and ten ratings injured. WASP's 160805 refers. No casualties in M.L. 573. (V.A. Dover, 161517A to Admty.).

Harwich. Following reports of explosion distant, direction Three unknown. Just received from SHELDRAKE at 0159 explosions. ships positions 000 degs. from (D) 435 QZY, 2 miles, at 0626 ships position 000 degs. from (D) 435 QZY, 5 cables, at 0643 ships position 170 degs. from (D) 435 QZY, 4 miles. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 161533).

Operation "Q.U.26" Carry out operation "Q.U.26" - 034 degs. Laying instructions and mines as my 121056. (C. in C. Nore, 161815A to BEEHIVE, MANTIS).

U/boats.

U/boat Am over enemy submarine in 51.40 N. 20.00 W. attacked. Flak. Submarine was on surface. (A/C, LDUU, 162127 to 15 Group). U/boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge. Have attacked U/boat with depth charge. Estimated Hits. U/boat course 270 degs. speed 7 knots when first sighted in 51 degs. 10' N. 20 degs. 00' W. (A/C, LDUU, 162150A to 15 Group). Lost touch with U/boat last seen position 51 degs. 10' N. 20 degs. 00' W. Remaining in position until further instructions. (A/C, LDUU, 162200A to 15 Group).

Casualties and Defects.

F.T. My 152030A/February, tug SEINE proceeding to FRELINGHUY- assistance. SEN and (N.O.I.C. Oban, 160231A to F.O.I.C. Greenock). SEBASTIAN.

/My...

War Diary16.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

F.T. FRELING- My 152030A. Arrived and sailed tug HECTOR to
 HUUSEN and assist ships.
 SEBASTIAN. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 160805A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
 (Contd.). Sailed EMPIRE PIXIE to assist SEBASTIAN.
 (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 160903A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
 All SEBASTIAN crew to be put on board.

PHRONTIS return to Lochalsh. Tug EMPIRE PIXIE and SPARKLER
 proceeding.
 (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 160929A to PHRONTIS).
 My 152030A. F.T. FRELINGHUUSEN refloated and in hands of
 Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association. Fore-peak, no.1
 hold, deep tank double bottom no.1. and 2 flooded.
 (N.O.I.C. Oban, 161530A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
 F.T. FRELINGHUUSEN. Our Officer reports 1130 today. Towed
 into Loch Sunart. Divers survey proceeding.
 (Salvagium, 161630 to Admty.).
 Arrived SS SEBASTIAN towed by EMPIRE PIXIE, EMPIRE SPRITE,
 PHRONTIS and LADY BERYL.
 (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 161947 to Admty.).

STUBBORN STUBBORN reports estimated position at 2230A/15
 (Damaged as 064 degs. 20' N. 005 degs. 50' E. drift 3/4
 on 12th knots 020 degs.
 Feb.). Weather 4872, 1845.
 (D.C., 160351A to METEOR, SWIFT, MUSKETEER,
 SCOURGE).
 (F.O.S. 1609347A to S/M's.).
 At 1630/16 NARVIK in 064 degs. 12' N. 005 degs. 34' E. not
 having sighted STUBBORN ordered to search on course 020 degs.
 until 2100 and if essential to communicate. Ordered to use S.P.
 02457 and S.P. 02341X held by A.C.O.S. only. On next occasion
 of breaking W/T silence communicate instructions for NARVIK and
 if you require MOLDE sailed to relieve her.
 (A.C.O.S., 161847A to MUSKETEER).
 Catalina aircraft returned 1815. No sightings.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 161909A to METEOR, SCOURGE, MUSKETEER,
 SWIFT).

UNSHAKEN Arrival UNSHAKEN.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 161638A to Admty.).

STRATHELLA My 140216.
 STRATHELLA has now been towed to Skovfjord.
 COMGREPAT has been requested by C.T.F. 24 to signal
 whether
 (A) urgent seagoing defects can be completed sufficiently in
 Greenland for ship to be sailed independently to refit port or
 (B) whether necessary to tow.
 Complete refit probably required.
 (2) If ship can proceed as in (A) above is she to be sailed U.K.
 or will arrangements for North American refit port be made.
 (F.O.N.F., 161745Z to C. in C.W.A.).

SECRET

267A

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential 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.)

161636 February

From N.A. Stockholm.

Date 17.2.44.

Recd. 1743.

I.D.G. (O.T.P) BY CABLE

2nd RECIRCULATION
at request of D.N.I.

Addressed: Following for D.N.I.

GDYNIA U Boat alterations.

(1) (a) On January 29th approximately 10 U.Boats were in dock and 20 waiting to dock for repairs and alteration. All were from sea service and comprised 250 ton 500 ton and 740 ton types.

(b) The four floating docks were occupied as follows reading from North.

- (i) Steamer CUXHAVEN
- (ii) Four U.Boats
- (iii) Three U.Boats.
- (iv) Three U.Boats.

(c) Repairs in dock consist mainly in renewing pumps and in certain cases engine repairs including new pistons motor repairs and in 500 ton type lower torpedo tube was being blanked and forecastle gun replaced. Two U.Boats had damaged bows apparently caused by shell fire.

(d) On completion repairs all U.Boats had light metal frames already completed, fitted round Conning tower whilst they were berthed in number three basin. On this frame was fitted net made of copper wire with rectangular mesh five centimetres by five centimetres. The wire was apparently plated with metal having appearance of tin. Experts from Stuttgart fitted in great secrecy some electric instruments together with motor in connexion with this net. According to workmen this was an anti-Asdic device which was in experimental stage last October. A.D.F. frame one metre square was also being fitted at foremost end of conning tower.

(2) Technicians and workmen.

600 arrived from Bremen Hamburg and Kiel on January 15th to replace following conscripts who had already left Deutsche Werke as follows:-

- (a) 264 early December.
- (b) 146 December 31st
- (c) Large number early February

/(3).....

(3) Morale.

U. Boat crews, both Officers and men have been persuading workers to go slow. Arrests were reported in two U. Boats and one day very recently numbers of Officers and 26 men were taken from U. Boats to prison by S.S. Men. Now workers who are younger are complaining bitterly about food and openly expressing feeling against Hitler. Most of them are reported to be eagerly listening to B.B.C. Broadcasts.

B two repetition B two.

161636

N.I.D. Comment.

Para. 1 (d) Questionnaire has been sent to N.A. Stockholm to elucidate further particulars.

Para. 2. A reduction in U. Boat building has recently been noticed at Hamburg and Kiel.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Ops. (2)
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.S.D. 9. (2)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D.A./S.W.
- DA./U.D.
- C.A.O.R.
- Ad.Usborne
- Ad. Blake (4)
- D.S.D. (3)
- D.T.M. (3)
- W.D.
- I.P. (3)
- F.O.S. by Courier

LD
103

268

War Diary.16.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- SS. SAUMUR. German controlled SAUMUR reported sheltering from weather at Rosas on afternoon 14th. Destination now believed Marseilles. My 130642* refers. (F.O.G.M.A. 160031A to 10th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10.)
* SAUMUR left Barcelona.
- Re German ex French SS. SAUMUR 2955 tons trading between French ports and Barcelona. Request instructions if you are interested in interception if she should return to Barcelona so that I may take necessary action to inform you of her sailing. (B.N.A.Madrid 162141A.)
- Gib. Opsum 15th Feb. P.12/63 (pt. Lyautey) 1240 35.28 N. 06.20 W. attacked oil slick and (?contact) with bombs no results observed. (A.C.H.Q.Gib. 160215A.)
- CALEDON. Arrived. (F.O.G.M.A. 161013A.) (From U.K. to join Med. Fleet.)
- EDERA. EDERA sailed from Ferrol 1000/16 and should arrive Lisbon for bunkers night of 17th. (B.N.A.Madrid 161255A to F.O.G.M.A. (R) All Authorities in both areas concerned.)
- French refugees. Your 151724. Confirm scheme acceptable to Governor and myself. (F.O.G.M.A. 161301A to C. in C.Med.)
- SS. ZURICH. (Swiss) leaves Marseilles about 19th for Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 161732A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Search of Spanish ships. Consul Las Palmas is not aware that search programme mentioned in A. and B. of your 211233* Jan. to F.O.G.M.A. is to be carried out each month and says he is awaiting further instructions. Please may these be signalled to him and repeated to me. (C.C.S.O.Gib. 161735A to Admty.)
* H.M.Consul Las Palmas for search programme to propose suitable ships.
- SS. CILURNUM. My 151519 SS. CILURNUM returned to Las Palmas owing to bunker fire. (D.E.W.D. 161835A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Facilities at Azores for Russian ships. Your 152308*. Embassy tel. to F.O. No. 202 of 3rd Feb. repeated to S.B.O.Azores explains position. (N.A.Lisbon 161856 to B.S.N.O.Azores.)
* Cdr. Defence Maritime received instructions that no facilities or supplies to be given to Russian ships in future.

War Diary.

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

2 Hudson
Squadrons
from Gib.

The British build-up of airborne forces for "Overlord" has been seriously delayed because short-fall over promised deliveries of Dakotas. It has therefore been agreed with the Admiralty that the two Hudson Squadrons at Gibraltar should be withdrawn forthwith.

2. The work of these 2 Squadrons has been largely responsible for preventing U-Boat reinforcement of the Mediterranean and that we can ill afford to relax our vigilance. We are therefore most anxious to have these squadrons replaced but cannot see our way to doing so other than by asking the Americans to assist us. Their failure to deliver Dakotas as promised that we have been forced to this withdrawal.

3. The Admiralty have therefore asked to seek the agreement of Cominch to the transfer of two of the Ventura Squadrons from the Moroccan Sea Frontier to Gibraltar to operate under the operational control of A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar.
(Air Ministry 161920Z to Rafdel.)

South Atlantic.

M.F.Vs.
for India.

Your 122624. See my 101746. First 5 M.F.Vs. are almost ready for ocean voyage and fuelling arrangements have been made. M.W.T.R. Capetown can offer no early opportunity of shipment.

2. Intend therefore to steam the first batch and use any shipping opportunity for subsequent M.F.Vs.

3. Remaining vessels are being equipped for ocean voyage in case no shipping opportunity occurs.

(C. in C.S.A. 161034C to Admty.)

270

War Diary.16.2.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

SS. EDWARD BATES, sunk 1st Feb. Your 022228A Feb. Request information whether EDWARD BATES had nets streamed. If so did torpedo penetrate nets. If not in use is reason known. (Admty. 160335A to C. in C.Med.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 26. With continuation of fine weather discharge figure for 24 hours ending 152000 was 5830 tons, This makes a total to date of 31000 tons and daily 33752. In raid at 151325 Liberty ship ELIHU YALE with 57% cargo remaining hit by bomb aft No. 4 hold empty ammunition in No. 5 hold exploded and caught fire, fire being fought by U.S. tug HOPI and ship still afloat at 160141 with prospect of saving fore part.
3. U.S. destroyer H.C. JONES near missed by two glider bombs. Light structural damage and jamming equipment temporarily put out of action.
(C. in C.Med. 160923.)

10th S/M F. Patrols. Onward route from 039° 56' 006° 14' at 0001/20th through 043° 05' 007° 30' at 2000/21st to patrol in zone SS. proceeding submerged by day.
(Capt. S.10 161155 to LA SULTANE (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.Med. 10th S/M F.)
Leave patrol to pass 042° 39' 006° 01' at 0100/20th, 042° 01' 007° 40' at 2000/20th to arrive Maddalena at 1200/21st.
(Capt. S.10 161201 to UPSPART, (R) 10th S.F. C. in C.Med. F.O.G.M.A. N.O.I.C. Algiers, LA SULTANE.)

Trawlers for Adriatic. Request you will arrange for trawlers in your 140844* to be stripped of M/3 gear and to have Oerlikons fitted.
2. On completion they should be sailed to Taranto for service in Adriatic in support of Partisans or as required by F.O.T.A.L.I.
3. No objection to R.H.N. crews being employed in this service.
(C. in C.Med. 161246A to F.O.L.E.M.)
* CRESCENT, MOON, FELLOWSHIP, LANFALL, LANNER, EROS, PALLAS and REGIALIA suitable for service. (Signal 140844 was not used by W.D.)

Standard routes for S/Ms. The following standard routes for S/Ms on passage between Aegean and Malta are instituted.
A. 035° 12' 026° 43'. B. 034° 28' 026° 40'.
C. 034° 12' 026° 01'. D. 034° 20' 023° 01'.
E. 036° 20' 015° 20'. F. 035° 20' 014° 09'.
G. 035° 40' 014° 09'. H. 035° 44' 014° 33'.
thence by Q.B.B. 123 (B) (N.O.I.C?) Marsamuscetto.
2. S/Ms are to dive during daylight between long. 020° and 023°. (Capt. S.1 161437A.)

1st S/M F. patrols. Orders to carry out offensive sweep.
(Capt. S.1 161632 to 30KOL. Cancelled by 161830A.)
Proceed to patrol north of 039° 30' and west of 024° 01' cancel my 161632.
(Capt. S.1 161830A to 30KOL, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)

/Remain...

271

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- 1st S/M F. patrols. (Contd.) Remain south of lat. $039^{\circ} 30'$ until 1801/17th and then proceed to patrol on Salonika - Piraeus traffic route.
(Capt. S.1 162046 to P.55 (UNSPARING) (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M. NEREUS.)
Cancelled, 171312A.
- Leave patrol p.m. 18th to arrive in position $035^{\circ} 12' 026^{\circ} 43'$ at 0045/19th. Thence (route) to arrive (?W) at 1140/23rd. All times A.
(Capt. S.1 162105A to P.52 (DZIK) (R) 1st S/M F. NEREUS, F.O.L.E.M.)
NEREUS proceed to patrol in the vicinity Anaphi and Santorin between long. 025° and 026° .
2. UNRULY is not to proceed East $024^{\circ} 40'$.
(Capt. S.1 162130A to NEREUS, UNRULY, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)

J.Ships. U.S.S. HILARY P.JONES, U.S.S. MADISON, U.S.S. LANSDALE and destroyer escorts U.S.S. FREDERICK C.DAVIS, U.S.S. HERBERT C.JONES are equipped with special listening and jamming gear and trained personnel for action against radio controlled bombs. COLOMBO, DELHI and FAULKNER are also being fitted with special jamming transmitters. These and any other ships so equipped in the future are designated and may be referred to as J.Ships.
(C. in C.Med. 161806A.)

Med. Hunts. I intend to form group previously known as Mediterranean Hunts which consists of FARNDALE, ATHERSTONE, CALPE, CATTERICK, CLEVELAND and HAYDON into a destroyer flotilla with Commander G.
Ransome FARNDALE as Commander D.
2. SLAZAK and KRAKOWIAK will form part of this flotilla until their return to U.K.
3. Request flotilla number may be allocated.
(C. in C.Med. 162242A to Admty.)

War Diary.

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. In view of the fact that EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND on the run from Durban to U.K. will be carrying 1000 women and children request you will obtain confirmation that on this voyage she will be capable of making at least 20 knots continuous speed through the water under moderate weather conditions. (D. of S.T. 160220A to A.I.S.T.O.Bombay.)
Master confirms speed for forthcoming voyage will be 21½ kts. (A.P.S.T.O.I. Bombay 161131Z.)

Convoy C.H.1. Arrival C.H.1 escorted by KATHIAWAR and KELAVATI. (N.C.S.O.Calcutta 160230Z.)

Bi-weekly U/B disposition No. 26. Areas A. B. C. D. E. and F. no fresh information no changes.
Area G salvage vessel SALVIKING sunk in approx. 003° 30' N. 076° 30' E. at 1620Z/14, probably by German U-Boat indicated by D/F at 1506Z/15th in area west of Ceylon. (C. in C.E.F. 160339Z.)

Tanker CHARLES S. JONES attacked. Submarine attack 2 torpedoes fired at ship position lat. 11.36 N. long. 80.02 E. (C.C.O. Colombo 160550Z, C. in C.E.F. 160651Z to all concerned.)

Convoy Seychelles - Diego Suarez One. Sail 0900Z/16. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 161030Z.)

U/B disposition. Area F 33. CHARLES S. JONES missed by 2 torpedoes in 011° 35' N. 080° 02' E. at 0550Z/16th therefore increase scale of air escort to Y. Area E U-Boat may be moving into area E. Increase scale of air escort to Y. (C. in C.E.F. 161306Z.)

P.B/B.P. Convoys. Negative release Class D ship from F.B. convoy forthwith.
2. Negative release Class D ship from B.P. convoy on and after February 19th ?negative release class A ship from the above convoy. (C. in C.E.F. 161358Z.)

S.A.C.S.E.A. fortnightly report. 27th Jan. to 9th Feb. 1. Heavy fighting in Arakan continued throughout fortnight. Japanese in broadcasts have committed themselves to capture Chittagong.
2. Broad pennant of Commodore Douglas Pennant as S.O. Force F was struck at sunset 9th Feb. and the Force disbanded.

/Arakan...

War Diary.

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

S.A.C.S.E.A. Arakan Coastal Forces.
fortnightly 3. A simultaneous bombardment of Minybin and
report. 27th Kyauk Pyu was carried out by 8 M.L. on the night
Jan. to of 1st /2nd February. Mortars as well as guns
9th Feb. being used. The force bombarding Kyauk Pyu dis-
(Contd.) covered a wire rope supported on floats laid across
the entrance. This they cut and found both the
floats and wire to be of British origin.
4. On the night of 9th Feb. an M.L. employed on
a clandestine operation intercepted and sank a sloop carrying
ammunition. 7 prisoners were taken. We suffered one man killed
and two wounded.
5. M.Ls. have also been employed patrolling in the Naaf River to
prevent an enemy assault or infiltration across the river. Some
prisoners have been taken.
(S.A.C.S.E.A. 161630Z.)

U/B sunk We congratulate PALADIN on her destruction of the
12th Feb. U-Boat which sank KHEDIVE ISMAIL on 12th Feb.
(1st S.L. 161843A.)

U/B report. By D/F at 1706Z on 16th Feb. on 3460 k/cs the
position of U-Boat (German) was within 250 miles
of 000° 00' 066° 00' E.
(C. in C.S.F. 162010Z to Ships, E.I.Station.)

274

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B report. Have obtained bearing by H/F D/F. Black Gold. My P.C. and S. 043° 31' N. 054° 38' W. 067° 7½ kts. (SHAWINIGAN 160004Z.)
S.C.153. My 160004Z not to all addressees. Cdre. reports enemy S/M transmitting B signal 2nd class 046° at 2315Z/15th. Operator estimates over 30 miles but in ground wave. P.C. and S. at 2313Z was 043° 26' N. 054° 49' W. 7.5 knots. (S.O. W.3 160214Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

U.T.8. Diversion.
(D.O.D.H. 161110Z to C.T.F.60.)

Escort of 3 A.Ps. Your 032201. Special escort will be provided.
(D.O.D.H. 161200Z to Cominch.)

S.C.153. Westomp established in 044° 54' N. 049° 01' W. at 1500Z/17 when C.5 DUNVER (S.O.), NEW WESTMINSTER ROSTHERN, SUMMERSIDE, EKINS, BOMBARDIER will relieve you.
(F.O.N.F. 161204Z to S.E. S.C. 153.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 161454Z.)
Extract. One 28.00 40.00 by poor D/F 160031Z. Northbound Japanese estimated same area. Concentration now estimated north of 49.00 N. and E. of 25.00 W. from recent D/Fs.
(Cominch 161507Z.)

U/B report (H.X.279.) Received H/F D/F from rescue ship PINTO of enemy S/M transmitting a B signal bearing 065° far at 161309Z my position 042° 25' N. 057° 00' W. U. Weather report 1772 2276.
(W.5 161501Z to N.S.H.Q.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 5. Enemy float plane unsuccessfully attacked our 757. P.T.Boats operating vicinity Gasmata early hours.
12. At least one submarine reported Rein Bay.
13. Six enemy dive bombers attacked Allied surface force operating Northern Solomon sea night hours Feb. 14th causing minor damage and casualties to one vessel. At least two enemy aircraft destroyed.
17. Ventura covering Allied surface craft Northern Solomon Sea during night hours destroyed one probable enemy float plane.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160850Z.)

275

16.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. H.M.Ship SALVIKING attacked by U-Boat
at 1620/14th in 05° 30' N. 76° 30' E.
Para. C. 1. Fr. Wellington T/344 reports possible
U-Boat at 2355/11 in 15° 25' N. 18° 00' W. (approx).
2. H.M.I.S. CALCUTTA attacked suspected U-Boat
at 1945/11 in 20° 09' N. 86° 54' E.
(D.D.I.C. 161135A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 161220A, 161440A, 161453A.)

276

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

STUBBORN.

1. The S/M STUBBORN, damaged on patrol off Kya on 14th February, was about 300 miles N. by E. of Lerwick at 2330 today steaming $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots with a damaged rudder on a course of 210° dictated by the weather. MUSKETIER and SCOURGE are with her and METEOR and SWIFT were inshore of her at 1901A. The whaler NARVIK is returning to the Shetlands.

A/S operations off Western Ireland.

2. In view of the increasing use of long-range enemy A/C to shadow outgoing convoys off Western Ireland, C. in C.W.A. proposes that a suitably equipped cruiser should be provided to operate exclusively in that area in directing our fighter A/C from the St. Angelo airfield.

U-Boats.

3. Three westbound U-Boats in company were sighted by A/C at 1047A today about 30 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal.

South Atlantic.

Operation "Tabarin."

4. A message has been received by N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands to the effect that Base A has been established (at Port Locroy, Graham Land, see 11th Feb.) and WILLIAM SCORESBY and SS. FITZROY are sailing this morning for South Georgia.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle."

5.(a). Weather continued fine today and 2685 tons were discharged. Air attacks on Anzio were light and shelling was on a decreased scale, but enemy shelling of the anchorage p.m. today forced merchant ships to anchor 3 miles to seaward of Anzio after some near misses.

(b). PENELOPE and DIDO proceeded to Anzio this morning and supported the 6th Corps all today by bombardment.

(c). DIDO was rammed by an L.C.I.(L) p.m. today and was holed above the waterline.

/ULTOR...

277

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ULTOR.

6. On return from patrol ULTOR reports that at 080324 she fired 4 torpedoes at a merchantman with 2 escorts and considers that she sank one of the latter. ULTOR sank an auxiliary schooner south of St. Raphael on 15th.

"Avalanche".

7. Destroyers patrolled last night in the island approaches off Menders Point, Yugoslavia, and off the coast of Albania, but encountered no shipping.

Australia & New Zealand.

8. M.T.Bs. with air co-operation last night engaged 5 armed barges in Bougainville Straits and damaged 2 of them.

Air attack
on Rabaul.

9. 70 bombers escorted by 74 fighters attacked shipping in Rabaul Harbour this morning, with 1000 lb. 500 lb. bombs and 32 rockets. 19 direct hits and 15 damaging near misses were made on 12 out of 14 ships seen, and from subsequent photographs it appears that 4 freighters were sunk and 2 small destroyers, one S/M chaser and a tanker were damaged.

10. Air attacks today on shipping off the north coast of New Hanover by 16 escorted Mitchells, destroyed two merchant ships and a small sea truck, and a direct hit was made on a submarine which is believed sunk.

278

17.2.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Bristol Channel Fishing Fleet. Trawler Skippers numbering 41 are coming out on strike Monday February 21st as protest against the sentences imposed by Joint Meeting of the Port Fishery Committee and of British Fishery Vessels Mutual War Risk Association Ltd. An early reply is requested as to whether the Trawler Fleet should be laid up or other Skippers and mates be procured if possible for continuance of fishing. These Skippers would probably be unreliable for the security point of view.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 171135A to Admty.)

Damaged U-Boat at Ferrol. My 151754. Ministry of Marine informs me privately period of time for repairs started 0800 today and expires 0800/22nd February.
2. Damage is small hole in pressure hull.
3. Conversations with D.N.I. I am of opinion damage may be repaired quickly.
4. Corunna please keep close watch and make all arrangements for quick report of when U-Boat caves harbour and dry dock. Bear in mind probability of her putting to sea immediately after repairs. Admiralty please pass to Foreign Office.
(N.A. Madrid, 171401A to Admty.)

IROQUOIS. Intend to sail IROQUOIS at 0930A/18th to Halifax calling at Horta for fuel.
2. Route. A.M. 151755 February (not to all).
3. E.T.A. Horta 1100A/1.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171637A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Operations.

S.C. operations. My 050921A. Submarine Chaser HESSA sailed at 0150A today. 2. No.
(A.C.O.S., 170220A to Admty.)
My 111229A. Submarine Chaser HITRA sailed from Balta at 0635A today. 2. No.
(A.C.O.S., 170735A to Admty.)

A/S operations off Western Ireland. By D/F at 0403Z. U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 50° 30' N. 22° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 170540A to Escorts H.X.278, E.G.2, E.G.10, E.G.7, WEAR.)
Ju.290 aircraft are operating in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 171544A to Escorts O.N.224, H.X.278, O.N.S.29, O.S.68)
If not in contact with enemy - (1) 7th E.G. leave H.X.278 forthwith to join and support O.N.224 estimated P.C.S. 2000A/17 051° 51' N. 016° 55' W., 224°, 9 knots, but has been ordered to keep 20 miles to starboard of route during dark hours.
(2) 2nd E.G. and FENCER leave H.X.278 after dark tonight and join and support S.L.148/M.K.S.39 estimated P.C.S. 0800A/18th, 046° 11' N. 018° 30' W., 360°, 8 knots.

/(3) ...

279

17.2.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- A/S operations off Western Ireland. (Contd.)
- (3) STRIKER continue with H.X.278 to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 171549A to E.G.2, E.G.7, FENCER, STRIKER)
Convoy H.X.278 being shadowed by one A/C bearing 090° height unknown position 52° 49' N. 18° 25' W., course 052°, speed 10 knots. (MOURNE, 171655Z to Whitehall W/T.)
Cancel paras. 2 and 3 of my 171549.
2. STRIKER and FENCER remain with H.X.278. 2nd E.G. leave H.X.278 to join and support O.N.224 at daylight 18th. S.O. 2nd E.G. take charge of all supporting forces.
(C. in C. W.A., 171740A to E.G.2, E.G.7, STRIKER.)
- There is increasing evidence of L.R. enemy air R/C off the West coast of Ireland. Number 235 Squadron Coastal Command have been stationed at St. Angelo airfield North Ireland to operate against these enemy aircraft which are engaged in shadowing outgoing convoys.
- (2) There is little chance of making an interception unless the shore-based aircraft can be directed by a suitably equipped ship operating with or in the vicinity of our convoys. An example of a successful interception carried out by an escort carrier directing Beaufighters is referred to in BITER's 161617A February. While ROYALIST was available to operate off the West coast of Ireland numerous interceptions were made on both enemy and friendly aircraft and the general co-operation with the Beaufighters was extremely good.
- (3) At present the only opportunity for directing shore-based aircraft occurs at times when carriers in U.K. - Gibraltar convoys proceed through the area which occurs on about one day in five. It is therefore requested that consideration may be given to providing a suitably equipped cruiser to operate exclusively to fulfil this requirement.
(C. in C. W.A., 172004A to Admty.)

- Biscay A/S operations. Am over enemy S/M in 44° 14' N. 8° 26' W. (A/C KMY21, 171040 to 19 Group.)
Am over 3 enemy S/Ms. in 43° 57' N. 08° 27' W. S/Ms. were on surface. When first sighted were on course 270°, speed 7 knots. (A/C KMY21, 171047A to 19 Group.)
- U-Boat has dived position 43° 56' N. 08° 27' W. No attack made.
(A/C KMY21, 171109 to 19 Group.)
One S/M sighted 43.56 N. 08.27 W. at 1047.
(A/C KMY21, 171225 to 19 Group.)

- Operation F.X. Your 161456. Oiler is not required at Seidisfjord. (C. in C. H.F., 171051A to A.C.I.C.)
Your 170917A and M.S.18's 121442A. Report by signal whether you are able in your present condition to carry out duties as in C. in C. H.F's 100230, para. 4A.
(A.C.O.S., 171712 to RATTLESNAKE.)

/Russian ...

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation Russian Submarine Chasers 720, 1075, 1076
F.X. and M/S.145, 146, 147 will proceed with convoy
(Contd.) J.W.57 arriving Loch Ewe by a.m. D day.
(2) These ships are to leave Loch Ewe escorted
by ORESTES on completion of convoy conference
and (? proceed to) Skaalefiord and fuel.
Submarine Chasers should carry diesel fuel on deck if possible
without compromising stability and M/S.s are to be prepared
to fuel them at sea.
(3) These ships are to leave Skaalefiord escorted by ORESTES
as soon as fuelled and proceed so as to join convoy in daylight
D plus 2.
(C. in C. H.F., 171728A to H.F.)

Operation (A) 1830A/25th January range 3000 yards relative
F.W. bearing red 60°, true bearing 330°.
OBDURATE (B) Radar type 272 confirmed by one look out.
attacked (C) Initial inclination 90° right turning
on 25th directly away.
January. (D) Altered course to 330°, obtained asdic
contact bearing 350° 1500 yards. Altered
course to 350° increased speed up to 20 knots.
Contact proved non sub. Radar contact faded
at 1834 bearing 350°, 2000 yards. 1835 started to alter course
to 030° (attacking course obtained from plot) and reduced to
7 knots to gain asdic contact. 1836 great explosion, ship
turning with starboard 30, speed about 11 knots.
(E) None observed. (F) 20 feet from starboard side abreast
after tubes. (G) NAAKO fitted. (H) Escorting J.W.56A
sky overcast, very dark, and wind west force 2, slight sea
and swell. (I) Escort carrying out operation "Pineapple".
(J) No. (K) Three more U-Boats shadowing convoy. (L) Nil.
(OBDURATE, 171052A to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171429A.)
Force
Patrols.

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/18th and
movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SYRTIS, VAMPIRE as in my 161749.
(B) STUBBORN damaged, may be in tow in approx.

64° N. 05° E.
(C) TRADEWIND 62° 47' N. 04° 10' E., through 62° 30' N. 03°
E. and 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick, dived by day north
of 62° 30' N.
(D) TAKU 60° 57' N. 00° 10' W. probably on the surface to
Lerwick.
(E) ULA 59° 41' N. 04° 10' E. through 59° 10' N. 04° 18' E. to
patrol off Skudesnes diving by day within 60 miles of Norwegian
coast.
(F) ZEEHOND 62° 27' N. 00° 58' W. through 63° 25' N. 01° 05' W.
to patrol vicinity of 65° 20' N. 01° 13' E. diving by day
north of 62° N.
(F.O.(S), 171733 to Admty.)

/Routed ...

War Diary.17.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols. Routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 8, 063° 25' N.
(Contd.) 001° 05' W. and 065° 20' N. 001° 13' E.,
ZEEHOND left Lerwick 1812A/17th for patrol line
HH unescorted and diving by day north of 062°.
(S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 171828 to S/Ms.)

V.P. Carry out V.P. (1) Patrol A.P. (2) V.P.64.
operations. (3) a.m./18th February or first suitable day
thereafter. (4) At S.O.'s discretion. (5) No.
(6) No. (7) 065° Bressay. (8) No.
(A.C.O.S., 171903 to Admty.)

TAKU Skudesnes thoroughly roused. 15th February,
patrol. 4 trawlers continuous patrol, aircraft inter-
mittent. For passage of 2 merchant ships,
smoke screen laid to seaward. 3 trawlers
stopped listening in a probable attack detached
4 escort vessels (? dropping) depth charges, 3 aircraft.
Convoy passed 1030 and 1730. Radar aerial seen from seaward.
Entered Bommel Fiord dived by (corrupt) SKAERS(corrupt)(ET).
Weather 7654 1346.
(TAKU, 172142A to Capt. (S) 9.)

Mining.

Sweep by My 141100A. Sweep Q.Z.S.433 to position 293°
M/S. 16. Trevoise Head thence sweep back to Falmouth
thence sweep to Plymouth by Q.Z.S.410 and 443.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171224 to TADOUSSAC.)
My 161656A.

STEEPHOLM whilst escorting W.P.475 made asdic contact with
suspected submarine and at 1540A/11th carried out a D/C attack
in 50° 21.6' N. 03° 7.3' W.

2. GLAISDALE also carried out an attack at 1715A/11th but
considered contact to be a non sub.

3. The presence of a submarine is not certain but SIR JOHN
LISTER whilst engaged in routine sweep of Q.Z.S.442 detonated
a mine in 114° Berry Head 10.5 miles at 1415A/16th February.

4. 16th M.S. will start clearance of Q.Z.Y.436 on Monday.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171848A to Admty.)

Operation My 161815A. Postponed 24 hours.
Q.U.26. (C. in C. Nore, 171230A to BEEHIVE, MANTIS.)

Humber. Magnetic mine detonated 1254 in 359° No.15 buoy,
9 cables.
(F.O. Humber, 171407A and 171817 to C. in C.
Nore.)

M/S.4. Search completed negative result. Returning
to Yarmouth Roads.
(M/S.4, 171416 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Operation ...

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Operation F.D. 47. Cancel my 101204. Request you will sail RUBIS for F.D.47 so as to part company with escort in 215° Wolfe Rock 12 miles at 1900A/20th. Thence diving by day, via route G to position (RA) 047° 01' N. 006° 01' W. (RB) 045° 01' N. 001° 59' W. at 0400A/24th, thence eastward for operations. (2) RUBIS is to return by reverse route leaving (RB) at 0600A/27th to R/V in 180° Wolfe Rock 5 miles at 0800A/1st March. (3) My 101206 gives details of F.D.47. (F.O.(S), 171601A to Capt. (S) 5.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked on 11th February. My 102310Z and my 110450. Examination of records from GERANIUM and SCARBOROUGH and interrogation of C.Os. indicates 2 U-Boats were present. It is possible that first U-Boat was sunk by GERANIUM's (? first) attack and that subsequent chase on surface and hunt were directed against second U-Boat. H/F D/F bearings obtained tend to confirm this. (ROCHESTER, 172231A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

STUBBORN (Damaged on 13th February). TRADEWIND leaves vicinity 065° 01' N. 006° 30' E. at 0001/17th through 064° 28' N. 008° 15' E. to Lerwick. At 0800/17th unless otherwise ordered by MUSKETEER proceed toward Muckle Flugga at 8 knots. This was my 170551 addressed to NARVIK. (A.C.O.S., 170613A to MUSKETEER, SWIFT, SCOURGE, METEOR.) Expect Catalina in area at noon until last light. (C. in C. Rosyth, 170925 to STUBBORN.) Repeat homing procedure in C. in C. H.F.'s 151817A commencing 2200A/17. My P.C.S. 064° 38' N. 006° 06' E., 240°, 15 knots. SWIFT in company. Weather 9080 2963. (METEOR, 171901A to STUBBORN.) My position 064° 28' N. 002° 05' E. SCOURGE, STUBBORN in company. Tow parted. S/M with damaged rudder steaming 8½ knots on (immovable course) dictated by weather of 210°. NARVIK not required. Weather 9070 2553. (MUSKETEER, 172330 to C. in C. H.F.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.S.29. Stragglers which cannot rejoin by dark tonight have been ordered to return to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 171204Z to Escorts O.N.S.29.) CAPE SABLE returned from O.N.S.O.29. Unable maintain speed. Incompetent firemen. ALABAMAN returned from O.N.M.223. Lost rudder. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 171939 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.L. 148/
M.K.S. 39.

70 M/Vs., FERNMOOR, and 20 Landing Craft.
Names and destinations.
(D.T.D., 171233A.)

O.S.C.68/
K.M.S.42.

STANHOPE returned from O.S.C.68/K.M.S.42.
Heavy weather lost convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 171340 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.F.29.

A.M. 131315. Route.
(D.O.D.(H), 171841A.)

284

17.2. 1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B report. Look out reported submerged U-Boat 34.01 N. 13.56 W. advise send search plane.
(A/C C/S 155R 171500A to R.A.F. Gib.)

SAUMUR. All possible steps should be taken to report movements of SAUMUR so that interception can be arranged. This applies to all enemy and enemy controlled vessels. Your 161241 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 171510A to B.N.A.Madrid.)

ERICSSON, Reporting for duty 1200A/17 in accordance C. in C. KEARNY. Lant's 242215 Jan. (ERICSSON, KEARNY when ready 30th Jan. and 4th Feb. respectively proceed Gib. report Com. 8th Fleet for temporary duty on arrival.)
(KEARNY 171606Z.)

Routeing. Your 111902A*. Have read clause 3 as being permissible to route ships if essential east of 016° W. This has been done with small Irish ships owing to lack of bunkers and lubricating oil.

Request instructions.
(N.C.S.O.Lisbon 171837 to Admty.)
*(Asked for from W.R. not supplied before typing: being asked for again. Does not refer to any British ships I think.)
Later Note: Refers to extension of Bay of Biscay danger areas.

South Atlantic.

Operation Following received: Base A established. WILLIAM "Tabarin." SCORESBY and FITZROY sailing a.m./17 via Melchior, Deception and Signey Islands. E.T.A. South Georgia 24th Feb.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 171251Z.)

U/B in My 141222Z. R.A.F. Photographs reveal that the St. Paul's U-Boat was a 1200 or 1600 ton type.
Rocks area (F.O.C.W.Af. 171828Z.)
12th Feb.

285

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN
survivors. Do you wish another interrogator flown out from
U.K. C. in C.E.F. 140909 refers.
(D.N.I. 170020A to H.Q.M.E.)

10th S/M F. 1. UNTIRING off Cape Camaret.
Patrols. 2. UPSTART off Toulon.
3. 10th S/M F. summary at 2000/17th.
(Capt. S.10 170833.)
UPROAR patrol report blank.
(S.10 171027.)

ZETLAND Following damage sustained in going alongside.
damaged. Stern broken on waterline, fore peak side plating
torn. Ship is seaworthy but will require forward
docking at early opportunity.
(ZETLAND 170900A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 27. Unloading at Anzio slowed down by
increased and more accurate shelling but tonnage
of 3586 achieved. A few naval casualties occurred.
2. Fire in ELIHU YALE extinguished machinery
wrecked ship aground aft may break in half one
American L.C.T. also hit on same raid.
3. L.S.T. 418 sank following two unexplained underwater explosions
at 161630 position 338° Ponza Island Light 15 miles this is one
mile outside swept channel. Ship was returning empty from (?Anzio)
4. MAURITIUS carried out successful shoots in Formia area scoring
hits on 288 millimetre guns and starting fires amongst troops
and transport.
5. PENELOPE and DIDO have proceeded 170900 to Anzio to support
Six Corps.
(C. in C.Med., Naples 170931A.)

Air attacks on K.M.S.37 and U.G.S.30. A.X. 632 17th February. Ref. my 061045 para. 5
and your A.426 14th Feb. request time of attack on
each convoy and time of each fighter interception.
(Air Min. 171111Z to M.A.A.F. (A))

4 fast U.S. troopships. Cominch 142025. Owing to present additional and
varied commitments inside Mediterranean, it is not
possible to state now that escort can be provided.
2. If opportunity occurs ships will be met off
Casablanca and diverted to Oran.
(C. in C.Med. 171142A.)

SS. ZURICH (Swiss.) Swiss ZURICH is expected to leave Marseilles about
19th coastwise to Cape San Sebastian thence by
approved route to Gibraltar. Not to be molested
this voyage.
(F.O.G.M.A. 171202A to 10th S/M F. LA SULTANE,
Capt. S.10.)

/lst...

286

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

1st S/M F. Leave patrol at dusk tonight for Kaso Straits patrols. passing through position 039° 50' 024° 31' 039° 34' 025° 20' and 8 miles west of Anti Psara. (Capt. S.1 171317A to SOKOL, (R) UNSPARING, F.O.L.E.M.)

Proceed to patrol north of 039° 40' and west of 024° 01' do not enter the area before 2102A/17th. Cancel my 162046. (Capt. S.1 171312A to UNSPARING, SOKOL, F.O.L.E.M.)

1955A/17th 1st S/M F. summary UNRULY as in my 151016 DZIK on patrol west of Kos.

UNSPARING, SOKOL, see formers.

NEREUS patrolling in vicinity of Santorin and Anaphi. (S.1 171521.)

Proceed with all despatch diving by day through A. 035° 49' 025° 29' B. 035° 42' 023° 16' at 1700A/18. C. 035° 58' 021° 58' to D. 037° 40' 020° 08'.

2. Proceed at 200 feet between A. and B.

3. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged to cover S.O.A. 120 miles per day from B.

4. Further instructions follow.

(Capt. S.1 172312A to UNRULY (P.49) (R) C. in C.W.A. V.A.M. F.O.L.E.M. F.O.T.A.L.I.)

At noon 16th proceed to patrol on Salonika - Piraeus traffic route.

(Capt. S.1 172358A to UNSPARING, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)

Air report. Part 4 of my W.R. 201 Feb. 17th. M.S. 4053. 54 x 500 2 x 250. Report 43 hits, 2 large explosions. 12 Kittyhawks (P.40). Shipping Ulean/Zara, 12 x 500 sank 1 barge. 1 aircraft missing. 18 Spitfires offensive R/C Uljan/(?Pasmys). No targets. 10 Spitfires offensive R/C M/T Pontecorvo abortive due weather. 12 Spitfires weather shipping R/C. 14 U.S. Thunderbolts (P.47) escorted T.B.F. Bombers. 1 Spitfire Ph. R/C. Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Force. 14 Feb. (add). 3 French Walrus attacked submerged submarine with depth charges east of Maddalena. No results. (M.A.A.F.H.Q. 171725A.)

ULTOR ULTOR reports at 0324/8 fired four torpedoes at patrol report. 4000 ton merchant vessel with two escorts. One torpedo heard to explode after correct interval. Merchant vessel sighted one hour later by UFROR with only one escort. Consider other escort may have been sunk.

2. At 1522/15 sank 50 ton auxiliary schooner by gunfire in position three and a half miles south of St. Raphael. (S.10 171626A.)

K.M.F.28/
M.K.F. 28. Para. 2 of C. in C.W.A. 112054 referring to passage of convoy K.M.F.28/M.K.F.28 begins: Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining gas oil and United States Symbol 9250 Lubricating Oil for Diesel Frigates at Naples as these requirements

/are...

17.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

K.M.F.28/
M.K.F.28
(Contd.)

are apparently still not generally known. DRURY was away from the convoy for 2 days owing to having to call at Oran for Lubricating Oil. Ends. Request confirmation that arrangements will be made to supply these requirements on future convoys as adequate stocks held at Naples.
(C. in C.Med. 171627A to F.O.W.It.)

G.U.S. 31.

Left Tobruk 1700 proceeding at best speed to re-join Rump.
(GLOXINIA 171704B.)

L.S.T.

From latest information available it appears that the majority of No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9 L.S.T. Flotillas are returning to U.K.
2. It is intended to reorganise L.S.T. in the U.K. into six flotillas numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9.
3. Flotilla numbers 6, 7, 8 are allotted to Med. Request you will reorganise L.S.T. under your command accordingly, keeping Admiralty informed.
(D.C.O.D. 171937A to C. in C.Med.)

SIBYL

(from Beirut.) Arrived.
(V.A.Malta 172103.)

Situation
Report No.
296.

3. SS. FORT ST. NICHOLAS sank as result of explosion in 040° 34' N. 014° 35' E. on 15th Feb. U-Boat hunt by destroyers carried out.
4. Destroyer patrols in entrance to Quarnero Gulf during the night 14th/15th and Hvar Island area night 15th/16th sighted no shipping.
(C. in C.Med. 172110A.)

DIDO
damaged.

DIDO sustained following damage in collision: Ship's side holed starboard side abaft forecandle deck level to (?waterline) forward of station 34 damage about (?24) feet by 20 feet, triangular in shape. Transverse bulkhead at 34 buckled causing distortion for 12 feet (?abaft) but no flooding (?) Hole ahead admits water to Naval stores below lower deck level which is now being pumped out. No further water is entering ship.
2. DIDO will require to change all guns at Malta.
(F.O.15th C.3. 172249.)

17.2.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B D/Fs. from German U/Boat give the following
D/Fs. positions:-
1. Transmission at 1830Z/16 on 5885 Kc/s probably within 150 miles of 31° 00' S. 77° 00' E
2. Transmissions at 1706Z/16 on 8460 kc/s and 2055Z/16 on 5885 kc/s both originated from same general area probably within 200 miles of 02° 00' N. 70° 00' E.
A.M. 161944A, 161833A and 162226A to C. in C.E.F. and C. in C.S.A. only, respectively, refer.
(D.D.I.C. 170320A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), C. in C.S.A.)

U/Boats My 160339Z and 161306Z refer.
disposition. Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G no fresh information, no local condition change in scale of air escort.
Indian Ocean 2 U/Boats (German) were plotted by D/F within 250 miles of the indicated position 000° 00' S. 066° 00' E. at 1706Z/16th Feb., and 031° 00' S. 072° 00' E. at 1830Z/16th Feb.
(C. in C.E.F., 170338Z.)

SALVIKING, B. 003° N. 076° 18' E. 2107 (corrupt group)
report of 14th Feb.
sinking C. S/M.
14th Feb. D. Torpedoes-ship hit-stem blown away, ship disintegrated after second hit.
E. 3 first observed to pass under ship.
F. Survivors 38. 17 killed known to have been on after deck or in mess decks. Chief Officer and Captain searched vessel for wounded no bodies found. Both lifeboats accounted for.
G. No.
H. S S S S message made but both aeriels damaged.
I. None
J. Collected and thrown overboard.
K. As in J.
L. Yes 1200 fathoms.
M. No risk of compromise.
N. Second radio operator.
O. None.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 170556Z.)

Particulars A. 1. Last port and route in Indian Ocean.
required 2. Whether visited Penang, Singapore, Sunda
from Strait etc.
survivors 3. Movements before sinking and intended
movements.
CHARLOTTE 4. Sightings ships and aircraft.
SCHLIEMANN. 5. Cargo carried.
B. U/Boat fuelling carried out and intended.
C. Types of torpedo, Pistols, carried for

U/Boats.
D. 1. Were U/Boats specialists and spare crew carried.
2. Ship's capability for U/Boat repairs.

/E. ...

17.2.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Particulars required from survivors CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. (Contd.)

E. 1. Methods of communication for making rendezvous, W/T frequencies employed.
2. Recognition signals.

F Particulars of U/Boats Radar and Radar detection gear.

G. 1. Particulars types and numbers of Japanese U/Boats based on Malaya.
2. Operational areas and patrol duration of R.O. - R.Q. class.
3. If Radar fitted on Japanese U/Boat

H. 1. Details of mines laid by Japanese S/M.
2. Any details of minefields particularly in S.E.A.C.
3. Particulars of minelaying U/Boats including R.O. - R.Q. class.

I. 1. German and Japanese U/Boat speeds on passage outside and inside land based air observation.
2. Restrictions on attacks on escorted shipping.
3. German opinion of Japanese U/Boat crews methods.

J. U/Boat casualties Indian Ocean area.

K. Full details of Penang U/Boat Base.

L. Details of future operations of ex Italian Transport U/Boat.

M. Movements and employment of German shipping in Far East especially HAVELLAND, BOGOTH, QUITO, BRAKES and Raiders "H" (name probably MICHEL).
(C. in C. E.F. 171001.) *Reply: 221440, page 370.*

Convoy C.H.4. My 160455Z sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 171035Z.)

Diego Suarez. Your 041205. I concur with remarks of N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, contained in his message 121936.
(C. in C.E.F. 171044 to Admty.)

U/B report. Possible U/Boat reported by (VSAAD*) A/C 20° 02' N. 58° 12' E. at 1027Z/17.
(C/S. S7W, 171150Z.)*?Call sign of A/C.

Convoy Mauritius Vohemar - Vohemar Mauritius 1. 2. 1200Z/17th.
3. E.T.A. Vohemar 0300Z/21st expected time of departure Vohemar p.m. 22nd and return Mauritius a.m. 27th.
6. STANBERTON.
(N.C.S.O. Mauritius, 171205Z.)

Salvage vessels. Consequent on loss of SALVIKING the only salvage vessels allocated to Eastern Fleet are OCEAN SALVOR and CONFEDERATE.
2. Intend CONFEDERATE shall be based at Aden to work Aden/Persian Gulf area and OCEAN SALVOR based at Colombo for Ceylon area.
(C. in C.E.F. 171319Z to Admty.)

U/B report. By D/F at 1930Z/17th February on 5880 kc/s the position of a U/Boat (German) was within 250 miles of 005° S. 066° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 172237Z to E.I. Stn. Admty., etc.)

290

War Diary.17. 2. 1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Fr. S/M
ARCHIMEDE.

Sail French S/M ARCHIMEDE when ready about 19th Feb. via Bermuda for fuel to Casablanca where on arrival ship reports for duty to Allied Naval C. in C. Med.
(U.S. Commander U.S. Fleet 171335Z to U.S. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.)

Operational
Units in
N. Atlantic.

Disposition of operational units in N. Atlantic. Ships and areas.
(Admty. 171342A to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Escort of
3 A.Ps.

To expedite arrival in Mediterranean of A.Ps. ELIZABETH C. SPANTON, LYON and FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE arriving U.K. in convoy U.T.9 sail them from U.K. under special British escort made available by Admiralty's 161200 to Cominch only. My serial 002834 of Dec. modified accordingly.
(Cominch 171435A to Comnavu.)

S/M attacked
by CROATEN's
A/C 15th Feb.

At 150712Z position 27.40 40.40 aircraft attacked submarine on southerly heading. Estimate probably sunk but no prisoners and unable determine nationality. Continuing day and night search this area. Logistics will require cease operations 20th in order reach Bermuda at 12 knots. W.X. 5480 2474.
(C.T.G. 21.13 171500Z to Cinclant, Cominch 172107Z to Admty.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.2. 171529Z, Cominch 171522.)

RESTIGOUCHE
OUTREMONT.

RESTIGOUCHE OUTREMONT sailed St. Johns N.F. 1900Z/17th to overtake H.X.279 and join C.3 additional. E.T.A. convoy 2000Z/18th.
2. Request C. in C.W.A. detach RESTIGOUCHE OUTREMONT as requisite to join proper groups.
(F.O.N.F. 171904Z to C. in C.W.A. RESTIGOUCHE OUTREMONT.)

COLLINGWOOD.

2000Z/17 sailed COLLINGWOOD to Londonderry, (route) (C. in C.C.N.A. 172324Z to C. in C.W.A. Admty.)

War Diary.

17. 2. 1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 758. Feb. 16th. Near Ambon early hours while (9) Liberators bombed Halong Seaplane Base, Dutch Mitchells hits Ambon Jetty and barracks area starting numerous fires silencing several ack ack positions. Paras. 11 to end cover South Pacific Forces.

6. Four Liberators, three Navy Catalinas attacked shipping New Hanover - Mussau Island area night 15th/16th. Five ship north-bound convoy comprising one possible tanker one small freighter three escorts hit west of Mussau Island. Catalina hit possible tanker and Liberator damaged freighter also one destroyer. Another Liberator damaged two small cargo vessels with near misses just south of New Hanover believed leading elements south-bound convoy. Second Catalina hit large tanker near New Hanover last seen beached. Southbound convoy apparently comprises min. 14 ships against which air strikes despatched forenoon 16th but results not yet received.

15. Standing fighter patrols Nissan Island throughout daylight hours 15th had only one enemy contact when 5 Corsairs few Aircobras intercepted 10 to 15 dive bombers after ineffective attack on Allied shipping shooting down 6 certain. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 170555.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack & sighting summary.

Para. A. 1. Sunderland W/201 attacked U-Boat on surface course 230 with depth charges at 1120/16 in 54° 18' N. 21° 25' W.

2. Liberator U/53 attacked U-Boat on surface, course 270° with depth charges, at 1927/16th in 51° 10' N. 20° 00' W.

Para. B. 1. Liberator P/124 obtained A.S.V. contact reported as probably U-Boat at 2225/16th Feb. in 45° 37' N. 07° 33' W. Ref. A.M. 161135A para. A.1 (SALVIKING.) (D.D.I.C. 171110A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 171446A, 171451A.)

18.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy protection.

1. C. in C.W.A. considers that the provision of two-seater Night Fighter A/C to Escort Carriers engaged in supporting Convoys should be treated as a matter of the highest priority, but that experience has shown the American-built Escort Carriers to be unsuitable for directing them.

Operation "F.X."

2. C. in C.H.F. has ordered today that M/V's. of speed less than 10 knots are not to be included in J.W. Convoys.

3. LONDON and CUMBERLAND left the Clyde this evening for Gibraltar, to join the Eastern Fleet.

A/S Operations.
One U/boat sunk by U.406
SPEY. *sunk*

4. Four U/boats were sighted by our A/C today in the waters about 500 miles West of Lands End; and at 1542Z the Frigate SPEY, S.O. of E.G.10, supporting Convoy O.N.S.29 reported that she has destroyed a U/boat about 560 miles W.S.W. of Cape Clear.

Biscay A/S Operations.

5. An inward-bound U/boat was attacked and claimed straddled by an A/C on patrol at 2203A to-day about 480 miles West of Lorient.

TAKU. Enemy convoys attacked.

6. The S/M TAKU reports to-day that on 7th February she sank a 6000 ton M/V. off Boknfiord; that on 12th February she apparently hit with a torpedo one 3000 ton M/V. in the entrance to Bommel Fiord; and that on 13th February she probably hit two 3000 ton M/V's. in Skudesnes Fiord

STUBBORN

7. The S/M. STUBBORN, returning damaged from patrol, was sighted by A/C at 0800A today with 4 Destroyers in company when 160 miles S.W. by S. of Muckle Flugga. The Destroyers METEOR and SWIFT are returning from her to Scapa, but MUSKETEER, SCOURGE and the Whaler NARVIK were with her at 1601A and MUSKETEER intends to tow her to Lerwick.

Mediterranean

Operation "Shingle"
PENELOPE
sunk.

8(a) The cruiser PENELOPE was torpedoed at about

/0730...

18.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"
PENELOPE
sunk.
(Contd.).

0730 today in 40.55 N. 13.25 E. (35 miles west of Naples) and sank after a violent explosion. There were about 250 survivors, but the Captain and the Commander were both lost.
(b) It is believed that mines were dropped in air raid on Anzio this morning. A D.U.K.W. detonated an acoustic mine in the swept channel and the port was temporarily closed during minesweeping.
(c) MAURITIUS and later LAFOREY bombarded in the Formia area today.

9. SS RAMDAS made S.O.S. at 0120A today in 39.33 N. 17.27 E. (approaches to Gulf of Taranto).

10. UPSTART reports that she has sunk a 3000 ton merchant ship off Toulon.

11. U.S. patrol boats last night intercepted 3 enemy destroyers or minelayers off Capraia and attacked with torpedoes. Results were not seen.

Black
sea

12. The Russians report that they have established 15 minefields in the northern end of Kerch Strait but have swept few mines.

Evacuation
of Crimea.

13. S.O.(I) Istanbul is informed by the Russian Naval Attache that the evacuation of the Crimea by the Germans has begun, using small ships. N.I.D. have no confirmation of this.

East Indies.

Fleet
immobilised.

14. In order to meet the necessary minimum escorts for troopships the Fleet will be immobilised on account of lack of destroyers from 21st February to about 4th March.

18.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

15. U.S. Mitchells sank freighter in Tongking Gulf yesterday and damaged two more today.

America and West Indies.

ARIADNE

16. The fast minelayer ARIADNE who has been refitting at Norfolk Va., sailed from Balboa today for Pearl via San Diego, for duty under C. in C. Pacific Fleet.

Australia and New Zealand.

Destroyer attacks on Rabaul and Kavieng,

(first surface attack -

W.R. 207/18)

17(a). Early this morning 5 U.S. destroyers made a surprise attack on Rabaul Harbour under cover of a smoke screen. The shore batteries were silenced and fires started in camp areas by bombardment, and ships in outer Rabaul Harbour were torpedoed. A single Japanese destroyer which attempted interference was driven off.

(b) At first light today 5 other destroyers bombarded supply areas, harbour installations and shipping at Kavieng. A tanker was hit and blew up and the main wharf was hit.

18. Allied M.T.Bs. bombarded John Albert Harbour, Garove Island last night. Results were not seen.

War Diary.18.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.LONDON
CUMBERLAND.

Clyde arrivals LONDON and CUMBERLAND.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 180748A to C. in C. H.F.)
Sailed CUMBERLAND and LONDON for Gibraltar.
(2) Route. (3) E.T.A. 1000A/22.
(4) A.M.122302A Feb. refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181914A to Admty.)

IROQUOIS.

IROQUOIS sailed as in my 171637A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 180936A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

CELEBRITY,
GILBERT
EUGENE.

Your 152328A and my 131305A.
A.S./M.S. base vessel CELEBRITY (N.A.B. RENOWN)
paid off and laid up p.m. February 17th and mine
tender GILBERT EUGENE commissioned and renamed
CELEBRITY in her place.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 181009A to Admty.)

Night-
fighter A/C
for Convoy
protection.

My 121005A. Further investigation has shown
that the American built C.V.E. are not suitable
for directing night fighters but that considerable
possibility exists with regard to CAMPANIA,
VINDEK and NAIRANA in view of their superior
type of Radar equipment.

(2) During recent operations carried out by
NAIRANA and ACTIVITY either due to refit displacement or other
reason it was found that NAIRANA was able to operate on occasions
when ACTIVITY was unable to do so due to state of sea.
NAIRANA flight deck landing ground 20 ft. longer than that of an
American built C.V.E.

(3) NAIRANA has reported that there is extreme difficulty in
intercepting enemy aircraft with single-seater fighters in the
cloud conditions prevailing at this time of the year.
PURSUER's experience has also borne out the necessity for pro-
viding 2 seater fighters for intercepting enemy formations after
dark.

(4) I consider that the provision of night fighters for the
protection of convoys should be treated as a matter of highest
priority with a view of equipping NAIRANA forthwith.
NAIRANA is due to sail with O.S. 69 on 24th Feb. and it is
therefore requested that an immediate decision may be signalled.
(C. in C. W.A. 181307A to Admty.)

MIMICO.

When ready for sea MIMICO is to be sailed to
Stornoway to work up on conclusion of which
C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail her as
required to join C. in C. C.N.A.
(D.O.D.(H), 181515A to A.S.C.Bs)

296

18.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.

Poole Harbour. Coastal Command have ceased operating flying boats from Poole but operations of Transport Command (late B.O.A.C.) are continuing and it is understood may be increased.

(2) The introduction of Force G in to the Portland -Poole area for training will appreciably increase the existing congestion in Poole Harbour. Furthermore a very large number of U.S. landing craft are allocated to Poole for the assembly.

(3) In view of para. 2 it is felt that Naval Comitments for this area should be communicated to the Air Ministry as it is not considered that both Naval and Transport Command operations, can continue to be undertaken simultaneously in Poole Harbour. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181930A to Admty.)

Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. One U-Boat sunk by SPEY. Four U-Boats sighted.

Enemy S/M detected by Radar and dived in 50 degs. 10' N. 18 degs. 35' W. (E.G.3, 180502Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 180502. Second U-Boat detected by Radar and counter-attacked 5 miles ahead at 0624Z. (E.G.3, 180655Z to C. in C. W.A.)

3rd U-Boat detected by Radar 0745Z in 50 degs. 20' N. 18 degs. 10' W. All 3 put deep outside torpedo range. (E.G.3, 180801 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 180801. REDPOLE detached to hunt third U-Boat. (E.G.3, 180815Z to C. in C. W.A.)

At 1630Z yesterday Wildcats from TRACKER were directed on to a contact bearing 250 degs. 19 miles, but contact was lost before fighters could close. At 1842Z a contact was made at 180 degs. 30 miles closing the convoy slightly at 4000 feet and 2 Wildcats from BITER were flown off. Enemy turned away and Wildcats landed on one hour after sunset. Avengers from TRACKER swept 150 miles from beam to beam and reported 2 oil streaks in 48 degs. 11' N. 17 degs. 58' W. at 1649Z. Night A/S patrol from BITER defuelled and unarmed owing to low wind made no contact with enemy. (BITER 180945Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Am over enemy S/M in 49 degs. 33' N. 23 degs. 08' W. Enemy was on surface, and was on course 185 degs. speed 14 knots. (A/C 1 H.G. 181115A to MGM)

If no contact has been gained by 1200Z abandon hunt and proceed independently at economical speed. If in contact continue hunt until midnight. Report action taken. (E.G.3, 181123Z to REDPOLE)

E.G.3's 180815Z. Nothing to report. Rejoining in accordance with previous order. My P.C.S. 1200Z/ 050 degs. 43' N. 017 degs. 55' W. 055 degs. 17 knots. (REDPOLE, 181209Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceeding /...

War Diary.

18.2.1944.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. One U-Boat sunk by SPEY. Four U-Boats sighted. (Contd.)

Proceeding independently to Greenock. My 181209Z and E.G.3's 181123Z, refer. (REDPOLE, 181322Z to C. in C. W.A.) Have sunk enemy S/M in 048 degs. 32' N. 023 degs. 36' W. (SPEY, 181542Z to C. in C. W.A.) D/F bearings at 1915Z indicate U-Boat within 40 miles of 48.40 N. 24 W. 'B' signal at 1929Z probably from same general area. (D.D.I.C. 182131 to Escorts O.N.S. 29, E.G.10, E.G.18.) Enemy A/C may be operating in area 49 degs. - 50 degs. N. 20 degs. - 21 degs. W. (D.D.I.C. 182215A to O.N. 224, O.N.S. 29, M.K.S. 39, O.S.68, E.G.2, E.G.16, E.G.40)

V.P. Operation. My 171903A. Sailed at 0820A to-day, M.T.B. 684 (S.O) and M.T.B. 627. (2) No. (A.C.O.S. 180847A to Admty.) Cancel following preparatory signals if held by you:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----|------------|---------|-----------|
| Originators number | 33 | T.O.O. | 011654A | February. |
| " | " | " | 011657A | February. |
| " | " | 58A & 107A | " | 311057A |
| " | " | 61 & 101A | " | 241238A |
| " | " | 63 | " | 291320A |

(2) Further signals will be made if any operation is repeated. (A.C.O.S. 181252 to Admty.)

Operation F.X. Arrived ORESTES and HYDRA. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 180909A to A.C.O.S.) Following is amendment No.1 to my H.D. 570 B of 14th February. (1) For STARWORT substitute RHODODENDRON

throughout. (2) Add to para. 3 - Russian M/S's 145 (S.O), 146, 147 and Russian S/M Chasers 720, 1075, and 1076 will be included in the convoy proceeding independently to Skaalfjord to top up with fuel. They will probably occupy positions 25, 45 and 55 in the convoy organisation, a M/S and S/M Chaser in each position. A U.S. Naval Officer is on board the S.O's ship. Each ship carries one British Naval signalman and Mersigs. The S/M Chasers are fitted for oiling at sea and can be fuelled from the M/S. They are also fitted for towing. (V.A.D. 181040A to Capt's D.3, D.23 and Ships)

Your 172014. FORT MCMURRAY is not to be included in J.W. 57. Ships of speed less than 10 knots are not repetition not to be included in J.W. Convoys.

(C. in C. H.F. 181210A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe) KEPPEL (S.O), WALKER, BLUEBELL, BURDOCK, BEAGLE, CAMELLIA, RHODODENDRON, BOADICEA sailed to Loch Ewe. E.T.A. 0830A/19th. C. in C. W.A. 111139A refers. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181428A to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.

18.2.1944.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation J.W.57, 10 knots, convoy "Dodge".
F.X. (a) 1830/20th. (b) Escorted. (c) 42. E.T.A.
(Contd.) 270 degs. 17 miles from Cape Wrath 0100/21st.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 181614A to S.B.N.O. North
Russia).

S/M My 180139. Cancel attack area ordered in my
Patrols. SMO.4010/857 of 27th Jan. 1944 para. (4).
ULA proceed new attack area between 058 degs. 05'
and 058 degs. 18'. Declared area may also be
crossed through channels 3 miles wide one 1/2 miles
either side of line drawn 070 degs. 250 degs. through positions
T 20 and T 21. S/M Z 70 refers.
(2) Withdrawal area between 058 degs. 00' and 059 degs. 00' E.
of longitude 004 degs. E. and W. of declared area.
(F.O.S. 181231A and 181642A to S/M's)

VIKING is to leave area (P) a.m. 19th and proceed diving
by day to R/V with trawler ROSEVEAN, in position (VB) 360 degs.
Round Island 12 at 0900A/20th. Thence VIKING and ROSEVEAN
return to Plymouth through (VA) and A.M. QZS Channels. My
201130A January refers.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 181516A to VIKING, ROSEVEAN).

Positions of submarines at 0800A/19th and movements for
following 24 hours.

- (a) STUBBORN escorted by MUSKETEER and SCOURGE probably
approaching Shetlands from North for Lerwick or Scapa 8 knots,
may be in tow.
- (b) VAMPIRE, SYRTIS as in my 161749.
- (c) TRADEWIND 61 degs. 08' N. 00 degs. 08' W. probably on surface
to Lerwick.
- (d) ULA off Lister.
- (e) ZEEHOND diving by day 64 degs 13' N. 00 degs. 10' W. to
patrol 65 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 13' E. daily advance 115 miles.
- (f) VIKING as in my 131737.
(F.O.S. 181751 to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181422A)
Force The following anti-submarine patrols are to be
Patrols. instituted tonight 18th Feb. and continued until
further orders.
Patrol (A) from 180 degs. Lizard Head 3 to 180
degs. Runnelstone 2.5 and in approaches to Mounts

Bay.
Patrol (B) from 180 degs. Runnelstone 2.5 by QZS to 310 degs.
Pendeen 4.
Patrol (C) from 310 degs. Pendeen 4 through 293 degs. Trevoze
Head 5 to 000 degs. Revose Head 9.
(2) Patrols are to be occupied as follows:
Patrol A. Force 111, PETERHEAD S.O., ULVA.
Patrol B. Force 112, STEEPHOIM S.O. KINGSTON, CHRYSOBERYL.
Patrol C. Force 113, WARWICK S.O. SALADIN, SCIMITAR.
(3) Ships are to pass the Gate in this order. WARWICK, Forces
112, 111 commencing at 1830/18th as ordered by S.O's of Forces.

299

18.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (Contd.) SALADIN and SCIMITAR are to proceed to R/V with WARWICK on completion of oiling.
(4) Should any force obtain a firm S/M contact it is to be attacked and reported immediately. Force 113 unless also in contact is to close the position of contact reported by Force 111 or 112 and assist in the hunt.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181700A)

Biscay A/S Operations. TAFF is to be detached to join Escort of S.L.148 before dark 18th.
(2) TAFF will proceed to Liverpool and join 10th E.G. on arrival.
(C. in C. W.A. 181502A to B.4)

Am over enemy S/M in 47.38 N. 15.30 W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 090 degs. speed 18 knots.
(A/C KQS 17, 182202A to R.A.F. Gibraltar.)
Nr.2. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Estimate straddle.
(A/C KQS, 17 182203A to 19 Group)
Nr.4. S/M has dived.
(A/C KQS.17, 182359 to 19 Group)

TAKU Patrol. One M/V sunk on 7th Feb. One M/V probably sunk on 12th Feb. Two M/V's possibly sunk on 13th Feb. Following from TAKU.
(1) Patrol in entrance to Boknfiord. 5th Feb. 2000 grounded without damage on Bedden Rock.
(2) 7th Feb. attacked convoy of 4 ships of 6000 to 3000 tons escorted by 2 trawlers course and speed of enemy 300 degs. 9 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes from 3500 yards at largest ship. One exploded prematurely, one hit. Target seen to sink at 1134. Ineffective counter attack with 15 depth charges.
(5) At 121154 in entrance to Bommel Fiord fired 4 torpedoes range 2000 yards, enemy course and speed 030 degs. 6 knots, target 3000 tons merchant ship with one escort. One explosion heard approximately one minute after firing, followed by breaking-up noise similar to those heard on 7th. Result not observed. 3 more explosions later thought to be depth charges. While deep after firing struck and eventually came to rest with 013 degs. bows up angle on Blocksens Beacon. H.E. continued to pass overhead for sometime but no counter attack developed. 1500 dived clear astern after blowing main ballast apparently unsighted and with no apparent damage.
(6) 13th 1400 entered Skudesnes Fiord 1624 sighted convoy of 2 3000 ton and 2 1500 ton ships with 4 escorts. One escort laid smoke screen to seaward. 1702 fired 4 torpedoes at 2 biggest ships overlapping course and speed of enemy 115 degs. 7 knots range 1500 yards. 3 explosions heard 70 to 75 seconds after firing. C.O. considers 3 hits obtained possibly on 2 ships. Result not observed. Ineffective counter-attack but trawlers and A/C searched area for sometime.

(7) /...

300

18.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

TAKU (7) 15th observed Radar aerial in position 059
Patrol. degs. 11' N. 005 degs. 12' E. while entering
One M/V Skudesnesfiord. Continuous patrol of area with
sunk on 4 trawlers and sometimes A/C throughout days.
7th Feb. At 1705 A/S precautions succeeded in foiling
One M/V TAKU attack on a northbound convoy which
probably consisted of 2 ships of 4000 and 2000 tons escorted
sunk on by one destroyer and 3 trawlers dropping one ran-
12th Feb. don charge, and 3 A/C. Smoke screen laid to
Two M/V's possibly seaward. 5 charges were dropped as S/M was
sunk on withdrawing.
13th Feb. (S.O.S/M Lerwick, 181745A to F.O.S.)
(Contd.)

S.C. My 170220/ returned at 1630 today (HESSA).
Operations. (2) Operation unsuccessful.
(A.C.O.S. 181836A to Admty.)
/ S/M Chaser HESSA.
My 170735 returned at 1815A today (HITRA).
(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 181930A to Admty.)

SALADIN and SCIMITAR are to pass the Gate at 0800A/19th.
My 181700 para. 3 refers.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 181921A to SALADIN, SCIMITAR)

Operation A.M. 042031.
"Overlord". The following procedure is to be adopted for
tows in connection with the preliminary
movements of units required for "Overlord".
Details.
(D.O.D. (H), 182140A to A.I.G.12)

Enemy Air Activity.

Orkneys. At 172047A Prep X was made on unidentified A/C
090 degs. "A" buoy 50 miles, height 25000 feet.
A/C continued on a westerly course until over
S. Ronaldsay at 2059 when it turned south circled
over the Pentland Firth and North Scottish mainland.
At 2118 A/C turned east and faded 120 miles on the same
course. While circling A/C dropped four or five photo flash
bombs and was illuminated by searchlights and identified as an
Me. 210. One small object attached to a parachute was seen to
fall into the sea. Height of A/C was never less than 15000 feet
and the object is believed to be a burnt-out photo flash bomb,
not a mine. Sector Controller would not permit guns to open
fire.
(A.C.O.S. 180825A and 181145A to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation Cancel my 161445A. Intend sailing TRENCHANT and
F.D.47. RUBIS escorted by DARTHEMA at 0730/19th from
Needles by Standard Convoy route to Plymouth.

E.T.A. /...

301

18.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation E.T.A. 1830.
F.D.47. (2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail both
(Contd.) S/M's escorted by CUTTY SARK? so as to arrive in
215 degs. Wolf Rock 12 miles at 1900/20th
Thence RUBIS proceeds as in my 180905.
(Capt. (S) 5, 180900A to UPRIGHT)

My 180900A. From 215 degs. Wolf Rock 12 miles RUBIS proceeds
diving by day through positions (RD) 049 degs. N. 006 degs. 01' W
(RA) 047 degs. 01' N. 006 degs. 01' W. to position
(RB) 045 degs. 01' N. 001 degs. 59' W. to carry out operation
as in F.O.(S)'s 171601A Feb.
(2) S. of A. 120 miles per day.
(Capt.(S) 5, 180905A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Operation My 171230A. Postponed further 24 hours.
Q.U.26. (C. in C. Nore, 181120A to BEEHIVE, MANTIS)

QZS 452 Your 141100 and 171224. (Corrupt Group) Have
and searched.
QZS 433 (1) QZS 452 Eastern half from 291*degs. 01' N. to
by M/S 16. 050 degs. 04' 12" N. 70%.
(2) A.M. QZS 433 Eastern half from latitude 050
degs. 04' 12" N. to 050 degs. 18' N. 70%, 050 degs
18' N. to 050 degs. 35' N. 25%. Western half
from 050 degs. 35' N. to 050 degs. 17' N. 62½%. All jeopard-
ized.
(TADOUSSAC, 181850A to C. in C. Plymouth)
*sic.

U-Boats.

U-Boat T.G. 21.7.
attacked. U.S.S. SCOTT plus BURKE, ENRIGHT, SCHMITT,
FRAMENT, WEBER and MERAK sailed for 13 at
0605A.
(U.S.E.C.Londonderry 180830 to C. in C. W.A.)
SCOTT and ENRIGHT attacked possible Sub. 181038Z in 55.42 N.
07.41 W. with three Patterns Hedgehog two patterns depth charges.
Eight Hedgehogs exploded. After further investigation contact
doubtful though some oil came to surface. No wreckage seen.
(C.T.G. 21.7, 181337 to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

BREDA. Proceed forthwith to assist BREDA damaged in 55.
21.30 N. 05.19 W.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 180259A to SAUCY.)
My 180259. SAUCY sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 180419A to N.O.I.C.
Campbeltown.)

Your /...

302

War Diary.18.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

BREDA Your 180259A. SAUCY now in company with BREDA.
(Contd.) (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 180730A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

My 180730A. BREDA now beached in Campbeltown Loch.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 181010A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

BREDA has been badly holed in collision with PROTEUS during C.O.Q.C. night exercises and has been beached at Campbeltown. No casualties. Damage to PROTEUS apparently superficial. (Capt. (S) 7, 181054 to F.O.S.)

BREDA sank in Campbeltown Loch at 1800. She is upright in 18 feet at high water at present time.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 181858A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

STUBBORN. This Signal has been passed to NARVIK as my 180253 begins. MUSKETEER and STUBBORN position 064 degs. 28' N. 002 degs. 05' E. about 0001A/18th steering 210 degs. 8½ knots.

(2) Fuel permitting proceed with despatch to intercept. Then steer toward position given.

(3) Report endurance remaining at 12 knots.

(4) Sunderland and Beaufighter co-operating at daylight.

(A.C.O.S. 180302A to C. in C. H.F.)

Escort STUBBORN to Lerwick or Scapa which ever is more convenient. On completion MUSKETEER and SCOURGE to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F. 181058A to MUSKETEER)

With SWIFT return to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F. 181101A to METEOR)

STUBBORN and 4 Destroyers sighted by A/C at 0800A/18th, P.C.S. 016 degs. Muckle Flugga 160 miles, 210 degs. 6 knots. METEOR and SWIFT since parted company were in estimated position at 1200A/18th 063 degs. 01' N. 000 degs. 00' steering to pass West Shetlands for Scapa.

(F.O.S. 181424A to S/M's)

Noon position 062 degs. 56' N. 000 degs. 12' E.

Only possibly course heading to wind. At present 205 degs. 6 knots. STUBBORN cannot steer and cannot safely approach land except in tow. On reaching latitude 61.15 intend stopping until weather is suitable for passing tow from MUSKETEER.

Then to Lerwick. SCOURGE and NARVIK in company.

(MUSKETEER, 181601A to A.C.O.S.)

E.T.A. 0800A/19. SWIFT in company.

(METEOR, 181901A to A.C.O.S.)

QUORN. Spurn Point at 0935. Require berth along-side and Dockyard assistance to repair damage to training of bow (corrupt). (QUORN, 180800A to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

BAYNTON. BAYNTON has developed following defects. Details. Propose sending ahead to Gibraltar tomorrow. My P.C.S. 047 degs. 24' N. 018 degs. 06' W. 180 degs. 8 knots. (B.4, 181320Z to C. in C. W.A.) Your 181320. Approved. (C. in C. W.A. 182304A to B.4)

MARGIT /...

303

War Diary.18.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- MARGIT. My 122021 and A.M. 130823. U.R. 108. Has any news of MARGIT been received. If not, consider she be presumed overdue as she has not arrived Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C. 181441A to Admty.)
- REDMILL,
DEANE. S.B.N.O. W.At. 171718. Docking will be required. Ships are due Belfast about Feb. 22nd.
(C. in C. W.A. 181656A to Admty.)
- GOZO. GOZO has received damage to both propellers. Request Port for docking.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 181700 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X. 279. Request you will sail FENNEL, MORDEN and ST. CATHERINES as soon as practicable to join and support H.X. 279.
(C. in C. W.A. 181315A to Cdre. D. W.A.)
Revert to state W. forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A. 181615A to Escorts H.X. 279)
ST. CATHERINES, FENNEL and MORDEN sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A.'s 181315.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 182046A to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S. 29. VESPER is to be detached on crossing 025 degs. W. or earlier if fuel state requires and is to proceed to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A. 181318A to B.6)
- S.L.148/
M.K.S.38. My 181145A and 181609A. Provided 17th E.G. have joined and convoy is not threatened, detach South of Ireland Section at dusk tomorrow routed through 50 degs. N. 13 degs. W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(2) STORK and one Corvette are to be detached to Escort. STORK proceeding with Plymouth Section and the Corvette with the Bristol Section.
(C. in C. W.A. 181729A to Escorts, S.L.148/M.K.S.39)
- H.X.279. 57 M/V's. Names and destinations.
(D.T.D. 181814A)

304

18.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- RAMDAS. S.O.S. DE VTGD (RAMDAS) position 39.33 N. 17.27 E. course 334 speed 11 knots. (Burnham Radio 180120A.)
- 3 U.S. A.Ps. Cominch 171435* to Comnaveu request A. repetition of A.M. 161200+. B. date of arrival in U.K. of U.T. 9. C. anticipated date of sailing 3 A.P. from U.K.
(C. in C.Med. 180942A to Admty.)
* Requesting 3 A.Ps. be sailed from U.K. under special British escort.
+ Special escort to be provided.
- Operation "Shingle". No. 28. Weather continued fine and 2685 tons discharged 17th.
2. Air attacks on port were light and shelling on decreased scale.
3. DIDO and PENELOPE bombarded in Anzio area.
4. DIDO rammed by L.C.I.(L) p.m. 17th holing starboard side fore-castle deck to waterline.
5. PENELOPE sunk see 181302 etc.
(C. in C.Med. Naples 181109.)
- Exchange of Italian cruisers. F.O.C.W.Af's 141212* and F.O.T.A.L.I's 121147. Approved for ABRUZZI and AOSTA to remain at Free-town until mid May when question of reliefs will be reconsidered.
(V.C.N.S. 181134A.)
*re ABRUZZI and AOSTA.
- Operation "Avalanche". Following is a repetition of my 172105.
3. SS. FORT ST. NICOLAS sunk in Gulf of Salerno following explosion on 15th Feb.
4. Destroyer patrol maintained in the Adriatic nights 14th/15th Feb. and 15th/16th Feb. but nothing sighted.
(C. in C.Med. 181142.)
- PENELOPE sunk. PENELOPE sunk in 040° 55' N. 013° 25' E. at approx. 0730A today 18th. Cause at present unknown.
(C. in C.Med. 181302.)
Approx. 250 survivors from ?PENELOPE of who S.O. is Lieut. Comdr. Matheson. From evidences so far it appears that ship was torpedoed starboard side aft by a U-Boat subsequently there was a very large flash as from magazine explosion after which ship rapidly sank.
(C. in C.Med. Naples 181856A.)
Consider PENELOPE was hit by one or possibly two torpedoes from U-Boat; ship was in Swept Channel. First hit abreast Y turret ten minutes later a violent explosion occurred abreast of funnel which was probably Y magazine. Ship then sank in forty seconds. Fear casualties will be about sixty per cent including Captain and Commander.
(F.O.W.It. 181900A.)

305

War Diary.18.2.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

SIBYL. Propose to sail SIBYL for refit to arrive U.K. about 15th April.
From an electrical and engineering efficiency point of view ship could do a further 2 months on station but SIBYL will have completed 20 months service by 10th April and have carried out 17 war patrols with few changes in personnel. Efficiency of personnel is likely to fall off rapidly if period on station is prolonged.
(S.1 181518 to F.O.S.)

Black Sea Operations. From intelligence reports only to February 16th.
1. Air attacks on enemy shipping: Feb. 6th one barge sunk and 3 damaged in Odessa, one R-Boat sunk in Aknebagge. Feb. 9th one merchant vessel 3000 tons damaged and one barge and one F-Boat sunk at sea west of Crimea. Feb. 10th one motor schooner damaged off (?Odessa). Feb. 16th one E-Boat damaged in Kiik Atlama.
2. Air operations: daily R/C of Crimea ports Feb. 10th, 11th, Me. 109, 6 F.W. 190, 2 Ju.87 shot down and one F.W. 190 forced down in air combat. Feb. 14th 9 Ju.88 dropped 19 H.E. bombs near place in Kerch Peninsula. Enemy air R/C sea communications off Caucasus coast reported about every other day.
3. 15 minefields established but few mines swept up in northern end of Kerch Strait.
4. Land. No activities whatever reported since Feb. 3rd other than occasional bombardment across Kerch Strait.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 181550C.)

ORPHEE Intend sailing ORPHEE at 1200/20th on the surface special mission. through A. 039° 15' 004° 00' at 0630/21st thence diving by day through B. 040° 17' 003° 16' at 2330/21st and C. 041° 12' 002° 06' at 1200/22nd for a special mission.
2. Return route diving by day through C. at 0200/23rd, B. at 1930/23rd and A. at 0400/24th to Algiers. R/V in 036° 58' 003° 07' at 0700/25th.
3. All positions N. and E. all times zone minus one.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 181554A.)

SOKOL. Proceed to Malta (route) to arrive Malta at 1052/25th all times A.
2. You should proceed dived (?during) daylight on 22nd and 23rd Feb. surface speed estimated as 8½ knots.
(Capt. S.1 181601A to SOKOL, (R) 1st 3/M F. NEREUS, F.O.L.E.M.)

18th D.F. Your 162242 para. 3* Flotilla Number 18th is allocated.
(D.O.D.F. 181625A to C. in C.Med.)
* re Request flotilla number may be allocated.

/SS. CAMELIA...

War Diary.18.2.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

SS. CAMELIA (Swedish.) My 141105C (re explosion of CAMELIA.) Swedish CAMELIA was damaged by magnetic mine laid by R.A.F.
 2. 10 similar mines recently exploded by German A/C in Salonika Harbour.
 3. Swedes trying to arrange for vessel to be towed to Dardanelles by BARDALAND thence by Turkish salvage tug to Istanbul for repairs.
 4. All B.3.
 (S.O.I. Istanbul 181715C.)

Reported evacuation of Crimea. Russian Naval Attache states evacuation of Crimea by Germans has begun using small ships.
 (S.O.I. Istanbul 181745C.)
 N.I.D. Comment:
 2. No confirmation has been received that the evacuation of the Crimea has started.

French refugees from Spain. SIDI BRAHIM has engine defects. French has therefore arranged for HOGGAR to take her place for accommodation and transport of refugees. My 151724 Feb. and C.M.S.F. 171601 (N.T. in W.R.)
 (C. in C.Med. 181926A to F.O.G.M.A.)

UPSTART patrol report. Your 161201A 45 hours early. Toulon U-Boat twice (?missed) 3 thousand* merchant ship sunk considerable A/S activity. Weather report 5972 1422.
 (P.65 182101A.)
 * Presumably 3000 ton merchant ship.

Situation Report No. 297.
 1. L.S.T. 418 sank off Ponza Island on 16th Feb. following 2 unexplained underwater explosions.
 2. At 0730/18 PENELOPE was sunk in position 040° 55' N. 013° 25' E. probably by U-Boat. Hunt in progress. She and DIDO had provided fire support in Anzio area throughout 17th Feb.
 3. During night 16th/17th Feb. destroyers patrolled in the Island Approaches off Menders Point and off the Albanian Coast but encountered no shipping.
 4. 3 enemy destroyers or minelayers intercepted by P.Ts. off Capraia during the night 17th/18th Feb. Torpedo attacks carried out but result not observed.
 5. ULTOR attacked 4000 ton merchant ship with 2 escorts on 6th Feb. whilst patrolling off French Riviera. 1 escort believed sunk. She sank a 50 ton auxiliary schooner by gunfire off St. Raphael on 15th Feb.
 (C. in C.Med. 182240A.)

SECRET

Rev.
306A.

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential 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.)

Air Organisation

SECRET

MESSAGE 181540Z/Feb.

IN

Date 18.2.44

Recd. 1712

From Air Ministry Whitehall

Addressed All Commands at Home and Overseas
DECHIEF, RAFDEL, /WASHINGTON, A.O.i/c. RECORDS
GLOS. No.26 Group. (Webber W1592)

Following is in amplification of my AX.35⁺
Jan.29.

Part 1. H.Q. M.A.A.F. comprises:-

(A) Combined U.S.A.A.F. and R.A.F. Operations and Planning Staffs. This is a joint American and British operations and Planning Staff which includes both Intelligence and Signals Staffs and as such exercises operational control over all U.S.A.A.F. and R.A.F. Formations in Mediterranean Theatre.

(B) H.Q. U.S.A.A.F. Mediterranean Theatre of Operations (M.T.O.). The Air Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Allied Air Forces is also Commanding General American Army Air Force Mediterranean Theatre of Operations (A.A.F/M.T.O.), and in this capacity is responsible for the administration of all U.S.A.A.F. formations operating in Mediterranean Theatre including those located in Egypt.

(C) H.Q.R.A.F. Mediterranean and Middle East. This is the R.A.F. element of H.Q.M.A.A.F. and is responsible for (i) operations (other than in Mediterranean Theatre) of the R.A.F. in the Middle East exercised through A.O.C. in C. R.A.F. Middle East (ii) administration of all R.A.F. formations in the Mediterranean and Middle East. In respect of latter extensive powers have been delegated to A.O.C. in C. Middle East.

/Part 2.....

Rev

Part 2. Para.1 M.A.A.F. is at present divided into three parts:-

(A) H.Q. M.A.A.F. at Caserta (formerly M.A.A.F. Command Post) comprising Commanding General, and R.A.F. Deputy, A.O.A. Adjutant General Combined Operations and Intelligence Staff, American Supply and War Organisation, Signal address H.Q. M.A.A.F. Correspondence address H.Q. M.A.A.F. C.M.F.

(B) H.Q. M.A.A.F. La Marsa (Formerly M.A.A.F. Advanced) comprising R.A.F. administrative and Combined Signals Staff still located at La Marsa. Signal address H.Q. M.A.A.F. La Marsa. Correspondence address H.Q. M.A.A.F. B.N.A.F.

(C) H.Q. M.A.A.F. Algiers (formerly M.A.A.F. Rear) comprising Plans Liaison and R.A.F. Maintenance and Supply Staffs located in Algiers. Signals address H.Q. M.A.A.F. Algiers. Correspondence address H.Q. M.A.A.F. Rear B.N.A.F.

Para.2

All existing call signs and address signs are being altered in conformity with above.

Para.3

Air Marshall Slessor will be referred to as Commander in Chief Royal Air Force Mediterranean and Middle East or by short title RAFCHEF MEDME in text of signals.

Para.4

Quote special duty unquote operational and administrative subjects are now dealt with by H.Q. M.A.A.F. only. All signals on these subjects are therefore to be addressed to H.Q. M.A.A.F.

Para.5

To avoid confusion no repeat no signals are to be addressed to MEDME.

181540Z

/+ 291319/Jan...

307

War Diary.18.2.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.U/B sunk
12th Feb.

Your 161843. Report now received shows while both destroyers participated in sinking PETARD was probably responsible for bringing U-Boat to surface. She also finally disposed of U-Boat with torpedo.

(C. in C. E.F., 180249Z to Admty.)

Following from destroyer report amplification of my 180249. PETARD carried out 3 deliberate D/C attacks before losing contact. While picking up survivors U-Boat surfaced 1500 yards from position of torpedoing. This was 1½ hours after KHEDIVE ISMAIL sank.

(2) Submarine engaged by both ships and hit while stopped. PETARD dropped 3 depth charges close aboard without vital damage.

(3) Submarine got underway using diesel. Attempt by her to man extended defence defeated by gunfire. PALADIN started to ram. Ordered not to by PETARD but stern swung into submarine's forward hydroplane while trying to avoid at last minute.

2 depth charges dropped one exploded under enemy bow. Submarine still under way commenced to circle at between 6 and 10 knots.

(4) Having expended all her S.A.P. PETARD decided to use torpedoes and fired 6 before obtaining hit with seventh. This blew up this very tough submarine one hour after she had surfaced. There were no survivors. Photographs taken during action indicate either I.16 or I.26 type with one large gun forward.

(C. in C. E.F., 180924.)

Your 141816Z February. Request following further details.

(A) Effectiveness of search in accordance with Section III para. 17 of A.C.Is. E.I. Station Supplement (November) if carried out.

(B) If any other form of search was carried out.

(C) Was U-Boat detected before surfacing?

(D) What was position in convoy of KHEDIVE ISMAIL?

(E) Was there any indication of direction from which attack was made and firing range?

(D.A.U.D., 181935A to C. in C. E.F.)

Weekly U/B
disposition
No. 26.

Area A and D. No fresh information believed clear of U-Boats. Scale air escorts W.
Area B. Improbable report U-Boats in vicinity Masirah 1027Z/17th. Scale air escorts X.
Area C. Considered probable a U-Boat may be in area. Scale air escorts Y.

Area E. U-Boats (German) possibly in area. Scale air escorts Y.

Area F. No fresh information since CHARLES S. JONES reported unsuccessful attack 16th Feb. Scale air escorts remain Y.

Area G. U-Boats (German) considered in area from D/F on 15th Feb. Scale air escorts Y.

Indian Ocean U-Boats (German) by D/F in vicinity 003° S. 066° E. 1930Z/17th.

(C. in C. E.F., 180339Z.)

/Convoy ...

308

18.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Convoy
Mauritius
- Diego
Suarez
One.Arrived convoy Mauritius - Diego Suarez 1
escorted by BANN and SOLVARA.
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez, 180609Z.)Fleet
immobilised.(Further
signal
below.)Fleet destroyers. In order to meet the
necessary minimum escorts for troopships the
fleet will be immobilised due to lack of
destroyers from 21st Feb. to about 4th March.
My 131751* refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 180640Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.
E.F.(S.E.A.C.), F.O. 2nd i/c. E.F.)
* Re A/S escort convoys in Indian Ocean troop
convoys.

K. 14.

Propose K.14 carries out short patrol of Sunda
Straits on her passage to Fremantle similar to
that of K.15 under the same conditions as in
your 271537 December.(2) Proposals for W/U cover will be made when sailing date is
known probably end of February.(3) If you concur with proposal request you signal any
information of interest obtained from K.15 on her arrival.

(C. in C. E.F., 180916 to C.T.F. 71.)

M.B., B.P.
Convoys.All ships in M.B. convoys bound for Karachi or
Persian Gulf are to proceed to Bombay for
inclusion in B.P. convoys.
(2) Cancel para. (1), (2) and (5) of F.O.N.I.C.
290 of 11th December 1943.
(C. in C. E.F., 180958Z.)ASSEGAI,
GOOD HOPE.The training establishments at Durban (ASSEGAI)
and Port Elizabeth (GOOD HOPE) as well as the
M.T.E. at Pietermaritzburg are to be reduced to
a C. and M. basis forthwith.
(D.F.S.L., 181705A.)Fleet
immobilised
(Contd.)Your 081057 and 131751. (N.T. & W.D.)
Whilst recognising that it may be necessary from
time to time to withdraw some destroyers from
the Fleet to augment your escort forces, Admty.
would view with concern any withdrawal which
resulted in interference to operations, and an
immobile and inefficient fleet.2. Available escort forces may be insufficient to provide that
degree of immunity which could be desired and it is recognised
that risks have to be taken.3. To reduce these risks to the minimum, it is essential that
every economy be exercised in areas of little danger, every
possible precaution insisted on when convoys and escorts are
in danger areas, and programmes of convoys and escorts arranged
as economically as possible.

309

18.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Fleet
immobilised.
(Contd.)

4. Two frigates and four corvettes are on passage and should reach the Station very shortly. Two R.I.N. sloops, two cutters and six frigates are due to leave for Eastern Fleet between now and in mid-March.

5. With these reinforcements it is hoped that the problems of maintaining hunting forces in the Gulf of Aden and adequate escorts for troop convoys will be made easier.

6. There is no likelihood of any reinforcements for Eastern Fleet being furnished from other theatres.
(1st S.L., 181352A to C. in C. E.F.)

18.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

RIVIERE DU LOUP. Your 180523Z and 180557Z. (N.T. of either in W.D.) Ship apparently fouled by rounded rock of Ringdove Shoal from Frame. Description of damage. Lighted ship by discharging fuel oil and floated off with rising tide at 0135P with help of wedge (19 Groups missing) Bay. Awaiting instructions. (RIVIERE DU LOUP, 180610Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

PYLADES. Intend PYLADES proceed U.K. with B.7 additional for H.X.280. (F.O.N.F. 181238Z.)

COLLINGWOOD. Departure to Londonderry. (C.O.P. Halifax, 181320Z.)

OTTAWA. At 1415 18th sailed H.M.C.S. OTTAWA to overtake S.C.153. Will resume duties S.O. C.5 upon junction. E.T.A. Convoy 0700Z/20. (F.O.N.F. 181422Z.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 181508Z, Cominch, 181816Z.)

Canadian M/S Flotillas for U.K. Secret A.M. 091915*Feb. my 220006+ Jan. Now intend sailing BANGORS daily in divisions consisting of 4 sweepers each commencing 18th Feb to St. Johns N.F., for onward routing to Horta. 2. In order that facilities at Horta may not be imposed upon request you regulate sailings from St. John N.F. so that divisions arrive Azores 24 hours apart. (C. in C. C.N.A. 181512Z to F.O.N.F. amended 190319Z.) * Re Canadian M/S flotillas due to sail from Canada for Plymouth. + No trace.

U/B report. 2 periscopes in 044° 00' N. 046° 00' W. course 300° at 1526Z 18th. Sighted by U.S. aircraft. (C. in C. C.N.A. 181701Z, Cominch, 182050Z.)

ARIADNE. En route Pearl via San Diego. Departed Balboa 1530Z/18. E.T.A. San Diego 27th Feb. (Compaseafon, 181848)

THUNDER (S.O.) At 1830Z/18 sailed. Routed for Plymouth via GEORGIAN, MULGRAVE, BAYFIELD. St Johns N.F. and Horta. My 181512 refers. (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 181915Z.)

War Diary.18.2.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

SS. A.T. 95 departure postponed account heavy
 QUEEN weather damage involving wind lass.
 ELIZABETH. (B.M.W.T. New York 182021Z.)

SUNFLOWER. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1230Z/19 with defect.
 Ship probably requires short docking to repair.
 (SUNFLOWER, 182041Z.)

ANNAPOLIS. O.N.223. At 2131/18 sailed W.10 H.M.C.S.
 ANNAPOLIS to support W.6 from 1200Z/19th until
 detached by C. in C. C.N.A.
 2. Ship has defective A/S transmitting Unit
 but can maintain listening watch.
 (F.O.N.F. 182135Z to S.E.O.N.223.)

S.C.153 Your 181725Z. (Not received.) Carried out a
 ?U.B. box search in area. Found nothing. My
 search. P.C. and S. at 2130Z 044° 11' N. 046° 29' W.
 300° 13 knots.
 (W.3, 182141Z to F.O.N.F.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest 3. 2 enemy aircraft over Cape Gloucester late
 serial morning 16th destroying 1 landing craft
 No.759 damaging another besides inflicting few
 Feb.17th. casualties on United States Army small ship.
 13. Motor Torpedo Boats with co-operating
 plane spotted enemy coastal vessel estimated
 12000 tons also about five well armed barges off
 Oema Atoll in Bougainville Straits night 16th. Two barges
 damaged during engagement. Same vicinity previous night
 similar craft located three hostile vessels and engaged but
 lost contact.
 14. Further detail Nissan Island landing relates ? enemy
 barges in Lagoon offered slight opposition our landing craft
 and troops morning 15th. Enemy aircraft over Nissan Island
 five times early hours 16th without inflicting damage.
 Following night four alerts caused by Jap planes and Airborne
 Venturas shot down two floatplanes.
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 180810Z.)

312

18.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M
attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C B/461 sighted U/Boat on
surface course 270° at 0947/17 in 43° 56' N. 08°
27' W.

Para. C. A/C reported submerged U/Boat at
1400/17 in 34° 01' N. 13° 56' W.

2. A/C reported possible U/Boat at 1027/17 in
20° 02' N. 58° 12' E.
(D.D.I.C. 181119A.)

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 181416A, 181419A.)

313

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A/S
Operations
off Western
Ireland.
One U-Boat
sunk by
SPEY. (U.386).
U.264 sunk
by STARLING.

1. At 0800Z to-day Convoy O.N. 224 was about 520 miles W.S.W. of Cape Clear steering 219 degs. at 8.5 knots escorted by Escort Group C.1 and supported by Escort Groups 2 and 7 who were later re-inforced by Escort Groups 10 and 18.

At 0145A and again at 0730A U-Boats had been attacked by A/C near the Convoy; and at 0040Z one of these had been attacked and apparently damaged by SPEY (S.O. of E.G.10), while at 0318Z another had been sighted and forced to dive by CRANE of E.G.7. The damaged U-Boat was hunted by SPEY and LOSSIE, forced down again at 0608, and finally sunk by SPEY at 1455A; and at 1909A, STARLING (S.O. of E.G.2) reported that she had sunk U.264 and picked up many survivors. At 1950A, C. in C. W.A. ordered E.G.2, E.G.7, and E.G.10 to continue the hunt. The Convoy itself was not attacked.

U-Boat
at Ferrol.

2. The U-Boat which entered Ferrol damaged on 10 February left harbour at 2200Z to-day.

South Atlantic.

S.R.10
attacked.

3. VERITY, escorting Convoy S.R.10 reported a torpedo attack at 2255Z to-day in 08.40 N. 15.43 W. (about 300 miles North-West of Freetown).

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4(a) The port of Anzio was re-opened at 0700 to-day. Shelling continued and U.S. yard tug 198 was sunk close West of Anzio breakwater by a direct hit from a shore battery.

(b) /...

War Diary.

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle."
(Contd.)

4.(b). Shelling continued, and U.S. Yard Tug 198 was sunk close west of Anzio breakwater by a direct hit from a shore battery.

(c). There were a few air attacks on the port, but no naval damage is reported. A combined torpedo and rocket bomb attack on Anzio anchorage at 1830 was foiled by an efficient smoke screen. Bombs and torpedoes launched at random into smoke caused no damage.

(d). PHILADELPHIA bombarded today in the Anzio area and reports state that heavy casualties were inflicted.

East Indies.

GAMBIA.

5. GAMBIA arrived at Trincomalee today from the U.K. via the Mediterranean.

Convoy.

6. The first Seychelles - Diego Suarez convoy arrived at Diego Suarez today.

Survivors.

7. Lifeboats with survivors were reported today in 01.42 N. 71.59 E. and 01.08 N. 71.32 E. (Maldiva Islands area), indicating a sinking. A Japanese U-Boat was indicated by D/F north-west of the Maldiva Islands this evening.

STONEHENGE,
patrol.

8. On return from patrol north of Sumatra STONEHENGE reports that she sank a 700 ton steamer by gunfire on 5th Feb. off Pulo Rondo, and on 12th she sank a 700 ton ship considered to be a type of aircraft carrying vessel, escorted by 5 submarine chasers, in the Malacca Straits.

Burma.

9. Allied aircraft today damaged 145 river craft in S.W. Burma.

War Diary.

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

10.(a). Mitchells today attacked an enemy convoy in the Gazelle Channel area (New Britain) and sank two freighters, 5 escort vessels and a small sea truck.

(b). In the same area Bostons this afternoon sank a destroyer and a gunboat.

War Diary.

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Bristol
Channel
Fishing
Fleet.

Your 171135. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are considering steps to be taken to keep fishing fleet at sea. Their representative will consult with you on employment of fleet skippers if this course is necessary.

2. Further action is under consideration to impress on Skippers absolute necessity of refraining from visiting Eire.
(Head of M.I., 191211A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Damaged
U/Boat
at
Ferrol.

Following received graded A.2. U/B at Ferrol took in stores on February 18th, left drydock 0600/19. Expected to take oil from tanker PLUTON 0900/19. Rumoured leaving tonight 19th. (D.D.I.C. 191341A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Force "G".

A. It is requested that Force G may be formed in the Portland and Poole area on 1st March. B. It is proposed that initial formation should consist of 3 L.S.I. EMPIRE LANCE, EMPIRE MACE and EMPIRE RAPIER also 4 L.C.T. (4) flotillas, 2 L.C.F. and one L.C.P.(L) flotilla from Force J. C. Two L.C.H. from Force S should join as soon as F.O. Force S can spare them from Exercises to which they are already committed and he should report a proposed date accordingly.
(A.N.C.X.F. 1918 X.F. 191842A to Admty.)

H.F.
Destroyer
Administration.

During absence of V.A.D. flying his flag in BLACK PRINCE, I have given approval for Captain R.M.J. Hutton, D.S.O. to be Commodore 2nd Class flying his broad pendant in TYNE. Administration of H.F. destroyers will be carried out by him from 0800 19th February until further notice.
(C. in C.H.F. 191858A to Admty.)

Operations.

A/S operations
off Western
Ireland.

My 0010. One unknown ship probably U/Boat has dived 49.30 N. 22.58 W. plus have attacked U/Boat with depth charge. 49.32 N. 23.10 W.
(A/C B.D.O.W.6, 190145A to 15 Group.)

My 181542Z. 45 survivors in SPEY, some seriously injured. Attacked U/Boat at 0040Z/19 in 049° 00' N 023° 29' W. Believed damaged. SPEY and LOSSIE remaining in vicinity until daylight. ROTHER and FINDHORN investigating H/F D/F fix in 049° 27' N. 023° 52' W. Numerous H/F D/F bearings and aircraft attacks since 1900/18 indicate 4 to 5 U/B within 50 miles of my present position. K.M.S.29 not attacked so far.
(E.G.10, 190237Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U/Boat detected by CRANE 10 miles ahead of convoy. Forced to dive at 0310Z. My P.C.S. 048° (755' N. 020° 18' W. 219° 8.5.
Weather.

(C.1, 190318Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy O.N.224 being shadowed by 2 enemy A/C who are orbiting at a height of 4,000 feet. My position 48° 38' N. 21° 37' W. course 219° speed 8 knots.

(Escorts O.N.224, 190457Z to Whitehall, W/T.)

/Am...

317

19.2.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. (Contd.) Am over enemy S/M in 48° 12' N. 22° 50' W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 160° speed 12 knots. (A/C LMP.24 190548A to 19 Group.) U/Boat previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U/Boat with depth charges, estimate hits nil. Last seen on surface 48.12 N. 22.50 W. course 160 speed 12 knots. (A/C LMP 24 190730A to 19 Group.)

Suspect at least 3 U/Boats. Attack frustrated. Have Liberator and Swordfish A/C. P.C.S. (?048°) 13' N. 021° 16' W. 219° 8.5 knots. Weather. (C.1, 190800Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 190237Z. SPEY and LOSSIE proceeded at 0307 to investigate near H/F D/F fix of U/Boat detected by SPEY. Sighted and forced to dive at 0608 in 049° 02' N. 022° 50' W. Hunted and attacked by SPEY and LOSSIE depth by (type?) 147, 500 feet. Contact temporarily lost. Searching. (E.G.10, 190805Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Inward bound U/Boat attacked by aircraft in 047° 38' N. 015° 30' W. at 2202/18th. Aircraft estimates straddled and possibly damaged. (C. in C. Plymouth, 191007 to IROQUOIS.)

Threat to O.N.S.29 considered over.

2. Following movement to take place forthwith: Negative any escort now in actual contact with enemy. Tenth E.G. and 18th E.G. to join and support O.N.224.

3. S.O.2nd E.G. take charge of all support groups on O.N.224. (C. in C. W.A. 191050A to E.Gs, 2, 10, 18 and 7.)

Continued presence of shadowing aircraft indicates probability of U/Boat concentration against O.N. No.224 tonight. Only after O.N. No.224 is considered clear of danger area shall I order available groups to mop up astern. My 191046A to E.G.2 and my 191050A refer. (C. in C. W.A. 191114A to E.G.2, E.G.7, E.G.10, E.G.18, O.N.224.)

Am hunting U/Boat in 048° 31' N. 022° 05' W. (E.G.2, 191221A to C. in C.W.A.)

J.386 Have sunk enemy S/M in 048° 31' N. 022° 41' W. (SPEY 191455A to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 190800Z. Verify check and repeat longitude. (C. in C.W.A. 191532Z to Escorts O.N.224.)

Still hunting in 048° 31' N. 022° 05' W. (E.G.2, 191815A to C. in C.W.A.)

Submarine sunk. Picked up survivors. (E.G.2, 191909A to C. in C.W.A.)

My 191909A. Victim was U.264. Many prisoners.

Propose to return to O.N.224. STARLING has no depth-charges remaining. (E.G.2, 191942A to C. in C.W.A.)

Second E.G. continue hunt. Best probability area between 048° 30' N. and 049° 30' N. and longitude 021° 30' and 023° 01' E.G. 2nd will be ordered to return base a.m. 21st.

2. If not in contact enemy following movements are to take place dawn 20th.

A. 7th E.G. to sweep through 050° N. 023° W. thence to base.

B. HART to proceed Gibraltar, refuel if necessary from O.N.224 or Azores reporting action taken.

C. 10th E.G. to hunt in area between 048° 30' and 049° 30' and 023° 01' and 025° 02'.

318

War Diary.19.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.A/S
operations
off Western
Ireland.
(Contd.)

D. NENE and WASKESIU to fuel from O.N.224 and will be later ordered to join S.C.153.
E. Destroyers of 18th Group comply with my 191302 18th Group is disbanded from 1200A/20th.
(C. in C.W.A. 191950A to E.Gs. 2, 7, 10 and 18.)
Your 191532. My 0800 longitude 022° 16' W. My P.C.S. 046° 38' N. 023° 02', 29' or 47' W. 219° 9.
(C.1, 192003Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Very well done for the sixth time on this one patrol. A great achievement.

(C. in C.W.A. 192359A to E.G.2.)

Operation
F.X.

Arrived Capt. D.3 in MILNE.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 190831 to V.A.D.)
Arrived, your 181428A. (KEPPEL, etc.)
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 190939A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

1. Following information is required. Result of CHASER's experience in J.W.57. A. Effect on depth of day searching of non directional force in aircraft compasses.
B. Amount of flying possible at night or in low visibility.
C. Effect of cold weather and icing on flying operations.
2. Request brief report may be signalled on arrival in North Russia.

(C. in C.H.F., 191147 to V.A.D.) - *Reply to this, 291531A, page 487.*

My 181210. Have now been informed by Admiralty that FORT MCMURRAY is considered capable of 10 knots.

2. Request you sail her in J.W.57.
3. If found unable to maintain convoy speed during first 48 hours of passage she is to be sent back.

(C. in C.H.F. 191242A to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe.)

Russian ships 145 (S.O.) 146, 147 and Russian S.Cs. 720, 1075, 1076 in company with AZALEA sailed. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 0900 tomorrow.

(Cdre D.W.A. 191541A to Admty.)

Arrived BLACK PRINCE.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 191557A to A.C.O.S.)

Biscay
A/S
operations
(Convoy
O.N.S.29.)

047° 40' N. 024° 03' W. course 050° speed 17 knots.
(VESPER, 191201Z to C. in C.W.A.)
EGLANTINE and ACANTHUS hunting S/M in position to 046° 42' N. 026° 15' W. O.N.S. P.C.S. 046° 43' N. 026° 50' W. 273° 7.
(B.6 192130Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C.Portsmouth, 191436A.)
(V.A.Dover, 191530A.)
(C. in C. Plymouth 191822Z.)

S/M
patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/20th and movements for the following 24 hours.
A. ZEEHOND vicinity 65° 20' N. 001° 20' E. on patrol.
B. VAMPIRE on patrol near 63° 30' N. 001° 07' E.

C. SYRTIS patrolling off Statlandet.

D. ULA off Egersund.

(F.O.S. 191749A to Admty.)

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

V.P.
operation.

My 180847. M.T.Bs.684 and 627 returned at 1901A today.
2. No suitable target sighted whilst force was in leads.
(A.C.O.S. 192045A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland.

Reconnaissance of Akureyri carried out by 2 hostile aircraft unidentified 1545A.
R/C of Seidisfjord by one Ju. 88 at 1610A.
This aircraft approached from north west and departed course north east.
(A.C.I.C. 191826A to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation
Q.U.26.

My 161815A. Postponed until first suitable night.
(C. in C. Nore, 191215A to BEEHIVE, MANTIS)

Operation
F.D.47
RUBIS.

Intend to sail TRENCHANT and RUBIS at 0800/20th escorted by BRIDGEWATER to arrive in position (A) 215° Wolf Rock 12 miles at 1900A/20th. thence RUBIS proceed as in Capt. (S) 5's 180905.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 191615A to Capt. S.3.)

Humber.

Following three mines detonated today. At 191105 and 191146 respectively in 200° No.15 buoy 2 cables; and at 191146½ in 065° No.15 buoy 3 cables.
(F.O. Humber, 191801A to C. in C. Nore.)

Search
by M/S 16.

Your 141100 and 171224. Progress. Have searched Q.Z.S.433, Q.Z.S.452 and Q.Z.S.347 as follows. All negative. 4 ships sweeping. Intend sweeping back to Plymouth by Q.Z.S.410 and 443 tomorrow.
(TADOUSSAC, 191810A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Casualties and Defects.

OBDURATE.

Intend to sail OBDURATE passing Switha 1600A/20th to arrive Tyne 0830A/21st for repairs.
(V.A.D. 190952A to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

REDMILL,
DEANE.

This is a repetition of S.B.N.O. W.A.(Bermuda) 171718Z begins. Following propeller damage has been sustained REDMILL and DEANE. Details.
(C. in C.W.A. 191011A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

/ROYAL...

War Diary.19.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Examination of rudder and pintle of ROYAL SOVEREIGN reveals excessive clearance at pintle brace and it will be necessary to rebush the brace. Time required is three to four weeks and work has been taken in hand.
(A.S. Rosyth, 191220A to Admty.)

BAYNTON.

Your 181320. Approved.
(F.O.G.M.A. 191546A 191546A to B.4.)

MARGIT.

Your 181441. No news of MARGIT received.
(D.T.D. 191900A to A.C.I.C.)
No news received. Your 181441A refers.
(D.T.D., 192148A to A.C.I.C.)

STUBBORN.

E.T.A. Lerwick 0800A/20th. In company MOLDE also SCOURGE towing STUBBORN with very extensive depth charge damage.
(MUSKETEER, 191950A to C. in C.H.F.)

Shipping and Convoys.

R.U.109.

My 171246A. R.U.109 delayed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland, 191216A to Admty.)

S.C.153.

Request you will sail third Escort Group as early as practicable a.m. 20th to join and support S.C.153 a.m. 23rd. Estimated P.C.S. 0800/22nd 044° 31' N. 028° 25' W. 038° 8 knots.
(C. in G. W.A. 191523A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

S.C.153.
destinations.

18 M/Vs and 13 L.S.T. Craft. Names and
(D.T.D. 191851A.)

Troopships.

Following is Summary No. 26 of major troopship movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during period of 13th March. Details.
(D.S.T. 192025A.)

K.M.F.
FENCER.

Request you will sail FENCER to provide air and A/S support for K.M.F.29, R/V Oversay at 0830/22nd.
(C. in C. W.A. 192132A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

War Diary.

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U-Boat
attacked.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 39 degs. 00' N. 09 degs. 28' W.
(A/C C/S KDYB, 190355A, 190414A to R.A.F. Gib.)
My 0414. U-Boat previously reported was on surface coast course 270 degs. speed 4 knots, when first sighted in 38 degs. 57' N. 09 degs. 30' W.
(A/C C/S KDYB 190425A)
Note: For report of attack see A.H.Q. Gibraltar 191831A.

Russian
Ships in
Atlantic.

Your 152307 and N.A. Lisbon's 161856. Ships taken over by Russians in America are routed by Admiralty. Alternative route avoiding Azores will be used in any future cases.
(Admty. 190618A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

ACTIVE.

Am sweeping down bearing 145 degs. My P.C.S. 060 degs. Cape Trafalgar 17 miles course 145 degs. 18 knots.
(ACTIVE, 190620A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Portuguese
Soldier
killed in
Horta.

Just learned unofficially that two Portuguese soldiers were stabbed in Horta night 16th, one died. Reported men from U.S.S. OWL participated. Portuguese military made arrests; strong Anti-American feeling in town. Participating personnel detained in gaol; enquiry sitting. My action all liberty has been stopped and have called on OWL to report; will tender regret to military governor.
(Comnav, Azores, 191334Z to Cominch)

Deliveries
by A/C.
to St.Vincent,
C.V.1.

Your 121104. Portuguese decision next week. (3) B.O.A.C. might like Boeings make occasional flights to C.V.1 St. Vincent.
(N.A. Lisbon, 191801 to F.O.W.Africa and Amty.)

Gib. GR
Opsum
Sup.18 Feb.
U-Boat
attacked.

ZEB 179 0414
M.K.111 (???) Intended 38.55 N. 9.31 W.)
270 - 4 - 517 ton - Illum - attacked surface - 70 degs. Green with 6 torpedo D/C overshoot - first D/C within 20 feet port bow - one stream of flak from aft C/T contact with U/B maintained on S.E. for 30 minutes after attack.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 191831A)

War Diary.

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

S.L.150.

(1) Intend to sail S.L.150 1430Z/21 escorted by ENCHANTRESS NESS, PIMPERNELL supporting till a.m. 24th VISCOUNT, WOLVERINE.
(2) - (7) Arrangements.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 191308Z)

L.T.S.10
?U/B
attack.

FAL reports possible "Gnat explosion in his wake at 0640/19th in 07.14 N. 13.17 W. Wellington carried out thorough search of area in which Torpedo could have been fired no result and returned Convoy further particulars have been asked for.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 192023Z)

New
independent
Command
at Dakar.

Approved to commission base at Dakar as independent command under name H.M.S. FANN.
(2nd S.L. 192041A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

S.R.10:
U/B attack.

VERITY reports torpedo attack in 008 degs. 40' N. 015 degs. 43' W. 306 degs. 14 knots.
(MALCOLM, 192255Z to Freetown W/T)
My 192255Z. Torpedo was heard port side of VERITY was forced to take avoiding action. Under water explosion was heard at 2257 VERITY investigating.
(MALCOLM, 192334Z)

323

War Diary.19.2.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep No. 29.

Enemy shelling of anchorage p.m. 17th forced merchant ships to anchor 3 miles seaward of Anzio after some near misses. Tonnage discharge 18th 3179.

2. Acoustic mine detonated by D.U.K.W. in swept channel and port temporarily closed during minesweeping.
3. United States yard tug 198 received direct hit from shore battery and sank close west of Anzio breakwater.
4. A few air attacks on port no naval damage reported.
(C. in C.Med. (Naples) 190955.)

FLORES,
SOEMBA.

Request you sail D.S. FLORES and D.S. SOEMBA to U.K. in M.K.S.41 calling at Gibraltar for fuel. Your 170927 refers.
(C. in C.Med. 191104A to V.A.Malta.)

DZIK,
UNRULY.

1. From position D. in my 162105 DZIK proceed diving by day as follows 037° 40' 020° 08' at 1800Z/22nd 039° 55' 019° 13' at 2302A/23rd thence to patrol as ordered in my 191550.

2. From a position 037° 40' 020° 08' in my 172312

P.49 (UNRULY) proceed diving by day to position 040° 03' 019° 12' E.T.A. 1803A/21st thence to patrol as in my 191550.

3. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged for both S/MS.
(Capt. S.1 191545A.)

Establish patrol in area bounded by line joining following positions: 1. UNRULY A. 040° 21' 019° 22' B. 040° 14' 019° 22' C. 040° 02' 019° 10' D. 040° 09' 019° 37'.

2. P.52 (DZIK) C. and D. above and E. 039° 55' 019° 10'.

F. 039° 55' 019° 57' para. 2 my 191545 refers.

3. Attention is called to Q.B.68, 142 and 239.

4. Object of your patrol is destruction of merchant shipping.
(Capt. S.1 191550A to UNRULY, DZIK, (R) F.O.L.E.M. F.O.T.A.L.I. V.A.M.)

19.2.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

GAMBIA

Arrival. (From U.K. via Mediterranean).
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 190235Z).Bi - weekly
U/boat
disposition
No.27.All areas no fresh information no changes in
scales of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F., 190353Z).M.N.B.D.O.
personnel.(1) SCYTHIA sailed 0800/19.
(2) Embarked Officers 173, S.N.C.O's. 103,
O.R's. 4270. for U.K.
(S.S.T.O. Ceylon, 190455Z).Convoy
Seychelles -
Diego Suarez
one.Arrived escorted by SHAPINSAY.
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez, 190539Z).Return of
cruisers to
U.K.Your 140526, proposals for HAWKINS and FROBISHER
approved.
(2) Request you will sail DANAE and EMERALD so
as to arrive U.K. not later than 1st May.
(V.C.N.S., 191151A to C. in C.E.F.).STONEHENGE,
summary of
first Far
East patrol.All times minus 7.
(1) Feb. 0652/5th position 310 degs. Pulo Rondo
17 missed 700 tons steamer with 2 torpedoes
probably due to running under. 0655 surfaced and
sank her by gunfire 0856 fired 4 torpedoes at
close range at 2000 tons ship, torpedo passed
under.(2) 1556/12 fired 4 torpedoes at 7000 tons ship escorted by 5
S/M. chasers, torpedoes apparently missed. Attempt to fire
stern tube was prevented by depth charge attack. 1602 stern tube
fired by accident which resulted in further depth charging until
1635. 1655 came to periscope depth and observed target lying
stopped. 1810 closed. 1853 position 005 degs. 45' N. 099 degs. 51'
E. fired one torpedo which hit amidships causing very heavy
explosion. Ship heeled over and sank. Further counter attack
followed. S/M received (?minor) damage only.(3) It appears possible that torpedo fired from stern tube at
1602 achieved a hit.(4) Ship was considered by P.232 (STONEHENGE) to have been a
type of aircraft carrying vessel of at least 7000 tons. She
appeared to have a low flight deck stretched from her funnel
which was amidships to her stern. This deck had an overhang,
a structure like a catapult was seen at the after end.(5) Ship was sunk when steaming toward Penang. For 3 hours
before the attack she was steaming up and down on 5 mile leg to
westward of P.232 STONEHENGE but too far off for the S/M to see
details of enemy activities.(6) Ship may have been (?minelaying). At the same time however
a float plane was seen to come from her vicinity and (?fly to)

Penang.

(C. in C.E.F., 191248Z).

/ Diesel...

325

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Diesel oil
and petrol
stocks at
Bombay.

F.O.C.R.I.N. advises that Bombay stocks of high speed diesel and 90 octane spirit are exhausted and that stock of 100 octane very precarious.
(2) As Admiralty are now arranging Bombay replenishments (A.M. 110048+ to C. in C.E.F. refers) request early action may be taken.
(3) F.O.C.R.I.N. 190400 not to Admiralty refers. (C. in C.E.F., 191302Z).
+ Tankers for loading at Trincomalee.

U/boat sunk
12th Feb.

We congratulate PETARD on the part she took in the destruction of a U/boat on 12th Feb. (1st S.L., 191716A).

War Diary.

19.2.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. S/M No report since 150203. Para. D. 1 aircraft
attack, sighted wake and R.S.B. contacts in 47.25 N. 43.35
sighting summary. W. at 1910Z/17th.
2. U.S. Transport A/C sighted two periscopes in
44.00 N. 46.00 W. at 1520Z/18th.
(N.S.H.Q. 190613Z.)

S.C.153 At 0630Z/19th sailed KOOTENAY to rejoin C.5 (route)
KOOTENAY. (C. in C.C.N.A. 191100Z.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 191510Z, Cominch 191559Z.)

C.U.Convoys. Delay sailing C.U.15 to 22nd Feb. schedule my
311855 Jan. remains in effect for C.U.14 departing
1st March and subsequent convoys.
(Cominch 191627Z.)

QUEEN Ref. 182021Z.
ELIZABETH. 1. Temporary repairs cannot be completed until
March 2nd on basis 24 hours work per day.
2. Permanent repairs will require 30 days.
(B.M.W.T. New York 191740Z.)

Four Mine- 1900Z/19th sailed CARAQUET S.O. COWICHAN,
sweepers. MALPEQUE for Plymouth via St. Johns N.F. and Horta
3. VEGREVILLE delayed, will sail to overtake.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 191956Z.)

Stragglers One arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.221 RABY
report No.40. CASTLE 11th Feb. cargo shifted and leak in No.
one hold. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.
278 CAIRNESK 13th Feb. Engine trouble. Three
arrived Halifax from H.X.279 SUSAN COLBY (U.S.)
14th Feb. engine defect, F.J.WOLFE 16th Feb. steering engine
defects. FORT BILOXI (as recd.) 17th Feb. cargo shifted. Hull
damage one arrived Halifax from O.N.222 HUGHLI 14th Feb.
straggler due to heavy weather. One arrived Halifax from O.N.S.
28 EMPIRE ADVOCATE 17th Feb. minor engine defects.
(N.S.H.Q. 172157Z.)

War Diary.19.2.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 9. Possible submarine seen by aircraft just north
No. 760. Feb. of Mundua Island with group course N. midday 16th.
18th. 16. Early morning 18th 5 U.S. destroyers hit Rabaul
Harbour by surprise under smoke screen cover, shore batteries were silenced fires started in
camp areas by bombardment while torpedoes hit
ships southern shores Kera Via Bay (outer Rabaul Harbour).
Single Jap. destroyer attempted interference but retired after
few well placed salvos.
17. First light same date another 5 destroyers bombarded supply
areas harbour installations Kavieng also shipping present.
Spotting Catalina reported one tanker hit exploded violently,
main wharf also hit with fires nearby. Single floatplane in-
effectually attacked our ships after retirement. Later photo-
graphs Kavieng show two fighters one dive three medium bombers on
airfield where 18 craters on strip fighter smashed 28 buildings
in town destroyed since 13th Feb.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 191006Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

S/M attack & sighting summary. ^{U406} _{811-k} Para. A. 1. SPEY attacked U-Boat at 1542/18 in 48°
32' N. 23° 36' W.
2. A/C S/53 attacked U-Boat, course 180° at 2218/
18 in 49° 33' N. 24° 08' W.
3. A/C S/53 attacked U-Boat at 2320/18 in 49° 05'
N. 22° 54' W.
U. 366 _{811-k} 4. SPEY attacked U-Boat at 0040/19 in 49° 00' N. 23° 29' W.
5. A/C J/407 attacked U-Boat, course 210° at 0058/19 in 54° 00'
20° 30' W.
6. A/C sighted U-Boat at 1015/18 in 49° 33' N. 23° 08' W.
7. A/C sighted U-Boat course 160° at 0445/19 in 48° 12' N. 22°
50' W.
8. A/C S/53 sighted U-Boat at 2150/18 in 49° 31' N. 21° 22' W.
9. CRANE made U-Boat contact, forcing U-Boat to dive at 0310/19
in 48° 55' N. 21° 18' W.
10. A/C B/179 reported U-Boat on surface at 0314/19 in 38° 57' N.
09° 30' W.
11. Halifax A/C P/58 attacked U-Boat on surface course 90° at
2102/18 in 47° 38' N. 15° 30' W.
Para. C. 1. E.G.3 attacked Radar contact at 0624/18 in approx.
50° 10' N. 18° 35' W.
Para. E. 1. U.S. ships SCOTT and ENRIGHT attacked possible U-Boat
at 1038/18 in 55° 42' N. 07° 41' W.
(D.D.I.C. 191230.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 191503A, 191546A.)

20.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
 F.X.

1. Convoy J.W.57, consisting of 43 M/Vs, 3 Russian minesweepers, and 3 Russian S/M Chasers left Loch Ewe at 1944 today for North Russia escorted by RATTLESNAKE, LOYALTY and HYDRA of the Local Escort and by Capt. D.8 in KEPPEL with 3 other destroyers and 6 corvettes of the Through Escort.

WARWICK
 sunk.

2.(a). At 1144 today the destroyer WARWICK was sunk by an explosion, perhaps that of a U-Boat's torpedo, about 20 miles S.W. of Trevoise Head. Survivors were picked up by SCIMITAR and some fishing trawlers, and SCIMITAR and WENSLEYDALE attacked an A/S contact near the wreck. They were joined later by PETERHEAD, ULVA, STEEPHOLM and KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL; and at 1640A C. in C. Plymouth ordered TANATSIDE to proceed from Plymouth at 1800A to take charge of the operations. (b). Four fleet minesweepers of M/S 16 will sweep the area from daylight tomorrow assisted by six M/S trawlers from Milford Haven.

A/S Operations off
 Western
 Ireland.
 WOODPECKER
 damaged.
 (Sunk on 27th, 4.v.)

3. At 0020A the sloop WOODPECKER of E.G.2 was damaged by an acoustic torpedo about 580 miles W.S.W. of Cape Clear, and at 1236N she was in tow of STARLING escorted by the remaining three sloops of the group. The rescue tug STORM KING escorted by LADY MADELEINE from convoy S.L.148/M.K.3.39 has been ordered to proceed to assist.

STUBBORN.

4. The S/M STUBBORN, damaged on patrol off Kya, arrived at ~~Seapa~~ at 0936 today. She reports having torpedoed 3 M/Vs in convoy off the Halten Bank on 11th February and 2 more in the same position on the 13th; and that during the two ensuing counter-attacks 128 depth charges were dropped of which 66 were very close.

Enemy mines.

5. Seven mines were detonated by sweepers today off the Humber, and one off Yarmouth.

Air attack
 on Rostock.

5A. Aircraft of the U.S.A.A.F. made a damaging attack on Rostock today. Severe damage was caused to the Neptun Werft (Shipyard).

Mediterranean.

Operation
 "Shingle".

6.(a). C. in C.Med. reports this morning good weather with easterly winds. Fine weather continued throughout the day.

(b). There was one heavy air raid today, but no naval damage was caused.

L.S.T. 348

(c). A U.S.L.S.T. was sunk by a U-Boat^{U.410} at 0300 today in 40.56 N. 13.20 E. (about 45 miles west of Naples.) Eight destroyers are hunting the U-Boat. L.S.T. 305 was torpedoed at 1930 today, 20

War Diary.

20. 2. 1944.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".
(Contd.)

miles south west of Anzio and was taken in tow for Naples but sank later. LAFOREY and MADISON attacked possible contacts in this position.

"Avalanche".

7. Coastal craft operating from Bastia last night attacked a northbound enemy convoy in the Giglio Channel (about 30 miles south east of Elba). The enemy were last seen firing at one another. One U.S.P.T.boat was slightly damaged.

8. It is reported that a Partisan raid on Hvar Island last night failed in its objective.

Aegean.

9. In their attacks on enemy supply shipping in the Aegean today Allied aircraft sank or damaged several caiques.

10. SS. NOLISEMENT was hit, probably by a floating mine, near Brindisi p.m. today. The ship reached Brindisi under her own power.

East Indies.

Convoy
J.A.1.

11. Convoy J.A.1 appears in the convoy returns today in approx. 6 N. 75 E. (S.W. of Ceylon.) Presumably Colombo to Aden convoy.

Australia & New Zealand.

12. Further casualties were caused to enemy shipping in the Kavieng area today by U.S. aircraft, two small cargo vessels being sunk and two damaged.

13. Aircraft this morning attacked with depth charges a Japanese submarine 20 miles east of Cape Saint George, New Ireland, but without visible result.

War Diary.

20.2.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Damaged U-Boat at Ferrol. German submarine Ferrol left harbour 2400/19th as anticipated.
(Guyatt, Corunna 200110B to Admty.)

HART. C. in C.W.A's 191947A. My P.C. and S. 045° 25' N. 025° 25' W. 130° 15 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar daylight 23rd.
(HART 200820Z to Admty.)

Soviet guards in British ships. A.M. 232359. Can decision now be given.
(Ad. Fisher 201225C to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Iceland A/A defences. My 180032 January. Recent bombing of Seidisfjord and yesterdays R/C of Akureyri have clearly shown the necessity of retaining, if not strengthening existing gun defences.
2. Commanding General now informs me he has already withdrawn personnel from all Radar stations on North and East coasts of Iceland, thus depriving gun defences at Akureyri and Seidisfjord of essential warning. A further disadvantage involved is that without Radar U.S. Fighters cannot be stationed at Melgerdi Airfield near Akureyri or so I am informed, and fighters have already been withdrawn from Melgerdi.
3. Suggest that matter be taken up forthwith with Headquarters, European theatre of operations, U.S. Army, who issued instructions for reduction and directed "Minimum Harbour Defences" to be maintained, (vide A.L.M. 055359/43 of 19th January not to C. in C.Home Fleet) a direction which appears to have been taken too literally.
(A.C.I.C. 201830A to Admty.)

Operations.

A/S operations off S.W.Ireland. WOODPECKER damaged. WOODPECKER has had her stern blown off by a "Gnat".
(STARLING 200020A to C. in C.W.A.)
by D/F on 3920 k/cs U-Boats estimated as follows:
1. at 2255Z/19 within 60 miles of 49° 00' N. 23° 00' W. 2. at 2307Z/19 within 60 miles of 47° 30' N. 23° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 200120A to Escorts O.N.224, E.G.2, 7, 10 and 18.)

My 200020A. My position now is 048° 49' N. 022° 11' W.
(STARLING 200159A to C. in C.W.A.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 50° 20' N. 18° 20' W.
Probably a submarine.
(A/C BDWT3 200359 to F.C.1 H.O.)

WOODPECKER is salvable. No casualties. Request, tugs. Have had her in tow but tow parted. Position 048° 48' N. 022° 31' W.
(E.G. 2 200445Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/Fuel...

331

20.2.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations off S.W. Ireland. WOODPECKER damaged. (Contd.)

Fuel permitting detach STORM KING escorted by LADY MADELEINE to proceed to assist WOODPECKER badly damaged but salvable in 048° 48' N. 022° 31' W. STARLING is standing by. (C. in C.W.A. 200653A to E.G.40.)

Group should remain with WOODPECKER until she is in tow and clear of the U-Boat area now essential personnel are presumably already removed.

2. Forecast here is that wind is unlikely to increase to more than force 5 during next 48 hours. (C. in C.W.A. 201125A to E.G.2.)

Your 201125A. WOODPECKER in tow of STARLING. Remainder of group escorting.

Personnel not yet removed owing to weather. My P.C. and S. 049° 10' N. 022° (231') W. 075° 1½ knots. Weather 6571 2834. (E.G.2. 201236N to C. in C.W.A.)

My P.C. and S. at 1200Z 045° 48' N. 025° 25' W. 010° 16.

All 10 (?ships) in company.

My 191455. 16 survivors including Captain in LOSSIE, 3 in SPEY. 4 of previous survivors now dead. Types ?147 and Q largely contributed towards success of depth charge attack on 19th. (E.G.10 201259Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation F.X. Arrived AZALEA escorting S/M.C. 720, 1075, 1076, M/S 145, 146, 147. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 200821A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

RAPIDOL escorted by SPOSA sail at 0730A/20th. 2. This has been done. Your 192313. (A.C.I.C. 201104A to C. in C.H.F.)

In view of recent increase of enemy R/C in Northern Waters it is desirable to have max. shore based air cover and A/S protection for J.W.57 convoy thus enabling Chaser to conserve her aircraft for use where shore based support cannot operate.

(C. in C.H.F. 201158A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Your 171728A. Para. 2. Ships sailing with main convoy. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 201243A to C. in C.H.F.)

V.A.(D) in BLACK PRINCE sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 1740. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 201253 to A.C.O.S.)

Sailed Capt. D.3 in MILNE. E.T.A. 0830/21st February. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 201609 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

All escorts sailed except COCKATRICE sailing to overtake at 2200.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 201857A to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 201043A. Box relay A/S procedure used throughout patrol Early contact by Q and A/S range traced on every S/M contact so far. Simplicity for Operators most apparent. Both attacks that surfaced U-Boats achieved by cruising watch teams, first operators inexperienced Ratings. Consider great improvement on normal relay box and equally reliable.

(E.G.10 201930Z to C. in C.W.A.)

J.W.57. A. 1930/20th. B. KEPPEL, BOADICEA, BEAGLE, WALKER, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, LOTUS, RHODODENDRON, BURDOCK, DIANELLA, RATILESNAKE, ORESTES, LOYALTY, HYDRA. COCKATRICE sailed to overtake. C. 49.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 201944A.)

J.W.57. 43 M/Vs, 3 Russian minesweepers, and 3 Russian S/M Chasers. Names. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 201946 to C. in C.W.A.)

/COCKATRICE...

War Diary.

20.2.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation COCKATRICE unable to sail owing to condenser
F.X. defect larger than anticipated. Request instruc-
(Contd.) tions.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 202031A to C. in C.H.F.)
Scapa arrival at 1802 R.A.D.H.F. in BLACK PRINCE.
(A.C.O.S. 202051A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Intend to proceed in BLACK PRINCE with Chaser screened by
VERULAM, VIGILANT passing Hoxa 1600A/21st February.

2. VERULAM, VIGILANT proceed passing Switha as requisite to join
me off Hoxa.

(R.A.D.H.F. 202345A to BLACK PRINCE.)

Biscay A/S
Operations.

By D/F at 0820Z U-Boat estimated within 75 miles
of 47° 00' N. 26° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 201016A to EGLANTINE, ACANTHUS.)

Join and support S.C.153, P.C. and S. at 0800A/21st
043° 11' N. 031° 41' W. 098° 8 knots.

2, My 191950 refers.

(C. in C.W.A. 201128A to NENE, WASKESIU.)

S/M Patrols.

S.O. S/Ms Lerwick is requested to sail SEANYMPH
at 1200A/22nd routed 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles
route "Orange" to lat. 068° 30' thence 090° to
patrol in accordance with F.O.S. number S.M.
04010/465 of 14th February.

(Capt. S.9 201151A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/21st and movements for following
24 hours.

A. ULA, SYRTIS, ZEEHOND and VAMPIRE as in my 191749.

(F.O.S. 201641A to Admty.)

STUBBORN
patrol.

In accordance with I.S.O.H. 30 STUBBORN (P.238)
reports.

3 M/Vs hit
on 11th Feb.

2. 11th/1149, P.C. and S. of convoy of 7 ships of
3000 to 4000 tons with 4 trawlers, 1 whaler, and 1
A/C 64° 35' N. 10° 36' E. 225° 6 knots. Fired 6

2 M/Vs hit
on 13th Feb.

torpedoes range 2500 yards. Four explosions with-
in 2 minutes of firing at correct intervals. 4
hits claimed on 3 ships. 2 further explosions at

2 3/4 minutes. Counter-attack and hunt carried
out: 34 depth charges. Hunt was assisted by A/S-

fitted M M/S which was on patrol in the vicinity. No damage but
some charges were close. Hunt continued for 2 hours.

3. 13th/1148, P.C. and S. of convoy of 5 ships 2000 to 4500 tons
with 4 trawlers and 2 aircraft 64° 34' N. 10° 38' E. 232° 7 kts.

1 M-class M/S and 1 whaler were already on patrol. Fired 6 tor-
pedoes at 2 ships 3 hits claimed. Range of nearest ship 3000

yards. 3 explosions at between 3 1/2 and 5 minutes. Severe
counter attack with 78 depth charges of which 50 were very close.

Planes were put out of action hard adive Q tank flooded. While
efforts were being made to regain control and hold trim with main

ballast STUBBORN broke surface twice, eventually hitting the
bottom hard stern down at about 550 feet and came to rest at 1455.

Sixteen charges were then dropped very close, after which enemy
appeared to go away. 1930 commenced to try to leave bottom. Air

was short and was therefore topped up by working compressors on
pressure in submarine. Eventually after working motors and

blowing STUBBORN came up with approx. 70° bow-up angle at 2230
in 64° 38' N. 10° 20' E. Proceeded to seaward for 18 hours until

rudder broke adrift.

333

War Diary.20.2.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

STUBBORN
patrol.
3 M/Vs hit
on 11th Feb.
2 M/Vs hit
on 13th Feb.
(Contd.)

4. 16th/1455 destroyers made contact and took STUBBORN in tow. Tow parted twice but STUBBORN was able to proceed under own power on mean course heading to sea by suitable trimming of tanks from 65° 25' N. 04° 35' E. to Muckle Flugga at 7 knots. (S.O. S/M Lerwick 201220A to F.O.S.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 201315A, 201517A.)

A/S Opera-
tion off
Trevose Head.

TANATSIDE is to pass Gate at 1800A/20th and proceed by Standard Route to 050° 27' N. 005° 23' W. in which vicinity WENSLEYDALE, SCIMITAR, Force 111 consisting of PETERHEAD and ULVA, and Force 112 consisting of STEEPHOLM, KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL are carrying out A/S Hunt.

2. TANATSIDE is to take charge of A/S operations on joining and carry out sweep to westward. All snips taking part in sweep are to comprise Force 113.

3. WARWICK sunk by explosion, possibly torpedo in above position at 1144A/20th. Several depth charge attacks have since been made on Form A/S contact in this vicinity. Periscope has also been reported.

4. Leigh Light Aircraft will be searching between coast and 006° 30' W. and between 050° N. and 051° N. tonight.
(C. in C. Plymouth 201640A to TANATSIDE.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Orkneys.

At 201245A prep X was made on enemy aircraft at 30,000 feet 100° A Buoy 45 miles course W.
2. Spitfires from Skaebrae shot down enemy aircraft which was a long range Me.109.
(A.C.O.S. 201805A to Admty.)

Faroes on
19th Feb.

Following from N.O.I.C. Faroës begins:-
On February 19th the following aircraft were observed. 1. At 1521 one Ju.88 approaching Thorshavn from behind Nolso flying at sea level from North Down Nolso Fjord South East.

2. At 1529 one Ju.88 approaching Thorshavn from West to Skaalefjord at high level to North.

3. At 1749 one unidentified plotted 35 miles East of Nolso, proceeding due north.

First two planes engaged without result. 201220A ends.
(A.C.O.S. 201845A to Admty.)

Mining.

Sweep off
Trevose Head.

Sailed TADOUSSAC, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM, BEAUMARIS, DORNOCK.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 200815A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Proceed forthwith to vicinity Longships.
(C. in C. Plymouth 201236A to M/S 16.)

You are to commence sweeping from 50° 12' 18" N. 50° 12' 18" W. to 50° 24' 30" N. 05° 16' 09" W. Thence to 293° Trevose Head 5

/miles...

War Diary.20.2.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Sweep off miles, and return, as soon as practicable.
Trevose Head. 2. Ship presumed mined in vicinity.
(Contd.) 3. Detach BEAUMARIS to Plymouth for repairs.
(C. in C.Plymouth 201312A and 201416A to TADOUSSAC.)

Confirming telephone conversation, request you will sail available Oropesa sweepers to search from:-
A. 293° Trevose Head 5 miles, to B. 50° 24' 30" N. 05° 16' 09" W. thence to C. 50° 12' 18" N. 05° 45' 48" W. and return.

2. Four fleet sweepers will be searching same route from southward.

(C. in C.Plymouth 201434 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Cancel para. 1 of my 201312A. Sweep Q.Z.S. 435 from 270° Longships 4 miles to 293° Trevose Head 5 miles, and return to Longships.

2. Sweep in H. formation as deep as practicable using double Oropesa.

(C. in C.Plymouth 201632A to TADOUSSAC.)

Your 201434A. Intend sailing following vessels at 1800A/20th, to commence search of Channel prescribed at daylight. CAPE NYEMETSKI (S.O.), HAWTHORN, OAK, WILLOW, CAPE BARRACOUTA, SUCYON. On completion of search in both directions vessels return to Milford Haven unless otherwise required.

(F.O.I.C. Milford haven 201635 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Your 201515A. No. Anchor as convenient.

2. Commence sweep in accordance with my 201632A at first light tomorrow.

(C. in C.Plymouth 201644A to TADOUSSAC.)

Operation My 191615. Sailed RUBIS 0952A/20th escorted by
F.D.47. BRIDGWATER.
(C. in C.Plymouth 201012A to Capt. S.3.)

Yarmouth. M.M.S. Sweeper detonated one ground mine type at present unknown in 040° 3A Buoy 12 cables at 1151.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 201231A and 201259A to Adnty.) (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 201010A.)

Humber. Following 7 mines detonated by sweepers today:-
at 201003 in 323° 15 Buoy 7 cables. At 201129 at 15 Buoy. At 201247 in 320° 15 Buoy 1 mile. At 201320 in 330° 11 Buoy 6 cables. At 201505 in 320° 15 Buoy 3 cables. At 201508 in 350° 15 Buoy 8 cables. At 201510 in 320° 11 Buoy 5 cables.
(F.O.Humber 202120A to C. in C.Nore.)

Casualties & Defects.

STUBBORN. STUBBORN arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 200936 to Adnty.)
STUBBORN now at Lerwick can steam but has no rudder. Request tug may be provided to tow her to Holy Loch. She will be ready to proceed 22nd.
(F.O.S. 201919A to Adnty.)

/GEORGE...

335

War Diary.20.2.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS..Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- GEORGE W.
CHILDS. Request rescue tug may be sailed to Oban to tow GEORGE W. CHILDS now ready to proceed Clyde. C.W.I's 152300A refers. (N.O.I.C. Oban 201110A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Your 201110. Regret no rescue tug is available. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 201446A to N.O.I.C. Oban.)
- ROYAL
SOVEREIGN. A.S. Rosyth 191220. Anticipating that dockyard work will complete by March 18th approx. three weeks will subsequently be required.
2. Earliest date ship can be ready for taking over is April 8th.
3. Admiralty 032144. Russian crew cannot be accepted at Rosyth prior to this date as no accommodation is available either ashore or afloat.
(C. in C. Rosyth 201245A to Admty.)
- WARWICK
sunk. WARWICK sunk as the result of explosion in 050° 27' N. 005° 25' W. at 1144/20th. Probably torpedoed.
2. Some survivors picked up by SCIMITAR, remainder being rescued by fishing trawlers.
3. SCIMITAR and WENSLEYDALE are attacking firm A/S contact in vicinity of wreck.
4. PETERHEAD, ULVA, STEERHOLM, KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL are proceeding to join hunt.
(C. in C. Plymouth 201333A to Admty.)
- Shipping & Convoys.
- ATLANTIS. Hospital ship ATLANTIS should be sailed on 23rd February to North Africa calling at Gibraltar for orders.
(D.S.T. 201345A to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.)
- Group 9. Intend sailing group 9 consisting of EMPIRE TOURIST (Cmdre.) FORT CREVECOUR, FORT NORFOLK, CHARLES SCRIBNER, RICHARD H. ALVEY, JOHN LA FARGE, HENRY BACON, ALBERT G. RITCHIE from Dvina Roads for Kola Inlet 1600/23rd February. Request escort may be detailed. This will clear Dvina Ports.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 201644A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- K.M.F. 29.
ESSINGTON. After making Oversay R/V with Liverpool portion of K.M.F. 29 ESSINGTON is to continue with 4th E.G. as additional escort and is not to return to Belfast as ordered in my 161103 para. 2A.
2. Ship will be detached later to rejoin 3rd E.G. at sea.
(C. in C.W.A. 201825A to E.G.4.)

20.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

T.G. 21.14 Arrivals T.G. 21.14 U.S.S. CARD, JACOB JONES,
R.E. PEARY, BLAIR, HAMMANN.
(C.M.S.F., 201907).

South Atlantic.

U/B. attacks My 192255Z. H.M.S. VERITY carried out search in
on S.R.10 and vicinity of 008 degs. 40' N. 015 degs. 43' W. and
L.T.S.10 obtained Radar contact which faded on
19th Feb. illuminating. Ordered to remain in vicinity until
daylight. My P.C.S. 008 degs. 50' N. 015 degs.
54' W. 306 degs. 14 knots.
(MALCOLM, 200001Z to F.O.C.W.Af.).

Summary of MALCOLM 192255Z, 192334Z.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 200038Z to Admty.).

On investigation H.E. effects of torpedo in position 008
degs. 31' N. 015 degs. 35' W. small Radar contact was obtained
2000 yards ahead and a starshell sweep carried out on bearing.
Radar contact was seen about 300 yards ahead of ship in light
starshell course altered up track and pattern depth charge fired.
Carried out second depth charge attack losing contact at 0020
and am now carrying out an observant.

(VERITY 200103Z to F.O.C.W.Af.).

My 200103. Obtained contact by Radar of surface target
thought to be S/M. trimmed down 0040 range 1000 yards contact
faded on opening fire with starshell and no A/S contact was
observed. Have carried out observant round position of last
Radar contact and am now increasing observant to a depth of
(corrupt group) Sunderland has joined me.

(VERITY 200215)

No contact since 0045. Am carrying out 12 miles square
search round datum.

(VERITY 200425Z)

(? Will be) in 008 degs. 40' N. 015 degs. 43' W. at (?09) Z
(?20th). Intend to search south east (?corner) of square
referred to in F.O.C.W.Af.'s 200344Z / U-Boat not sighted VERITY.

(WOLVERINE 200850Z to S.O.E.G.42, (R) VERITY, VISCOUNT,
F.O.C.W.Af.) / N. T. in W.R.

My 200038Z. / Summary of formers.

2. My 192023Z +. FAL shaken by explosion about 400 yards
astern as if a depth charge had been fired at 250 feet. FAL
certain she did not drop depth charge in error.

3. Consider two U/B.s are in Freetown area, one of which may
be that previously estimated in Takoradi-Lagos Area.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 201226Z to Admty.)

/ VERITY reports torpedo attack on S.R.10.

+ FAL reports possible Gnat explosion in his wake.

/ My ...

20.2.1944.
Sunday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

U/B attacks on S.R.10 and L.T.S.10 19th Feb. My P.C. & S. at 1900 007 degs. 55 mins. N. 016 deg. 22' W. 180 deg. 13 sloops and WOLVERINE spread at 5 miles apart. Details of search and air searches.

(E.G.42 201730Z)

If S.R.10 is not met VERITY's E.T.A. Dakar 0700Z 21st at end Swept Channel.

(VERITY 202044Z to Comar Dakar.)

U/B suspected.

Sunderland obtained A.S.V. contact at 0007Z/20 position 06 degs. 35' N. 12 degs 53' W. and strongly suspects U/B.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 200137Z)

BATTLER,
QUADRANT

Sailed to Kilindini. (route)
(Com. i/c Durban 200528Z)

CARADOC

Will not be required as firing ship after 23rd Feb. Admty.131808 // refers.

(R.A.T.F.201240Z to C. in C. S.A.)

✓ CARADOC allocated as escort base ship at Colombo on (?completion) of duties at Durban.

338

War Diary

20.2.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

BOSWORTH Cancel my SSSS distress message made at 0507Z.
(BOSWORTH, 200600Z).
Intercepted by Niton Radio 0512 G.M.T. begins SSSS
37.15 N. 10.25 E. torpedoed K ends.
(BOSWORTH, 200612).

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep No.30. Port re-opened 0700/19th tonnage
discharged 2381. Sweeping in progress. Four air
raids during the day no damage reported. Shelling
continues.

(2) United States L.S.T. sunk by U/boat position 13 degs. 20'
N., 40 degs. 56' E. at 0300/20th. Eight destroyers including
LAMERTON, WILTON, WHEATLAND, CLEVELAND, LANSDALE now on A/S
Hunt.

(3) PHILADELPHIA bombarded in Anzio area. Reports state heavy
casualties inflicted.

(4) Weather good with easterly winds.
(C. in C. Med. at Naples, 200912).
Cositintrep No. 223 part two Cositintrep No.222 not issued.
On 18th and 19th Feb. intermittent shelling and air attacks
continued on Anzio area. Mines are believed to have been dropped
in raid a.m. 18th Feb. and harbour was closed until a.m. 19th.

(3) A northbound enemy convoy was attacked during night 19th/20th
Feb. In Giglio channel by coastal craft operating from Bastia,
the enemy were last seen firing at each other. One U.S. P.T.boat
was slightly damaged.
(C. in C. Med., 202142).

UNSPARING Your are not to proceed north of 039 degs. 40'.
(Capt.(S) 1, 201235A to UNSPARING).

3 U.S. Your 180942.
AP's. Para.A. Following is repetition of A.M. 161200
addressed Cominch begins: Your 032201 special
escort will be provided. Ends.
Para.B. 8th March. Para.C. 14th March.

2. Escort will be provided to Mediterranean by frigates on
passage to Eastern Fleet and West Africa.

3. Request destinations of AP's after consultation with A.F.H.Q.
so that embarkation can be arranged.
(D.O.D.(H), 201618A to C. in C. Med.).

ERIDAN In view of the desirability of moving 10,000
Libyan Libya prisoners of war from M.E. to Libya with
P.O.W. minimum delay it is proposed, as a special case,
and subject to your concurrence, to allow
ERIDAN to embark to capacity while on this service,
and provided no serious increase takes place in the scale of air
and S/M. attack.

(2) P.S.T.O.M.E. 131227 Jan. and your 141034 Jan. refer.
(4th S.L. 201706A to C. in C. Med.).

/ ULTIMATUM...

339

War Diary.20.2.1944.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

ULTIMATUM. Following received from Capt. S.1st S/M F. begins:
 ULTIMATUM (R) F.O.L.E.M. S.O. S/Ms. Beirut.
 Sail Beirut p.m. 20th as ordered by S.O. S/ms to
 pass Kaso Strait during the night 22nd/23rd thence
 east Sirina and Stampalia by northbound route in my 021459 Jan.
 and west Skyros to patrol an area bound 039° 40' N. the coast
 Greece, the Skopelos Islands and 024° E.
 2. Object destruction Piraeus/Salonika traffic.
 3. Own force M.T.Bs. and Levant schooner force caiques as in your
 last sailing orders. Submarines in Aegean. SOKOL passed through
 Kaso Straits a.m. 21st for Malta. NEREUS in vicinity of Milo
 leaving area 25th for Alex. UNSPARING south gulf Salonika
 leaves area 24th for Malta.
 4. Intelligence.
 5. For the present intention is to recall you to arrive Malta
 8th March. T.O.O. 201227. Ends.
 (S.O. S/Ms. Beirut 202041B to ULTIMATUM.)

STAFFORDSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE and DUNERA collided in 038° 20' N.
 016° 47' E. at 2023 both sustained damage and are
 DUNERA, now proceeding to Taranto at 5½ knots escorted
 (X.I.F.10.) by THEMISTOCLES and HAYDON.
 Although immediate assistance is not required it is
 considered advisable for 2 tugs to stand by.
 (SLAZAK 202235A to F.O.F.A.L.I.)

Personnel
 for Greek
 Ports.

Consideration put forward in F.O.L.E.M's 171733
 that GEORGIOS AVEROFF is an integral part of the
 plan for provision of Greek port parties is im-
 portant. Provision of personnel for Greek ports
 from our own resources is not at all likely to
 be practicable and therefore the use of trained
 Greek naval personnel will be a necessity.
 (C. in C.Med. 202340A to Admty.)

War Diary.

20.2.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat dis- My 190353Z. Areas A.B.D.E. No fresh information.
position. No change scales of air escort. Area C. Dhows
reported sunk by U-Boat 270 miles east Socotra 18th
Feb. scale of air escort Y. Area G. lifeboats with
survivors reported in 001° 42' N. 071° 59' E.
and 001° 08' N. 071° 32' E. 19th Feb. Indicate a vessel has been
sunk in this area.
2. Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F north west of Maldive Is.
1832Z/19.
3. Doubtful sighting by aircraft 1301Z/19 60 miles N.N.W. of
Colombo.
4. Above indicates the presence of more than 1 S/M in the area.
Scale of air escort Y.
5. Area F. no fresh information. Reduce scale air escort to X.
(C. in C.E.F. 200432Z.)

K.14. Concur your 180916Z. Request K.14 be given
routeing and instructions as for K.15 in my 271537
December. Will signal digest of information ob-
tained from K.15 after arrival.
(C.T.F. 71 200806Z to C. in C.E.F.)

U/B which My 130613 para. 3. Echo sounding traces of 11th
attacked Feb. have been received and appear definitely to
ASPHALION confirm presence of U-Boats on bottom.
11th Feb. 2. LAUNCESTON re established contact with target
on 13th Feb. and laid dan buoy. Oil bubbles were
still apparent.
3. A surface patrol was maintained by CALCUTTA
on 13th.
4. Combay visited scene in CALCUTTA 17th and reports area of oil
clearly defined, actual position U-Boat obvious with much oil
smelling strongly diesel oil still oozing. Dan buoy relaid on
top of wreck using echo sounder. He considers there is no doubt
whatever that U-Boat was destroyed.
(C. in C.E.F. 201307Z.)

WEARFIELD. Following received from British tanker WEARFIELD
begins request permission repair serious weather
damage before proceeding Bahrein advise which port
ends.
(D.T.D. 201911A to C. in C.E.F.)

War Diary.

20.2.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Martinique,
harbour de-
fence by
French.

Cominch states the French are willing to man one Y.M.S. and two S.Cs. stationed in Martinique for Harbour protection. He proposed that these vessels shall be allocated to the French for service under Comcaribseafon. Intend to concur without ref. (B.A.D. 200125Z.)

Stragglers
report.

Stragglers arrived week ending 19th Feb. 13th CAIRNESK H.X. 278, engine trouble. 19th (U.S.) J.L.LUCKENBACH O.N.223, leak in feed water. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns 201142Z.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 201350Z, Cominch 201502, 201504Z.)

T.G.21.14.

When ready about 24th Feb. depart Casablanca, operate against submarine reported positions return Hampton Roads 9th March. (Cinclant 202004 to C.T.G. 21.14.)

U/B report.

No report on 19th. Para. D. Army Liberator sighted surfaced S/M 00.30 N. 29.20 W. about 201000Z. (Cominch 202055.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial
No. 76(9?)
Feb. 19th.

Paras. 12 to 16 cover South Pacific Forces.
6. Possible submarine sighted early hours 65 miles south east Lorengau.
10. Allied M.T.Bs. bombarded John Albert Harbour on Garove Island night 17th with unobserved results.
11. Seven Kittyhawks scored six direct hits Amron Mission believed Jap. Headquarters Madang area morning 18th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 200630Z.)

342

War Diary.

20.2.1944.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

- Para. A. 1. H.M.Ship attacked by U-Boat at 2320Z/19 in 48° 48' N. 22° 31' W.
2. H.M.Ship reported possible torpedo explosion at 2255Z/19 in 08° 40' N. 15° 43' W.
3. SPEY and LOSSIE attacked U-Boat on surface at 0608Z/19 in 49° 02' N. 22° 50' W.
4. SPEY and LOSSIE heavily attacked U-Boat between 1229Z and 1355Z/19.
5. E.G.2 heavily attacked U-Boat at 1221Z/19 in 48° 31' N. 22° 05' W.
6. ACANTHUS and EGLANTINE hunting U-Boat at 2130Z/19 in 46° 42' N 26° 15' W.
7. VERITY reported possible torpedo explosion. Obtained Radar contact and attacked with depth charges at 0640Z/19th in 07° 14' N. 13° 17' W.
(D.D.I.C. 201145A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 201405A, 201407A.)

343

21.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F.X.

1. At 2000 today Convoy J.W.57 was about 60 miles S.E. of the Faroes. Capt. D.3 in MILNE (S.O. Destroyer Escort) arrived at Skaalefiord (Faroes) at 0745A and was joined there at 0928A by 11 other destroyers of the Escort; and at 1603A R.A.D. in BLACK PRINCE (S.O. A/A Cruiser Escort) left Scapa with the Escort Carrier CHASER and 2 destroyers to escort the Convoy. The Fleet Minesweeper LOYALTY of the Local Escort returned to Scapa at 1351A with defects; but COCKATRICE left Aultbea at 1415 for the Faroes.

WOODPECKER.

2. The Sloop WOODPECKER of E.G.2, damaged by "Gnat" yesterday, was about 440 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear at 2115A today in tow of the Rescue Tug STORM KING steering 070° at 4½ knots. About 130 of her crew are still on board.

Minelaying.

3(a) Bomber Command aircraft laid 169 mines last night in the Frisian/Elbe area and in northern ports.
(b) Eight mines were detonated by sweepers today off the Humber.

Mediterranean.Operation
"Shingle"

4(a). At least 5 E-Boats attempted to approach Anzio from the north last night, but were driven off by patrol boats. One E-Boat was hit and blew up and a second was probably driven ashore.
(b) The port of Anzio was closed at 0200 today on account of suspected minelaying last night and on the night of 19th/20th. The port was reopened at 0905 today.
(c) There were two heavy but ineffective dive-bombing raids on Anzio during daylight today. Shelling was on a reduced scale.
(d) The transformation of Operation "Shingle" into a long term maintenance project renders the use of defensive minefields at Anzio important; and C. in C. Med. is asking for ADVENTURE or some other suitable minelayer to be sent to the Mediterranean with a suitable mine load, for the purpose.

/Adriatic ...

344

21.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

5. Two M.G.Bs. entered Primosten harbour (43.35 N. 15.55 E., coast of Yugoslavia) last night and shelled the town. There was no opposition.

East Indies.

Shortage of
escort
vessels.

6(a) On 18th February C. in C. Eastern Fleet informed the Admiralty that the Fleet would shortly be immobilised for lack of destroyers. The Admiralty in reply made it clear to C. in C. E.F. that the Fleet must not be immobilised nor training interfered with by withdrawing destroyers for U-Boat hunting or the protection of convoys and shipping. If his available escort forces were insufficient, then risks must be taken.

(b) C. in C. E.F. replied that he was taking risks in plenty. For example, the present Bombay - Aden convoy of 20 ships had as sole escort one sloop. But he pointed out that we could not afford another KHEDIVE ISMAIL disaster. He hinted to the Admiralty that his needs would be the better appreciated in comparison with those of stations lying further from the Equator if the distortions of Mercator's projection in high and low latitudes were borne in mind. He hoped that sufficient destroyers would become available to recommence fleet training about 10th March.

U/Bs. in
Indian
Ocean.

7(a) C. in C. E.F. reports that the Greek SS. EPAMINONDAS C. EMBIRICOS, which left Colombo on 13th for Lourenco Marques was sunk by a U-Boat at 1700Z on 15th in the western approach to the One and a Half Degree Channel. The Master and Chief Engineer were taken prisoners; 36 survivors are being taken to Addu Atoll in H.M.S. FARA.
(b) The Norwegian tanker FENRIS routed independently from Port Pirie, Cape of Good Hope to Abadan was torpedoed at 1730 today in 08.32 S. 66.35 E. (650 miles east-south-east of the Seychelles), but was able to make 11 knots towards Addu Atoll.

21.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. Last night and during the night 19th/20th February Allied M.T.Bs. operated with success against enemy barges off New Britain.

9. An outward bound enemy convoy sighted off New Hanover this morning was attacked throughout the day by Liberators and Mitchells who claim to have sunk two merchant vessels and one escort, probably sunk a second escort and damaged a third.

21.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H.F. Destroyers administration. 1. V.A.D. has transferred his flag temporarily to BLACK PRINCE as from 0800/19th. Until further notice the administration of H.F. Destroyers will be carried out by Commodore R.M.J. Hutton flying his broad pendant in TYNE. (C. in C.H.F., 211011 to H.F.)

Force "G" H.Qs. Request the highest priority may be given to the setting up of all L/T communications for Force "G" Headquarters. Force "G" Headquarters probably moves into Royal Hotel Weymouth on 1st March and severe dislocation of operational traffic will result until these communications are established. (Com. Force "G" 211548A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SHIEL. When ready request you will sail SHIEL to join Command of C. in C. Med. (D.O.D.H.) 212241A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

A/S operations off S/W Ireland. D/F bearings at 2021Z/20, 2039Z/20, 2040Z/20, 2047Z/20 and 2055Z/20 indicate U/Boat within 40 miles of 49° 30' N. 23° W. (D.D.I.C. 210005A to E.Gs. 10, 2, 7 and C.2.) My 181542 and 191455. First U/Boat shallow, 2nd at 350 feet. Both surfaced with first pattern Charlie and Fox respectively. Finished off with further shallow charges and numerous hits from all guns. Very minor damage only from return fire. First U/Boat boarded but no time to prevent sinking or get anything of value. 2nd more spirited target and tried to escape on surface though badly holed. (E.G.10, 211017Z to C. in C.W.A.)

By D/F at 0806Z U/Boat was within 40 miles of 49° N. 23° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 211039A to E.Gs, 2, 7, 10 and C.2.)

Events 18th and 19th. Further promising attacks.

A. ROTHER in 048° 32' N. 023° 36' W. at 1736Z/18. After depth charge attack and while firing Hedgehog sighted large air bubble 50 to 70 diameter ahead of salvo. Dropped "Hedgehog" pattern on it by eye and made further attacks. Contact (?not) held.

B. My 190237Z. FINDHORN in 049° 24' N. 023° 32' W. at 0303Z/19th. Complete depth-charge pattern water surface in flames over fair sized area. Next attack doubtful though type 147 gave some echoes 500 feet. Contact lost.

C. My 190805Z. LOSSIE reports underwater explosion 7 minutes after her last attack. Despite attacks by both ships consider U/Boat probably not more than damaged as suspect normal type torpedo near missed SPEY this area following forenoon. Late report of LOSSIE in 052° 40' N. 022° 41' W. at 1455Z. 10 sighted periscope, attacked with depth-charges. Underwater explosions and black objects reported breaking surface. Further attacks no visible result. My 101501 refers. (E.G.10, 211047Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/Request...

347

21.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations off S/W Ireland. (Contd.) Request you will sail first E.G. early as practicable a.m. 22nd. at best speed towards 051° N. 020° W. (C. in C.W.A. 211125A to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Operation F.X. Have fractured steam pipe starboard turbine. Proceeding Scapa to make good defect. E.T.A. Switha 1200. (LOYALTY 210630A to H.F.) Faeroes arrival D.3 in MILNE. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 210745A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.) Arrived Skaalefiord. Your 181006. (BLUE RANGER) (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 210751A to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.) SERAPIS, MATCHLESS, IMPULSIVE, OBEDIENT, OFFA, SWIFT, METEOR, MAHRATTA, ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, SAVAGE arrived Faeroes. (F.O.I.C. Faeroes, 210928A to R.A.D. H.F.) Position at 212000. BLACK PRINCE, CHASER, VIGILANT, VERULAM 059° 40' N. 004° 10' W. to northward 17. J.W.57. KEPPEL, RATTLESNAKE, 3 destroyers, 2 fleet minesweepers 6 corvettes, 061° 25' N. 005° 25' W. to northward 10. (A.C.O.S. 211222A to Admty.) BYRON, STRULE, WANDERER, WATCHMAN arrived Skaalefiord. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 211224A to R.A.D. H.F.) Scapa arrival at 1150 with defects, LOYALTY. (A.C.O.S. 211351A to H.F.) Sailed COCKATRICE. E.T.A. 1500/22nd. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 211415 to N.O.I.C. Faeroes.) On arrival Kola Inlet BLACK PRINCE to vicinity of 25 berth Vaenga where fuel will be supplied. CHASER to 28 berth Vaenga. 2. Destroyers fuel from 2 convoy tankers in 24 and 26 berths Vaenga, final berths 9 alongside (3 abreast) at Polyarnoe 3 alongside at Vaenga remainder anchor as convenient in Vaenga Bay. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 211525A to R.A.D. in BLACK PRINCE.) Scapa departure R.A.D. in BLACK PRINCE with CHASER escorted by VERULAM and VIGILANT. (A.C.O.S. 211603A to C. in C.W.A.) Faeroes arrival BEAGLE. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 211655A to V.A.D.) Skaalefiord departure BEAGLE. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 212014A to R.A.D.H.F.) When relieved by Fleet Destroyers Escort, Local Escort is to proceed as follows: Ships of 18th M/S Flotilla to Skaalefiord. BURDOCK to Greenock. DIANELLA is Londonderry. (C. in C.H.F. 212203A to RATTLESNAKE.) A/A escort tomorrow will be provided by pairs of Beaufighters from first light till approximately 1715A. (C. in C.Rosyth 212335A to J.W.57.)

S.C. operations. Intend sailing S/M chaser 119 from Scalloway

1. 1400A/23rd weather permitting.
2. 065° 20' N. 011° 40' E.
3. RAMOSE VETERAN.
4. 4 days.
5. 040° Muckle Flugga.
6. No.

(A.C.O.S. 211030 to Admty.)

/Intend...

21.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S.C. operations. (Contd.) Intend to sail S.C. operation from Scalloway
 1. 0400A/26th weather permitting.
 2. 060° 10' N. 005° 00' E.
 3. RAMOSE SANTANDER.
 4. 2 days.
 5. 090° Sumburgh.
 6. No.
 (A.C.O.S. 211054A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 211230A.)
 (V.A. Dover, 211600A.)

S/M Patrols. SYRTIS is to leave patrol forthwith routed through 062° 01' N. 001° 55' E. and 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles to Lerwick proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast.

2. Unless SYRTIS can arrive Lerwick during daylight 22nd speed is to be adjusted so as to arrive 0900A/23rd.
 (Capt. S.9, 211601A to S/Ms.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/22nd and movements for following 24 hours,

- A. ULA, SYRTIS, ZEEHOND, and VAMPIRE as in my 191749.
- C. SEANYMPH leaves Lerwick 1200/22nd probably on surface speed 10 knots through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 miles and 62° 01' N. 00° 59' E. thence course 030°.
- E. RUBIS very approx. 46° 20' N. 04° 50' W. dived by day to arrive 45° 01' N. 01° 59' W. at 0400/24th.
 (F.O.S. 211712A to Admty.)

Following forecast of S/M patrols is to be acted on without further signal.

| S/Ms, | Leaving Lerwick. | Returning Lerwick. | Patrol. |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| A. ZWAARDVISCH | 28th Feb. | 13th Feb. | HH. |
| B. SCEPTRE. | 28th Feb. | 17th March | Leads. |
| C. TAKU | 13th March | 31st March | Leads. |
| D. VOX | 13th March | 27th March | FF. |
| E. ?STRONGBOW | 13th March | 27th March | HH. |
| F. SYRTIS | 14th March | 30th March | Leads. |
| G. SATYR | 15th March | 29th March | Leads. |

(F.O.S. 212004A to Capt. S.3, Capt. S.9.)

Operation "Bayleaf". Request you carry out following operation.
 BERMUDA, Leads area B between Lepso Island 62.40 N. and SHEFFIELD, Edo Island 63.15 N. with Fleet Air Arm aircraft FURIOUS. from FURIOUS.
 2. If circumstances are unfavourable for area B attack should be made in area A between Yteroene Light 61.34 N. and Stadlandet.
 3. Date of attack 25th February or next suitable day.
 4. Supporting force BERMUDA wearing flag of C.S.I., SHEFFIELD and six destroyers as detailed by V.A.D.
 5. 18 Group is requested to provide A/S patrol and long range fighter protection as far as possible during daylight hours on day of attack.

6. It...

349

21.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation
"Bayleaf".
BERMUDA,
SHEFFIELD,
FURIOUS.
(Contd.)

6. It would be appreciated if two Norwegians with local knowledge could be provided by 18 Group to accompany Force.

7. Intelligence will be supplied to ships concerned.
(C. in C.H.F. 211910A to C.S.1 in BERMUDA.)

Biscay
A/S
operations.

Have obtained A/S V contact in 44° 20' N. 03° 40' W
(A/C SPJ.11 212150 to 19 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Thames
Estuary.
Four A/C
claimed
shot down
on 19th
February.

All Thames Estuary Forts except Knock John engaged enemy aircraft between 0050 & 0130 on 19th. Army Fort Red Sand claiming one category one and Great Nore one category three.

All Thames Estuary Forts engaged enemy aircraft between 2130 and 2300 on 20th February. Sunk Head claims one category one seen to crash at 2149 bearing 20° 20,000 yards after engaging at bearing 140° at 15,000 feet. Army Fort Red Sand also claimed one category one seen to crash off Whitstable. Understood this claim already allowed by A D G B.

(C. in C. Nore 211702A to Admty.)

Mining.

Nore
Command.

Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore Command for week ended 19th February.

One German Conical Anti-Sweep Float. (Non-Explosive)
(R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 211016A to C. in C. Nore.)

Plymouth
C.M.F.

Request MINER V may return Plymouth for repair of controlled mine field.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 211729 to Admty.)

Search
off
Trevose
Head.

On completion of search ordered anchor as convenient for night. At daylight carry out search of Q Z S 433 - in vicinity of Trevose Head for two hours, then search remainder of Q.Z.S.433 returning to Milford Haven on completion.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 211753 to CAPE NYMETSKI.)

My 201632A. Tomorrow carry out same sweep if endurance permits. Otherwise search Q.Z.S.452, thence steam to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211805 to TADOUSSAC.)

CAPE NYMETSKI, HAWTHORN, OAK, WILLOW, CAPE BARRACOUTA, SICYON anchored St. Ives Bay.

(R.N.O. Penzance 211845A to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Your 201632A. Have swept Q.Z.S.433 as ordered. 270°

Longships 4 miles to 353° Longships 8 miles 67% thence 293°
Trevose Head 5 miles 50%. Negative.

(TADOUSSAC, 211935A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/My...

350

21.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Search off
Trevose Head.
(Contd.)

My 211805. Will sweep Q.Z.S.433 tomorrow Tuesday.
(TADOUSSAC, 212025A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Humber.

Following Eight Mines detonated by Sweepers today:-
At 211101 in 341° 15 Buoy 7½ cables.
At 211104 in 140° H.2 Buoy 1½ miles.
At 211156 in 310° 11 Buoy 2 miles.
At 211324 in 153° N.12 Buoy 2 cables.
At 211613 in 128° H2 Buoy 3.2 miles.
At 211613½ in 128° H2 Buoy 3.2 miles.
At 211722 in 151° 15 Buoy 5 cables.
At 211731 in 320° 15 buoy 4 cables.
(F.O. Humber 212009A to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties and Defects.

OB DURATE. Your 190952A. Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 210843A to V.A.D.)

WARWICK. My 20133A. Search for U/Boat has been abandoned
2. There is considerable doubt whether sinking of WARWICK was caused by Torpedo, Mine, or Internal explosion. Board of Enquiry is being held tomorrow.
3. There are 93 survivors including Captain and five officers.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211043A to Admty.)

GROGGO. Sailed FLINT CASTLE to assist vessel with engines broken down 100 miles N. by W. from Barra Head. Speed 15 knots.
(R.N.O. Stornoway, 211312A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

WOODPECKER. Am transferring surplus personnel.
Expect to complete this afternoon when STORM KING will take over the towing.
My approximate position 049° 22' N. 022° 19' W.
Weather 6671 2334.
(E.G.2, 211320A to C. in C.W.A.)

Report if STORM KING is in company towing WOODPECKER and speed made good under existing weather conditions.
2. My 201125. You will be informed when it is estimated you are clear of U/Boat area.
(C. in C.W.A. 212009A to E.G.2.)
Your 212009A. Yes, at 4½ knots. WOODPECKER has about 130 left on board for damage control and essential service.
My P.C.S. 049° 44' N. 021° 16' W. 070° 4½. Weather.
(E.G.2, 212115A to C. in C.W.A.)

/GOZO...

War Diary.

21.2.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

GOZO. My 181700A. Damage to GOZO's propellers does not prevent ship from steaming. Trials have shown undue vibration up to 14 knots.
2. Propose GOZO be attached temporarily to 7th M.S.F.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 211635 to C. in C. Nore.)

SAMUEL FULLER. SAMUEL FULLER now refloated and beached Scallastle Bay, Sound of Mull.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 211706A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.29. K.M.F.29. My 200300 sailed H.M.S. BENTINCK. Expected time of arrival Merville 0900A February 21st.
(F.O.I.C..N.I., 210321A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
Sailed ESSINGTON to comply with N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 181820A para. 3, and subsequently comply with C. in C.W.A.'s 201825A.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 210804A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
My 181820. Sailed less SILVER WALNUT not sailing.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 211629A to Admty.)
Sailed FENCER to R/V K.M.F.29 in accordance with C. in C.
W.A. 192132A.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 212228 to Admty.)
Sailed Clyde portion in accordance with my 181444A.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 212234A to Admty.)

O.N.224. CHAUDIERE failed to fuel yesterday, and weather impossible today 21st. Have detached her at best speed to refuel Azores prior to rejoining H.X.279.
2. Essential that HALIFAX refuel Ponta Delgada before rejoining O.N.224. My 202002 refers.
3. My P.C.S. 044° 53' N. 028° 22' W. 260° 7.
(C.1, 210531Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Group 8. Kola inlet arrived Group 8 less CHARLES SCRIBNER escorted by GLEANER and SEAGULL. S.B.N.O. Archangel's 141003, refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 211125A to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

O.N.225. E.G.17 will be required to leave Londonderry A.M. 23rd to overtake and support O.N.225.
(C. in C.W.A. 211609A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

21.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LIVERMORE U.S.S. LIVERMORE with Comdesdiv 21 reports for duty 0800A/21 in accordance C. in C. Lant, 182312 Jan.+ (Comdesdiv 21, 211032A to Com. 8th Phib.).
+ Unidentifiable in W.R.

SS. Your 120047 Spanish CILURNUM sent in and examined
CILURNUM found in order and released.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 201525A).

M.M.S. Your 211541Z.
M.M.S. (23, 8) (2, 3, 9), (2, 4, 0) arrived Horta
1243Z/21st M.M.S.241 not yet arrived.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 212358Z to F.O.N.F.).

See p. 357

21.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- U/B report. By D/F at 0312 U-Boat within 60 miles of 038° 40' N. 004° 00' E.
(C. in C. Med., 210758A to ORPHEE.)
- STAFFORDSHIRE In collision and proceeding Taranto at 5½ knots.
and DUNERA. Both sustained damage.
(P.S.T.O. Med., 210923A.)
- Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.31. Combined torpedo and rocket bomb attack on Anzio anchorage 1830/19 foiled by efficient smoke screen. Bombs and torpedoes launched at random into smoke caused no damage. 2. 74833 tons discharged on 20th in continued favourable weather.
3. One heavy air raid on 20th no naval damage. Navy house Anzio straddled by shell fire.
4. L.S.T.305 (fitted GCI) torpedoed 1930/20 20 miles southwest Anzio. Still afloat in tow for Naples. LAFOREY and MADISON attacked possible contacts in this position.
5. Captain Turner and Beach Commando relieved at Anzio by Commander Lochart and new Port Party.
6. Anzio (? reported) closed 0200/21 owing suspected mine-laying.
(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 210943A.)
Situation Report No. 299.
- (2) L.S.Ts. 305, 400 torpedoed at 1953/20th in 041° 14', 012° 31' and taken in tow for Naples but later sank, U-Boat hunt in area still in progress.
- (3) During the night of 20th/21st at least 5 E-Boats attempted to approach Anzio from North but were driven off by P.C. patrol one E-Boat hit and blew up and second probably driven ashore.
(C. in C. Med., 211910A.)
Transformation of "Shingle" into a long term maintenance project with Anzio as port renders use of defensive minefields important request ADVENTURE and/or other suitable minelayer be detailed to proceed to Med. with suitable mine load for this purpose.
(C. in C. Med. Naples, 211925A to Admty.)
- 3 U.S. A.Ps. Para. 3 of A.M. *201618?. Destination of A.Ps. in (? is) Oran but if so desired by Admty. these ships can be accepted at Algiers.
(C. in C. Med., 211124A.)
* Re destination of A.Ps.
- POMPEO Struck submerged object in 039° 18'50", 012°
MAGNO. 04'20" E. at 211413.
(POMPEO MAGNO, 211415A.)
- TOSCANA. TOSCANA can be accepted at Egyptian ports for short visits provided duration is restricted to time required for disembarking wounded, refuelling

/etc. ...

Operation Fire Eater.

The object of this operation was to land Raiding Forces and carry supplies to the islands and to maintain small scale offensive action in the South-East Aegean, relying on the enemy's shortage of patrol craft.

(War Diary, F.O., Levant and E. Med.,

20. 1. 1944)

(T.S.D., 4651/44)

354

21.2.1944
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.TOSCANA.
(Contd.)

etc. D. of S.T's 192228*. No leave to Italian personnel can be permitted on such occasions on account of anti-Italian feeling ashore. Hence it remains undesirable in the extreme that longer visits, e.g. for refit, or whilst awaiting orders, should be made.

(F.O.L.E.M., 211543B to C. in C. Med.)

* 192223 intended. Re TOSCANA's use of Egyptian ports.

H.D.M.L.
1083.*Operation
"Fire-eater"*

H.D.M.L. 1083 reported aground on 20th Feb. and not salvaged? off (Kefaluka) due to bad weather encountered during course of operation "Fire-eater". Crew and S.Bs. patrol reported safe.
(F.O.L.E.M., 212003B.)

21.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U-Boat My 200432Z no fresh information. No change in
Disposition. scale of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F. 210348Z)

SS. E.C. Greek ship E.C. EMBIRICOS sunk 151700Z.
EMBIRICOS. U-Boat fired 4 torpedoes Master and Chief
Engineer taken prisoner. 36 Survivors enroute
Addu Atoll in H.M.S. FARA. Four crew members
missing presumed lost.
(C. in C. E.F. 210825Z)

Summary of Para. 5 of my 141846/ and your 161840/
findings of (1) A.S. escort of two destroyers not considered
B. of E. sufficient to ensure adequate protection
into against U-Boat attack. Board considers A/S
sinking of escort could not have been increased from
KHEDIVE resources available on the Station and notes that
ISMAIL. a third destroyer PENN detailed for this duty was
prevented from joining owing to defects.
(2) Air escort could have been provided but at
expense of other commitments which included
passage of floating dock to Trincomalee and movements of
Fleet Units in Bay of Bengal.
Board considers absence of indication of S/Ms activity West of
Maldives coupled with above stated commitments justified
decision not to send A/C to position 700 miles S.W. of Ceylon.
(3) Convoy disposition including that of escort considered
correct and best compromise with limited escort forces available.
(4) Decision of S.O. of escort Capt. Josselyn of HAWKINS not
to zig-zag was made deliberately after careful thought and
discussion at convoy conference and by signals to Commodore of
Convoy. Zig-zagging would have involved a delay to convoy
resulting in an additional moonlight night at sea in
potentially dangerous waters. With information available
Senior Officer appreciated submarines unlikely to be encountered
west of Maldives but possibly between Maldives and Ceylon.
Board considered decision not to zig-zag was incorrect but
was made in no haste and with no negligence and that danger of
an extra night at sea was overstressed.
(5) No evidence to suggest rapid sinking of KHEDIVE ISMAIL
could in any way be contributed to her construction or that
she was in any other than a well found condition. Both
torpedoes hit in the vicinity of engine and boiler rooms and
indication of a boiler explosion contributed to rapid sinking.
(6) No grounds to suggest that any breach of security resulted
in the sailing and routing of the convoy becoming known.
(7) Board wish to record their opinion that the present number
of escort vessels and escort aircraft on the Station is
totally inadequate for the protection of valuable convoys on
widely separated routes.
(8) Board consisted of R.A. R.S.G. Nicholson, F.O. Ceylon
President, Capt. C.A. Meriman C.S.O. to F.O. Ceylon. Lt. Comdr.
C.W. North Fleet A/S Officer.
(9) My comments on the findings of the Board will be forwarded
by fast air mail.
(C. in C. E.F. 210926.Z) / Request findings of Board may be
signalled. / F.O. Ceylon to hold Board of Enquiry on
circumstances of loss of KHEDIVE ISMAIL.

356

21.2.1944
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

K.14. My 180916/ Para. 2. Due to defects date of sailing is unlikely to be earlier than Middle March.
(C. in C. E.F. 210954Z to U.S. C.T.F.71)
/ Re D.S. K.14.

Shortage
of Escort
Vessels.

Your 181352. As stated in my 180640 the Fleet as such is temporarily immobilised in view of the withdrawal of destroyers for immediate but essential escort duties in connection with the troop movements now taking place.

(2) Risks have been and continue to be accepted for example - convoy B.A.62 of 20 ships, now midway between Bombay and Aden has an escort of only one Sloop. I feel you will agree that the loss of another troop ship as a result of insufficient escort might have serious repercussions.
(3) The feasibility of redispersing escort and air forces to meet new and in many cases unforeseen attacks is closely related to the distance factor. Mercators projection is apt to cause erroneous conclusions to be drawn when considering this theatre in relation to others more remote from the equator. A comparison of distances between bases provides a fairer guide.
(4) V.A.E.F. informs me that the primary need of capital ships is individual training. With the present information at my disposal it appears that enough destroyers will become available about 10th March to recommence fleet training.
(C. in C. E.F. 211234 to Admty.)

RECORDER.

To sail from Kilindini 22nd to position 004 degs. 38' 30" N. 048 degs. 33' E. 032/25th for carrying out cable repair. Arrangements.
(Kilindini, 211347Z)/ Sic.

Bunkering.

Bunkering of coal burning ships from U.K. and U.S.A. bound for East Coast of India via Med. Your 060859 August to Admiralty only and A.M. 142111 August refer. In view of possible delays at Cochin awaiting convoy M.W.T. request consideration be given to reverting from Cochin to Colombo for bunkering. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 212038A to C. in C. E.F.)

357

War Diary.

21.2.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DIRECTOR
(tug).

Following has been read. S.O.S. DE (MRWL)
DIRECTOR requires assistance immediately position
35.48 N. 66.10 W. approx. Leaking badly in
engine room bearing 340 degs. from VRT.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 211255Z to H.M. Ships in Area
7A)

U/B
Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 211418Z, Cominch, 211540Z)

M.M.S.

Have M.M.S. 238, 239, 240, 241 (?yet) arrived.
Ships hold current recognition signals only.
(F.O.N.F. 211541Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
Reply see N. Atlantic.

Training
S/M's.

Admty. 021814/. Training S/M situation at
Halcaea is unsatisfactory and with the increased
training requirements in the spring will become
critical.

(2) Present situation.

(3) It is therefore necessary to request the return of the
SEAWOLF now if A/C training is to be carried out and ships
sailed as efficient fighting units and also a relief for P.554
as soon as possible to cope with spring and summer new con-
struction work up programme.

(N.S.H.Q. 211625Z to Admty.)

✓ Re Manpower resources and commitments for the Japanese war.

U/B
Report.

Para. D. P.B.M. sights wake 15.50 S. 33.54 W.
course 280 201230Z.
(Cominch, 212104)

Withdrawal
of Hudsons
from
Gibraltar.

(2) C.M.S.F. states that he has already at the
request of F.O.G.M.A. taken over the duties of
your Gibraltar based Hudsons beginning daylight
Feb. 17th and that he can continue to perform
the duties of these squadrons with A/C of Fleet
Air Wing 15 which is based in the Moroccan Sea
Frontier.

(Rafdel, 212321Z to Air Min.)

H.X.280.

PORT ARTHUR has A/S defects in control training
unit and unable to repair. Request PORT ARTHUR
be detached to Halifax for repairs rejoining
later. H.X. 280 P.C.S. at 2240Z 040 degs. 17'
067 degs. 12' 051 degs. ?9.5.
Weather report 0000 9070 08.
(SAULTE SAINTE MARIE, 212350Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

358

21.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.762,
Feb. 20th.

Paras. ten to sixteen cover South Pacific Forces.
(7) Reference 8 ship convoy off central South
West coast New Ireland reported Digest 761
para. 4, R/C Mitchell sank one small freighter
afternoon 19th later twelve escorted Mitchells
attacked from mast-head height sinking 1 freighter
of 2,000 tons while four other ships including

1 small sea truck three escort vessels claimed destroyed or
sunk by direct hits. In addition 1 of two additional small
freighters seen were damaged. All shipping attacked was in
Gazelle Channel area.

(15) A/C depth charged Jap S/M morning 20th 20 miles E. Cape
Saint George course N. without visible effect.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 210614Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) S/M UPSTART made two attacks on
a U-Boat, no results, at 1100Z and 1357Z/18th Feb.
in 43 degs. 05' N. 06 degs. 00' E.

(2) U-Boat left Ferrol harbour 2200Z/19.

Para. B. (1) A/C D/53 attacked possible U-Boat
with gunfire at 0110Z/20 in 49 degs. 20' N.

15 degs. 10' W.

(2) C.in C. E.F. reported A/C had doubtful sighting of U-Boat
at 1301Z/19 in 08 degs. 00' N. 79 degs. 00' E.

(D.D.I.C. 211158A)

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 211425A, 211430A)

359

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1. Convoy J.W.57 was about 35 miles N.E. of the Faroes at 0800 today. At 0341A, Capt. D.3 in MILNE with 13 destroyers of the destroyer escort and one frigate left Skaalefjord (Faroes) to relieve the local escort, from which RATTLESNAKE, HYDRA and CRESTES are returning to Skaalefjord.

Enemy mines.

2. Two mines were detonated by sweepers and one self-detonated off the Humber today; and one acoustic mine off Orforaness.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

3. C. in C.Med. reported this morning that the shelling of Anzio had been very slight during the last 24 hours. There were heavy air attacks on Anzio last night; no casualties were caused afloat but an ammunition dump was blown up though no material damage resulted. There was some shelling and intermittent air attacks today. The weather remained fine.

U/B attack
on G.U.S.31:
2 ships
torpedoed.

4. Convoy G.U.S.31 was attacked by U-Boat at 1115 G.M.T. today in 37.22 N. 07.17 E. (about 40 miles N.E. of Philippeville) and M.S. PETER SKENE OGDEN and M.S. GEORGE CLEEVE were torpedoed. Both ships reached port, but it is thought that the first named will be a constructive total loss.

Adriatic.

5. (a). Nightly destroyer patrols have been maintained since 17th February. No shipping has been sighted.
(b). Heavy air attacks were made last night on Sibenik and Zara harbours, results are not reported.

SS. LISA
sunk.

6. U.S. aircraft today attacked a 5000 ton merchant vessel, reported to be SS. LISA, escorted by two T.Bs. or destroyers and by several aircraft 15 to 20 miles N.W. of Candia, Crete and obtained a torpedo hit on the merchant vessel and on one of the destroyers. One of the latter was set on fire and the other left smoking, but both were seen on 23rd northbound off Milos, presumably returning to Piraeus. It is thought that SS. LISA was sunk.

*(German name for LIVENZA
5303 tons)*

360

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Convoy
Vohemar -
Mauritius, 1.

7. The first Vohemar - Mauritius convoy sailed today.

Australia & New Zealand.

Surface and
air opera-
tions in
Solomons.

8(a). Five destroyers operating north of Mussau Island this morning sank an enemy vessel carrying 400 aviation personnel, 73 survivors of which were captured. The destroyer force then split; three destroyers proceeded south west of New Hanover and engaged and sank an old type destroyer or mine-layer, a large cargo vessel and several barges off Steffen Strait; these same three destroyers carried out a sweep down the west coast of New Ireland without further contact, and finally bombarded airfield installations on Duke of York Island at dawn on 23rd. The remaining two destroyers bombarded Kavieng. The Allied destroyers suffered no damage or casualties throughout the operations.

(b). A large force of Dauntless and Avengers attacked shipping in Keravia Bay and report hits on 8 ships and amongst M.T.B. and barges. Two ships were seen on fire after the attack.

361

War Diary

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

UNDAUNTED

On satisfactory completion of acceptance trials about 3rd March request you will sail UNDAUNTED to Scapa to work up under Commodore D.H.F. for subsequent service on Mediterranean Station. (D.O.D.(H), 221300A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

North
Russia.
Russian
guards in
Convoy M/V's.

Your 201225. Despite willingness of the S.B.N.O's to accept this proposal, Ministry of War Transport dislike it in view of risk of complications with Russians. 2. As, however, the majority of merchant ships in last two convoys will be American, Ministry of War Transport representative, Washington, has been instructed to ascertain urgently reactions of War Shipping Administration. Decision will be taken when War Shipping Administration attitude is known. (Head of M.I., 221524A to Ad. Fisher).

10th D.F.

Fleet destroyers allocated to the Plymouth Command will form the 10th Destroyer Flotilla. (D.O.D.(H), 221900A to A Message 546A).

Operations.

Operation
"F.X."

Skaalefiord departure. MILNE, SERAPIS with 13 destroyers and 1 Frigate in company.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 220341A to R.A.D.H.F.).

Your 211415A. Arrived (COCKATRICE).

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 221433A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Expect A/S escort from first to last light on February 23rd by 2 sorties of single formation.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 221735A to Escort, J.W.57).

E.T.A. 222359A. HYDRA in company.

(RATTLESNAKE, 221946A to N.O.I.C. Faeroes).

A/S
operations
off S.W.
Ireland.

Sailed GARLIES, GOULD and GORE at 0952/22 to R/V with AFFLECK at 1430/22 off Lough Foyle and thence in accordance with C. in C.W.A's. 211125A amended by 212314A.

(F.O.I.C.N.I., 221000A to C. in C.W.A.).

Proceeding in company with E.G.1 in accordance with your 211125A and 212314A. S.O.A. 12 knots.

(E.G.1, 221310Z to C. in C.W.A.).

It is essential to arrive Liverpool early a.m. 25th. Adjust speed accordingly. Ships will be cheered into harbour.

(C. in C.W.A., 222235A to E.G.2.).

S/M
patrols.

At 1207A/22nd SEANYMPH left Lerwick unescorted through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 15 then by route "Orange" to 068 degs. 30' thence to operate within 60 miles of the Norwegian Coast between

066 degs. and 069 degs. diving by day when within 60 miles of the coast.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 221210A to S/Ms.).

/Positions...

362

War Diary22.2.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Positions of Submarines at 0800A/23rd and move-
patrols. ments for following 24 hours.
(Contd.). (A) ULA, ZEEHOND, VAMPIRE as in my 191749.
(B) SEANYMPH 62 degs. 58' N. 02 degs. 15' E.
probably on the surface course 030 degs. 10 knots
towards 68 degs. 28' N. 10 degs. 15' E. thence to
090 degs. to patrol off Lofoten Islands.
(C) RUBIS very approx. 45 degs. 30' N. 03 degs. 02' W. diving
by day to pass through 45 degs. 01' N. 01 degs. 59' W. at 0400A/
24 thence to patrol.
(F.O.S., 221731A to Admty.).

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221528A).
Force (V.A. Dover, 221613A).
patrols.

Search If not in contact at 2300A/22nd abandon patrol
for U/boat. and proceed to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221557A to Force III).
Cancel my 221557A. Concentrate and steer north
west with despatch.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221808A to Force III).
Aircraft reports sighting U/boat at 1400 today in 50 degs.
23' N. 6 degs. 25' W. which dived on course 268 degs.
2. Proceed to above position and search in direction 268 degs.
to 8 degs. W. On reaching 8 degs. W. turn and sweep to eastward.
3. Searchlight Liberator will be searching during the night.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221844A to Force III).
My 221844A.
TANATSIDE is to leave W.P.481, take Force III under his orders,
and carry out A/S sweep ordered.
2. Ships of Force III are in Lands End vicinity and have been
ordered to concentrate.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221908 to TANATSIDE).
Your 222232A. E.T.A. Plymouth 1700/23 8 L.S.Ts. in
company (corrupt group) my 221801.
Aeroplane report in your 221 (corrupt group) inaccurate. My
position midnight 191 degs. Bishop Rock 14.
(STORK, 222331Z to C. in C. Plymouth).

Biscay My 1000. Still in touch with enemy Merchant
A/S Vessel unknown, position 47 degs. 18' N. 11 degs.
operations. 06' W. course, 037 degs. speed 10. 3000 tons.
(corrupt group) Island funnel rear, goal masts,
illuminated.
(A/C, WCM 23, 222145 to 19 Group).
P.C.S. of enemy one merchant vessel 47 degs. 12' N. 11 degs.
42' W. 06 degs. 9 knots.
(A/C, WCM 23, 222155A to 19 Group).

Mining.

Sweep off My 211845A. Sailed 0810/22.
Trevose (R.N.O. Penzance 220815A to F.O.I.C. Milford
Haven).

/ On...

363

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Mining

Sweep off
Trevose
Head.
(Contd.).

On completion of my 211805 return to Falmouth, completing with fuel and stores.
2. On 26th February, your are to commence following sweeps in H formation at a depth of 17 fathoms, passing through positions (A) 180 degs. Lizard Head 3 miles (B) 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles thence. (C) Course 265 degs. to 7 degs. W. thence steam to position and sweep from (D) 50 degs. 23' 30" N. 07 degs. 00' W. to (E) 293 degs. Trevose Head 5 miles.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221423 to TADOUSSAC).
Your 211805A.

Have swept QZS 433. 270 degs. Longships 4 miles to 353 degs. Longships 8 miles 55 per cent. Thence 293 degs. Trevose Head 5 miles cent. Negative. Low percentage due to parted sweep.
(TADOUSSAC, 221808A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Yarmouth LL/SA Sweepers detonated one acoustic mine in 000 degs. 3A buoy 1-1/2 miles at 1156.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 221229A).
(Cdr. M/S. Lowestoft, 221629A).

Humber Self-detonated mine at 1200 in 002 degs. H.3 Buoy 2 miles.
(F.O. Humber, 221259A to C. in C. Nore).
Following two mines detonated by sweepers:-
At 221003 in 170 degs. No.12 Buoy 4 cables.
At 221046 in 255 degs. 15 Buoy 2 1/4 miles.
(F.O. Humber, 221901A to C. in C. Nore).

U/boats

U/boat
attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 61 degs. 05' N. (? longitude).
(A/C, T6M, 221350 to N.D.3.).
Have attacked U/boat with depth-charge. Estimate 2 hits. U/boat has dived position 61 degs. 01' N. 20 degs. 06' W.
(A/C, RWBA, 221435 to N.D.3.).
Sea marker unserviceable. Remain over faint oil patches.
Request instructions.
(A/C RWBA, 221610A to N.D.3.).
THIRLMERE and ELM have been sent to carry out search for submarine. Aircraft RWBA's, 221342 refers.
(A.C.I.C., 221825A to C. in C.W.A.).

Casualties and Defects.

GROGGA Intercept De GROGGA. Position 100 miles North by West from Barra Head, broken down engines, require assistance 220814Z ends.
(Wick Radio, 220926 BST to Ad. Lyness).
Your 220827. Assistance is proceeding to you.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 221135 to GROGGA).

/Vessel...

364

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- GROGGA (Contd.). Vessel has drifted to westward.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 221825A to FLINT CASTLE).
Assistance will reach you about 2000A today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 221923A to GROGGA).
- STUBBORN Intend sailing STUBBORN towed by BANDIT and escorted by NARVIK 0900A/23rd east of Fair Isle and via Pentland to Holy Loch. E.T.A. 0700A/26th. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 221120).
Your 221120A arranged.
(A.C.O.S., 221858A to S.O. S/M Lerwick).
- WOODPECKER Detach two ships forthwith to join and escort WOODPECKER in tow of STORMKING. Estimated P.C.S. 1200A/22nd, 050 degs. 09' N. 019 degs. 45' W. 087 degs. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
Report ship detailed.
2. One ship of E.G.2 is to remain with WOODPECKER until relief by ship of 10th E.G. Remainder second E.G. leaves forthwith for Liverpool.
(C. in C.W.A., 221140A to E.G.10).
My P.C.S. 051 degs. 51' N. 020 degs. 28' W.
(x) 065 degs. 14. ROTHER and FINDHORN detached in accordance with your 221140A. SPEY and LOSSIE both have seriously injured prisoners on board.
(E.G.10, 221207Z to C. in C.W.A.).
Your 221140A WREN detailed.
Am proceeding, with remainder following. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 250930A. My P.C.S. 050 degs. 11' N. 019 degs. 37' W. 052 degs. 12 knots.
(E.G.2, 221400A to C. in C.W.A.).
- SANTIAGO Struck Buoy 18D and chain of buoy is round propeller shaft. Require immediate assistance. (SANTIAGO, No T.O.O. Recd. 222028).
- GOZO GOZO can be taken in hand on 25th February at Hull for docking to change propellers only. Your 181700 and 211635 refer. (D.M.S. 221831A to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
- REDMILL, DEANE. Your 181656. REDMILL and DEANE can be docked in the Floating Dock Belfast for defects stated in your 191011. (D.O.D.H., 221950A to C. in C.W.A.).

Shipping and Convoys.

- T.U.8. Convoy T.U.8 will be ready to leave U.K. on 27th February (Bristol Channel Section 26th February) comprising the following 23 ships.
Names.
3. Escort will be provided by Task Force 60 comprising U.S.S.

/NEVADA...

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- T.U.8
(Contd.). NEVADA Escort oiler ENOREE and U.S. destroyers
DAVIDSON, MERVINE, QUICK, WILLIAM FOGG,
FOSS, FOX, GANTNER, INGRAM, NEWMAN, JEFFREY
and LIDDLE.
(D.O.D.(H), 220012A to C. in C.W.A.).
- K.M.F.29 Sailed BENTINCK, CALDER, BYARD, DRURY,
BURGES, CURZON all for K.M.F.29.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 220616A to C. in C.W.A.).
K.M.F.29 sailed. Convoy composed, escorted and
routed as in A.M. 131315A, 151505A, 171841A and 181937A.
A.M. 151505A. SILVER WALNUT did not sail.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 220954A to Admty.).
- H.X.279 Sailed to overtake H.X.279.
(RESTIGOUCHE, 221356Z to C. in C.W.A.).
- Stragglers Convoy stragglers for week ended 22nd February
Nil.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 221755A to Admty.).
- O.S.69 Request you will sail NAIRANA S.O. and ACTIVITY
to provide fighter and A/S cover with convoy O.S.
69.
2. Pre-sailing conference should be arranged with
S.O. E.G.B.3.
(C. in C.W.A., 221853A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- SALMON Trawler SALMON entered Corunna Feb. 21st. left
Feb. 22nd.
(Guyott, Corunna, 222210B to Admty.).

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CUMBERLAND,
LONDON.

Arrived. (From U.K. for O.R. to Eastern Fleet.)
(F.O.G.M.A. 221211A.)

SS. ZURICH.

My 161732 SS. ZURICH departure postponed to
24th February.
(D.E.W.D. 222006A.)

South Atlantic.

Re-
allocation
of escorts.

Proposals consequent on A.M. 071236A.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 220722.) See Lion Copy.

366^A.

MOST SECRET

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

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

220722/February

From F.O.C. West
Africa.

Date 23. 2. 44.

Recd. 1044.

Re-allocation
of
escorts.

NAVAL CYPHER XD PLUG BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty.
Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches.

Consequent on the changes outlined in Admiralty Message 071236A propose following alterations in escort organisation on that station.

1. Disband present 42nd Escort Group form following three groups for coastal convoys

Grp. A WELLINGTON (S.O.) WESTON 2 B.E.C's
WOODRUFF WILLOWHIRE

Grp. B FOLKESTONE (S.O.) ABERDEEN 2 B.E.C.
AMARANTHUS HYDRANGEA DITRANY

Grp. C LOWESTOFT (S.O.) F.L. 2 B.E.C's
CROCUS SNOWDROP BELLWORT. No additional Officers required for this organisation

3. Remainder of B.E.C's on arrival to form a Group and train as a support for either OS and S.L. or coastal convoys.

4. This is the best method of providing experienced Senior Officers for Groups A, B and C. After departure of destroyers, frigates must be used to escort SR and RS convoys.

5. Following escorts become due for refit as follows. WELLINGTON March, LOWESTOFT April, ABERDEEN May. WESTON would assume S.O. Group A and FAL Group B on departure of WELLINGTON and LOWESTOFT. COWSLIP now due and SNOWDROP on arrival of BELLWORT.

6. If approved request numbers be allocated to Groups A, B and C.

220722

Distribution Overleaf.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Lord | Hd. of M. (2) |
| 1st S.L. (2) | D.T.D. (4) |
| D.F.S.L. | D. of S. (2) |
| 2nd S.L. | D. of V. |
| 3rd S.L. | D.I.S. |
| Vice Controller | N.A. 2nd S.L. |
| 4th S.L. | D.S.D. |
| V.C.N.S. | N.I.D. 10 (2) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | Ad. Blake (4) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D. of D. |
| A.C.N.S. (UT) (2) | D.T.S.D. |
| U.W.R. | D.G.D. |
| D. Map Room | Dep. Contr. |
| Capt. Film | D. of D. |
| D.O.D. (H) (4) | Hd. of S.W.R. } BATH |
| D.O.D. (F) (2) | |
| (O.D. 1054/44) (for action) | |
| D.C. | |
| Plot | |
| D.D.I.C. (2) | |
| D.A/S.W. | |
| D.A/UT.D. | |
| N.A. 2nd S.L. (O.D.) | |
| W.D. | |
| I.P. (2) | |
| C.O.W.C.O. | |
| D.N.I. (4) | |
| D. of P. (2) | |

JAR

367

War Diary.

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LONDON,
CUMBERLAND.

Passage of LONDON and CUMBERLAND to Eastern Fleet is to be expedited as far as possible.
(V.C.N.S. 220019A to C. in C.Med. F.O.G.M.A.)

Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep No. 32.
Early hours 21st P.C. patrols intercepted at least 5 E-Boats approaching Anzio from northwards. One blown up, second probably driven ashore, none reached anchorage.

2. Port re-opened 210905. Weather continued favourable 3395 tons discharged. Total discharge now over 100,000 tons in 30 days.
3. L.S.T. 305 (see Sitrep No. 31) sank a.m. 21st.
4. Shelling of Anzio very slight during last 24 hours.
(C. in C.Med. Naples 220918A.)

UNTIRING.

Move to zone SU. forthwith. Leave patrol to pass 042° 39' 006° 01' at 0100/25th 042° 08' 007° 36' at 2000/25th to arrive Maddalena 1200/26th.
(Capt. S.10 221033Z to P.59 (UNTIRING) (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C.Med. 10th S/M F. L.N. 732, SULTANE (F.S.) F.O.G.M.A.)

Attacks on
K.M.S.37
(10th Jan.)
& U.G.S.30
(1st Feb.)

K.M.S.37 10th Jan. attacked 1855 to 1900 hours escort interceptions at 1850 and 1855 hours. Free lance interceptions at 1745, 1750 and 1755. Ref. U.G.S.30 Feb. 1st. Time of attack 1855 to 1915 hours escort interceptions at 1810 and 1815 hours. (These interceptions prevented attack by 1st enemy strike force.) Free lance interceptions at 1820, 1855 and 1915 hours. Patrol interceptions at 1755, 1915 and 1915 hours. Patrol interceptions at 1820, 1855, 1915 and 1915 hours. Patrol interceptions at 1755, 1755, 1800, 1815 and 1815 all A times.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 221403A.)

CELENO,
TZAR
FERDINAND.

CELENO and TZAR FERDINAND expected * leave Salonika shortly fully loaded. Possible destination Piraeus.
(Capt. S.1 221755A to P.55 (UNSPARING) (R) P.34 (ULTIMATUM).)
* Group omitted presumably "to."

ULTIMATUM.

ULTIMATUM passing through Kaso Strait tonight 22nd/23rd for patrol south of Gulf of Salonika.
(Capt. S.1 221757 to UNSPARING, NEREUS.)

DZIK.

Due to an urgent operational requirement my 191243 DZIK will not be able to sail from Malta on 1st March. Cancel my 151922*.
2. Further signal will be made.
(S.1 221803 to C. in C.Med.)
* re Intend DZIK leaves Malta on 1st March to join G.U.S.32 for Gibraltar.

/U/B...

368

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

U/B attack
on G.U.S. 31
2 ships
torpedoed.

Mediterranean standing orders 436 (D) (A) (I)
PETER SKENE OGDEN. (2) GEORGE CLEEVE. (B) (1)
and (2) U.S.A. (C) (1) and (2) 1115 G.M.T./22 (D)
(1) and (?2) 037° 22' N. 007° 17' E. (E) (1) and
(2) torpedoed by U-Boat (German) (F) (1) Afloat in
dangerous condition. In tow of HENGIST (2)
Afloat damaged (G) (I) entire crew landed at Bone
(2) 1 survivor landed at Bone remainder believed
still aboard.
(N.O.I.C. Bone 22220A.)

SIBYL.

Proposal in your 181518* is concurred in.
(F.O.S. 222231A to S.I.)
* re Propose to sail SIBYL for refit to arrive U.K.
about 15th April.

Situation
Report
No. 300.

1. 2 heavy but ineffective dive bombing raids on Anzio during daylight 21st Feb. shelling on reduced scale.
2. Convoy G.U.S. 31 attacked by U-Boat at 1215/22nd in 037° 22' N. 007° 17' E. SS. PETER S. OGDEN and GEORGE CLEEVE hit both ships taken in tow the former in dangerous condition for Herbillion the latter for Bone. U-Boat hunt in progress.
3. SS. NOLISEMENT was hit probably by floating mine in channel between Brindisi and beach p.m. 20th. Ship reached Brindisi under own steam.
4. 2 M.G.Bs. entered Primosten Harbour (043° 35' N. 015° 55' E.) during night 20th/21st February and shelled town, no opposition. (C. in C.Med. 222241A.)

369

War Diary.22.2.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

FENRIS. 3333
66.35 E. 08.32 S. torpedoed amidships 1730/21,
wireless damaged, secret books lost.
(FENRIS 220032Z.)
Note: This is a correct version of message recd.
from Bombay W/T circulated under T.O.C. 220255Z.

33. FENRIS reports being torpedoed by S/M 1730Z on 21st Feb.
position 008° 22' S. 066° 35' E.
2. N.O.I.C. East Africa pass to Air H.Q. East Africa.
(C. in C.E.F. 220558.)
Note different latitude.

Bi-weekly U-Boat dis-
position No. 27.

Areas A and D believed clear of U-Boat scale of
air escort W. Area B considered possibly Japanese
U-Boat may be moving toward this area from D/F
fix of 19th Feb.
Scale air escort X area C no fresh information
since Dhows reported sunk east of Socotra 18th
February but consider probable U-Boat still in area.
Scale air escort Y. Area E Japanese U-Boat believed in area pro-
bably moving N.W.
Scale air escort Y. Area F no fresh information.
Scale air escort remain X. Area G. Greek steamer sunk in
western approach to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° Channel 15th Feb. and doubtful sighting
N.W. of Colombo 19th Feb. indicates U-Boat possibly still in area.
Scale air escort Y. Indian Ocean U-Boat (German) by D/F at
2316Z/21st U-Boat (German) between Diego Garcia and Seychelles.
(C. in C.E.F. 220339Z.)

U/B reports. By D/F at 2322/21st on 8460 k/cs a U-Boat (German)
was within 200 miles position 010° S. 062° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 220350Z.)
An over enemy S/M in 07° 00' N. 79° 00' E.
(A/C C/S FOUU 220733Z.)

Nr. 1. Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 07° 42' N. 79°
38' E.

(A/C C/S FOUU 220738Z.)
By D/F at 1712Z/22 on 7880 k/cs the position of a German U-
Boat was (?within) 300 miles of 032° S. 060° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 221948Z.)

Track of torpedo sighted G.L. 015° 34' N. 072° 49' E. at
2236Z. No A/S or Radar contact obtained.
(NIZAM 222328Z.)

Defences of Addu Atoll
and Diego Garcia.

Following reductions have been approved by Chiefs
of Staff Addu Atoll. A.E.re Removal of guns and
equipment.
F. Withdraw all coast defence personnel.
G. Withdraw all army personnel from Islands other
than Gan Fedu Maradu which are connected by
causeways.

/H...

War Diary.

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Defences of
Addu Atoll
and Diego
Garcia.
(Contd.)

H. N.A.S. Gan facilities to be limited to accom-
modate 2 fighter squadrons dis-embarking from
carriers for short periods with their own ser-
vicing personnel and for fuel stops by single R.A.F.
long range aircraft.

2. Above reduction will leave defence of Gan as 4
3.7 inch guns and the controlled minefield Truand
Col Radar Station to remain fully operational for
the present.

3. A further signal will be made regarding W/T installations.
(C. in C.E.F. 220414Z to N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll.)

Following reductions have been approved by Chiefs of Staff.
Diego Garcia. Remove naval ratings and military garrison and
close down the 500 k/cs receiving station.

(C. in C.E.F. 220417Z to N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia.)

Convoy
Durban
Colombo 1A

Arrived convoy Durban Colombo 1A escorted by BURNIE
(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez 220815Z.)

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN.

The following is a precis of preliminary investi-
gation by Burnett. C. in C.E.F. 171001 Feb. refers.

A. 1. Batavia routed Sunda Strait.

2. Left Yokohama end November Kobe 12th Dec.

Singapore 24th Dec. Batavia about 13th Jan.

She did not visit Penang.

3. Her orders were to R/V with three Italian and two German U-
Boats in position considerably further south of position in which
she was sunk about 17th February. Possibly these vessels bound
for Europe.

4. Nil. 5. 1000 - 1400 tons oil. Small quantities of rubber
tina and antimony.

B. Two U-Boats had been oiled possibly about 5th Feb. Mail for
Germany was passed from tanker to one of these boats.

C. No information.

D. 1. No. 2. All repaired except provision of damaged plates.

E. F. G. H. I. J. K. No information.

L. Proceeding to Europe.

M. Ship N.D. 28 formerly commanded by Capitaine Zurseer Von

Ruckteschell was sunk in Yokohama shortly before 25th December.

Further intelligence suggests that three Italian freighter U/Bs
were to have been fuelled a few days after the date of the tanker
sinking. They were carrying valuable cargoes.

2. One of the U-Boats oiled was commanded by Thomassen.

3. U-Boat about to oil when tanker was sunk was commanded by
Junyers.

4. Tanker BRAKE was in Singapore during period 24th Dec. to 10th
Jan.

(F.O.E.A. 221440Z.)

Shipping in
Arabian Sea.

Are ships bound for Aden, from Colombo and Cochin
now being sailed in M.B. convoy to Bombay thence
in B.A. convoys? N.C.S.O. Colombo's 201010Z refers.
(D.O.D. 222030A to C. in C.E.F.)

371

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

4 mine-sweepers. At 1200Z/22nd THUNDER (S.O.), MULGRAVE, GEORGIAN, BAYFIELD sailed St. Johns (route) via Horta to Plymouth.
C. in C. C.N.A. 181915 refers.
(F.O.N.F., 221204.)

ANTIGUA. Sail L.N.2431 (ANTIGUA) to U.K. as additional escort of a convenient convoy. Cominch 212304* being passed refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 221420Z to F.O.N.F.)
* Re H.M.S. ANTIGUA be employed as convoy escort to U.K.

U/B Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 221450Z; Cominch 221602Z.)

Japanese shipping and trade routes. The Japanese Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Technical Warfare Committee is initiating a study of Japanese shipping and trade routes and its vulnerability to attack by surface, submarine and air forces. The aim of the sub-committee is to assess more definitely than has yet been done the part which British forces can play in this aspect of the war.
2. In order to be able to estimate in detail the possibilities of different forms of attack, the sub-committee would like to possess all known details of Japanese trade. Particularly they are interested in:- routes, and speed of independents. Routes, size, cycle, speed, and protection of convoys. If this data is available in analysed form, the S.C. would be grateful for the relevant reports. If it has not been so analysed, the S.C. would like to have sufficient information to do the analysis itself. Thus it would then like to have as much information as possible on:-
(a) Sightings of enemy shipping (date, time, position, type and course of ship and unit making the sighting).
(b) Attacks on enemy shipping (with the same details), and assessed results.
(c) All relevant intelligence reports.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 221514A to B.A.D. Washington.)

SS. FINN. International Red Cross intimate safe conduct vessel SS. FINN will leave Buenos Aires 28th February for Marseilles, where she is due to arrive about 29th March. Vessel will follow reverse of route referred to in A.M. 111422 December 1943.
2. This vessel should not be molested. Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Admty., 221554A to Naval Authorities concerned.)

U/B attacked. At 1500Z/22 U.S. C.G. MANHASSET reports attacking good S/M contact in 043° 15' N. 065° 15' W.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 221818Z.)

/C.G. ...

372

War Diary.22.2.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U/B
attacked.
(Contd.)C.G. MANHASSET attacks sound contact 43.15 N.
65.15 W. 221520Z.
(Cominch, 222101Z.)

MONTREAL.

Departure a.m./22nd to Londonderry.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 222125Z.)Ships
breaking
off from
O.N. and
O.N.S.
Convoys.

In cases where material benefit is to be expected either in terms of quicker delivery of an important cargo or saving in turnaround, Com. Tenth Fleet will give consideration to ships of between 12 and 14½ knots breaking off from any U.S. controlled convoy and from O.N. and O.N.S. convoys and in special instances to the independent sailing of such ships. The present practice for C. in C. C.N.A. to break off

ships from O.N. and O.N.S. convoys for ports North of New York continues.
(Cominch and C.N.O., 222137Z.)DIRECTOR
(in distress
21st Feb.)

Your 221347Z, acknowledged. Proceeding position "Baker", course and speed 150°, 15. E.T.A. 1010Z/23rd. (Corrupt group) S.S. (corrupt group) escorting tug DIRECTOR and CHOCTAW. Tug DIRECTOR not in any immediate danger. One stretcher case from DIRECTOR on board. Defect list. Ice - nil. Weather report 647 5213. (KITCHENER, 222350Z to Comnob. Bermuda.)

Australia and New Zealand.Shipping
south of
Australia.

Your 260200A* January. Present Policy Ides+ W.P.A. is to allow all categories of ships including troopships to proceed without surface escort south of Australia. Intend to provide escort for RUYS on return voyage westward of longitude 120° E.

(A.C.N.B., 221028Z to D. of S.T.)

* Re sailing of RUYS from New Zealand to Middle East.
+ As received.Digest
Serial
No. 763
Feb. 21st.Paras. 9 to 17 cover South Pacific Forces.
7. Night February 19th/20th M.T.Bs. sank 2 barges in Rein Bay north-west New Britain: others sank one barge damaged 5 off Cape Beechey south-east New Britain. Following night similar craft

/destroyed ...

22.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest destroyed 3 barges east of Rein Bay while
 Serial others destroyed 3 West of Saidor.
 No.763 8. Reference Digest No. 762 7 belated report
 Feb.21st. from 7 Bostons states 3 direct hits with
 (Contd.) quarter ton bombs scored on one corvette which
 was also heavily strafed near western entrance
 Gazelle Channel afternoon Feb. 19th.
 15. Patrol aircraft bombed northbound submarine
 off east Cape New Ireland afternoon Feb. 20th possibly same
 unit attacked same morning refer Digest 762 para. 15.
 16. Ground forces cleared last remaining pocket or
 resistance Nissan Island February 20th killing 30 Japanese
 capturing much equipment.
 17. M.T.B. sank two enemy barges outward bound from Motupena
 Point south east Empress Augusta Bay night Feb. 20th.
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 220830.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary.
 Para. A. 1. U.S. L.S.T. reported torpedoed and sunk at 0200Z/20 in 40° 56' N. 13° 20' E.
 2. Nor. Tanker FENRIS reported torpedoed at 1730Z/21st in 08° 32' S. 66° 35' E.
 3. LOSSIE sighted periscope and attacked at 1455/10 in 52° 40' N. 22° 41' W.
 4. ROTHER attacked U/Boat at 1736Z/18th in 48° 32' N. 23° 36' W.
 5. FINDHORN attacked U/Boat at 0303Z/19 in 49° 24' N. 23° 32' W.
 6. Aircraft sighted U/Boat at 0733Z/22 in 07° 00' N. 79° 00' E.
 (D.D.I.C. 221041A.)
 My 221059 July 1942.
 3. At 2202A/18 Halifax P/58 claims good straddle on eastbound U/Boat in 47° 39' N. 15° 30' W.
 (D.A.U.D. 221900Z.)

U/B Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 221426A, 221441A.)

374

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1. Convoy J.W.57 was about 230 miles N.N.E. of the Faroes at 0800 today. RATTLESNAKE, HYDRA and ORESTES of the Local Escort returned to Skaalefjord (Faroes) at 0014A.

A/S search.

2.(a). Three fishing trawlers, returned to Swansea today, reported having sighted two U-Boats off Trevoze Head early on 20th February; and at 1327 C. in C.Plymouth ordered SCIMITAR to proceed to join Force 111, consisting of TANATSIDE (S.O.), STEEPHOLM, ULVA and KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL, which is searching as far as 012° W.

(b). At 1233 today WENSLEYDALE attacked a S/M contact with depth charges off Falmouth, and large quantities of oil appeared on the surface; and at 0220A and 0347A TANATSIDE attacked another contact 90 miles S.W. by W. of Hartland Point where a westbound U-Boat was sighted by A/C at 1400A yesterday. A newly-formed force 112 consisting of BLYTH (S.O.), PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS and ROSEVEAN was ordered to leave Plymouth at 1430A today to assist the search, in which A/C are co-operating.

Coastal
Batteries
engagement.

3. A westbound enemy convoy was attacked off Calais at about 0500 today by two Albacore A/C and by our Coastal Batteries from 0423 to 0510 with 32 rounds of 15 inch and 11 of 9.2 without observed result. The enemy coastal batteries replied with about 30 rounds which all fell in the South Foreland area and caused one W.A.A.F. casualty at Swingate. Coastal patrols from Dover and Ramsgate failed to intercept the convoy.

Engagements
with E-Boats,
off Cromer.
1 E-Boat sunk
by GARTH.

4.(a). Between 0045 and 0230 today four or five small groups of E-Boats operating in the Smiths Knoll area, and probably intending to attack the F.S.convoy, were driven off by SOUTHDOWN and M.T.Bs. 609, 610 and by GARTH who fought four single-handed engagements off 57 and 56A Buoys, avoided several torpedoes, and sank one E-Boat at 0230 about 4 miles E. of Smiths Knoll Bell Bouy.
(b). The shore Radar stations plotted extremely well at long ranges; but C. in C.Nore considers that these operations again show that Coastal Forces are very unlikely to intercept incoming E-Boats outside the swept channel unless the E-Boats happen to run into a surface unit.
(c). Minelaying is suspected.

23.2.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

5. H.M.C.S. HALIFAX reported this morning that 2 torpedoes were fired at the ship at 0320 G.M.T. today when in position 270° 5 miles from Ferroria Point, Sao Miguel.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle."

6.(a). There were slight air raids on Anzio this forenoon, but no damage was caused. Shelling of the anchorage for an hour in the afternoon, combined with a strong easterly wind and heavy swell interfered with unloading, though 3009 tons were discharged.

(b). At 2200 today several E-Boats attempted to attack the anchorage from the north and south-west but were driven off by the trawler SALTARELO and two P.T.boats on A/S patrol, one being possibly sunk.

Adriatic.

7. 37 Kittyhawks attacked shipping on the Dalmatian coast today and Spitfire bombers attacked Corfu harbour.

East Indies.

U/B attack
on P.A.69.
3 tankers
torpedoed.

8. A U-Boat attack was made on Persian Gulf - Aden Convoy P.A.69 shortly after midnight last night in 13.50 N. 48.49 E. (entrance to the Gulf of Aden). The tankers E.G.SUEBERT and SAN ALVARO were sunk and ERLING BROVIG was torpedoed and abandoned but was later taken in tow by OCEAN SALVOR and PAULINE MOLLER.

China.

9. U.S. aircraft operating in Chinese waters during the past week have sunk 4 ships and probably two more, and damaged one.

War Diary.

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ERNE. ERNE is to sail with K.M.S.44 to join Mediterranean Command.
(C. in C.W.A. 231031A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Ships for Med. Work-up periods. I consider preliminary work up of your cruisers (A.M. 162318) can be confined to three weeks with the option of a slight extension.
2. I do not consider it practicable to sail destroyers after two weeks only, having regard to our knowledge of present fitting out arrangements and inexperience of personnel, and would prefer the preliminary period to be three weeks.
3. As these destroyers will come under your Command, I should be glad of your remarks.
(C. in C.H.F. 231127 to C. in C.Med.)

Force L. It is intended that Force L shall move to Southwold on 29th February.
(C. in C.Nore 231254A to Admty.)

SPITEFUL. Request you will sail SPITEFUL for Gibraltar and onward passage to Eastern Fleet 29th February.
(F.O.S. 232352A to Capt. S.3.)

Operations.

Operation F.X. Faroes arrivals RATTLESNAKE, CRESTES, HYDRA.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 230014A to Admty.)
Following from CRESTES begins. P.C. and S. of J.W. 57 at 1400A/22nd 063° 42' N. 005° 08' W. 013° 9 kts.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 230428A to H.F.)

My 221735. First sortie 2 hours late.
(C. in C.Rosyth 230650A to Escorts J.W.57.)
As it will be necessary to replenish stock of oil fuel at Akureyri, intend to sail SAN ZOTICO to arrive Akureyri 28th Feb. and remain until departure of Force 1.
(A.C.I.C. 231236A to C. in C.H.F.)

Following alterations are to be made to operation F.X.
1. C.S.10. BELFAST and NIGERIA will not take part.
2. Force One is to consist of BERWICK, JAMAICA and DRAGON under orders of BERWICK.
3. Cancel para. 6D of my 100230 and substitute Force One is to proceed from Scapa to cover J.W.57 during its passage between 015° E. and 032° E. DRAGON is to be detached to return Scapa on D + 5. On completion BERWICK and JAMAICA are to return to Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F. 231942 to H.F.)

U/B attacked By D/F at 0355Z U-Boat estimated within 75 miles by WENSLEYDALE. of 50° 00' N. 10° 30' W.
Search for U/B. (D.D.I.C. 230836A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
By D/F at 0655A/23 U-Boat within 75 miles of 50° 00' N. 10° 30' W.

377

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

U/B. attacked 2. Unless in reliable contact, sweep towards the
by WENSLEY- position as far as 9 degs. W. with Force 111.
DALE. 3. In addition to aircraft co-operating with you
Search for U/B. second aircraft Sunderland will be searching ahead.
(Contd.). (C. in C. Plymouth, 231115A to TANATSIDE).
Ships addressed are to form force 112. BLYTH S.O.
2. Force 112 is to pass the Gate at 1430A/23rd
and proceed by standard route to 270 degs. Long-
ships 4. Thence to carry out A/S search in area A between 050
degs. 05' N. and 050 degs. 35' N. and between 006 degs. 30' W. and
007 degs. 20' W.
3. Force 11, TANATSIDE (S.O.) SCIMITAR, STEEPHOLM, ULVA, KINGSTON
CHRYSOBERYL and sweep to Westward of Area A.
4. Westbound U/boat, reported by aircraft at 1400A/22nd in 050
degs. 23' N. 006 degs. 25' W.
5. TANATSIDE attacked contact at 0220A/23rd and 0347A/23rd in
050 degs. 25' N. 006 degs. 58' W.
6. By D/F at 0655A/23rd U/boat (German) within 75 miles of 030
degs. (050 degs. intended) 00' N. 010 degs. 30' W.
7. Liberator and Sunderland aircraft are co-operating.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 231319A to BLYTH, PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS, ROSE-
VEAN).

SCIMITAR is to proceed as soon as ready to join TANATSIDE
S.O. Force 111 as ordered by TANATSIDE, SCIMITAR is to be
included in Force 111 on joining.

(2) Force 111 consisting of TANATSIDE, STEEPHOLM, ULVA and
KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL are carrying out A/S sweep in the vicinity of
050 degs. 15' N. 007 degs. 30' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231327A to SCIMITAR, TANATSIDE).

WENSLEYDALE 231233 attacked from contact 2 patterns. Contact
faded 1045, large quantities of oil appeared. Position 148 degs.
St. Anthony Head 7 miles by dan buoy. Returning Plymouth.

(GANILLY, 231340A to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 231115 para.2. Continue sweep to long. 012 degs. W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231535A to TANATSIDE).

Reports have been received from the trawlers FRANK (Belgian)
BLAUWVOET (Belgian) and YULAN (Br.) on their return to Swansea
which indicate that U/boats may have been operating in the vici-
nity of Trevoise Head on 19th and 20th February.

2. FRANK reports that between 2130A/19 and 2200A/19 in 50 degs.30'
N. 05 degs. 20' W. steering S.W. an unidentified vessel approached

from astern, passed 2 cables on her port beam and, when ahead,
altered course to N.W. and disappeared through the fishing fleet.
This vessel's hull was invisible but she appeared to be larger
than a fishing vessel as she was steady in the water, whereas
FRANK was rolling considerably. She was burning a blue-green
light visible all round about 10 feet above the surface.

3. BLAUWVOET reports that at the same time and in approx. 50
degs. 33' N. 05 degs 19' W. steering W., she observed a vessel
astern burning a combined green and red lantern zig-zagging at
about 7 knots. When BLAUWVOET stopped and illuminated working
lights to shoot her trawl this vessel stopped, turned away, and
disappeared.

4. BLAUWVOET also reports that she observed 2 S/MS
on the surface at first light on 20th Feb. in 50 degs.33' N. 05
degs. 25' W. Distance 4 miles. Both S/MS dived soon after being
sighted. 5. YULAN reports that at 0900A/20 in 50 degs.33' N. 05
degs.10' W. course E. 5 or 6 heavy metallic blows passing from
forward to aft were heard striking her hull.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 231905A to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth.)

At 2359A/23 if not in contact and no A/C sighting report has
been received, sweep N. to lat.051 degs. N. and then toward
Trevoise Hd. Your 231730 and my 231535 refer. 2. Leigh Light
A/C will co-operate throughout night.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 231942 to TANATSIDE.)

/Biscay...

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Biscay A/S operations. Nr. 1. With destroyers S/M contact position 49° 15' S. 6° 48' W.
(A/C L.3 230940 to 19 Group.)
Increase to 15 knots. Join and support S.C.153.
(C. in C.W.A. 231726A to E.G.1.)
Am being attacked by 1 Ju.290 in 49° 15' N. 11° 00' W.
(A/C WLZ 20 231812 to 19 Group.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 231031A.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth 231343A.)

Coastal batteries engagement. At 0258 today shore-based Radar detected two trawler-size or medium vessels and about twelve escorts four miles west of Gravelines proceeding westward at eight knots, increasing to 14 knots off Calais.

M.T.Bs. 353, 358 and 361 were despatched from Dover at 0335 to wait at number seven buoy with a view to attacking off Wissant under cover of fire from our coastal batteries.

M.G.Bs. 40 and 41 from Ramsgate were sailed to number seven buoy to act in support.

2. Two Albacores of 415 Squadron attacked with bombs off Calais but, owing to intense flak, results were unobserved.

3. Coast artillery engaged the enemy from 0423 to 0510 firing thirty-two rounds of fifteen-inch and eleven rounds of 9.2 inch but no hits claimed.

4. Plots were passed in the usual way to the M.T.Bs. who, proceeding on a south easterly course, appeared from the plot likely to intercept off Gris Nez.

S.O. failed to receive relative plots due to interference to W/T from ship-borne Radar and so did not appreciate that a Radar contact obtained was not the main target with the result that interception was missed.

M.T.Bs. report anti-personnel and star shells from shore batteries bursting overhead during the approach.

5. Enemy batteries replied with about thirty rounds, all of which fell in the south Foreland area. Two of them fell in R.A.F.

Compound, Swingate where one W.A.A.F. was injured and two in St. Margarets where there were neither damage nor casualties.

6. My 231001 refers.

(V.A.Dover 231103A to Admty.)

Operation "Bayleaf". Para. 5 of my 211910. A/S patrol not required for this operation. Long range fighters not required unless called for, but request they may be at immediate readiness at Sumburgh during daylight on day of operation.
(C. in C.H.F. 231115A to 18 Group.)

Following operation is in accordance with C. in C.H.F.'s 211910 and 211930. D. day will be 24th February unless otherwise ordered.

2. Forces taking part, C.S.one in BERMUDA with ships addressed.

379

War Diary.23.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Operation
"Bayleaf."
(Contd.)

3. Force will leave Scapa at about 00515A D.day and pass through following positions at times stated. Position X 270° Muckle Flugga 20 miles at 1545D Day.
Position Y 64° 00' N. 5° 10' E. at 0815A D plus 1.
4. Commencing at 0815A D plus 1 FURIOUS will fly off a striking-force of Barracuda aircraft escorted by fighters which will attack target area B. unless otherwise ordered between 0930A and 0950A sweeping the leads from north to south.
5. At 1015 D plus 1 Force will be 225° position Y 10 miles.
6. On completion of attacks all aircraft will return to FURIOUS.
7. On completion of flying operations force will retire to westward at high speed and then return to Scapa west of the Shetlands.
8. A.O.C. 18 Group is requested to provide two Beaufighters over the Force from 0730A to 1000A on D plus 1 and other Beaufighters in readiness at Sumburgh during daylight hours from D day inclusive.
9. A.O.C. 18 Group is also requested to bring Air Sea Rescue organization in the Shetlands to short notice on D plus 1.
10. All fighters will be directed by FURIOUS with BERMUDA as stand-by.
11. Should plan be changed and area A attacked (see para. 2 of C. in C.H.F.'s 211910) W/T silence will be broken and flying off will take place in position Z (62° 37' N. 2° 30' E.) at 0815A D plus 1. A.O.C.18 Group is requested to direct Beaufighters accordingly should this change take place.
- (C.S.1 231626 to FURIOUS, SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA, MUSKETEER, OPPORTUNE, VENUS, SCOURGE, STORD, BLYSKAWICA.)

Operation "Bayleaf" which will take place from 24th to about 26th February will be conducted by C.S.1 and will not concern operation F.X.

(C. in C.H.F. 231856A to H.F.)

GARTH. 4
engagements
with E-Boats.
1 E-Boat
sunk.

At 0230A today during one of four actions with E-Boats GARTH (D.21) reports seeing 2 Pdr. hits on one E-Boat which was seen to blow up 100° 4 miles from Smiths Knoll Bell Buoy. Explosion also seen by two C/F Units. M.T.B. 609 examined area at daylight and found much Diesel Oil and wreckage including part of E-Boat's bows. Various exhibits and German ensign brought into harbour confirms E-Boat definitely destroyed. It is thought crew of E-Boat was taken off by other E-Boats.

(C. in C.Nore 231454A to Admty.)

Preliminary report of E-Boat activity last night.

- Between 0045 and 0230 a number of E-Boats, probably not exceeding 15, operated in Smiths Knoll area in 4 or 5 small groups. Main object believed torpedo-attack on F.S.convoy of two ships, but minelaying is suspected, vide my 231945.
 - GARTH (D.21) on patrol 5, screening seaward flank of F.S. convoy, fought 4 actions as follows:
 - at 0053 034 57 Buoy 4. B. at 0153 144 57 Buoy 6½.
 - at 0205 002 56A Buoy 2. D. at 0228 025 56A Buoy 6.
- At 0230 GARTH destroyed one E-Boat, see my 231454.

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

GARTH. 4
engagements
with E-Boats.
1 E-Boat
sunk.
(Contd.)

3. Unit J, M.F.Bs. 609, 610 on Z.55 obtained Radar contact with A above. When unit opened fire E-Boats turned west and may have been group plotted by K'sets at 0126 about 5 miles N.E. of 54D Buoy and subsequently driven off by SOUTHDOWN. Engine failure in 610 prevented unit engaging this group as it withdrew about 0315. No other C/Fs made contact with enemy.

4. Shore Radar. At 0126 K.65 detached 2 plus E-Boats about 5 miles N.E. of 54D Buoy (range 52500 yards). K.135 confirmed this at 0134 (range 44000 yards). Both stations plotted extremely well at these long ranges, holding the E-Boats until track faded 025 54D Buoy 8½ miles at 0237. From station reports it seems probable that there were 4 E-Boats in this group. Other E-Boat activity was mostly beyond the shore Radar range.

5. Continuous plots of above groups were passed to SOUTHDOWN who had been fleeted south from patrol 4. Unfortunately E-Boats detected SOUTHDOWN at about 5600 yards and made off to N.E-ward at 30 knots. During run-in V/3 on shaded green/blue light was observed.

6. Consider GARTH did extremely well throughout these operations and prevented all the groups mentioned from approaching the convoy. D.21 remarks that E-Boats were more determined than usual. GARTH had to avoid several torpedoes and sustained a number of oerlikon hits.

7. These operations again go to show that it is extremely unlikely that C/Fs will intercept incoming E-Boats before they reach the swept channel unless the E-Boats happen to run into a unit.
(C. in C.Nore 231948A to Admty.)

Supplement to my 231948A. Operations outside range of shore stations Fains Carrier heard by Winterton.

2. GARTH's headache heard speech between 0230 and 0233 indicating minelaying.

3. Nothing on SOUTHDOWN's headache.

(C. in C.Nore 231945A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Following are positions of submarines at 0800A/23 and movements for following 24 hours.

C. ULA, ZEEHOND, VAMPIRE as in my 191749.

D. SEANYMPH 66° 30' N. 006° 59' E. through 68° 28'

N. 010° 15' E. thence course 090° T.P. patrol off Lofoten Islands.

E. RUBIS 45° 01' N. 001° 45' W. patrolling between 001° 18' E. and 001° 59' E. in lat. 45°.

(F.O.S. 231638 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy M/V
attacked.

Nr. 1. Result of attack on one enemy merchant vessel of 5000 tons unobserved in 58° 26' N. 5° 52' E.

(A/C 4 230710A to Z5V.)

My 0710. P.C. and J. of 5 enemy merchant vessels of 3000 tons, 1 merchant vessel of 5000 tons, and 6 escort vessels, 58° 26' N. 5° 52' E.

(A/C 4 230720A to Z5V.)

War Diary.

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

- Search off Smiths Knoll. Proceed on Thursday and carry out an Oropesa search of the area between the 20 fathom line E. of the Smiths Knoll Bank and four miles E. of this line between the lat. of 52° 40' N. and 52° 55 mins. N. Return to Yarmouth Roads on completion. (C. in C.Nore 230331 to M/S 7.)
- Search off Trevoise Hd. Search completed as in C. in C.Plymouth's 201434A para. 1 and my 211753A. Negative results. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 231025 to C. in C.Plymouth) Arrived TADOUSSAC, QUALICUM, PARRSBORO, DORNOCK. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 231122A to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- Operation Q.U.26A. Carry out operation Q.U.26A. My 161815A refers. (C. in C.Nore 231227A to BEEHIVE, MANTIS.)
- Compliments. Their Lordships have noted with much satisfaction the work of the Naval and Air Forces engaged on minelaying operations in all theatres of war. Since the beginning of hostilities these forces by unremitting effort, skill, and devotion to duty have rendered notable service both in offensive operations in enemy waters - as a result of which the enemy has suffered heavy losses - and in the efficient laying of the great minefields which protect our own coasts. Their Lordships desire to express to all concerned Their appreciation of the fine results achieved in minelaying operations including those engaged on the vital duties connected with the design, trial, production, supply and preparation of mines for service. (1st Lord 231816A. A Message 559A.)

U-Boats.

- U-Boats attacked. At 221327 in 61° 01' N. 20° 06' W. A/C A/162 sighted fully surfaced U-Boat on 240 12 knots, bearing 173/3 miles. A/C endeavoured to attack from ahead or abeam but U-Boat circled tightly presenting stern. At 1342 A/c made beam attack dropping from 50 feet 4 x 250 D/Cs, explosions, estimated straddle. U-Boat remained on surface, speed little changed but heavy flak encountered during engagement and on run-in ceased just before D/Cs dropped. No visible signs of damage. At 1402 U-Boat dived leaving thin oil-slick. No damage to A/C or crew. (R.A.F.Iceland 230247A to H.Q.C.C.)
- At 222030A in 60° 57' N. 20° 10' W. A/C K/120 dropped pattern ERSB on end of oil slick and heard U/B engines clearly for some 10 minutes, after which sounds ceased rather quickly. Aircrew have impression that U/B slowed down or stopped engines. (R.A.F.Iceland 231407N to H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.23.2.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

GROGGA. Standing by Icelandic trawler in 141° 58' N. 10° W. 12 miles. Intend to take in tow at daylight and proceed Stornoway. E.T.A. 1000/24.
(FLINT CASTLE 230330Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Am only making good one and half knots on present course. Have now altered and am steering for Barra Head. Propose taking tow to Tobermory.

(FLINT CASTLE 231725 to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 231725. Proceed to Oban with tow. Tug will meet you off Oban and take over tow. You are then to proceed to Stornoway at best speed.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 232024A to FLINT CASTLE.)

STUBBORN.

My 221120A. Sailed.

(S.O. 3/M Lerwick 230903A to F.O.S.)

Situation at 232000. HARVIK, BANDIT towing STUBBORN 058° 53' N. 002° 14' W. to Pentland and Minches, 8.

(A.C.O.3. 231212A to Admty.)

M.F.V.84.

M.F.V. 84 on passage to operational port in charge of runner crew reports serious leakage in hull on arrival at Portsmouth. Request instructions may be given for examination and repairs.
(S.T.O.Devonport 231144A to Admty.)

WOODPECKER.

P.C. and S. 050° 13' N. 016° 49' W. 077° 4½.

2. X gun deck is gradually splitting between frame 88 and 89 due to additional weight and working of ship.

3. 6 in number 2½ inch steel straps have been bolted to deck across split.

Hurricane hawser and 5 Manilla led to bridge and forecastle respectively from X gun tends to relieve strain.

4. Request weather forecast. 5. Weather 4381 2515

(WOODPECKER 231300Z to C. in C.W.A.)

10th E.G. are required to proceed abroad about 1st March. Request you will relieve ships escorting WOODPECKER so that they may return to harbour as soon as possible.

(D.O:D.H. 231931 to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 231300. PINK is being sent as relief for ROTHER.

Take no risk with crew if you consider state of ship dangerous.

2. Forecast for 48 hours east to north-east 3, sea moderate.

(C. in C.W.A. 231947 to WOODPECKER.)

Your 231300Z. Splitting of gun deck is not unduly serious, but strain on upper deck must be watched as splitting of this deck would be serious and might impair water tightness of engine room bulkhead.

Your action to relieve strain concurred in. Straps fitted should extend to reinforced gun structure.

1. Compartments flooded. 2. After most bulkheads still intact.

3. Approx. max. draught.

(C. in C.W.A. 232050A to WOODPECKER.)

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- GOZO. Admiralty's 221831A. Intend to sail GOZO at 0730 tomorrow via Inshore Route to Humber.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 231305A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)
- EL GRILLO. Arrived Seidisfjord Fleet Salvage Officer in AKERSHUS escorted by EARRAID. My 110030 and 182006 refer.
(A.C.I.C. 231410A to C. in C.H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.225. PRESCOTT, EDMUNDSTON, LUNENBURG, CAMROSE and
E.G.17. SNOWBERRY sailed.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 231431A to Admty.)
Return Londonderry.
(C. in C.W.A. 231606A to E.G.17.)
- H.X.279. Ships which are stragglers at dusk tonight Wednesday have been ordered to proceed Ponta Delgada.
(C. in C.W.A. 231437Z to S.E.H.X. 279.)
- K.M.S. 43. Sailed STUART PRINCE with K.M.S.43 to comply with A.M. 141445A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 231904A to Admty.)

384

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U.G.S.33. Strong H/F radio in / indicating S/M close
astern convoy.
Position 0800 G.M.T. 033 degs. (?03', 18', 22'
or 57') 036 degs. 09' course 089 degs.
Request air protection.
(C.T.F.66, 231057Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)
/ Word missing.

HALIFAX H.M.C.S. HALIFAX arrived Ponta Delgada 0900
attacked. G.M.T. to-day 23rd. C.O. reports 2 torpedoes
fired at ship at 0320 G.M.T. to-day when in
position 270 degs. 5 miles from Ferroria Point,
Sao Miguel.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 231106 to S.B.N.O.
Azores)

U/B Admiralty U-Boat estimation, and "Tubular" differ
estimates on several occasions.
and (2) Difference of appreciation is understood in
"Tubular". Atlantic but difference in Approaches to Strait
is most disconcerting to A.O.C. and myself when
considering disposition of forces.
(3) Request therefore any intelligence promoting
these differences in Approaches to Strait may be passed to me.
(4) A.O.C. agrees.
(F.O.G.M.A. 231220A to Admty.)

U/B Gib/Pink 1 23 Feb. (A) 23 Feb. (B) unknown
Report. (C) transit A/C C/S G B Z (D) large U-Boat
submerging in 38.00 N. 9.16 W. course 220 degs.
(group missing) H.T. 1842 LL Wellingtons being
sent.
(Gibraltar, 232044Z, F.O.G.M.A. 232138A)

South Atlantic.

Training (2) The Union should be given preliminary
Establishments. explanation of what is proposed and why.
(C. in C. S.A. 231105C to Admty.)
Re: Training establishment at Durban, H.M.S.
ASSEGAI and GOOD HOPE as well as M.T.B. at
Pietermaritzburg to be reduced to care and
maintenance.

KILHAM /...

385

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.- Contd.

KILHAM,
KILDARY,
KILCHRENNAN.

Arrived. Your 111602Z February refers.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 231325Z to S.B.N.O. Trinidad)

DUNCTON.

My 2319 (corrupt) part 2 /
(2) As DUNCTON cannot keep up intend detaching
him to Tabu. My position at 2200 006 degs. 34'
N. 012 degs. 20' W.
(LOWESTOFT, 231925 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) FOLKESTONE.)
/ Note. The remainder of this signal has not
been received in War Registry.

386

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Swamp". My P.C.S. at 0600 037° 47' N. 007° 45' E. 043° 10 knots altering course to 270° at 0800 PRIMULA in company. Have not yet received any message or reply from aircraft in company. (GLOXINIA, 230534A.)

My present course and speed 265° 10.5, position at 1000 038° 04' N. 007° 39' E. Intend to alter to 137° at 1410. Now in contact with A/C. PRIMULA in company. (GLOXINIA, 231004A.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 33. Heavy air attacks on Anzio night 21/22 no casualties afloat, ammunition dump blown up. Para. 2. No change in weather 4302 tons discharged 22nd. Para. 3. Some shelling and intermittent air attacks during day. (C. in C. Med., 230912A.)

Boundaries of air Commands. Longitude in three places in para. 1 of your J.C.S./147 Feb.14th (142357) should read 19° E. to conform to Admiralty ruling on Naval Boundaries. (C. in C. Med. 230949A to H.Q. M.A.A.F.) T.O.O. 142012 Feb. intended.

Convoy H.A.25A: U/B attacked. S/M sighted position 038° 00' N. (016°) 17' E. and attacked. Oil observed on surface probably undamaged. Lost contact, still searching. (Italian corvette DANAIDE, 230955.) My 230955 No further contact rejoining convoy. (DANAIDE 231232) Re sighting of S/M.

Attack on SS. LISA. (German name for LIVENZA) Opsum No. 301. 22nd Feb. 4 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) sighted southbound convoy 1 Merchant Vessel 5,000 tons carrying deck cargo 2 destroyers reported by R/C Baltimore. 7 miles North of Heraklion escorted by 4 Ju.88s 6 Me. 109s, 6 Arado 196s. The enemy A/C attacked the Mitchells which drew these enemy aircraft away from Convoy and destroyed one Ju.88, 1 Me., 109 damaging 1 Me.109 during engagement lasting 25 minutes. Remaining aircraft, viz 6 Torpedo Beaufighters, I.R.P. Beaufighter, 11 Cannon Beaufighters, attacked Convoy obtaining 1 Torpedo hit on each of Merchant Vessel and one Destroyer.

(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 231122Z.)

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intel. Appreciation. All times G.M.T. 6. Convoy SS. LISA and 2 T.Bs. en route Melos-Crete attacked from air 1215/22 15/20 miles north west of Candia. LISA holed amidships. One torpedo boat set on fire other left smoking. LISA not seen Candia or Suda Bay a.m. 23rd.

(C. in C. M.E. 232000B.)

/French...

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

French
refugees.

When sufficient refugees have accumulated in HOGGAR please sail her to Casablanca with necessary escort. My 181926 refers. (C. in C. Med. 231126 to F.O.G.M.A.)

Beirut.

Your 101410. Please state:-
a. Number, Class and Nationality of craft based on Beirut after removal of C.O.M.L.A.
b. Number of British personnel ashore. (Admty. 231142A to F.O.L.E.M.)

NEREUS.

Proceed forthwith with all despatch to cover MILOS - Suda Bay route. (Capt. (S) 1, 231231A to NEREUS.)

U/B
report.

One U/Boat possibly in vicinity Strait Otranto. (Capt. S.1, 231624A to UNRULY, DZIK.)

UNIVERSAL.

Intend to sail UNIVERSAL at 1345/25th by Q.B.B.312 thence direct for $042^{\circ} 45' 007^{\circ} 14'$ at 1800/26th to patrol in zone ST. (Capt. (S) 10, 231737 to C. in C. Med., UNTIRING, LA SULTANE, F.O.G.M.A., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

UNSPARING,
ULTIMATUM.

UNSPARING remains north of $039^{\circ} 32'$ from dusk 25th until 0001/26th and then leaves patrol passing East of Kaloveri Rocks and by Southbound route in my 021459 January to arrive in $035^{\circ} 12' 026^{\circ} 43'$ at 0102/29th. Further routing signal

following.

2. ULTIMATUM enters patrol area ordered in my 201227 about 2001/25th remaining South of latitude $039^{\circ} 32'$ until dawn 26th.

3. Times zone A.

(Capt.S.1, 231816A to UNSPARING, ULTIMATUM, (R) 1st S/M F., F.O.L.E.M.)

Situation
report No.
301.

1. My 222241 para. 2 both motor vessels (P.S. OGDEN and G.CLEAVE) reached port. (GUS 31)
2. Anzio sustained heavy air attack during night 21st/22nd. Ammunition dumps blown up no material damage caused intermittent shelling continued.

3. Destroyer patrols in Adriatic maintained between 17th and 22nd Feb. no shipping sighted. (C. in C. Med., 232146A.)

388

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/boat attack on P.A.69: 3 tankers torpedoed. Convoy attacked by S/M. my position at 2300Z/22nd 013 degs. 56' N. 049 degs. 06' E. (TAMWORTH, 230030).

Convoy attacked by S/M in 013 degs. 50' N. 048 degs. 49' E. 3 ships torpedoed.

(TAMWORTH, 230214, C. in C.E.F. 230355Z).

Position 13 R 40 N. 48 R 40 E. torpedoed.

(ERLING BROVIG, 230315Z).

My 230214Z SAN ALVARO and E.G. SEUBERT torpedoed and known sunk ERLING BROVIG torpedoed but still afloat.

(TAMWORTH, 230417Z).

SSSS Hit by torpedo.

(Ship in Convoy P.A.69, T.O.R. 230450Z).

E.T.A. 0400Z/24th. Classification of survivors. Ref.

A.F.O. 3814/43. Total number 133.

(TAMWORTH, 231632Z to N.O.I.C. Aden).

Torpedo track reported. Enemy torpedo track 15.34 N. 72.49 E. at 2236Z investigate. (C/S, 757, 230310Z to A/C C/S, BUDX).

Bi-weekly U/boat dis-position No.28. In areas A, B, D and G no fresh information. No change in scale of air escort area C 3 ships torpedoed in convoy night 22nd, 23rd Feb. in 013 degs. 50' N. 048 degs. 49' E. Increase scale of air escort to Z. My 200432Z. Dhows were sunk on 8th Feb. and not 18th. Area E. No fresh information reduce scale air escort to X. Area F Japanese U/boat plotted by D/F to be within 150 miles of 014 degs. North 081 degs. E. at 1640Z/22nd. Increase scale air escort to Y Indian Ocean U/boat indicated by D/F at 1730Z/22nd, within 120 miles of 032 degs. S. 067 degs. E. (C. in C.E.F., 230358Z).

Medical evacuation from Chittagong. Discussion re ships. (P.S.T.O.I. 230412Z).

Convoy J.A.1. Convoy route is changed. After making R/V with H.M.S. PLYM N.O.I.C. Aden's 220743 not to all addressees refers, steer for new position. (P) 014 degs. 28' N. 057 degs. 55' E. thence through position (Q) 011 degs. 01' N. 046 degs. 12' E. to Aden. (C. in C.E.F., 230458Z to QUIBERON (R) PLYM, Admty. N.O.I.C. Aden, ALAUNIA).

Sinking of KHEDIVE ISMAIL. Replies to questions in your 181935 are as follows. A. Submarine periscope sighted by PETARD immediately before KHEDIVE ISMAIL was hit. PETARD

/ Proceeded...

389

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Sinking of
KHEDIVE
ISMAIL.
(Contd.)

proceeded direct to this position and obtained contact at once. Contact was held until after third attack. PALADIN also obtained contact immediately probably on torpedo wakes but subsequently attacked classified submarine contacts losing this after the attack. Search in accordance with para. 17 of E.F. Station

supplement not therefore employed.

B. No organised search was instituted after PETARD and PALADIN had lost contact. PALADIN engaged in recovering survivors of KHEDIVE ISMAIL, PETARD in carrying out single ship sweep to westward without success.

C. See A above.

D. Leading ship of centre of three columns.

E. Track angle of torpedoes about 100°. Firing range approx. 1300 yards. Ship hit on starboard side.

(C. in C. E.F., 230514Z to Admty.)

Convoy
Vohemar -
Mauritius 1.

Following is a repetition of my 221843* begins:
Admiralty, C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) from N.C.S.O.
Diego Suarez.

Convoy Mauritius - Vohemar. Vohemar - Mauritius
1. B.N.C.S.O. Mauritius 171205 refers.
ZAMBEZZIA sailed 13 22nd Feb. E.T.A. Mauritius
25th. Ends.

(N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez, 231100Z.)

* 221843 previously undecypherable.

TACTICIAN,
patrol
report.

(A) Shore R/C sighted.

1. At 0230Z/23rd 4 destroyers with air escort
P.C.S. 006° 20', 099° 20', 320°, 15.

2. At 0700Z/23rd 2 large merchant ships entered
Lankawi Island Sound southbound unescorted.

(B) Unsuccessful attack on U-Boat entering Penang
at 0100/21st. Am now fulfilling your 221815Z
with 12 torpedoes.

(TACTICIAN, 231731Z.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 231844A.)

War Diary

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Martinique, harbour patrol. Your 200125. Concur. (Admty. 230056A to B.A.D.). (Re French manning one Y.M.S. and two S.C's. stationed in Martinique for Harbour protection).

N.S.H.Q. S/M. attack and sighting summary. No report since my 190613Z. C. A/C. obtains disappearing Radar contact at 12 miles, 45.00 N. 59.02 W. 1408Z/22nd. D. U.S.C.G. MANHASSET attacks contact 43.15 N. 65.15 W. 1520Z/22nd. (N.S.H.Q., 230700Z).

Minesweepers (for U.K.). At 1200Z/23 sailed CARAQUET (S.O.) COWICHAN, MALPEQUE, VEGREVILLE for Plymouth via Horta. (F.O.N.F., 231204Z).

PORT ARTHUR Arrival p.m. 22nd H.M.C.S. PORT ARTHUR from H.X.280 for emergency repairs. (C.O.P. Halifax, 231250A). Departure a.m. Feb. 23rd PORT ARTHUR to H.X.280. (C.O.P. Halifax, 231253Z).

U/boat estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 231445Z, Cominch, 231620Z).

EVADNE, ATHLETE. EVADNE escorting H.M.R.T. ATHLETE departs Bermuda for Gibraltar 2200/23 (route etc.). (N.O.B. Bermuda, 231459).

T.F.69 Task Force 69 constituted as Captain Kraker in MARBLEHEAD Comdesdiv 30 in COWIE Desdiv 30 Comcoort-div 19 in AMESBURY Cotrdiv 19 GATES, BURROWS, SALAMONIE.

Escort U.T.9 scheduled depart New York and Boston for U.K. 27th Feb. When directed return U.S. escorting T.U.9. (Cinclant, 231806).

REGINA Transfer effective 23rd from the Western Escort Force to the Mid-ocean Escort Force for duty with Group C.1. (C. in C.N.A., 232151Z).

A.T.94 Orders for diversion. (Com. 10th Fleet, 232154Z to SS AQUITANIA).

/ A.T.93 ...

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

A.T.93B
(PASTEUR)

Orders for diversion.
(Com. 10th Fleet, 232156Z to S.E. U.G.S. 695
(sic)).

6 destroyer
escort
assigned to
French.

The 6 destroyer escorts assigned to the French
from U.S. production by C.C.S.336 are now
completing. The first Senegalais is now working
up at Bermuda.

2. These vessels are under the operational
control of the C.C.S. and soon it will be
necessary for Navy Dept. and ourselves to obtain
the approval of the C.C.S. for their employment.

3. In order that we may be forearmed request Admiralty views
on this subject.
(B.A.D., 232249Z).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No. 764
Feb. 22nd.

Para.12 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces.
(5) Ref. Digest No. 762 para.7 further report
states Boston sank one destroyer one gunboat
near Gazelle Channel afternoon 19th.
(6) Outward bound convoy sighted off New Hanover
morning 21st refer Digest 763 para.3 attacked
throughout day by Liberators and Mitchells.

Two merchant vessels one escort claimed sunk one escort
probably sunk one escort damaged.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 230900Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. Br. SAN ALVARO and Br. E.G. SEUBERT
torpedoed and sunk at 2300Z/22 in 13 degs. 50'
N. 48 degs. 49' E.
(2) Nor. ERLING BROVIG torpedoed but afloat at
2300Z/22 in 13 degs. 50' N. 48 degs. 49' E.
(3) An unstated number of dhows reported sunk by

/ U/boat...

392

23.2.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting summary. (Contd.). U/boat on 18th (W.D. Note: Should be 8th) Feb. in approx. 12 degs. 30' N. 59 degs. 00' E.
(4) Grk. EPAMINONDAS C. EMBIRICOS torpedoed and sunk at 1700Z/15th in approx. 01 degs. 30' N. 72 degs. 00' E.
(5) Am PETER SKENE OGDEN and Am GEORGE CLEAVE torpedoed at 1115Z/22nd in 37 degs. 22' N. 07 degs. 17' E.
(6) Canso A/C A/162 attacked U/boat with depth charges at 1230Z/22nd in 61 degs. 01' N. 20 degs. 06' W.
Para.B. (1) NIZAM reported torpedo track at 2236Z/22 in 15 degs. 34' N. 72 degs. 49' E.
Para.C. (1) Transit A/C sighted U/boat, course 268 degs. at 1300Z/22nd 50 degs. 23' N. 06 degs. 25' W.
(2) Force 111 attacked contact at 0120Z/23 in 50 degs. 25' N. 06 degs. 58' W.
(D.D.I.C. 231146A).

U/boat estimates (D.D.I.C. 231432A, 231434A).

393

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.X."

1. At 1200A to-day Convoy J.W.57 was about 120 miles West of the Lofoten Islands; and at 1259A R.A.D. in BLACK PRINCE reported that it had been continuously shadowed by A/C. since 1000. At 1700Z Admiralty detected enemy A/C making beacon signals to home U/boats on to the convoy; and at 0939Z, 1132Z, 1722Z and 1751Z to-day U/boats were located by D/F. as being close to the convoy. The Cruiser Covering Force (BERWICK, JAMAICA, and DRAGON) left Scapa at 0736A.

Operation
"Bayleaf"
MUSKETEER and
BLYSKAWICA in
collision.

2. C.S.1 in BERMUDA with FURIOUS, SHEFFIELD and Destroyers left Scapa at 0727A to-day to operate off Aalesund, but returned at 1135A as the destroyers MUSKETEER and BLYSKAWICA had been in collision and had sustained slight damage.

Biscay A/S
operations.
U.257 sunk
by WASKESIU.

3(a) The Frigate WASKESIU which, with NENE in company, was supporting Convoy S.C.153, obtained an Asdic contact at 0136 to-day, made several attacks, lost the contact, was joined by NENE to sweep, regained contact, and at 0552 with a depth-charge attack forced to the surface a 500 ton U/boat believed to be U.257 which sank at 1610 about 940 miles West of St. Nazaire.
(b) One German Officer and 14 ratings were rescued by NENE and 4 ratings by WASKESIU.

North Atlantic.

U.761
sunk.

4(a) The destroyer ANTHONY, aircraft G/202 and U.S. naval aircraft sank a U/boat, afterwards identified as U.761 at 1714Z today in 35.57 N. 05.45 W. (Straits of Gibraltar). ANTHONY picked up the survivors.

(b) It was later reported from Lyautey that a Ventura of 127 R/C Squadron also attacked the U/boat at 1717, two minutes before the attack by G/202 and made a straddle with 6 depth bombs at right angles across the conning tower.

(c) A.M. 292156A however states that the sinking was made by U.S.N. Catalinas 14 and 15 and Catalina G/202 with ANTHONY, and gives the position as 35.57 N. 06.15 W.

(d) F.O.G.M.A. 031644 March states that WISHART also ~~to be~~ in the attack.

WAS

394

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Tabarin"

5. WILLIAM SCORESBY with SS FITZROY in company arrived at South Georgia p.m. today.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"

6 (a) Accurate shelling of the harbour caused the Liberty ships to move out, though 2944 tons were discharged today. One ship suffered slight splinter damage. There were some fatal casualties ashore.

(b) Air activity was slight and caused no damage.

(c) A heavy swell and southerly wind interfered with unloading.

Adriatic

7. 8 destroyers patrolled off Vis during the nights of 22/23rd and 23/24th, but sighted nothing. Destroyers also had a blank patrol between Durazzo and Valona last night.

East Indies.

8. On return from patrol east of the Nicobar Islands TRESPASSER reports that she carried out a special operation successfully. On 18th February she sank a 3,000 ton northbound escorted merchant vessel off Cape Connaught, Nicobar Is.

395

24.2.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Bristol
Channel
Fishing
Fleet.Your 191211A. Trawler strike has been called off.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 241205A to Admty.)SHIEL,
ERNE.1. Request you will cancel present sailing, arrangements for SHIEL and ERNE.
2. These ships will be required to proceed to Mediterranean with 10th Escort Group. A.M. 231931 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 241603A to C. in C. W.A.)Operations.Search
for U-Boat.My 231942 and your 231733. On reaching 050° 20' N. sweep towards Trevoise Head. Keep north of area A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 240058A to TANATSIDE.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 50° 30' N. 08° 20' W.
(A/C LNXII, 240534 to 19 Group.)

Attack abandoned.

(A/C LNXII, 240540 to 19 Group.)

Steer towards Trevoise Head.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241333A to Force 112.)

Force 112 is to join and support Convoy W.P.482 against U-Boat (German) attacks. Estimate convoy in 090° Hartland Point 6 miles at 1600A/24th. S.O. Escort BRISSENDEN.

(2) Navigational hazard (112)? Force is to operate approx. 4 miles on seaward bow of convoy.

(3) Force 112 is to detach from convoy at Lizard Head and return to Trevoise Head carrying out A/S sweep on passage.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241452A to Force 112.)

TANATSIDE, STEEPHOLM and KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL are to return Falmouth forthwith and complete with O.F.

2. SCIMITAR is to be detached from Force 111 and is to R/V with Force 112 as ordered BLYTH. SCIMITAR is to form part Force 112 from time of joining.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241532A to Force 111.)

Request you will warn all convoy escorts to keep an especially vigilant A/S watch.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241720A to N.O.I.Cs.)

Arrived TANATSIDE.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 242209A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Biscay A/S
operations.
U-Boat
(Believed
U.257) sunk
by WASKESIU.No H/F D/F activity in vicinity of S.C.153.
NENE, WASKESIU attacked doubtful contact in 047° 26' N. 026° 02' W. at 0245Z.
(C. 5., 240528Z to Admty.)
Submarine sunk by WASKESIU 047° 19' N. 026° 00' W.
(E.G.6., 240618Z to C. in C. W.A.)
My 240618. WASKESIU obtained asdic contact at 0136 in 265° ZZ 15 and carried out hedgehog attack

/at ...

396

24.2.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S
operations.
U-Boat
(believed
U.257) sunk
by WASKESIU.
(Contd.)

at 0203 and depth charge attacks at 0225 and 0247. Contact lost. Joined by NENE and line abreast sweep carried out and contact regained. Depth charge attack by WASKESIU at 0552 forcing 500 tons U-Boat to the surface. U-Boat, believed to be U.257, sank 0610. German prisoners NENE one officer, 14 ratings; WASKESIU 4 ratings.

(E.G.6., 24115Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Detach those ships which have fuel to join and support S.C.153 forthwith.

(2) Remainder are to complete with fuel from H.X.279 and then rejoin Group.

(C. in C. W.A., 241311 to C.2.)

If not in contact with enemy following movements are to take place at 0800A/25th.

2. NENE and WASKESIU to arrive Lough Foyle a.m./27th in disembark prisoners. OUTREMONT to proceed in company. Ships are urgently required for further operations.

3. 3rd E.G. to R/V corvette of 6th E.G. in 270° Tory Island 4 miles at 0730A/27th to receive further operation orders.

4. BLACKWOOD to Lough Foyle for lubricating oil and rejoin 3rd E.G.

5. C.2 E.G. to sweep between 048° N. and 049° N. and longitude 024° and 027°. 1st E.G. to sweep between 049° N. and 050° N. and longitude 024° and 027°. If A/S conditions are unsatisfactory Groups are to keep clear of areas by day.

(C. in C. W.A., 241957A and 242211A to C.2., E.G.3., E.G.1., WASKESIU, OUTREMONT, NENE.)

Operation
"Bayleaf".
MUSKETEER &
BLYSKAWICA
collision.

Am holed starboard quarter. Steering gear flooded. Maximum speed 6 knots.

(BLYSKAWICA, 240550 to MUSKETEER.)

Scapa departures C.S.1 in BERMUDA with FURIOUS, SHEFFIELD, MUSKETEER, OPPORTUNE, VENUS, SCOURGE, STORD, BLYSKAWICA.

(A.C.O.S., 240727A to Admty.)

E.T.A. in BERMUDA with FURIOUS, SHEFFIELD,

OPPORTUNE, VENUS, STORD and SCOURGE in company at 1135A.

(C.S.1, 241015A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

Return to harbour.

(Cdre. (D) H.F., 241215A to PIORUN.)

Cancel my 0727. All ships returned to harbour.

(A.C.O.S., 241246 to Admty.)

Operation "Bayleaf" postponed 24 hours.

(C.S.1, 241411A to 18 Group, F.O.(S), C. in C. Rosyth.)

Operation "Bayleaf" further postponed. It is hoped to carry it out with D day 27th February.

(C.S.1, 241900 to FURIOUS, SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA.)

Operation
F.X.

Scapa departures BERWICK with JAMAICA and DRAGON.

(A.C.O.S., 240736A to C. in C. W.A.)

D/F bearings at 0939Z indicate U-Boat in vicinity of J.W.57 which may have been reported.

(D.D.I.C., 241128A to A.I.G.47.)

/J.W.57 ...

397

War Diary.24.2.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation J.W.57. Position at 1200A/24th, 068° 39' N.
 F.X. 004° 22' E., course 047°, speed 9 knots.
 (Contd.) Continuous shadowing by aircraft since 1000.
 Weather 2872 1367.
 (R.A.D.H.F., 241259A to H.F.)
 A.M. 241128A. D/F bearings of further trans-
 mission at 1132Z confirm presence of U-Boat close to J.W. 57.
 (D.D.I.C., 241326A to A.I.G.47.)
 At 1700Z/24th enemy A/C was making beacon signals to home
 U-Boats on to convoy J.W.57. U-Boats transmitting at 1722Z/
 24th and 1751Z/24th were by D/F close to the convoy.
 (D.D.I.C., 242046A to A.I.G.47.)
 J.W.57. Escorting A/C estimated P.C.S. of convoy at 1301A
 today 068° 17' N. 000° 27' E. A/C unable to contact S.N.O.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 242041A to H.F.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241411A.)
 Force
 Patrols.

S.C. My 211039. Submarine Chaser HESSA sailed at
 operation. 1400A today 24th February. 2. No.
 (A.C.O.S., 241455A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of S/Ms. at 0800/25th and movements for
 following 24 hours.

- (a) SEANYMPH on patrol off Lofoten Islands.
 - (b) ULA off Egersund.
 - (c) VAMPIRE on patrol vicinity 64° 20' N. 00° 59' E.
 - (d) ZEEHOND on patrol vicinity 65° 20' N. 01° 18' E.
 - (e) RUBIS patrolling between 01° 18' W. and 01° 59' W. in
 latitude 45° N.
 (F.O.(S), 241712A to Admty.)
 VAMPIRE and ZEEHOND are to leave patrol forthwith for
 Lerwick routed as follows.
2. VAMPIRE through 063° 30' N. 001° 10' E. route "Pink", and
 090° Ocean 12 miles.
 3. ZEEHOND through 064° 35' N. 001° 38' E., route "Grey", and
 090° Ocean 8 miles.
 4. S/Ms. are to proceed on the surface at C.O's discretion so as
 to arrive Lerwick before 1200A/26th.
 (Capt. (S) 9, 241951A to S/Ms.)

U.406 U-Boats sunk Reference W.A.G.O.2100, Part 2, following
 U.386 by SPEY on information obtained from SPEY:
 18th and 19th (1) 2 S/Ms were brought to surface with one
 February. pattern each, both sinking after abandoning. On
 each occasion A/S contact was first indication of
 U-Boat's presence. Speed was reduced to 7 knots
 increasing to full at 800 yards and reduced to 16
 knots when log showed speed 14 knots. This gave a straight
 trace for firing.
 (2) On each occasion ship was at cruising station and type 147 B
 and Q attachments were operated without trouble by inexperienced

/operators ...

398

War Diary.

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

U 406
U 386

U-Boats sunk by SPEY on 18th and 19th February. (Contd.)

^{operator} Q contact obtained up to 1100 yards extent of target markedly less on Q than on main set, success with Q is attributed to use of box relay A/S 841.

(3) In final stages of second successful attack only 3 operators were closed up leaving none for 147 but a depth of 350 was obtained from a single sweep at 500 yards which enabled pattern to be adjusted to correct depth and brought U-Boat up.

(4) 2 other U-Boats were attacked and preliminary investigation given possibility of at least one of them being sunk. (Capt. (D) Liverpool, 242104A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

GROGGA. Your 232024A. E.T.A. Oban 0900/25th. (FLINT CASTLE, 240030 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

WOODPECKER. My 232157A. (1) PINK defective. (2) As relief for ROTHER, FINDHORN is urgent I should be grateful if AZALEA now on passage to join your command could be substituted for PINK. (3) If you agree request you will give necessary orders. (C. in C. W.A., 240503A to C. in C. Plymouth.) AZALEA proceed forthwith by Q.Z.L.58 and thence as necessary join and escort WOODPECKER in tow STORM KING estimated in 050° 48' N. 013° 20' W. at 2000A/24th, course 78°, 4½ knots. (2) On relief by AZALEA, ROTHER and FINDHORN proceed by Q.Z.L. 58 and standard route to HE. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241029A to AZALEA, ROTHER, FINDHORN.) Leave Lough Foyle at 1800 today and proceed at best speed to join and escort WOODPECKER in tow of STORM KING. 2. Estimate position at 2000A/24th, 050° 48' N. 013° 20' W., 078°, 4½ knots. 3. AZALEA will be escorting WOODPECKER. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 241342A to CHILLIWACK.) Your 241342A. Sailed from (Merville ?) at 1825A. Speed 14 knots. (CHILLIWACK, 241830A to Cdre. (D) W.A.) CHILLIWACK sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 241552A. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 241840A to C. in C. W.A.) On arrival WOODPECKER can be taken in hand at Devonport for docking. (D.O.D.(H), 242152A to C. in C. W.A.)

GOZO. Departure GOZO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 240747A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

BLYSKAWICA. BLYSKAWICA has been in collision and received the following damage. Details. Estimated time for repairs at a dockyard three to four weeks. 2. Temporary repairs to make ship watertight will be carried out at Scapa and it is estimated ship will be ready to sail on 28th February. (Cdre. (D) H.F., 241337 to Admty.)

399

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

BLYSKAWICA.
(Contd.)

At 0535/24th BLYSKAWICA was in collision with MUSKETEER in 058° 45' N. 003° 06' W. Hull holed starboard quarter above and below waterline and starboard depth charge rail carried away. Emergency repairs being carried out at Scapa, to permit passage to repair yard. No casualties. (BLYSKAWICA, 241501A to Polish Naval H.Q.)

MUSKETEER.

Intend to sail MUSKETEER passing Switha at 0830A/25th to arrive Hull at 1000/26th for refit and repairs. Ship is damaged and speed limited to 15 knots. (Com. D.H.F., 241609A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

STOCKHAM.

Cancel my 240940A. Owing to damage to propeller STOCKHAM will be docked Londonderry and new propeller fitted. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 241808A to C. in C. W.A.)

GOZO.

Arrival at 2150 GOZO. (F.O. Humber, 242200 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.F. 29.

Convoy M.K.F.29 passes Gibraltar 0200/9th March. 2. A/A escort is to be provided by PRINCE ROBERT and one cruiser, both to operate under the orders of C. in C. W.A.

3. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail one cruiser, F.O.G.M.A. to sail H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT accordingly. (D.O.D.(H). 240236A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.G.M.A.)

O.S. 69/
K.M.S.43.

Sailed NAIRANA and ACTIVITY to join O.S.69/K.M.S. 43 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 132109. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 240626A to Admty.) Sailed NARCISSUS to join Group. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 240814A to B.3.)

Group 9.

My 201644. Group 9 sailed with ice-breakers from Molotovsk Roads 1200A today. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 241327A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

H.X.279.

Your 241311. ST. CATHERINES, ICARUS, GATINEAU and FENNEL detach at 1400Z. CHAUDIERE follow in 2 hours after fuelling. My P.C.S. at 1200Z, 048° 52' N. 023° 14' W., 044°, 9 knots. (C.3., 241522Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/LLANDOVERY ...

War Diary.

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

LLANDOVERY
CASTLE.

Hospital ship LLANDOVERY CASTLE should be sailed on 29th February to North Africa, calling at Gibraltar for orders.
(D.S.T., 241926A to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.)

EL NIL.

Hospital ship EL NIL should be sailed on 1st March to North Africa calling at Gibraltar for orders.
(D.S.T., 241927A to P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports.)

Murmansk.

Position at 241000.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 242015A to Admty.)

401

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Arpa
Patrol.

H.M.S. BRILLIANT for Arpa Patrol U.S.S. CARD,
JACOB JONES, HAMMAE, R.E. PEARY, BLAIR and TRIPPE
departed.
(C.M.S.F. 240331A)

O.S. 68/
K.M.S.42:
U/B Report.

H/F D/F bearing 312 degs. Third Class distance
uncertain of enemy S/M transmitting BB signal on
3920 K/cs my position 035 degs. 07' N. 008 degs.
57' W. Weather report 9370 9974.
(B.4, 240653Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

U.G.S.33.

No further indication of S/M. No special cover
required.
(C.T.F.66, 240722Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

T.G.21.14.

CR. No.1912.
Departed CARA (?Casablanca intended) Wednesday
evening due storm and broken anchor.
C.T.G.21.14 with CARD and 5 escorts sends.
Proceeding from 34.52 N. 09.02 W. 241145Z to 38 N. 18 W. thence
50 N. 20 W. Speed 14.
(C.T.G. 21.14, 240830)
Negative your 240900/ not to all. Operate against S/M
reported 36.00 N. 19.00 and any others that may endanger
U.G.S./G.U.S. Convoys.
(C. in C. Lant, 241557, to C.T.G. 21.14) / N/T in W/R.)

T.G.120.7.

T.G.66.9 consisting of U.S.S. BRANT and U.S.
L.C.I. 525 to 530 inclusive redesignated T.G.
120.7. Request S.B.N.O. Azores sail group to
Falmouth when ready. Upon arrival Falmouth
T.G. dissolved. S.O. L.C.I. report vessels to Comlan crab
11th Phib. for duty.
(Com. 12th Fleet, 241528, 241826)

U/B
sunk.

Gib/Pink 1/24. Feb.
(A) 24th Feb. (B) Port Lyautey and Gibraltar.
(C) Catalinas Navy 14 and 15 Catalina G.202.
(D) U-Boat attacked and sunk by A/C and Dr. ANTHONY
at 1714Z position 35.57 N. 05.45 W. survivors
picked up by Dr.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 241724Z, F.O.G.M.A. 241817)
Heartiest congratulations on M.A.D. contact which detected
U-Boat which was subsequently destroyed by Combined Sea and
Air Forces.
(F.O.G.M.A. 242027A to C.M.S.F.)

Oilers for
Azores.

Arrangements have been made for one oiler for the
Azores to be included in each U.G.S. convoy.
(4th S.L. 241732A)

SS. TAMARA /...

War Diary.

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

SS. TAMARA,
BARDALAND.

Sailed Gibraltar 1755/24th Swedish relief ships TAMARA for Piraeus and BARDALAND for Salonika. (Route and description).
Not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O.G.M.A. 241801A to 10th S/M.F. ORPHEE, LA SULTANE.)

Fuelling
facilities
at Azores.

Your 281256/Jan. 4. You will be aware that arrangements have now been made for a tanker to be sailed for Azores in each U.G.S. Convoy.

(2) Fuelling facilities at Azores are as follows:

(a) Ponta Delgada has shore tankage with capacity 18,000 tons furnace oil and 8,000 tons

Marine Diesel, latter suitable for Escort Carriers, but not for diesel frigates of B.Y.M.S. Facilities are subject to normal rules of International Law; stay is limited to 24 hours; not more than 3 Warships of one nationality may be within the territorial waters of the Port simultaneously, and no ship may call again until 3 months have elapsed since the last visit. Subject to this there is no restriction on the number of vessels fuelling in the Port on any one day and prior notification is required by Portuguese Government who in our experience give every possible assistance.

(b) Horta. Use of facilities is unrestricted but capacity of Port is limited to one Support Group of not more than 5 Escort Vessels and one C.V.E. or Cruiser fuelling in relays.

(3) Capacity of Horta cannot be increased as only one oiler can be berthed there and it is accordingly suggested that following priority be adhered to:-

(a) Vessels operating for maintenance of the Air Forces based in the Azores.

(b) Ships on Atlantic Operations unable to use Ponta Delgada owing to the 3 months' rule.

(c) As an emergency fuelling base for other ships.

(4) If this priority is agreed, it would be appreciated if instructions could be issued:-

(a) That where alternative arrangements are available the larger ships should not normally be routed via the Azores.

(b) That if larger ships require fuel at Azores use should whenever possible be made of Ponta Delgada.

(c) That whenever possible S.B.N.O. Azores, F.O.G.M.A. and Admiralty be informed well in advance of intended visits to Azores, so that arrangements for fuelling can be made and necessity of last minute diversions to Ponta Delgada or elsewhere avoided.

(4th S.L. 241906A to Cominch)

✓ Former given Most Secret Distribution.

Defence of
Gibraltar
Dockyard against
Glider
Bombs.

It is considered that Gibraltar Dockyard might well be a target for enemy glider bombs in the future. Request information whether type 650 is the only jamming set so far developed or whether a more powerful set is available for installing ashore.

(F.O.G.M.A. 242231A to Admty.)

402A

SECRET.

MESSAGE. 241810A/February.

OUT

To F.O.G.M.A.

DATE 24.2.44.

Recd. by W.D. 7 March.

Naval Cypher (X).

From Admiralty.

M.E.W. select Spanish steamship GALDAMES for February programme if practicable. Ship left Buenos Aires 2nd February for Bilbao direct.

241810A.

For D.E.W.D.
Sloane. 3488. Ext.280

- A.C.N.S. (F)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- M. (I) (3) (and for F.O)
- O.D. (5)
- Ops. (3)
- D.N.I. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- War Diary. ~~_____~~
- Plot.
- D.T.D. (4)
- A.L.O.
- D.T.D. (0)
- D. of S.T. (15)

War Diary.

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U/B
Report.

The following was received from SS. FERNGLEN
SSSS Periscope sighted 01 degs. 50' N. 11 degs.
00' W. at 0255Z. T.O.O. 240310Z.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 240415Z)

Periscope sighted close to starboard by 3 men shortly then
dived.

(FERNGLEN, 240844, 241243Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

SUFFOLK.

Sailed SUFFOLK to Grand Port Mauritius
(route and arrangements).
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 241414Z)

CANTON,
NEPAL.

Sailed CANTON and NEPAL to Diego Suarez through
(route and arrangements.)
(N.O.I.C.Durban, 241444Z)

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PHOEBE,
SPORTSMAN,
SICKLE.

My 232357 / Request you will arrange for PHOEBE, SPORTSMAN and SICKLE to proceed to Eastern Fleet accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 240031A to C. in C. Med.) / Hush Most Secret. *Cancelled see DoD (F) 171144A MARCH 1944*

Operation
"Shingle"
Minefields.

Your 211925.
TEVIOT BANK (capacity 270 mines) now on passage to U.K. is the most suitable ship which can readily be made available.
(2) Her use is approved and it is requested you will report your intentions in due course. (V.C.N.S. 240057A to C. in C. Med.)

Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep No.34.
Slight raids on Anzio during forenoon, no damage. Shelling of anchorage for an hour in the afternoon, which combined with strong Easterly wind and heavy swell, interfered with unloading. 3009 tons discharged during the day 23rd. At 23/2200 several E-Boats attempted to attack anchorage from North and Southwest but were driven off by SALTARELO and two P.T. boats on A/S patrol. One possible claim. (C. in C. Med. (Naples) 241032A)

STAFFORDSHIRE,
DUNERA.

Report of damage.
(P.S.T.O. Med. 241117A)

UPROAR.

At 1330/26th intend P.31 (UPROAR) to sail for patrol in zone SU routed QBB 312 thence through 042 degs. 08' 007 degs. 36' at 0400/27th and 042 degs. 29' 006 degs. 01' at 2358/27th. (Capt. (S) 10, 241127 as amended 241610 to C. in C. Mediterranean, (R) LA SULTANE (F.S.) 10th S/M Flotilla, F.O.G.M.A., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

M.S. P.S. OGDEN
and CLEEVE
(torpedoed
22nd Feb.)

Ships referred to in my 222220 /
(1) Beached at Herbillon. Draft aft too great enable her to berth. Constructive / total loss feared.
(2) Berthed alongside in Bone. Both cargoes of little value.
/ As received.
/ Re Med. standing orders.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 241225A)

ERIDAN,
Libyan
P.O.W.

I am reluctant to accept this proposal but as a special case am prepared to concur in Admiralty message 201706.
(2) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to re-impose the limitation of 1000 in the event of serious increase in the scale of air and U/B attack in the area concerned.
(C. in C. Med. at Naples, 241330A to Admty)

War Diary.

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SUFFREN,
DUQUESNE.
TOURVILLE.

Your 281602/Jan. para. 5. In view of F.O.C. West Africa's 091744 it is considered that SUFFREN, DUQUESNE and TOURVILLE should be kept running as long as possible, without undertaking any major repairs and that any ship which cannot be kept operational by use of local resources should be laid up and crews made available for other service.
(Contr. 241427A to C. in C. Med.)

NEREUS.

Leave patrol p.m. 25th (route) to arrive Alexandria boom at 0701A/28th.
(2) Total bombing restrictions.
(Capt. (S) 1, 241502 to G.S. NEREUS, (R) 1st S.F., Naval and Air Authorities.)

Black
Sea.

Report of Russian naval and air operations in Black Sea since November 1943 (Admiral Fisher 241644, 241700, 241705C, 241708C, 1710C, 241723, 241743, 241817) See Lion copy.

Enemy
Activity
off Split.

Great activity reported position 042 degs. 57' N. 017 degs. 08' E. barges and escort craft.
(N.L.O.1 Moru, 241700A to F.O.T.A.L.I. Capt. (D) 24, S.N.O.L.E., N.L.O. 8th Army.)

MONTCALM,
G. LEYGUES.

French Admty. wish MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES to visit Casablanca en route to Med. F.O.C.W.A.F. / 231808.
(2) Comar Dakar is requested to sail MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES to Casablanca as soon as conven-

ient.

(3) Further signal will be made giving date of sailing from Casablanca.
(C. in C. Med. 241716A to Comar, Dakar) / Hush Most Secret.

INDRAPOERA.

Sails ex Algiers in tow about 25th Feb. for Gibraltar to drydock.
(P.S.T.O. Med. 241737A)

Work up
of cruisers
and destroyers.

Concur with C. in C. H.F. 231127 that three weeks preliminary work up at Scapa is desirable for both cruisers and destroyers before proceeding to Mediterranean for final practices.
(C. in C. Med. 241846A)

Joint /...

406

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

(~~ex-LIVENZA~~)

Joint
Naval,
Army, R.A.F.
Intelligence
Appreciation.

413916. I/73919 cipher 24th February.
(6) Further photographic R/C Candia and Suda
p.m./23rd failed locate SS. LISA seriously
damaged by air attack 22nd Feb. 2 T.Bs probably
her escorts seen however a.m./23rd Feb. north-
bound west of Milos presumably returning
Piraeus.
(C. in C. M.E. 241900B)

M.E. Balkan
Sitrep
No.100.

Force 133 reports. Partisan raid on Hvar Island
night 19/20 Feb. failed in its objective suffering
2 killed 6 wounded.
(C. in C. M.E. 242030B)

Self
Destroying
Fuze.

Request the self destroying time fuze extracted
from the glider bomb found in Corsica may be
flown home intact as soon as possible.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 242326A to C. in C. Med.)

SECRET

406^A

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

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

Report of
Russian naval
and air
operations in
Black Sea
since November
1943.

M E S S A G E

241644/February

IN

FROM Admiral Fisher

DATE. 24.2.44

RECD. 2017

RUSSIAN X BY CABLE

ADDRESSED Admiralty.

1. Attacks on enemy shipping.

(A) Air attacks. December 14th torpedo bombers sank tanker 50 miles south of Fid-Oni-Si Island. December 17th - 1000 ton merchant vessel set on fire off Crimean Coast. December 20th - torpedo aircraft attacked 3000 ton merchant vessel off Sevastopol. Vessel was burning and had heavy list. December 22nd - merchant vessel damaged near Crimean Coast.

(B) Submarines. 23rd December near Sevastopol one torpedo hit on 3000 ton vessel. 27th December - 2 E boats sunk off Southern Crimea. Also 28th December two torpedo hits on merchant vessel.

(C) M.T.B.'s sank two F Lighters in Kerch Straits on 30th December. Russian cutters attacked submarine off Caucasus Coast 23rd December. Possibly sunk. Shore batteries on Taman Peninsula sank R boat and damaged an R boat small merchant vessel and a barge which had to be beached.

2. Air Ops. Bad weather is hampering air ops. 19th December - Stomoviks successfully attacked enemy batteries on (?Prinpervomais) Island (Dniiper Delta). Fighters on interceptor patrol for enemy transport aircraft shot down 3 Ju. 88's, 1 Ju. 52 and 1 H.E. 110 in neighbourhood. Donyslav.

Land. Vessels of Azov Flotilla are being continuously employed taking troops and supplies to Kerch Peninsula situation appears better for Russians who are completing preparation for early attack.

241644

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

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1st Lord | A.C.N.S.(A)(2) | O.D.(5) | C.C.L.S.(2) |
| 1st S.L. (2) | A.C.N.S.(W) | O.I.C.(3) | A.L.O. |
| D.F.S.L. | U.W.R. | D.N.I.(5) | W.D. |
| 4th S.L. | D. Map Room | D. of P.(3) | I.P.(3) |
| 5th S.L. | Capt. Pim | D. of P.(Q)(2) | Ad. Blake (4) |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | Ops. (2) | M.(37) | C.W.R. |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | Plot | D.P.D. | D.D.O.D.(M) |
| | | | C.N.I. |

SECRET

406^B

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

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

MESSAGE

241700/February

IN

From Admiral Fisher

Date 24.2.44
Recd. 2057

Russian (X) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

1. Attacks enemy shipping.

(A) Kerch straits. 9 Dec, Russian M.T.B's sank enemy landing craft, 12 Dec, one barge sunk and another damaged by floating mines latter reached harbour, Both loaded with live stock.

(B) Air attacks on Crimean ports. 6 Dec, 4 F. Lighters sunk and an R boat and E boat damaged, 8 Dec, one E boat 2 landing craft sunk and an F Lighter damaged, 10 Dec, 1 F Lighter sunk.

2. Enemy air ops, land attacks on Russian positions in Kerch Area have been supported by large scale air attacks, 8 Dec, 1200 bombs were dropped on Russian positions southwest of Golaya Priston, 13 Dec, 9 Ju,88's bombed Taman and Tyzla.

3. Land. After succession strong enemy attacks Russians were forced to yield ground 12 Dec, in Kerch Area, Fighting has died down and enemy patrol activity and intermittent artillery fire now reported.

241700

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

ME

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
D. Map Room
Capt. Pim
Ops. (2)
Plot
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
M. (27)
D.P.D.
C.C.L.S. (2)

A.L.O.
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Blake (4)
C.W.R.
D.D.O.D. (M)
C.N.I.

(80)

SECRET

406^c

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

(*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.
241705C/February.

From Admiral Fisher.

Date. 24.2.44.
Recd. 2155.

RUSSIAN X by W/T.

Addressed Admiralty.

Black Sea Naval Staff are now moving from Tuapse to Novorossisk and vicinity and in consequence no recent operational information has been received by me.

2. Air Attacks.

(A) Russian aircraft sank 3000 ton merchant ship on 19 and 5000 ton ship on 20 several barges have also been sunk.

(B) 20 and 21 Oct. railway junction at Djankey and other points in North Crimea were successfully raided by Russian aircraft.

3. Germans claim to have repulsed a small scale Russian landing.

4. No official details this operation have been received.

241705C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.M.S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
D. Map Room
Capt. Pim
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
D.D.O.D. (M)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)

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

D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
M. (27)
D.P.D.
C.C.L.S. (2)
A.L.O.
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Blake (4)
C.W.R.
C.N.I.

MC.
(80).

4060

SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.
(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

M E S S A G E

IN

241708C/Feb.

From: Admiral Fisher

Date: 24.2.44.

Recd: 2150

Russian X by W/T

Addressed: Admiralty

1. Am shortly moving to Sochi. In meantime no official reports are being received from Black Sea staff

(2) U Boat activity. Russian barge was torpedoed and sunk of Tuapse on 22nd. 23rd merchant ship unsuccessfully attacked in Sukhum Bay one torpedo exploded on beach and two were recovered. These were 21 inch electrically driven (? non adjustable)

(3) Indications (? localised) attacks enemy communications in Crimea. 3000 ton merchant ship and two F lighters were sunk on 24 and 26th. Two landing craft.

(4) Russians occupied Genuqesk on 30th and are now threatening to block western approach to Crimea with their advance (? towards) perikop.

241708C
Advance copy: Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- U.W.R.
- D. Map Room
- Capt. Pim
- Ops. (2)
- Plot
- O.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (3)
- D.N.I. (5)
- D. of P. (3)
- D. of P. (Q) (2)
- M. (27)
- D.P.D.
- C.C.I.S. (2)
- A.L.O.
- W.D.
- I.P. (3)
- Ad. Blake (4)
- C.W.R.
- D.D.C.D. (M)

- C.N.I.
- D.S.D. (3)
- D.S.O.
- H.W.R. (2)

MH
52

SECRET

406E

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential 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

2417100/February

From Admiral Fisher

Date 24.2.44

Time 2131

Russian X by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

Russian source reported presence over 100 enemy vessel in Sevastopol 1st November and that Germans had been ordered to evacuate everything except five days supplies for troops still remaining in Crimea.

2. Russian landings at Kerch and Kamish Burunski were carried out without any enemy opposition. Both places reported in Russian hands 3rd November. A landing was made by naval ratings at Feodosia where enemy opposition was strong and Russian casualties heavy. Town reported occupied by Russians on 4th November. Present land situation obscure but it seems that Germans are trying to hold line across neck of Kerch Peninsula whilst evacuation is being completed.

3. No information available of Russian Ops against enemy shipping.

2417100

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

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1st Lord. | D. Map Room | C.C.L.S. (2) |
| 1st S.L. (2) | Ops. (2) | A.L.O. |
| D.F.S.D. | Plot | V.D. |
| 4th S.L. | O.D. (5) | I.P. (3) |
| 5th S.L. | O.I.C. (3) | Ad. Blake (4) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.N.I. (5) | C.T.R. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) | D. of P. (3) | D.D.O.D. (M) |
| A.C.N.S. (A) (2) | D. of P. (Q) (2) | C.N.I. |
| A.C.N.S. (J) | M. (27) | Capt. Pim. |
| U.V.R. | D.P.D. | |

SECRET

406^F

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential 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

241723/Feb. IN.

Date 24.2.44.
Recd. 2125.

From Admiral Fisher.

Russian X By Cable

Addressed

1. Air attacks on enemy shipping.

(A) Off Crimean Coast 25 Nov. 3000 ton Merchant Vessel damaged. 2 Dec. R-Boat sunk 1500 ton Merchant Vessel and a lighter damaged. 3 Dec. Motor Launch sunk and 6 Schooners damaged.

(B) Raids on Crimean Ports.

23 Nov. 1000 ton Merchant Vessel 2 R-Boats 2 landing craft and a lighter sunk.
27 Nov. 2 Flighters sunk.
30 Nov. Tanker set on fire one landing craft and a barge sunk.
1 Dec. 2 landing craft sunk and 5 damaged.
2 Dec. Barge and lighter sunk.

(C) 29 Nov. 2000 ton Merchant vessel 2 barges sunk and 1 1500 ton vessel damaged during raid on Odessa.

2. Reported by prisoners that a German Division has been transferred by air from Greece to Kherson. Also reported Black Sea C. in C. Naval Forces (name given as Admiral Kizeraithsky) killed during Russian air raid on Kamish Byrnski about 14 days ago.

3. Land Situation for Russians on Kerch Peninsula is precarious and they are having great difficulty in holding their bridgeheads. Russian embarkation points on Taman Peninsula are being bombarded by enemy artillery. 4 Dec. enemy commenced heavy attacks supported by aircraft artillery and tanks on Russian positions in vicinity of Ilyusen (South of Kerch).

241723.

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

FMF.

1st Lord

1st S.L. (2)

D.F.S.L.

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

A.C.N.S. (F)

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

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (H)

D. Map Room

Capt. Pin

Ops. (2)

U.W. R.

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (3)

D.N.I. (5)

D. of F. (3)

D. of P. (Q) (2)

Plot

M. (27)

D.F.D.

C.C.L.S. (2)

A.L.O.

W.D.I. (3)

I.P. (3)

Ad. Blake (4)

C.W.H.

D.D.S.D. (M)

C.N.I.

(80)

SECRET

406G.

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential 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

241743/February

From: Admiral Fisher.

Date: 24.2.44.

Recd: 2116

RUSSELIN (X) BY W/T

Addressed: Admiralty.

(1) Attacks on enemy shipping.

(A) Air attacks 15 (14) November 5500 ton Merchant Vessel minesweeper and R Boat sunk.

20 November. 2 Merchant Vessels total tonnage 4500, two R Boats and a Landing Craft sunk. 5 Landing Craft and a Merchant Vessel damaged.

22nd November. Large Fuel Lighter sunk and on 24th November 2 F Lighters and a Barge laden with troops and tanks sunk.

(B) Submarine attacks and surface Forces.

5000 ton Merchant Ship sunk 14th November.

23rd November. Ship of 3000 tons, Minesweeper and Landing Barge sunk.

24th November. 2500 ton Merchant Ship sunk.

(2) Very little information available of situation on Kerch Straits. Russians are having great difficulty in holding Bridgeheads mainly due to lack self-propelled Landing Craft for carrying tanks.

(3) Officers forming Base Staff for Crimea and Portjbi / Nikolaev and Odessa have already been designated.

241743.

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

/ as received.

/ Marking overleaf

- 2 -

1st Lrd
1st S. L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
D. Map Room
Capt. Pim
Ops. (2)
Plot
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (0) (2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
M. (27)
D.P.D.
C.C.L.S. (2)
A.L.O.
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Bluko (4)
C.W.R.
C.N.I.

EC: (80)

SECRET

40644

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential 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

241817/February

IN

From Admiral Fisher,

Date 24.2.44
Reed, 2138

Russian (X) by W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

(1) Attacks on enemy shipping.

(A) Surface Forces 9 Nov, 3000 ton merchant ship sunk, 4 landing craft and an R boat sunk BN 16 Nov, 18 Nov, landing craft and an R boat sunk,

(B) Air attacks, 10 Nov, an R boat and F boat sunk, 3000 ton merchant ship sunk on 17 Nov.

(C) Shore batteries in Kerch Straits Area, 2 E boats sunk 10 Nov, 12 Nov, several motor launches sunk and others prevented from reaching shore in an endeavour to evacuate surrounded troops northeast of Kerch who were wiped out or taken prisoner.

(2) My 060947 Feodosia is not (not) in Russian hands. (? Russians) have secured footholds to northeast and south of Kerch and have occupied several small coastal villages. Germans reported to have destroyed town of Kerch. Russians meeting with strong enemy resistance but reported situation improving now that tanks and armour have been landed.

241817,

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

ME
52

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
U.W.R.
B. Map Room
Capt. Pin
Ops. (2)
Plot
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
C.N.I.
D. of P. (3)
D. of P (Q) (2)
H. (27)

~~D.P.D.~~
C.C.J.S. (2)
~~A.L.S.~~
~~W.D.~~
I.P. (3)
Ad. Blake (4)
C.T.R.

407

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dispositions. My 230358Z. No fresh information. No change in scale of air escort. (C. in C.E.F. 240329Z.)

Flag of C.S.4. I propose to transfer my flag to LONDON when NEWCASTLE goes to Simonstown to refit. (C.S.4 240514Z.)

U/B attack on P.A.69 23rd Feb. Following is result of attack referred to in my 230355.
1. SAN ALVARO and E.G. SEUBERT sunk.
2. ERLING BROVIG afloat with broken back. Vessel started to break up when attempt made to get her underway. Crew taken off.
3. 132 survivors from above ships in TAMWORTH. (C. in C.E.F. 240646Z.)

FENRIS (torpedoed 21st Feb.) Vessel referred to in my 220558* reports damage, but able make 11 knots. She has been ordered to Addu Atoll. (C. in C.E.F. 240647Z.)
* re SS. FENRIS torpedoed by submarine.

TRESPASSER patrol report. Summary of Third Far East patrol of P.312 (TRESPASSER.)
1. 18th Feb. 1109 F.G. Sank 3000 tons northbound escorted merchant ship off Cape Connaught. Vessel was similar to OMI MARU.
2. Special operation carried out successfully. (C. in C.E.F. 240837Z.)

FENRIS (torpedoed 21st Feb.) Arrival M.V. FENRIS 0730Z/24th Feb. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 241034Z.)
My 240840*. Request early instructions to what port the ship is to proceed for repairs. (C. in C.E.F. 241229Z to Admty.)
*re Condition of SS. FENRIS.

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN, information from P.O.W. Further report by Burnett. Information in my 221440 confirmed.
2. C.S. operated east of Madagascar on July 1943 when she oiled five German U-Boats all on same day. She operated alternately in the Indian Ocean with tanker BRAKE. C.S. expected to return to Japanese controlled territory on completion of her supply of oil for U-Boats. P.W. suggest that now C.S. has been sunk Germans will use tanker ROSSBACH formerly MADRONO which they believe left Kobe about 5th Jan. for Singapore. She carries an entirely naval complement.

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN,
information
from P.O.W.
(Contd.)

3. C. in C.E.F's 171001 para. M.

A. Ship called HAVELLAND passed Sunda Strait 23rd
January. Two days later was hit by torpedo aft
and was towed back to Singapore for repairs.

B. BOGOTA in Kobe on 12th December 1943 employed
on Kobe - Saigon - Penang run with perishable
stores.

C. KITO seen entering Singapore about 3rd Jan.
Was going from Penang.

D. BRAKE seen in Singapore in ballast early Jan. 1944. Has only
naval personnel on board.

E. Raider H formerly known as ship 28 and from documentary
evidence from present P.W. latterly known as MICHEL PAS sunk
outside Yokohama by three - four torpedoes about 30th November
1943, not shortly before 25th December as previously reported.

4. Following merchant ships were in Kobe on 12th December 1943:

A. HAVELLAND. B. WESERLAND? C. BURGENLAND. D. RIO GRANDE.

E. E.ROSSBACH (MADRONO).

(F.O.E.A. 241358Z.)

409

24.2.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.G.66.9 This is C.T.F. 66. Action Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. Info: S.B.N.O. Azores Com. 12th Fleet, C.E.S.F., C.A.S.3.
"Task Group 66.9 BRANT L.C.Is. 525 through (?to intended) 530 plus GARRONEA and POCOHONTAS detached at 232000Z from 33.30 N. 34.42 W. for Horta. Very heavy weather. Request air coverage from Azores. POCOHONTAS knows destination ALGRA."
(Radio Washington 240035Z to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

STORMONT, Your 231814Z. Not met*. P.C. and S. at 240130Z
SS. BRITANNIC. 043° 55' 064° 09' 232° 14. Weather.
(STORMONT 240130Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
*N.T. in W.R.
Ref. my 221813 SS. BRITANNIC did not enter Halifax owing to blizzard in Halifax Approaches. Is proceeding by same route to Boston, departed Sambro L.V. at 0030Z/24. E.T.A. Boston L.V. 0200Z/25th "Chop" 1330Z/24. Escorted by H.M.C.S. ANNAPOLIS to be relieved by STORMONT en route.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 240611Z.)
Departure p.m./3rd. H.M.C.S. STORMONT escorting SS. BRITANNIC Halifax Approaches to Boston.
(C.O.P. Halifax 241550Z.)

U.G.S. 34. Norfolk departed 23rd Feb. CHEVREUIL as additional
CHEVREUIL. escort for U.G.S. 34 to Casablanca.
(N.S.H.Q. 240157Z, 240257Z.)

Suspicious vessels Your 240136Z. Position 40 miles 218° from point
sighted by E. 240130Z. 2 surface craft sighted flashing. One
DARTMOUTH vessel flashed V O J several times and slowed
(tanker.) down. We signalled our challenge for day and our
callsign and vessel replied properly. At no time
did either vessel signal O E 240230Z proceed on
course.
(KIGY) DARTMOUTH 240230Z to Comeastseafron.)
Intercept 0209 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. From Miami Radio unread KCML*
21.00 N. 65.30 W. suspicious vessel unread 240136Z, 240142Z.
Long. doubtful.
(C. in C.Plymouth 240311A.) * KIGY (DARTMOUTH.)

MONTREAL. Port condenser leaking am proceeding St. Johns
N.F. for repair. P.C. and S. at 0300Z/24, 044°
42' N. 052° 34' W. 000° 14 knots. Weather.
(MONTREAL, 240415Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

U/B report. SSSS from KOPC (ESSO BUFFALO).
Periscope sighted 10.40 N. 75.37 W. at 1617 G.M.T.
(Kingston Jamaica 241156R.)

24.2.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- Mine-sweepers. At 1200Z/24 sailed FORT WILLIAM (S.O.) BLAIRMORE, MILLTOWN, MINAS (Route etc.) to Plymouth via Horta. (F.O.N.F. 241214Z.)
- Spanish fishing vessels. Conditions which must govern Spanish vessels fishing in Newfoundland waters. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 241348Z) See Lion Copy.
- U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 241442Z, Cominch 241600Z.)
- Fuelling facilities at Azores. A.M. 241906A. See North Atlantic.
- L.27 SEA NYMPH. To be offered to the U.S. for training purposes. SEA NYMPH will be allocated for refit in place of P.553 at Philadelphia. Anticipated time of arrival about 1st April. 1st Lord, 241914A to B.A.M.R.)
- U.S. Ships fitted with H/F D/F. Although several ships have been fitted with H/F D/F Navy Dept. have not yet received reports from Area Commanders and cannot give additions to my 272219/Oct. (B.A.D.241933Z.)
- EVADNE, ATHLETE. Orders for diversion. (Cdr. 10th Fleet 241948Z.)
- SS. CILICIA. Dragged anchor during a blizzard and grounded on West Piers Bedford Basin at 2340Z/23 Feb. ship aground amidships, not holed and making no water. M.W.T. arranging salvage. (C. in C. C.N.A. 241953Z.)
- Minesweepers. Your 221948A* British Algerine Minesweepers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 242143Z to Admty.) * Re information requested re identity of ships referred to in previous message.
- ARCHIMEDE. Allied Submarine Notice. Times Z dates February and March. (French S/M) unescorted departs Bermuda 1700/25 for Casablanca (route and arrangements.) (N.O.B. Bermuda, 242210.)
- CHITRAL. Intend holding up de-storing and de-ammunitioning until it is known whether ship will be converted in U.S. port or in U.K. (S.B.N.O.W.At.,242235Z.)

SECRET

410A.

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential 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.)

Spanish vessels
fishing in
Newfoundland
waters.

241348Z/February

FROM: N.S.H.Q. Ottawa

Date 26.2.44.

Reed. 0435

Naval Shore Code (T) by Cable

ADDRESSED: Admiralty

Repeated: N.M.C.S., B.N.A. Madrid, S.C.N.O. Halifax, F.O.N.F.
Comd. 10 Fleet C. & R.

Following conditions must govern Spanish vessels fishing in Newfoundland waters. Your 220509 /, 170552 / and 121038 / Feb. and my 272218 / Jan. (none to all addressees) Refer.

(A) Owing to restricted loading space in St. John and strictly limited supplies of coal and salt in Newfoundland, original proposal that vessels bunker in Louisburg must stand. Vessels to proceed and / Bay of Bulls repetition Bay of Bulls for security inspection weather permitting routeing prior to visiting Louisburg.

(B) Vessels should sail with maximum quantity of salt (as is done by Portuguese fishermen). If additional salt is required arrangements must be made to procure salt in Louisburgh. It is understood that Newfoundland imported most of its salt from Detroit last year.

(C) There is no restriction on Eastward ~~rep.~~ Eastward fishing limits. We are willing to extend previous westward limit of 053 degs 00 mins West to 055 degs 00 mins West with Northern limit of 046 degs 00 mins North in this extended area. We cannot agree to unrestricted Spanish fishing in St. Lawrence Approaches where diversity of routeing is now limited by ice conditions.

(D) W/T communications whilst on banks to be confined to daily positions report to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (? at) fixed times each day and (if desired) Weekly Report to Spain on fish catch to be originated by 1 (one) vessel only Use Spanish En Clair. Vessels wishing to load, bunker or salt to request permission and instructions by W/T fro N.S.H.Q.

241348Z

A.C.N.S.(H)

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

Ops.(2)

Plot.

.D.(5)

D.T.D.(4)

D.T.D.(C)

D.E.W.D.(3)

O.I.C.(3)

D.N.I.(5)

M.(2) (M05656/45)

D. of S.T.(15)

W.D.

I.P.(3)

/ As received To intended ?

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

411

24.2.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
No.765
Feb.23rd.

10. Five Destroyers operating North Mussau Island morning 22nd sank one enemy vessel 3,800 tons heading towards Palau vessel carried 400 aviation personnel from Rabaul whereof 73 survivors captured. Destroyer force then split: three destroyers proceeded South West New Hanover engaging sinking old type destroyer or minelayer also large cargo vessel several barges off Steffen Strait: same three destroyers swept West Coast New Ireland without further contact finally bombarding airfield installations Duke of York Island dawn 23rd: remaining two destroyers bombarded Kavieng starting fires proceeding thence down East Coast New Ireland. Two elements effected R/V off Cape Saint George morning 23rd. Accurate shore battery fire encountered Kavieng but nil enemy aircraft observed throughout sweep nil damage nor casualties sustained.

11. Rabaul again hit forenoon 22nd in three co-ordinated attacks by escorted heavy light medium bombers. Weather hampered all operations but nil interception encountered. 47 Dauntless, 23 Avengers finding Lakunai closed in by weather struck shipping in Keravia Bay. Dauntless claim six hits on six ships, one hit among motor torpedo boats, 12 hits among up to 20 barges, three hits among buildings Paluana Point: Avengers claim eight hits on single 300 foot ship, one hit on another ship. Two ships seen on fire after attack. One Avenger, one Dauntless lost, crew of latter rescued.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 241054Z.)

Summary
of
operations
to 18th
Feb.

Rooke Island. Allied Forces landed 12th Feb. unopposed. Subsequent patrols made no contact.

Nissan Island. Allied Forces landed and established perimeter 15th Feb. against slight opposition. Attempted attack by enemy dive-bombers on Allied shipping intercepted by our fighters. Shipping sustained nil damage.

General. An occupation Nissan Island estimated 22,000 enemy troops Bougainville area now virtually cut off from bases. Enemy appears be reinforcing Hollandia Wewak Area at expense New Britain and Solomons.
(L.H.Q. Melbourne, 241600L.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A. Italian corvette DANAIDE attacked U/B, oil observed, at 0855Z/23rd. in 38° 00' N. 16° 17' E. (As amended by 251134A.)

2. SS. FERNGLEN sighted periscope at 0255Z/24 in 01° 50' N. 11° 00' W.

3. Transit A/C sighted U/B submerging, course 220° at 1842Z/23 in 38° 00' N. 09° 16' W.

Para. B. 1. H.M.C. Ship missed by two torpedoes at 0320Z/23 in 37° 55' N. 26° 00' W. 2. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact before 0434Z/24th in 50° 30' N. 08° 20' W. 3. A/C K/120 attacked oil patch with depth charges at 1930Z/22 in 60° 57' N. 20° 10' W.
(D.D.I.C. 241158A.)

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 241430A, 241435A.)

412

25. 2. 1944.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.
MAHRATTA
sunk. U/B
sunk by A/C.

1. At 1401A R.A.D. in BLACK PRINCE reported the noon position of convoy J.W.57 as about 375 miles W. by S. of the North Cape, adding that the convoy was being shadowed by A/C and that several U-Boats were near it. At 0945A a Catalina A/C attacked and sank a U-Boat sighted on the surface about 25 miles west of the convoy: and at 1110A CHASER, with the convoy, reported that her A/C were unable to operate. At 2215Z MAHRATTA of the Destroyer Escort was torpedoed and sunk about 280 miles west of the North Cape.

Convoy F.S.71
attacked.
PHILIPP M.
sunk. 2
E/Bs damaged.

2. At 2330 last night convoy F.S.71 was attacked by about 12 E-Boats in groups about 25 miles east of Great Yarmouth and the British PHILIPP M. (2085 tons) was torpedoed and sunk, 19 of her crew of 25 being rescued. VIVIEN and EGLINTON each drove off a group of E-Boats, and each claims to have damaged one.

Engagement
off Ymuiden.
2 E-Boats
damaged.

3. At about 0345 today a patrol of three M.T.Bs. engaged two groups of E-Boats about 15 miles N.W. by N. of Ymuiden and damaged two E-Boats at close range. There was one fatal casualty in M.T.B. 621.

Mining.

4. Bomber Command aircraft last night laid 227 mines in Kiel Harbour and the Baltic: Wellingtons laid 10 off Lorient.

Milford
Haven.

5. Milford Haven will cease to be a convoy assembly port after the sailing of convoy O.S.M.70/K.M.S.44 from there on 2nd March. Ships will sail from Belfast instead.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle."
INGLEFIELD
sunk.

6. (a). During an air raid last night, forward ammunition dumps were hit and some bombs fell in the dock area, but caused no material damage. 5 or 6 enemy aircraft are claimed to have been destroyed.
(b). 2264 tons were discharged at Anzio today. Unloading from Liberty ships was slow owing to strong southeast wind and heavy swell. There was slight shelling of the port, but no damage occurred.

/(c)...

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle."
INGLEFIELD
sunk.
(Contd.)

6.(c). At dusk today the destroyer INGLEFIELD was hit amidships and sunk by a glider bomb.

Adriatic.

7.(a). Destroyers off Vis and coastal forces off Rogoznica and in Korcula Channel had another blank night last night.

(b). 396 escorted U.S. heavy bombers were despatched today to attack Zara, Pola, Regensburg and Fiume.

East Indies.

SS. NONSUCO,
U/B attack.

8. SS. NONSUCO (Abadan to Aden independently) reported at 1752 G.M.T. being chased by a U-Boat in 13.50 N. 48.41 E. (200 miles East of Aden.) HELFORD, escorting A.B. 32 despatched four escort vessels to assist the ship and hunt the U-Boat to exhaustion. The report that NONSUCO was chased was subsequently stated by C. in C.E.F. to be incorrect though a U-Boat is believed to have been in the area.

America & West Indies.

G.U.S./
U.G.S.
Convoys.

9. Beginning with G.U.S. 31 the limit of number of ships in convoy is raised to 100. The limit for the eastbound U.G.S. convoys remains at 80.

10. The American tanker SAMOSET reported at 0245 G.M.T. being chased and fired on by an unidentified craft in 32.50 N. 66.57 W. (near Bermuda). There is no further information.

414

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Destroyer
Operations.

11.(a). About midnight last night 5 South Pacific destroyers sank a large merchant ship 26 miles N. of New Hanover.

(b). The same destroyers continued southward and bombarded Kavieng Harbour, New Ireland, at dawn today. Preliminary report from spotting aircraft states that one ship was sunk in harbour and two others left on fire, several small craft were hit and fires were caused throughout the dump area.

(c). At the same time, another 9 South Pacific destroyers carried out a sweep up St. George's Channel. 4 units bombarded Vunapopo area before dawn and also shelled the Cape Gazelle/Matupi areas. The other 5 destroyers continued up the S.W. coast of New Ireland, sinking some small vessels off Kavieng.

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Force Letters & Numbers. A.M. 291207 September. Existing Force letters are S. J. L. O. B. G. and U. - Home based assault force for "Overlord". P. and Z. - Mediterranean area.
2. A. C. D. E. K. and R. - allocated to A.N.C.X.F. for "Overlord".
3. The following Force numbers have been allocated to A.N.C.X.F. 126 - 135.
(Head of M.II 251921A to A.I.G. 21.)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN. Your 211755. At the request of General Eisenhower the Chiefs of Staff have agreed to provide an additional L.S.I.(H). This ship is ROYAL ULSTERMAN, which is already fitted as Assault Group H.Q.Ship.
2. Request confirmation that ISLE OF THANET is not required in addition to ROYAL ULSTERMAN.
(V.C.N.S. 252317A to A.N.C.X.F.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Faroes A/A defences. 2 H.A.A. guns at Vaagar now placed out of action, 265 coast battery at Giljanes and 426 coast battery at Bour have ceased to be operational. Admiralty 021035 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 251738A to Admty.)

Operations.

ES.1371 Convoy F.S.71 attacked by E-Boats. PHILIPP M. sunk. 4 E-Boats damaged. E-Boat at Sunk Light Vessel. Cover Ymuiden. (C. in C.Nore 250015A to Nore Local C/S.) Enemy possibly returning via 53° 00' N. 4° 30' E. thence to Ymuiden. Enemy left Smiths Knoll about 0015.
(C. in C.Nore 250258 to Nore Local C/S.)
Following from VIVIEN begins:-
PHILIPP M. torpedoed and sunk in vicinity of Hearty Knoll Buoy at 2337. LADY OLGA has 11 survivors and is proceeding ahead. E.T.A. 1200. T.O.O.250823A.
(Cdre. Southend 251041A to Admty.)
F.S.71. A convoy of 32 ships was attacked by several groups of E-Boats in the vicinity of Hearty Knoll buoy on the night of 24th/25th.
VIVEN drove off a group of 4 E-Boats, one of which was straddled and considered damaged. This group of E-Boats fired torpedoes which were evaded by VIVIEN.
A further attack on the convoy was driven off by EGLINTON, one E-Boat being repeatedly hit and probably sunk by her.
LEEDS later observed 6 E-Boats proceeding in a north easterly direction away from the convoy and on the opposite flank to that which she was guarding.
One ship in the convoy was torpedoed and subsequently sank, but the majority of the ship's company were rescued.
No damage or casualties were sustained by H.M.Ships.
(VIVIEN 251729A to Admty.)

/Preliminary...

416

War Diary.25.2.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Convoy F.S.71 Preliminary report of E-Boat activities night
 attacked by 24th/25th.
 E-Boats. 1. About 12 E-Boats attacked F.S.71 when head of
 PHILIPP M. convoy was close North of Hearty Knoll Buoy and
 sunk. 4 rear was south of 57 Buoy. VIVIEN (S.O. escort on
 E-Boats seaward beam of Commodore) engaged a group of 4 E-
 damaged. Boats that came in from the bow at 2330 and drove
 (Contd.) them S.E. avoiding several torpedoes while so
 doing. At least one E-Boat was damaged by gunfire.
 2. About 2335 steamship PHILIPP M. (2085 tons)
 leading starboard column was hit by a torpedo prob-
 ably fired at VIVIEN and sank shortly after. 19 survivors of
 crew of 25 were picked up by M.L. 582 and another merchant ship.
 3. About 2350 EGLINTON (Patrol 5) abreast rear of convoy detec-
 ted 3 E-Boats approaching from seaward quarter. He turned and
 drove them off N.E. EGLINTON claims a 4-inch hit and that one
 of his Radar echoes then stopped and faded. This E-Boat may
 have been sunk, but search at daylight failed to find any
 wreckage or survivors.
 4. A unit of M.T.Bs. at Z.55 while trying to intercept retiring
 E-Boats state that rear E-Boat dropped smoke canister that gave
 off brilliant red flash and much black smoke.
 5. LEEDS halfway down landward side of convoy saw 6 E-Boats to
 seaward of convoy retiring N.E.
 6. Shore Radar. Activity was beyond normal range of shore sets.
 K.135, K.65 and K.134 suffered acutely from false echoes.
 7. Indifferent information passed by signal by VIVIEN and
 EGLINTON handicapped C/F units on Z line in their efforts to
 intercept retiring E-Boats.
 8. During the night two units M and C of 3 D-class M.T.Bs. who
 had had to abandon an operation were ordered to cover Ymuiden.
 About 0345 unit M was engaged by a trawler patrol 035° 15 miles
 from Ymuiden.

At 0402 Unit M sighted E-Boats illuminated by trawlers Star Shell
 in two groups of 4 and 6 boats with two straggler. Unit M en-
 gaged on opposite courses at close range and damaged two leading
 E-Boats and scored hits on two more. Leading E-Boats disengaged
 towards trawlers who engaged them in a running fight. Unit M
 then fought short action with second group who disengaged towards
 Ymuiden at high speed. Unit C were unable to bring enemy to
 action. Unit M reports 3-inch rocket flares provided good illum-
 inating. No action damage sustained by M.T.Bs. but 621 had one
 fatal casualty.

(C. in C.Nore 251900A to Admty.)

Y Supplement to my 251900A. Between 0016 and 0034 Gorleston
 and Winterton heard Carrier and unreadable R/T on 43.75 m/cs.
 Trimingham heard faint Carrier on this frequency at 0033.
 2. From 0100 to 0246 Trimingham heard Carrier and faint speech on
 43.55 m/cs and Sheringham heard Carrier on 43.75 m/cs. E-Boats
 not thought to be in this area.
 3. 16 Smudge signals received between 2309 and 0455. Bearings
 placed activity off Norfolk coast. Bearings at 0241 indicated a
 retiring course toward Texel. E-Boats steering 160° when sighted
 at 0400 confirm this.

4. R/T traffic on "Headache" heard by EGLINTON contains signals
 of type not hitherto known. It is possible they are minelaying
 signals but apart from this minelaying is not suspected.

(C. in C.Nore 251925A to Admty.)

/Search...

417

25.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Search for U-Boat. Nr. 1. Had A.S.V. contact 51° 07' N. 09° 49' W. Disappeared.
(A/C UYC 29 250025 to 19 Group.)
Have obtained contact in 51° 03' N. 09° 33' W.
(A/C SRQ 16 250305 to 19 Group.)

On reaching Trevoze Head Force 112 consisting of BLYTH S.O., SCIMITAR, PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS, ROSEVEAN is to reverse course and sweep to Lizard Head.

2. ROSEVEAN is to be detached to Plymouth by standard route from Lizard Head.

3. Force 112 is to R/V with convoy P.W.482 E.T.A. Lizard Head 0001/26th and support against U-Boat attack. Force is to act in close support until clear of Longships then operate 4 miles on seaward bow of convoy.

4. S.O. convoy escort TALYBONT.

(C. in C.Plymouth 251411A to Force 112.)

Intend to sail TANATSIDE to Plymouth at 0830A/26 in compliance with your 251553A.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 251715A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 51° 05' N. 10° 28' W.

Probably a surface vessel.

(A/CJPD 25 252121 to 19 Group.)

Operation F.X. MAHRATTA sunk. U/B sunk by A/C. J.W.57. Deterioration in ice conditions make it possible for only 10 ships to be brought through White Sea at once. Following have been selected.
A. Destination River Dvina. 2 ships. Names.
B. Destination Molotovsk. 8 ships. Names.
2. Remainder to Kola Inlet but out of these request following 8 ships be kept in reserve to proceed to Molotovsk as soon as ships in para. 1B above have been lightened.

3. In the event of casualties to White Sea section request replacement by reserve ships in order named.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 250937A to H.F.)

Am over enemy S/M sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 042° estimated speed 6 knots. Have attacked with depth charges. Position 70° 26' N. 12° 40' E.

(A/C LBXM 250945A to 18 Group.)

My 0945. Lost touch with U-Boat. Request instructions.

(A/C LBXM 251030A to 9 A.H.)

Unable to operate. Has Catalina taken off?

(CHASER 251110A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Your 251110. Yes, aircraft was due on patrol 0730A.

(C. in C.Rosyth 251225A to R.A.D.H.F.)

Noon position of convoy 070° 34' N. 010° 57' E. course 045, speed 6 knots. Several U-Boats in vicinity made 2 promising attacks. Air shadower's in company. Weather 5473 0277.

(R.A.D.H.F. 251401A to H.F.)

All vessels now cleared White Sea ports and on passage Kola Inlet to join R.A.57.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 251540A to Admty.)

1. Catalina reports she attacked U-Boat on surface in 070° 26' N. 012° 40' E. at 0945A/25th. U-Boat submerged.

2. Both Catalinas have returned to base due to weather.

(C. in C.H.F. 251541A to S.E. J.W. 57.)

MAHRATTA torpedoed and sunk position 071° 17' N. 013° 30' E.

(R.A.D.H.F. 252215Z to C. in C.H.F.)

/My...

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.X. MAHRATTA sunk. U/B sunk by A/C. (Contd.) My 251541 para. 1. Photographs show about 10 survivors in water and U-Boat sinking stern first at angle of 045°. (C. in C.H.F. 252310A to S.E.C.J.W.57.)

V.P. Operations. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol AE. 2. V.P. 70. 3. a.m. 26th February or first suitable day thereafter. 4. One. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 065 Bressay. 8. Yes.

(A.C.O.S. 251145A to Admty.)

A. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol SK. 2. V.P. 68. 3. a.m. 1st March or first suitable day thereafter. 4. At S.O's. discretion. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 057° 30' N. 003° 00' E. 8. Yes.

B. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen to pass to AMBITIOUS. (A.C.O.S. 251842A to Admty.)

A. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol SN. 2. V.P. 69. 3. a.m. 1st March or first suitable day thereafter. 4. At S.O's. discretion. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 057° 27' N. 003° 00' E. 8. Yes.

B. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen to pass to AMBITIOUS. (A.C.O.S. 251852 to Admty.)

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. Ships addressed are now to proceed Lough Foyle. 2. My 242315. 6th E.G. will be required to leave Lough Foyle to be off Tory Island at 2200A/27th. 3. 3rd E.G. will be required to leave Lough Foyle about 0400A/28th. (C. in C.W.A. 251305A to E.G.3, NENE, WASKESIU, OUTREMONT.)

By D/F at 2031Z/25 U/Bestimated within 60 miles of 50° 30' N. 21° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 252234A to S.C.153, H.X.279, E.G.3.)

Operation "Bayleaf". Operation "Bayleaf". D day now 27th Feb. 2. My 231626A. For MUSKETEER and BLYSKAWICA read VIRAGO and PIORUN. (C.S.1 251325 to FURIOUS, SHEFFIELD, BERMUDA.) My 231856. Operation postponed about 3 days. (C. in C.H.F. 251339 to H.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 251359A.) (V.A.Dover 251953A.) (C. in C.Plymouth 252119A and 251631A.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail VENTURER at 1800A/26th routed 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles through 062° 10' N. 003° 55' E. to patrol in accordance with F.O.S's number S.M. 04010/239. (Capt. S.9 251559 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Request total negative patrol bombing restriction and route. My position 1900 today 058° 05' N. 005° 32' E. course 310° speed 8 kts (ULA 251802A to F.O.S.)

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

M/V attacked. Result of attack, hits observed on 1 merchant vessel 3000 tons, P.C. and S. 58.38 N. 05.41 E. 360°, 10 knots.
(A/C PDRF 250648A to Leuchars.)

Result of attack unobserved. 2 enemy medium merchant vessels and 1 escort vessel 58° 03' N. 06° 45' E. course 180°.
(A/C PDRB 250653A to Leuchars.)

Result of attack unobserved 0746A. P.C. and S. of one medium enemy merchant vessel 3000 tons 59.08 N. 05.20 E. 180°, 8 knots at 0750.
(A/C WKMP 250720 to Leuchars.)

Mining.

Norwegian Coast. Your 241529A. In view of length of time required to make necessary preparations intend to abandon mining in leads except with R mines.
(A.C.O.S. 251128A to Admty.)

Humber. Mine detonated today by sweeper at 251109 in 305° No. 62 Buoy 5 cables.
(F.O.Humber 251903A.)

Casualties & Defects.

MUSKETEER. My 241609. Sailed.
(Care. D.H.F. 250830 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

WOODPECKER. My P.C. and S. 050° 52' N. 011° 53' W. 075° 4.6 knots. Have transferred one officer and 51 ratings to ROTHER. Destination is urgently requested. Request weather forecast.
(WOODPECKER 250900 to C. in C.W.A.)

Proceed through position W. 180° Bishop Rock 6. X. 180° The Lizard 3 and thence by Q.Z.S. 410 and 443 to Plymouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth 251307A to WOODPECKER.)

GROGGA. Arrived FLINT CASTLE with tow.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 251341A to R.N.O.Stornoway.)

STUBBORN. Clyde arrivals STUBBORN towed by BANDIT escorted by NARVIK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251506A to F.O.S.)

GEORGE W. CHILDS. It is understood from F.O.I.C. Greenock that C. in C.H.F. can spare BANDIT after completion of present tow to bring M.V. G.W.CHILDS from Oban. Request arrangements be made accordingly. A.M. 241935 is cancelled.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs 251954A to C. in C.W.A.)

/FORT...

420

25.2.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.- Contd.

FORT
MACPHERSON.

Aground on Nash Sand. Requires assistance tug.
(FORT MACPHERSON 252350 to Burnham W/T.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.225.

VIMY arrived. Fuelled and sailed to overtake.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 250611A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

ABA.

Intend sailing ABA (hospital ship) 1400Z/26th.
Route by Eire territorial waters to Gibraltar.
(N.C.S.O.Mersey 251045 to Admty.)

Portuguese
M/Vs.

Following is promulgated for information and
guidance.

2. Portuguese merchant ships are not normally
informed of merchant ship recognition procedure
and are not usually provided with signalling
lanterns or similar lamps for daytime use.
(A.C.N.S.H. 251501A. A.Message 570A.)

Milford
Haven.

Admiralty letter M 055384/43 dated 20th Jan. 1944
para. one.

Milford Haven will cease to be a convoy assembly
port after sailing of O.S.M.70/K.M.S.44 from
Milford Haven on 2nd March. O.N.227 will assemble
at Belfast.

(C. in C.W.A. 252110 to Admty.)

421

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- U.761 sunk by ANTHONY and Catalinas. Gib. G.R.Opsum 24th February 1944. Secret. Several survivors in water astern. Drs. began shelling G.202 attacked 90° Green with 6 Torpex D.C. perfect straddle - no flak - 2 mins. Later U-Boat blew up - 36 survivors picked up by Drs. (A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar 250345A.)
- M.K.S.40/
S.L.149.
K.M.F.29. Detach two escorts of E.G.39 after dark tonight Friday as necessary to R/V K.M.F.29 in CD. 039° 02' 019° 30' at 260900A.
2. FENCER escorted by these escorts is then to be detached to R/V M.K.S.40/S.L.149 daybreak.
3. K.M.F.29 consists of 19 ships S.O. Escort E.G. 4 in BENTINCK (route), etc.
4. M.K.S.40/S.L.149 S.O. Escort E.G. 39 in ROCHESTER. Details of route will be signalled separately to FENCER. (F.O.G.M.A. 251540A to S.E.C. M.K.S.40, S.E.C. S.L.149, (R) S.E.C. K.M.F.29, C. in C.W.A. Admty. H.Q.C.C. S.B.N.O.Azores, FENCER, PURSUER.)
- SS. SERANTES. M.E.W. desire Spanish SS. SERANTES sent in if going to Cadiz or Med. port after calling Las Palmas.
2. C.C.S.O. to select one ship outward bound from Med. to South America. (D.E.W.D. 251642A.)
- T.G.21.16. Sending CORRY Horta for 100,000 gallons fuel arriving 0900Z/26. Continuous bad weather. Only one flight to date. Still chasing Jap. R/V with convoy 42.15 N. 28.00 W. sunrise Sunday. Weather 4878 1337. Ends. (C.T.G. 21.16 251750Z.)
- Enemy ore traffic between Bilbao and Bayonne. Reference your 011738*. Under Secretary for Mercantile Marine confidentially informed British Attache that if we sank a ship on the Bilbao ore traffic his hand would be greatly strengthened in obtaining his superiors' (gr. missed) to withdrawal of KAULDI, LINETTE and MARIBEL from this traffic. (B.N.A.Madrid 251902A.)
* re Attempts to dislocate enemy ore traffic between Bilbao -Bayonne.

422

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Tabarin."

"Tabarin" reports as follows. WILLIAM SCORESBY
with SS. FITZROY in company arrived South Georgia
p.m. 24th.
(N.O.I.C. Falklands 251153Z.)

U/B sighted.

U.S. Plane Natal to Ascension reports sighting
from 9000 feet fully surfaced submarine at 1246Z/
25th position 06° 53' S. 23° 14' W. course 21°
N. true speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 251942Z.)

25.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep No.35.
2944 tons discharged 24th Feb. accurate shelling of harbour caused Liberties to move out. A.S.H. slight splinter damage GOODYEAR near missed no damage some fatal casualties ashore.
(2) Slight air activity no damage.
(3) Heavy swell and southerly wind interfered with unloading.
(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 250924A).

ERIDAN C. in C. Med. Naples, 241330A.
Libyan Request approximate date you consider ERIDAN will complete this move also present speed.
P.O.W. (P.S.T.O. Med., 250933 to P.S.T.O.M.E.).

BERTE (ex BRUNHILDE) German tanker BRUNHILDE ex BACCHUS now again re-named BERTE anchored Istanbul 0945C load from Black Sea. (?Has) (?Diesel oil) as deck cargo. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 250959C to F.O.L.E.M.)
BERTE sails from Istanbul for Piraeus 1200 G.M.T./25th with 1440 tons fuel oil. Expects to enter Aegean 0500 to 0700 G.M.T./26th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 251520C to F.O.L.E.M.)

F.F. S/M ANGIOPE ready for service 10th March. Naval France propose she should sail for patrol 14th March. They have not been kept informed of exchange of signals leading up to A.M. 231901 Jan. An early decision by C.C.S. on employment of this vessel would be appreciated.
(C. in C. Med. 251028A to B.A.D.)

C.S.15. Cancel my 131633 Feb. Intend to rehoist my flag in ORION at 1100/26th.
(C.S.15, 251101.)

SOKOL. Intend to sail SOKOL 6th March to Gibraltar joining M.K.S.42 convoy thence to U.K.
My 251514.
(S.1., 251517.)

DUNERA. Details of collision damage. Arranging temporary repairs only to commence forthwith for passage only estimated time completion 3 weeks.
(M.W.T.R. Med., 251535A.)

S/Ms. BANDIERA probably delayed until end of April.
(training) (2) H.2 now out of action.
for Freetown (C. in C. Med., 251838A.)
and Eastern Fleet.

/Joint ...

25.2.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Joint Naval
Army R.A.F.
Intell.
Appreciation.

SS. LISA ^(ex-LIVENZA) still not located by extensive photographic and visual R/C 24th Feb. Strong presumption therefore sunk. CX. now reports SS. ORIA wrecked Saronic Gulf with loss 4,000 Italian prisoners and 50 Germans. Comment. Presumably on recent return trip from Rhodes. (C. in C. M.E., 251915B.)

Situation
Report
No. 302.

1. Accurate shelling of Anzio anchorage combined with heavy swell and strong wind slightly delayed unloading on 23rd and 24th Feb.
3. 8 destroyers patrolled off Vis during the nights of 22nd/23rd and 23rd/24th but sighted nothing. Destroyers also had blank patrol between Durazzo and Valona during the night 23rd/24th. (C. in C. Med., 252137.)

425

25.2.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Bi-weekly U-boat disposition No.28. Area A and D believed clear of U-boats scale of air escort W. Area B. and E. No definite information but a Japanese U-boat is probably in these areas. Scale of air escort X. Area C U-boat (German) believed still in Area, but no fresh information since attack on convoy night 22/23. Scale of air escort remains Z Area F Japanese U-boat by D/F on 22nd. Scale of air escort X Area G. No fresh information, but U-boat believed to be in Area. Scale air escort remains Y.
(C. in C. E.F., 250326Z).

CAPE RIVER ?U/B attack. Torpedo detector showed attack 0430 G.M.T./25th latitude 014 degs. 20' longitude 105 degs. 00'.
(MYTY) CAPE RIVER, 250500)

Engagement of unseen A/C targets. It is proposed to adopt in Eastern Fleet area the rules for engagement of unseen aircraft targets at sea given in para. 27B of S.P.02312(4).
(C. in C. E.F. 250643Z to all concerned.
S.P.02312(4) - A/C Recognition Instructions No.4.

ERLING BROVIG (torpedoed 23 Feb.) OCEAN SALVOR and PAULINE MOLLE have ERLING BROVIG in tow.
(Com. Aden, 250644Z)

Fleet forecast areas. From 5th March 1944 Southern Boundary of East Indies Station Fleet Forecast Areas D.25 and D.30 will be westward and northward 018 degs. S. South Atlantic Fleet forecast Area F.65 is not being altered and Forecast Area will therefore overlap.
(2) Appendix to E.F.T.O. 321 is to be amended accordingly.
(C. in C. E.F. 250904Z)

Routeing. Shipping from Colombo and Cochin your 222030 refers has been routed in accordance with F.O.N.I.C. 299 18th December and 305 31st.
(2) In the case of M.B. 65 with a large number of Ships for Aden and risk of U-Boat attack these ships were all routed to Bombay for B.A. Convoy.
(3) Ships for Aden in M.B. 66 in view of S/M situation here also routed to Bombay.
(4) Paras. 2 and 3 above were not reported to Admty. as they were considered to be special cases.
(5) Development of S/M situation now shows that routeing via Bombay should continue and Aden ships in M.B. Convoys will be so routed for the present.
(C. in C. E.F. 250913Z to Admty.)

Convoys /...

426

War Diary.25.2.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Convoys in Operation. F.O.N.I.C. (342) pass to N.C.S.O's. The following convoys are now in operation.
(2) AKD-DKA. Aden to Kilindini portion only.
AB-BA. AP-PA. PB-BP. RM-MB. JC-CJ. HC-CH.
(3) Class A ships are released from all convoys with the exception of HC-CH convoy.
(4) Cancel F.O.N.I.C's 290, 298, 310, 312, 313, 320, 337 and 338.
(C. in C. E.F. 251201Z to F.O.N.I.C.)

Naval Air Facilities. Provision of Naval air facilities in the Eastern Theatre.
(A.M. 251206A). See Lion copy.

SS. FORT LA MAUNE (torpedoed 25th Jan.) Para. (H) S.O.(I) Aden's 090903 SS. FORT LA MAUNE. It is not understood why these signals were not read at Socotra even if inaudible at Aden. Request result of your investigation be reported by signal. Para. 5 of your 091227 to Admty. only also refers.
(D.T.D. 251423A to C. in C. E.F.)

A.B.321. A.P.62. In company JASMINE, TULIP. Have formed extended screen ahead of convoy A.B. 32 and A.P. 62. VERBENA detached at 12 5Z (2 corrupt group) 250822Z.
(PARRET, 251331Z to Capt. D.(4))

SS. NONSUCO, U/B attack. SSSS at 1752 G.M.T. Lat. 13 R 50 North. 48 R 41 East sighted. ((KZNN) NONSUCO No T.O.O/25, Recd.1719)
SSSS At 1752 G.M.T. S/M pursuing us and we are firing at S/M.
(NONSUCO No T.O.O.)
REDOUBT, PARRET, JASMINE and TULIP have been despatched to 013 degs. 50' N. 048 degs. 41' E. Ship NONSUCO attacked by S/M.
(HELFORD, 251820Z to N.O.I.C.Aden.)
(?REDOUBT) PARRET, JASMINE and TULIP have been ordered to remain in vicinity 013 degs. 50' N. 048 degs. 41' E. and hunt to exhaustion reporting their movements to you repeated D.4.
(HELFORD, 252339Z to Aden.)

SS. FENRIS (Torpedoed 21st Feb.) Position of SS. FENRIS when torpedoed suggests ship had not received diversion ordered in your 171104. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 252306A to C. in C. E.F.)

426A.

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.)

251206A/February.

Date: 25.2.44

To: S.A.C.S.E.A.
C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.)
C. in C. S.A.
Info R.A.N.A.S. I.O.
Com. N.A.S. E.A.
F.O. Ceylon.

Provision of Naval Air facilities in the Eastern Theatre.

Naval Cypher (XD) Plug

From: Admiralty.

DEFERRED

The provision of Naval air facilities in the Eastern Theatre during 1944 has been under review.

2. Although strategy is not yet firm, it is now possible to take into account the following factors:-

- (a) The move of the Eastern Fleet from Africa to Ceylon.
- (b) The labour and material resources of India and Ceylon.
- (c) The British Naval manning situation.

C. in C. E.F.'s 121136/January (not to any addressees) refers.

3. The following is intended as a guide on priorities both for the completion of facilities and for their manning and is subject always to the development of the war in Europe and the Far East during the second half of 1944.

4. Ceylon and Southern India.

(a) Assuming that the following are completed and manned -

- (i) Katukurunda - 6 Squadron Station and B Repair Yard
- (ii) Colombo - 6 Squadron station + erecting facilities
- (iii) Puttalam - 2 Squadron station + storage
- (iv) Coimbatore - B Repair Yard + storage
- (v) Cochin - Erecting facilities.

(b) the requirements in 1944 are -

- (i) China Bay - 6 Squadron Section to be completed and manned
- (ii) Tambaram - 6 Squadron Station to be completed and manned

(iii)

- (iii) Clappenburg Bay and Tambaram - Double B Yards to be completed and the equivalent of one B Yard in each place to be manned.
- (iv) Sollur - Receipt, Despatch and Storage Unit to be completed and manned.
- (v) Kantalai - 8½ Squadron Station to be completed; Manning to be considered later.

(c) Other projects which have been under discussion but are not approved at present and on which no action is to be taken:-

- (i) B Yards at Ratmalana and Kantalai
- (ii) Further stations to be taken over from R.A.F.
- (iii) Storage Section at Madura.

5. East Africa.

- (a) Port Reitz - Complete Naval Section for 2 Squadrons. Man with reduced complement.
- (b) Nairobi
Tanga
Voi
Mackinnon Road } - Finish any works necessary for preservation. To be manned for care and maintenance.

6. South Africa.

- (a) Wingfield - Increase of Station's capacity from 3 to 6 Squadrons to proceed but additional facilities not to be manned. Repair Yard and Storage Section to be manned as at present.
- (b) Durban - New Air Station to be manned when ready (Site of Station still under consideration).

7. Indian Ocean.

- (a) Aden (Hiswa) - When completed to be placed on care and maintenance.
- (b) Andrakaka } - Action being taken with Air Ministry to reduce commitments. Admiralty's 251052A (not to all addressees) refers.
- Plaisance }
- (c) Gan - As Para. (H) of C. in C. E.F.'s 220414 (not to all addressees) viz. facilities for operation of 2 Squadrons for short periods.

MOST SECRET

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

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

- 3 -

8. Detailed instructions on the action to be taken to reduce the establishments in Paras. 5 and 7 will be sent as soon as possible.

251206A

For Head of Air Branch.
(Dorland House, Ext.3)

Approved by First Lord.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D. G. S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
Civil Lord,
D.C.N.A.E.
Secretary
P.A.S. (S)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D. of L.D.
D.T.S.D.
Hd. of M. (2)
C.E. in C.
N.A. 2 S.L.
P. (L)
D. of V.
D.A.S. (L)
D. of D.
I.P. (2)
W.E.
D.G.D.
D. of L.
D.N.A.O.
D.A.W.T.
D.A.E.
D.A.C.R.
D.A.M.R.
D. of S. (2)
D.S.D.
D.R.E.
D.P.S.
N.A. 2 S.L. (Air)

Head of N.
Head of C.W.
Head of Air Branch (A.0028/44) (3)
Dcp. Contr.
C.E. in C.
D. of D.
D.A.S.
D. of V.
D.N.O.
P.
D.R.E.
C.I.N.O.
Head of L.

Bath

427

War Diary.

25.2.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

EVADNE,
ATHLETE.

My 231459/ advance all times 24 hours.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 250001Z)
(/ H.M.S. EVADNE escorting H.M.R.T. ATHLETE
departs for Gib. 23rd Feb.)
Orders for diversion.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R., 250520Z)

SAMOSET
(American
Tanker.)

32.50 N. 66.57 W. chased by unidentified craft
open fire 0245 G.M.T.
(KOIP (SAMOSET) No. T.O.O./25.)
Note: Message read by Halifax and passed to
A.C.I.C. and C. in C. W.A.

Working
up base
at Bermuda.

Your 152111. The future of the A/S Working Up
Base at Bermuda is under consideration and a
reply will be made shortly.
(2) No objection seen to shake down period at
Casco being transferred to Bermuda after
1st April but it should be borne in mind that

MALABAR's working up organisation may be moved en block to some
other theatre as soon as D.E. programme is complete.
(3) Consideration should be given to the necessity for leaving
a small shake down organisation in U.S. for residue of
programme.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 251224A to S.B.N.O. W.At.)

U/B
Estimates.

1200Z/25th. No fresh information.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 251359Z, Cominch, 251601Z)
Special U-Boat estimate 1200Z/25. Enemy U-Boat
estimated within 150 miles 030 degs. 00' N.
058 degs. 00' W. moving south west.
(Cominch, 251737Z)

S.S. CILICIA.

My 241853/ refers.
Vessel now afloat and anchored in Bedford Basin.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 251414Z)
(/ 241953 intended?
R.S.S. CILICIA dragged anchor during a blizzard
and grounded on West Piers Bedford Basin.

G.U.S.
Convoys.

Beginning with G.U.S. 31 limit of 100 ships
temporarily effective for westbound G.U.S. convoys.
Limit for eastbound U.G.S. convoys remains 80.
My 211405 of July modified accordingly.
(Cominch, 251641Z)

B.Y.M.S.

1600Z/25 sailed B.Y.M.S. 2048 S.O. B.Y.M.S. 2050
to U.K. via Horta.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 251710Z) See amendment 261236Z.

Arvagas/...

428

25.2.1944.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Anvagas Tankers. For routing purposes Anvagas tanker is defined as a tanker whose cargo is more than 50% 100 Octane aviation Gasoline and/or high octane blending agent such as Alkylite or Iropentane or Hydro Codimer. 100 Octane aviation Gasoline is interchangeably referred to as grade 130 aviation fuel distribution A interested parties all have.
(Com. 10th Fleet, 251844Z)
- T.F. 62 C.R. No. 1139.
L.C.I's T.F.62 reconstituted as Captain Winecoff in
(T.G.62.9) SPENCER Comcortdiv 15 in STACK Cortdiv 15,
Comdesdiv 58 in BULMER Desdiv 58 NEUNZER COWAN-
SEQUE plus landing craft listed separately.
Escort U.G.S. 35 departing 4 March Hampton Roads
to North Africa and return as escort G.U.S.34 when directed.
(C. in C. Lant, 251857).
10 L.C.I's (401, 403, 408 - 412, 539, 541, 542) will sail
as part of T.F.62 M.T. 251857. When appropriate near Azores
C.T.F.62 direct this detachment (then constituted T.G.62.9 Lt.
Com. Henry in L.C.I. 408) proceed Horta where upon arrival
report Com. 12th Fleet for duty. T.G. then dissolved.
(Radio Washington, 252235)
- Zig-Zagging. This is U.S. B.A.M.S. numbered message 3 or QW
commencing this date vessels discontinue
zig-zagging B.A.M.S. areas 5B, 5A South of
Australia and East of 120 degs. E. That portion
of B.A.M.S. area 3A not already included in British
B.A.M.S. lettered message NC or US numbered
message 30.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 252008)
- French Naval Effort. List of vessels (all small) and A/C to be
transferred to French. Employment of excess
French personnel.
(B.A.D. 252021Z)
- Minesweepers. At 2020Z/25th sailed GUYSBOROUGH (S.O) WASAGA,
CANSO, KENORA for Plymouth via Azores.
(F.O.N.F. 252032Z)
- MONTREAL. Sailed MONTREAL at 2102Z/25 15 knots routed
direct to position (Z) 49.05 N. 25.30 W. E.T.A.
2359Z/28th.
(2) Request you direct ship as necessary to
join group C.4.
(3) C. in C. C.N.A. 221647 and MONTREAL 240415 refer.
(F.O.N.F. 252141Z to C. in C. W.A.)

NABOB/...

429

War Diary.

25.2.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

NABOB,
PUNCHER.

Appreciation of arrangement made to man NABOB and proposed manning of PUNCHER. (Admty. 252213A).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.766
Feb. 24th.

Para. 7 to 11 cover South Pacific Forces. (9) Photographs 23rd show smallest concentration A/C shipping at Rabaul since Japanese occupation. Only 30 Landbased A/C shown. All airfields serviceable save Keravat. Only 5 floatplanes one flying boat shown Rabaul harbour where shipping confined to about 12 small craft two escort vessels plus reduced number barges. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 250706Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

J.257

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) WASESKIU attacked U-Boat with depth-charges at 0610Z/24th in 47 degs. 19' N. 26 degs. 00' W.
(2) ANTHONY, A/C G/202, and U.S.N. A/C attacked U-Boat at 1817Z/24th in Straits of Gibraltar.
Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2325Z/24th in 51 degs. 07' N. 09 degs. 49' W.
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0205Z/25 in 51 degs. 03' N. 09 degs. 33' W.
Para C. (1) H.M.T. GANILLY attacked contact (believed non-sub) at 1340Z/23rd in approx. 50 degrees 05' N. 05 degs. 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 251134A)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 251446A, 251522A.)

430

26.2.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F.X.

1. Convoy J.W.57 was about 150 miles N.W. by W. of the North Cape at noon to-day, steering 044° at 7 knots; and at 1850A the Admiralty estimated from transmissions at 1607Z and 1617Z that at least four U-Boats are probably still near the Convoy. The Polish cruiser DRAGON from the Cruiser Covering Force returned to Scapa at 1643.

U.91 sunk.

2. The Frigates GORE and AFFLECK of E.G.1 on A/S patrol sank U.91 at 0325Z to-day about 660 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear. U.91 was detected by GORE on Asdic at 2245Z yesterday and, after two creeping attacks by GORE and AFFLECK, was blown to the surface, forced by gunfire to surrender, and blew up at 0325Z. 4 of her officers and 11 ratings were rescued by GORE and 1 rating by AFFLECK from her complement of 52. She was five weeks out of Brest.

Engagement
with
E-Boats.

3. At 0055 MEYNELL on Patrol 6 engaged three E-Boats close to 4D Buoy at 1000 yards range and at 0100 sighted two more E-Boats. Several torpedoes were fired at MEYNELL whose serials were shot away and she claims to have hit one E-Boat with Oerlikon; but contact was lost at 0110. Minelaying is suspected.

Enemy
mines.

4. Three, and possibly four, mines were cut by sweepers off Smiths Knoll (20 miles N.E. of Great Yarmouth) to-day, and others were seen on the surface by M/S.7. Five minesweepers of M/S.4 have been ordered to Yarmouth to-morrow to help M/S.7 to clear this minefield.

South Atlantic.Convoy
S.T.L.12
M.V. SILVER-
MAPLE sunk.

5(a) M.V. SILVERMAPLE in Convoy S.T.L.12 was torpedoed by a U-Boat at 1746Z today and sank later in 04.44 N. 03.20 W. (about 130 miles west of Takoradi). KILDWICK picked up 41 survivors. (b) LOWESTOFT, escorting the Convoy, carried out several attacks on a U-Boat contact p.m. today and a.m./27th about 180 miles south-west of Takoradi. No results were seen.

431

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

6. This morning westerly wind in the Naples area force 6 to 7 reached gale force in gusts. BOXER (L.S.T.), L.S.T.407 and 464, L.C.T.36, L.T.221 were driven ashore off Nisida in the Gulf of Naples, and SS. LOCHEE and TELESFORA DE LARRINAGA east of Naples. Salvage operations are in progress, but BOXER is considerably damaged. U.S. L.S.T.349 went ashore on the rocks off Ponza and became a total loss: five ratings and some of the German prisoners of war which she was carrying were lost. A very heavy swell prevented the working of Liberty ships, but the unloading of all small craft was completed, and 4010 tons were discharged. There were slight air raids and intermittent shelling of the port, but no damage is reported.

East Indies.

U/B
attacked
by LISMORE.

7. LISMORE, who with SONAVATI is escorting a single ship attacked a U-Boat contact at 1118Z today in 01.17 N. 76.54 E. (about 220 miles E.N.E. of Addu Atoll).

U/B threat
in
Mozambique
Channel.

8. C. in C. Eastern Fleet considers it probable that the U-Boat threat in the Mauritius area has now receded but a U-Boat may be on passage to the Mozambique area; and he is taking immediate measures to reduce traffic in the Mozambique Channel.

America and West Indies.

C.U.15,
U.S. dr.
MARCHAND,
Tanker
MURFREESBORO,
SS. EL
COSTON
damaged.

9(a) At 0025Z today SS. EL COSTON in Convoy C.U.15 developed steering gear defect and she collided with the American tanker MURFREESBORO which became on fire and was abandoned in 38.10 N. 51.33 W. (about 540 miles south of Cape Race). The tanker continued to float and at 0910Z the fire was out except on the after island. EL COSTON sustained considerable damage and sank

/later ...

432

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

C.U.15,
U.S. dr.
MARCHAND,
Tanker
MURFREESBORO,
SS. EL
COSTON
damaged.
(Contd.)

later. Her Master, two mates and half the crew are reported missing. The U.S. destroyer MARCHAND was also in collision with EL COSTON and her hull was considerably damaged, the starboard engine rendered useless and her speed reduced to 12 knots.

(b) Assistance was sent from Newfoundland.

QUEEN.

10. The new escort carrier QUEEN grounded shortly before midnight tonight at the entrance to Nanoose Inlet, Vancouver Island and was holed and firmly aground. The ship was refloated in the early hours of 27th February.

Australia and New Zealand.

11. Allied M.T.Bs. last night sank or destroyed 6 enemy barges in the Madang area (north coast of New Guinea) under light shore fire.

433

War Diary.26.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Iceland.
Proposed
Escort
Vessels.

The only vessels in Iceland are trawlers with a maximum fair weather speed of 12 knots. This is inadequate for many requirements and it is strongly urged that at least 2 fast escort vessels be based here. They would be available for the following important duties -

(1) Air Sea Rescue. (2) Co-operation with A/C in U-Boat hunts.

(3) Additional escorts for ships of moderate speed when U-Boats are known to be present.

(4) Minesweeping.

They would also be of value for making quick passages in an emergency between bases in Iceland.

(A.C.I.C. 261358A to Admty.)

Operations.Search for
U-Boats.

A.S.V. contact 49 degs. 03' N. 04 degs. 42' W. 0142.

(A/C WAO.26 260210A to 19 Group)

Have A.S.V. contact position 50 degs. 47' N. 09 degs. 37' W. probably U-Boat.

(A/C.24 260230A to 19 Group)

My 0230. Red lights, possibly flares (corrupt group) marked. Remaining in 50 degs. 40' N. 09 degs. 37' W. until 0515.

(A/C.24, 260317 to 19 Group)

My 251715A. Sailed (TANATSIDE).

(F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 260827A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Part company with P.W. 482 and patrol between Longships and Trevoise Head.

(2) On next occasion of breaking W/T silence BLYTH report remaining endurance of ships of Force 112.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 260936A to Force 112)

Investigating possible conning tower position 51 degs. 03' N. 09 degs. 13' W.

(A/C LQG.19. 261207 to 19 Group)

SCIMITAR is to be detached from Force 112 from vicinity Longships to proceed Falmouth and complete with O.F.

(2) Remainder of Force 112 consisting of BLYTH S.O. PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS are to join convoy W.P.483 at Trevoise Head and support against U-Boat attack. Estimate convoy at Trevoise Head 1900A/26 S.O. Convoy escort TALYBONT.

(3) Force 112 is to detach from convoy at The Lizard and continue A/S sweep between Longships and Trevoise Head.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261457A to Force 112)

Arrived SCIMITAR.

(F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 261930A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Trawler group (E) consisting CAMBRIDGESHIRE (S.O), HERSHELL NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, GRIMSBY TOWN is to pass Gate at 1100A/27th and proceed by standard route to position (A) 270 degs. Longships 4.

(2) On reaching (A) Group (E) is to carry out A/S patrol

to /...

434

26.2.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Search for U-Boats. (Contd.) to seaward of Convoy Route between Longships and Trevoise Head. Group (E) is also to give A/S cover to all P.W. and W.P. Convoys between Longships and Trevoise Head operating about 4 miles on seaward bow of convoy. Convoy P.W. 484 E.T.A. Longships 0200A/28th.

(3) Force 112 consisting BLYTH S.O., PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS is to be in position (B) 180° Lizard Head three miles at 2300A/27th.

PRIMROSE and DIANTHUS are to be detached to Plymouth from (B) (4) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail SCIMITAR to R/V BLYTH in position (B) at 2300A/27th.

(5) BLYTH and SCIMITAR are to carry out A/S patrol between Lizard Head and Longships and are to give close support to all P.W. and W.P. Convoys between these points.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261946A to N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Force 112, GRIMSBY TOWN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, HERSHELL, NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, SCIMITAR).

Am in contact S/M. My position 347 degs. Trevoise Head 10.5.

(BRISSENDEN, 262001A to C. in C. Plymouth)

BRISSENDEN has attacked contact (2 corrupt groups)

(?244 degs.) 10. (2 corrupt groups) is relieving her in the hunt with instructions to return to convoy at S.O.'s discretion.

(TALYBONT, 262042A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Contact considered now S/M. PRIMROSE rejoining Force 112.

(TALYBONT, 262115A to C. in C. Plymouth)

My 262001. Have searched area. No evidence submarine.

Intend rejoin.

(BRISSENDEN 262134A to C. in C. Plymouth)

S.C. My 211054A. S.C. VIGRA sailed at 0210A today.
Operation. (2) No.
(A.C.O.S. 260227A to Admty.)

A/S Operations. U.91 sunk in 049 degs. 45' N. 026 degs. 20' W. at 0325Z. U-Boat was detected by GORE at 2245Z/25th on Asdic, attacked, and put deep. Two creeping attacks were carried out with follow-up, AFFLECK controlling. Second creep by GORE followed up by AFFLECK blew S/M to surface. Heavy gunfire forced crew to surrender. U-Boat sank and blew up at 0325Z. Sixteen survivors.

No gnats heard. All attacks were carried out at slow speed. Depth charges expended. (?Weather 4015 9258)
(E.G.1, 260345Z to C. in C. W.A.)

By D/F at 0749Z/26 U-Boat estimated in your area which may have reported E.G.1 or E.G.C.2.

(D.D.I.C. 260930A to E.G.1, C.2)

Further to my 260345. U.91 was 500 tons, 5 weeks out of Brest. Capt. Engineer, Doctor, and one Officer together with 11 ratings survivors in GORE, and one rating in AFFLECK out of complement of 52. Capt's name Hungersausen.

(E.G.1, 261001Z to C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.C.2/...

435

War Diary.26.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S Operations. U.91 sunk by GORE and AFFLECK. (Contd.)

E.G.C.2 fuel 0800Z as follows. Details. My position 0800, 048 degs. 53' N. 024 degs. 53' W. (C.2, 261009Z to C. in C. W.A.) My P.C.S. at 1200Z, 049 degs. 17' N. 026 degs. 23' W. 270 degs. 10 knots, altering to 000 degs. 1845Z, altering to 115 degs. 2359Z. Weather 5872 1816. (E.G.1, 261115Z to C. in C. W.A.) Admiralty 260930. Transmission estimated over 30 miles bearing 085 degs. 2nd class. Am searching. My position 0800 048 degs. 53' N. 024 degs. 53' W. (C.2, 261115Z to C. in C. W.A.) Leave patrol area at dark 26th and proceed to Azores to fuel. (2) Leave Azores so as to join H.X. 280 p.m. 1st March. Approximate P.C.S. 0800A/first, 043 degs. N. 030 degs. W. 038 degs. 9 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 261116A to C.2) Sweep Toward, 046 degs. N. 022 degs. W. My warmest congratulations on your first success. (C. in C. W.A. 261128A to E.G.1) Your 261252A. For information. Depth charge state satisfactory. GORE has used 28, GOULD 30, AFFLECK 44. Submit we have enough to get on with. (E.G.1, 261232A to C. in C. W.A.) S.O. 1st E.G. 260345. Arrange R/V to transfer depth charges to AFFLECK. Thence comply with my 261116. (C. in C. W.A. 261252A to C.2) AFFLECK does not require depth charges. Proceed in accordance with my 261116A. S.O. Escort Group 1's 261232A refers. (C. in C. W.A. 261547A to C.2)

Operation F.X. E.T.A. Hoxa 1630 to-day. P.C.S. Force 1 at 1600A/25th 066 degs. 35' N. 003 degs. 00' W. 020 degs. 16. (DRAGON, 260950 to C. in C. H.F.) Convoy noon P.C.S. 072 degs. 29' N. 017 degs. 33' E. 044 degs. 7 knots. Intend to alter for position Fox at 1400. Weather 4573 0086. (R.A.D. H.F. 261313A to H.F.) Scapa arrival DRAGON. (A.C.O.S. 261643 to C. in C. W.A.) Four short transmission between 1607Z and 1617Z indicate at least this number of U-Boats probably still in vicinity of J.W. 57. (D.D.I.C. 261850A to A.I.G. 47.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 261029) (C. in C. Plymouth 261246A, 261450A) (C. in C. Portsmouth, 261410A) (V.A. Dover 261600A).

Operation /...

436

War Diary.26.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation C.W. (1) Operation C.W. Cmdre. (D) W.A. is requested sail (A) 6th E.G. p.m. 27th to pass Tory Island 2200A/27th for sweeping in area C.
(B) 3rd E.G. a.m. 28th to sweep ahead of T.U.8 expected to pass through position R.A. 270 degs. Oversay 6 at 0830A/28th routed through 056 degs. N. 010 degs. W. 14 knots.
(C) DAKINS, PINK, WALLFLOWER to R/V with OXLIP and HONEYSUCKLE in 250 degs. Skerryvore 20 miles at 1600A/28th.
(2) Ships in para. (1) (C) will temporarily form 21st E.G. S.O. will embark in DAKINS. After R/V 21st E.G. is carry out sweep in area A.3 and A.4.
(C. in C. W.A. 261203A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. (Convoy O.S.69/K.M.S.43). Your 281952 January para. 3(B). Conditions unsuitable for carrier. My P.C.S. 052 degs. 54' N. 014 degs. 58' W. 227 degs. 8 at 1330. Weather 3572 1816.
(NAIRANA, 261341Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation "Bayleaf". Para.12 of my 231626A. Should Area A be chosen S/Ms are not to be attacked within 40 miles of Norwegian Coast owing to presence of friendly S/M on patrol.
(C.S.1, 261358A to FURIOUS)
C.S.One's 251325. Operation "Bayleaf" postponed.
(C. in C. H.F. 262155A to HQ.B.C., H.Q.C.C.)

S/M Patrols. From 061 degs. 02' N. 003 degs. 29' E. proceed to 061 degs. 10' N. 000 degs. 34' E. and 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 for Lerwick.
(F.O.S.261546A to ULA)
Own S/M positions 0800A/27th and movements for

following 24 hours.

(A) SEANYMPH off Lofoten Islands.
(B) ULA approx. 60 degs. 56' N. 03 degs. 30' E. through 61 degs. 10' N. 00 degs. 34' E. and 090 Muckle Flugga 10 to Lerwick, diving by day while within 60 miles of Norway, then 9 knots.
(C) VENTURER 61 degs. 31' N. 01 degs. 50' E. through 62 degs. 10' N. 03 degs. 55' E. to Stadtlandet, diving by day within 60 miles of Norway.
(E) RUBIS 45 degs. 06' N. 02 degs. 16' W. diving by day through 47 degs. 01' N. 06 degs. 02' W. then 360 degs. daily advance 120 miles.
(F.O.S. 261648A to Adnty.)

At 2055A/26th VENTURER left Lerwick unescorted through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 and 062 degs. 10' N. 003 degs. 55' E. thence to patrol vicinity Stadtlandet diving by day when within 60 miles Norwegian coast.

(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 262102A to S/M's)

Engagement /...

437

War Diary.26.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Engagement
with
E-Boats.Preliminary Report of E-Boat activity Night 25th/
26th.

(1) 0052 MEYNELL (Patrol 6) moving North to join F.S.72 when abreast 4 D buoy obtained Radar contact on bearing 125 degs. and at 0055 engaged 3 E-Boats at range of 1000 yards. E-Boats fired torpedoes at MEYNELL and turning 180 degs. made off on course of 120 degs. At 0100 two more E-Boats were sighted. Several torpedoes were heard running. MEYNELL claims hits on one E-Boat with Oerlikon and one possible 4-inch hit. Contact lost at 0110 4 D buoy 5 miles. No casualties in MEYNELL but aeriels were shot away preventing enemy reports being sent till later.

(2) FERNIE additional escort ahead of F.S.72 also detected E-Boats but owing to position of MEYNELL could not get clear range. Realising MEYNELL had not made enemy report FERNIE made one at 0059. C/F units were ordered to close in on Z53 but could not reach positions in time to intercept.

(3) Analysis of plots indicates that plots thought to be unit X out of position from Z53 were in fact these E-Boats moving slowly in, showing the difficulty of identifying plots from shore Radar stations without interrogators. Request this may be brought to the notice of Air Ministry.

(4) At 2350 an unidentified plot from K.149 giving 6 responses in 094 4 Buoy 14 steering 270 degs. was signalled to all forces. At this time plot altered course to 190 degs. reaching position 098 3 A buoy 10 at speed of 20 knots at 0047 when plot faded. An attempt was made to Vector unit G a few miles south of Z52 on to this plot but a contact with unit C who was searching for a crashed bomber caused unit G to miss astern. Later unit B at Z50 was told to investigate but made no contact. Trouble was being experienced with rain storms and this plot was considered doubtful. It is now thought it may have been another group of E-Boats possibly trying to draw our forces to the southward to enable MEYNELL's group to get in or else laying anti-coastal force mines.

(C. in C. Nore, 262000A to Admty.)

Y supplement to my 262000. (1) Shore stations heard nothing.

(2) At 0034 CHARLESTOWN with F.S.72 heard R/T traffic on "Headache".

(3) At 0110 MEYNELL's "Headache" heard probable minelaying signals indicating that mines may have been jettisoned near Z 53 by E-Boats driven off by MEYNELL.

(C. in C. Nore, 262004A to Admty.)

Mining.Sweep of
Lowestoft.

Mines may have been laid in vicinity of Z53 and Z52 last night. You are to carry out an Oropesa search tomorrow of an area bounded by line joining the following positions:

- (A) 052 degs. 31' 12" N. 002 degs. 01' 48" E.
 (B) 052 degs. 41' 48" N. 002 degs. 14' 12" E.
 (C) 052 degs. 38' 24" N. 002 degs. 22' 30" E.
 (D) 052 degs. 27' 12" N. 002 degs. 10' 00" E.
 (C. in C. Nore, 261202A to M/S 7)

Smiths/...

438

War Diary.26.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Smiths Knoll area. Your 251744A. Three mines cut in following positions:- 144 - 2.4 miles, 138 - 2.5 miles, 134 - 4.1 miles, and a possible fourth 123 - 3.1 miles all from Smiths Knoll Buoy. Two other mines sighted watching in vicinity. (2) Mine estimated to be R type.

(3) Search abandoned, clearing to the north in G. formation.
(4) Intend anchoring Yarmouth Road.
(M/S 7, 261321A and 272310 to C. in C. Nore.)
My 261321. Mines swept on first lap south to north commencing on easterly edge of Area, H formation, to port 5 cables 5 ships.
(M/S 7, 261721 to C. in C. Nore.)
PELOROUS, PICKLE, PLUCKY, PINCHER, FANCY arrived and anchored in Roads.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 261856A to C. in C. Nore.)
(1) 4th M.S.F. is required to clear a moored minefield in the vicinity of Smiths Knoll bell buoy, the expected limits of which are being issued by QZX Message.
(2) The mines are known to be shallow and some have been seen on the surface.
(3) 4th M.S.F. is to sail to Yarmouth Roads tomorrow proceeding by QZS 402.
(6) F.O.I.C. Yarmouth is requested to arrange for two miles outside the northern and southern edges of the QZX area to be searched for moored mines by B.Y.M.S. before clearance is commenced.
(8) If necessary to refuel 4th M.S.F. is to return to Humber or Harwich as ordered.
(9) M.S.4, is to arrange programme on arrival at Yarmouth. It is desired to clear the mine-field as soon as practicable.
(C. in C. Nore, 261914A to M/S.4)
C. in C. Nore's 261914A. Intend sailing KELLET, SUTTON, ROSS, ELGIN and SELKIRK from Immingham at 1000 tomorrow.
E.T.A. Yarmouth Roads 1900.
(M/S.4, 262144A to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 261545A. Carry out search in G formation.
F.O.I.C. Harwich is requested to sail STELLA RIGEL and LARNE to R/V with M.S.7 at 4 buoy at 1000A.
(C. in C. Nore, 262208A to M/S 7.)
LARNE and STELLA RIGEL leaving at 0400 to comply with C. in C. Nore's 262208. Cancel 262246.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 262322A to M/S 7.)

Sweep off Trevoze Head. (R) Your 221423A Para. (2).
Have searched channel 1,7 miles from Centre line joining positions (A) (B) and (C) (2 corrupt groups) 66 per cent, negative.
Intend to remain in vicinity of positions (C) and (D) tonight and sweep from (D) to (E) tomorrow, anchoring on completion as convenient.
(TADOUSSAC, 261808A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Enemy Intelligence.

Havre.

First phase report 140 Squadron 25th Feb/1015A shows Le Havre only minor changes since 24th Feb.

Total /...

439

War Diary.26.2.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Havre. (Contd.) Total of visible E/R boats increased by six to 18 since 6 boats are seen leaving covered shelter and turning into Old Port. Large dry dock is flooded and many harbour craft are nursing hulk 200 ft. probably part of raised wreck towards it. (34 Wing, 260320A to H.Q. T.A.F.)

Alten Fiord (TIRPITZ) Following from source known personally and whose previous information has proved accurate. Following vessels were in Alta Fiord on January 20th.
(A) Ka Fjord.
(I) TIRPITZ in usual position (II) MONTE ROSA in 69 degs. 56.4' N. 23 degs. 03.7' E. Stern moored to shore with gang way ashore.
(III) C.A. LARSEN at anchor in Kvenviken.
(IV) One small tanker at anchor in Kvenviken.
(V) Destroyer Z.43 in Kvenviken.
(VI) 3 other destroyers inside Auskarneset close to northern shore.
(VII) Large repair vessel alongside TIRPITZ starboard side.
(B) Lang Fiord.
ALTMARK in approx. 70 degs. 01.8' N. 22 degs. 18.5' E.
(3) Patrol vessels. Following patrols are in force -
(A) 2 guard vessels in Lang Fiord 1 near Eidsneset and 1 inside net.
(B) 1 patrol vessel between Isnettoften and Aro (corrupt group).
(C) 1 near Auskarneset in Ka Fiord.
(D) 1 in Vargsund. (E) 1 in Stettsund.
These vessels are all reliefs from Hammerfest. Control on shore is extremely strict.
Graded B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 261033 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

GEORGE W. CHILDS. Sailed BANDIT in accordance with my 251814. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 260004 to N.O.I.C.Oban.) BANDIT arrived. Sailing of tow postponed until weather moderates. F.O.I.C.Greenock's 251814 refers. (N.O.I.C.Oban, 261530A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

FORT MACPHERSON. Ship grounded 2256 G.M.T. It will not be possible to keep steam. Now drawing fires. (FORT MACPHERSON, 260100 to Burnham W/T.)

MUSKETEER. Arrival MUSKETEER at 0830. (F.O. Humber, 260900A to Cdre. D. H.F.)

WILLIAM H. WELCH. My 260839A. Tugs EMPIRE PIXIE, EMPIRE SPRITE returned to Loch Ewe unable to assist until low water. S/D TULIP returned owing to stress of

weather./...

440

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

WILLIAM H. weather. Breeches buoy being sent over land.
WELCH. Stornoway lifeboat expected 1400, VALSE and
(Contd.) STELLA CANOPUS standing by. Tugs will be sailed
to assist lifeboat. Ship's back broken.
(N.O.I.C.Aultbea, 261159A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
Signal from VALSE reads:

Whole midships section of WILLIAM H. WELSH has now disappeared.
Some survivors may have been washed ashore in Black Bay or
possibly on Furadh More. Ends. 1158A.

Medical assistance and search party have left for Black Bay,
Tug EMPIRE SPRITE sailed to assist.

(N.O.I.C.Aultbea, 261321A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Signal from VALSE begins:

The only section of the hull now visible has driven ashore
behind Furadh More Island. Most of the crew were on midships
section. Ends. 261335A.

Stornoway Lifeboat arrived 1427, STELLA CANOPUS and Tug
EMPIRE SPRITE returned to Loch Ewe.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 261431A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Survivors have been found by shore search party, number
unknown. Stornoway lifeboat search with negative result, and has
now returned to Stornoway. VALSE to Loch Ewe.

(N.O.I.C.Aultbea, 261641A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

WOODPECKER. In view of Admiralty 261047A intend to abandon
ship before dark. STORM KING has had orders to
tow as long as he can keep going.

Abandon ship has been taken as a precautionary
measure to save life and if weather moderates party will board
at dawn tomorrow. Do not consider ship will survive anything
more than a moderate gale.

(WOODPECKER, 261605A to Admty.)

WOODPECKER's 261605. C.O. WOODPECKER is in AZALEA.

(AZALEA, 261915Z to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

OXFORDSHIRE. OXFORDSHIRE arrived 0950A/26.
(D.S.T.O. Avonmouth, 261030A to D.S.T.)

ABA. My 251045Z. ABA delayed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 261225Z to Admty.)

O.N.226. No rescue tug available for O.N. 226.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 261504A to Admty.)

Troopships. Following is a Summary No.27 of major troopship
movements in and out of Clyde and Liverpool
during period to 21/3. Details.
(D.S.T.262104A)

441

26.2.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gib. G.R. Ref. Para. ZE. I.R. Op. Sum. 24 Feb. - Lyautey
Opsum 25th Feb. reports that Ventura of 127 Rcn Sqdn. also
Sinking of attacked. U/boat attack made at 1717 hours - 2
U.761. minutes before attack by G.202. Ventura straddled
U/boat with 6 depth bombs at right angles across
conning tower.
(A.C.H.Q., Gibraltar, 260150A).

Convoy C.K.1 C.K.1 (one) left Horta 1530Z/24th in accordance
with Cdr. 12th Flt. 191817+.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 260536Z).
+ Destination C.K.1.
Request date of departure of convoy C.K.1.
(2) Is convoy routed in accordance with R.O. Charleston's
251807/January.
(D.O.D.(H), 261434A to S.B.N.O. Azores).

U.G.S.33A, U.G.S.33A is to alter course forthwith (details)
K.M.F.29. to R/V K.M.F.29 in (position) at 1215A/27.
3. U.G.S. 33A consisting of 3 ships escorted by
C.T.G. 27.4 in U.S. destroyers MACKENZIE and
KENDRICK.
4. On R/V being made (B) escorts of U.G.S. 33A are to place
themselves under the orders of E.G.4.
5. All ships in U.G.S. 33A fully loaded with ammunition and all
for Naples.
6. Destination U.S. destroyers MACKENZIE and KENDRICK is
Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A., 261301A).

German Barcelona Valencia.
controlled Germans have contracted for 60,000 tons oranges
Spanish which will have to be found in next 2 months.
shipping. Apart from Axis shipping which may be made
available German controlled Spanish Fleet con-
sisting of 6 small ships ALCORA, SALVADOR,
POLAR, ANTARES, ATLANTIDA I and II last two being motor sailing
vessels. Spaniards are being warned that these ships will
sail at their peril. All ships named are, therefore, fair
game for interception and if necessary could be sunk.
Reporting Officers will refer to ships as "A" to "F" in order
named above. W/T will be used to report movements from
Valencia communicated direct with London for re-transmission
(and ϕ) Gibraltar. It is anticipated that majority of loading
will be from Valencia. W/T from Barcelona presents great
difficulties but reports will be passed by telephone ϕ and
Madrid for transmission to Gibraltar routed similarly to
Valencia report.
At present 3 large Bacci ships at Valencia have been (?partially)
immobilised by Spanish authorities and there is still a poss-
ibility that agreement requisition and transfer to trans-
Atlantic trade will be implemented.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 261330A to F.O.G.M.A. (R) C. in C. Med.).
 ϕ (?to) intended).

/ Smallpox...

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Smallpox at Gibraltar. We have had some thirteen cases of virulent type of smallpox.
Re:- Vaccination.
(Gibraltar, No T.O.O./26).

U.761 survivors. My 241817.
U.761 540 tons.
(2) Following P.O.W. landed by ANTHONY and WISHART segregated as follows:-
(A) C.O. (Name). (B) (C) 2 Officers (names). (D) - (H) 3 C.P.Os 11 P.Os., 11 ratings (4 unlikely to live).
(3) Four other ratings also landed since died.
(4) Survivors being sent U.K. first opportunity.
(5) U/boat left Brest 10th Feb. in second war cruise. Voyage without incident until sinking.
(F.O.G.M.A., 251844A).

T.G.21.16 C.R. No. 1326.
Do not proceed eastward of longitude of Azores in carrying out my 201849. Operate against concentration Cominch 241555 remaining south of 50 N. and W. of 25 W. Cease operations in time arrive Casablanca 8th March.
(C. in C. Lant, 262231 to C.T.G. 21.16).
Note: N.T. in W.R. of either reference quoted.

South Atlantic.

Convoy S.T.L.12: M.V. SILVER-MAPLE sunk. Ship torpedoed position 004 degs. 44' N. 003 degs. 20' W.
(LOWESTOFT, 261746Z to Freetown W/T).
My 1746 am attacking A/S contact now.
(LOWESTOFT, 262024 to F.O.C.W.Af.).
Informing Admiralty.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 262140Z).
Intend Omega search. A. Last (?attack) 004 degs. 41' N. 003 degs. 25' W. B. (?084 degs.) to 145 degs. C. 26.23 9 A.D. 004 degs. 38' N. 003 degs. 07' W. E. 1 (one) sloop 1 (one) frigate. KILDWICK (?recalled) to pick up survivors.
(LOWESTOFT, 262225Z).
My 262024 have made 2 attacks believed S/M. Last attack at (?2146) A (?position) 222 degs. 4.6 miles from sinking. Lost contact. Have recalled KILDWICK to pick up survivors now in FAL and LOWESTOFT motor boats.
(LOWESTOFT, 262245).
Request aircraft de Cobra 9 round me for the present. 251 M on. Intend Omega search? if contact not regained. Further signal follows.
(LOWESTOFT, 262250A to Takoradi C.C.O.).

/ U_ boat...

443

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/boat
situation
off W.
African
coast.

Your 262415Z.

My appreciation of the U/boat situation off the West African coast is as follows

(A) One in Cape Palmas area from attack on FAL at 0640/19th position 07 degs. 14' N. 13.17 W. A.S.V. contact at 0007/20th in 06.35 N. 12.53 W. and D.F. 6 at 0232/20th within 60 miles of 06.30 N. 13.31 W.

(B) One unfixed may be anywhere between Lagos and Dakar this U/boat was thought to have attacked VERITY at 2255/19th in 08.40 N. 15.43 W. but on further investigation I consider that doubt exists whether a U/boat was actually present.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 261916Z to Admty.).

Note: One apparently en-route Indian Ocean Position.

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 36. INGLEFIELD sunk.

Anzio 2664 tons discharged 25th Feb. QAO (sic) unloading from Liberty ships owing to strong southeast wind and heavy swell. Slight shelling of port no damage.

2. At dusk 25th Feb. INGLEFIELD was hit amidships and sunk* by Glider bomb. Captain among survivors appears so far casualties are not heavy.

3. This morning 26th February in Naples area. Westerly wind force 6 to 7 reaching gale force in gusts expected to remain so all day and veer (sic) W.S.W. force 5 tomorrow dawn 27th.

4. BOXER L.S.T. 407 and 464 L.C.T.36 L.T.221 aground off Nisida. LOCHEE and TELIFORA DE LARRINAGA aground east of Naples. Salvage operations in progress.

5. PHILADELPHIA standing by ARPONZA (? at Ponza intended.) (C. in C. Med., Naples, 260959A, 261310A.)

*14k Anzio
light, 3 miles
(Med. W.D.,
February)

UNSPARING. From Kaso Straits proceed to Malta by (route) to arrive (Marsamxett?) at 1201/4th.

2. You are to proceed diving by day on 1st and 2nd. Your surface speed is estimated as 8½ knots.

3. All time Zone A.
(Capt. (S) 1 261122A to UNSPARING (R) Naval and Air Authorities West of Alexandria, C. in C. Med. M.A.C.A.F.)

SS. BERTE. SS. BERTER (?BERTE intended.) speed 10 knots enter Aegean 0330/26th possible destination Salonika.
(Capt. (S) 1, 261142A to ULTIMATUM.)

SICKLE. SICKLE is required to proceed to Eastern Fleet as soon as she is ready.
Request you will report (re repairs.)
(S.1, 261207 to S.O. S/Ms Gib.)

M.E. Balkan Sitrep No. 102. 4. Sea Ops. Caique returned to Smyrna after infiltrating stores on east coast of Greece and evacuated a party including 2 Brit. Officers 9 (? or 3) Brit. N.C.Os.
(C. in C. M.E. 261210B.)

LONDON, CUMBERLAND (for Eastern Fleet). On arrival at Alexandria LONDON and CUMBERLAND are to be replenished as far as possible with stores of all descriptions. My 251331* to N.O.I.C. Port Said is cancelled.
(F.O.L.E.M. 261334B,)* N.T. in W.D.

/M.A.A.F. ...

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.A.A.F. M.A.S.A.F. 22nd Feb. Add:
Opsum 1 U.S. Fortress returned early from Regensburg
370. Mission reports direct hit stern possible cruiser
 off South West Tip Silba Island.
 (H.Q.M.A.A.F., 261420.)

STAFFORD- Collision damage.
SHIRE. Only temporary repairs are to be made at
 Taranto to enable vessel to proceed to Gibraltar
 for semi-permanent repairs. Request probable
 date of sailing.
 (C. in C. Med. 261511 to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

LARGS BAY. Mine damage. Request semi-permanent repairs
 be made provided time involved in dock will not
 exceed time for temporary repairs by about one
 week
 2. Request report in due course.
 (C. in C. Med. 261514.)

SS.CORFIRTH Your 142140* Is CORFIRTH a total loss.
(mined (D.T.D. 261618A to C, in C. Med.)
12th Feb.) * SS. CORFIRTH reported damaged by mine.

INDRAPOERA. INDRAPOERA sailed for Gibraltar in tow of H.M.
 tugs NIMBLE and VAGRANT.
 (Com. Algeria 261803.)

Dekheila. Should it be desired to relieve the congestion
 at Naval Air Stations in the U.K. it may be
 necessary to accommodate squadrons at Dekheila
 for working-up. Request information on the
 present manning position of R.N.A.S. Dekheila. How many
 fighter squadrons of 20 I.E. each or T.B.R. squadrons of 12
 I.E. each could be accommodated. C. in C. Levant 211801 and
 261647/April A.M. 261500 March and C. in C. Med. 242003 April
 of 1943 refer.
 (D.N.A.O. 261918A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Admiral In view of request by M. of Marine and his
Oliva. assurances as to suitability of Admiral Oliva
 concur that he should relieve Adm. Biancheri.
 N.O.I.C. W.Af. 141214Z* and also F.O.T.A.L.I.
 251917A not to Admty. refers.
 (C. in C. Med. 261920A to F.O.T.A.L.I.)
 * Removal of Jarcheri.

ROYAL H.M.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN with Landing Craft
ULSTERMAN. Flotilla embarked is required to return to U.K.
 for "Overlord". Request she may be sailed in
 M.K.F.29.
 (D. of P. 261928A to C. in C. Med.)

/Black ...

26.2.1944
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea. From Intelligence Reports Feb. 8th to Feb. 25th.
1. Air attacks on enemy shipping - nil.
2. Air operation. Only air R/C reported - Yalta, Feb. 24th and 3 other ports Feb. 25th
Enemy air R/C has contrary wise increased but only four bombs reported dropped.
3. Naval. Enemy F-boat sunk by mine and merchant vessel, apparently also mined off Ochakov, sunk by battery on South Shore Estuary. No reports about presumably increased shipping activity West of Crimea but action by submarines only given in (?operation reports) which are adrift since Feb. 3rd. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 262048C).

Situation 1. Weather continued to hamper unloading on 25th
report No. February in Anzio 5 or 6 planes claimed destroyed
303. during raid night 24th/25th forward ammunition
dumps hit and some bombs in dock area but no
material damage caused.
3. Destroyers off Vis and coastal forces off
Rogoznica and in Korcula Channel had blank night 24th/25th Feb.
(C. in C. Med., 262110A).

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U-Boat dis-
position
No. 29.

Areas A. B. D. E. F. and G. No fresh information
no change in scale of air escort area C. U.S.
NONSUCO chased by S/M in 013° 50' N. 048° 41' E.
at 1752Z/25th. Scale of air escort remains Z.
Indian Ocean Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F to
be within 200 miles 005° S. 017° E. at 1608Z/25th,
possibly proceeding towards Mozambique Channel.
(C. in C.E.F. 260329Z.)

U/B threat
in Mozambique
Channel.

Consider it probable that U-Boat threat in Mauri-
tius area has now receded but D/F bearing of Jap.
U-Boat to N.W. of Chagos 1608Z/25th may indicate
that this U-Boat is on passage to North Mozambique
area.

2. As immediate measures to reduce traffic in
Mozambique intend that A. all shipping available sailing between
South Africa and the Persian Gulf, India and Ceylon shall be
routed between Madagascar and Mauritius. B. Northbound shipping
under A already at sea to continue on original route. C. South-
bound shipping under A which is north of 005° N. to be diverted
to pass east of Madagascar.

3. If threat develops it may be necessary to reinstitute convoy
on Durban - Kilindini portion of D.K.A. route and it is con-
sidered forces employed in escorting movements of shipping can
now be withdrawn in readiness for this.

4. F.O.N.I.C. is being issued.

5. F.O.E.A. pass to A.H.Q.E.A.

(C. in C.E.F. 260526Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.E.A. Admty. A.H.Q.
E.A. Group 222, N.O.I.C. Mauritius, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

A.F.Ds. 23,
26, 35.

Monthly progress report.
(N.O.I.C. Bombay 260611Z.)

Convoy
Vohemar -
Mauritius 1.

Convoy Vohemar - Mauritius 1 arrived.
(N.C.S.O.Mauritius 260747Z.)

U/B attacked.

Have attacked S/M in 001° 17' N. 076° 54' E.
Escorts remaining in area.
(LISMORE 261118Z.)

LISMORE reports confirmed S/M contact at 1356Z/26th
February in vicinity of 001° 17' N. 076° 54' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 261504Z.)

Have carried out further attack lost contact (in?) (corrupt
group) of (corrupt group). Propose remaining in vicinity until
daylight.

(LISMORE 261519.)

NEVASA.

As no separate escort is available for NEVASA she
may be sailed, embarked to capacity, in B.P.109
from Karachi to Hormuz as a special case. Your
250843 N.T.A. refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 261128Z to P.S.T.O.India.)

/Convoy...

448

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy J.A.1. Arrived convoy J.A.1 escorted by ALAUNIA,
QUIBERON, PLYM, ROEBUCK.
(N.C.S.O.Aden 261212Z, as amended 270601Z.)

?U/B. Vizagapatam reports in accordance with instruc-
tions (corrupt group) 015° 43' N. 083° 42' E. at
1609Z/26th course S.W. This might be a U-Boat
(German.)
(C. in C.E.F. 261853Z.)

Fighter
direction
ships, re-
quirements.

Points raised in your 141204 December have received
careful consideration.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 262027A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C))

449

26.2.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

C.U. 15. Com. 10th Fleet re-encyphers 260703 from C.T.G. 21.9.
U.S. Dr. 21.9.
MARCHAND, C.U.15. At 0025Z/26th EL COSTON had steering
Tanker casualty and collided with MURFREESBORO which
MURFREESBORO, burned and was abandoned in 38.10 N. 51.33 W.
SS. EL RICKETTS has on board 31 survivors from
COSTON MURFREESBORO. Probably 43 men lost. EL COSTON
damaged. had fire on board which was brought under control
and is taking water in forward holds from badly
smashed bow. MARCHAND was in collision with
EL COSTON sustaining considerable damage to
hull starboard side in way of compartment B.2. Compartment
not flooded but starboard engine useless and max. speed avail-
able is 12 knots and boat is smashed. From EL COSTON the
Master, two mates and half of crew are reported missing. EL
COSTON in vicinity steering to leewards which is eastward to
determine whether flooding can be controlled. MURFREESBORO
floating with good freeboard and fire out except on after
island. Commander Maver on CAMP S.O. of Escort proceeding
with convoy and four escorts. Will release RICKETTS after
daylight to rejoin convoy if practicable. MARCHAND will steam
westward later today escorting EL COSTON if feasible. Will
advise further.

N.O.B. Argentia inform Commander (D) Argentia. Adnty. tell
H.Q.C.C.*
(C.T.G. 21.9, 260910Z.)
* Passing action being taken by War Registry.
My 261821* to F.O.N.F. Request I may be informed if
assistance is required by U.S.S. MARCHAND or SS. EL COSTON.
Tug standing by at Halifax.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 261831Z to C.E.S.F.)
* N.T. in W.R.
Abandon patrol and proceed towards position 038° 10' N.
051° 33' W. where SS. MURFREESBORO reported abandoned and afire.
Tug FOUNDATION ARANMORE now en route to above position. Further
signal will follow. Acknowledge.
(F.O.N.F., 262040Z to CAILIFF, (R) Connav, Cominch, C. in C.
C.N.A., C. in C. At. Fleet, N.S.H.Q., Adnty., C.E.S.F. N.Y.)

H.X.278. Average speed 9.5 knots. Off Oversay at 1300Z/
19. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 261243A.)

Special Enemy U-Boat (German) estimated within 150 miles
U/B (German) of 029° 00' N. 060° 00' W. moving south-west.
estimate EVADNE has by other means.
1200Z/25. (Cominch, 261437.)

GLENARTNEY. Diverted by U.S. aircraft by order of C.T.G.21.16
on account of making incorrect reply to challenge
in 42.45 N. 30 W.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 261447, 261807; GLENARTNEY 261815Z;
Adnty., 261823A.)

U/B (N.S.H.Q., 261501Z; Cominch 261532.)
estimates.

/SS. GRANADA ...

450

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

SS. GRANADA. Outward bound collided with oil barge in harbour and both sustained damage. Ship will be dry docked.
(C.S.A. New Orleans, 261555Z.)

NARBOROUGH, WHITAKER, WALDEGRAVE. NARBOROUGH (Senior), WHITAKER, WALDEGRAVE depart Boston Gate 1430Z/27 en route Londonderry in company. (Arrangements).
(C.T.G. 02.1, 261620.)

MELITA. Sailed 1800Z/26 for U.K. via St. Johns N.F.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 261917Z.)

Air - Sea co-operation between British and U.S. forces. Your 052043, para. 1. As an immediate measure propose if Cominch concurs that nationality of the Senior Officer of Close Escort to decide whether convoy is "British or U.S. escorted".
2 - 4. Other interim measures.
5. Your 212143Z January, para. 3C is agreed in principle. Suggest Cominch be asked to convene the conference.
(D.A.U.D., 261954A to B.A.D.)

U/B sighting and attack summary. No report since 22nd.
Para. C. U.S. C.G. NORTHLAND Radar contact 60.20 N. 35.45 W. 222215Z. Army plane sighted surfaced sub. 06.53 S. 23.14 W. 251246Z.
Para. D. Y.M.S.164 sound contact area 30.25 N. 81.15 W. before 261515Z. B.Y.M.S.64 sighted surfaced sub. 32.38 N. 71.48 W. 240445Z and torpedo wake 32.30 N. 67.43 W. 250100Z.
(Cominch, 262025Z.)

SHAWINIGAN. Your 261009Z. Due to mast being broken off and considerable change in the aerals very large errors have been experienced in both compass and D/F. Consider it rather risky proceeding to St. John N.B. especially if thick weather continues.
(SHAWINIGAN, 262038Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 767. Feb. 25th. Paras. 8 to 10 South Pacific Forces. 7. R/C Mitchell bombed straffed single medium cargo vessel already listing slightly 12 miles

/North ...

451

26.2.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.767
(Contd.)

North New Hanover midday 24th leaving ship probably in sinking condition.

8. Twelve hours later five Sopac destroyers sank large merchant ship 26 miles north New Hanover (as amended by 270710Z.)

9. Same destroyers continued southward bombarded Kavieng Harbour and installations at dawn silencing shore fire. Preliminary report from spotting aircraft indicates one ship sunk in harbour, two others left burning and several small craft hit while fires were caused throughout dump area.

Correct yesterday's Digest No.766 to read Feb. 24th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 260640Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) MAHRATTA attacked by U-Boat prior to 2215/25th in 71° 17' N. 13° 30' E.

(2) Escorts of J.W.57 made two attacks on U-Boats prior to 1200/25 in approx. 70° 34' N. 10° 57' E.

(3) Catalina A/C heavily attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0825/25 in 70° 26' N. 12° 40' E.

Para. B. (1) SS. NONSUCO reported being pursued by U-Boat at 1752/25 in 13° 50' N. 48° 41' E.

(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0130/26 in 50° 47' N. 09° 37' W.

(D.D.I.C., 261048A.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 261415A, 261421A.)

452

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1. Convoy J.W.57 was about 115 miles S.E. of Bear Island at 0800 today.

WOODPECKER
lost.

2. The sloop WOODPECKER, whose stern was blown off by an acoustic torpedo on 20th February, capsized at 0721 and sank at 0906 to-day while in tow of STORM KING about 35 miles S.W. of Lands End. WOODPECKER had been cleared of her crew last night in view of the weather, and 7 of her officers and 70 ratings were brought to Plymouth at 1853A by AZALEA and CHILLIWACK.

Enemy
trawler
damaged.

3. While attacking a small enemy convoy off St. Helier (Jersey) at about 0040 to-day, M.T.Bs. 415 and 431 engaged one of the escort trawlers, set her on fire, and saw an explosion on board her. There were three casualties in M.T.B.431.

Enemy
convoy
attacked.
M.T.B.249
damaged.

4. While detached from a Coastal Patrol off Cap d'Antifer during last night M.T.B.249 attacked and was heavily engaged by the escorts of an enemy convoy, sustained some hull damage, and had one rating wounded.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

5(a) C. in C. Med. reported this morning that the weather in the Naples area was now fine, wind E.N.E. Force 4 and moderating slowly. After 6 hours, however, the weather prevented further unloading at Anzio. A total of 1655 tons was discharged.
(b) The U.S. cruiser PHILADELPHIA gave fire support today in the Anzio area against enemy artillery and reports an excellent day's shooting.
(c) A heavy air raid took place this morning and LS.T.140 was damaged by near misses. No other damage is reported, nor is any damage reported from the intermittent shelling of the port area which continued during today and tonight.

/Adriatic ...

453

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

6. Destroyers and coastal forces operating near Vis and in Korcula Channel last night and during the previous night sighted nothing. TYRIAN and TROUBRIDGE shelled Velaluka (Korcula) at daylight: shore batteries returned the fire.

East Indies.

U/B sunk
by TALLY-HO.

7(a) The S/M TALLY-HO is returning from patrol: she was rammed by a destroyer at 0255 on 24th south of Pulo Jarak, in the Malacca Straits, and is slightly damaged but does not require assistance. At dawn on 15th TALLY-HO sank a U-Boat in the Malacca Straits in 04.27 N. 100.11 E., and a merchant ship p.m./21st in 03.52 N. 100.40 E.
(b) TALLY-HO reached Trincomalee on 1st March.

America and West Indies.

St. Johns
N.F.

8. The port of St. Johns N.F. is closed on account of ice.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. Allied M.T.Bs. last night attacked 5 south-bound enemy barges loaded with men and supplies off south-west Bougainville, sinking two and probably destroying the remaining three.

10. Escorted heavy, medium and light bombers resumed their co-ordinated attacks on Rabaul to-day.

27.2.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland.

My P.C. and S. 054° 24' N. 010° 29' W. 053° 12. (E.G.6 271100Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Request KIRKELLA be sailed to meet H.X.B.279 as requisite.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 271815 to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Operation F.X.

Destinations. 1. To River Dvina: 2 ships. Names.
2. To Molotovsk: 8 ships. Names.
3. Kola Inlet for holding: 8 ships. Names.
4. Remainder to Kola Inlet.
(D.T.D. 271136Z to B.A.M.S.)

Operation C.W.

Movements ordered in my 261203 are cancelled.
(C. in C.W.A. 271251A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Biscay A/S Operations.

Sail DAKINS as quickly as possible to join E.G.1 in approx. 046° N. 022° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 271304A to Cdre. D.W.A.)
E.G.C.2 E.T.A. Horta 1600 zone plus 2/28th.
Request diver examine GATINEAU port propeller and ST. CATHERINE's asdic dome.
(C.2. 271407Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Request you will sail CHILLIWACK as soon as fuelled to join C.2 E.G. which has been ordered to join and support H.X.280 p.m. 1st March in approx. 043° N. 030° W. 9 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 271429A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

On completion of fuelling sail to join E.G.1 in approx. 046° N. 022° W. Proceed at best speed avoiding weather damage.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 271451A to DAKINS.)

Patrol in area between 047° N. 045° 30' N. and long. 023° W. and 025° W.

2. If A/S conditions are unsatisfactory withdraw to the eastward by day.

(C. in C.W.A. 271508A to E.G.1.)

DAKINS sailed to comply with C. in C.W.A. 271304A.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 271801A to C. in C.W.A.)

CHILLIWACK is to pass Gates at 0001A/28th and proceed through position A. 180° Lizard Head 3. B. 180° Bishop Rock 10. C. 049° 20' N. 010° 05' W. thence to join Escort Group C.2 as ordered by S.O.E.G. C.2 supporting convoy H.X.280 estimated in approx. 043° N. 030° W. p.m. 1st March routed through 048° 18' N. 024° 12' W. 9 knots.

(C. in C.Plymouth 271851A to CHILLIWACK.)

S/M Patrols.

As flight phase 1 has been cancelled you will be recalled to arrive Lerwick 9th March.

(F.O.S. 271422A to SEANYMPH.)

DIANELLA, SPITEFUL leave Holy Loch 1800A/29th for

000° Round Island 10 miles. E.T.A. 1000/2nd March. Thence SPITEFUL to westward.

(Capt. S.3 271423A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Request...

455

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail S/M from Lerwick as follows
(Contd.)
1. ZWAARDVISH at 1400A/28th through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles and route "Grey" to lat. 064° 50' thence direct searching line HH. proceeding on the surface at Flotilla Leader's discretion until North of lat. 064° thence diving by day.
2. SCEPTRE at 1500A/28th through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles and route "Black" to lat. 065° 00' thence through 064° 35' N. 009° 00' E. to patrol in accordance with S.M. 04010/733 dated 21st Feb.
(Capt. S.9 272346A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Enemy trawler damaged. At approx. 0040 on 27th Force 113 patrolling in accordance with my 261246A encountered a small enemy convoy estimated to consist of 6 small coasters and escorting trawlers in the vicinity of La Corbiere, Jersey. Convoy was judged to be steering for Guernsey. M.T.Bs. of 23rd Flotilla detached to attack from N.W. while M.T.Bs. 415, 431 proceeded to carry out diversionary attack from southward. On closing it was seen that the convoy was in fact about to enter St. Helier and therefore 23rd Flotilla was unable to reach an attacking position. M.T.Bs. 415, 431 accordingly closed and surprised an enemy trawler engaging at about 100 yards range. Enemy immediately caught fire and later an explosion was observed. Return fire from other escorts caused minor damage and 3 wounded in M.T.B. 431 only.
(C. in C.Plymouth 271434A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 271453A.)

S.P. Operation. My 260227. Returned at 1450A today (VIGRA).
2. Operation successful.
3. Five refugees brought back.
(A.C.O.S. 271655A to Admty.)

Enemy convoy attacked. M.T.B. 249 damaged. While on patrol in accordance with my 261622A. M.T.B. 249, who had become detached from the remainder of the Force, sighted three merchant vessels escorted by at least two M-Class mine-sweepers and six or more E/R Boats in 228° Cap D/Antifer 19 point six miles, and attacked. Only one torpedoed was fired and result not observed. M.T.B. 249 was heavily engaged and sustained some damage to hull and one rating was wounded, but not seriously. M.T.B. 249 was forced to disengage and enemy escorts continued firing at each other for some considerable time after. M.T.Bs. 252 (S.C.) 253, 256 and 257 were too far away to engage these targets and no other shipping was sighted.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 271843A to Admty.)

/A/S...

456

27.2.1944.

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

A/S Patrol off Mounts Bay. SCIMITAR sailed in accordance with C. in C.Plymouth's 261946A. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 272126A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Operation "Bayleaf". C.S.1's 261325. Operation postponed. (C. in C.H.F. 272128A to H.Q.B.C. H.Q.C.C.)

East Coast. One unidentified surface craft detected by R.D.F. bearing 158° No. 4 buoy (off Lowestoft) 7 miles at 2231 Q 330. (C. in C.Nore 272235A to Nore Local.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 271045. Aircraft probably Ju.66 observed 1022, South of Island. course S.E. (A.C.I.C. 271526A to Admty.)

Mining.

Sweep off Smiths Knoll. Your 261914 para. 6. Intend sailing 5 B.Y.M.S. and 1 Dan Layer at 0800 tomorrow to commence "O" search of extensions. Southern area will be commenced first. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 270046A to C. in C.Nore.)

My 262144. Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (M/S 4 270837A to C. in C.Nore.)

Operation N.L.118. My 261600. Operation N.L.118 abandoned owing to high visibility and strong phosphorescence. (V.A.Dover 271107A to Admty.) My 271725. Position of 3 mines. No. 1 090° 4D 3.4 miles. No. 2. 174° 4D 3.9 miles. No. 3. 186° 4D 6.2 miles. (M/S 7 272305A to C. in C.Nore.)

Your 271725A. Q.Z.X. area is being issued. Commence clearance of this area tomorrow. Weather permitting. (C. in C.Nore 272335A to M/S 7.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. Am over enemy submarine in 60° 08' N. 31° 08' W. (A/C WTBP 271120A to Artunshofdi.) Am over enemy submarine in 59° 57' N. 30° 54' W. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 250° 10 knots. (A/C WTBP 271130A to Artunshofdi.)

457

War Diary.

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

"Gnat"
Torpedoes.

The latest information concerning "Gnat" torpedoes is given below together with recommended tactical counter-measures. All previous A.G.Ms. on the subject, namely 687A (B.1) dated 27th Sept. 1943 and 192A (B.2) dated 20th Dec. 1943 are cancelled. Details.
(A.C.N.S.W. 271236A: A.G.M. 579A.)

Casualties & Defects.

WOODPECKER
sunk.

WOODPECKER capsized at 0721A in 049° 54' N. 006° 40' W.

(AZALEA 270815A to C. in C.W.A.)

WOODPECKER sank at 0906A in 049° 51' N. 006° 43' W.

Proceeding Plymouth CHILLIWACK in company.

AZALEA has 3 officers and 37 ratings, CHILLIWACK 4 officers and 33 ratings. E.T.A. Plymouth 1800A.

(AZALEA 271010A to Adnty.)

Arrived AZALEA and CHILLIWACK.

(C. in C.Plymouth 271853A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

WILLIAM H.
WELCH.

My 261321A. Survivor states confidential books of WILLIAM H.WELCH (U.S.) were kept in midships section which is submerged. It is considered unlikely books have been compromised.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 271640 to Adnty.)

GEORGE W.
CHILDS.

Sailed BANDIT towing G.W.CHILDS in accordance with your 251814A. E.T.A. Clyde 0800A/29th.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 271816A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping & Convoys.

OXFORDSHIRE.

Intend to sail OXFORDSHIRE (Hospital) at 0930A/28th for Gibraltar. Route.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 271559A to Adnty.)

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Hospital ship SOMERSETSHIRE should be sailed on the 3rd March to North Africa calling at Gibraltar for orders.
(D.S.T. 271619A to D.S.T.O.Avonmouth.)

458

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. AMBRIZ. Portuguese AMBRIZ 873 gross tonnage speed 9 knots, left Gibraltar 1430/27 for Marseilles. Not to be molested this voyage. Following standard route to Cape San Sebastian. Thence coastwise. Usual national and international Red Cross markings.
(F.O.G.M.A. 271444A to 10th S/M.F. LA SULTANE, (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

Convoy C.K.1. Reply is urgently requested to my 261434 concerning convoy C.K.1.
(D.O.D.(H), 271655A to S.B.N.O.Azores.)

"Tubular" Your 231220A. The reason for the existence of two signals is that "Admiralty Daily Estimate" has wide distribution and is in comparatively low grade cypher whereas "Tubular" can contain more detailed information required for air operations because it is Most Secret and made in a high grade cypher.
(2) Apparent discrepancies between the two signals arise from the difference between their times of origin and from the fact that one is a forecast. Both signals emanate from Admiralty assessments.
(3) "Tubular" is made by A.O.C. in C. to indicate area suitable for offensive air operations after requirements of Naval Commander have been met, and having regard to strength and "Stipple" commitments of the various groups. Signal does not therefore necessarily include all U-Boats, but positions are based on Admiralty appreciation and "Tubular" is a forecast for the next day. The degree of reliance to be placed on individual estimates is indicated in each case by the category letter and often by the wording of the signal.
(4) Neither the "Admiralty Daily Estimate" nor "Tubular" is intended to restrict freedom of Flag Officer concerned to form his own appreciation of local situation on which he may have more recent information. As much relevant information as practicable is already signalled separately by Admiralty but it will be appreciated that the Admiralty estimate is based on experience and past form which cannot be conveyed by any signal (A.C.N.S.(H), 271720A to F.O.G.M.A.)

T.G.21.14. Patrolling vicinity 31 N. 27 W.
(J.T.G.21.14, 272100)

459

War Diary.

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATION.

South Atlantic.

Convoy Informing addrees of progress of hunt with air
S.T.L.12: co-operation.
A/S (LOWESTOFT, 270021A to R.A.W.Af, 270025A to
search. F.O.I.C. Takoradi)
FAL obtained a Radar contact in 004 degs. 44' N.
003 degs. 33' W. Contact now faded.
Investigating.
(LOWESTOFT, 270056A)

My 270056. Doubtful. Resuming OMEGA. C. 0245A. D. 004
degs. 32' N. 003 degs. 41' W.
(LOWESTOFT 270141A)

Have on board one officer and 5 ratings from LOWESTOFT
and 10 officers and 31 merchant seamen survivors. Now searching
for FAL's boats and remainder of survivors.

(KILDWICK, 270257)

Have 14 more survivors and one officer and 5 ratings from
FAL. Both boats in tow. Proceeding to Takoradi E.T.A.1500.
6 serious cot cases request ambulance on arrival.

(KILDWICK, 270830 to LOWESTOFT.)

My 262140Z. Name of ship SILVERMAPLE now sunk LOWESTOFT
made hedgehog attack at 1813Z 26 no result. Three depth charge
attacks at 1829Z, 1906Z and 2046Z. Last two appeared good but
contact lost at 500 yards and not regained after last attack.
Carried out three good deep depth charge attacks and two
good creeps in 03 degs. 56' N. 03 degs. 39' W. at 1111Z/27 no
results seen. Typical tanks blowing and breaking noises heard
but no wreckage.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 272253Z)

Operation WILLIAM SCORESBY with SS. FITZROY in company
"Tabarin". sailed South Georgia a.m. 26th E.T.A. Port Stanley
1st March.
(N.O.I.C.Falkland Is. 271242Z)

460

27.2.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

UNTIRING.

Patrol Report blank.
(S.10, 270007)Operation
"Shingle"

Sitrep 37. Anzio. 4010 tons discharged on 26th Feb. Very heavy swell prevented the working of Liberties, but the unloading of all small craft was completed. Slight air raids and intermittent shelling of the port. No damage reported.

(2) U.S. L.S.T. 349 on rocks of Ponza, and is a total loss. Nine Germans so far reported missing of the prisoners of war she was carrying. Five ratings also lost. This is in addition to ships reported in para. 4 of Sitrep 36.

(3) PHILADELPHIA standing by for bombardment if required.

(4) Weather in Naples area now fine East Northeast Force 4. Moderating slowly.

(5) INGELFIELD survivors so far reported 157.
(C. in C. Med.(Naples) 270956A, 281712A)ORPHEE
(special
mission)

Intend sailing ORPHEE (F.S.) at 1200/29th on surface through.

(A) 039 degs. 17' 002 degs. 08' at 0630 March 1st thence diving by day to

(B) 041 degs. 12' 002 degs. 06' at 0430/2nd for special mission.

(2) Return route diving by day through (B) at 0001/3rd (A) at 2200/3rd thence on surface to R/V Algiers escort in 036 degs. 54' 003 degs. 03' at 1600/4th.

(3) All positions north and east all times zone minus 1.
(N.O.I.C.Algiers, 271118A)

LA SULTANE.

Leave patrol to pass 042 degs. 50' 007 degs. 22' at 2000/1st, proceeding on surface except during daylight 2nd March to 038 degs. 26' (006 degs.) 07' at 1430/3rd to R/V with escort for

Algiers at 0900/4th in 036 degs. 57' 003 degs. 09'.

(Capt.(S) 10, 271151 to LA SULTANE)

M.F.V. 70
lost.M.F.V. 70 reported lost after striking submerged object off Mersin en route to Castelorizo from Beirut. Crew safe. C.B.'s destroyed.
(F.O.L.E.M. 271231B)ENNERDALE,
DEWDALE.Request confirmation. R.F.A. ENNERDALE and DEWDALE are to remain allocated to Med. Station & will not be recalled to U.K.
(C. in C. Med. 271315A to Admty.)

DOLFIJN /...

461

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

DOLFIJN. Cancel para. 2 of my 271320.
(2) From dawn 28th you have freedom of action in an area bound by latitude 036 degs. 40' and latitude 038 degs. 01' longitude 027 degs. and longitude 025 degs.
(3) Object destruction of Piraeus Rhodes traffic which may call at Leros.
(4) Destruction of caiques is also important.
(Capt. (S) 1,271520A to DOLFIJN (R) 1st S/M.F. F.O.L.E.M.)
Expect pass through Kinaros Channel about 0102B/28th.
(DOLFIJN, 272055B to Capt.(S) 1 (R) UNSPARING.)

M.S. FENRIS Swedish Gov. intimate save conduct vessel FENRIS
(Safe conduct vessel) will sail from Corfu for Piraeus at 0800 March 5th by reverse of outward route. A.M. 190032 Jan. refers.
Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Admty. 271543A to F.O.L.E.M, V.A.M.)

Mines off Tunis. Two ground mines one red one blue detonated at 1115 to-day in position 36 degs. 50' 50" N. 10 degs. 27' 22" E. Sweeping being continued tomorrow.
(F.O. Tunisia, 271735)

CORFIRTH. CORFIRTH is in comparatively sheltered beaching site and probably settled on fairly smooth bottom, your 261618 refers.
(2) Structural damage to hull in way of No.3 hold of such extensive nature final repairs in Mediterranean out of question temporary repairs for long sea passage would also be extensive and should be ruled out.
(3) Machinery spaces (steam engines and boilers) and Nos. 1 and 2 holds intact. No.4 hold could probably be made serviceable.
(4) Own power available for winches derricks etc.
(5) Unless exceptional weather materially alters present position and condition vessel could be salvaged in period of 6 weeks.
(C. in C. Med. 272041 to Admty.)

Situation Report No.304. (1) No enemy activity in Anzio area on 26th Feb. but weather prevented unloading. Wind report moderating a.m.27th Feb.
(2) During gale on 26th Feb. BOXER, 2 L.S.T. 1 L.C.T. and CHARLES LOCHEE and TELESFORA DE LARRINAGA driven ashore in Gulf Naples and 1 L.S.T. at Ponza.
(3) Destroyer and Coastal Forces operating in vicinity of Vis and in Korcula Channel during night 25/26th February and 26/27th February sighted nothing. Velaluka (Korcula) was shelled at daylight 27th Feb. by TYRIAN and TROUBRIDGE. Shore Batteries

returned /...

462

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report
No. 304.
(Contd.)

returned fire.
(4) U.S. Cruiser PHILADELPHIA gave fire support
in Anzio Area against enemy artillery on 27th Feb.
(C. in C. Med. 272200A)

War Diary.

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/Boat disposition. Areas A, B, C, D, E, and F. No fresh information, no change in scale of air escort. Area G LISMORE reports attacking S/M contact at 1118Z/26th in 001° 17' N. 076° 54' E. Scale of air escort remains Y. (C. in C.E.F., 270346Z.)

Information from CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. Information from Captain of C.S. regarding points raised in your 230427 is vague. C.S. was guided through Sundra Straits by Japanese Warship passing South of Thwartway Islands thence through supposed minefield exact position of which unknown to Captain of C.S. When clear of the Strait guide warship left C.S. in position North North-East of Princes Island. From this point the Captain was free to choose his course without restriction. He shaped course South of Cocos Islands which were passed at night. R/V with U/Boats was not given him until two days out. He further states that his course through Sundra Straits was practically the same as on his previous trip and thinks ships are free to shape course according to destination once clear of Straits. (F.O.E.A., 270639 to C. in C.E.F.)

SS.FENRIS. To proceed Bombay for repair. (D.T.D. 271233A.)

TALLY-HO patrol report U/B Sunk. My P.C. and S. 006° 01' 090° 59' 282° 10 knots.
2. One Fathom Bank and Aru Bay blank.
3. Patrol met at night on several occasions and all (corrupt group) now showing light.
4. p.m. 19th Japanese seaplane tender KAMIKAWA southbound and medium ship northbound (??? sunk by torpedo)
a. 003° 59' ?(100°) 33'.
b. 004° 01' 100° 35'.
c. 003° 52' 100° 40'. special operation again blank prevented simple attack.
5. Have sunk one U/Boat dawn 15th in 004° 27' 100° 11' and merchant ship p.m. 21st in (4)c
6. Rammed by destroyer at 0255/24th south Pulo Jarak. All port ballast tanks and forward planes damaged. Assistance not required.
(TALLY-HO 271933Z.)

464

27.2.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.SS. MUR-
FREESBORO
(damaged
26 Feb.)

Departures CAILIFF to assist SS. MURFREESBORO
in 38.10 N. 51.33 W.
(F.O.N.F., 270230Z.)
My 262040* CAILIFF, C.M.A. FOUNDATION ARANMORE
in company in vicinity Cape Spear at 1730Z/27
proceeding to assist MURFREESBORO.
(F.O.N.F., 272225Z.)
* Orders for CAILIFF.

Re SSSS
intercepts.

Request confirmation no necessity pass to you
S S S S intercepts from ships in this area.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 270822R to Admty.)

U/B
estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 271340Z; Cominch 271635Z.)

MELITA.

N.S. on crossing 057° 00' W. steer for new (D)
047° 01' N. 054° 20' W. thence Q.J.A.220 to
Argentia.
2. E.T.A. Argentia to be signalled when known.
3. Port of St. Johns N.F. closed due to ice.
(F.O.N.F., 271654Z to MELITA.)

Palisadoes.

In view of present use of Palisadoes for training
R.A.F. recruits propose Air Ministry be asked to
take over Station at once, thereby releasing
following naval personnel.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 271706Z to Admty.)

QUEEN (new
escort
carrier).

QUEEN grounded in 3 fathoms approx. 2345/26 at
entrance to Nanoose Inlet. She is holed between
stem and after bulkhead and oil fuel tank is
flooded. Ship listed 5° to port and firmly
aground. Tugs standing by. Examination by
salvage experts proceeding.
(B.A.D. Washington, 271715Z.) Note by War Reg.
Originally circulated as from B.A.O. Washington.

SS. EL COSTON
(in collision
26th Feb.)
KARPO.
U/B attack
and sighting
summary.

EL COSTON 37.05 N. 53.17 W. on 27th and KARPO
09.30 N. 85.15 W. on 24th both sunk from marine
causes.
Para. A. Hudson sighted surfaced S/M 59.57 N.
30.56 W. 1030/27 course 250.
Para. C. P.B.M. two Radar contacts 21.14 N.
62.21 W. 0126/26 and 0400/26. Surface craft
attacked sound contact 18.34 N. 63.38 W. 0812/26.
Para. D. Army B.26 sighted S/M 08.50 N. 60 W.
1620/27. All times Z.
(Cominch, 272050Z.)

27.2.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.768
Feb. 26th.

Paras. 11 to 16 cover South Pacific Forces.
9. M.T.Bs. night 25th-26th sank or destroyed
6 barges Madang area under light shore fire.
11. Reference Digest 767 paras. 8 and 9, another
9 Sopac destroyers swept up Saint Georges Channel
same night. 4 units bombarded Vunapopo area
before dawn silencing sporadic gunfire causing
fires, explosions also shelling Cape Gazelle Matupi areas
starting one large fire East Rapopo. Other five destroyers
continued up south-west coast New Ireland sinking 2 small 80
foot vessels south-west of Kavieng. Delete words "probably
unit mentioned previous paragraph" in para. 8 yesterday's
Digest. (See amendment 280600Z.)
13. Photographs 25th Rabaul harbour shows 5 float-planes one
flying boat, 2 submarines, 3 damaged sub-chasers, 14 small
craft, 308 barges. Damaged tanker hit by 8 bombs Feb. 22nd
now missing.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 270710Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. SILVERMAPLE (D.D.I.C. 281035Z)
torpedoed 04° 44' N. 03° 20' W. 1746Z/26.
LOWESTOFT attacked contact at 2024Z/26 and FAL
obtained Radar contact which faded before 2356Z/
26th.
2. Ships of 1st E.G. heavily attacked U-Boat with
depth charges and gunfire 49° 45' N. 26° 20' W. between 2245Z/
25th and 0325Z/26th.
Para. B. 1. LISMORE attacked firm contact 01° 17' N. 76° 54' E.
1118Z/26th.
2. U-Boat reported 15° 43' N. 03° 42' E. 1609Z/26th.
Para. C. 1. Aircraft obtained contact 51° 45' N. 07° 35' W.
1055Z/26th.
2. S/461 sighted possible conning tower 51° 03' N. 09° 13' W.
1107Z/26th.
3. BRISSENDEN attacked contact 50° 35' N. 05° 10' W. 1901Z/26th.
(D.D.I.C., 270931Z.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 271424, 271425.)

466

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Rescue
Tugs in
Atlantic
Convoys.

1. Owing to the requirements of future operations no more Rescue Tugs are to be sailed with Atlantic Convoys from the U.K.

Operation
F.X.

2. Convoy J.W. 57 with its Escorts less MAHRATTA arrived intact at the Kola Inlet at 2304A to-day. The Murmansk section (33 M/Vs and 6 Russian small craft) entered the Inlet; and the remaining 10 M/Vs are proceeding with a Local Escort to the White Sea.

ULA
Patrol.
One Enemy
M/V sunk
on 25th Feb.

3. The S/M ULA reports to-day that on 20th February while on patrol off Lindesnas (South Norway) she attacked and apparently hit with torpedoes two Enemy M/V's in convoy; and that on 25th February in the same position she torpedoed an unescorted 2000 ton M/V which disappeared in 4 minutes.

North Atlantic.

Bangor
Minesweepers
in trouble.

4. A number of Bangor class minesweepers are sailing in detachments from Canada to the U.K. This morning one of these, H.M.C.S. THUNDER, broke down in 38.51 N. 30 W. (60 miles west of the Azores) and was taken in tow by BAYFIELD. At 1935Z CARAQUET reported that another of the minesweepers, VEGREVILLE, was short of fuel and in tow in 40.58 N. 33.13 W.

South Atlantic.

5. An R.A.F. pilot flying from Natal to Ascension sighted a fully surfaced S/M at 1341Z to-day in 07.35 S. 20.10 W. (300 miles west of Ascension.)

467

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

- 6(a). Strong winds with a heavy swell at Anzio to-day interfered with the unloading of ships, though a considerable total discharge was reported.
(b) There was the usual intermittent shelling of the port area, but no air attacks took place.
(c) C. in C. Med. reports this morning that the weather at Anzio has caused considerable casualties to L.C.T's.
(d) An A/S hunt was carried out last night.

Adriatic.

- 7(a). Six destroyers patrolled off Vis last night and coastal forces operated in Korcula Channel. LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE swept the shipping route outside the Dalmatian Islands. All reports are blank.
(b) 12 Kittyhawks escorted by 4 Spitfires bombed Ancona to-day and destroyed two ships at the quay. 24 Thunderbolts attacked shipping at Dubrovnik where a merchant ship was hit.

Mines off
Tunis.

8. Two ground mines were detonated off Tunis yesterday, two to-day and two on 29th February. Sweeping is in progress.

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SPITEFUL SPITEFUL leaves Scilly Isles at 1000A/2nd March diving by day on route "Green" to (?043 degs.) N. making good 145 miles per day, E.T.A. 2359A/6th, thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A. (Capt. S.3, 281027A to F.O.G.M.A.).

Rescue tugs in Atlantic Convoys. Owing to requirements for future operations no more rescue tugs are to be sailed with Atlantic convoys from U.K.
(2) ALLEGIANCE will continue to be based at Campbeltown under orders of C. in C.W.A.
(3) 7 tugs as they become available on completion of refit or on return to U.K. are to be placed under the orders of C. in C. Portsmouth for south coast towage pool. (D.O.D.(H), 281636A to C. in C.W.A.).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Humber. A.M. 231619.
Proposed transfer of Plotting personnel. The degraded state of the Humber defences, scattered but constant shipping and convoy plot requirements, and possibility of E-boat activity are considerations which lead to the following conclusions.
2. A 50% reduction would destroy the continuity or efficiency of the plot: a better general result would be obtained, in the face of more urgent requirements elsewhere, if this efficient unit were transferred as a whole to the area needing support.
3. By arranging with the army to pass information regarding hostile aircraft one W.R.N.S. officer and three W.R.N.S. ratings could be spared without undue loss of efficiency.
4. No R.N.V.R. officers can be spared except as in para.2. (F.O. Humber, 280951A to Admty.).

Operations.

Operation Kola Inlet arrived Group 9. S.B.N.O. Archangel
"F.X." 241327 refers.
(S.B.N.O. Polyarno, 280250A to S.B.N.O. Archangel)
(1) Intend to sail for Loch Ewe R.A.57, 1000A/

2nd March.

- (2) Speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
- (3) Routed KX, MU, thence route "Brown" G F H J C B A. C. in C. H.F. 100937A February.
- (4) Reference positions same as ocean route. Additional reference positions E and D, C in C. H.F.'s. 100927A February.
- (5) British ships SAN ADOLFO (T) SAN CIRILO (T), EMPIRE PICKWICK, FORT SLAVE, EMPIRE PLOUGHMAN, EMPIRE BARD, FORT CREVECOEUR, FORT NORFOLK, EMPIRE TOURIST. Rescue Vessel COPELAND.
- (6) American vessels. PHILIP LIVINGSTONE, THORSTEIN VEBLIN,

/ WILLIAM...

469

28.2.1944.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.X.
(Contd.)

WILLIAM TYLER PAGE, RICHARD H. ALVEY, CHARLES SCRIBNER, WOODBRIDGE N. FERRIS, EDWIN L. DRAKE, BERNARD N. BAKER, JOHN H.B. LATROBE, PAUL HAMILTON HAYNE, EDWARD L. GRANT, WILLARD HALL, SAMUEL MCINTYRE, CHARLES A. MCALLISTER, WINIFRED L. SMITH, ROBERT LOWRY, HENRY WYNKOOP, ABNER NASH, HENRY BACON, ALBERT C. RITCHIE, JOHN LA FARGE.

(7) Dutch ship AERT VAN DER NEER.
(8) One other British tanker may be included.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 280825A to H.F.)
Following received from N.A. Stockholm. Repeats N.A. Stockholm 261033.
(D.D.I.C., 281106A to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2., A.C.O.S., F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C.)
When south of 066 degs. N. on your return route keep west of 003 degs. W.
(C. in C. H.F., 281841A to BERWICK, JAMAICA, B.1.)
J.W.57 escorted by ships detailed for operation F.X. less MAHRATTA. Murmansk section 39 ships including 6 Russian small craft arrived Kola Inlet.
White Sea section 10 ships met by Local Escort and has proceeded.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 282304A to Admty.)

Biscay A/S operations. Sailed CHILLIWACK 0330 in accordance with my 271851.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 280345A to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C.S. at 1200Z, 045 degs. 51' N. 023 degs. 06' W. 310 degs., 10 knots. Altering to 135 degs. on reaching 25 degs. W.
Surgical operation successful, my 271148 refers.
(E.G.1., 281102Z to C. in C. W.A.)
C. in C. W.A.'s 281014A. My P.C.S. 042 degs. 20' N. 018 degs. 20' W., 357 degs., 5 knots.
(ROCHESTER, 281201A to O.S.69/K.M.S. 43.)
BLOCK ISLAND, 5 escorts, 46 N. 25.20 W., course 350, speed 15. Operating against sub. concentration.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 281331.)
T.G. 21.16, BLOCK ISLAND, 4 destroyers, operating vicinity 043 degs. 30' N. 029 degs. 10' W. Add to my 281231.
(C. in C. W.A., 281725A to Admty.)
My P.C.S. 2200Z, 045 degs. 42' N. 019 degs. 33' W., 160 degs., 8 $\frac{1}{4}$.
(B.3., 282201Z to ROCHESTER.)
Your 281331. Request you will operate to the westward of longitude 025 degs. W. First E.G. is to operate to eastward of this line.
(2) It is essential for good co-operation that you keep me informed in good time of your movements and intentions when east of Azores and north of parallel 040 degs. N.
(C. in C. W.A., 282241Z to C.T.G. 21.16.)
CAPE BRETON is to remain with B.7 E.G. escorting H.X.280 until further orders.
(3) Your 281317 and C. in C. C.N.A. 241300 refer.
(C. in C. W.A., 282110A to B.7.)

/ULA ...

470

28.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

ULA patrol. ULA report in accordance with I.S.O.H.
 Two Enemy 1. 20th Feb. 1133, P.C.S. of convoy consisting of
 M/Vs. 8 ships 8,000 to 3,000 tons escorted by 6 A/S
 attacked. trawlers and about 12 aircraft 058 degs. 09' N.
 One Enemy 006 degs. 30' E., 355 degs., 9 knots. Attacked 2
 M/V. ships overlapping with 4 torpedoes, range 6,500
 apparently yards. 2 explosions after 5 mins. 20 secs. and
 sunk. suitable (? interval) to correspond with first
 and last torpedoes. No counter attack. ULA
 retired to westward returning about 1500. Search
 was then being carried out by 3 of escort and 2
 aircraft in vicinity of attack. A small merchant ship was
 observed to approach from south, stopped for about 20 mins.
 close to trawler and then proceeded between 1500 and 1715, 14
 depth charges were dropped, none close.
 2. 25th Feb. in position 2 miles south of first attack attacked
 unescorted 2,000 ton merchant ship, course and speed 135 degs.,
 13 knots. Fired 3 torpedoes at 4,000 yards. 2 explosions at
 3 mins. 47 secs. and 7 secs. later. (Corrupt group) ceased.
 4 minutes later nothing in sight.
 3. Many A/C sighted throughout patrol.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 280945A to F.O.S.)

Coastal My 271220A. Operation carried out without
 Force interruption and results generally satisfactory.
 operation. 2. No enemy shipping sighted.
 3. Shore lights sighted at Point D'Ailly, Fecamp
 Port and Cap d'Antifer.
 (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 281220A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

NORTHLAND Following is a repetition of my 281440. Sailed
 to Jan U.S.S. NORTHLAND. E.T.A. Jan Mayen 2000A/2nd
 Mayen. March.
 (A.C.I.C., 281442A to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 281451A.)
 Force (F.O.I.C. Portland, 281740.)
 Patrols.

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/29th and movements
 for following 24 hours.
 (A) SEANYMPH off Lofoten Islands.
 (B) VENTURER off Stadtlandet.
 (C) ZWAARDFISH 61 degs. 55' N. 01 degs. 25' W. probably on surface
 when south of 64 degs., through 61 degs. 59' N. 00 degs. 27' W.
 and 64 degs. 50' N. 02 degs. 01' E., thence to patrol vicinity
 65 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 10' E.
 (D) SCEPTRE 61 degs. 50' N. 00 degs. 01' E. through 61 degs. 59'
 N. 00 degs. 11' E., 65 degs. 02' N. 04 degs. 05' E. and 64 degs.
 35' N. 09 degs. 01' E., probably on surface till within 60 miles
 of Norwegian coast.

/(H) ...

471

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M. (H) RUBIS 47 degs. 50' N. 05 degs. 59' W. dived
patrols. by day course north, advance 120 miles per 24
(Contd.). hours to R/V with escort 180 degs. Wolfe Rock
5 miles 0800/1st March.
(F.O.S., 281739A to Admty.).

Search SCIMITAR is to R/V with TALYBONT in 180 degs.
for Lizard 3 miles at 2330A/29th.
U/boat. (2) Ships are to proceed in company to R/V in
accordance with N.O.I.C. Greenock, 281038A and
escort to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281844 to F.O.G.M.A.,
TALYBONT).

Ships addressed are to form Force III.

(2) Force III is to carry out A/S patrol in area (B) between
050 degs. N. and 051 degs. 30' N. and between 007 degs. 00' W.
and 008 degs. 30' W. proceeding to this area from 293 degs.
Trevose Head Five.

(3) Aircraft of 19 Group will co-operate in search. Leigh
Light aircraft will be employed at night and may illuminate
ships momentarily. All aircraft are to be assumed friendly until
they commit a hostile act.

(4) Ship sunk by U/boat torpedo at 1144/20th in 050 degs. 27'
N. 005 degs. 23' W. From subsequent sighting and disappearing
Radar contact U/boat estimated to be within 40 miles of 050
degs. 40' N. 009 degs. 30' W. 26th February, possibly trying
to return North of Cornish Coast but being held down by heavy
air effort. No subsequent evidences. No aircraft were
operating in area from 1600A/27 to 1000A/28th.

(5) Communications to be assumed at 1200A/29th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281916A to OXLIP, PINK, WALLFLOWER,
HONEYSUCKLE).

Ships addressed are form Force 112 under command of AZALEA.

(2) Force 112 is to pass the Gate at 0930A/29th February and
proceed by standard route to position (B) 180 degs The Lizard 3.

(3) From (B) Force 112 is to take up A/S patrol between The
Lizard and Longships and is to give close support to Convoy
P.W.484 between these points. P.W.484 E.T.A. The Lizard 2300A/
29th.

(4) Force 112 is to leave patrol to R/V with special convoy,
escort CONQUEROR, at Hartland Point at 2100A/1st March and
provide A/S escort to Convoy from Hartland Point to The Lizard.

(5) Force 112 is to part company with Convoy at the Lizard and
carry out A/S patrol to seaward of QZS 456 between Trevose Head
and Longships. Force 112 is also to give A/S support to all
P.W. and W.P. convoys between Trevose Head and Longships
operating about 4 miles on seaward bow of convoys.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 281940A to AZALEA, PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS).

BLYTH is to part company from SCIMITAR at 291500A and
proceed to Plymouth. SCIMITAR is to refuel at Falmouth and
sail as necessary to comply with my 281844A.

(2) Force 112 consisting AZALEA (S.O.), PRIMROSE, DIANTHUS
will take over patrol between Lizard Head and Longships from
1500A/29th until p.m. 1st March. Force 112 carry out special
escort duty on night 1st and 2nd March and will then relieve
Group E on patrol between Longships and Trevose Head.

(3) Trawler Group E is to escort W.P.485 from Trevose Head
to Lizard Head and is then to take up patrol between Lizard
Head and Longships.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 282002A to BLYTH, SCIMITAR,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE).
/Have...

472

28.2.1944.
Monday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.Search for
U/boat
(Contd.).Have obtained ASV contact in 50 degs. 00' N.
8 degs. 30' W.
(A/C UJJ 12, 282024 to 19 Group).Operation
"Bayleaf"Operation "Bayleaf" cancelled.
(C. in C.H.F., 282213A to H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C.).Allied Air Activity.

Boulogne

Request P.R.U. of Boulogne as soon as possible,
to locate enemy shipping.
(D.D.I.C., 280821A to A.D.I. Ph).MiningSweep off
Smiths Knoll.Departure M.S.4 in KELLET, SUTTON, ELGIN,
SELKIRK and ROSS in company at 1101.
(F.O. Humber, 281141A to C. in C. Nore).
My 261914A. Commencement of clearance is to be
postponed till Wednesday to enable a more
thorough search outside the Northern edge of area to be carried
out acknowledge.

(C. in C. Nore, 281704A to M/S 4).

Arrivals KELLETT, SUTTON, ELGIN, SELKIRK and ROSS.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 282000A to F.O.I.C. Humber).

Yarmouth

"O" sweepers exploded mine in sweep dragged from
position 036 degs. 57A buoy 2.6 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 281208A).
(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth, 291557A to C. in C.
Nore).Enemy Intelligence.

Boulogne

Sortie at 1100A/28th shows tanker 410 ft. T.38
arrived in outer harbour. Was last seen in
Cherbourg on 25th February. Shipping in port
comprises ten E/R-boats two St. Nazaire escort
vessels, three probable T.L.C., one M-class tender, and two
auxiliaries.
(P.R. Benson, 281530A to Admty.).

Calais.

Sortie at 281400A shows shipping unchanged since
1033A today but number of E/R-boats present now
seen to be four not five alongside in Bassin
Carnot. T.L.C. are alongside Quai Gare Maritime
in outer harbour. Party seen laying mines on foreshore below
H.W.M. East of Calais. Mines also clearly visible on foreshore
West of Calais.

(34 Wing, 282000A to H.Q. T.A.F.).

473

28.2.1944.
Monday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

CONTRAMAESTRE CASADO. Spanish Naval Transport CONTRAMAESTRE CASADO left Pasajes for Ferrol February 28th with cargo of mines, A/A guns, and other war material all of German origin.
(Vice Consul, San Sebastian, 282025 to London).

U/boats.

U/boat reported on 27th February. At 271120 A/C P/1407 in 59 degs. 53' N. 030 degs. 54' W. sighted a U/boat steering 250 degs. at 10 knots. Believed 517 ton type. Not attacked. No major armament. U/boat sighted in act of diving.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 280535A to H.Q.C.C.).

Casualties and Defects.

IRA JEFFREY. IRA JEFFREY damaged as follows due collision SWALE. Details. Ship returning to Londonderry.
(E.C: Londonderry, 280728 to C. in C.W.A.).

WAR PINDARI. Your 271846. Ship grounded on Culbin Sands at 0615 2 hours after high water. Rosyth and Aberdeen informed by telephone. Tugs being sent.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 280930A to A.C.O.S.).
My 280930. WAR PINDARI now afloat and coming to Invergordon.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 281431A to A.C.O.S.).

STOCKHAM. Intend to sail STOCKHAM from Lough Foyle at 0900A/1st to Greenock.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 281652A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BERMUDA. F.O.I.C. Glasgow 261321A. Arrangements have been made for BERMUDA to be taken in hand for refit about end of March at Middle Docks, South Shields.
(3) A.M. 251254 refers.
(D.O.D.H., 281821A to C. in C.H.F.).

GEORGE W. CHILDS. Arrived U.S.S. G.W. CHILDS in tow of BANDIT.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 282056A to N.O.I.C. Oban).

Shipping and Convoys.

OXFORDSHIRE. Sailed OXFORDSHIRE 0950A/28th. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0015A/4th.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 281004A to Admty.).

K.M.F.29A. A.M. 271936. Route as follows.
(2) No stragglers route.
(D.O.D.H., 281308A to C. in C.W.A.).

/ Convoy...

474

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.29A
(Contd.).

Convoy K.M.F.29A. Neither escort carrier will be able to operate aircraft during passage.
(D.O.D.(F), 281857A to C. in C.W.A.).

O.N.S.30.

HOTSPUR, AMHERST, NASTURTIUM, WOODSTOCK, BRANDON and NORTHERN FOAM sailed to join O.N.S.30 at 1215A.

COLLINGWOOD delayed.

(Cdre. D.W.A., 281326A to A.I.G. 196).

COLLINGWOOD sailed to overtake O.N.S.30 at 1425A.

(Cdre. D.W.A., 281704A to Admty.).

475

28.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

Raider situation. My 071908 Jan. Prisoners from Blockade Runners report that Raider H was sunk by S/M off the coast of Japan about mid-October. This accounts for the absence of raider activity since summer of 1943. 2. P.R.U. shows Raider K in the Baltic has been converted for other duties. 3. No active German raiders therefore believed to be in existence at present. (D.D.I.C. 281614A.)

North Atlantic.

Convoy C.K.1. Request reply to para. 1 of A.M. 261434*. Your 260536 was received corrupt. (Admty. 280722A to S.B.N.O.Azores.) * Request date of departure of C.K.1. My 260536Z. C.K.1 sailed 1531Z/25. A.M. 280722 to S.B.N.O.Azores only refers. Admiralty pass to Com. 12 Fleet. (S.B.N.O.Azores 281120 to F.O.G.M.A.)

F.T.16. Admty. 202253* Jan. Intend to register Fleet TENDERHEART. Tender 16 as SS. TENDERHEART under same conditions as SS. TENDERFOOT so that she can carry out the duties referred to in my 011222+ Feb. (F.O.G.M.A. 281857A.) * SS. TENDERFOOT. Approval to sail under Red Ensign to embark refugees. + Considered desirable that Fleet Tender be allocated to S.B.N.O.Azores.

Bangor minesweepers in trouble. H.M.C.S. THUNDER broken down, BAYFIELD endeavour to tow request tug be sent position 038° 51' N. 030° lat. West. (THUNDER 281120Z.) Note: Message has been passed to F.O.G.M.A. for information. Your 281431Z anticipate BAYFIELD will be able to complete tow present position 038° 33' N. 029° 20' W. E.T.A. Horta 290100Z. (THUNDER 281900Z.) H.M.C.S. VEGREVILLE short of fuel and in tow. P.C. and S. 040° 58' 033° 13' 126° 5. Weather report 6481 1827. (CARAQUET 281935Z.)

SS. MIDNIGHT. U.S. Ship MIDNIGHT reports serious defects and considers it desirable to call at Gib. for repairs. Intend detaching her full speed now escorted by BURGESS, DRURY to overtake later. May have to close down degaussing. (S.O.E.G.4 281545A to F.O.G.M.A.) As amended 281701A.

/Estimate...

War Diary.28.2.1944.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North AtlanticEast Indies.

SS. MIDNIGHT, Estimate least time for repairs 3 hours. Unless
K.M.F.29 otherwise ordered to contrary BURGESS, DRURY intend
(Contd.) to anchor and rejoin convoy with merchant ship
after repairs completed.

(BURGES 281928A to F.O.G.M.A.)

My 281545 request you sail IMPULSIVE and DRURY to
rejoin me either on completion of repairs or (?immediately on
arrival) if alternative onward escort for MIDNIGHT available.
(S.O.E.G.4 282105A to F.O.G.M.A.)

KRAKOWIAK. Re: search for dinghy.
(KRAKOWIAK 282015B to F.O.L.E.M.)

South Atlantic.

CARADOC. Sailed to Diego Suarez (route etc.)
(N.O.I.C. Durban 281101Z.)

DOUGLAS, Ref. A.M. 071236A DOUGLAS and VISCOUNT will escort
VISCOUNT. THYSVILLE to Casablanca and Gibraltar leaving
Freetown 3rd March request E.D.A. Freetown of ROTHE
and WEAR. If before end of March propose DOUGLAS
and VISCOUNT remain Gib. for disposal in accordance
with A.M. 071236A.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 281408Z to Admty.)

SS. SHEAF Overdue shipping SHEAF CROWN due Freetown 24th
CROWN. Feb. from Rio de Janeiro not arrived. Ship not
sighted by air sweep daylight 28th Feb.
(N.O.I.C.W.Af. 281700Z.)

S/M sighted. R.A.F.pilot from Natal to Ascension reports
sighting fully surfaced S/M at 1341Z/28th position
07° 35' S. 20° 10' W. Course given as 275°
Magnetic.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 282038Z.)

477

28.2.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 38.
Anzio. Total discharged on 27th Feb. 1655 tons. Liberties were unloaded for 6 hours until weather prevented further unloading.
(2) Heavy air raid took place morning of 27th Feb., L.S.T.140 suffered two near misses and some damage. Casualties three dead, three missing. No other damage reported. Intermittent shelling of the port area continued during the day and night. No damage reported.
(3) LARRINAGA, LOCHEE, L.S.T.64, L.T.221, considered salvable or able to be refloated. BOXER considerable damage. Salvage operations in progress.
(4) LAFOREY, URCHIN, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, HAMBLEDON, BRETON on A/S hunt night 27th/28th.
(5) PHILADELPHIA reports excellent days shooting, with admirable spotting arrangements. Seven shoots carried out, 407 rounds expended, results reported good. Target was active enemy artillery on our left flank. Only three enemy shells observed to fall in vicinity of PHILADELPHIA.
(6) Weather at Anzio has caused considerable casualties to L.C.Ts.
(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 280907A.)

M.K.F.69. My 231220. SCYTHIA E.T.A. Suez 0400/2nd.
SCYTHIA. Earliest time vessel can reach Port Said late p.m./2nd.
(2) Vessel carrying 4500 M.N.B.D.O. ex Colombo urgently required in U.K.
(3) Request M.K.F.29 may be delayed sufficient time to permit SCYTHIA to join.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 280947B to F.O.L.E.M.)
N.C.S.O. Aden's 271549.
Request every effort be made to expedite SCYTHIA as it is most important that this ship with M.N.B.D.O. personnel should join M.K.F.29.
(D.O.D.(F), 281842A to F.O.L.E.M., S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)
P.S.T.O.M.E. 280947. No delay can be accepted in time given in para. 3(D) my 172306. This is necessary to prevent convoy being sighted in Straits of Gibraltar.
2. SCYTHIA and two escorts must be sailed to overtake at best speed by shortest route.
(C. in C. Med., 281926A to F.O.L.E.M.)
P.S.T.O.M.E.'s 280947. N.O.I.C. Port Said is requested to sail SCYTHIA p.m./2nd to overtake M.K.F.29 which sailed at noon.
2. One "Hunt" is to be detached to escort SCYTHIA.
(F.O.L.E.M., 282020B to Escorts of M.K.F.29, N.O.I.C. Port Said.)

INDRAPOERA 2 tugs connected up ahead S. of A. 4 knots.
(in tow). Weather report 6872 9756.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 281002A.)
Message B. Position 1700 036° 55' N. 000° 17' E.
course 255°, speed 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots. Wind force 7/8 with heavy sea. Both tugs towing ahead making heavy weather. Consider doing well now. Have had 3 hours delay due to engine trouble in VAGRANT.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 281802A.)

/DOLFIJN ...

478

28.2.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

- DOLFIJN. Patrol in the vicinity 152° BB 30 miles by 0001/29th. (2) Shipping may be east or westbound. (Capt. (S) 1, 281130 to DOLFIJN.)
- UNSPARING, UNRULY, DOLFIJN, TORBAY. Your 261024 Feb. and Capt. (S) 1 241819 Feb. Concur in the proposed dates of arrival in U.K. of UNSPARING, UNRULY, and DOLFIJN for refit. 2. TORBAY is to refit at Chatham about 1st April. It is not acceptable to defer beyond this date. 3. Request you will arrange accordingly. (D.O.D.(F), 281317A to C. in C. Med.)
- ROBERTS. Request you will sail ROBERTS to Gibraltar in G.U.S.33 for inclusion in M.K.S.43 to U.K. (C. in C. Med., 281616A to F.O.L.E.M.)
- Mines off Tunis. Further to my 271735* two more ground mines detonated at 1244 to-day 28th, one red and one blue in position 36° 47'34" N. 10° 28'24" E. Sweeping will be continued tomorrow. (F.O. Tunisia, 281656A.)
* Re two ground mines detonated.
- Salvage vessels. Consequent loss of SALVIKING another craft of like capacity must proceed Indian Ocean. Necessary transfer one of your five big salvage vessels preferably SALVAGE DUKE most recently commissioned.
- Possible SALVICTOR may be able to join you temporarily in the summer on her way east dependent on progress Channel operations. Request earliest date you can despatch ship selected to join C. in C. E.F. (Controller, 281732A to C. in C. Med.)
- TEVIOT BANK. Request whereabouts of TEVIOT BANK. (D.D.O.D.(M), 281741A to C. in C. Med.) To be loaded with mines and sailed in first available westbound convoy after loading is completed for Naples where she is required with minimum delay. (C. in C. Med., 281812A to C. in C. Levant.)
- Allied Bridgehead Force. First: On the orders of the Prime Minister the force in the Anzio bridgehead is to be known as "The Allied Bridgehead Force". (War Office, 281845A.)
- GARIBALDI. GARIBALDI will be required for duty in Med. after exchange between Admirals Biancheri and Oliva my 221704 to Admty. only and 261920 refer. (C. in C. Med., 282056.)

479

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

U/B
report.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 40° 44' N. 19°
20' E.
(A/C C/S HNQJ, 282348A.)

GNAT,
CRICKET.

Your 091225 February.
Request further information regarding the state
of these vessels and confirmation that they
could not be patched up sufficiently to be used
in future combined operations in the Med.

2. Is it proposed to employ the ships underway as bombing
targets and are they to be used for practice or live bombing?
(A.C.N.S.(F), 282353A to F.O.L.E.M.)

480

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat disposition. My 260329 and 270346. Areas A. B. C. D. E. F. and G. No fresh information, no change in scale of air escort. Indian Ocean: Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F within 150 miles of 004° S. 067° E. (C. in C.E.F. 280418Z.)

B.P.107. Escorted by KISTNA dispersed at 0230Z. (N.C.S.O.Hormuz 280525Z.)

FROBISHER, PETARD, ROTHERHAM. Convoy route is changed. Fresh orders for R/V with destroyers at 20600Z/1st March. 3. Capt. D.11 acknowledge to FROBISHER and C. in C.E.F. and report back time and position of R/V. (C. in C.E.F. 280609Z to FROBISHER, PETARD, Capt. D.11.)

CAP TOURANE. 3. It is requested that early approval may be given for CAP TOURANE to be sailed for Ceylon for duties as accommodation ship in Ceylon. (C. in C.E.F. 281225Z to Admty.)

FORT LA MAUNE (torpedoed 25th Jan.) Admty. 251423.* Original SSS made on main set was not received by Socotra or ships in vicinity radio operator states that radiation was bad due to explosion. It is confirmed that signals made on lifeboat set were heard by Socotra but not by Aden. Position given by lifeboats stated they were S. of Socotra whereas in fact they were to the N. (Com. Aden 281442Z to C. in C.E.F.)
* re Report result why signals were not read at Socotra even if inaudible at Aden.

P.A.70. Am forming extended screen with JASMINE, TULIP on P.A.70. E.T.A. Aden p.m. 29th February. (PARRET 281830C.)

481

28.2.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Frigates
for U.K.

WALDEGRAVE, departed 1506Z/27th NARBOROUGH and
WHITAKER for Londonderry.
(N.S.H.Q. Boston, 280428Z)

ANTIGUA.

Intend ANTIGUA proceed U.K. with B.6 escorting
H.X. 281.
(F.O.N.F. 281306Z, 281528Z)

L.26.

S/M L.26 reports: At 2150P/27 No.1 battery
exploded. Cause unknown. One P.O. killed.
Ship is being sailed to Halifax for repairs and
investigation.
(C. in C. C.N.A.281440Z)

U/B
Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 281502Z, Cominch, 281529Z)

QUEEN
(grounded
26 Feb.)

QUEEN refloated 270348. Will drydock in
Vancouver 1800/28th. My 271715 refers.
Report on damage and delay to programme will
follow in due course.
(B.A.D. 281851)
Re H.M.S. QUEEN grounded.

Radar
Decoys
used by
UB's.

S.O. E.G. C.1 reports: Ref. A.G.M. 930A Radar
Decoy Balloon.
(A) 0555Z/19 Feb in 48.25 N. 21.56 W. while
escorting O.N.224.
(B) to (G) Technical details of experience with
balloon.
T.O.O. 271231Z. Ends.
(F.O.N.F. 282035Z) *Amended 081740Z March.*
A.G.M. 930A T.O.O. 062230 Nov. 1943.
Re: Radar Decoys used by U-Boats.

U/B sighted.

Para. (B) Sub. sighted 16.37 N. 66.12 W.
281545Z. Admiralty pass*to H.Q.C.C.
(Cominch, 282045Z)*Passing action being taken by
W.R.

ESSO
BOLIVAR.

Complete failure of thrust bearing imminent.
Request tug be sent to assist us into Aruba.
158 degs. 93 miles from K. Present speed 6 knots.
(ESSO BOLIVAR, 282300Z)

482

28.2.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.769
Feb. 27.

Paras.8 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces.
(13) M.T.B's attacked five southbound enemy barges loaded with men supplies off south-west Bougainville night 26th/27th sinking two probably destroying remaining three.
(14) Ref. Digest 768 Para. 11 further report adds one small cargo vessel, one tug, one schooner sunk by destroyers off Kavieng night 24th/25th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 280600Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C P.1407 sighted U-Boat on surface course 250 degs. at 1020Z/27th. 59 degs. 57' N. 30 degs. 54' W.
(2) LOWESTOFT made several attacks on contact at 1111Z/27th 03 degs. 56' N. 03 degs. 39' W.
(D.D.I.C. 281035Z)

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 281342A, 281350A)

483

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1(a) BERWICK and JAMAICA returned to Scapa at 1004 to-day from covering Convoy J.W. 57.
(b) R.A.D. H.F. reports to-day that the severe cold (down to 2 degs Fahr.) experienced and the errors in A/C compasses North of 71 degs N., combined with continuous snow-storms, made night-flying by A/C from CHASER impossible during the passage of the Convoy, though 73 hours of day-flying took place. He adds that the Wildcat A/C were very satisfactory, that the Swordfish A/C proved unsatisfactory in the conditions; that, though Enemy shadowing A/C could be driven off, they could not be destroyed; and that he considers the inclusion of a separate Fighter Carrier in future escorts of these convoys to be most desirable.

North
Russian
Convoys.

2. C. in C. H.F. considers that, in view of increasing daylight and the large size of the next outgoing Convoy J.W.58 to North Russia, two Escort Carriers and one DIDO-class Cruiser should be included in the Convoy Escort.

Biscay
A/S
Operations.

3(a) At 0640 to-day an A/C on patrol attacked a west-bound U-Boat about 320 miles West of Lorient; and at 0912Z E.G.1 (S.O. in AFFLECK) carried out a creeping-attack upon another U-Boat about 930 miles West of Rochefort and continued to attack without visible result until 1835Z when contact was lost.
(b) The Admiralty estimated that two further U-Boats were in the western Biscay Approaches to-day, and at 1151A C. in C. W.A. informed the Escort Carriers ACTIVITY and NAIRANA with Convoy O.S.69/K.M.S.43 that a maximum air effort should be made this afternoon.
(c) The U.S. Task Group 21.16 (BLOCK ISLAND and five Destroyers) attacked a U-Boat contact at about 0233Z to-day about 1020 miles West of Cherbourg without observed result. It was later established that the object attacked was a drifting whistle buoy.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4(a) 3600 tons were discharged to-day at Anzio in improved weather. There was a prolonged air attack this evening, but no damage was caused in the port area.

(b) /...

484

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle"
(Contd.)

(b) Shelling increased in intensity and accuracy, and L.S.T. 197 and 214 were hit and damaged whilst unloading at Anzio but both ships are able to steam.

EUGENIO DI
SAVOIA
Mined.

5. The Italian cruiser EUGENIO DI SAVOIA reported being mined off Cape Rizzuto (south coast of Italy) at 1230 to-day whilst on passage from Port Said to Taranto. This ship arrived at Augusta under her own power.

Adriatic.

6. Allied aircraft on offensive sweeps to-day report the destruction of an M.L. and damage of a second off the coast of Yugoslavia and an E-Boat between Corfu and the mainland.

French
destroyers,
attack on
Convoy.

7. At 2200 to-day the French contre-torpilleur LE MALIN and LE TERRIBLE engaged an enemy convoy in the northern Adriatic in 44.20 N. 14.30 E. (about 30 miles north-west of Zara). The action lasted about 40 minutes, and LE MALIN estimated that 2 Merchant ships, one escort vessel and 2 E-Boats were sunk. No survivors were picked up. LE MALIN suffered no damage or casualties.

U-Boat off
Palestine.

8. The tanker ENSIS was torpedoed and sunk at 1704 to-day in 35.36 N. 35.33 E. (off Latakiya) and a schooner is reported to have been sunk by a U-Boat at 0100/27 in 33.48 N. 34.15 E.

East Indies.

U-Boat
South of
Colombo.

9(a) The tanker BRITISH FUSILIER sighted a S/M and reported two torpedoes fired at her at 0558Z to-day in 02.35 N. 79.56 E. (about 265 miles South of Colombo). The torpedoes missed the ship and the submarine submerged.
(b) At 1549Z to-day SS. PALMA reported being torpedoed in 05.51 N. 79.58 E. (about 70 miles south of Colombo) immediate aircraft assistance

was /...

485

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

U-Boat
South of
Colombo.
(Contd.)

was sent from Colombo as well as a tug and surface vessels, but the ship sank later.

Australia and New Zealand.

Landing
on
Admiralty Is.

10. After Naval and air bombardment American forces landed this morning in face of slight opposition on Los Negros Island, Admiralty Group (200 miles N.E. of New Guinea). Additional forces were landed on the island on 2nd March with negligible casualties.

486

War Diary.29.2.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Flag of
C.S.10.

Flag of Rear-Admiral F.H.G. Dalrymple-Hamilton is to be hoisted in SHEFFIELD at 0900A/3rd and transferred to BELFAST at 0900A/4th March. Flag of Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Burnett is to be struck at sunset on 3rd March.
(C. in C.H.F. 291830A to C.S.10.)

Six escorts
for Med.

Request you will detail 6 escorts, from close escort groups, to reinforce the Mediterranean Fleet as soon as practicable, reporting individual dates on which they will be ready to leave U.K. Vessels are to return to U.K. by 1st May.
(V.C.N.S. 291834 to C. in C.W.A.)

Defence of United Kingdom.Faroes A/A
defences.

Remaining two H.A.A. guns at Vaagur now placed out of action. Admiralty's O21035A and my 251738A refer.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 291206 to Admty.)

Operations.Biscay A/S
operations.
2 U-Boats
attacked.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 45° 45' N. 12° 28' W
(A/C UJJ 12 290224 to 19 Group.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47° 25' N. 12° 38' W
(A/C UJJ 12 290543A to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy submarine in 48° 04' N. 011° 58' W.
Submarine was on surface and when first sighted was on course 270° estimated speed 12 knots.
(A/C UJJ 12 290615A to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 47° 25' N. 012° 38' W.
(A/C UJJ 12 290615A to 19 Group.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat has dived.
Position 48° 04' N. 011° 57' W. Returning to base for fuel.
(A/C UJJ 12 290640 to 19 Group.)

By D/F at 0249Z U-Boat estimated within 30 miles of 43° 30' N. 18° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 290832A to S.L.149/M.K.S.40 and O.S.69/K.M.S.43.)

Took bearing at 2333Z on 3 Group B Bar transmission on 3920 k/cs. Followed bearing three hours, made sound contact, heard whistle in 49.12 N. 26.24 W. No results hedgehog attack. Lost contact. After hour search regained sound contact five miles southeast. Again heard whistle. This time sighted yellow buoy with cage on top. Definitely source of both second sound contact and whistle heard in air. Weather 5782 1973.

(C.T.G. 21.16 290905 to C. in C.Lant.)

Am in contact with U-Boat in 045° 50' N. 023° 13' W. Have carried out one perfect creep attack without result. Will continue until successful. 1st E.G. in company. Weather 4480 0782.

(E.G.1 290912Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Proceed at best speed to Gibraltar.

(C. in C.W.A. 291025A to E.G.1, DAKINS.)

/Request...

487

29.2.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S operations. 2 U-Boats attacked. (Contd.) Request you will sail L.N. BALFOUR p.m./29th, proceed to join 1st E.G. at Gibraltar. 3. Cancel my 271842. (C. in C. W.A., 291115A to N.O.I.C. Belfast.) From position P steer for new position U 44° N. 21° W. thence to position R. (D.O.D.(H), 291123A to LAWSON, MOUNSEY, MANNERS.) Your 290912. Continue attack. When contact is lost carry out purport of my 291025. (C. in C. W.A., 291139A to E.G.1., (R) DAKINS.) A.M. 281350. One German U-Boat estimated 1200Z/28th eastbound in 043° N. 019° 20' W. 2. Maximum air effort should be made p.m./today. (C. in C. W.A., 291151A to ACTIVITY, NAIRANA.) By D/F at 0635Z/29th U-Boat within 30 miles of 48° 40' N. 18° 20' W. (D.D.I.C., 291252A to DAKINS.) My 291025. First E.C. consists of (A) AFFLECK (S.O.), GARLIES, GOULD and GORE. (B) BALFOUR, my 291115 refers. (C) DAKINS temporarily attached will reach Gibraltar about p.m./3rd March. 2. (A) Have been at sea since 22nd February. (C. in C. W.A., 291412A to F.O.G.M.A.) 1st E.G. in contact with U-Boat at 0912Z/29th in 045° 50' N. 023° 13' W. 1st E.G. is proceeding to Gibraltar when engagement is over. (C. in C. W.A., 291430Z to C.T.G. 21.16.) P.C. and S. at 1500Z 043° 10' N. 038° 10' W., 345, 6.5. (GUYSBOROUGH, 291540Z to C. in C. W.A.) My 290905. Buoy relocated. Analysis sound contacts last night. First submarine. Second escaped navigational aid. (C.T.G. 21.17, 291758 to C. in C. Lant.) My 290912. Still in firm contact. Have carried out many attacks without visible result. Contact is lost between 700 and 1000 yards. Believe him to be well below deepest charge. Intend to remain until he comes up for (? air) about midnight. GOULD in company. GORE and GARLIES investigating H/F D/F transmission in 046° 02' N. 022° 50' W. returning to me by dark. My position 045° 49' N. 023° 11' W. Weather 4480 0770. (E.G.1., 291835Z to C. in C. W.A.) My 291817A. Sailed BALFOUR. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 292015A to C. in C. W.A.) Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 45° 30' N. 3° 30' W. (A/C PRT.17, 292050 to 19 Group.)

Operation Scapa arrival BERWICK, JAMAICA.
 F.X. (A.C.O.S., 291004 to C. in C. W.A.)
 Your 191147. A. Accurate navigation impossible due to errors in compasses north of 71° N. Control by ship severely limited by bad communications with T.B.R.
 B. Night flying not possible. Day flying on 4 days. 73 hours in continuous snow storm low ice cloud necessitating constant A.S.V. Temperature down to 2° F.

/C. ...

488

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.X. (Contd.) C. Wildcats very satisfactory. Swordfish unsatisfactory due to excessive oiling with consequent low pressure. Baffle Plate covering 8 more elements of oil cooler, warming of oil cooler immediately prior to flight, and use of Worths oil dilution system helps. Open cockpit aircraft not suitable severe cold seriously impairs efficiency of air crews and operation of radio. Essential T.B.Rs. be fitted with fighter R/T. Poor visibility prevents combined strike. Value of driving off shadowers proved but their destruction cannot be achieved with present speed and armament. This and A/S duties together proved too much for one Escort Carrier. Separate Fighter Carrier most desirable.*

D. More than one type 89 set is required, also additional engineers for upkeep of ship's machinery.

(R.A.D.H.F. 291531A to C. in C.H.F. (R) CHASER.)

* C. in C.H.F. comment on this, 031405A March, page 38

Search for U-Boat. N.O.I.C. Greenock 281658A. Suggest OXLIP R/V 051° 00' N. 007° 54' W. at 0930A/1st March.

(S.O.Force 111 291035Z to C. in C.Plymouth.)

My 281916. Carry out Gamma search to cover Labadie Bank.

(C. in C.Plymouth 291318A to PINK.)

Arrived SCIMITAR.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 291540A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

R/V with S.O.Force 111 in 051° 00' N. 007° 40' W. at 0930A/1st. (C. in C.Plymouth 291545A to OXLIP.)

Your 291630A. Approved. Proceed at 1815A/29 to join Force 112 as ordered by S.O.Force 112. My 281940A refers.

(C. in C.Plymouth 291722A to CELANDINE.)

Ships addressed are to form Force 117.

2. SALADIN take SKATE under his orders and pass gate at 0930A/1st. Proceed by standard route to position A. 270° Longships 5.

3. From position A. SALADIN and SKATE are to carry out A/S patrol. In area C. between 050° 15' N. and 050° 00' N. and between 006° 05' W. and 007° 00' W.

4. SCIMITAR will be sailed to join patrol on completion of special escort duty.

5. Movement of Force 111, information and communication order as in my 281916.

6. Force 112 AZALEA S.O. and trawler Group E CAMBRIDGESHIRE S.O. are operating in vicinity of convoy route between The Lizard and Trevoze Head.

(C. in C.Plymouth 292053A to SALADIN, SKATE, SCIMITAR.)

SCIMITAR sailed in accordance with your 291507A.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 292140A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Operation S.F. U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge. U-Boat was on course 280° speed 9 knots. When first sighted was in 64° 17' N. 02° 28' W. Lost touch with U-Boat.

(A/C Z 291235 to 18 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 64° 17' N. 2° 25' W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 280°, speed 9 knots. (A/C RJYZ 291245 to 18 Group.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation S.F. (Contd.) U-Boat reported in 064° 17' N. 002° 25' W. at 1247/29th.
(C. in C.Rosyth 291255A to H.F.)
My 291255. Course, speed 280°, 9 knots.
(C. in C.Rosyth 291304A to H.F.)
ORESTES (S.O.), COCKATRICE, HYDRA, ONYX are now available for anti U-Boat patrol in the Iceland - Faroes passage.
2. Request you assume operational control forthwith.
3. Ships must return to Skaalefjord by 1600/6th March.
(C. in C.H.F. 291518A to C. in C.Rosyth.)
You are required for operation S.F. Leave immediately.
(C. in C.Rosyth 291531A to ORESTES.)
Proceed in company with HYDRA, COCKATRICE, ONYX to establish patrol in accordance with my 062000 December 1943 by 1300/1st. Line of bearing to be 090° line of advance on North South axis.
1. Group A. 2. 064° 17' N. 006° 10' W. 40/60. 3. 270.
4. "Apricot" acknowledge.
(C. in C.Rosyth 291614 and 011009A to ORESTES.)
Your 291614A. Intend to sail at 1900A to comply.
(ORESTES 291834A to C. in C.Rosyth.)
Faroes departure ORESTES, COCKATRICE, HYDRA, ONYX. Your 291617 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 292107A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

S.C. Operations. Intend to sail S.C.Operation from Scalloway.
1. p.m. 2nd March weather permitting. 2. 65° 39' N. 12° 00' E. 3. RAMOSE VETERAN II. 4. 4 days.
5. 040° Muckle Flugga. 6. No.
(A.C.O.S. 291253A to Admty.)

Intend to sail S.C.Operation from Scalloway.
1. p.m. 2nd March weather permitting. 2. 58° 20' N. 06° 10' E.
3. RAMOSE AQUATIC II. 4. Two. 5. 124° Sumburgh Head. 6. No.
(A.C.O.S. 291258Z to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 291558A.)
(V.A.Dover 291704A.)

S/M Patrols. Own submarine position at 0800/1st March and movements for following 24 hours.
A. SEANYMPH on patrol Bodo area.
B. VENTURER off Stadtlandet.
C. ZWAARDFISCH 64° 55' N. 01° 55' E. dived by day to patrol vicinity of 65° 20' N. 01° 10' E.
D. SCEPTRE 65° 01' N. 04° 10' E. through 64° 35' N. 09° 01' E. to patrol Kya area. Dived by day, when within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast.
(F.O.S. 291733 to Admty.)

490

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

CITY OF
ABERDEEN
attacked on
26th Feb.

Swansea fishing trawler CITY OF ABERDEEN reports that at 0345/26th February when in 51° 20' N. 08° 56' W. with navigation lights burning she was attacked by an unidentified aircraft which dropped 4 bombs or depth charges. A few minutes later aircraft approached and illuminated ship with searchlight and dropped flares. No casualties or damage sustained.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 291746A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Calais.

My 282000. Objects being laid on foreshore at Calais are underwater obstructions Herrissons Type C not mines. This activity seen in sortie at 281030A not as originally stated.
(34 Wing 291540A to H.Q.T.A.F.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat
sunk on
25th Feb.

Request you will convey our congratulations to the crew of Catalina M/210 on the destruction of a U-Boat on 25th February.
(1st S.L. 291259A to Air Ministry.)

U.91 sunk
on 26th Feb.

We congratulate AFFLECK and GORE on the destruction of U.91 on 26th February.
(1st S.L. 291340A to AFFLECK, GORE.)

U-Boats
sunk by
SPEY on
18th and
19th Feb.

We congratulate SPEY on the destruction of a U-Boat on 18th February and another on 19th February.
(1st S.L. 291528A to SPEY.)

U-Boat sunk
by WASKESIU
on 24th Feb.

We congratulate WASKESIU on the destruction of a U-Boat on 24th February.
(1st S.L. 291533A to WASKESIU.)

Casualties & Defects.

RATTLESNAKE.

Faroes departure RATTLESNAKE. Your 281151 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faroos 291041A to A.C.O.S.)

WAR PINDARI.

My 280930 and 281431. Survey of ship has been made and as far as can be ascertained there is no damage. Ship is being loaded.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 291312A to A.C.O.S.)

FOREST HILL.

FOREST HILL has arrived with a leaky A/S dome. Estimated time in dock four days.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 291919A to C. in C.W.A.)

491

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.29A.

K.M.F.29A. A.M. 281308 amend time of oversay
R/V 1100A/3rd March.
(D.O.D.H.291540A to C. in C.W.A.)

North
Rusian
Convoy
J.W.58.

In view of increasing daylight and large size
of convoy J.W.58 consider 2 escort carriers and
one DIDO class cruiser should be included in
escort. Request these may be **allocated.** My
291125 January and Admiralty's 270032 February
refers.
(C. in C. H.F. 292209 to Admty.)

492

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- LARGS BAY. Preliminary hull survey to find damage to starboard bow reveals (details). Anticipate completion of temporary repairs end March approx. Since permanent repairs would take approx. 3 months. C. in C. Med.'s 261514/ and my 272020/ refer. (C.S. Gibraltar, 291118A.)
/ LARGS BAY.
- E.G. C.2. E.G. C.2 arrived Horta 282035Z. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 291150Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
- DAKINS. Your 291025ø. Request whereabouts of DAKINS. (F.O.G.M.A., 291250A to C. in C. W.A.)
ø E.G. 1st DAKINS proceed to Gibraltar.
- U. 761. Congratulations on destruction. (1st S.L., 291557A.)
- U.G.S.34. Orders for diversion. (Cdr. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 291646Z.)
- SS. ZURICH (Swiss). Departure postponed to about 3rd March. My 222006 refers. (D.E.W.D., 291716A.)
- NADA (Yugoslav corvette) Ref. A.M. 031610A. State of ship and personnel. Recommendation that ship proceed to Alexandria or Malta to make a few changes in crew and complete to full complement. (F.O.G.M.A., 291806.)
- Spanish vessels fishing in Newfoundland waters. Re fuel supplies. Offer to carry freight for us in return. (Madrid, 291906A.)
Your 281455/. My request for extension of eastward limit to 060 degs. now (? adjusted) by permission to go as far as 055 degs. W. given in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 241348Z which is being communicated to (group omitted).
- (3) See my 291906ø.
(N.A. Madrid, 291958A.)
/ re limit for fishing permit (N.T. in W.D.)
ø Not identified in W.R.
- Defence of Gibraltar against glider bombs. Your 242231. No special arrangements for shore installations are being made. Arrangements for ships are shown in A.G.M. 353A 20th January. 2. It appears improbable that jamming by even Type 651 would be effective against such a large target as Gibraltar Dockyard. (D.S.D., 291915A.)

/CONDECORADO ...

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

CONDECORADO, Your 261258/. Spanish ship CON(?DE)CORADO
CONDESTABLE. formerly LA GUARDIA and CONDESTABLE formerly
CASTILLO DEL ORO should be added to list.
CONDESTABLE is expected to sail Valencia this
week from Barcelona and first named ship
believed to be there.
(2) Owner called this morning surrendered warrants and left
no doubt in my mind that he intends to participate in traffic.
(C.G. Barcelona, 292015 to B.N.A. Madrid).
/ N.T. in W.R., being obtained.

South Atlantic.

Komenda
R.N.A.S.

Prospect of any use for this empty station
appears most unlikely. Intend therefore to
cease further work on this station other than
to place it in state of preservation.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 291952Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TORBAY. Leave patrol ordered in my 281925 (N.T. in W.R.) and proceed (route) to position E. 039 degs. 55' 019 degs. 15' by dusk 3rd March to patrol off coast of Albania between 039 degs. 55' and 040 degs. 09'.
(Capt. (S) 1, 290025)

U/B Have obtained A.S.V. contact.
Reports. (A/C C/S H.N.Q.J.290025)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 35.28 N. 35.30 E. probably a S/M.
(A/C CXZN, 292345B)

Operation Sitrep No.39.
"Shingle". Strong winds with heavy swell at Anzio yesterday interfered with unloading of ships but a total discharge of 4000 tons is reported.
Para. 2. Intermittent shelling as usual but no air attacks.
(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 290924A)

ULTOR. ULTOR is being temporarily attached to First Flotilla for about 6 weeks from 3rd March.
C. in C. Med. approves.
(S (10) 290945)

DOLFIJN. Proceed forthwith with despatch to patrol North of Skiathos.
(Capt. (S) 1, 291127A to DOLFIJN, (R) ULTIMATUM, F.O.L.E.M.)

VINDICTIVE. VINDICTIVE is urgently required for "Overlord".
(2) Request she may be sailed with complete complement of repair staff to arrive in U.K. not later than third week in March.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 291310A to C. in C. Med.)

Italian Should be similar as far as possible in order to
S/M's for simplify, C. & M. problem. Asking for remarks
A/S training re proposed allocation.
duties. (C. in C. Med. 291545Z to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Mines off One magnetic ground mine detonated to-day in 36
Tunis. degs. 45' 48" N. 10 degs. 25' 12" E. sweeping
continuing tomorrow.
(F.O. Tunisia, 291722)

495

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNIVERSAL,
UPROAR.

P.57 (UNIVERSAL) and P.31 (UPROAR) are to exchange patrol areas, both S/Ms crossing 006 degs. 10' E. at 0030/2nd. P.57 (UNIVERSAL) is to keep S. and P.31 (UPROAR) N. of 042 degs. 40' from 2330/1st until 0300/2nd.
(Capt. (S) 10, 291913 to UNIVERSAL, UPROAR, (R) LA SULTANE, C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Situation
Report
No.305.

(1) Operation "Shingle" weather delayed unloading on 27th Feb. and swell persisted on 28th Feb. but total of 4,000 tons was achieved.
(2) 6 destroyers patrolled off Vis during the night 27th/28th and coastal forces operated in Korcula Channel, F.L.C. LE FANTASQUE and F.L.C. LE TERRIBLE swept shipping route outside the

Dalmatian Islands. All reports blank.

(3) Schooner reported sunk by U-Boat at 0100/27th in 033 degs. 48' N. 034 degs. 15' E. and SS. ENSIS torpedoed in 035 degs. 36' N. 035 degs. 33' E. at 1704/29th.

(4) It. Cr. EUGENIO DI SAVOIA reported being mined off Cape Rizzuto at 1230/29th whilst on passage Port Said to Taranto, ship is proceeding to Augusta.
(C. in C. Med. 292120)

LE MALIN,
LE TERRIBLE
attack on
Convoy.

Am engaging 4 enemy ships 044 degs. 20' N. 014 degs. 30' E.
(LE MALIN, 292200A)
Discontinued action at 2240 estimated result 2 merchant ships, 1 escort vessel, 2 E-Boats sunk. No survivors picked up. Own damage or casualties nil.
(LE MALIN, 292300)

Returning to base.
(LE MALIN, 292345A)

LE MALIN and LE TERRIBLE engaged enemy vessels (remainder as formers).

(F.O.T.A.L.I. 292347)

JUNON.

F.S. JUNON will be ready for service in April.
(2) Subject to your concurrence it is intended to inform French Naval Authorities that JUNON will join your command and will operate from Algiers in similar manner to CURIE.
A.M. 302355/Oct. refers.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 292347A to C. in C. Med.)

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly U-Boat Dispositions No.29. Areas A and D believed clear of U-Boats - scale of air escort W. Areas B, E. and F. No definite information but U-Boat may be in these areas scale of air escort X. Area C. U.S. NONSUCO was not chased by S/M. 25th Feb. My 260329 refers. U-Boat is however believed still in the area. Scale air escort Y. Area G. No further report since H.M.A.S. LISMORE attacked possible U-Boat contacted in 001 degs. 17' N. 076 degs. 54' E. on 26th Feb. but a U-Boat is believed to be in the area scale air escort Y. Indian Ocean. No further information of Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F 300 miles West S.C. West Chagos 27th Feb. but she may be moving west. (C. in C. E.F. 290324.)

Tanker BRITISH FUSILIER attacked. SSSS Position 2 R 35 N. 79 R 56 E. Two torpedoes fired missed. (BRITISH FUSILIER No.T.O.O./29 Recd. 0740) SSSS Lat.2 R 35 N. Long. 79 R 56 S/M surfaced and then sunk. (BRITISH FUSILIER No.T.O.O./29 Recd. 0740) Summary of formers. (C. in C. E.F.290646Z)

Your attention is drawn to A.M.1842B/25/6/42/ in connection with your 231307 to BRITISH FUSILIER. (D.T.D. 291812A to C. in C. E.F.) / (Under no circumstances should diversion signals re-route the vessel to a point in mid-ocean coupled with such phrases as "a further signal will be made" as subsequent signals may not be received by the ship)

SS. FENRIS, (torpedoed 21 Feb.) Your 281247 not to Admiralty my 171104/ addressed FENRIS was broadcast on the following B.A.M.S. area routine from Colombo 1700 and 2100 on 17th and 0130 and 0500 on 18th time G.M.T. A.M. 252306 also refers. (2) Request you will investigate. (C. in C. E.F. 290833Z to N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll) / Position of SS. FENRIS when torpedoed suggests ship had not recd. diversion ordered in 171104.

SS. FORT LA MAUNE (torpedoed 25th Jan.) Request you will investigate non-receipt of distress signals referred to in A.M.251423/ (C. in C. E.F. 290853Z to Com. i/c Aden.) / Re SS. FORT LA MAUNE.

SS. PALMA Torpedoed. SSSS O 5 R 51 N. 79 R 58 E. Torpedoed. (BCGW PALMA, No T.O.O./29th Recd. 1702, C. in C. E.F. 291620Z) A/C being sent to your assistance now. Tug and surface vessels should arrive a.m. tomorrow 1st March. (Admiral, Colombo, 291746Z to PALMA)

497

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

ESSO
BOLIVAR
in distress. Unable use engine vessel stopped in 015° 16' N.
071° 15' W. need assistance immediately.
(BFZY) ESSO BOLIVAR, 290130Z to Connav.)

SSSS
intercepts. Your 270822R*. Confirmed. Cominch passes
such reports.
(D.D.I.C. 291140A to S.O.(1) Jamaica.)
* Re. request confirmation no necessity to pass
SSSS intercepts from ships.

Algerines. Your 102112Z* Ships referred to will work up
in U.K. not Bermuda.
(D.A./S.W. 291210A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
* Re work up of Algerines.

PREMIER
(new
escort
carrier) Sail PREMIER when ready about 6th March Norfolk
to New York, for inclusion in C.U.17. No
operating planes on board.
(Cominch 291305Z to Comeastseafon.)

U/B
estimates. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 291425Z, Cominch 291617Z.)

New U.S.
hospital
ships. War Dep. has designated six new hospital ships.
JASMINE, JOHN L. CLEM, MARIGOLD, ST. MIHIEL,
DOGWOOD, WISTERIA.
(Cominch, 291700.)

ATHLETE. H.M. rescue tug ATHLETE latitude 33° 00' N.
longitude 50° 35' 30" W. Request medical
attention - injured seaman - steering 91°
6 knots.
(MWYD CURZON 291915Z to Bermuda W/T.)

U/B and
casualty
report. Para. C. MOUNT BAKER caught fire, total loss, area
54.14 N. 130.15 W. Feb. 26th. Surface craft
Sub. Contact 23.16 N. 73.14 W. 29630.* R.A.F.
Pilot sights sub. 07.35 S. 20.10 W. 281341
Course 270. All times Z. Admiralty pass to
Comnavu and H.Q.C.C.
(Cominch, 292105Z to Admty.)*As received.

Japanese
shipping
and trade
routes. A.M. 221514. Data in analysed form is not avail-
able. Information required in (A) is voluminous
and would entail much research to obtain in full.
In addition it is pointed out that U.S. Submarine
war diaries are not at present made available to
British. U.S. Authorities have been shown A.M.
referred to and have not so far shown a
sympathetic attitude to the request. Have Japanese trade
sub-committee referred to N.I.D. where it is felt much of the
information required in B. and C. could be made available.
(B.A.D. 292109Z to Admty.)

/Tankers...

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Tankers
for
Azores.

Concur in proposals made in your 241906*.
(Cominch, 292112Z to Admty.)
* Re arrangements made for a tanker to be sailed
for Azores in each U.G.S. Convoy.
Arrange to have Cominch notified at least three
days prior to intended visits at Ponta Delgada
whenever practicable.
(Cominch, 292114Z to C. in C. Lant.)

Tanker
sailings.

"Chicken NN" All independent sailings Tankers
10 to less than 14.5 knots temporarily suspended
except in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Eastern
Seaboard and between these two areas and
excepting tankers in N.W.I. Pacific Trade listed
my 18/2059 December not to all.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R.292146Z)

Air -
Sea
co-
operation
between
British
and U.S.
forces.

Admiralty 261954, para. 5. It is intended to
nominate Captain R.W. Ravenhill now in U.S.A. in
command of NEWFOUNDLAND, to head British
representation.
2. He is eminently suitable as he has only
recently left Western Approaches and has a
thorough experience of the conduct of anti-U/Boat
operations, Escort Group and A/S tactics.
C. in C.W.A. fully concurs. Furthermore, in
view of "Overlord" preparations it would be
difficult to spare another suitable Captain.
3. If conference is unduly prolonged it may be necessary for
Commander of NEWFOUNDLAND to bring ship to U.K.
4. Representatives of the Anti-U/Boat and signal Divisions
will complete the British team.
(V.C.N.S. 292239A to B.A.D.)

WESTMOUNT.

Argentia 29th Feb. Departures WESTMOUNT to patrol.
(Capt. (D) Argentia, 292355Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. R.A.F. transit A/C sighted fully
surfaced U/Boat course 275° at 1341Z/28, 07° 35'S.
20° 10' W.
2. BRITISH FUSILIER reported having been attacked
with torpedoes on 29th Feb. 02° 35' N. 79° 56' E.
Para. B. 1. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at
1924Z/28th, 50° 00' N. 08° 30' W.
2. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0124Z/29. 45° 45' N. 12°
28' W.
3. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2248Z/28 40°44' N.19°20' W.
(D.D.I.C. 291110A.)

/My...

499

29.2.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.
(Contd.)

My 221059 July 1942.

1. H.M.C.S WASKESIU attacked a U/Boat with Hedgehog at 0203, 0225, 0247/24 in position 47° 19' N. 26° 00' W. Depth charge attack at 0552/24 forced U/Boat to surface. It sank at 0610/24. One officer and 18 ratings taken prisoner. U. 157
2. U.S.N. Catalinas 14 and 15 and Catalina G/202 with H.M.S. ANTHONY sank a U/Boat at 1714Z/24 in 35° 57' N. 06° 15' W.
3. AFFLECK and GORE (E.G.I.) sank U.91 at 0325Z/26 in position 49° 45' N. 26° 20' W. by creeping attack. 16 survivors including captain were picked up.
4. Catalina M/210 attacked surfaced U/Boat at 0925/25 in position 70° 26' N. 12° 40' E. Survivors seen in water. (D.A.U.D. 292156A.)

U/Boat
estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 291425A, 291515A.)