

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) (28 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.

ADM 199 2291

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

(a)

U.709
U.603

Biscay
A/S
Operations.
One U-Boat
sunk by
AFFLECK.

1(a) The U.S. Task Group 21.16, consisting of the Escort Carrier BLOCK ISLAND and five destroyers made several attacks on U-Boats about 840 miles West of Lands End during last night and reported at 1045 to-day that two and possibly three U-Boats were then believed to have been sunk.

(b)

U.358

Three U-Boats
possibly sunk
by T.G.21.16.
GOULD
sunk.

(b) At 1245Z to-day the four Frigates of E.G.1 (S.O. in AFFLECK) regained the U-Boat contact lost by them at 1835Z yesterday, and at 1920Z the U-Boat surfaced about 870 miles West of Rochefort and immediately torpedoed and sank GOULD. AFFLECK at once counter-attacked with gun-fire and sank the U-Boat at 1939Z. AFFLECK, with 3 officers and 31 ratings from GOULD and one survivor from the U-Boat, is proceeding towards Gibraltar.

E-Boats off
Falmouth.

2. At about 0030 a group of E-Boats approaching Falmouth, perhaps to attack Convoy P.W.484 which had anchored in Mevagissey Bay, were engaged by the shore-defences and retired to the S.E. Mines may have been laid.

South Atlantic.

U-Boat
in Gulf
of Guinea.

3. SS. ST. LOUIS was torpedoed and sunk at 2116Z today in 05.23 N. 09.09 E (80 miles east of Takoradi) by a submarine on the surface, and sank immediately. M.L.1041 opened fire, but without apparent result.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4. Bad weather restricted discharge at Anzio to-day to 2159 tons.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Adriatic. 5. Destroyer patrols off Vis and in the Southern Adriatic last night and during the previous night were blank.
- Aegean. 6. Middle East aircraft have maintained their attacks on enemy shipping attempting to supply occupied islands in the Aegean and have sunk and severely damaged several vessels during the last few days.
- SIRIUS. 7. The cruiser SIRIUS, having completed repairs at Massawa, sailed to-day to rejoin the Mediterranean Fleet. .

East Indies.

8. Allied aircraft have continued their successful attacks on river craft in central and south Burma, and have sunk or damaged large numbers during the past few days.

China.

- U.S. aircraft activities. 9(a) U.S. aircraft have continued their harassing attacks on the coasts of Indo-China and China and in the adjacent waters during the past week.
- (b) On 24th Feb. warehouses and shipping were attacked at Tee Wuhu, large fires being started, 2 launches destroyed and a 300 ft. freighter damaged. At Hongay railways and docks were attacked with excellent results; and at Campha port a 175 ft. vessel was sunk. Sampans were sunk and river craft damaged from Chihchow to Chentneh.

(c) /...

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

U.S. aircraft
activities.
(Contd.)

(c) Two days later Hongay was attacked again, 3 medium sized ships were sunk and four direct hits were made on docks and warehouses. At Tourane, in addition to damage at the airfield and railway a large launch and a 150 ft. ship were sunk.

(d) On 27th Feb. a river steamer was destroyed at Nam Dinh. Yechow was attacked on 29th with excellent results. To-day a 300 ft. ship was sunk and a 250 ft. ship damaged near Kiuhsienchen.

America and West Indies.

O.N.225.

10. Underwater explosions were heard and felt by ships and escorts of Convoy O.N.225 in 47.23 N. 47.37 W. at 1230Z and 1250Z to-day. There is no report of attack on any ship, but LAVENDER sighted probably recent wreckage ahead of the convoy before the first explosion.

War Diary.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Force "S" Landing craft. I am concerned about the state of the landing craft in Force S. On February 23rd out of 130 L.C.T. in the force whereas 84 were in state "A" 32 were in state C.2 under major overhaul and 14 in state C.1 waiting major repair or overhaul. The force begins to move south at the end of March and is later due to take part in a large and most important exercise. I should be grateful therefore if you would ensure that as many craft as possible in Force S are brought up to state A. before they sail for the South. (A.N.C. X.F. 011135A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Six Escorts for Med.	Admty. 291834.	Following ships detailed:-
	Ship.	Approximate date ready to leave U.K.
	CAM	11th March.
	VANQUISHER	8th March.
	VERSATILE	15th March.
	WALLFLOWER	10th March.
	PINK	10th March.
	SWEETBRIAR	10th March.
	(C. in C. W.A. 011252A to Admty.)	

GLASGOW. A.M. 240236. The Cruiser detailed by C. in C. Plymouth is required to transport an R.A.F. party of 5 officers and 130 airmen from U.K. to Azores.
2. After fuelling at Azores Cruiser is to be sailed to R/V with M.K.F. 29 a.m. 11th March as arranged by F.O.G.M.A. (D.O.D.H, 012127A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S operations. One U/Boat sunk by AFFLECK. 3 U/Boats possibly sunk by T.G.21.16. GOULD sunk.

Aircraft attacked periscope 48.49 N. 26.02 W. at 1925Z. CORRY fired on Radar target at 2000Z 6 miles N. earlier contact. Other attacks in progress. Believe at least three S/Ms in vicinity. (C.T.G.21.16 010022 to C. in C. Lant.) My 291835Z. Still in contact with U/Boat in 045° 48' N. 023° 10' W. Held contact all night through many evasions. Did not attack until dawn today. This attack had no result and was followed by a mass group creep, after which unexplained explosion occurred but no wreckage. If contact is regained intend to hold it without attacking until he surfaces. (E.G.1, 011015Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Believe sunk two, possibly three S/Ms vicinity 48° 50' N. 26° W. Various kinds of attacks throughout night. Consider five escort group ideal C.V.E. setup. Remaining south 50 and west of 25 meridian unless in hot pursuit. (C.T.G. 21.16, 011045 to Cominch.)

My 291835Z and my 011015Z. Same contact regained. Estimate S/Ms maximum endurance 1700/3rd, but consider any time today more probable in the circumstances. Intend remaining in vicinity until successful or otherwise ordered. (E.G.1, 011245Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/Your...

U.358 →

U.709 →
U.603

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S
operations
One U/Boat
sunk by
AFFLECK. U. 358
3 U/Boats
possibly
sunk by
T.G. 21.16.
GOULD sunk
(Contd.)

U. 709
U. 603 →

Your 011015 and 011245. Unless you consider that more than 2 ships are required to complete destruction of U/Boat (German) send 2 ships forthwith to Gibraltar at best speed where they are urgently required. Report intention.
(C. in C.W.A. 011539A to E.G.1.)
Following has been received. Repeats C.T.G. 21.16. 011045.
(C. in C. W.A. 011555 to E.G.1.)
Your 011539A. DAKINS, BALFOUR, proceeding in accordance with instructions. Am remaining in contact with U/Boat. GOULD in company. Weather, 3852 9636.
(E.G.1, 011601Z to C. in C.W.A.)

GOULD sunk in 045° 46' N. 023° 10' W. Engaging S/Ms on surface.

(AFFLECK, 011920Z to Admty.)

Your 011601 reads that DAKINS and BALFOUR are proceeding to Gibraltar. I am assuming that you meant GARLIES and GORE.

(C. in C.W.A. 011929A to E.G.1.)

My 1920Z. Am sinking S/M.

(AFFLECK 011932Z to Admty.)

U. 358 S/M sunk in same position.

(AFFLECK, 011935Z to Admty.)

After supporting continuous contact with enemy for 36 hours GOULD was torpedoed. The U/Boat surfaced at 1920Z and sank at 1950Z. Torpedo was normal and struck her in the engine room. AFFLECK counter-attacked with gunfire and sank U/Boat at 1939Z, direct hit from depth charge throwers which broke U/Boat back. One scaring charge dropped by AFFLECK may have touched off a "Gnat". Have following survivors from GOULD. Sub. Lieut. S. Wright R.N.V.R., Midshipman Hainsworth R.N.V.R., Commissioned Engineer C.M. Walker R.N. and 31 ratings and one prisoner from U/Boat. Sub. Lt. G. Wright R.C.N.V.R. Group Radar officer was on board GOULD but not saved. Am proceeding to Gibraltar. My P.C.S. 45° 29' N. 23° 43' W. 132° 13 knots.

(E.G.1, 012250Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation S.F. Following aircraft will patrol vicinity your 1301 position today, 0559 to approx. midday - 2 Sunderlands. 1201 to approx 1950 - 2 Liberators.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 010025A to ORESTES.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 50° 03' N. 8° 42' W.
(A/C 17 010225 to 19 Group.)

2000 Position at 012000. ORESTES, HYDRA, COCKATRICE,

ONYX. Patrolling vicinity 064° 17' N. 006° 00' W.

(A.C.O.S. 011212A to Admty.)

My 010025. A/C leaving patrol 1459 owing to weather.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 011422A to ORESTES.)

E/Boats engaged off Falmouth. At about 0030/1st plots of suspected E/Boat were received S.W. of the Lizard moving North. Convoy P.W.484 had been ordered to anchor in Mevagissey Bay at 2355. The enemy approached

/Falmouth...

War Diary.1.3.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E/Boats engaged off Falmouth. (Contd.) Falmouth and shore defences opened fire, whereupon enemy retired to South East. An endeavour to intercept by force 113 (M.T.Bs 677, 664, 676) was unsuccessful. Enemy may have laid mines on a convoy route off Falmouth but it is considered more probable that he was looking for convoy. None of our force were engaged. No damage was suffered by convoy. (C. in C. Plymouth, 011249A to Admty.)

Operation F.X. Scapa departure at 1331 JAMAICA. (A.C.O.S. 011447A to N.O.I.C. Thurso.) Arrived Port Z H 1830/1st. (JAMAICA, 011900 to C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 011513A)
(C. in C. Nore, 011608A.)
(V.A. Dover, 011630A)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011849A.)

S/M patrols. Positions of S/Ms 0759/2nd, and movements in following 24 hours.
A. ZWAARDFISCH 65° 20' N. 01° 11' E. on patrol.
B. VENTURER, SEANYMPH, as in my 291733 February.
C. SCEPTRE, Kya area (64° 30' N.)
(F.O.S. 011711A to Admty.)

Search for U/Boat. Ships addressed are to form Force 29.
2. Force 29 is to pass gate 0900A/2nd and proceed by standard route to position B.180° Lizard Head 03'.
3. From position B Force 29 is to take up A/S patrol between Lizard Head to Longships and give close support to convoy P.W.485, W.P.486, and subsequent convoy. P.W.485, E.T.A. Lizard Head 2359/2nd. W.P. 486 E.T.A. Longships 0200/4th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011712A to BLYTH AND PETERHEAD.)
Carry out GAMMA search.
A. 50° 08' N. 7° 55' W. 49° 58' N. 7° 55' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011913A to Force 117.)
My 292053. SCIMITAR is passing Gate at 0830A/2nd and proceeding by standard route position (A) and thence join force 117 as ordered by SALADIN.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 012349A to SCIMITAR.)

S.C. Operation. My 241455A February. Returned at 1555A today (HESSA).
2. Operation unsuccessful.
(A.C.O.S. 011715 to Admty.)

/Operation...

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out operation "Tunnel" tonight in accordance with memorandum O.P.T.U.
2. Force 28 consisting ships addressed under command of BELLONA is to pass Gate at 2030A/1st and proceed to reach position UU 294° Ile de Bas Light 13 at 0100A/2nd.
3. From UU Force 28 is sweeping towards Ushant until 0200A/2nd. If no contact has by then been made with enemy Force 28 is to return through UU to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011717A and 011942 to BELLONA and D.F.10.)

Allied Air Activity.

Boulogne R/C. Request P.R. Boulogne as soon as possible to locate enemy shipping.
(D.D.I.C. 010804A to A.D.I.Ph.)

Mining.

Sweep by M/S F.16. Cancel previous orders for 16th M/S Flotilla. 16th M/S are to advance in time to be on Q.Z.S. 347 090° from Lizard Head at first light and sweep Q.Z.S. 347 and 418 as far as Dodman Point. Then 16th M/S are to sweep ahead of P.W.484 on convoy route as far as Lizard Head. TANATSIDE to sail convoy to meet 16th M/S F. off Dodman Point at 0930 1st or time signalled by TADOUSSAC.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 010315A to TADOUSSAC, P.W.484, CAMBRIDGE-SHIRE, AZALEA.)
If fuel permits carry out search in accordance with your 271755A commencing first light tomorrow.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011858A to TADOUSSAC.)

Operation N.L.116. My 291704. Operation N.L.116 abandoned owing to weather.
(V.A.Dover, 010400A to Admty.)

Yarmouth. LL. Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1125A. in 345° 3 buoy 25 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 011145A to Admty.)
(Cdr. M/S Lowestoft, 012107A to C. in C. Nore.)

Casualties and Defects.

RATTLESNAKE. Scapa arrival RATTLESNAKE.
(A.C.O.S. 010842 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
Intend to sail RATTLESNAKE by searched Channels to Aberdeen 2200/1st. E.T.A. 0800/2nd.
My 281151 refers.
(A.C.O.S. 010924 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

/Scapa...

War Diary.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

RATTLESNAKE. Scapa departure RATTLESNAKE.
(Contd.) (A.C.O.S., 012218A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

STOCKHAM. Sailed STOCKHAM.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 010931 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Clyde arrival STOCKHAM.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 011608A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

CLEMATIS. Returning Londonderry with main engine defects.
(B.2., 011350A to C. in C. W.A.)

STUBBORN. F.O.(S) 291252. Arrangements can be made for
STUBBORN to be taken in hand at Devonport in
lieu of O.R.P. SOKOL.
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock has been requested to
detail tug STORM KING to tow STUBBORN to
Plymouth sailing Clyde 8th March.
(D.O.D.(H), 012026A to F.O.S.)

War Diary.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

E.G.C.2. Left Horta 0230Z/1st.
(S.B.N.O.Azores, 011135Z)

SS. KILISSI. Admiralty for D.N.I.
Valencia reports German Ex-French KILISSI 3723 G.T.
arrived outer harbour Valencia a.m. 29th Feb.
Description. (W.D. Note: available to carry
oranges for Germany)
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 011154A)

M.K.S.41, SOEMBA, FLORES. Intend detaching SOEMBA and FLORES at daylight
to fuel and land mail and stores at Gibraltar.
(USK, 011600Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

?Spanish fishing fleet. My 241128/ Feb. 261213 Feb. Re: route.
(N.A.Lisbon, 011704) (N.T. of formers in W.D.)
/ Re; Fishing Fleet is being divided into 5 groups
for Atlantic Crossing.

W/T Link. SS. KILISSI (as S.O.(I) Gib. 011154A)
W/T Link Valencia London Gibraltar will be
established March 3rd.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 011825A)

South Atlantic.

Ships for S.L.Convoy. Cases frequently occur of ships from South
American ports arriving at Freetown just too late
for inclusion in S.L. Convoys.
(2) When bunkers are available and U-Boat situation
permits request you will consider diverting these
ships direct to Bathurst or Dakar to enable them to join the
S.L. convoy.
(3) Request your remarks.
(D.T.D.011148A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Operation "Tabarin". Arrived Port Stanley 1st H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY
with FITZROY.
(N.O.I.C.Falkland Is. 011204Z)
WILLIAM SCORESBY returned from operations "Tabarin"
1st March with Argentine flags and marks also

correspondence /...

War Diary.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Tabarin"
(Contd.)

correspondence bearing surcharge stamps, all of which have been handed to Governor.
On completion of Boiler cleaning WILLIAM SCORESBY will return to Base (A) and (B) leaving approx. 14th March returning here early April.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 011517Z)

11

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.40.
L.S.Ts. 197 and 214 hit by shell while unloading at Anzio when shelling of port was heavy and accurate. Both ships able to steam.
2. Discharged 3600 tons in improved weather conditions.
(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 010927.)

GUARDIAN. Orders to sail to R/V with K.M.F.29 (escort &c.)
(V.A. Malta, 011122.)

TORBAY. Orders to proceed from position 035° 58' 021° 58' at 0730/2nd to Marsamuscetto. (Route).
(Capt. (S) 1, 011206A.)

DZIK. Orders to leave patrol at dusk today 1st March and proceed to harbour. (Route).
(Capt. (S) 1, 011210.)

UNRULY. Orders to leave patrol a.m./2nd and proceed to harbour. (Route).
(Capt. (S) 1, 011315.)

DUKE (salvage vessel). Intend to send DUKE your 281732A Feb. refers. Owing to heavy operational commitments on the station it is anticipated that she cannot be spared before the end of March.
(C. in C. Med., 011337A to Admty.)
Salvage vessel required in Indian Ocean.

Raiding forces. Consequently on the forming of H.D.M.L. Flotilla for duty with raiding forces intend to re-allocate the following M.L. (Details).
(C.F.E., 011605.)

DOLFIJN, ULTIMATUM. P.47 (DOLFIJN) pass through position 039° 30' 024° 01' at dawn 2nd and patrol in an area bounded by latitude 039° 40', coast of Greece Skopelos Islands and latitude 024° 01' to intercept Salonika - Piraeus traffic.
2. ULTIMATUM leaving patrol a.m./2nd passing through 039° 40' 024° 01' at 0801/2nd thence north of Strait by southbound route and east of Stampaliato arrive in 035° 12' 026° 43' at 2301/5th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 011631 to DOLFIJN, ULTIMATUM, PIPINOS.)

M.A.A.F. Opsum.374. 29th Feb. 10 Spitfires 2 U.S. Thunderbolts offensive R/Cs. Yugoslavia strafed small vessels Hvar. Report 1 M.L. sunk, 1 damaged.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 011921A.)

/29th ...

12

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.A.A.F. 29th Feb. 4 Spitfires offensive sweep Corfu.
Opsum.374. Claim 1 E-Boat destroyed between island and
(Contd.) mainland.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 012037A.)

Joint Naval I/76106 cipher 1st March.
Army R.A.F. Merchant shipping arrivals Dodecanese during
Intell. February 4 merchant vessels totalling approx.
appreciation. 8,000 G.R.T. and 2 tankers totalling 4,300 G.R.T.
as compared with total of 1 merchant vessel of
4,200 G.R.T. arrived during January.
Demonstrating enemy determination reinforce and
build up stocks. Of these 7 vessels however 3 totalling 8,700
G.R.T. believed total losses during February.
(C. in C. M.E., 011830B.)

H.A. It appears that H.A. convoy arrivals at Augusta
convoy. are often just too late for junction with next
westbound through convoy. If anything can be
done to improve this connection, it will greatly
assist the turnround situation.
(D.T.D., 011920A to C. in C. Med.)

JUNON. Your 292347*. Concur.
(C. in C. Med., 011947A to Admty.)
* re subject to concurrence JUNON will operate
from Algiers.

Operation My position 2115B 035° 22' N. 035° 31' E.
"Broom". COMMANDANT DUBOC and COMMANDANT DOMINE now 859.
Intend to sweep north to latitude 036° N. then
west for 15 miles, thence south to latitude 034°
N. S. of A. 12 knots. E.T.A. 034° N. 035°
12' E. 1045B/2nd March.
(CALPE, 012121B to S.N.O. Levant Area, 245 Wing.)

Situation 1. My 292120* para. 4. EUGENIO DI SAVOIA
Report 306. reached Augusta under her own power.
2. Operation "Shingle" weather improved on 29th
Feb. but shelling increased in intensity and
accuracy. 2 L.S.T. suffered some damage and
casualties while unloading.
3. LE MALIN and LE TERRIBLE during night 29th/1st report sinking
convoy of 2 merchant ships, one escort vessel and 2 E-Boats in
044° 20' N. 014° 30' E. during 20 minute engagement. French
ships suffered neither damage or casualties. Destroyer patrol
off Vis and in southern Adriatic during night 28th/29th and
29th/1st March blank.
(C. in C. Med., 012149A.)
* Re Situation Report No.305 Operation "Shingle" EUGENIO DI
SAVOIA reported being mined off Cape Rizzuto.

War Diary.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U/Boat
disposition
No. 30.

Area G. BRITISH FUSILIER attacked by S/M at 0558Z/29th in 002° 35' N. 079° 56' E. SS. PALMA torpedoed in 005° 51' N. 079° 58' E. approx. 1530Z/29th. Scale air escort Z. Other areas no fresh information no change in scale air escort Indian Ocean. U/Boat (German) indicated by D/F in area 600 miles S.S.E. of Madagascar at 2135Z/29th. (C. in C.E.F. 010359Z.)

TALLY HO.
(damaged
24th Feb.)

Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 010730Z.)

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Sailed for Jibuti en route Bizerta.
(Route etc.)
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 010816Z.)

SS. PALMA.
(Torpedoed
29th Feb.)

SS. PALMA sunk. 37 survivors including Master picked up. My 291620* refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 010924Z.)
* Merchant ship reports being torpedoed.

Assault
troops
and craft.

It is anticipated following will be surplus to immediate requirements and can be surrendered for employment elsewhere at end of March.

- a. KEREN and requisite mixed Flotilla of craft and crews viz: 9 L.C.A., 2 L.C.S.(M), 2 L.C.M.(3) and 2 L.C.P.(L).
- b. S.N.O.L.3 and staff.
- c. R.N. Crews for one L.C.A. Flotilla ex DERBYSHIRE (no craft).
- d. No.11 and No. 15 Beach Signal Sections.
- e. "H" Beach Commando.
2. S.A.C.S.E.A. concurs.
3. Request instructions as to disposal.
(C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 011335Z to Admty.)

U/B
estimate
(Eastern
waters)

(D.D.I.C., 011737A.)

Suspicious
ship.

Unidentified ship apparently large ? tanker in 017° 24' N. 083° 26' E. course 230° speed 15 at 1900Z.
(JUMNA, 012125Z.)

War Diary.1.3.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- LOBELIA,
O.N.225. Ref. your 291530Z. French Admiralty London request that LOBELIA should call St. Pierre and Miquelon for liaison and to disembark passengers, before proceeding on American port provided operational requirements permit.
(LOBELIA, 010135Z to F.O.N.F.)
Providing U-Boats not in contact at that time LOBELIA may be detached from O.N.225 first light 3rd March to St. Pierre. LOBELIA F.F.S. 010135/refs. Capt. D. Argentia pass C.T.F.24. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011935Z to LOBELIA)
Request that LOBELIA call at St. Pierre Miquelon. To New Orleans for refit via St. Pierre and Halifax. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011950Z)
Departures RED DEER, PORT ARTHUR, PORT HOPE, NANAIMO to O.N.225. (Capt D. Argentia, 012023Z)
- TERCERO. In collision 14 miles 333 degs. from Cape Cod. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0433 G.M.T.) Signal letters undecypherable in W.R. X.B. 98 former TERCERO in collision 333 degs. 14 miles from Cape Cod. Sinking slowly. Am now searching for him. (S.O.W.3, 010506Z to C.E.S.F.)
- S.C.154. S.C.154 Westomp established in 044 degs. 00' N. 051 degs. 20' W. at 160⁰Z/2nd when group C.1 FORRESTER H.F/D.F. S.O. ST. LAURENT, H.F/D.F. FREDERICTON, GIFFARD, REGINA will relieve you. (2) Upon relief W.4 proceed to Argentia. (3) "Chop" 1600Z/3rd. (F.O.N.F. 011116Z to Escort S.C.154)
S.C.154. Add SAPPER para. 1 my 011116/. (F.O.N.F. 012046Z)
Re relief of escort of S.C.154. 1530Z/1st March sailed H.M.C.S. VALLEYFIELD (route) to join C.1 and provide additional escort for S.C.154 to U.K. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011654Z to F.C.T.F.)
- U/B (N.S.H. Ottawa, 011354Z, Cominch, 011632Z)
Estimates.
- O.N.225. It is unlikely that there is more than one U-Boat (German) in your immediate vicinity. If definite A/S contact is made you may detach a portion of your group to hunt to exhaustion. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011448Z to Escorts O.N.225)

EMPIRE ARQUEBUS /...

War Diary.1.3.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- EMPIRE
ARQUEBUS. Straggler from C.U.15 joined H.X.280 at
291200Z.
(Comnav, 011453 to C.T.F. 21.9)
- T.G.21.11. C.R. No.1087.
Search for S/M reported lat. 41 long 37 enroute
to area of concentration. BLOCK ISLAND 011045.
Operation therein remaining south of 50 N. and West
of 25 W. Keep everyone informed.
Passed Admiralty for info and for favour of encipherment and
transmitting to C. in C. Western Approaches.
(C. in C. Lant, 011618 to C.T.G. 21.11.)
- AJAX. AJAX should now part company at position RF
and proceed direct to position B thence as routed
in A.M.221625 Feb. para.5.
(2) C.T.F.60 is requested to report time of part-
ing company.
(D.O.D.(H), 011713A to C.T.F.60)
- E.G.9. 1630Z/1 sailed.
E.G.9 MATANE (S.O), SWANSEA, BADDECK, NORTH BAY,
OWEN SOUND, FRONTENAC (route)
Speed 13 knots, E.T.A. Horta 2130Z/6th March.
My 242135 and C. in C. W.A.272020 not to all addressees refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 011724Z) (N.T. of formers in W.D.)
- SYDNEY
STAR. H.M.S. NARBOROUGH, WHITAKER and WALDEGRAVE would
appear to be vicinity of SYDNEY STAR about
0800Z/2. If your plot agrees, request you
will consider ordering ships to R/V with SYDNEY
STAR and escort to U.K. on route given in C.T.G.
02.1's 261620.
(D.T.D. 011830Z to Cominch, C. & R.)
Reroute for NARBOROUGH.
- NORTHWAY,
KUPON,
THORNBOROUGH,
TROLLOPE. Arrangements for sailing via Ponta Delgada for
Milford Haven.
(Cominch, 012007Z)
- H.M.R.T.
ATHLETE. My 291915Z/ Request instructions. P.C.S. 33
degs. 4' N. 47 degs. 6' W. course 092 degs.
speed 8 knots.
(ATHLETE, 012030Z)
/ presumably CURZON's 291915Z intended
reporting position of ATHLETE and requesting
medical attention)
- 9th E.G. Departure p.m./1 MATANE, SWANSEA, BADDECK,
NORTH BAY, OWEN SOUND and FRONTENAC to Horta.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 012034Z)

War Diary.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

BLOCK
ISIAND.

Re: 2 or 3 U-Boats sunk 28, 29th Feb.
(Cominch, 012135Z) (See Signals in Home Commands.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.771.

Feb. 29th. Para. 7 to 9 cover South Pacific Forces.
(3) After air naval bombardment American forces landed against slight opposition Los Negros Island (Admiralty Group) morning. Momote airfield captured patrols advancing north and south west. Nil enemy air opposition encountered. Supporting operations 6 Mitchells bombed Los Negros Island while 17 other Mitchells unable reach primary target bombed Lou Island 20 miles south Lorengau.
(8) Night 28th/29th spotting Catalina bombed strafed 3 south bound barges off South west Bougainville while motor torpedo boats and landing crafts gunboat also engaged scoring one direct hit. Same aircraft also saw 11-16 north bound barges same area also 7 beached barges. Landing craft shelled beached barges but motor torpedo boats driven off by shore fire and attack by single enemy floatplane.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 010954Z)

U-Boat Campaign.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. 1 (1) A/C Z/330 sighted U-Boat on surface course 280 degs. at 1145Z/29, 64 degs. 17' N. 02 degs. 25' W.
(2) A/C J/224 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0540Z/29th 48 degs. 04' N. 11 degs. 57' W. course 270 degs.
(3) E.G. 1 attacked U-Boat at 0912Z/29th, 45 degs. 50' N. 23 degs. 13' W.
(4) Br. PALMA (5419 tons) torpedoed at 1549Z/29th 05 degs. 51' N. 79 degs. 58' E.
Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0125Z/1st, 50 degs. 03' N. 08 degs. 42' W.
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1950Z/29th 45 degs. 30' N. 03 degs. 30' W.
(3) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2145Z/29 35 degs 28' N. 35 degs. 30' E.
Ref. A.M. 261048A: Para. B.(1) C. in C. E.F. now reports that SS. NONSUCO was not in fact chased by U-Boat at 1752Z/25 as previously reported.
(D.D.I.C.011030Z)

War Diary.

1.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C.011352, 011400A)

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1. The returning North Russian Convoy R.A.57, consisting of 32 M/Vs, left the Kola Inlet at 1003A today for Loch Ewe escorted by R.A.D.H.F. in BLACK PRINCE with the Escort Carrier CHASER, 13 Destroyers of the Destroyer Escort, and 4 Destroyers with 4 Corvettes of the Through Escort. The minesweepers GLEANER and SEAGULL are also with the convoy.

Biscay A/S
operations.
L.S.T.362
sunk.

2a. C.T.G.21.16 in BLOCK ISLAND, operating with five Destroyers, reports having attacked and believed sunk another U/Boat at 2200Z last night about 840 miles W. of Ushant.
b. At 0359 today the Destroyer ROCKWOOD, escorting four L.S.T. craft, attempted to ram a U/Boat which had then torpedoed L.S.T.362 who capsized and sank later about 480 miles W. by S. of Ushant; and at 1417A and again at 2210A a U/Boat steering South about 150 miles W. by S. of Ushant was attacked by A/C on patrol without observed result.

Rescue-
Tugs and
Ocean
Trawlers.

3. C. in C.W.A. has today informed the W.A. Command that no further Rescue Tugs will now be sailed with outward-bound ocean convoys, and that no further Ocean Trawlers will be sailed with U.K/Canadian Convoys; but one Ocean Trawler, when available, will be sailed with the K.M.S. and M.K.S. Convoy.

The Rescue-ship organisation will remain unchanged.

North Atlantic.

4. The 1st Escort Group has been sent to reinforce F.O.G.M.A. temporarily against the possibility of U/Boats entering the Mediterranean.

19

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation
"Shingle".

5(a) C. in C. Med. reports damage to L.S.T.237 from a shell near miss.
(b) In improved weather, 2246 tons were discharged at Anzio today.

Adriatic.

6(a) Four P.T. boats intercepted an enemy convoy composed of 5 lighters, 4 E-Boats and 2 trawlers south of Vada Rocks (south of Leghorn) last night; 2 torpedoes were fired, but no results were seen, our ships sustained superficial damage but no casualties.
(b) 16 Spitfires operating on the coast of Yugoslavia today sank or damaged a number of schooners and other craft.

Australia and New Zealand.

Air attack
on Rabaul.

7. 47 Dauntless and 24 Avengers with 39 escorting fighters attacked shipping and installations at Rabaul harbour this forenoon. Hits are reported amongst 30 barges, on 2 small merchant ships, and 16 rocket hits on an escort vessel.

8. M.T.Bs. destroyed one or two enemy barges off south-west Bougainville last night; during the day U.S. destroyers bombarded shore positions in this area.

Admiralty
Group.

9. Enemy shore batteries at the entrance to Seeadler Harbour were bombarded by Allied Naval units today.

War Diary.2.3.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

SPITEFUL. SPITEFUL leaves 000 degs. Round Island 10 at 1000A/2nd and proceeds diving by day through 049 degs. 30' N. 009 degs. 00' W. thence 270 degs. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021031A to Forces 111 and 117)

Force "S"
Landing
Craft. Your 011135. This concern is felt by all. It would appear with ordinary luck that all L.C.T.IV's at present requiring docking repairs, i.e. not those awaiting engine spares, will be completed by the end of the month. This does not apply to those with strained hulls. Information from D.C.O.M. is that these are to be deferred until Force S. leaves. (C. in C. Rosyth, 021315A to A.N.C. X.F.)

GLASGOW Admiralty's 012127. Cruiser detailed GLASGOW. for Azores. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021522A to Admty.)

F.O.I.C. Rear Admiral H.T. Baillie-Grohman has assumed Harwich. command of Harwich Sub-Command as from 1st March. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 021809A to Admty.)

Flag of Flag of R.A. A.W. L.A.T. Bisset will be struck F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST p.m. to-day and re-hoisted a.m. 12th March. (F.O.E.C. 021831A to Admty.)

Port Z.H. Loch Eriboll is in future to be referred to as Port Z.H. (C. in C. H.F. 022218A to H.F.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Am attacking S/M. My P.C.S. 048 degs. 00' N. Operations. 017 degs. 23' W. 9 knots. L.S.T. 324 torpedoed. L.S.T. 362 (?L.S.T. 362 intended) See p. 39 sunk by (ROCKWOOD, 020359 to Whitehall W/T) U-Boat. I tried to ram S/M at my reduced speed. Am not One U-Boat believed in contact. Intend remaining with wreck L.S.T. 362 until daylight and will sink remains if sunk by necessary. My position now is 048 degs. 00' N. T.G. 21.16 017 degs. 23' W. (BLOCK (ROCKWOOD, 020514A to Admty.) ISLAND and Destroyers) My 011531A. Cancel detachment of fast section and report action taken to support ROCKWOOD and L.S.Ts. Expect air co-operation about 0800. (C. in C. W.A. 020615A to S.L.149/M.K.S.40)

Your /...

War Diary.

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. L.S.T.362 sunk by U-Boat. One U-Boat believed sunk by T.G.21.16 (BLOCK ISLAND and Destroyers) (Contd.)

Your 020615A. 2 Swordfish sent by FENCER at 0550A. TAVY detached at 0700A. (ROCHESTER, 020715A to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 020514. Report if L.S.T. 362 is salvable, if so GRIPER will be detached to tow. (C. in C. W.A. 020721A to ROCKWOOD)

L.S.T.(corrupt group.) capsized. Am proceeding in company with 3 others. My P.C.S. 048 degs. 00' N. 017 degs. 23' W. 048 degs. 9 knots. (ROCKWOOD, 020814A to C. in C. W.A.)

Believe over submerged enemy submarine 47.33 N. 08.48 W. (A/C 26, 020940 to 19 Group)

If not in contact with U-Boat proceed to join L.S.Ts. (C. in C. W.A. 021010A to TAVY, ROCKWOOD)

Am over enemy S/M. at 1330 in 48 degs. 10' N. 08 degs. 50' W. (A/C MZG 27, 021330 to 19 Group)

Was over enemy S/M in 48 degs. 10' N. 09 degs. 02' W. at 1333. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 180 degs. speed estimated at 12 knots. Consider S/M is undamaged. (A/C 27 to 19 Group, No T.O.O. Recd. 021351)

Have attacked enemy with depth-charge. (A/C 27, 021417A to 19 Group)

Cominch relaying to C. in C. W.A. His 021359 begins. Believe sank another submarine 48.30 N. 25.30 W. at 2200Z after attacks lasting 9 hours. Heading southeast to clear area until storm passes. Starboard forward corner flight-deck and supports damaged by storm last week without interference flight operations but may be forced to lie to as further flight-deck damage might prevent catapulting. Weather 4876 9328. (C.T.G.21.16, 021545Z to Cinclant)

Estimate my position 2000Z/2nd will be 043 degs. 02' N. 018 degs. 27' W. course 140 degs. S.O.A. 13 knots. (E.G.1, 021550Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Am over enemy S/M in 47 degs. 20' N. 08 degs. 50' W. S/M was on surface and is fighting back and when first sighted was on course 180 degs. estimated speed 11 knots. (A/C PLJ,17, 022210A to 19 Group)

Operation F.X. Kola Inlet sailed at 1003A R.A. 57, 32 ships, speed 8½ knots, escorted by ships detailed. Rescue ship COPELAND not sailed due to weather (?damage), repairs estimated to take 11 days. Admiralty 011425, SAN AMBROSIO included in convoy. (?It is) not possible to discharge BRITISH VALOUR in time available. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 020401A to Admt.)

R.A.57. (2) Toros Is. 1000A/2nd March. (4) 8½ knots. (5) As my 280825A paras. (3) and (4). (6) S.B.N.O. North Russia's 021401A. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 021909A to H.F.)

(1) R.A. 57 /...

War Diary.2.3.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.X. (Contd.) (1) R.A.57. Names of M/V's. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 021939A to H.F.)

Operation S.F. If not in contact at 1801A to-day group A return to Skaalefiord. (C. in C. Rosyth, 021114A to ORESTES) ORESTES, HYDRA, COCKATRICE, ONYX leave vicinity of 064 degs. 17' N. 006 degs. 00' W. at 1800A for Skaalefiord. (A.C.O.S.021722A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021311A, 021619A) (C. in C. Portsmouth, 021447A)

Convoy J.W.58. C. in C. H.F.'s 292209. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail an Escort Carrier in addition to CHASER to proceed to Scapa as required by C. in C. H.F. (2) DIADEM is allocated. (3) C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail BLACK PRINCE for Plymouth as convenient on return of R.A.57 to come under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth. (A.C.N.S.(H), 021641A to C. in C. H.F.) It is intended that 18th M.S.F. shall be available as local escort for J.W. 58. (D.M.S. 022005A to C. in C. H.F.)

Search for U-Boat. Disposition at 022000. E.G.7, CYGNET (S.O), 051 degs. 34' N. 007 degs. 24' W. through 051 degs. 00' N. 009 degs. 59' W. 249 degs. 13 knots. PINK, WALLFLOWER, OXLIP patrolling vicinity of 050 degs. 30' N. 008 degs. 01' W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021655A to Admty.)

My 011908. Shift search to (a) 50 degs. 45' N. 6 degs. 20' W. to 50 degs. 30' N. 6 degs. 30' W. (b) 110 degs. (c) 0700A/3. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021826A to Force 111)

My 011913A. Shift search to (a) 50 degs. 10' N. 7 degs. 00' W. 50 degs. 25' N. 7 degs. 01' W. (b) 090 degs. (c) 0700A/3. (2) HONEYSUCKLE struck submerged obstruction in 50 degs. 24' N. 7 degs. 26' W. at 2015A/29. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021830A to Force 117)

S/M Patrols. Position of S/Ms at 0800/3rd and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) /...

23

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M
Patrols.
(Contd.)

- (A) SEANYMPH patrolling Bodo Area.
- (B) SCEPTRE vicinity Kya Light.
- (C) VENTURER patrolling near Stadtlandet.
- (D) ZWAARDFISCH on patrol near 65 degs. 18' N. 01 degs. 11' E.
- (F.O.S. 021724A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Boulogne
R/C.

Request Pr. Boulogne as soon as possible to locate enemy shipping.
(D.D.I.C. 020541A to A.D.I.Ph.)

Mining.

Sweep by
M/S.16.

Your 221423. Have swept channel, 1.7 miles wide, centre line joining (D) and (E) 60% negative. Intend anchoring Mounts Bay tonight and proceed Plymouth tomorrow.
(TADOUSSAC, 021528A to C. in C. Plymouth)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Convoys.

Following passed Skorpen 061 degs. 36' N. north-bound.
(A) 3 Merchant Ships with 2 escorts at 1340A.
(B) 2 large Merchant Ships at 1430 with one escort.
(F.O.S.021726A to VENTURER)

Casualties and Defects.

RATTLESNAKE.

Your 012218A. Arrived.
(F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 020852A to A.C.O.S.)

MIMICO.

Drifting to Eastward in 057 degs. 27' N. 001 degs. (?) 35' W.
Request assistance urgently. Steerage defective impossible to anchor.
(MIMICO, 020945Z to N.O.I.C.Peterhead)
Peterhead arrival at 1625A MIMICO. Engine defect being taken in hand.
(R.N.O. Peterhead, 021729A to F.O.I.C.Aberdeen)

TRACKER.

High pressure turbine horizontal joint leaking badly, requires rejointing.
High pressure turbine carbon packing defective requires renewal. Spares are on board.
Repairs must be effected on return to U.K.
(TRACKER, 021908A to F.O.C.T.)

SEBASTIAN /...

2.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

SEBASTIAN. You are requested to sail rescue tug ZWARTE-ZEE on completion of refit to Loch Ewe to tow M.V. SEBASTIAN to Clyde.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 022257A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

Shipping and Convoys.

Rescue-tugs
and Ocean
Trawlers.

N.A.C.I. Article 49. No further Rescue Tugs will be sailed with outward-bound ocean convoys. Any tugs at present employed on these routes will be withdrawn on arrival in U.K.

(2) No further Ocean trawlers will be sailed on U.K/ Canadian convoys and trawlers on these routes will be withdrawn on arrival in U.K.

(3) When available one ocean trawler will be sailed with K.M.S/ M.K.S. convoy.

(4) Rescue ship organization will remain unchanged.
(C. in C. W.A. 021658A to Ships)

K.M.F.29A.

My 011450. Sailed 1710Z/2nd STRATHNAVER escorted by TAFF. Sailed 2025A/2nd SPEY, FIND-HORN and LOSSIE.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 022130Z to Admty.)

25

2.3.1944.
Thursday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/boat
attacked. Have attacked enemy S/M. in 38 degs. 45' N. 9 degs. 43' W. no hits. Enemy was on the surface. (A/C, C/STOLB, 020320).

BALFOUR My P.C. S. 046 degs. 05' N. 014 degs. 01' W. 180 degs. 13 knots intend carrying out A/S sweep. Request routeing instructions. C. in C.W.A's. 291234A refers. Weather report 5882, 1444. (BALFOUR, 020900Z to F.O.G.M.A.).
On crossing 043 degs. N. proceed through (X) 036 degs. 20' N. 010 degs. 40' W. and QBA 87 to Gibraltar. (F.O.G.M.A., 021437A to BALFOUR).

SAUMUR, Valencia reports German SAUMUR arrived Sagunto
CARMEN. 29th Feb. to load approx. 3850 tons iron ore. May complete Valencia, expected sailing 8th March. Armament one A/A gun and IX machine guns. (2) Spanish SS. CARMEN due Sagunto 3rd March from Barcelona to load iron ore for Barcelona German destination. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 020937A).

G.U.S.31 My 012224 delete JOHN L. SULLIVAN. (F.O.G.M.A. 021051 to Escorts G.U.S.31)

Interception Your 181424 Feb. Las Palmas now suggests intercept of Island ship. S.S.C. DE VALENCIA. Does this mean programme is resumed. (2) May we please be kept informed of programme. (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 021055A to Admty.).

Aircraft Until further notice 172 Squadron detachment at Lagens. Lagens is to be maintained at 8 aircraft. (H.Q.C.C. 021240A).

T.G. 21.11 My 041400Z position 34.02 41.33 proceeding to (MISSION BAY 40.00 43.00 thence 48.00 25.00 in compliance your and des- 011618 speed 14. Weather 7853 0156. troyers.) (C.T.G. 21.11, 021611Z to C. in C. Lant).

E.G.1. C. in C.W.A's. 291025, 291412 both February and E.G. one's 012250 (none to C. in C. Med.). 1st Escort Group has been sent to reinforce you temporarily against possibility of U/boats entering the Med. (2) They will revert to C. in C.W.A. when ordered by Admiralty. (A.C.N.S.(H), 021825 to F.O.G.M.A.).

26

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CAMBRIA

2nd cable ship CAMBRIA escorted by JURUA. Both departed 021500Z to repair cables in 13.16 S. 38.36 W. and 16.01 38.34 thence to Rio (route). Local air informed. (R.O. Bahia, 021530).

ST. LOUIS
sunk.

Following received T.O.O. 021456Z ST. LOUIS torpedoed at 2116Z/1st position 05.23 N. 00.09 E. by large submarine on surface. Three torpedoes hit. Ship sank immediately. M.L.1041 opened fire without apparent result until submarine disappeared and then picked up survivors. (F.O.C.W.Af., 021810Z).

27

War Diary.

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.41.
Bad weather restricted discharge at Anzio 2159 tons.
(2) As result of shell near miss L.S.T. 237 suffered shattered starboard rudderhead.
(3) Prolonged air attack evening 29th but no damage in port area. Two enemy aircraft reported shot down by night fighters and two probables by A/A fire.
(C. in C. Med. Naples, 020927)

VINDICTIVE. Request you sail VINDICTIVE to join M.K.F.29 for U.K.
(C. in C. Med. 021028 to V.A.M)(Cancelled 022322A)
It is not known for what purpose VINDICTIVE is required in U.K. but is pointed out that to be fully operational she requires docking and refit and her D.G. is defective. She is at present fully and valuably employed as repair ship at Malta. V.A. Malta, 011214 being passed to Admiralty refers. Ship has been ordered to join M.K.F.29 but in view of the above remarks reconsideration of A.M. 291310 Feb. is requested.
(C. in C. Med. 021056A to Admty.)

NADA. F.O.G.M.A's 291806 Feb. para. 9. Strongly.
Employment of Yugoslav personnel. urge that NADA be sent to Malta where she can be recommissioned if necessary from the Yugoslav pool. My 011833 Feb. refers.
(2) The provision of a modern warship would have a most heartening effect on the Yugoslav personnel who have been carrying out short intensive training in Malta and would enable them to complete their training at sea.
(3) It would be appreciated if I could be given some indication of the prospects of Yugoslavs manning British warships as it is feared that continued inactivity will have a demoralising effect of men who have completed training and who are eager to go to sea.
(V.A.M. 021121 to C. in C. Med.)

Information from Italians. Pass to Senior Italian Naval Officer in your area from Minister of Marine.
Maristat 67828. Ref. communication 1170 of 27th Nov. I delegate to Senior Commands faculty to authorize ships under them to furnish direct all information required by Allied authorities.
De Courten.
(F.O.T.A.L.I.021215 to V.A. Malta, F.O.C.W.Af., N.O.I.C. Palermo, S.N.O.R.S.C.A., S.N.O. Levant Area, N.O.I.C.Bermuda.)

UNIVERSAL. Leave patrol to pass 042 degs. 23' 006 degs. 07' at 0230/4th thence through 042 degs. 05' 007 degs. 40' at 2130/4th to arrive Maddalena at 1130/5th.
(2) L.S.T.16 and P.C.543 due Ajaccio at 0800/5th
(Capt.(S) 10, 021215 to UNIVERSAL)

UPSTART. /...

War Diary.

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UPSTART. Intend P.65 (UPSTART) to sail at 1400/4th routed QBB 312 thence 043 degs. 01' 007 degs. 22' at 1800/5th to patrol in zone SS.
(Capt.(S) 10, 021231 to C. in C. Med.)

Operation "Broom" Your 021323B. BUGLOSS and MEADOWSWEET in company. Am proceeding on sweep S. of A.13 knots.
E.T.A. Haifa, 12130B/3rd.
(CALPE, 021533B to S.N.O.L.A.)

H.A. Convoys. A.M. 011920. This matter is receiving constant attention with escorts at present available it is only practicable to run one H.A. convoy every five days and since the escorts of the H.A. convoy take back the corresponding A.H. convoy is is considered preferable that the cycle is timed so that loaded ships assisting the build up into Italy are kept waiting for as short a time as practicable in Augusta. It is usually possible to run an intermediate H.A. convoy from Taranto only to Augusta with empty M/T ships.
(2) This situation could only be cured by increasing the number of escorts available but even then the H.A. convoys must have lower priority than the through slow convoys who at present run at an average strength of about 60 ships escorted by a maximum of five moderate escorts.
(C. in C. Med. 021854A to Admt.)
H.A. convoys often too late for junction with next westbound through convoy.

Kinaros Channel. Attention is called to my 291817 December. S/M's are to pass through Kinaros Channel dived at 200 ft. whether passage is made by day or night.
(Capt.(S) 1, 021905A to 1st S/M.F.)

PIPINOS, Piraeus-Salonika traffic. (1) Proceed through Kaso Strait then West of Stampalia close east of Liaid and Stapodia west of (?Ku)ros to (?arrive) in 039 degs. 30' 024 degs. 01' about 0301/6th to patrol in area bounded by lat. 039 degs. 40' coast Greece the Skopelos Islands and long. 023 degs. 59' to intercept Piraeus-Salonika traffic.
(Corrupt group) force Levant schooner force caiques operate in Aegean and have current caiques recognition signals coastal force may operate in south eastern Aegean as far north as Amorgos. You will be informed of any movement affecting P.47 (DOIFIJN) patrolling in your area and will leave it a.m. 6th P.34 (ULTIMATUM) position at 0800/3rd north-west of Psara southward routed close west Cape Papas and Kinaros and east of Stampalia.

Intelligence./...

War Diary.

2.3.1944.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PIPINOS,
Piraeus-
Salonika
traffic.
(Contd.)

Intelligence. Piraeus-Salonika traffic coast crawls from Skiarthos northward. Tanker CELENO and TZAR FERDINAND at present in Salonika possible future destination Piraeus. 2 enemy S/Ms may be operating in Aegean but you should not attack S/Ms unless they are definitely proved hostile you are not under any circumstances to enter area bounded 039 degs. 40' 023 degs. 30' and coast of Gulf of Salonika see S/M intelligence note and notification one-13 it is the present intention to recall you to arrive at Malta on 19th March.

(Capt.(S) 1, 021928 to G.S. PIPINOS, (R) F.O.L.E.M., Capt. S. Corinthia.)

P.71 (PIPINOS) passes through Kaso Strait about 0230/3rd routed west Stampalia and by northbound route west Skyros and through position 039 degs. 30' 024 degs. 01' about 0301/6th to patrol South of Gulf of Salonika.

(Capt.(S) 1, 021930 to P.34 (ULTIMATUM) DOLFIJN, (R) (G.S.PIPINOS).)

Titles.

First. The following titles for Commanders in the Mediterranean theatres are approved.

(a) Gen. Wilson to be Supreme Allied Comd. Med. Theatre.

(b) Gen. Alexander to be C. in C. Allied Armies in Italy.

(c) Gen. Paget to be C. in C. Middle East.

Second. The title Allied Central Mediterranean Force will be changed to Allied Armies in Italy.

(War Office, 022020A)

M.K.F.29.

GATTERICK sailed 2105 to join M.K.F.29.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 022127B)

U/B
Report.

The position of enemy submarine fixed by D/F at 2210 was 40.30 N. 11.30 E. The position is only an indication of the area.
(A/C 79 P. 022333A to A/C CJJ)

2.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Party
Major 31.

There is now no longer prospect of this party being employed on this station in the role for which it was constituted until late autumn at the earliest. Having regard to man power situation and from point of view of morale of party, it is considered undesirable that it should remain unemployed for a period of months.

(2) While it has not yet been tried out in an operation it has received considerable training and much has been done to form it into an organised unit.

(3) If it can be used in another theatre as a whole it is recommended that it be transferred complete. If not, propose it be broken up and utilized to provide personnel for :

(A) Landing Craft base development at Cochin and Vizagapatam.

(B) C.T.C. Cocanada base maintenance staff.

(C) Station reliefs.

(4) Stores. If party proceeded elsewhere as a whole propose stores accompany it. If it is broken up propose to use such equipment as is urgently required locally and retain remainder in this theatre.

(5) S.A.C. concur.

(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.), 020253Z to Admty.).

U-Boat
disposition.

Area G. TALLY-HO reported sighting periscope in 008 degs. 55' N. 081 degs. 30' E. at 0500Z/1. Scale of air escort remains Z. Other areas. No fresh information, no change in scale of air escort. (C. in C. E.F., 020304.)

ALAUNIA.

Your 011811. ALAUNIA's destination is U.K. Request you will sail her accordingly. (C. in C. E.F., 020540Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

PALMA,
details
sinking.

(B) 5 degs. 51' N. 79 degs. 58' E. at 291519Z.
(C) U-Boat. (D) Torpedo. Ship sank. (E) Four.
(F) 46 survivors. All boats accounted for.
(G) No. (H) SSS message made and received.
(I) First torpedo blew away rudder and propeller.
(J), (K) and (L) Thrown overboard in weighted bag in 600 fathoms. (N) Master.
(C. in C. E.F., 021134.)

U/B reports.

Catalina reported being over enemy S/M position 005 degs. 22' N. 079 degs. 55' E. at 1420Z/2nd. N.O.I.C.E.Af. pass to Air H.Q. East Africa. (C. in C. E.F., 021439Z to S. & A. E.I. Station.) See amendment 022039.

By D/F at 1551Z/2nd on 10015 k/cs the position of a U-Boat was within 200 miles of position 005 degs. N. 073 degs. E. F.O.E.Af. pass to A.H.Q.E.Af.

(C. in C. E.F., 021856Z.)

/My ...

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B reports. My 021439. Position should read 004 degs. (44')? (Contd.) N. (080 degs. 058 degs.)? 08' E. F.O.E.A. pass to A.H.Q.E.A. (C. in C. E.F., 022039.)
Re enemy sub. reported by Catalina.

TALLY-HO patrol report. Following are points from P.317 (TALLY-HO) fourth Far East patrol. All times FG.
15th Feb. 0513 position 004 degs. 25' N. 100 degs. 09' E. sighted object fine on starboard bow which was identified 6 minutes later as a large U-Boat, probably Japanese. 0522 fired 3 torpedoes at range of 3000 to 3500 yards and dived as look-outs reported another U-Boat broad on port bow. 2 minutes 25 seconds after firing there was a heavy explosion and all H.E. ceased. P.317 (TALLY-HO) came to periscope depth at once but there was no sign of the U-Boat and shortly afterwards a small Junk was sighted in approximate position where second U-Boat was reported to have been sighted.
(2) 1410/21 position 003 degs. 52' N. 100 degs. 40' E. sighted 2500 ton merchant ship very close inshore. 1447 fired 5 torpedoes. One hit and ship sank in 4 minutes.
3. 24th Feb. position 003 degs. 42' N. 100 degs. (? 55') E. many wakes from large fish had been sighted but at 0251 two were sighted right ahead which appeared larger. There were caused by what was probably a 500 ton Hayabusa class T.B. which failed in a first attempt to ram P.317 (TALLY-HO) but at the second attempt (corrupt group) alongside her port side broke open all the port main ballast tanks. At the same time she engaged TALLY-HO with gunfire and dropped depth charges. The S/M then dived and proceeded to the northward.
4. Return passage on the surface was made with flush list at 9½ knots at very low buoyancy (? weather) worsened on day prior to arrival and it became necessary to pump out some internal tanks.
5. Consider that the sinking of the U-Boat should not be announced so that the Japanese will be unaware whether the loss was due to mining or torpedo attack.
(C. in C. E.F., 021506Z.)

Landing craft bases. Your 061117 December and 270335 January. Approved in principle to develop Landing Craft Bases at Bombay, Cochin, Mandapam and Vizagapatam and to establish facilities for L.S.Ts. at Karachi, Madras and Calcutta. (Admty., 021652A to C. in C. E.F.)

LANDGUARD: Amended E.T.A. Seychelles 031600D. P.C. and S. U/B search. 003 degs. 10' S. (? 051 degs. 056 degs. or 058 degs.) 27' E., (? 063 degs., 180, 211, 276 degs. or 332 degs.), 14.
Have been searching for U-Boat on H/F D/F bearings believed close but now (corrupt group) distant. C. in C. E.F. 021856Z.
(LANDGUARD, 022301Z.)
/ U-Boat estimate.

2.3.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SYDNEY STAR. Concur your 011830Z* however ship chopped 29th Feb. Request you take action.
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 020037Z to Admty.)
*re H.M.S. NARBOROUGH, WHITAKER and WALDEGRAVE to R/V with SYDNEY STAR and escort to U.K.

S.C. 154. St. Johns N.F. 1st March departure SAPPER to S.C.154.
(F.O.N.F., 020202Z.)

O.N. 224. 54 ships arrived New York March 2nd.
(P.D. New York, 020305Z.)

O.N.225: N.S.H.Q. Sub. attack and sighting summary.
? U/B No report since my 230700Z.
attack. Para. (B). Underwater explosions heard and felt by ships and escorts of O.N.225 in 47° 23' N. 47° 37' W. at 1230Z and 1250Z March 1st.
No report of attack on ship but LAVENDER sighted probable recent wreckage ahead of convoy before first explosion.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 020646Z.)
O.N.225 if present fog continues and convoy remains in State (?) Yoke intend B.5 Group remain as close escort with S.O. E.G. B.5 in command.
(S.O. E.G. B.5., 021235Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
1200Z/2nd. Explosions reported by O.N.225 at 1230 and 1250 March 1st. Considered probably caused by unsuccessful attack by German U-Boat now within 90 miles of 47.30 N. 47.30 W. One estimated moving south-west within 150 miles of 52 N. 40 W. One unlocated in coastal area may now be commencing return.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 021505Z.)

H.M.C.S. At 1200Z/2 sailed independently to Londonderry
DAUPHIN. to rejoin C.5.
(F.O.N.F., 021202Z.)

U/B estimates. (Cominch, 021622Z, 021640Z.)

Movements, Cancel Mydis 162116Z December 1943 not to all
Western and Mydis 251443Z November 1943 (N.T. of either
Hemisphere - in W.D.) Upon receipt of route messages and
Australia - departure reports pertaining movements convoy
Indian and troop transports from western hemisphere
Ocean. ports for ultimate passage through Indian Ocean area via Australian or New Zealand waters. It is requested that Comsowespaceseafron or Comnew-zealandseafron pass necessary information to C. in C. E.F. in sufficient time to provide for advance planning for escorts from Fremantle.
(Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.), 022055Z.)

/ U/B ...

SECRET

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

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

*Recd. after typing of
diary.*

021945Z/March

From: C. in C. C.N.A.

Date: 11.3.44.

Recd: 1228.

Naval Cypher (X) by W/T.

Addressed: C. in C. Western Approaches.
Repsated: A.C.C. in C. C.C.

Your 261711A November para. 4. White area commences 6 miles from convoy. Para. 7 allows aircraft to attack in white area which would intimate that flares may be dropped up to 6 miles whereas A01 201 para. 13 states aircraft are not to drop flares within 8 miles of convoy, request clarification.

021945Z.

* Convoy night 262000G.

5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
D.C.N.A.E.
U.W.R.
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.A/S.W.

D.A/U.D.
M
D.T.S.D.
D.A.W.T.
D.N.A.C.
Ain.
C.C.L.S. (2)
A.L.O.
D.S.D. (3)
D.S.O.
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
Ad. Blake. (4)

C.A.O.R.
Ad. Usborne.
W.D.
I.P. (3)

War Diary.

2.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B reports. A. BLOCK ISLAND reports sinking another U-Boat 48.30 N. 25.30 W. 2200Z/1 after 9 hour attack. D. U.S.S. HERZOG sound contact 02.20 S. 40.11 W. 1300Z/1. A.T.C. B.24 sighted sub. 10.35 N. 61 W. 1340Z/2. (Cominch, 022059.)

Stragglers Report No.41. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from O.N.223, J.L. LUCKENBACH (U.S.) Feb. 19th leak in feed water pump. One arrived Halifax from O.N.223, RIVERVIEW PARK Feb. 22nd lost convoy. Bad weather. One arrived New York from H.X.280, MARY AUSTIN (U.S.) Feb. 22nd engine trouble. One arrived Halifax from H.X.280, ATHEL VIKING Feb. 28th straggler due to bad weather and engine repairs. One arrived Halifax from O.N.S.29, EMPIRE SWALE Feb. 29th engine defects. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 022132Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) AFFLECK attacked U-Boat at 1920Z/1 45° 46' N. 23° 10' W. (2) H.M. Ship attacked by U-Boat at 1920Z/1 45° 46' N. 23° 10' W. (3) ROCKWOOD attacked U-Boat at 0259Z/2 48° 00' N. 17° 23' W. (4) L.S.T.324 torpedoed at 0259Z/2 48° 00' N. 17° 23' W. (5) A/C attacked U-Boat on surface at 0220Z/2 38° 45' N. 09° 43' W. (6) Schooner reported sunk by U-Boat at 0100Z/27 Feb. 33° 48' N. 34° 15' W. (7) M.V. ENSIS torpedoed at 1704Z/29th Feb. 35° 36' N. 35° 33' E. (D.D.I.C., 021142A.)

*
L.S.T.362
See p. 20
r p. 39

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C., 021429A, 021440A.)

3.3.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1(a) The ten M/Vs. of the White Sea section of Convoy J.W.57 arrived in the Dvina Roads at 1205A to-day. All the M/Vs. of this Convoy have thus arrived safely in North Russia.

(b) S.B.N.O. North Russia reports that enemy A/C were over the Kola Inlet for two hours this afternoon and probably observed the absence of shipping there.

E-Boats in
Lyme Bay.

2(a) Three groups of E-Boats from Cherbourg approached the Convoy Route in Lyme Bay between 0250 and 0300 to-day, but by 0340 they had turned and were retiring to the southward. Our coastal forces failed to intercept them, but two Albacore A/C from Thorney Island attacked one of the groups North of Alderney at 0530 and claim two E-Boats probably sunk and one damaged.

(b) Mining is not suspected.

Biscay A/S
operations.

3. An outward bound U-Boat was attacked by an A/C at 2310 to-day about 140 miles W. by S. of St. Nazaire.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4(a) C. in C. Med. reports that the discharge of merchant ships is still seriously impeded by shelling which keeps merchant vessels 6 to 7 miles out to sea. The shelling was less intense today and met with no success.

(b) A total of 4372 tons was discharged at Anzio to-day, but at 1430 unloading from Liberty ships ceased on account of the heavy swell, and 155 tons were unloaded from L.C.I.(L)s.

(c) There was a heavy air attack on the port area early this morning, but no naval damage or casualties were caused. There was no further enemy air activity for the rest of the day.

(d) MAURITIUS carried out 6 shoots against gun batteries and 3 against troop concentrations, and the results are reported to have been very effective.

/Adriatic ...

3.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Adriatic.

5. Coastal forces operated between Piombino and Vada Rocks last night, without incident.

East Indies.

Eastern
Fleet
Cruisers.

6. The Eastern Fleet cruisers of the 4th and 5th C.S. were today constituted into a single squadron, the 4th C.S.

HAWKINS.

7. C. in C. E.F. has reported that the old cruisers HAWKINS and FROBISHER are uneconomic to keep running and that he can dispense with them. HAWKINS sailed from Colombo to-day for the U.K.

Sinkings
by U/Bs.

8(a) SS. FORT MCLEOD, Cochin for Durban independently, reported being torpedoed at 1650Z to-day in 02.01 N. 77.06 E. (300 miles S.W. of Colombo). *See 23 March.*

(b) M.V. STRAAT SOENDA reports having rescued 8 survivors of SS. ASCOT which was torpedoed and sunk about 800 miles 072° from Diego Suarez, probably on the night 28th/29th February. It was subsequently reported that the ship was sunk at 1205 ship's time on 29th Feb. The Master was mutilated and thrown into the sea, and the crew machine gunned in the boats and the majority of them killed, by the Japanese U/Boat's crew.

Australia and New Zealand.

Admiralty
Is.

9. Reinforcements continue to arrive at Los Negros Island supported by destroyer bombardment. The Allied defences had resisted all attacks up to this evening.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Herring fishery.

My 101414B July 1943, C. in C. Rosyth 131635B July and Admiralty 152051B July. Proposed that herring fishing be allowed in the additional area for which permission was given in C. in C. Rosyth and Admiralty signals quoted from the 15th April 1944 to the 30th Sept. 1944 and under similar conditions.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 031613A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

BENBECULA.

Your 022201.
On completion of work-up BENBECULA should be sailed to Milford Haven for onward routeing to Mediterranean.
(D.M.S., 031816A to MENTOR.)

Spanish Fishing Fleet.

Spanish Authorities now ask if their fishing fleet can use Porcupine Banks operating in area enclosed by 054° N. 015° 30' W. and 051° 30' N. 011° W. In view of para. 1 your 071552 Feb. presume answer is in negative.
(N.A. Madrid, 031947 to Admty.)

Defence of the United Kingdom.

Reykjavik Examination Service.

A.L.M. 883/44 dated 17th January. Propose that examination service at Reykjavik be reduced to skeleton organisation consisting of following only. Details.
(2) Consider this can be done without affecting security of Ports of Reykjavik, Hvalfjord and Hafnarfjordur.
(A.C.I.C., 031730 to Admty.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S operations.
U-Boat attacked by A/C.

Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat, position 47.52 N. 08.00 W.
(A/C 130, 030001 to 19 Group.)
Very approx. position T.G. 21.16 BLOCK ISLAND and 5 destroyers, 048° 30' N. 025° 30' W. My 031245A refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 031304A to Ships.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47.05 N. 05.30 W.
(A/C MGF.16, 032210 to Gibraltar W/T.)

Am over 1 enemy S/M in 47° 05' N. 05° 42' W.
Enemy was on the surface course 320°, speed 8 knots.
(A/C MGF.16, 032220 to 19 Group.)
Hunt U/B reported 47° 05' N. 05° 40' W.
(H.Q. 19 Group, 032248A to A/C 23.)
Have attacked U/B with depth charge. U/B has dived.
Position 47° 05' N. 05° 40' W.
(A/C 16, 032310 to 19 Group.)

/ A/S ...

War Diary.3.3.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

A/S operations off S.W. Ireland. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 49° 50' N. 021° 00' W. (A/C MHFS, 030341 to 19 Group.)
By D/F at 0201Z U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 51° 00' N. 17° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 030344A to Escorts S.L.149/M.K.S.40 and C.K.1.)

One unidentified aircraft bearing 310°, 26 miles, course 225°. Am unable to operate fighter or Swordfish owing to weather. My position 050° 30' N. 017° 30' W. Weather 4672 1228.

(PURSUER, 030743A to C. in C. W.A.)

A/C may have been Liberator. My 030743A refers. Steady course 225°, speed and height was maintained. I.F.F. was not showing. My position 050° 33' N. 017° 21' W.

(PURSUER, 030900A to C. in C. W.A.)

Flying conditions improving. Am maintaining A/S patrol with Swordfish. Fighters at ?immediate readiness to fly in emergency. My position 050° 53' N. 016° 44' W.

(PURSUER, 031223A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation S.F. Faroes arrivals ORESTES, ONYX, HYDRA, COCKATRICE. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 030931A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

E-Boats in Lyme Bay. Enemy activity plotted by Plymouth Radar 2nd/3rd March 1944.
Two E-Boats probably sunk and One E-Boat damaged by A/C. 3-5 vessels 0247-0420 speed 17-40 knots.
2-5 vessels 0248-0424 speed 12-27 knots.
1 vessel 0339-0403 speed 12 knots.
2-4 vessels 0302-0435 speed 17-23 knots.
All operating in Lyme Bay. (C. in C. Plymouth, 031018A to Admty.)
Between 0250 and 0300/3rd 3 groups of E-Boats were plotted approaching the convoy route in Lyme Bay. By 0340 all had turned and were returning at high speed to southwards. Force 115 (M.T.B. 430, 415) attempted to intercept as also did Force 113 (M.T.B. 90, 92 and 239) but without success. No convoy was in the area. One of these groups was attacked north of Alderney by Albacore 0530/3rd and hits are claimed. Mining is considered unlikely. My 011249A, no mines have so far been discovered.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 031225A to Admty.)

Two Albacore aircraft were sent from Thorney Island to intercept E-Boats detected by Plymouth Command Radar on their return to Cherbourg a.m./3rd March. Attacks were carried out between 0530A and 0552A on a group of 4 E-Boats sighted near Cap de la Hague. Aircraft claim two hit and probably sunk, 1 damaged.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031911A to Admty.)

Operation F.X. J.W.57. White Sea section arrived Dvina Roads complete. 10 ships. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 031205A to Admty.)

/Following ...

War Diary.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.X. (Contd.) Following is a repetition of my 031901C to V.A.D. broadcast on port wave. Begins: Enemy aircraft over Kola Inlet for two hours this Friday afternoon. Probable that absence of shipping was observed. Ends.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 031705 to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth , 031259A.)

Russian Convoys J.W.58 & R.A. 58. Admiralty's 021641. Request both escort carriers detailed to escort J.W.58 and R.A.58 may be Trade carriers in view of - (A) Possibility of one being damaged. (B) Low scale of air attack expected. (2) V.A.D's 291531 February. It is desirable that both carriers should be equipped with Avenger/Wildcat composite squadrons if time permits.

(3) If available request aircraft may be fitted with high altitude compasses.
(C. in C. H.F., 031405A to C. in C. W.A.) Reply: Admty. 051409. A.M. 021641.
(1) TRACKER is detailed for this operation and will arrive in U.K. about 11th March.
(2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to inform F.O.C.T. when TRACKER is required to proceed Scapa.
(3) TRACKER is equipped with 12 Avengers and 4 Wildcats.
(C. in C. W.A., 031945A to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

RUBIS Patrol. RUBIS reported at 1601 on 25th February sighted 740-tons U-Boat escorted by 2 trawlers in 045° 05' N. 001° 55' W., course on sighting 080°, range 5000 yards. Attack impossible. At 2135 on 27th February in 045° 36' N. 003° 08' W. fired one torpedo at auxiliary vessel range about 1500 yards. Torpedo missed. Lost sight of vessel which was not seen again.
(Capt. (S) 5, 031602A to F.O.S.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of own submarines 0800/4th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SEANYMPH patrol off Bodo.
(B) SCEPTRE patrol off Kya.
(C) VENTURER patrol near Stadtlandet.
(D) ZWAARDFISCH patrolling vicinity 65° 19' N. 01° 09' E.
(F.O.(S), 031744A to Admty.)

War Diary.3.3.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

North
Russia. German Air Force activity Feb. 16th - 29th as reported by Russians.
(A) Zenit and Sea reconnaissance flights Barents Sea 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th. Greenland Sea 22nd, 23rd 3 aircraft; 24th, 26th, 27th, 1 aircraft near Bear Island.
(B) Other R/C 18th 2 Me.109 approaches to Kola Inlet, 27th 1 Ju.88 White Sea, 28th 1 Ju.88 Goino.
(C) Bombing 29th, 11 Me.109 and 6 F.W.190 attempted to raid Murmansk and ships in Kola Inlet. Soviet aircraft took off and claim 2 Me.109 shot down. Raids did not reach target area. No bombs dropped.
(S.B.N.O. Polyarno, 030927 to C. in C. H.F.)

Mining.

Search in
Lyme Bay. Cancel previous orders. Search convoy route 453 to 002° 50' and return.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 030728A to TENBY.)

Sweep off
Smiths Knoll. Sweep abandoned.
(1) Further lap completed. Wind N.W.7, snow and sleet, visibility half mile in snow.
(2) Datum Dan buoys in position. Average width swept to date 8 cables.
(M/S.4., 031101A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation
F.D. 47
(RUBIS). (A) Mines laid in 4 groups of 8 between 045° 01' N. 001° 19.5' W. and 044° 56' N. 001° 21.5' W.
(B) RUBIS. (C) 24th February between 1640 and 1753. (D) 8 feet (one mine sighted on surface after laying). (E) 32 all Vickers T.3.
(F) 18th Feb. Duration 40 days.
(Capt. (S) 5, 031443A to F.O.S.)

Casualties and Defects.

L.C.S.(M) 69
lost. Request replacement of L.C.S.(M) 69 of 903 Flotilla lost in deep water during exercises.
(F.O. Force S, 031252A to Admty.)

L.C.A.552. Request replacement of L.C.A.552 of 537 Flotilla wrecked during exercises and unrepairable.
(F.O.I.C. Force S, 031258A to Admty.)

L.S.T.362. Have on board following survivors from L.S.T.362. Naval personnel 4 officers including C.O. and 7 ratings. Army personnel one officer and 8 other ranks. L.S.T.324 has on board Naval personnel one officer and 35 ratings. Army personnel 2 officers and 35 other ranks survivors from L.S.T.362. Unaccounted for Naval 15 ratings and (corrupt) Army other ranks. My P.C.S. 049° 51' N. 010° 44' W., 083°, (corrupt group)½ knots. Weather 8792 0127.
(ROCKWOOD, 031301A to C. in C. W.A.)

/MIMICO...

War Diary.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

MIMICO.

MIMICO arrived Stornoway with engine and boiler defects. At present unable to raise steam. (MENTOR, 032214 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ERNE.

Auxiliary steam pipe joints defective. Stopped in 310° Tory Island 15. Hope to effect repairs and propose proceeding independently following route of K.M.F.29A. (ERNE, 032253 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F.29A.

Sailed convoy composed and escorted as in A.M. 271936A, 281308A, and C. in C. W.A. 281153A. S.O. in NIGERIA. S.O. A/S escort SPEY. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 031054A to Adnty.)

War Diary

3.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ATHLETE, Position 02Z (2 incomplete groups) 032 degs. 14'
EVADNE. N. 039 degs. 07' W. H.M.R.T. ATHLETE not met
searching along route but weather conditions
unfavourable. Request if known ATHLETE position
be communicated.

(EVADNE, 030100Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

Your 030100Z which should have been repeated to ATHLETE.
Estimate ATHLETE in 32 degs. 10' 35 degs. 53' at noon today
proceeding through (Q) 32 degs. N. 34 degs. W. then steering 101
degs. speed 8.

(F.O.G.M.A., 030814A to EVADNE).

Position 031400Z Point H am proceeding direct Horta due
(?to) consumption lubricating oil. E.T.A. Horta 051400Z.

(EVADNE, 031430Z to F.O.G.M.A.).

M.K.S.41 Sailed NORTHERN SUN to overtake M.K.S.41.
(F.O.G.M.A., 030802A).

Suspicious A.C. 12 3 March BOAC Sunderland on transit U.K. to
craft. Gibraltar at 2200Z/2 in 50.22 N. 07.49 W. sight
wake of very fast moving craft course 270 turned
to 090 aircraft height 2000 ft. not investigated.

At 2227Z/2 in 48.35 N. 09.38 W. sighted 2 steady white light. May
have been fishing vessels.

(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 031020A).

Note: Signal has been passed to C. in C.W.A. and C. in C.
Plymouth for information.

Spanish It is reported, reliability A2, Germans have
iron ore. arranged to take 60,000 tons iron ore during
March and that 2 extra ships, 1 of which is over
7,000 tons, expect arrive shortly.
(Consul Bilbao, 031230).

U.761 All times A. Date 24th Feb. 1559 MAD Catalina
(sunk 24th obtained magnetic contact in 35.57 05.54 smoke
Feb.). floats dropped by Catalinas were observed one mile
to eastward by ANTHONY and WISHART who were then
at Eastern end of patrol area.

(2) Asdic contact was obtained at 1605. As contact was firm run
in was commenced. Contact was lost at 150 yards. ANTHONY
continued across target and opened range thus producing magnetic
interference reported in C.M.S.F. 250903 decision to continue run
was taken because contact was classified as S/M.

(3) Destroyers then commenced operation "Observant" A.C.I.
Art. 122 and MAD Catalina carried out spiral search.

(4) 1647 Catalina regained contact $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of original
contact 1654 ANTHONY regained contact. As Catalinas reported
by R/T that bombing run was about to be commenced course was
altered to clear. 1655 first Catalina fired pattern of 23 retro
bombs followed by 24 from second Catalina ten seconds later.
1701 ANTHONY then in firm Asdic contact fired 10 charge pattern
settings D in similar position to Catalina attack. U/boat broke

/ surface...

3.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U.761 surface almost immediately after and submerged again after about one minute 1707 WISHART in (sunk 24th Feb.). Asdic contact fired 10 charge pattern 1712 (Contd.). ANTHONY also in Asdic contact fired 10 charge pattern setting C. 1713 U/boat surfaced and was engaged by 4.7 and Oerlikon guns. 1717 American Ventura straddled with six depth bombs. 1719 R.A.F. Catalina straddled with six depth charges. 1720 U/boat blew up and sank.
(5) U/boat did not open fire on destroyers as reported by C.M.S.F. Fire on ANTHONY's quarter deck was caused by shell from ANTHONY's X gun hitting depth charge reloading davit.
(6) It is emphasised that R/T communication between aircraft and surface vessels was excellent throughout.
(7) B.A.D. Washington 292119 to F.O.G.M.A. only refers. (F.O.G.M.A., 031644).

Interception of Island ship. Your 021055. Question of interception of one island ship in February programme was referred to in my 181424 Feb.
(2) Madrid having agreed Las Palmas was informed by M.E.W. 25th Feb. and instructed to report his selection to you. Regret telegram was not repeated to you as requested in your 161735 Feb. but disruption due to wreckage of my office prevented me knowing its despatch. (D.E.W.D. 031848A to C.C.S.O. Gib.).

G.U.S.31 HAROLD L. WINSLOW reports cannot locate convoy
H.L. WINSLOW. his 031400Z position 36.54 29.40 proceeding Ponta Delgada. Request Admiralty keep F.O.G.M.A. informed future developments.
(Com. 10th Fleet C and R, 032119Z to F.O.G.M.A., Admty.).

South Atlantic.

U/boat report. United States Transit aircraft sighted conning-tower from 4000 feet at 031403 in 005 degs. 38' N. 010 degs. 30' W. Submerged leaving bubbling patch. No wake. Sea choppy with some white caps. Course and speed unobserved.
(2) I consider this possible.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 031805Z to Admty.).

MOST SECRET

*Received after
typing of Diary.*

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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
From "B.N.A. Madrid" Date 4. 3. 44.
"O.I.F." are excepted from this rule.)

031947/March
Recd. 0251.

NAVAL SHORE CODE OTP BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty.

*Spanish
use of
porcupine
banks,*

Spanish Authorities now ask if their fishing fleet can use Porcupine Banks operating in area enclosed by 054 degs. North 015 degs. 30 mins. West 051 degs. 30 mins. North 011 West. In view of paragraph 1 (one) your 071552 February presume answer is in negative.

031947.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- U.W.R.
- D. Map Room
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Plot
- D.C.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (2)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Hd. of M.I. (2) for action.
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- A.L.O.
- W.D.
- C.C.L.S. (2)

Advance Copy Ops., O.D.,
O.I.C.

Reply: Admty 141748A (p. 229)

TOR

War Diary.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

KEMPENFELT. A.M. 302331/Dec. Request information when you expect to sail KEMPENFELT for U.K.? (D.O.D.(F) 030217A to C. in C. Med.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.42.
Weather improved at Anzio and total discharge for 2nd March was 2246 tons, making a total of 131633 tons in 40 days.
2. During sneak raid at 2315 on 1st March, 1,000 pound bomb dropped immediately behind (corrupt group) house. No Naval casualties or material damage. At dawn same day U.S.S. DAVIS reports intercepting weak radio bomb signals but no bombs observed.
3. Discharge of Merchant ships is still seriously impeded by shelling which keeps Merchant vessels six to seven miles out to sea. —
(C. in C. Med., Naples, 031009A.)

LA SULTANE. Your escort is 2 M.L. (2).
2. Large eastbound convoy passing Algiers 1300A.
3. French Convoy arrives from North East at 0800A.
4. ORPHEE arrives from North West at 1600A. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 031100A to LA SULTANE.)

TOURVILLE, DUQUESNE, SUFFREN. 1. French cruisers TOURVILLE, DUQUESNE and SUFFREN are in very bad order. (Details).
2. French State work can only be undertaken at Ferryville as it is beyond capabilities of Dakar or Casablanca. They state that TOURVILLE, which is the worst, will shortly cease to be operational. They have been informed by Commander in Chief Mediterranean that work cannot be started at Ferryville before Autumn of 1944 at the earliest. This is probably an optimistic view, owing to presence of very heavy repair commitments for vessels of more importance in the war effort.
3. Admty. consider that ships should be kept going as long as possible without repair except from local resources, and when no longer operational they should be laid up and the crews used elsewhere.
4. Request decision on future of these cruisers. (Algiers (Wilson), 031126 to C.C.S.)

NADA. Employment of Yugoslav personnel. V.A.M. 021121. The situation at Malta is becoming difficult and an early decision on 1366 Med. 0070/1 of 1st March which should reach you shortly would be appreciated. (C. in C. Med., -031218A to Admty.)

Craft operating from Beirut. A.M. 231142.*
A. Fairmiles 16, H.D.M.L. 10, Levant Schooner Flotilla 13, 2 B.Y.M.S., one boom working vessel, one "River" class S/M (major refit) 4 M.M. and 3 Skid Towers building all British French 3 avisos,
*Requesting particulars of craft and number of British personnel at Beirut. /2. ...

War Diary.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Craft operation from Beirut. (Contd.) 2 H.D.M.T., one trawler, 3 Greek minesweepers. Escort vessels as necessary in addition TRIPOLI (S) and CASTELORISO are victualled and stored no accounts carried. B. 35 Officers, 325 Ratings, 60 W.R.N.S. Ratings. Removal of Com. L.A. has made no change. (F.O.L.E.M. 031219B.)
- ABERCROMBIE. ABERCROMBIE's repairs will occupy a large dock at Taranto for the next four months of a critical operational period and ship is unlikely to be operational before September. Intend, therefore, to undock ship, defer her repairs and give preference to the heavy and rapidly increasing programme of short term high priority repairs and dockings. (C. in C. Med., 031333A to Admty.)
- TORBAY, SOKOL. Intend TORBAY and SOKOL from Malta join with M.K.S.42 for passage to Gibraltar. 2. S.O. S/Ms. Gibraltar is requested to sail TORBAY and SOKOL for U.K. (Capt. (S) 1, 031515A.)
- GREBE (R.N.A.S.) A.M. 261918 Feb. 10 Officers and 71 ratings (17 high substantive and non-substantive rates) would be required to bring GREBE to full operational scheme of complement. Four fighter squadrons of 20 IE each or 5 TBR squadrons of 12 IE each could then be accommodated. (F.O.L.E.M. 031631B.)
- SHIEL, EVENLODE. A.M. 261727 December, and your 271220. (N.T. of formers) SHIEL, leaving U.K. with K.M.F. 29A and EVENLODE, ready for service in U.K. end March, are intended to complete the equivalent of an additional Escort Group. (D.O.D.(F), 031651A to C. in C. Med.)
- CAPETOWN, CASTLE. It is under consideration for CAPE TOWN CASTLE to detach from M.K.F.29 to Gibraltar to embark approx. 500 service personnel for U.K., proceeding thence with two of E.G.7 to catch up convoy. Request your remarks and minimum time required to carry out embarkation. (P.S.T.O. Med. 031818A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- AJAX. H.M.S. AJAX damaged by tug when leaving harbour. Hull plating fractured and degaussing cable cut. Ship is unseaworthy and sailing has been cancelled. 2. Repairs are being taken in hand forthwith. Estimated time permanently to repair damage 2 to 2½ weeks. (F.O.L.E.M. 031823B.)

/CONAM...

War Diary.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

CONAM. CONAM arrived Valencia 1900/3 with 700 tons iron ore for Barcelona ultimate destination Germany. Expected sailing 4th. (R.O. Valencia, 032011.)
Note: Pass to F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.
Passing action being taken by W.R. P.5209.

French S/Ms. French Admiralty have received from Admiral Fenard information that A/S training S/Ms are required as follows: B.A.D. 211531 refers.
5. Above proposals seem reasonable and it is recommended they be adopted.

6. Intend ANTIOPE should proceed on patrol 14th March. My 251028 Feb. refers.
(W.D. Note: Para. 6 was cancelled by C. in C. Med., 071200A.)
(C. in C. Med., 032030A.)

U/B. report. Nr. 1 U/Boat reported position 33° 40' N. 22° 00' E. at 2015B 3 medium vessels Arch. (A/C S.5K, 032038Z.)

Situation report No.307. 1. Operation "Shingle". Bad weather restricted unloading 1st March but moderated 2nd March.
2. 2 enemy aircraft claimed shot down by fighters and 2 by A/A fire during air raid night 29th/1st March. No damage to (?port area).

Shelling of anchorage up to 6/7 miles to searched channels continued.
3. 4 P.T.Boats intercepted 5 Lighters, 4 E/Boats and 2 Trawlers South of Vada Rocks night of 1st/2nd March 2 torpedoes fired result unobserved enemy fire caused superficial damage but no casualties. Coastal Force also operated between Piombino and Vada Rocks without incident night 2nd/3rd March.
(C. in C. Med. 032110A.)

GARIBALDI, AOSTA. 1. Minister of Marine strongly urges that GARIBALDI remains at Freetown and AOSTA returns to Med. Your 282056 refers.
2, 3. Reasons.
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 032119A.)

3.3.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly Area A believed clear of U-Boats.
 U-Boat Scale our escort W area B E and F no definite
 dispositions information but U-Boats may be in these areas.
 No.30. Scale air escort X area C. No Fresh information
 but U-Boat believed still in area.
 Scale air escort remains Y area D ref. dispositions
 No.29.

If Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F 300 miles west north west
 of Chagos Archipelago 27th Feb. is still moving west could
 be in area 6th March.

Scale air escort remains W for present but may be advanced(?)
 up to X later area G.

S/M attacked by aircraft in 004 degs. 44' N. 080 degs. 08' E.
 at 1420Z/2nd.

U-Boat indicated by D/F at 1551Z in Maldiva Is. Area.
 Scale air escort remains Z India Ocean U-Boat now south of
 Madagascar is believed to be homeward bound.

My 010359 March refers.
 (C. in C. E.F. 030353Z)

Eastern Eastern Fleet cruisers of the 4th C.S. and 5th
 Fleet C.S. will as from the date of this signal consti-
 Cruisers. tute one squadron the 4th C.S.
 (C.in C. E.F. 030403Z)

MADURA H.M.I.S.MADURA collided with landing craft I 265
 in collision. on 28th Feb. Details lacking regarding landing
 craft I. Repair to MADURA expected to take
 14 days.
 (N.O.I.C.Calcutta, 030645Z)

Convoy F.O.N.I.C.347. B.P and P.B. convoy release class
 Changes. D ships forthwith.
 (2) Ships of BP 108 and P.B 70 are to remain in
 convoy until reaching dispersal point or
 destination.
 (C. in C. E.F. 030646Z)

Fleet Intend 1st B.S. ILLUSTRIOUS, CEYLON, EMERALD
 Move. and all available destroyers to sail at 0800/7
 passing through following positions.
 (k) 007 degs. 25' 082 degs. 18'.
 (l) 006 degs. 01' 082 degs. 04'.
 (m) 005 degs. 27' 080 degs. 18'. (n) 005 degs. 42' 079 degs.
 24'. (o) 006 degs. 32' 079 degs. 24'.
 S.C.1 (S) buoy. (p) 006 degs. 39' 077 degs. 40'.
 (q) 004 degs. 58' 074 degs. 47'.
 thence Kardiva Channel. S. of A. to S.C.1 (S) buoy 16½ knots,
 thence 15½ knots.
 (2) UNICORN will be detached at S.C.1 (S) buoy at 1200/8 to
 Colombo. My 031055 part 2 follows.
 (F.O.2nd i/c E.F. 030932Z)

SS. FENRIS /...

War Diary.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SS. FENRIS
(torpedoed
21st Feb.)

Report of watch kept on B.A.M.S. area routine on 17th, 1600 to 1800, and 18th 0400 to 0600.
(2) On 17th heard G.Z.H. had Q.T.C. at 1610 G.M.T. but could not read it because of Q.R.N.
(3) On 18th at 0500 G.M.T. did not pick up G.Z.H
(4) Your 290833/ Feb. refers.
(FENRIS, 031001Z to C. in C. E.F.)
/ Position of SS. FENRIS when torpedoed was broadcast on the following B.A.M.S. area routine from Colombo 1700 and 2100 on 17th and 0130 and 0500 on 18th.

EFIO
Kandy.

Request that following may be promulgated.
As from 15th April title of S.N.I.O. Delhi will lapse and that of Eastern Fleet Intelligence Officer Kandy (short title E.F.I.O. Kandy) will come into force as permanent representative of the Chief of the Intelligence Staff to the C. in C. E.F. there.
(C. in C. E.F. 031133Z)

HAWKINS.

Sailed HAWKINS for onward passage to U.K.
(C. in C. E.F. 031154Z)

Bunkering
of coal
burning ships
from U.K. and
U.S.A. bound
for East
Coast of
India via
Med.

Request your comments regarding A.M. 212038A/Feb.
(D.T.D.031425Z to C. in C. E.F.)

S.S. FORT
MCLEOD
Torpedoed.

SS. FORT MCLEOD reports being torpedoed at 1650Z/
3rd in 002 degs. 01' N. 077 degs. 06' E.
(C. in C. E.F. 031707Z to FORT MCLEOD No.T.O.O.3
recd.1801)

SS. ASCOT.

STRAAT SOENDA reports rescued 8 survivors position F.25 G. SS. ASCOT torpedoed approx. 800 miles 072 degs. from Diego Suarez sighted another empty raft rest of crew killed.
(STRAAT SOENDA, 031710)

3.3.1944.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- ASSINIBOINE. Sailed Argentia 2000Z/2 to overtake S.C.154 and rejoin C.1 S.O.C.1 in ASSINIBOINE resumes duties of S.O. upon junctioning.
(F.O.N.F.030309Z)
- T.U.8: INDO CHINOIS broken down estimate 6 hours in
INDO CHINOIS. 45 N. 34.09 W. which was 0030Z/3 position.
Directed NEWMAN escort and report advance on Stragglers route to Point R. thence R.G. NEWMAN then part company to overtake T.U.8. INDO CHINOIS proceed independently St. John New Brunswick via Point V. T.U.8 proceeding 14 will refuel escorts earliest opportunity.
Weather 3846 9136.
(C.T.F.60, 030450)
- Damaged ships. Following received on 500 K/cs at 0322Z/3 begins: Have cracked plate on deck and of side between 4 and 5. Any possibility of escort back to Halifax. Ends.
No call sign or position given. Request any available information.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 030522Z to G.B.7A)
- DAUPHIN. Inward passage forthwith to pass position 047 degs. 15' N. 044 degs. 45' W. where U-Boat has recently transmitted.
(F.O.N.F.031121Z to H.M.C.S.DAUPHIN, C. in C. C.N.A. Info: H.Q.C.C. Connav Admiralty, A.C.I.C. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Cmdr.(D) Argentia, Cmdr. (D) W.A.)
- S.C.154. S.C.154. SAPPER escorting FERNCLIFF to St. Johns N.F. with defective steering gear. MyP.C. and S. 044 degs. 19' N. 048 degs. 57' W. (S) 093 degs. 7.
Weather report 3872 7268.
(C.1, 031202Z)
- Italian S/M's. Re: allocation to Americans.
(C. in C. Med. 031222, B.A.D.031831Z)
- O.N.225, ELIZA J NICHOLSON, U/B sighted. SSSS DE KUPS (ELIZA JANE NICHOLSON) S/M sighting approx. 44.03 N. 56.30 W. at 1200 G.M.T. (Halifax, No.T.O.O./3)
Report if ELIZA J. NICHOLSON is in convoy and reliability of sighting.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 031329Z to S.E. O.N.225)
Unlikely that more than one U-Boat is in your

vicinity /...

War Diary.3.3.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.O.N.225,
ELIZA J.
NICHOLSON,
U/B sighted.
(Contd.)vicinity. If definite A/S contact is established detach escorts to hunt to exhaustion leaving only one escort with convoy to co-operate with Cdre.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 031400Z to S.E. O.N.225)U/B
Report
29th Feb.Herein is repetition of my 292100, from S.O.I. Jamaica.
Schooner sighted 2 S/M's surfaced 291200Z in 26.10 N. 77.45 W. course 240 degs. ends.
Ref. your 031141A. No trace your 021032 here.
(Kingston C.C.O. 031425B to Admty.)
/ Formerly received undecypherable.
/ Originated by W.R.U/B
Estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 031510Z to Cominch, 031529Z)

Attacks on
U/B's
assessments.C.R.No.1525.
Your 121745 February. Assessments confirmed with exceptions now in air mail. In future request you use term other than provisional assessment to avoid confusion as to the responsibilities agreed to in Cominch, 081404 May and Admiralty

102232B May.

Ref. 121745 24 attacks by U.S. Aircraft under operational control of Coastal Command carried out since May 15th 1943 have been assessed by Admiralty Assessment Board.

Ref. 102232B. Your 081404 Agreed Please confirm application world wide.

Ref. 081404 suggest all Anglo U.S. attacks be assessed by Nationality attacked. Suggest May 15 effective date.
(Cominch, 031552 to Admty.)

C.R.No.1517.

Suggest you assess attack by U.S. aircraft, British aircraft and destroyers on 24th Feb. at 35.57 N. 05.45 W. Propose that co-ordinated attacks in which U.S. forces are involved with other United Nation forces occurring in British strategic area Atlantic and Indian Ocean be assessed by Admiralty and those occurring in U.S. strategic area Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean be assessed by Cominch.

(Cominch & C.N.O. 031555 to Admty.)

LOBELIA.

My estimated P.C.S. at 1500C/3 044 degs. 55' N. 055 degs. 10' W. 350 degs. 6.

(2) Am encountering very heavy seas from North West. Intend to enter St. Pierre tomorrow morning 4th, weather permitting intend to proceed to Argentina.
(3) Request latest report local weather forecast.
(LOBELIA, 031607Z to C. in C. N.W.A.)

KILMACOIM/...

3.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

KIIMACOLM,
KILKHAMPTON.

KIIMACOIM departs Trinidad 2000Z/4th to overtake KILKHAMPTON. Thence in company to Freetown.
(Comnob, Trinidad, 032008)

Spanish
Fishing
Fleet.

Re: routing.
(N.S.H.Q.032315Z)

Australia and New Zealand.

TRIONA
U/B attack
12 Jan.

Ref. D.E.M.S. G1.41 D.E.M.S. TRIONA presumed attack by S/M 12th Jan. 1944 G.M.T.2235 position 03 N. 80.43 E. course 173 speed 7½ knots. Submarine and torpedo track not seen. Not in convoy not zig-zagging sea calm, visibility good. Net defence streamed. Port net struck forward and explosion occurred causing extensive damage to net and very severe concussion and slight damage to ship. Fragments from explosion recovered on board and will be examined. No casualties to personnel. Previously pass to you under time of origin 010501Z. /
(A.C.N.B.030204Z) / Originally received undecypherable)

Digest
Serial
No.773.

March 2nd.
(8) Forenoon 2nd Feb. (?March intended) additional Allied Forces landed Los Negros Island despite intermittent enemy mortar fire which caused negligible casualties.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 030555)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
Summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C reported at 0840Z/2nd over submerged U-Boat 47 degs. 33' N. 08 degs. 48' W.
(2) A/C attacked U-Boat on surface, course 180 degs. speed 12 knots, with Depth-charges at 1417Z/2nd, 48 degs. 10' N. 09 degs. 02' W.
(3) A/C reported at 2110Z/2nd over U-Boat on surface, course 180 degs. speed 11 knots, 47 degs. 20' N. 08 degs 50' W.
(4) French SS. ST. LOUIS torpedoed and sunk at 2116Z/1st March 05 degs. 23' N. 00 degs. 09' E.
(5) Catalina reported at 1420Z/2nd March over U-Boat 05 degs.

3.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

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

22' N. 79 degs. 55' E.
Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0241Z/
3rd March 49 degs. 50' N. 21 degs. 00' W.
(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0001Z/3rd
March 47 degs. 52' N. 08 degs. 00' W.
Ref. A.M. 011030Z. para.A (4) PALMA now reported
sunk.
(D.D.I.C.031124A)

U/B
Estimates.

(D.D.I.C.031346A, 031415A)

4.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.X."
U-boat
sunk.

1(a) At 1210A to-day R.A.D.H.F. in BLACK PRINCE (S.O. Escort) reported that Convoy R.A.57 was about 100 miles S.E. of Bear Island at noon, steering 250 degs. at 9 knots, with shadowing A/C and U/boats in company, and added that one U/boat had been destroyed.

(b) The British EMPIRE BARD, 3114 tons, fell out from the convoy during the night 2nd/3rd March.

Biscay A/S
operations.

2. A U/boat contact was attacked by the minesweeper FORT WILLIAM at 1300Z to-day about 660 miles W. by S. of Cape Finisterre without visible result.

Night-landing
on Escort
Carriers.

3. The Escort Carrier NAIRANA reports to-day that, during her passage to Gibraltar with Convoy K.M.S.43, she lost 4 A/C from her total of 17 owing to damage during night-landing, and that ACTIVITY on the same passage lost 3 of her 9 A/C. from the same cause. She adds that both ships are finding night-landing very difficult.

Minelaying

4. Bomber Command aircraft laid 121 mines in North French and Biscay ports last night.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"

5. A heavy swell continued to impede unloading at Anzio; a total of 2814 tons was discharged to-day. Slight shelling of the anchorage continued, but no damage or casualties were caused.

6. UNIVERSAL reports that she made one torpedo hit at 0420/27 on an escorted westbound tanker in ballast off Cape Camaret, French Riviera.

Adriatic

7(a) Destroyer patrols were maintained off Vis by night during the period 1st to 4th March, but no enemy were encountered.

(b) 25 Wellingtons of the Strategic Air Force bombed Zara last night; hits were made on the docks, buildings and moles.

4.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

Admiralty
Islands.

8(a) All enemy attacks on the Allied Momote perimeter were repulsed last night and to-day. Destroyers continued their bombardment and substantial reinforcements were successfully landed. Enemy air action was limited to a single small raid.

(b) An Allied cruiser and destroyer force heavily bombarded coastal batteries guarding the northern entrance to Seeadler Harbour without opposition this afternoon and also enemy concentrations on Los Negros Island; and 4 destroyers supported ground forces by bombarding enemy positions at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville.

9. Further heavy air attacks were made on Rabaul to-day. Two out of four small cargo vessels were sunk in Ataliklikun Bay, and the two others were disabled and driven ashore next day.

ARIADNE, minesweeper, arrived at Seeadler Harbour
on 4/3/44, on transfer to U.S. Pacific Fleet.
(Abstract Vol. 24/145)

21 1/2 W 11/2 19 2 4 28/2

War Diary.

4.3.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

GLASGOW. GLASGOW is to pass the gate at 1430/5 and proceed through position.
GA 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10.
GB 047 degs. 58' N. 015 degs. 01' W.
GC 042 degs. 35' N. 020 degs. 31' W. and thence to Angra to disembark passengers.
(2) GLASGOW is then to proceed to Horta to oil.
(3) If disembarkation of passengers is not possible at Angra S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to divert GLASGOW to Horta.
(4) S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to sail GLASGOW to R/V with convoy M.K.F.29 as ordered by F.O.G.M.A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041214A to S.B.N.O. Azores, GLASGOW.)

Flag of C.S.10. C. in C. H.F. 291830. Rear Admiral F.G.H. Dalrymple-Hamilton C.B. has to-day hoisted his flag in BELFAST and assumed command of 10th Cruiser Squadron vice V. Adml. R.L. Burnett K.B.E. C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.
(C.S.10, 041220A to Admty.)

Herring Fishery. Your 031613. Approved subject to concurrence of A.C.O.S.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 041231A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen)

CAPEL. Your 231426 and 041143. Approved for CAPEL to revert to operational duties and to be taken in hand for A's and A's at Belfast to replace GOULD.
(2) CAPEL is to be brought up to operational complement.
(D.O.D. H, 042133A to C. in C. W.A.)

TRADEWIND, SPIRIT. Request you will sail TRADEWIND and SPIRIT for Gibraltar for onward passage to Eastern Fleet about 12th March.
(F.O.S.042253A to Capt. S.3)

VAMPIRE. Request you will sail VAMPIRE for Gibraltar about 12th March for allocation to 1st or 10th Flot. as ordered by C. in C. Med.
(F.O.S.042309A to Capt. S.3)

Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. Am keeping fighter and A/S patrols to-day. My position 052 degs. 22' N. 014 degs. 12' W.
(PURSUER, 040818A to C. in C. W.A.)
M/V BRISBANE STAR reports that when in 53 degs. 35' N. 16 degs. 46' W. at 0300/1/3/G.M.T. steering N. 70 degs. E. speed 15 knots, she sighted flashing light bearing 180 degs. distant four to five miles. Flashes were intermittent and irregular from sea level.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 041250 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.4.3.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.A/S
operations
off
Western
Ireland.
(Contd.)S.L. 149/M.K.S.40, 055° 00' N. 010° 00' W.
at approx. 1200A/5th. S.O.E.G.39 in
ROCHESTER. PURSUER and FENCER in company.
51 ships.
(C. in C.W.A. 041704A to R.N.A.S.Maydown.)Operation
F.X.Transmissions including one at 0655Z indicate
U/Boat probably in contact with R.A.57.
(D.D.I.C. 040837A to A.I.G.47.)
Enemy aircraft probably homing U/Boats onto
R.A.57.
(D.D.I.C. 041050A to A.I.G.47.)Following for C. in C. Royal Norwegian Force. Begins:
"Coastline Camps Morton Campbell Cape Linne, reconnoitred by
patrol. Nothing to report from drifting ice all along the
coast." Ends.

("Locomotive" 041100Z to Admty.)

R.A.57. Noon P.C.S. 073° 37' N. 024° 00' E. 250° 9 knots.
Shadowing aircraft and U/Boats in company. One U/Boat destroyed
Weather 4481 9533.

(R.A.D.H.F. 041210A to H.F.)

EMPIRE BARD fell out during the night 2nd March.
Subsequent search for her in low visibility proved unsuccessful.
It is presumed she returned to Kola Inlet.

(R.A.D.H.F. 041236A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

R.A.D. 041236. EMPIRE BARD not returned to Kola Inlet
nor has any signal been received from her. Air search up to
position F will be carried out at first light tomorrow.
EMPIRE BARD carries one W/T operator. Convoy sailing orders
instruct stragglers to follow route "Brown!"

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 041642A to Admty.)

Biscay A/S
operations.
U/Boat
attacked by
FORT
WILLIAM.Request you will sail NAIRANA and ACTIVITY due
to arrive at Gibraltar in O.S.69/K.M.S.43 to
provide air and A/S cover for M.K.F.29. My
132109 Feb. is amended accordingly.
(C. in C.W.A. 041134A to F.O.G.M.A.)
T.G.21.16 U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND and 5 destroyers,
operating approx. in vicinity 049° 15' N. 026°
30' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 041528A to Ships.)Group attacked S/M contact 042° 24' N. 025° 41' W. at
1300Z today. Contact lost after 5 attacks and search was
abandoned. No visible results. Weather 9080 2463.
(FORT WILLIAM, 041632Z to C. in C.W.A.)Search for
U/Boat
abandoned.Abandon search for U/Boat (German).
2. PINK and WALLFLOWER are to proceed by
standard route to Londonderry.
3. OXLIP is to be detached in North Channel to
proceed by Skye route to Greenock.
4. Force 111 is disbanded from 2000A/4th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041142A and 041842A to
Force 111.)

/Convoys...

4.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Convoys
J.W.58
and
R.A.58.

C. in C. H.F. 031405. F.O.C.T. is requested to inform C. in C.H.F. whether paras. 2 and 3 can be complied with.
(C. in C.W.A. 041156A to F.O.C.T.)
C. in C.W.A.'s 031945. Request TRACKER may proceed Scapa on 15th March or as soon as practicable after this date.
(C. in C.H.F. 041252A to F.O.C.T.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 041157A. 041504A.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 041349A.)

S/M
Patrols.

Own submarine positions at 0800/5th and movements for 24 hours following:
A. ZWAARDFISCH, VENTURER, SCEPTRE and SEANYMPH as in my 031744.
C. VIKING sails from Plymouth at 0930/5th by standard route on the surface and escorted until North of Round Island, thence dived by day to vicinity 50° 45' N. 010° 01' W.
(F.O.S. 041706 to Admty.)

S.C.
operation.

My 291258A February.
Sailed at 2135A today S.C.VIGRA.
2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 042140 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.Night
landing
difficulties.

1. A/C state is as follows:
a. NAIRANA 7 Swordfish, 4 Hurricanes, 2 Fulmars, 1 Hurricane, 1 Fulmar, and 1 Swordfish jettisoned after crash landings and 1 Swordfish went over the starboard side during night landing.
b. ACTIVITY 4 Swordfish, 2 Wildcats.
2 Swordfish crash landed and 1 Wildcat went over port side during landing.
2. Both ships are finding night landing very difficult due to narrow deck and ship's movement. ACTIVITY pitches very bad and in NAIRANA pitch is often sufficient to prevent pilot seeing enough deck lighting to keep straight. These limits seriously restrict our night work.
3. P.C.S. 035° 02' N. 012° 28' W. at 2200Z, 098° 6 knots.
Weather 5772 2473.
(NAIRANA, 042330 to C. in C.W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity.Jan
Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen, T.O.O. 040930Z.
Aircraft heard north west of Island.
(A.C.I.C. 042202A to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F.)

War Diary.

4.3.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Harwich. Ground mine detonated on 300° 52 buoy, 5 cables.
(COTTESMORE, 040924A to C. in C. Nore.)

Search of Q.Z.S.117. Leave Harwich with 4th M.S.Flottilla A.M. 6th and proceed by searched channels in force and Q.Z.S.446, 117, 284, 454 and 399 to Portland. Pass Spithead Gate at 0700Z/7th.
2. Carry out Oropesa search over area 1½ miles each side of centre line of Q.Z.S.117 on passage.
(C. in C. Nore, 041843A to M/S 4.)

Casualties and Defects.

ERNE. My 032253. Repairs complete. My position 270 Tory Island, 10 miles, course 230, speed 16 knots.
(ERNE, 040430A to C. in C.W.A.)

RORA HEAD. SS. RORA HEAD, reports considerable damage due to collision with unknown landing craft in 56° 34' N. 02° 25' W. at 040625.
(N.O.I.C. Leith, 041624A to Admty.)

GATINEAU. GATINEAU has had distiller trouble since leaving Azores. Repairs have now broken down and she has only 4 days' feed water remaining. Intend detaching her to Merville at dawn tomorrow.
(C.2, 042144Z to C. in C.W.A.)

4.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MONTCALM. My position 027° 27' N. 015° 32' W. surface speed reduced to 8.5 knots by serious engine trouble.
(MONTCALM, 040900Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
My 041451Z to F.O.C.W.Af. is passed to you for information. My 021115Z refers. Message begins:
MONTCALM reports at 0900/4 from position 27.27 N. 15.32 W.
(A) Starboard engines and port screws damaged.
(B) Speed reduced to 8 knots.
(C) Requests air cover.
(D) As Dakar cannot assist Comar Casablanca has been informed and requested for air cover from Igadir. Message ends.
(Comar Dakar, 041527Z to C. in C. Med.)
Warships departed March 4th KILBIRNIE to O.S.69. LA GRACIEUSE and P.C.475 to join MONTCALM.
(Commorseafron, 042204A.)

S.L. 150: Have ordered WINCHELSEA to return Gibraltar by direct route. Speed 14 knots. Split plate leaking badly. My P.C.S. 035° 56' N. 012° 04' W. (U) 283°, 8 knots.
Weather report 2862 1563.
(B.4., 041830Z to F.O.G.M.A.)
My P.C.S. at 2001A/4 are 036° 04' N. 011° 31' W. (? estimated), (? 091* degs.), 14 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1759A/5. Have serious leak in engine room. Weather report 1952 1263.
(WINCHELSEA, 042002A.)
* could be 168°.

South Atlantic.

NORSEMAN. 0830/4 departed to repair cable at 02.08 S. 42.55 W.
(Via Grabbag, 041130.)

Operation "Tabarin". Following from "Tabarin". Bronze cylinder containing Argentina document laying claim to territories lying between meridian 025° and 068° 34' W. and south of parallel 060° has been found at base (A).
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 041247Z.)

4.4.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep No.43. Total of 4372 tons discharged at Anzio for 3rd March of which 155 tons discharged at Anzio for 3rd March of which 155 tons unloaded from L.C.I.(L)'s. At 1430 unloading from Liberties ceased owing to heavy swell. Shelling of Fort and anchorage continued but with less intensity and no success.

(2) Heavy air attack on Port area early morning of 3rd March. No Naval damage or casualties. No further enemy air activity for the rest of the day.

(3) MAURITIUS reports six shoots carried out against gun batteries. Three against troop concentrations, 497 rounds expended results reported very effective.

(C. in C. Med.(Naples) 040928A)

TERPSICHORE, A.M. 030217/ TERPSICHORE joined station requiring boiler cleaning and was incompletely worked up. KEMPENFELT. Ship is now proceeding to Levant for these purposes and will be ready to relieve KEMPENFELT about 20th March. My 071248 Jan. refers.

(2) KEMPENFELT is at present under repair at Taranto and will be sailed for U.K. about 24th March or on completion of repair which-ever is later.

(C. in C. Med. 041126A)

✓ Re: Request information when KEMPENFELT is expected to sail for U.K.

BOXOL, BOXOL reports:- Regret to report damage to damage caused 26th Feb. R.F.A. BOXOL caused by SS. FORT GLOUCESTER breaking adrift on 26.2.44. T.O.O.?040900. Ends. (Naples C.C.O. 041145A)

BERTHA. German BERTHA (probably ex BACCHUS) entered Dardanelles in transit for Black Sea 2200 G.M.T. 3rd. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 041151C to F.O.L.E.M.) My 041151C. BERTHA sails for Constanza p.m.4th. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 041834C)

GARIBALDI, Concur in para. 1 of your 032119, F.O.T.A.L.I. is AOSTA. requested to sail GARIBALDI accordingly on March 6th or when ready. (2) Cancel my 282056 Feb. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to sail AOSTA to Med. after exchange of Admirals. (C. in C. Med. 041500A, 041546A)

C. in C. Med. intends sailing GARIBALDI to Freetown to effect exchange of Admirals Oliva and Biancheri and to carry spare propeller for ABRUZZI.

(2) GARIBALDI will return to duty in Med. on completion. (V.C.N.S. 041933A)

ULTIMATUM. From Kaso Strait proceed (route) to Malta. You are to proceed diving by day on 7th and 8th. Your surface speed is estimated as 8½ knots). (S.L, 041758 to ULTIMATUM, (R) F.O.L.E.M., V.A.M. R.A.Alex. Air Authorities, C. in C. Med.) Joint/...

^{3.}
4.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Joint
Naval
Army R.A.F.
Int.
Appreciation.

(C. in C. M.E. 041945)

War Diary.4.3.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U-Boat disposition No. 31. Area A, B, C, E, and F. No fresh information. No change in scale of air escort.
 Area D. SS. ASCOT torpedoed and sunk approx. 800 miles 072° from Diego Suarez 28th/29th Feb. indicates Japanese U-Boat moving into area. Increase scale of air escort to X.
 Area G. SS. FORT MCLEOD torpedoed in 002° 01' N. 077° 06' E. at approx. 1650Z/3rd. Scale of air escort Z.
 Indian Ocean. Japanese U-Boat plotted by D/F at 0900Z/3rd to be within 150 miles of 005° S. 084° E. may be moving south-west. (C. in C. E.F., 040328.)

SS. ASCOT sunk 28th/29th Feb. SS. ASCOT torpedoed and sunk. 8 survivors picked up by SS. STRAAT SOENDA at 031710Z report rest of crew killed. Date of attack probably night 28th/29th Feb. ASCOT reported position at 281500Z as 004° 54' S. 063° 15' E. (C. in C. E.F., 040530Z.)

Convoy A.M.1. Ref. 469 C:- (A) A.M.1, 4 ships. (B) JUMNA, PENN, FLAMINGO. (C) 0900 FG 5th. (N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 040555Z.)

TORNUS. Damaged tanker TORNUS. Re repairs. (C. in C. E.F., 040600.)
 Re SS. TORNUS Tanker completes temp. stiffening at Karachi proceeding to Calcutta for docking and permanent repairs.

62

4.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Unnecessary disclosure of information by U.S. Authorities. It has been ascertained that, when last sailing from New York, PASTEUR was issued with copies of Admty. messages giving outward routes from U.K. of T.A.90, T.A.93 and U.C.13. Details of passage of U.S. S/M R.7 were also included.

2. Request you will represent to Com. Tenth Fleet that it appears to us that:

(a) this is an unnecessary disclosure of information in view of the responsibility of Cominch, C. in C. C.N.A. and Admty. for safe routing and diversion of shipping (C.A.M.S.I.76 refers).

(b) as convoys and independent ships are often diverted from the routes originally ordered, the knowledge of such routes might be misleading to Masters of other ships who did not intercept the diversion.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 040026A to B.A.D.)

H.X.281. Following received from Cdre. ships H.X.281. "Submarine sighted on port bow at 0240Z/4". Air R/C plot approx. bearings Camperdown 097° Canso 115°.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 040510Z to G.B. 7A.)

H.X.281 following ships arrived Halifax 4th March.
HORACE BUSHNELL (U.S.) 0935Z heavy weather damage, 2 injured men.
HENRY H. RICHARDSON (U.S.) 1235Z lifeboats defect, 3 injured men.
WILLIAM WINDOM (U.S.) 1230Z lifeboat defect.
JOHN MITCHELL (U.S.) 1240Z straggler lost convoy.
THOMAS HOWELL (U.S.) 1325Z straggler lost convoy.
CITY OF YOKOHAMA 1615Z boiler and lifeboat defect.
BARTHOLOMEW? GOSNOLD (U.S.) 1920Z straggler lost convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S., 041844Z.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 020646Z para. (C). (Am.) ELIZA JANE NICHOLSON sights sub. vicinity 44.16 N. 56.00 W. at 1200Z/3.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 040520Z.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 041402Z; Cominch 041540Z.)

T.G. 28.8 C.T.G. 28.8 Com. Mills in ALBEMARLE, GOFF, McCORMICK plus COTOCTIN* (upon reporting). Proceed from Norfolk 1200/5 to Casablanca transport aviation, personnel, equipment and material. COTOCTIN* escorted by McCORMICK, GOFF will be detached Casablanca proceeding direct Gibraltar.
(C.T.G. 28.8., 041505.)

* Not in list of U.S. War Vessels. Spelling uncertain.

COSBY. COSBY sailed Argentinia 1445/4 to R/V H.X.281 in 043° 12' N. 050° 29' W. at 1200Z/5 as additional escort to U.K. under orders S.O. B.6.
(F.O.N.F., 041512Z to S.E. H.X.281.)

War Diary.4.3.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N. 225: Following received for transmission. P.F.41*
JOEL R. broken in half. 11 men taken off 61 remain
POINSETT. in aft half. Likely to remain afloat. Master
considers towing possible. Position 285° 145
miles from Sable Island. My position 043° 11'
N. 057° 56' W. Weather same.
(NANAIMO, 041604Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
* ? Ship in O.N.225.

O.N.225: P.F.32 EMPIRE CHIVALRY reported broken in two in
approx. 043° 21' N. 056° 27' W. at 1810Z/4th.
Rescue ships ZAMALEK from H.X.281, EDDYSTONE from O.N.225 and
H.M.C.S. PORT HOPE proceeding to assistance. Weather report
4797 9568.
(RED DEER, 042251Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

T.G. 27.2. This constitutes Task Group 27.3, C.O. MELVILLE,
Comcordiv 47 in BORUM, MALOY. Task Group
proceed U.K. when ready about 8th March report
upon arrival to Com. 12th Fleet, MELVILLE for
temporary duty. Escorts temporarily pending further assignment.
Task Group dissolved on arrival.
(C. in C. Lant, 041817.)

M.M.S. for Cominch concurs in transfer of 8 M.M.S. to French
French. under conditions of C.C.S.358 (revised) para.7(A).
Your 291812* refers.
(B.A.D., 042013Z to C. in C. Med.)
* Re loan of Minesweeper to French.

U/B report. R.C.A.F. report:- Submarine sighted in position
51.19 N. 132.46 W. ends. *DWIAK investigating.
(N.O.I.C. Prince Rupert, 042140Z.)
* as received.

N.O.I.C. P.R.'s 042141/ (042140 intended) latest report is
periscope only sighted attack with machine guns carried out by
aircraft. Clarification and results not at present known.
Investigation by aircraft and patrols proceeding.
(C.O.P.C., 042259Z.) * No trace in W.R.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack Para. A. (1) A/C U/304 attacked U-Boat with D/Cs.
and sighting at 2120/3 in 47° 05' N. 05° 40' W.
summary. (2) TALLY-HO sighted periscope at 0500/1 in 08°
55' N. 81° 30' E.

War Diary.

4.3.1944.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(3) Br. SS. ASCOT torpedoed date unknown,
probably several days before 3rd March, in 07°
30' S. 62° 00' E.

(4) Br. SS. FORT MCLEOD torpedoed at 1650/3 in
02° 01' N. 77° 06' E.

(5) A/C attacked U-Boat at 1402/2 in 04° 44' N.
08° 08' E.

(6) A/C reported U-Boat at 1815/3 in 33° 40' N. 22° 00' E.
Para. D. (1) Transit A/C sighted C/T from 8,000 feet at 1403/3rd
March in 05° 38' N. 10° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 041110Z.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 041451A, 041455A.)

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.
One U/Boat
destroyed
by A/C.
EMPIRE
TOURIST
torpedoed
on 4th
March.

1a. R.A.D. H.F. reports that at noon today Convoy R.A.57 was about 190 miles S.W. of Bear Island steering 250° at 9 knots. He adds that U/Boats were then still in touch with the Convoy; that one U/Boat had been destroyed this morning by A/C; and that the British EMPIRE TOURIST, 7062 tons, was torpedoed without casualties at 1545 yesterday.
b. At 0237A today Admiralty informed him that Enemy A/C were homing U/Boats on to the Convoy

GLASGOW.

2. The Cruiser GLASGOW left Plymouth at 1452A today to take an R.A.F. detachment to the Azores. It is intended that she should return with Convoy M.K.F.29.

A/S
operations
off
Western
Ireland.

3. At 1101A today Escort Group C.2 supporting Convoy H.X.280 attacked a deep U/Boat contact about 440 miles West of Valentia, and is continuing the hunt.

Enemy
Mines.

4. Seven Mines were detonated by Sweepers off Yarmouth today and an eighth was sighted but could not be cleared from the sweep; and one Mine was sunk and another sighted in the Smiths Knoll area.

South Atlantic.

U/B in
Bight
of
Biafra.

5. SS. JOHN HOLT was torpedoed at 2113Z today in 03.56 N. 07.30 E. (60 miles south-west of Calabar).

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

6. Wind of gale force and a very heavy swell seriously impeded unloading at Anzio today. There was no enemy air activity, but the port and

/anchorage...

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".
(Contd.)

anchorage were shelled continuously, though no casualties are reported.
b. The enemy is extensively jamming the army radar ashore, causing loss of warning in recent air raids.

Adriatic.

7. Allied aircraft (including French and Italian), continue daily their shipping strikes and armed reconnaissances in the Adriatic. Today an F/Boat was hit and left sinking in Peljesac Channel, Yugoslavia; and 170 x 500 G.P. bombs were dropped on the main quay, dock facilities etc. at San Stefano.

UNSPARING.

8. On return from patrol in the northern Aegean UNSPARING reports one torpedo hit on a tanker believed to be the German SS. PETER at 0300/19 Feb. in 39.31 N. 23.18 E. (about 20 miles north of Skiathos I.) and that she sank 4 caiques in the same area between 22nd and 25th February.

M.L.387
destroyed.

9. M.L.387 was destroyed by internal explosion in Beirut harbour this evening, and some other M.Ls and harbour craft were damaged. There were several casualties, and some damage was caused ashore.

East Indies.

Convoy
A.M.1.

10. The first Chittagong to Madras Convoy, A.M.1, sailed to-day.

Convoys
to and
from
Kilindini.

11(a) A U-Boat was sighted and attacked by aircraft at 0200Z to-day in 12.00 S. 49.30 E. (off Diego Suarez). There is no further information.

(b) In view of the presence of a Japanese U-Boat in the area North of Madagascar, C. in C. E.F. considers that the Kilindini-Durban section of A.K.D/D.K.A. Convoys should be reinstated as soon as the necessary escorts are available, which will be in about a week's time.

³
5. ~~X~~. 1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

H.X.281
O.N.225
in bad
weather.

12. Convoys H.X.281 and O.N.225 have become badly scattered by the weather. Seven ships, the majority damaged, from the former convoy put into Halifax yesterday and two today, and others are returning. SS. JOEL R. POINSETT in O.N.225 was reported yesterday afternoon to have broken in half in 43.15 N. 56.45 W. (about 145 miles S.S.W. of Sable Island) and SS. JANE A. DELANO, in H.X.281, was reported early this afternoon to be breaking up in 44.20 N. 56.00 W. (about 170 miles S.E. of Cape Race), but the ship arrived at St. Johns N.F. with heavy weather damage, including a cracked hull, on 9th March. Early this morning, out of 60 ships of O.N.225, only 35 were in company with the Commodore. Eventually, no less than 25 ships from Convoy H.X.281 returned to Halifax, St. Johns N.F. and New York.

Australia and New Zealand.

New
Guinea.

13. Following a preliminary bombardment with rocket gunfire by 7 M.T.B's, American forces this morning made a successful unopposed landing at Yalau Plantation, 26 miles East of Bogadyim, New Guinea (5 S. 146 $\frac{3}{4}$ E.)

14. Simpsons Harbour, Rabaul was bombed again to-day by 22 Mitchells with 17 escorting Corsairs. Fires were started in the wharf area.

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

SIRDAR Request you will sail P.226 for Gibraltar and onward passage to Eastern Fleet leaving Plymouth about 15th March.
(F.O.S. 051004A to Capt.(S) 5).

GLASGOW Sailed GLASGOW as in my 041214.
(2) S.O.A. 19 knots adjusted to arrive Angra at 0900/8 March.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051425A to S.B.N.O. Azores).

VANSITTART F.O.I.C. Liverpool 011721.
VANSITTART is to be paid off into reserve at Tyne.
(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail her when ready.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 051931A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Operations.

Operation "F.X." Enemy A/C are homing U/boats on to R.A.57.
(D.D.I.C., 050237A to A.I.G. 47).
One U/boat destroyed Following is a paraphrase of B.A.M.S. message
by aircraft. made to EMPIRE BARD begins. Convoy estimated
EMPIRE position H at 1600A/5th, thence proceed position
TOURIST J. Unless you can rejoin convoy today or you
torpedoed have received fresh orders proceed at your
on 4th March. discretion through new position X 000 degs. posi-
tion H 40 miles, and new position Y 310 degs.
position J 75 miles, thence to position C. On
crossing longitude 000 degs. report your
position. Ends.
(C. in C.H.F., 051137 to R.A.D. H.F.).
R.A.57. Noon P.C.S. 072 degs. 22' N. 012 degs. 12' E.
250 degs. 9 knots. U/boats still in touch with convoy. EMPIRE
TOURIST torpedoed 1545/4th, no casualties. One U/boat destroyed
by aircraft this morning. Request A/S air cover daylight
tomorrow. Weather 3872, 9076.
(R.A.D.H.F. 051211A to H.F.).
A Catalina will escort about 0640 unutil 1503 tomorrow.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 052231A to R.A.57).

Biscay A/S Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 43 degs. 15' N.
operations. 011 degs. 35' W.
(A/C 050538A to 19 Group).
My 0538. U/boat was on surface and seen to sub-
merge, 360 degs. 6 knots.
(A/C, 050635A to 19 Group).
C.T.G. 21.16 290905 and 291758 February, Comnavu 031836.
3 hours after turned formation toward DAQ bearing made sound
contact, delivered Mark 10 attack. Lost contact at 100 yards.
During subsequent search of area BRONSTEIN made sound contact 5
miles from original spot. In approach kept contact until
rammed buoy. Following day located Red whistling buoy, marked
HL. In test approach gave excellent sound contact. Sank by

/gunfire...

War Diary5.3.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Biscay A/S
operations
(Contd.).

gunfire. Have warned escorts obvious hazards ramming attempts on motionless sound contacts. (C.T.G. 21.16, 051141 to Cinclant).
Estimated P.C.S. of T.G. 120.7 at 2000A/5th, 047 degs. 20' N. 020 degs. 21' W. 055 degs. 10 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 051211Z to K.M.F. 29A).

Circumstances permitting proceed at best speed to Horta to fuel.

(3) After fuelling at Azores intention is for groups to join and support H.X.281.

(C. in C.W.A., 051228A to E.G.9).

My 051800Z. P.C.S. 44.59 N. 30.56 W., 180, 8. Have been unable to operate aircraft north of Azores due sea and weather. Will re-open concentration area when conditions improve.

(C.T.G. 21.11, 051920 to Cinclant).

If not in contact with enemy DEANE, CRANSTOUN and REDMILL are to be detached on crossing 043 degs. N. to proceed to the Nore as routed by C. in C. Plymouth.

(C. in C.W.A., 052307 to SPEY).

V.P.
operations.

My 251145A. M.T.B. 684 (S.O.) and M.T.B. 623 sailed at 0815A today.

(2) Yes.

(A.C.O.S., 050821A to Admty.).

(A) My 251852. M.T.B. 687 S.O., M.T.B. 685, and M.T.B. 683 sailed at 2130A today.

(2) Yes.

(A.C.O.S., 052203A to Admty.).

(A) My 251842. M.T.B. 715 S.O., M.T.B. 691, M.T.B. 618, and M.T.B. 688 sailed at 2135A today. (2) Yes.

(A.C.O.S. 052206A to Admty.).

A/S
operations
off S.W.
Ireland.

D/F bearing at 0736Z indicate U/boat in your vicinity which may possibly have reported convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 059910A to C.2. Escorts H.X.280). Admiralty's 050910. Bearing 040 degs. estimated over 30 miles. My P.C.S. 052 degs. 00' N. 022 degs. 30' W. 058 degs. 9.

Weather 3871, 0933.

(B.7, 050915Z to C. in C.W.A.).

My 050915. C2 group attacking good contact 5 miles on port beam of convoy.

(B.7, 051101Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Intention is for C2 E.G. to join and support S.C.154 a.m. 8th March. Approximate estimated P.C.S. at 0800/8th, 044 degs. N. 029 degs. W., 039 degs. 7½ knots.

(2) C2 E.G. is not to leave H.X.280 earlier than dusk 5th.

(3) Any time in hand is to be spent patrolling area between latitudes 050 degs. 30' 052 degs. 01' and longitude 024 degs. and 026 degs. 30', withdrawing to westward by day if A/S conditions are bad.

(C. in C.W.A., 051131Z to C.2.).

/Hunting...

War Diary5.3.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations off S.W. Ireland. (Contd.).
Hunting deep U/boat in 052 degs. 02' N. 022 degs. 26' W. CHILLIWACK, FENNEL and KENILWORTH CASTLE in company. ICARUS, GATINEAU and CHAUDIERE rejoining convoy. H.M.C.S. GATINEAU leaving as requisite to comply with my 042144. (C.2, 051525Z to C. in C.W.A.).
Other than the one reported in B.7's 051101Z no U/boat believed to be in contact with H.X.280 who no longer require support.

(2) My 051131. Report intentions. (C. in C.W.A., 051928A to C.2.).

Intend following anti U/boat operations for VINDEX and support group.

(2) VINDEX and 6th E.G. to leave North Channel p.m. 9th March to operate in U/boat area especially those threatening trans-Atlantic convoys routed to south.

(3) 2nd E.G. to leave Londonderry 11th March to act as support group or striking force for VINDEX. After 2nd E.G. have joined, corvettes of 6th E.G. will be required to return to North Ireland for another operation.

(4) VINDEX and escort to operate for approximately 3 weeks unless circumstances require otherwise.

(C. in C.W.A., 052303A to Admty.).

S/M patrols. Sailed VIKING and escort. My 041458 refers. (C. in C. Plymouth, 050927A to F.O.S.).
ZWAARDVISCH is to proceed after dark tonight direct to patrol line FF. (Capt.(S) 9, 051213A to S/Ms.).

Positions of submarines at 0800/6th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SEANYMPH, VENTURER, SCEPTRE as in my 031744.

(B) ZWAARDFISCH leaves vicinity 65 degs. 20' N. 01 degs. 10' E. after dark 5th, diving by day to patrol vicinity 63 degs. 30' N. 01 degs. 00' E.

(D) VIKING 50 degs. 20' N. 08 degs. 50' W. dived by day to patrol vicinity 50 degs. 50' N. 10 degs. 02' W.

(F.O.S., 051744 to Admty.).

SEANYMPH is leaving patrol at 0001A/6th routed through 065 degs. 30' N. 005 degs. 40' E., route "Orange" and 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 16 miles to Lerwick, E.T.A. daylight 9th, proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast.

(Capt.(S) 9, 051747A to S/Ms.).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051306A).
(V.A. Dover, 051555A).

Russian convoys J.W.58 & R.A.58. Your 031405 para.2. A second Avenger/Wildcat equipped Carrier is not available.
(2) The only Avenger/Wildcat Squadron which could be made available has had no carrier experience and time would not be sufficient to work it up in CHASER before J.W.58.

/ (3) Your...

War Diary

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Russian
Convoys
J.W.58 &
R.A.58.
(Contd.).

(3) Your para.3 is being investigated.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 051409A to C. in C.H.F.).

"S.C."
operation.

My 291253A. Sailed at 1400A today S.C.HITRA.
(2) No.
(A.C.O.S., 051430 to Admty.).

Allied Air Activity.

One enemy
M/V
attacked.

Result of attack. One medium vessel 3,000 tons.
Hits observed in 58 degs. 24' N. 06 degs. 04' E.
(A/C, WHDK 051920 to 18 Group).
My 1920. Position of enemy one medium vessel
3000 tons, 2 merchant vessels 2000 tons. 58 degs.
24' N. 6 degs. 04' E.
(A/C, WHDK, 051940 to 18 Group).

My 1920. P.C.S. of enemy one merchant vessel 5000 tons, 4
merchant vessels, 58 degs. 23' N. 5 degs. 52' E. Stationary.
(A/C, WHOM 051941 to 19 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen

Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 051000Z. Aircraft
probably Focke-Wolfe 200 crossing Island 0950
southerly course.
(A.C.I.C., 051538A to Admty.).

Orkneys

Prep X was made at 1830 today on Ju.88 which
passed over Hoy at 50 feet on southerly course.
E/A was seen by coastguard and air warden at
Rackwick where it made landfall on south easterly
course. It then crossed the Firth towards Dunnet Head and was
seen by LORD LLOYD to alter course to 270 degs. when West of
Dunnet Head still at height of 50 feet. No guns opened fire.
Fighters went up but no contact was made. Conditions were
suitable for photography and visual R/C but E/A did not pass to
the eastward of Hoy.
(A.C.O.S. 052300 to Admty.).

Mining.

Yarmouth

"O" sweepers, 2 mines cut, 2 mines exploded in
016 degs. 57A Buoy 3.4 miles at 1113.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 051235A to Admty.).
My 051235. Further mine cut in 026 degs. 57A

buoy 2.8 miles at 1125.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 051315A to Admty.).

My 051235A and my 051315A.

Further three mines swept in same area making total eight. All
type G.R.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 051435A to Admty.).

/My...

War Diary

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Yarmouth (Contd.). My 051435. Total should read 7. The 2 mines swept additional to my 051325 and 051315 were swept in 018 degs. 57A Buoy 3 miles. One cut and one exploded. A further mine fouled Otter and was sighted in same position but could not be cleared. Sweep was cut and Oropesa float sunk in 046 degs. 57A 1.8 miles, but mine may possibly have re-moored itself. Position was danned.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 052151A to Admty.).
(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth, 061515A to C. in C. Nore).

Search off Smiths Knoll. Search in K formation to depth of 10 cables completed on Western edge. Negative result.
(2) Clearance extended further 8 cables to eastward. Negative result.
(3) Large drifting mine recently laid seen in 052 degs. 41' 30" N. 002 degs. 19' E. Failed to explode or sink with close-range weapons. 4 very long horns, one short horn on top plate, spherical top cylinders, body coloured black.
(M/S 7, 051751 to C. in C. Nore).
(1) 4 Laps swept to depth 12 fathoms with negative result. Total width of QZX 1228 now swept from eastward 2 1/4 miles.
(2) E.T.A. Yarmouth Roads 1930A.
(3) Floating mine sunk by gunfire in 052 degs. 56A Buoy 3 miles at 1740A. Similar to type reported in N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth's 291900A.
(M/S 15, 051815A to C. in C. Nore).

Casualties and Defects.

CARISBROOKE CASTLE. Cancel my 050256A. CARISBROOKE CASTLE returning Greenock with engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 050658A to Cdre. D.W.A.).

L.C.T.609 N.O.I.C. Leith 041624A. L.C.T. 609 now in Montrose with collision damage.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 051009A to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Italian
ships in
Balearic
Islands.

Italian N.A. visited me today to protest at the situation created by the Roosevelt declaration regarding Italian demurrage. N.A. pointed out that situation in ships in Balearic Islands already difficult was now critical. Majority personnel ready and willing to take their ships out to fight common enemy but they would certainly sink them rather than hand over to Russia. Germans and Fascism take fullest advantage of this situation for propaganda amongst crews. Should be grateful for skilful guidance in replying to Italians. (B.N.A. Madrid, 051245A to Admty.).

SS. KOSCIUS-
ZKO.

Cancel my 011502Z (N.T. in W.D.) SS KOSCIUSZKO advises that not damaged in anyway and that faulty retransmission of a message responsible for previous erroneous report. Estimate ready for sea 8th March. (Comnav Azores, 051356Z).

SPITEFUL

(?Proceed) diving by day 136 miles per 24 hours and R/V with KILMARNOCK in position
(a) 039 degs. 32' N. 013 degs. W. at 0800/8th. KILMARNOCK has been ordered to escort you through
(b) 034 degs. N. 013 degs. W. at 1445/9th to QBA 102 so as to arrive Casablanca 1700/10th S. of A. 10.8 knots.
(2) Details.
(F.O.G.M.A., 051428A to P.227 (SPITEFUL).
The following route was made to SPITEFUL (as 051428).
(F.O.G.M.A., 051442 to KILMARNOCK).

M.K.S.41
WINCHELSEA

WINCHELSEA returned defective.
(F.O.G.M.A., 051738A).

GENEROSO,
PUNTA
ALMINA.

Expected to leave Marseilles about 6th March for Gibraltar Swiss GENEROSO not to be molested routed coastwise to Cape San Sebastian thence by standard route.
(2) Spanish PUNTA ALMINA 1080 gross tonnage, expected to leave Valencia 6th March for Sete with oranges for Sweden. Not to be molested.
(F.O.G.M.A. 052222A to 10th S/M. F. ORPHEE, LA SULTANE, (R) Capt.(S) 10).

South Atlantic.

Re-allocation of escorts. A.M. 071236 F.O.C.W.Af. 102357 and 281408.

/ Shipping...

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Re-allocation of escorts. (Contd.) Shipping to be used for movement of 82nd Division is of normal K.M.F. type for which River Class frigates are fully capable of providing adequate escort.
(2) ROTHER and WYE arrive Gibraltar about 20th March.
(3) F.O.C.W.Af. 102357 para. 3. indicates that DOUGLAS may be no better than WITHERINGTON. After examination of VISCOUNT and DOUGLAS F.O.G.M.A. is requested to signal any revised proposal for the relief of WITHERINGTON, but for the present DOUGLAS, VISCOUNT and WITHERINGTON may all be retained in 13th Flotilla as long as they can be kept operational without major repairs.
(4) GARLAND should be sailed to join 8th D.F. at first convenient opportunity after 20th March.
(5) WEAR and DOVERY should join W.Af. Command about end of March and April respectively. VERITY, MALCOLM and WOLVERINE may be retained after their arrival as long as essential to assist with move of 82nd Division. Their earliest possible release is however necessary.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 051758A to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.G.M.A.).

SHEAF Overdue shipping. Cancel my 281700 Feb. SHEAF
CROWN. CROWN arrived Freetown 5th March.
(N.O.I.C.W.Af., 051823Z).

Exchange of Italian Admirals and cruisers. Admty. 041932. My 141214 Feb. expresses my views re changing Biancheri and Oliva.
F.O.T.A.L.I's. 032119 no objection to exchange of GARIBALDI and AOSTA though reason states in para. 3 may be discounted in that ammunition is being salvaged and much will be useable. It had been hoped to retain three Italian cruisers in view of reduction of French cruisers.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 052355Z).
W.D. Note: See C. in C. Med. 050956A.

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

- DOLFIJN Leave patrol a.m. 6th passing through 039 degs. 40' 024 degs. 01' at 0301/6th thence east of Skyros to arrive at position A of standard route at 0101/9th.
(Capt.(S) 1, 050943A to DOLFIJN, PIPINOS, F.O.L.E.M.).
- Exchange of Italian Admirals. Exchange between Admirals must take place. Admty. 041932. Request you inform Admiral Bianchieri that his relief is sailing in GARIBALDI.
F.O.T.A.L.I. 041145.
(C. in C. Med., 050956A to F.O.C.W.Af.).
- UNSPARING patrol report. UNSPARING reports attacking Tanker believed to be PETER at 0300/19th Feb. in 039 degs. 31' 023 degs. 18' course 185, one torpedo hit.
(2) Caiques were sunk by UNSPARING in following positions and times 1730/22nd Feb. 039 degs. 23' 023 degs. 16' 0700/24, 039 degs. 34' 023 degs. 19' 0900/25, 039 degs. 58' 024 degs. 02' 1230/25 039 degs. 52' 024 degs. 04'.
(Capt.(S) 1, 051046).
- Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 44. At Anzio.
Total of 2814 tons discharged during 4th March. Slight shelling of anchorage has continued but no damage or casualties. No bombs dropped. Heavy swell continues to impede unloading.
(C. in C. Med. Naples, 051056A).
- Black Sea. From Intelligence report Feb. 26th to March 3rd.
1. Air attacks on enemy shipping. February 27th 2 self propelled barges damaged. March 2nd one E/boat damaged in Kiik Atlama and one enemy vessel sunk off Cape Tarkhan.
3. Naval. Feb. 28th 9 non contact enemy ground mine went off in Novorossisk harbour. Roumanian gunboat STIHI previously "sunk" reported still in commission. Torpedo boat SMYELI sunk in Bourgas Bay salvaged and being refitted.
5. Patrols. Operations reports Feb. 10th to Feb. 16th received. February 4th to Feb. 9th missing. Add to my 181550:- Para.1. first sunk Feb. 9th was 800 tons. Para.3. one 4,000 ton M/V in enemy convoy probably sunk by S/M off Crimea Feb. 10th.
6. No Black Sea naval successes reported from Feb. 17th onwards and so presumably there are no S/M. sinkings to give for this period.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 051120).
- New sabotage mine. Before armistice Italians were constructing new form of sabotage mine to fit into main inlet of M/Vs.
(2) It is possible that Germans may adopt this for attacks on M/V's. particularly in Italian waters.
(C. in C. Med., 051218A to S. and A. Med. Stn).
/ Transfer...

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Transfer of Italian ships to Russians. Message from Minister of Marine. (F.O.T.A.L.I., 051237). Italians are very worried over President's statement as broadcast. An explanatory statement is anxiously awaited. (F.O.T.A.L.I., 051949 to C. in C. Med. Naples).

TZAR FERDINAND, CELENO. Appreciate TZAR FERDINAND and CELENO will not leave Salonika whilst S/M. is known to be in area. No action is to be taken in this area which may lead enemy to suspect your presence. (Capt.(S) 1, 051504Z to PIPINOS, DOLFIJN, (R) F.O.L.E.M.).

Montevideo dock. Montevideo Dock is now in Canal area with WEAZEL and ORIANA. Onward passage is delayed by repairs to ORIANA completion date unknown and dependent on arrival of engine spares. (F.O.L.E.M., 051641B to C. in C.E.F.).

UNIVERSAL UNIVERSAL reports at 0420/27 in 120 degs. Cape Camarat 4.5 miles fired four torpedoes at escorted westbound tanker in ballast. One hit. (S.10, 052003).

VIRGINIA (safe conduct vessel). Route to Piraeus. 3. Air authorities to be informed accordingly. (C. in C. Med., 052201A to Med. Stn. 581 B).

Situation Report No.308. 2. MAURITIUS shelled enemy guns and troops concentrations in Anzio area on 3rd March. Bombardment reported very effective. 3. Destroyers encountered no shipping during nightly patrols off Vis period first/second March to 3rd/4th March. (C. in C. Med., 052241).

War Diary5.3.1944.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Convoy A.M.1. My 040555Z sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Chittagong, 050320Z).

U/boat disposition No.31. No fresh information, no change in scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F., 050343Z).

Bunkering of coal burning ships. Interim report your 212038 Feb. it is considered that if the ships coal bunker at Cochin no additional delay will occur as the onward convoy they will join from Cochin connects with the same convoy they would otherwise have joined at Colombo. (2) Number of ships involved is being investigated in view of congestion in Colombo Harbour which will increase with break of S.W. Monsoon.
(C. in C.E.F., 050435Z to Admty.).

Convoys to and from Kilindini. Instruct Cmdre. all ships are to remain in convoy into Kilindini for further instructions.
(C. in C.E.F. 050915Z to FISHGUARD, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. E.Af., C. in C.S.A.).
F.O.N.I.C. 349. Negative release class D ships from Kilindini - Durban section of AKD - DKA convoy.
(2) Release class A ships from the above convoys.
(C. in C.E.F., 051001).
In view of the presence of a Japanese U/boat in the area North of Madagascar it is considered that the Kilindini - Durban section of A.K.D. - D.K.A. convoys should now be reinstated. Para.3. of my 260526 Feb.
(2) Request you will arrange with F.O.E.A. to recommence these convoys as soon as the necessary escorts are available.
(C. in C.E.F., 051006Z to C. in C.S.A.).

Weekly summary of events in China. For period 24th Feb. to 1st March 1944 inclusive transmitted by U.S.A.A.F. China.
(C. in C. India, No T.O.O.).

U/boat report. By D/F at 1806Z and 1846Z on 5th March on 7880 k/cs the position of a German U/boat was within 100 miles of 012 degs. N. 057 degs. 30' E.
(2) N.O.i/c E.Af. pass to A.H.Q. E.Af.).
(C. in C.E.F., 051915Z).

U/boat (?by) D/F within 100 miles of position 013 degs. 00' N. 057 degs. 30' E. at 1806Z/5.
(2) Alter course forthwith as follows.
(C. in C.E.F. 052021Z to HAWKINS).
(+ 051915Z gives lat. 12 degs.).

LULWORTH Your 051625Z (N.T. in W.D.) understood.
P.C.S. at 052100Z 005 degs. (04' or 50') S. 051 degs. 40' E. 277 degs. 12 knots E.T.A. 081100Z.
(LULWORTH, 052130Z to F.O.E.Af)

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

O.N.225 Your 041550. My P.C.S. 0100Z/5 042 degs. 23' N.
(W.9. E.G.) 059 degs. 42' W. 250 degs. 5 knots. No ships
JOEL R. in company. Cmdre. reports 35 ships in company.
POINSETT. Cmdre. P.C.S. 0100Z/5 043 degs. 10' N. 058 degs.
44' W. 271 degs. 5 knots.
Weather report 4767 9767.
(RED DEER, 050104Z to C. in C.C.N.A., (R) N.S.H.Q.
E.G.W.6, E.G.W.9, C.E.S.F.).

Your 041810Z. In company SS JOEL R. POINSETT position (e)
043 degs. 15' N. 056 degs. 45' W. After end of ship still
floating 61 men on board. SS EMPIRE CHIVALRY has taken off 11
survivors and is proceeding to destination. Am standing by until
the weather moderates and will attempt towing. Request tug may
be sent with all despatch as have sufficient fuel to tow to
Halifax.

Weather report follows 2922 5021 1186.

(PORT HOPE, 050245Z to C. in C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.).

My P.C.S. 43 degs. 10' N. 59 degs. (23 or 06') W. 270 degs.
6 knots. 35 ships in company.

Weather report 4762, 6265.

(PORT ARTHUR, 050430Z).

O.N.225. Your 041417. Your 03259 answered by my 041239
Your 032247 convoy badly broken up. H.M.C.S. PORT ARTHUR, Cdre.
and about 30 ships in company. Names of stragglers not known.
U.S. KNUTE ROCKNE straggler from H.X.281 bound to Halifax with
convoy. Earliest possible E.T.A. at R/V under weather conditions
0500Z/6th. O.N.255 P.C.S. 1300Z 043 degs. 11' N. 060 degs. 10'
W. 271 degs. 5 knots. Weather report 6799 4837 9768.

(RED DEER, 051306Z).

H.X. 281 Your 030522Z. Have met ELISHA GRAVES OTIS ex
E.G. OTIS convoy O.N.225 in 42 degs. 50' N. 51 degs. 50' W.
JANE A. (X). Has fractured plates and W/T out of action.
DELANO. Have ordered her to proceed St. Johns N.F.
DEVERON standing by until relieved by SHEDIAC.
Weather report 4562 9067.
(B.6, 050136Z to C. in C.N.A., (R) Connav, Admty.
A.C.I.C., C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.).

Comdre. report number 116 DELANO breaking up in 044 degs.
20' N. 051 degs. 00' W. requires immediate assistance. COSBY
close and reporting situation.

Weather report 4572 9227.

(B6, 051150Z to COSBY, C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Connav, A.C.I.C.
Admty.).

SS JANE A. DELANO reports breaking in several places at
050745Z in 044 degs. 20' N. 051 degs. 00' W.

(C. in C.C.N.A., 051315Z to B7A).

H.X.281. Following ships arrived Halifax 5th March.
ROGER MOORE U.S. 0010Z hull and lifeboat defects cargo shifted.
JOHN T. HOLT U.S. (N.D.) 0510Z heavy weather damage.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S., 051637Z).

Convoy AJAX parts company U.T.8 / 0600Z/5th from
T.U.8. position 41.40 N. 45 W. thence R.F. to B advance
12.5 to transit Mona Daylight. Refer Admty.
011713A NEWMAN with INDOCHINOIS has rejoined

/ U.T.8/...

War Diary

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoy U.T.8~~4~~ delayed by Force 9 Westerly conditions past
T.U.8. 36 hours now moderating. Course 255 advance 8
(Contd.). increasing to 14 as sea permits. Will alter
263 about noon 5th along route. Escorts not yet
refuelled.

Your X 041738Z ARGENTINA, GIBBONS and MARINE
RAVINNOW have correct signals. 2100Z/4th weather 3866 9175.
(C.T.F. 60, 050317Z to Cominch).
As received - ?T.U.8 intended.

Procedure Ref. A.M. 221215 Jan.+ and earlier signals, Navy
for Dept. has now agreed that basic zig-zagging areas
promulgating shall be omitted from W.I.M.S., Vol.I and inserted
zig-zagging in N.C.S.I. and G.I.R.O. forthwith, necessary
areas. orders to Masters being included in route
instructions.

- (2) Following revised procedure for promulgating
zig-zagging areas is, therefore, proposed:-
(a) An Admty. message to all N.C.S.O's. giving current
modifications to basic zig-zagging areas laid down in C.A.M.S.I.
203/43, para.1, of which will be cancelled when areas are
embodied in N.C.S.Is.
(b) Future modifications to be promulgated as amendments to
this A.M. and also, if necessary, as a B.A.M.S. message
addressed to areas concerned, not necessarily a Lettered or
Numbered Message.
(c) Navy Dept. to take parallel action to inform U.S. Routeing
Officers.
(3) Main advantage of this proposal is that Masters will have
all necessary orders in their route instructions, apart from
any B.A.M.S. message they may receive during the voyage.
(4) Request you will obtain Navy Dept's. concurrence or remarks.
(D.T.D., 051235A to B.A.D.).
+ Re: C.A.M.S.I. 203 following measures to expedite independent
shipping are to come into force 1st February 1944.

DRUMMONDVILLE Your 042352. My position 046 degs. 08' (?054
degs.) 52' (S). Do not anticipate junction can
be affected. H/F and M.S.L.5 aerial broken down.
Ship heavily iced rendering Radar Antenna
unserviceable and limiting speed to about 6 knots. Intend
returning to St. Johns N.F.
Weather 0?23 9968.
(DRUMMONDVILLE, 051337Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.,
C.T.F. 24).

U/boat N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 051350Z, Cominch 051509.
estimates

N.S.H.Q.S/M Para.C. Commodore's ship H.X.281 reports S/M.
attack and sighted on Port bow 0240Z/4 in approx. 43 degs. 00'
sighting N. 55 degs. 15' W.
summary. (N.S.H.Q., 051432Z).

80

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

E.G.9.
(to Horta).

BADDECK 50 miles astern reports max. speed 12 knots. My P.C.S. at 1500Z 041 degs. 16' 046 degs. 19' 010 degs. 13 knots. Weather report 0001 4775 9663.
(E.G.9, 051610Z to C. in C.N.A.).

QUEEN

BADR (PC) reports examination of H.M.S. QUEEN reveals large hole from stem to No. 70 station. General working up practices and sailing date from Vancouver are expected to be delayed from three to four weeks.

My 281854 refer.
(B.A.D., 051917Z).
+ H:M.S. QUEEN refloated.

T.G. 21.11

(A/S operation in Azores area). Re-encipherment of C.T.G. 21.11 051920 (see Home Commands).
(Cominch, 052035).

SS
MINIMA.
U/boat
reports.

No report since my 022059. MINIMA Cuban 335 tons sunk from collision 25.23 N. 80.03 W. on 24th Feb. Para. C. Army plane Radar contact 11.45 N. 76.11 W. 041421Z. Patrol plane Radar contact 11.20 N. 77.15 W. 041918Z.
(Cominch, 051955Z).

CAILIFF

Your 041410Z Tug made 2 attempts on arrival at R/V. Weather conditions on following days prevented further attempts.
(CAILIFF, 052015Z to C. in C.C.N.A.).
+ N.T. in W.R.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial
No. 774.

March 3rd para.8 to 18 cover South Pacific Forces.

(3) Reinforcements continue to arrive Los Negros Island supported by destroyer bombardment. Enemy vigorously attacked Rowote perimeter night 2nd/3rd but our defences unbroken up to evening 3rd. Nil enemy air activity reported.

(9) 47 Dauntless 24 Avengers with 39 Corsairs Warhawks escorting attacked shipping and installation Rabaul Harbour mid morning 2nd. Heavy Ack Ack position damaged ; hits amongst 30 barges besides 3 on 2 small merchant ships and 16 rocket hits 1 escort vessel.

(14) Delayed report night 29th relate Allied motor torpedo boat operating? off Rabaul possibly sank 3 of 6 barges in convoy.

/ (18) Night...

5.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 771 (Contd.). (18) Night 1st/2nd March motor torpedo boats destroyed one enemy barge probably sank another off south west Bougainville. Third escaped to south single enemy plane ineffectually bombed our ships next day 2 United States destroyers bombarded shore positions this area. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 050705).

Digest Serial No. 775 March 4th. Paras. 9 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces.

(4) Vigorous enemy attacks continued throughout night 3rd/4th against our perimeter. All attacks repulsed perimeter intact evening 4th. 700 enemy dead counted to date. Our losses 61 killed 244 wounded. Destroyers continue bombardment supporting ground forces while substantial reinforcements successfully landed. Enemy air reaction limited to single small raid when two bombs dropped 4th March without damage while Allied aircraft continue closer support our garrison.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 050800Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

3/M. attack and sighting summary.

Para.A. (1) A/C sighted U/boat on surface, course 360 degs. at 0438Z/5 in 43 degs. 15' N. 11 degs. 35' W.

Para.C. (1) H.M.C.S. FORT WILLIAM and minesweepers attacked contact at 1300Z/4 in 42 degs. 24' N. 25 degs. 41' W. (D.D.I.C. 051100A).

U/boat estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 051411A).

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"F.X."

1. At 1035A to-day Convoy R.A.57 was reported by R.A.D.H.F. to be about 240 miles E.S.E. of Jan Mayen, steering 230 degs. at 9 knots. D/F activity at 2048Z last night, becoming heavy after 0544Z to-day, indicates that the Convoy has probably been reported; and at 1035A R.A.D. H.F. requested a continuous air-patrol to-day as the operation of A/C. from CHASER is handicapped by lack of wind.

A/S. operations
off Western
Ireland.
U.744 sunk.

2. U.744, originally detected by GATINEAU of E.G.C2 at 1015 yesterday while supporting Convoy H.X.280 was hunted for 30 hours by ICARUS and the rest of C.2 Group with the Corvette KENILWORTH CASTLE, and at 1541 to-day was forced to the surface and sunk about 450 miles West of Valentia. 3 of her Officers and 25 ratings were picked up.

U-boat
attacked.

3. An outward-bound U-boat was bombed at 0040 to-day by an A/C. patrol about 200 miles West of La Rochelle.

Enemy
convoy
attacked.
Escort Traw-
ler apparently
sunk.

4. At 0429A to-day three M.T.Bs. on patrol attacked an enemy convoy about 8 miles S.W. of Ijmuiden and observed three torpedo-hits on a large Escort Trawler which was not seen again. Our Force was engaged both by the convoy escorts and by shore batteries, but withdrew without damage or casualty.

North Atlantic.

O.S.69
ANCHUSA
damaged.

5. The corvette ANCHUSA, escorting convoy O.S. 69, was in collision at 0630A to-day about 60 miles north of Casablanca with SS EMPIRE KINGSLEY. ANCHUSA was holed and proceeded to Casablanca with her forward compartments flooded, arriving p.m. today.

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

French
cruisers
from
Dakar.

6. The French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES arrived at Oran today and MONTCALM arrived at Casablanca for onward routing to Oran. Both were formerly attached to the West Africa Command where the number of French cruisers is being reduced.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle"

7(a) Weather prevented the unloading of Liberty ships at Anzio until midday today; but the heavy swell moderated during the afternoon and 1914 tons were discharged during the day, 62 tons being from L.C.I.(L)'s.
(b) There were no air raids, but shelling of the port continued, though on a reduced scale, and no damage or casualties are reported.
(c) The U.S. destroyer LIVERMORE attacked a U-boat contact at 2130 to-day in 41.05 N. 12.48 E. (North-west of Ponza).

U.G.S.33:
2 ships
mined.

8. Convoy U.G.S.33 strayed into a known mined area off Tunis to-day and SS DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH and VIRGINIA DARE were hit. The former was sunk and the latter damaged.

Adriatic.

9. Yugoslav Partisan Naval H.Q. reports that two Partisan ships have been sunk by German torpedo boats 10 miles west of Premuda.

Australia and New Zealand.

Admiralty
Is.

10. This morning, prior to a landing by Allied forces on the shores of Seeadler Harbour an Allied destroyer, closing to 850 yards drew the fire of two guns about 4 inch, commanding the entrance to Seeadler Harbour, and claims to have destroyed both guns. The destroyer was slightly damaged.

New
Guinea

11. M.T.Bs. last night destroyed 2 luggers and attacked personnel installations at Bogia Harbour near Hansa Bay, where a fuel and ammunition dump was destroyed.

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Russia.- Soviet Naval Staff state they are in urgent
Request need of a black oil tanker for transfer of oil
for Tanker. stocks from Archangel to Murmansk during Summer
to meet needs of Northern Fleet and would be grate-
ful for the loan of one for period May-October
inclusive. Displacement 9000 -11000 tons.
Would be required to make one voyage each month.
(2) Request S.B.N.O. North Russia will remark in light of
experience of similar operation last year.
(Ad. Fisher, 061212C to Adnty.)

KHEDIVE. When ready for sea about 20th March, C. in C.
Rosyth is requested to sail KHEDIVE to the Clyde
to work up under F.O.C.T.
(2) When ready for service KHEDIVE is allocated
to F.O.E.C.
(D.O.D.(H), 061314A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Herring F.O.I.C.Aberdeen's 031613A, A.C.O.S's 051226 and
Fishery. C. in C. Rosyth's 041231A.
As a temporary measure from 15th April 1944 until
30th Sept. 1944 and subject to amendment or
cancellation at short notice, an additional area
for Herring fishing by day and night has been approved, within
the lines joining the following positions:
(A) 58 degs. 41' N. 02 degs. 15' W.
(B) 58 degs. 15' N. 01 degs. 52' W. (C) 58 degs. 02' N.
01 degs. 19' W. (D) 57 degs. 55' N. 01 degs. 16' W. (E) 57
degs. 40' N. 01 degs. 23' W. (F) 57 degs. 40' N. 01 degs. 32' W.
(G) 58 degs. 32' N. 02 degs. 38' W.
(2) These limits are to be strictly kept.
(3) Fishing craft proceeding to or from the Eastern limit of
the present herring fishing area and Western limit of this new
area must do so during daylight hours.
(5) A.M. 152051B/July/1943 is cancelled.
(D.T.D.061548A to C. in C. W.A.)

Iceland. Your 112020/Feb. Approved.
Coast-watching (2) Request you will report actual numbers to
Posts. be reduced.
(Head of M.11, 061151A to A.C.I.C.)

SCYLLA. SCYLLA has been allocated as flagship for
N.F.C.E.T.F.
(D.O.D.(H), 061722A to C. in C. Nore.)

SPIRIT. SPIRIT delayed. My 042253 refers.
(F.O.S.062347A to C. in C. E.F.)

6.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. 11' N. 06 degs. 00'
A/S W. Enemy was on surface and when first sighted
Operations. was on course 220, estimated speed 10.

(A/C KBO47, 060020 to 19 Group)

Have attacked U-Boat with bombs. Estimate no
hits. Returning to base. Position 46 degs.

54' N. 06 degs. 35' W.

(A/C KBC 47 060040 to 19 Group)

Confirm that all the 5 ships mentioned in your 051345Z
can remain at sea till March 16th. If so cancel my 051228A
and alter course forthwith to join and support S.C.154 whose
estimated P.C.S. at 1400A/6th was 043 degs. 32' N. 035 degs. 41'
W. 060 degs. 7½ knots.

(C. in C. W.A. 061534Z to E.G.9)

Am being attacked by enemy A/C in 48 degs. 35' N. 10 degs.
10' W.

(A/C TQR 55 to 19 Group. No T.O.O. Recd. 061554)

Your 061534Z. Confirmed that all 5 ships can remain till
16th March. Am altering course to join S.C.154. Have ordered
BADDECK to comply with your 061658A assuming escort oiler will
be available in H.X. 281.

(E.G.9, 062007Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation D/F at 2048Z/5 indicates U/B in vicinity of
F.X. convoy R.A.57 which may have reported it.

(D.D.I.C.060145A to A.I.G.47)

Heavy D/F activity since 0544Z and continuing
indicates convoy R.A.57 has probably been reported.

(D.D.I.C.060826A to A.I.G.47)

Your 052231A. Request continuous patrol. Carrier handicapped
by lack of wind. P.C.S. at 1030A, 069 degs. 41' N. 004 degs.
03' E. 230 degs. 9 knots.

Weather 9480 0761.

(R.A.D. H.F. 061035A to C. in C. Rosyth)

A/S In firm asdic contact with U-Boat. 200 odd
Operations depth charges and 3 pattern each by Squid and
off Western Hedgehog have produced no visible results.
Ireland. E.G.C.2 except GATINEAU, and also KENILWORTH
U.744 CASTLE in company. Intend detaching latter at
sunk. daylight, Asdic believed defective. GATINEAU
detached in accordance with my 042144Z. My
position 52 degs. 00' N. 22 degs. 30' W.

Weather 0051 0951.

(C.2, 060720Z to C. in C. W.A.)

By D/F at 0502Z U-Boat estimated within 75 miles of 50 degs. 40'
N. 23 degs. 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 060852A to C.2 DAUPHIN)

Owing to weather it does not repetition not seem likely
you will be able to fuel from S.C.154. You are to take no
risk of running out of fuel and are to detach ships as necessary
to Londonderry.

(2) When U-Boat is sunk or you are no longer in contact remainder
of C.2 group are to proceed in accordance with my 051131Z.

(C. in C. W.A. 061541Z to C.2)

My /...

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. U.744 sunk. (Contd.) My 051525. U.744 surfaced and sunk in approx. 052 degs. 01' N. 022 degs. 37' W. at 1541. ST. CATHERINES proceeding to join S.C.154. Remainder group searching tonight in accordance with your 051131 and then returning Londonderry destroyers and CHILLIWACK in accordance with your 061541. FENNEL with leaks caused by explosions.

Weather 2855 0245.
(C.2, 061855Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 061855. U-Boat was originally detected by GATINEAU and hunted 30 hours by C.2 group and KENILWORTH CASTLE. No Gnats encountered and no difficulty with S (?B) T's. 3 boarding boats capsized in heavy weather. All boarding parties and following prisoners saved: in ST. CATHERINES 5 ratings (also CHILLIWACK boarding party), ICARUS 7 ratings, CHAUDIERE 1st. Lieut. 1 other officer and 1 rating, CHILLIWACK 3 ratings, FENNEL 1 officer and 9 ratings. ST. CATHERINES has a depth-charge left, remaining ships are all short.
(C.2, 062139Z to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Patrols. My 212004 Feb. Cancel (E) and add following patrol.

Submarine.	Leave List.	Return List.	Patrol.
(H) ULA	17th March.	31st March.	Leads.
(J) STURDY	18th March.	1st April.	HH.
(K) VENTURER	28th March.	11th April.	Leads.
(L) VIGOROUS	1st April.	15th April.	FF.

(F.O.S.061219A to Cpts. S.3, S.9)

Position of S/Ms at 0800/7th March and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) SEANYMPH 65 degs. 43' N. 006 degs. 57' E. probably on surface through 65 degs. 31' N. 005 degs. 58' E. towards 62 degs. N. 001 degs. E.

(B) ZWAARDEFISCH approaching patrol in vicinity 63 degs. 31' N. 001 degs. 09' E. from northward.

(C) SCEPTRE on patrol off Kya Light.

(D) VENTURER, approx. position 62 degs. 02' N. 003 degs. 28' E. probably on surface through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 for Lerwick. E.T.A. daylight 8th.

(F) VIKING exercising in vicinity of 50 degs. 50' N. 010 degs. 10' W.
(F.O.S.061703 and 070906A to Admty.)
Amend my 212004 as follows: (C) 16th March 7th April.
(F) 15th March 4th April. (G) 14th March 3rd April.
(F.O.S.062127A to Cpts. S.3, S.9)
Negative patrol. Torpedoes expended. Returning by reverse outward route. E.T.A. daylight 8th.
Weather 4788 2661.
(VENTURER, 062145A to F.O.S.)

Coastal /...

87

6.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Coastal
Force
Patrols.(C. in C. Plymouth, 061453A).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061507A).V.P.
Operation.My 050821A. Force returned at 1555A to-day.
(2) No suitable targets sighted.
(A.C.O.S. 061655 to Admty.)S.C.
Operation.My 042140A. Returned at 1630A to-day.
(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 061703A to Admty.)Enemy
Convoy
attacked.
Escort
Trawler
torpedoed.Preliminary Report of Coastal Force Operations
on Night 5th/6th March.

- (1) M.T.B's 241, 224, 225, 234, 244 of 21st Flotilla were ordered to carry out an offensive sweep Egmund to Hook.
- (2) Unit arrived off Egmund at 0108A. Sighted a patrol of three Trawlers and 1 L.C.T. which were observed and avoided at slow speed until 0346A. At 0417A ships were sighted to the South on a Northerly course. Target was identified as a large Trawler leading a Dutch Schutt followed by another small vessel.
- (3) Second division M.T.B. 224, 224 was disposed to the North in case Trawler Patrol came down and to attack if S/O missed. First division M.T.B. 241, 225, 234 proceeded South to intercept and at 0429A in 242 Degs. Ymuiden 7.7 miles, fired a 3 boat zone at leading Trawler, range 1,000 yards. Three hits were observed and felt by all boats, target was not seen again. Star Shell was fired at 1st Division before firing torpedoes and small calibre fire was opened at the moment of firing. At 0431A Star Shell and H.E. were fired from shore. M.T.B. 234 developed an engine defect while disengaging and was ordered to return to base.
- (4) First Division disengaged and at 0442A rejoined second divisions. S/O took them to attack again but, owing to smoke from original target and gun fire from remaining ships, an attack could not be carried out. At 0450A unit disengaged, at 0509 S/O decided to sweep into Ymuiden Harbour, before leaving patrol. Opposition from the shore was heavy and nothing could be seen. At 0517A unit set course for base.
- (6) No damage, no casualties.
(C. in C. Nore, 061739A to Admty.)

Mining.Search off
Smiths
Knoll.

- (1) 4 laps swept giving total width of 4.15 miles from eastern edge of area.
- (2) One mine cut in 131 degs. Smiths Knoll Buoy 3.3 miles of same type as reported in my 051815A. Recovered by VERNON Officer(s).
- (3) Floating mines possibly of same type sighted at 1119A in 051 degs. 57A buoy 4 miles and reported to VERNON officer.
(M/S 15, 061735A to C. in C. Nore.)

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy. P.C.S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel and 2 escort vessels 61 degs. 43' N. 4 degs. 47' E. 360 degs. 10 knots.
(A/C LTQF 061135A to 18 Group)
A/C report escorted convoy of 2 Merchant ships passing 062 degs. 10' N. 005 degs. 04' E. at 1117A/6th.
(F.O.S.061301A to VENTURER)

U-Boats.

U-Boats attacked. Following from HARLECH CASTLE begins: Sub. periscope believed sighted 255 degs. Cape Wrath 12 miles. Abandoned sweep. Am searching. 061105A Ends.
(N.O.I.C.Lochalsh, 061149A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
(1) Following received from HARLECH CASTLE Begins. S/M Periscope believed sighted 255 degs. Cape Wrath 12 miles. Ends.
(2) Investigate. If no contact obtained proceed after 2 hours. (C. in C. H.F. 061320A to OPPORTUNE)
Following from FLINT CASTLE begins: HARLECH CASTLE not sighted. G.80 sighted upturned lifeboat position mentioned. 061700 ends.
(MENTOR 061824A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
Following from FLINT CASTLE begins: Following received from G.80 begins. Consider upturned boat was what HARLECH CASTLE saw. Am proceeding. Ends. Received instructions. 061720A ends.
(MENTOR, 061825A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
Your 061720A to FLINT CASTLE. Request you report (A) type and condition of life boat. (B) if it bore ships name.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 062008A to OPPORTUNE)
Your 061825A to MENTOR only. Continue search until further orders.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 062034A to FLINT CASTLE)
Following from FLINT CASTLE begins: CALDY has dropped 2 patterns on what she considered to be submarine. Position 58.26 N. 05.26 W. I cannot confirm any of H/D contacts 061950 ends.
(MENTOR 062210 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Report situation.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 062324A to FLINT CASTLE)

U-Boat Reported. Nr. 1. Am over enemy S/M in 68 degs. 57' N. 03 degs. 16' E. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 190 degs. speed unknown.)
(A/C TLDB. 061800A to Artunshofdi)

Technical.

Instructions for W/T in Convoys. Following is a co-ordination of instructions regarding W/T silence in convoys in W.A. Command. All previous orders issued by signal are cancelled. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 062258A to Ships)

War Diary.6.3.1944.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- REGINA. Rescue ship DUNDEE is to relieve ST. LAURENT and tow REGINA to Azores. If available tug will be sent. On relief ST. LAURENT rejoin convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 060021A to C.1)
- CARISBROOKE CASTLE. Your 060744. Return to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 061018A to CARISBROOKE CASTLE.)
- ST. MICHAEL. (1) ST. MICHAEL sunk in collision in Hamoaze p.m. 4/3. No casualties. (2) It is intended to raise vessel as soon as possible. (S.I.D.G.Plymouth, 061030 to Admty.)
- ZWARTE ZEE. My 051151A. ZWARTE ZEE has entered Barry with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 061734A to F.O.I.C. Aultbea)
- FENNEL. Has leaks caused by explosions while attacking U.744. (C.2, 061855Z to C. in C. W.A.) See Operations.
- EL GRILLO. Fleet Salvage Officer has examined wreck of EL GRILLO and reported prospects of salvaging are remote and beyond capacity resources in Iceland. (2) The governing factors are as follows. Details. (3) Condition of wreck so far as can be judged is, (A) Forehold space flooded. (B) Boiler and engine rooms flooded. (C) Cargo tanks contain approximately 8000 tons oil and are undamaged as very little oil has come to the surface. (A.C.I.C.062114A to Admty.)
- M.M.S.1026. Departure at 1903 Tug KROOMAN to assist M.M.S. 1026 with Cylinder head cracked. Arrived back with vessel in tow at 2148. (F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 062221A to C. in C. Nore.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- SOMERSETSHIRE. Sailed, SOMERSETSHIRE (Hospital), 1650A/6th. E.T.A. Gibraltar, 1730A/11th. (N.O.I.C.Avonmouth, 061702A to Admty.)
- PRAGUE. My 061726. PRAGUE is to made southbound passage unescorted. In view of moonlight condition prevailing all night ship is to be sailed to arrive Aberdeen at 1800. (A.C.O.S.061729A to N.O.I.C.Lerwick.)

6.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

K.M.S.43. BURZA and DECOUVERTE will reinforce LEITH
O.S.69. temporarily until instructions received from you.
ANCHUSA (S.O.E.G.B.3, 060755Z to F.O.G.M.A.
damaged. (R) LEITH, BURZA, LA DECOUVERTE.)
Proceeding Casablanca, ANCHUSA in company P.C.S.
034 degs. 50' 007 degs. 55' 4.
(WILLOWHERB, 060842A)

DECOUVERTE detached relieving WILLOWHERB escorting ANCHUSA
to Casablanca.
(S.O.E.G.B.3, 060945Z)
Your 061101/ANCHUSA damaged in collision at 0630A. Holed
from deck to below waterline starboard side in 4 inch guns.
WILLOWHERB was ordered to report to you.
(LEITH, 061238A to F.O.G.M.A.)
/ N.T. in W.R.
Your 061101A/ LEITH. Damaged in collision with merchant
ship. Forward compartments flooded but bulkhead holding.
Proceeding Casablanca escorted by LA DECOUVERTE. My P.C.S.
at 1300A 034 degs. 28' N. 007 degs. 54' W. 186 degs. 4.5.
(ANCHUSA, 061304A to F.O.G.M.A.)
/ N.T. in W.R.
ANCHUSA report damaged in collision.
(2) Therefore intend to sail COLUMBINE at 062359A to overtake
O.S.69.
(3) (Route) S.of A. 12, estimate will overtake in (K) 024 degs.
13' 017 degs. 19' at 100800A.
(F.O.G.M.A.061835A to S.E.G. O.S.69 for Cdre.)

Towage of REGINA. Departure Horta SALVONIA 061607 to R/V with
rescue ship DUNDEE.
(N.O.I.C.Horta, 061959Z) Former is C. in C. W.A.
060026)
Portuguese Commandant Marines Horta states that
as only one tug is allowed to be stationed there under
agreement he will grant no port facilities to rescue tug
SALVONIA tug is red ensign and arrived 5th March.
Admiralty is requested to pass to B.N.A. Lisbon.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 061118Z)

Ship reported on fire. Clipper Pilot reported unknown ship on fire 12
miles 250 degs. from Lisbon Bar. Portuguese
are sending out aeroplane and preparing salvage
tug.
(N.A. Lisbon, 061740)

Partition of Italian Fleet. Please pass to F.O.T.A.L.I. for Marina.
Following from Italian N.A. begins 5690. (F) made
formal step with British and American N.A.'s
regarding Press and Radio report that Italian
Fleet is to be divided among 3 Allied powers

beginning /...

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Partition
of Italian
Fleet.
(Contd.)

beginning with early transfer of one third to Russia. Have warning that news has created considerable uneasiness among Italian warship crews and that C.O's inform that they fear consequences should present dangerous mental conditions be allowed to persist. Tucci. Ends. (B.N.A.Madrid, 061914A to Admty.)

Routeing
of small
craft.

Owing to acute congestion at Falmouth, request small craft for west coast ports may be routed direct in accordance with A.M. 281950 para.2. S.B.N.O. Azores, 032104 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 061925A to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

A.K.D/
D.K.A.
Convoys,
Kilindini-
Durban
Section.

The following signals refer C. in C. E.F. 280526 and 051006 and your 051820. (2) First trawler group at present escorting MANELA due Kilindini 9th March. Suggest this group be used to escort ships in A.K.D.16 and A.K.D.17 leaving Kilindini 14th March. (3) Next group cannot leave Durban before 11th March and will escort D.K.A.15 due Kilindini 23rd March. This group is then available to

escort A.K.D.18.

(14) Subsequent convoys will leave Durban at alternative 11 and 10 day intervals as follows:

Convoy Number.	Leave Durban.	Leave Kilindini.
D.K.A.16	22nd March	3rd April
D.K.A.17	1st April	13th April
D.K.A.18	12th April	24th April.

(5) Slight further delay to ships of A.K.D. 16 is regrettable but inevitable owing to delay in reforming escort groups after their detachment to Mauritius area.

(C. in C. S.A. 061705C)

S.L.
Convoys.

Advance sailing telegrams S.L. convoys. Request information giving nature of cargoes and destination be included. C.B. 04024(43) Art.92 refers. (D.T.D.061815A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

? U/B/...

6.3.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

?U/B
attacked
off Takoradi.

FAL attacking contact in 357 degs. N. 249 degs.
West 003 degs. 57' N. 002 degs. 49' W.
(LOWESTOFT, 062200Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)
Have attacked firm contact in 003 degs. 57' N.
002 degs. 49' W. believed SS. BT am searching.
(LOWESTOFT, 062221Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

My 062221/ very doubtful. Rejoining.
(LOWESTOFT, 062244Z).

/ LOWESTOFT attacking suspected U-Boat.

SS. JOHN
HOLT.

JOHN HOLT torpedoed at 2113Z/5th in 03 degs. 56'
N. 07 degs. 30' E. 47 Europeans 48 Africans landed
Port Harcourt. Captain and 1 passenger taken
prisoner by S/M. My 062152 not to Admiralty
and sweep now diverted to cover AMSTELKERK due
Calabar Fairway 0900Z/7th.
(N.O.I.C.Lagos, 062346 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F.
N.O.I.C.Takoradi.)

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

SS EMPIRE GRANGE. S.O.S. 37.10 N. 08.02 E. unable use engines drifting ashore - 060030 G.M.T. (EMPIRE GRANGE, 060132A). S.O.S. Now underway assistance not required, 060105Z. (EMPIRE GRANGE, Niton Radio's T.O.O. 060211A).

Caiques Caiques less than 20 tons are not to be attacked. (Capt.(S) 1, 060829A to 1st S/M. F.).

Summary of attacks on U/boats assessed by Med. Joint Assessment board. My 012221 Feb. refers. Following attacks previously reported have been assessed as follows:-
Serial 45A assessment I serial 56A assessment H serial 46 assessment G serial 55A assessment H serial 68 assessment H serial 56 assessment H. Part 2 following not previously reported has been assessed F serial 67A 101919 Jan. H.M.S. INVER 36 degs. 02' 00 degs. 50' W.

(3) Following not previously reported and not yet assessed.
Serial 57A 050435 Jan. MIAOULES 32 degs. 08' N. 25 degs. 36' E.
serial 65A 080948 Jan. DELPHINIUM 37 degs. 10' N. 07 degs. 54' E.
serial 68A 140921 Jan. F.S. AJACIENNE 40 degs. 04' N. 08 degs. 05' E.
serial 68B 261145 Jan. TUSCAN 37 degs. 05' N. 11 degs. 18' E.
serial 68C 300005 Jan. F.S. ALCYON 42 degs. 10' N. 07 degs. 51' E.
serial 70 011835 Feb. F.S. FORBIN 41 degs. 43' N. 08 degs. 28' E.
serial 71 020540 Feb. U.S.S. P.C.591 39 degs. 58' N. 15 degs. 00' E.
serial 72 060151 Feb. H.M.A.S. SOUTHERN MAID 33 degs. 08' N. 34 degs. 52' E. serial 73 121300 Feb. Walrus A/C 42 degs. 51' N. 09 degs. 35' E. serial 74 181200 Feb. UPSTART 43 degs. 05' N. 06 degs. 00' E. serial 75 181457 Feb. UPSTART 43 degs. 05' N. 05 degs. 58' E. serial 76 201930 Feb. LAFOREY, MADISON, 41 degs. 17' N. 12 degs. 20' E. serial 77 231200 Feb. IS DANAIDE 38 degs. 00' N. 16 degs. 17' E. serial 78 262127 Feb. LAFOREY, FAULKNER 41 degs. 07' N. 12 degs. 03' E.
(C. in C. Med., 060830A).

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 44. 1375 tons discharged at Anzio. During 5th March wind of gale force and very heavy swell seriously impeded unloading. L.C.I.(L) from Naples discharged 170 tons of this total nothing unloaded from Liberties.

(2) No enemy air activity.

(3) Enemy continuously shelling port and anchorage and now using anti-personnel shell over former but no casualties so far reported.

(4) S.O.P.A. reports enemy is extensively jamming army Radar ashore with consequent loss of warning in recent air raids. Signs of extensive use of window by enemy.

(C. in C. Med., Naples, 060907A).

94

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- UPROAR Leave patrol to pass 042 degs. 32' 007 degs. 03' at 0800/8th to arrive Maddalena at 1130/9th. (Capt.(S) 10, 060957 to UPROAR).
- M.L.387 destroyed. M.L.387 destroyed by internal explosion in Beirut Harbour at 1845/5 some other M.L's. and harbour craft damaged. Details of casualties not yet available. (F.O.L.E.M. 051020B).
- Use of Dekheila. A.M. 261918A. Suggest consideration be given to using Takali in addition to Dekheila. (C.O.N.A.S. Med., 061141A to C. in C. Med.).
- Attack by aircraft. Have attacked enemy A.R. 196~~7~~ with bombs level on water. Many hits. 35 degs. 32' N. 07 degs. 18' E. (A/C, C/S, ONJC, 061333Z).
/ As received.
- SS. C.S. C.R. No. 322.
NOYES. Admiralty request master of C.S. NOYES be interviewed regarding possible successful net defence action on previous Trans-atlantic passage. (Comnaveu, 061431 to N.O.B. Oran).
- French cruisers. Request information on the following points in regard to LORRAINE, GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE and MONTCALM -
(a) capability of indirect fire under way and extent of dockyard work required (if any) to fit them for bombarding.
(b) Type and quantity of ammunition (1) available now, (2) expected shortly from U.S. sources.
(c) What Radar sets are fitted.
(d) Communications. Is either Type 86 or equivalent V. H/F. R/T set covering same frequency band and suitable for working SS spotting aircraft, fitted. (V.C.N.S., 061544A to C. in C. Med.).
- Italian cruisers - For shore authorities only. Italian Cruisers routed independently should normally be limited to a speed of advance of 23 knots. (C. in C. Med., 061700A).
- Balkan Sitrep No. 111. Second and Last Part.
(4) Sea Ops. Partisan Naval H.Q. reports. 2 Partisan ships sunk by German T.B's. 10 miles west of Premuda W.O.52.
(5) Air Ops. A. Bombing. 5th March., 12 Spitfires, 6 Kittyhawks anti-shipping R/C. Yugoslavia strafed small

/ vessels...

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Balkan
Sitrep
No.111.
(Contd.).

vessels off Split and Korcula Island. Direct hits and 2 near misses on F-boat which was left sinking.
(C. in C.M.E., 062015B).

GEORGES
LEYGUES
(from Dakar).

Arrived.
(Comnob Oran, 062056A).

Situation
Report
No. 309.

(2) Convoy U.G.S. 33 strayed out of War Channel into Q.B.23 on 6th March. SS DANIEL C. FRENCH mined and sunk, and SS VIRGINIA DARE mined and proceeding to Tunis.
(C. in C. Med., 062155A).

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-boat
report.

H/F D/F bearing indicates Japanese U-boat within
30 miles my position 16 degs. 22' N. 55 degs. 06'
E. am investigating.
(KISTAN, 060011Z).
KISTAN.

U-boat
dispositions.

My 050343. /
Area C by D/F at 1806Z/5th position of U-boat was
within 100 miles of 012 degs. N. 057 degs. 30' E.
scale of air escort Y, East of Socotra. Remainder
of Area X.

Area D enemy S/M. sighted and attacked by aircraft off Diego
Suarez at 0200Z/5th scale of air escort Z.

Area G aircraft sighted possible periscope in 005 degs. N. 074
degs. E. at 0700Z/5th scale of air escort Y.

Other areas no fresh information no changes in scales of air
escort.

(C. in C.E.F., 060329Z).

/ U-boat disposition, no fresh information.

U-boat
report.

By D/F at 0002Z/6 on 8955 k/cs a Japanese U-boat
was in an area situated between Maldiva Isle
and Chhgos Archipelago N.O.I.C.E.Af. pass to
A.H.Q.E.A.
(C. in C.E.F., 060513Z).

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.A.281
SS. J.R.
POINSETT. Departure p.m./5th H.M.C.S. ST. JOHN to R/V with
FOUNDATION FRANKYN to assist S.S. POINSETT.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 061010Z).

GROU Anticipate sailing H.M.C.S. GROU as additional
escort H.X.282 from H.O.M.P. to U.K.
(2) Request you detach ship as requisite to join
E.G.6.
(C. in C.C.N.A., 061301Z to C. in C.W.A.).

U/boat
estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 061502Z, Cominch 061541Z).

New U.S.
Hospital
ships. War Dept. has designated four new Hospital ships.
Former SAMUEL F.B. MORSE, new name YUCCA.
Former STANFORD WHITE new name POPPY.
Former ZEBULON B. VANCE new name ZINNIA.
Former PRESIDENT BUCHANAN new name IRIS.
Descriptions.
(Cominch, 061520).

ANTIOPE ANTIOPE has been allocated to A/S training under
U.S. control by C.C.S. 484/1 para.6. (A).
Your 032030 para.6. and Cominch 051840 not to
Admiralty refer.
(B.A.D., 061851Z to C. in C. Med.).

T.G. 21.13 Task Group 21.13 constituted as Captain Switzer in
TRIPOLI, Comcortdiv 7 in MOORE, KEITH WARD,
OTTERSTETTER, FITCH. Depart Hampton Roads when
ready about 14th March operate against reported
submarines that may endanger North African convoy routes. Further
orders will be forthcoming.
(C. in C. Lant, 061915).

T.F.63 This reconstitutes Task Force 63 Captain Berdine in
DECATUR Comcortdiv 24 in SELLSTROM Cortdiv 23
Comdesdiv 57 in WHIPPLE Desdiv 57 TOMICH SLOAT
ESCALANTE plus Landing Craft by separate despatch.
Escort U.G.S.36 departing Hampton Roads 14th March to North Africa
and return escorting G.U.S.35 when directed. POLARIS will sail
in convoy. OREGON expected join from Bermuda destination
Casablanca.
(C. in C. Lant, 062020).

U/boat
reports. C aircraft Radar contact 15.03 N. 69.05 W. 06/
0050Z.
Aircraft Radar contact 15.10 N. 72.24 W. 05/0300Z.
Admiralty pass to Comnavu and H.Q.C.C.
(Cominch, 062052Z).

/ JOEL...

6.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

JOEL R. Reported March 4th broken in half and abandoned.
POINSETT. (N.S.H.Q. 062129Z). (W.D. Note: Report on 4th
(O.N.225). March stated 61 men were on board after half of
 ship, which was afloat).

Decoy On March 1st during probable U/boat attack on
periscope. O.N.225 LAVENDER reported sighting possible decoy
 periscope. LAVENDER obtained and held good A/S
 contact and was about to ram when it was seen that
 object was not a U/boat periscope. She altered
course to avoid and small explosions occurred alongside throwing
up some debris resembling cotton waste. Reducing to seven
knots and still holding contact she turned towards with intentions
of attacking with hedgehog but was baulked by merchant ships
appearing out of fog. In avoiding these contact was lost and not
regained. It appears probable that decoy periscope was in fact
floating over some object possibly explosive charge.
(C. in C.C.N.A., 062130).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest March 5th. Paragraphs 9 to 13 cover South
Serial Pacific Forces.
No. 776. (3) Following preliminary bombardment with rocket
 gunfire by seven M.T.Bs. American forces effected
 successful unopposed landing Yala Plantation 26
miles east Bogadyim (New Guinea, 5 S. 146 $\frac{3}{4}$ E.). morning.
Operation proceeding according to plan. Kittyhawks maintained
air umbrella throughout day while 7 Mitchells 4 Bostons bombed
straffed ground support targets.
(5) Allied Cruiser destroyer Task Force heavily bombarded
Coastal batteries guarding northern entrance Seadler Harbour
without opposition also enemy concentrations Los Negros Island
afternoon 4th.
(11) 4 destroyers supporting ground forces bombarded enemy
positions Empress Augusta Bay 4th while 12 Avengers 10 Dauntless
bombed straffed enemy concentrations east of Torokina perimeter.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 060630).

6.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. 1. Aircraft attacked U-boat with bombs at
2320Z/5 in 46 degs. 11' N. 06 degs. 00' W.
Para.B. 1. E.G. C.2 attacked good contact at
1101Z/5 in 52 degs. 00' N. 22 degs. 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 061109A).

U-boat
estimates.

D.D.I.C. 061353A, 061354A.

100

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.
One U/Boat
sunk by A/C
on 6th
March.

1. R.A.D. H.F. in BLACK PRINCE with four Destroyers left Convoy R.A.57 for Scapa at 1900A today when the Convoy was about 350 miles E. by N. of Seidisfiord. He reports that a U/Boat was sunk by A/C yesterday, being apparently the third U/Boat sunk during the passage of this convoy.

Convoy
C.W.252
attacked.
CORUNDUM
damaged.

2. Between 1950 and 2018 last night Convoy C.W.252, while passing Dover, was attacked by enemy Coastal Batteries and the British CORUNDUM, 929 tons, was damaged.

Coastal
Force
operations.

3. Five M.T.Bs of the 53rd Flotilla, carrying out a sweep off the Dutch Coast attacked convoy at 0108 today, about 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles off Ymuiden. Two small ships were sunk. The unit then came under heavy fire from all sides, in which shore-batteries joined, and disengaged at 0125. One R/Boat was set on fire and others are reported to have been damaged by the fire of the M.T.Bs. and by their own fire. Our casualties were two officers killed, two officers and two ratings wounded. All five M.T.Bs. were slightly damaged.

North Atlantic.

~~WARSPITE.~~

4. ~~WARSPITE sailed from Gibraltar for the U.K. today in Convoy M.K.F.29.~~

Mediterranean.

Air attack
on Toulon.

5. 112 U.S. Fortresses of the Med. Allied Strategic Air Force, escorted by 72 U.S. Lightnings were despatched to bomb Toulon today, but on account of cloud only 48 aircraft attacked. Hits are reported on dry docks and oil stores. Photographs showed near misses at the Submarines' bay and hits on Langanbrau jetty, vessels and dry docks.

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Minefield
off Salerno.

6. 24 mines were swept off Salerno today
by the 12th M/S Flotilla.

Operation
"Shingle".

7. The sea and swell at Anzio moderated today
and conditions were good generally for unloading.
5,111 tons were discharged, of which 720 were
by L.C.I.(L)s and L.C.Ts. from Naples. No air
activity is reported, and the intermittent
shelling caused no damage or casualties.

Aegean.

8. Mines were laid in the harbours of Syros
and Rhodes last night.

East Indies.

U/B off
Mozambique
Channel.

9. D/F at 1603Z today indicated that a
Japanese U/Boat was in the northern approaches
to the Mozambique Channel.

Unknown
enemy
unit.

10. There was indication by D/F at 2015Z today,
of an unknown German unit 600 to 800 miles south-
east of Madagascar.

Enemy
report.

11. A submarine on patrol north of Lombok
Strait reports that there is a possibility that
two or more unidentified large ships passed
south through Lombok Strait at 1900Z/~~16~~.
Intensified search by air and submarines is
being carried out and all West-bound shipping
from Australia is being directed or held until
the situation clarifies.

China.

Siam.

12a. 6 Liberators bombed Bangkok last night;
all bombs fell in the arsenal area and a large
explosion was caused.

b. U.S. Liberators laid mines last night in
Koh Sichang Anchorage, Gulf of Siam, with
diversionary bombing of oil installations on the
adjacent Prong Island.

102

7.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - Contd.

Siam
(Contd.)

c. A tug was set on fire by a U.S. Mitchell and left sinking today in Tongking Gulf.

America and West Indies.

U/B in
Caribbean.

13. The Panamanian tanker VALERA was torpedoed at 070040Z in 11.30 N. 76.27 W. (about 250 miles N.N.E. of Cristobal.)
Probably mined (Cominch 0521302 May)

Australia and New Zealand.

New Guinea.

14a. In attack on enemy positions at Nubia (Hansa Bay) today, the U.S. P.T. 537 (M.T.B.) is overdue and is presumed lost, with possible compromise of recognition signals.

b. It is reported from Washington that a battalion of U/S infantry made an unopposed landing at Yalau Plantation, 29 miles west of Saidor. From later information it appears that the landing took place on 5th March.

Admiralty
Is.

15. Naval co-operation with the Allied forces landed in the Admiralty Group continues. Throughout today, 3 destroyers engaged single enemy guns along the northern approaches to Seeadler Harbour, but encountered no return fire.

16. U.S. destroyers bombarded enemy positions east of Torokina river mouth, Bougainville this forenoon.

17. Lakunai Airfield, Rabaul, was bombed this morning and a hulk in the harbour was also hit and left settling. In the afternoon Avengers sank one or two of five small ships off Malaguna, Rabaul.

7.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M.Ls. 345
and 454.

A.M. 031747 not to all addressees.
M.Ls. 345 and 454 should be fitted for minesweeping
so as to sail for Scapa to arrive not later than
16th March. Two M.Ls. will be sailed to relieve
345 and 454.
(A.C.O.S., 071033 to C.F. Lerwick).

Fast Escort
Vessels.

Your 261358. Your needs are appreciated but
owing to many other demands of even greater urgency
it is regretted no permanent allocation can yet
be made to Iceland.
(V.C.N.S. 071948A to A.C.I.C.).

SEANYMPH

Request you will sail SEANYMPH 25th March for
Philadelphia. A.M. 241914 February not to all
refers.
(F.O.S. 072142A to Capt.(S) 3).

Operations.

Operation
"F.X.".

One U-boat
sunk by A/C.
on 6th March.

Enemy A/C are homing U/boats on to R.A.57.
(D.D.I.C. 070011A to A.I.G.47).
R.A.57 P.C.S. at 1200/7th, 066 degs. 39' N.
000 degs. 15' W., 208 degs. 9 knots. One U/boat
sunk by air yesterday. Weather report 6772 2655.
(R.A.D. H.F., 071210A to H.F.).
Left convoy at 1900A/7th in 65 degs. 38' N. 01
degs. 24' W. in BLACK PRINCE with VERULAM, METEOR,
SWIFT, IMPULSIVE, E.T.A. Scapa 1600A/8th. CHASER escorted by
ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, OBEDIENT will be detached 0730/8th, E.T.A. Scapa
a.m. 9th.
BLACK PRINCE has 10.1/4 tons Bullion.
(R.A.D. H.F., 072210A to C. in C.H.F.).

A/S
operations
off
Western
Ireland.

Weather conditions unsuitable for flying. Your
281952A January para.3.B, refers. *Course 220
degs. speed 3.
(STRIKER, 070639Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Convoy
C.W.252
attacked by
Coastal
Batteries.
CORUNDUM
damaged.

Between 1950 and 2018 yesterday enemy batteries
at Cap Blanc Nez and Framzelle fired eleven rounds
which fell to seaward of Dover.
The 4th M.S. Flotilla and C.W.252 were passing at
the time. It is considered probable that the
enemy sighted the 4th M.S.F. in the vicinity of
South Falls at 1750 when visibility was extreme.
Damage reported to SS. CORUNDUM which was diverted
to Newhaven.
(V.A. Dover, 070958A to Admty.).

War Diary7.3.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S.C. Operations. Recent intelligence indicates that chances of successful Welman attack in either Sovdefiord or Nord Gulen Fiord is remote owing to lack of shipping.

(2) Intend to abandon both operations forthwith and to concentrate on torpedo attack.

(3) Purport my number 0275/1 dated 29th February 1944 is to be effected as soon as practicable.

(A.C.O.S., 071104A to Coastal Lerwick, S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Intend to sail S.C. operation from Scalloway.

1. P.M. 13th March weather permitting.

2. 61 degs. 42' N. 04 degs. 48' E.

3. RAMOSE BOYCOTT II. 4. Two days. 5. 062 degs. Out Skerries. 6. No.

(A.C.O.S. 071656A and 121924A to Admty.).

Operation "V.P." Carry out V.P. one. Patrol A.E.

(2) V.P. 70. (3) A.M. 9th March or first suitable day thereafter. (4) One. (5) No. (6) No.

(7) 065 degs. Bressay. (8) Yes.

(A.C.O.S. 071235A to Admty.).

My 052206A.

(A) Force returned at 1900A today.

(2) Operation not successful owing to difficulty of recognising landfall. A sweep for shipping was carried out but proved unproductive.

(A.C.O.S., 072130 to Admty.).

Operation "Wolf" THIRLMERE, WINDERMERE are to leave convoy at 1500Z today and proceed to carry out operation "Wolf" on a line between 061 degs. 36' N. 020 degs. 37' W. and 060 degs. 45' N. 019 degs. 23' W. which is across probable line of advance of one or more U/boats.

(2) Aircraft will be carrying out A/S patrol to eastward of your patrol line and may be sighted.

(3) Probable duration of patrol is 48 hours.

(A.C.I.C., 071254A to THIRLMERE, WINDERMERE).

Operation "Barglow" Operation completed 1230. E.T.A. 2100 tonight. (JAMAICA, 071420A to A.C.O.S.).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 071503A). (C. in C. Portsmouth 071623A). (V.A. Dover, 071704A). (C. in C. Nore, 072155A).

Biscay A/S operations. T.G. 21.11, U.S.S. BOGOE, 5 destroyers, very approximate vicinity 045 degs. 01' N. 031 degs. 10' W. (C. in C.W.A., 071517A to Ships).

War Diary7.3.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.S/M
patrols.Submarines at 0759/8th and movements for
following 24 hours.

(A) SCEPTRE off Kya.

(B) SEANYMPH 62 degs. 55' N. 02 degs. 13' E. on
surface for Lerwick arriving daylight 9th.

(C) ZWAARDFISCH 63 degs. 31' N. 01 degs. 08' E.

(D) VENTURER arriving Lerwick from North East.

(F.O.S., 071713A to Admty.).

Enemy convoy
attacked off
Ijmuiden on
6th March.
One M/V and
one Gun-
coaster pro-
bably sunk.
One Enemy
trawler and
one R/boat
damaged.

M.T.B. 695 and
M.T.B. 693
damaged.

Preliminary report of Coastal Force Operations
night 5th/6th March. ? 6th/7th March intended (W.L.R. 210/1).

1. M.T.Bs. 693, 694, 690, 689, 695 of 53rd M.T.B.
Flotilla were ordered to carry out an offensive
sweep Egmond - Hook.

2. Unit arrived in initial position at 2302A and
swept south. At 2336 altered course to close land.
At 0003A sighted three trawlers at range of 3
miles. Closed to Radar Range of 1 1/4 miles. Unit
was challenged by P replied with P. At 0016 enemy
fired starshell. At 0047A in 135 degs. Ymuiden
17,500 yards unit altered course to get inshore of
enemy and close range. At 0105A in 135 degs.
Ymuiden 7,400 yards, M.T.Bs. 694, 690 were
detached to attack seaward ship with torpedoes,
while M.T.B. 693, 695 and 689 (without tubes)
made diversion on landward side.

(3) Narrative of S.O. in M.T.B. 693.

At 0108A. Sighted gun-coaster ahead 1900 yards and 8 or 9
R/boats, and inshore of these were four trawlers. Unit was
challenged with P and replied P. Unit closed gun-coaster to 200
yards passing between enemy and harbour entrance, which was
then distant 500 yards. At 0117A two leading M.T.Bs. opened fire
on gun-coaster and M.T.B. 689 engaged second in line, probably
R/boat. Gun-coaster taken by surprise, did not open fire, and
was left down by the stern and on fire. R/boat returned fire and
was silenced and set on fire. Unit came under heavy fire from all
sides. At 0125A disengaged to S.W. at 25 knots. Whilst disenga-
ging M.T.B. 695 was heavily hit, all bridge personnel being killed
or wounded, and she became temporarily out of control and rammed
M.T.B. 693. For next ten minutes enemy engaged each other and
several bursts of vertical tracer i.e. distress signals were
seen followed by two large explosions at sea level, probably
gun-coaster blowing up.

(4) Narrative of M.T.Bs. 694, 690.

At 0110A sighted two M/Vs. and five R/boats all stopped lying
in searched channel 3000 yards from entrance to Ymuiden. M.T.B.
694 detailed 690 to attack inshore vessel. M.T.B. 694 closed to
800 yards at 0117A. Fired both torpedoes at small island
coaster about 600 tons. Torpedoes observed to run but no result
visible. Disengaging under heavy but erratic fire, while
disengaging was continually in action with trawlers and R/boats,
three hits with 6 pdr. were observed in one trawler, M.T.B. 690
approached inshore of enemy M/V closed to 800 yards range. At
0118A fired both torpedoes at small North Sea Freighter 2000 tons
two island type with counter astern. Both torpedoes observed to
run. At 0019A disengaged and engaged same vessel, 6 pdr. and
Oerlikon hits were observed, simultaneously fire was opened by

/ enemy...

War Diary

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy convoy attacked off Ijmuiden on 6th March. One M/V and one Gun-coaster probably sunk. One Enemy trawler and one R/boat damaged. M.T.B. 695 and M.T.B. 693 damaged. (Contd.).

enemy from all directions. Immediately after this one torpedo was observed to hit under bridge and ship caught fire and started to settle by the head being left enveloped in smoke and flames. At 0120A M.T.B. 690 ceased fire and disengaged at full speed, shore batteries opened fire with guns, shrapnel, rockets and starshell at about 1000 yards range. At 0130A salvo of large calibre burst very close holing engine room and setting starboard outer engine on fire which was promptly extinguished. At 0131A shore batteries fire ceased, but engagement between R/boats was observed to be still in progress. M.T.Bs. 694, 690 proceeded to R/V with S.O. (5) Casualties 2 Officers killed, 2 Officers 2 Ratings wounded. Damage M.T.B. 695 approx. 1 week, M.T.B. 693 approx. 3 weeks, M.T.Bs. 689, 690 694 minor damage should complete in 24 hours. (6) Claims. 1 Freighter 2000 tons probably sunk by torpedo, 1 gun coaster probably sunk by gunfire and explosion, 1 trawler damaged, 1 R/boat set on fire. Damage caused to other trawlers and R/boats but cannot be assessed (C. in C. Nore, 071832A to Admty.).

Enemy Air Activity.

Lerwick. My 061459A. A further reconnaissance of Lerwick anchorage was carried out by a Ju.88 at 1614A/6th (A.C.O.S. 071150A to Admty.)

Iceland. R/C of following east coast Ports carried out by 2 Ju.88s acting independently. Seidis Fjord, Vopna Fiord 065° 46' N. 014° 49' W. and Budareyri 065° 02' N. 014° 13' W. between 1115A and 1135A. One aircraft fired on from Seidisfiord and hits claimed. (A.C.I.C. 071544A to Admty.)

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 071025Z. A/C heard 1015 east of Beerenberg. Southerly course. (A.C.I.C. 072244A to Admty.)

Mining.

Search off Smith's Knoll. B.Y.M.S. have cut mine in 010° Smiths Knoll Bell Buoy 1.8 miles. Resweep area covered yesterday; sweeps to be set as deep as practicable. (C. in C. Nore, 071055A and 071745A to M/S 15.) My 071033. Further 2 mines cut in 036° Hearty Knoll 4 miles at 1138/7. New type. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 071235A and 071745A to Admty.)

107

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Search of Smiths Knoll. (Contd.) B.Y.M.S. reports 2 mines cut 036° Hearty Knoll Buoy 4 miles. If sweep to westward continues clearing in G formation acknowledge. (C. in C. Nore, 071330A to M/S 15.)

1. My 071155A. One mine of type recovered yesterday caught insweep in 021° 56A Buoy 2.7 miles on last lap of clearance and dragged for 1½ miles before detonating.
2. 2 Laps in K formation completed to cover positions of 2 previous mines found with negative result.
3. 2 Floating mines sunk at northern end of area, 1 reported as Mark (4) type and the other as of type found yesterday. 2 more mines cut by B.Y.M.S. were sighted and left in unswept waters off Smiths Knoll Bank.
5. Smiths Knoll buoy top broken and extinguished. (M/S 15 071720A to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich. My 071422. One ground Mine detonated by sweepers at 071135A in 51° 56.2' N. 01° 47' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 071839A to Admty.)

U/Boats.

U/Boat attacked. At 061802 one, possibly two U/Boats surfaced in about 68° 57' N. 03° 16' E. and were attacked by Liberator A/C. VB/120. The results were not seen but U/Boat hidden by explosions and bow rose out of water. Later flak ceased. (H) Starboard outer engine of A/C on fire. During later attempted attack on second one, possible same U/Boat, considerable damage done and both navigators wounded. Immediately after first attack Captain circled to see results and at 1804 sighted what majority of crew believe to be second U/Boat. An attempt was made to attack but at 700 yds. aircraft was hit and D.Cs. failed to release. Owing to damage not possible to stay to investigate results. (Wick, 070515A to 18 Group.)

Liberator VB/120 reports attacking U/Boat at 1802/6th in 068° 57' N. 003° 16' E.

2. Result not seen but U/Boat hidden by explosions.
3. A/C damaged by Flak, both navigators wounded. (C. in C. H.F., 071332 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Search for U/Boat. Return Stornoway. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 070754A to FLINT CASTLE, CROWLIN, CALDY.)

Dummy Periscope. LAVENDER's report. (B.5, 071701Z). See America and West Indies.

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- GATINEAU. E.T.A. Moville 1400A/7th. Defects distiller turbo feed-pump, a (corrupt group) and A/S dome. My P.C.S. at 0001Z/7th 054° 57' N. 011° 20' W. (H.M.C.S. GATINEAU 070002Z to Cdre. (D) W.A.) Arrived GATINEAU. (Cdre. D.W.A. 071629A to Admty.)
- Two U.S. Landing Craft. Have lost touch with 2 U.S. landing craft. Have searched as far as Hartland Point without success. Proceeding with remaining 4. (PETERHEAD, 07005A to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- CARISBROOKE CASTLE. Returned Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 070108 to Admty., S.O.E.G.40, C. in C. W.A., Capt. D. Greenock.)
- Stragglers. Stragglers Return week ending 0915/7th March:-
O.N. 223 ALABAMAN - Part of Rudder carried away.
O.N.S.30 GEORGE WEEMS - Leaking deep tank water entered No. 2 Hold causing Cargo to shift.
O.N. 226 SOVAC. Broken Piston Ring.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 070915A to Admty.)
- MAMMOUTH. My 061830A. MAMMOUTH reports she is overdue for boiler cleaning and experienced difficulty on voyage here owing to it. Propose with your approval to do this forthwith, estimated date of completion 16th March. (Capt. i/c Tilbury, 070957A to C. in C. Nore.)
- CORUNDUM. Damaged by Enemy Coastal Batteries in Convoy C.W.252. (V.A. Dover, 070958A) See Operations.
- CAPE BRETON. Detach CAPE BRETON forthwith to proceed at best speed to Londonderry to make good defects. (C. in C.W.A. 071219A to S.O. E.G. B.7.) My 071219. Proceed to Belfast for docking for damage to A/S Dome. (C. in C.W.A. 071708A to CAPE BRETON.)
Your 071708A. My P.C.S. at 1800A/7th 055° 12' N. 011° 45' W., 084° 12 knots. E.T.A. Belfast 1300Z/8th. (CAPE BRETON, 071801Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- LARGS. LARGS requires docking to repair damage to asdic and consequent leaking. She also requires small repairs to ships side above water-line.
2. She could be released on 27th March to sail Westabout for Portsmouth where she is required by 12th April.
3. Can she be taken in hand en route?
(Force S, 071244A to Admty.)

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

CUTTY
SARK. Entered Scapa with defect and proceeded at 1141 to comply with S.3s 040921.
(A.C.O.S. 071321 N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

ROWLEY. Your 041146/3. Owing to defects to Cylinder liner of No.1 auxiliary feed pump ROWLEY will be delayed sailing until 16th March.
(Capt. D. Liverpool, 071504A to C. in C.W.A.)

CHAUDIERE. H.M.C.S. CHAUDIERE reports serious leak in reserve feed-tank. Am detaching her to proceed at best speed to Londonderry. Probably arriving p.m. tomorrow. Position 53° 21'.
(ICARUS, 071531 to C. in C.W.A.)

L.C.P.(L)541
lost. L.C.P.(L) 541 of 499 Flotilla lost night of 28/29th February.
(Com. Force "J", 071545A to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

PRAGUE. Your 061159. For reasons given in my 061729 northbound passage should similarly be made in daylight.
(A.C.O.S., 071133.)

My 061159. Sailing delayed until 0500/8th. E.T.A. Lerwick 1900/8th. Vessel unescorted. K/B flown.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 071243A to A.C.O.S.)

110

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Fishing
Fleet.

Third Group of vessels to be routed direct to 42° 30' N. 53° 00' W. thence to Newfoundland Banks. Fourth and fifth groups to be routed to 41° 30' N. 30° 00' N. thence direct to Greenland Fishing Banks.
2. Your O11704 and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 032315. (Admty. 070302A.)

Ship
reported
on fire
6th March.

My O61740* aircraft only found Portuguese steamer making smoke. No other reports received. Presumed, therefore, Clipper pilot's report erroneous.
(N.A.Lisbon, 071049.)
* Re report by Clipper pilot of unknown ship on fire.

SS. LINDA,
THYRAS.

Understand you are arranging sailing of Danish vessels LINDA and THYRAS from Las Palmas. For your information THYRAS is sailing on understanding she enters British service and she should proceed as soon as possible to Gibraltar for requisitioning there. LINDA is sailing on understanding she enters W.S.A. (?U.S.A.) service and should, therefore, not be requisitioned either at Gibraltar or at any North African port to which you may direct her for docking.
(Admty., 071824A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Venturas
for
Gibraltar.

We have now agreed with Admiralty that transfer of the two Ventura squadrons to Gibraltar should not be pressed with Cominch unless present arrangements prove unsatisfactory.
(Air Min. 071830Z.)

GLASGOW.

On arrival Angra close harbour and prepare to disembark personnel. One officer and one N.C.O. will embark for passage to U.K. On completion proceed Horta and fuel reporting E.T.A. to S.B.N.O.
Horta. Sail from Horta to R/V with convoy M.K.F.29 in accordance with C. in C.Plymouth 041214. Position of R/V will be signalled later.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 072358Z to GLASGOW.)

South Atlantic.

?U/B off
Takoradi.

Reporting LOWESTOFT's attack on doubtful S/M contact at 062200Z (q.v.)
(F.O.C.W.Af. 070005Z, 070255Z.)

War Diary.

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

P.552. Details of defects. Ref. Com. i/c Durban.
My 041622 Jan.
2. Proper and efficient repair of S/M quality
would take several months in dock.
3. Present safe diving depth of P.552 is not known but repairs
to standard of limited dive of 100 feet only could be carried
out in present estimated time required.
4. Request instructions.
(Com. i/c Durban, 071356Z to C. in C.E.F.)

H.M.R.T. Request confirmation arrival H.M.R.T. FLARE
FLARE. giving date.
(Admty. 071423A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Italian Your 052355. Regret exchange of Biancheri and
Cruisers. Oliva must take place.
2. It is considered that there is no strategic
justification for basing third Italian Cruiser on
Freetown at present. A.M. 221843/Feb. refers*
(A.C.N.S.(F) 071845A to F.O.C.W.Af.)* Hush M/S
distribution.

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U.G.S.34. U.S.S. CAMPBELL ahead of column 10 U.G.S.34
U/B 4000 yards dropped full pattern on fan sound
attacked contact 062105Z in 034 degs. 32' 021 degs. 28'.
6th March. COCKRILL adjacent to port 3700 yards reports
sighting periscope wake tried to ram missed
50 feet dropped full pattern at 2110Z and 2nd
pattern about 10 minutes later on sound contact.
No results seen. Considerable M/F transmission prior to this
on 394 and 424 K/cs. Extreme ranges taken 070 degs. 105 degs.
Area searched for 2 hours no results. Convoy course 101 degs.
advance 10.
(C.T.F.61, 070402)

PIPINOS: Cancel reference to traffic coast crawling in
Piraeus- my 021924/ Para. 2. Attention is drawn to
Salonika position referred to in para. 1 of my 051046/
Traffic. (Capt. (S) 1, 070915 to PIPINOS)
TZAR (/ 2021928 intended)
FERDINAND / 39.31 N. 23.18 E.
and CELENO. Merchant ships northbound in your area over
500 tons are to be attacked my 051504/
(Capt. (S) 1, 071045A to PIPINOS)
/ Re.TZAR FERDINAND and CELENO.

Operation 46th Sitrep.
"Shingle". 1914 tons discharged during 6th March, of which
62 tons were unloaded from L.C.I(L)'s. Weather
prevented unloading of Liberties until midday.
Heavy swell moderated during the afternoon.
(2) No air raids, no bombs dropped.
(3) Shelling of port continues, but on a reduced scale, and no
damage or casualties have been reported.
(4) LIVERMORE reported attacked good contact in 41 degs. 05' N.
12 degs. 48' E. at 2130/6.
(C. in C. Med. (Naples) 070924A)

Destruction My 061020 N.O.I.C. Beirut reports:
of M.L.387 Lt. Connor R.N.V.R. C.O. M.L.387 died from injuries
5th March. One British Officer and 3 Ratings injured. 6
or 7 French sailors from Fire Party who rendered
valuable assistance dead and 20 injured.
(2) One small Harbour Tug sunk but recoverable.
One new skid tower badly damaged M.L.1007 shrapnel damage
below waterline estimated time of repair 3 to 4 days. L.S.7
on jetty damaged beyond repair. Damage to Port Company
Buildings. Blast damage to Civilian property.
(3) From immediate enquiries would appear petrol fire started
in engine room which led to explosion of petrol tanks and
finally very probably depth charges. Ends.
(F.O.L.E.M.071132B)

ANTIOPE. Cancel para 6 or my 032030/ B.A.D.061851/
refers.
ANTIOPE is being retained in North African waters
pending instructions as to her destination.
(C. in C. Med. 071200A).
/ Re. French Sub. ANTIOPE.

AOSTA /...

7.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

AOSTA. Italian Cruisers are being very useful in connection with heavy troop movements into Italy and other transfers of personnel and material but one has been mined and the other three which are operating are temporarily out of action due to defects developed on service. In view of future commitments it is most desirable that AOSTA should return to the Med. It might be convenient to release her for service in the Atlantic at a future date.

My 041546 and F.O.C.W.Af's 052255 (?052355 intended)
(C. in C. Med. 071215A to Admty. (R) F.O.T.A.L.I., F.O.C.W.A.F)

S.N.O.R.S.C.A. Headquarters of S.N.O.R.S.C.A. will be transferred from Suez to Ismailia on 18th March S.N.O.R.S.C.A. will thereafter carry out the duties of N.O.I.C. Ismailia.
(F.O.L.E.M. 071326B)

S.L.O.A. Cdr. Jackson R.N.R. has been appointed to the Staff of F.O.T.A.L.I. as Shipping Liaison Officer Adriatic Ports (S.L.O.A.) with number 2 district at Bari.

(2) S.L.O.A. is responsible for the call forward and the subsequent adjustment of shipping for Taranto and Adriatic Ports.

(C. in C. Med. 071500A ?1400)

?U/B. Am investigating suspicious object possible periscope in 33.18 R. 28.48 E.E.
(A/C C/S F.F.M.R.071514B)

Ports for Greek relief ships. A.M. 211926 Jan. para. 3. Germans state Canea unsuitable as a port for relief ships and suggest Suda and/or Nikolaos in Gulf of Mirabella. Request you will state whether either of these ports is unmined and whether we can agree to its use for relief ships, it being understood that this would involve leaving the port unmined in future. As it is most important to have one available port in Crete for distribution of relief, it is hoped that early agreement can be given for use of one or both of above two ports. Swedes state Suda is the most important port for their purposes.

(Admty. 071805A to F.O.L.E.M., V.A. Malta.)

U/B Report. Nr. 3. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 33 degs. 51' N. 29 degs. 09' E. probably S/M at 1933B.
(A/C C/S GMPB, 072050B)

ULTOR. Eastbound convoy may be sighted about 0530/8th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 072200 to ULTOR)

114

7.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Ships for
K.M.F.
Convoys.

West African requirements will reduce the number of the smaller types of ship available for Med. destinations in K.M.F. convoys.

(2) Request you investigate with C. in C. Med. whether he still considers the risk of sending the larger troopships of about 20,000 tons and

650 ft. length to Naples too great to be acceptable.

C. in C. Med. 281855A December, 1943 refers.

(M.W.T.072223A to P.S.T.O. Med.)

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No.31. Areas A and B believed clear of U-Boats scale of air escort W. Area C U-Boat (German) by D/F 200 miles east of Socotra 5th March may still be in area. Scale of air escort east of Socotra remains Y for time being. Remainder of area X. Area D enemy S/M believed Japanese Diego Suarez area 5th March possibly moving west scale of air escort Z. Areas E and F no fresh information but U-Boats may be in these areas. Scale of air escort X. Area G Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F between Casco Bay and Maldive Island 0002Z/6th March and it is considered that 1 German S/M and between 2 and 3 Japanese S/Ms may be in area. Scale air escort Y. Indian Ocean no fresh information of Japanese U-Boat plotted by D/F 750 miles east Chagos Archipelago 3rd March. If moving south west could be in vicinity 015 degs. S. 075 degs. E. Alternately she may be the U-Boat plotted by D/F in Area G. (C. in C. E.F. 070403Z)

SUSSEX. Intend that SUSSEX shall act as Ocean Escort to RUYS and MOUNT VERNON for first portion of their voyage. SUSSEX subsequently returning to escort ATHOS II.
(2) Request information (a) when RUYS and MOUNT VERNON will be ready to leave Fremantle in company (b) when ATHOS II will be ready to leave Fremantle. B.A.D.252331Z Feb. and 022055Z refers. (C. in C. E.F. 071104Z to Comsouwestpac.)

LONDON, Arrivals (from U.K.).
CUMBERLAND. (Com. Aden, 071443Z)

U/B Report. By H/F D/F on (?44 or 89) 55 K/cs at 1610Z/7 Japanese U-Boat bearing 164 degs, 2nd class distant. My P.C.S. 14.10 N. 49.39 E.250 degs. 8. (KISTNA, 071610Z)

Two large Enemy Ships. Report received from S/M indicated possibility that two or more large enemy ships passed South through Yomkyk (presumably Lombok intended) Strait at 1900Z/6. Divert or hold all west bound shipping until situation clarifies. Acknowledge. (Com. 7th Fleet, 071850Z to Comsouwestseafron, (R) C. in C. E.F. C.T.F.71, Cincpac, Cominch)

This repeats my 071734 begins S/M on patrol North of Lombok Strait reports possibility of 2 or more unidentified large ships came south thro' Lombok Strait at 1900Z/6th. Consider report sufficient to warrant intensified air search. Our S/Ms and planes being used to maximum to obtain additional early information. Will keep you informed. Ends. Encyphered by N.O.I.C. Fremantle. (C.T.F.71, 071903Z to C. in C. E.F.). N.B. In message 071850 from Com. 7th Fleet "Yomkyk Strait should presumably read "Lombok Strait".

War Diary.

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

GARIBALDI, AOSTA. My 041933. Arrangement now is that GARIBALDI should remain at Freetown and AOSTA return to Mediterranean as GARIBALDI is more suitable for Atlantic work and is similar class to ABRUZZI, thus simplifying supply of spares.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 070536A.)

T.G.21.11 My 051920Z*. Returning to concentration 1300Z/7 P.C. and S. 40.39 N. 35.06 W. 059, 13. Weather 6882 0253.
(C.T.G. 21.11 071355Z.)
* re Unable to operate aircraft and will re-open concentration area when conditions improve.

Enemy guided missiles. Technical.
(N.S.H.Q. 071408Z.)

O.N.S.30. Group W.4 BATTLEFORD (S.O.) THE PAS, TRURO, ALBERNI will relieve you at Westomp established in 045° 37' N. 047° 02' W. at 1500Z.
2. Upon relief C.4 proceed St. Johns N.F. one escort accompanying SS. FORT BINGER.
3. "Chop" 1500Z/8th.
(F.O.N.F. 071436Z to Escorts O.N.S.30.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 071453Z, Cominch 071608Z.)

FORT HOPE. Arrival a.m. 7th ex standing by SS. JOEL R.POINSETT.
(C.O.P.Halifax 071629Z.)

Dummy periscope. My 022345Z.* Following is synopsis of LAVENDER's report. (Substantially same as C. in C.C.N.A. 062130 q.v.)
(S.O.E.G.B.5 071701Z.)
* Report by LAVENDER of possible decoy.

Routes given to PASTEUR. Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. concurs generally in para. 2 of your 040026*.
2. Our information is however that U.S.R.O.New York only issues positions of traffic likely to be met to seaward of New York Approaches.
3. In order to pursue the PASTEUR case we will interview the Master. Also request you confirm that messages held were complete copies of A.M. 121540, 191303, and 131845 all February.
(B.A.D. 071829Z to Adnty.)
* re Details of routes given to PASTEUR.

/U/B...

War Diary.

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B sighting & attack summary. Para. A. U.S.S. CAMPBELL attacked sound contact 062105 U.S.S. COCKRELL attacked periscope and wake 062115 both area 34.32 N. 21.20 W.
Para. C. MARINER Radar contact 37.31 N. 62.20 W. 071510. S.C. 1016 sub. contact 10.08 N. 78.50 W. 070820. Patrol plane Radar contacts 10.35 N. 79.40 W. 061500. All times Z.
Para. D. Panair plane sights sub. 19.28 N. 74.05 W. 071425. (Cominch 072125Z.)

LORD KELVIN (Cable ship.) Sailed at 2130Z/7 in convoy H.S.127 escorted by GODERICH. After detaching Louisberg Ships, cable ship and escort, proceed to position A. 046° 40' N. 057° 22' W. for cable repair escort providing screen after which repairs are to be made in position B. 046° 46' N. 056° 19' W. thence C. 046° 48' N. 056° 14' W.
2. Relief escort to arrive by p.m. 12th when GODERICH to proceed St. Johns N.F.
3. On completion of cable repair cable ship should be escorted to Halifax or if escort not available join Halifax bound convoy. (C. in C.C.N.W.A. 072156Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial March 6th. Paras. 11 to 14 cover South Pacific No. 777.
3. Morning American Marines landed against light opposition Volupai plantation five miles N.W. Talasea North New Britain coast.
4. Heavy enemy mortar fire encountered allied positions Los Negros Island night 5th/6th. Following afternoon allied forces occupied Porlaka and landing beach west coast Salami plantation both on shores Seeadler Harbour supported by 16 Mitchells bombing, straffing enemy positions this area. Considerable quantities enemy ammunition supplies captured. Morning same date single allied destroyer closing to 850 yards drew fire from two probable four inch guns commanding entrance Seeadler Harbour. Destroyer claimed both guns destroyed. Light damage sustained by destroyer. Total over 1000 enemy killed to date. Evening enemy attempted landing from barges Salami plantation. Artillery sank one barge killing five Japanese.
14. Morning fifth patrol aircraft saw enemy submarine heading N.W. off Feni Islands. Afternoon another aircraft bombed submarine same vicinity straddling target with two bombs. Morning 6th M.T.Bs. destroyed four barges same vicinity without opposition. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 070730Z.)

/Admiralty...

7.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Admiralty Is. One. Enemy involved estimated three Bns. several
New M.G. Coys., and light tanks.
Guinea. Two. Saidor. First Bn. 126 Inf. completed un-
opposed landing Yalau Ptn. 29 miles west Saidow
(?Saidor) patrols proceeded Bibi without contacts.
Source. Sovespac.
(B.A.S. Washington 071700Q.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C sighted U-Boat on surface, course
051° at 1700Z/6 in 68° 57' N. 03° 16' E.
2. E.G.C.2 attacked U-Boat on surface at 1541Z/6th
in 52° 01' N. 22° 37' W.
3. Br. JOHN HOLT torpedoed at 2113Z/6 in 03° 56' N.
07° 30' E.
4. A/C sighted and attacked U-Boat at 0200Z/5 in 12° 00' S. 49° 30'
E.
Para. B. 1. FAL attacked doubtful contact at 2200Z/6th in 03° 57'
N. 02° 49' W.
2. LOWESTOFT attacked doubtful contact at 2221Z/6 in 03° 57' N.
02° 49' W.
Para. C. 1. A/C sighted possible periscope at 0700Z/5 in 05° 00'
N. 74° 00' E.
(D.D.I.C. 071015Z.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 071429A, 071500A.)

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1(a) Convoy R.A. 57 was about 130 miles N.E. of the Faeroes at 0800 to-day. M/S 18 in READY with ONYX, LOYALTY and HYDRA left Skaalefiord (Faeroes) at 0437A to relieve the Destroyer Escort; and R.A.D. H.F. in BLACK PRINCE with four Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 1346A from escorting the Convoy.

(b) C. in C. H.F. reports to Admiralty to-day that, during the passage of the two Russian Convoys J.W.57 and R.A.57 concerned in this Operation, a total of 28 attacks were made upon U-Boats; and he confirms that each of four of these attacks resulted in the certain destruction of a U-Boat, as follows:-

i. At 250945 February by Catalina A/C;

ii. At 040615 March by Swordfish A/C and ONSLAUGHT;

iii. At 050850 March by Swordfish A/C; and

iv. At 061000 March by Swordfish A/C.

The only M/V injured in either Convoy was the EMPIRE TOURIST in R.A. 57 torpedoed and sunk on 5th March; but on 25th February the Destroyer MAHRATTA was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat about 280 miles West of the North Cape while escorting Convoy J.W.57.

TIRPITZ.

2. Admiral Fisher reports to-day from Moscow that, according to information obtained in the middle of February and received yesterday in Moscow by the Soviet Naval Staff, TIRPITZ is intended to be towed from Alten Fiord early in March to Kiel for docking; and Admiralty consider that she may have completed sufficient temporary repairs by about the middle of March to enable her to return to Germany under her own steam.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Wicketkeeper".

3. With a view to intercepting a U-Boat or U-Boats westbound from the Indian Ocean a search by aircraft of the S.A.A.F. is being carried out to-day, and a search by surface forces will be carried out tomorrow until dusk on 12 March, in the area South and South-west of Port Elizabeth. (c.f. 11 March).

120

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

K.M.S.43
attacked.

4. About 25 enemy aircraft attacked Convoy K.M.S.43 off Algiers this evening. No damage or casualties were caused to the Convoy and fighters claim to have shot down several enemy aircraft; one British and one French fighter were lost.

Operation
"Shingle".

5(a). Weather at Anzio to-day was fine with a slight swell. 5446 tons were discharged; of which 281 tons was unloaded from L.C.I.(L's) and L.C.T. sailing from Naples. Enemy aircraft were over the area, but no bombs were dropped. Enemy shelling continued, though on a reduced scale; no damage is reported.
(b) One acoustic mine was detonated off Anzio and sweeping is in progress.

U-Boat
attacked in
Tyrrhenian.

6. A U-Boat in the Tyrrhenian Sea was bombed by aircraft last night; bodies which were seen in the water are believed to have been those of the gun's crew. Destroyers are hunting, and BLANKNEY attacked a contact at 2134Z/9 and 41.03 N. 12.32 E (c.f. 10 March para. 9b).

Adriatic.

7. Destroyers last night carried out a sweep of the Istrian Coast and the shore of the Gulf of Venice, but nothing was sighted. Wellingtons bombed San Stefano last night and 24 B.26s to-day.

Aegean.

8(a). M.L's last night attacked 3 lighters escorted by a caique near Niseros and damaged the caique and one lighter. Another caique was captured South of Khios last night by an M.L.
(b) A convoy and escorts in Santorin harbour was attacked by Allied aircraft last night and one the previous night but results were not seen.

China.

Siam.

9. 4 U.S. Liberators last night attacked shipping at Koh Sichang Island, Gulf of Siam and sank one vessel and probably damaged one or more others. The oil installations on Prong Island were also bombed.

121

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.- Contd.

Yangtse.

10. 13 U.S. Mitchells to-day attacked floating docks near Wuchang, opposite Hankow, and sank a gunboat, one direct hit was made on the docks. In interception by enemy aircraft 2 Mitchells were lost and 5 damaged.

Australia and New Zealand.

Admiralty
Group.

11. Allied minesweepers, destroyers and landing craft entered Seeadler harbour this forenoon and with air support effected a landing at Lombrun Point on the south-western shore of the harbour, apparently without opposition. The area was occupied by this evening.

12. Three heavy air attacks were made on the wharf and dock area of Simpson's Harbour to-day, causing considerable damage ashore.

GAMBIA.

13. GAMBIA left Fremantle to-day for Colombo, to join the Eastern Fleet.

War Diary.

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of R.A.D. H.F. At 0900Z/9th. Cancel H.F. Message 211011 Feb. (C. in C. H.F. 082009 to H.F.)

Operations.

Operation F.X. S.O.M/S 18 in READY sailed with ORESTES, ONYX, LOYALTY, HYDRA in company. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 080437A to C. in C. H.F.) Scapa arrival R.A.(D) H.F. in BLACK PRINCE with VERULAM, METEOR, SWIFT, IMPULSIVE. (A.C.O.S.081346A to H.F.)

Operation F.X. Preliminary analysis of attacks show four U-Boats sunk for certain during passage of J.W. and R.A.57.
 ✓ (1) by Catalina aircraft at 250945 February. Survivors seen in water. None picked up.
 ✓ (2) R.P. and gunfire attack by Swordfish A/C and ONSLAUGHT at 040615 March. 25 survivors picked up, C.O. Von Foerntner.
 ✓ (3) R.P. attack by Swordfish at 050850 March. U-Boat seen to sink. Survivors seen in water but none picked up.
 ✓ (4) R.P. attack by Swordfish at 061000 March. Three survivors picked up. C.O. believed to be Papenmueller.
 Attacks made total 28.
 (C. in C. H.F. 082353A to Admty.)

(all confirmed)

Biscay A/S Operations. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47 degs. 11' N. 7 degs. 42' W. (A/C M.B.H.47 080550 to 19 Group) C.T.G.21.11 in U.S.S. BOGUE may be operating in your vicinity. (C. in C. W.A. 081233A to H.X.281, ATHOLL, BADDECK)
 Am over one enemy S/M in 46 degs. 08' N. 09 degs. 39' W. Enemy was on surface when first sighted, was on course 180 degs. estimated speed 15 knots. When first sighted was 12 miles away.
 (A/C NTQ 83, 082255 to 19 Group)

VENTURER Patrol. VENTURER reports:-
 (1) 2nd March 2210, P.C.S. 062 degs. 13' N. 005 degs. 07' E. 065 degs. 9 knots, range 12 (hundred?) yards, convoy of 3 M/Vs and one escort. Fired 4 torpedoes on the surface and then dived. Two explosions at 52 and 90 seconds corresponding with first and fourth torpedoes. These were followed by breaking-up noise. Two other explosions at 3 and 5 minutes thought to be remaining torpedoes exploding on shore, Counter attack and hunt with 20 charges, of which half were close. Damage to W/T and Police light wiring.
 (2) 6th March 1544, P.C.S. of unescorted 6,500 ton M.V. with Danish marking, 062 degs. 26' N. 005 degs. 58' E. 020 degs. 11 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes range 4300 yards. Explosions at 3½ minutes and two faint after 7 minutes. No counter attack or hunt.
 (3) Many fishing vessels sighted off Bredsund. (S.O.S/M, Lerwick, 080815A to F.O.S.)

123

War Diary.

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S/M Add to my 061219(M) THULE 1st April 15th April HH.
Patrols. (F.O.S.081104A to Capts. S.3, S.9)
(A) SCEPTRE, ZWAARDFISCH, and VIKING as in my
071713.
(F.O.S.081624 to Admty.)

Arrived SEANYMPH.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 082212A to Admty.)

V.P. (A) My 052203A. Force returned at 0930A to-day.
Operations. (2) Operation not successful owing to Force
being detected when making landfall. No shipping
sighted.

(A.C.O.S.081232A to Admty.)
Carry our V.P. (1) Patrol A. (2) V.P.70. (3) a.m. 9th March
or first suitable day thereafter.
(4) One. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 065 degs. Bressay. (8) Yes.
(A.C.O.S.081242A to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth 081256A, 081422A)
Force
Patrols.

SEANYMPH SEANYMPH reports.
Patrol. (1) 1st March 1141, P.C.S. of one 5,000 ton
Transport escorted by one torpedo boat and one
attacked whaler 66 degs. 42' N. 13 degs. 12' E. 194 degs.
on 1st 6 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes at 1400 yards.
March. One heavy explosion 1 minute after firing. H.E.
of target stopped. Ineffective but fairly close
counter-attack. 6 explosions between 1146 and
1200 of which 4 were thought to be depth charges.

Result not observed.

(2) 3rd March, 0918 P.C.S. of one 7,000 ton M/V with 2 'M' class
minesweepers 66 degs. 42 N. 13 degs. 07' E. 024 degs. 13 knots.
Fired 5 torpedoes at 3500 yards. One explosion $3\frac{3}{4}$ minutes
after firing first torpedo. 21 other explosions between
0924 and 1122 none close. Result not observed.

(3) 1st March 0928 sighted 3 northbound M.V. out of range.

(4) Some small coasters sighted.

(5) 2nd March A/S search carried out by 2 'M' class minesweepers
North from Rodoy Fiord. At 1726 in 66 degs. 42.7 N. 13 degs.
01.5 E. a wire appeared to scrape down ships side while at
periscope depth. Sweepers were then 2 miles away.
(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 082245A to F.O.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen, T.O.O.080900Z.
Aircraft heard 0845 S. of island, 084 degs.
Weather foggy.
(A.C.I.C.082016A to Admty.)

War Diary.

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ. Soviet Naval Staff, have received information that ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ has completed temporary repairs and is expected to be towed to Kiel early this month.

(2) I am asking for grading and further details.

(3) Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. F.O.S.

(Ad. Fisher, 081503C to Admty.)

N.I.D. Comment:-

From information available in N.I.D. it is considered that TIRPITZ may complete temporary repairs about mid-March 1944 to enable her to return under her own steam to Germany.

My 081503. Soviet Naval Staff state that information was obtained in the middle of February, passed on 2 March and received in Moscow on 7th. They grade report as "reliable".

(2) Details contained in report as follows. Begins:
"TIRPITZ was in Kofjord with a repair vessel alongside starboard side. Repair work was being carried out at high speed and estimated date of completion was towards end of February. The explosion of the second torpedo had damaged the port engine and bent the propeller shaft. About 800 workmen were engaged on this repair work. Early in March it is intended to tow TIRPITZ to Kiel for docking. Ends.

(Ad. Fisher, 081748C to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

ORESTES. My 070958. ORESTES now dependent on L L generator only for electric supply. Intend her to proceed direct to Scapa for repairs. E.T.A. 0100/9th. My 071815 refers. (M/S.18, 080235A to C. in C. H.F.)

Convoy S.C.154E. ST. LAURENT endeavouring to subdue fire broken out in SAN FRANCISCO in 045 degs. 15' N. 028 degs. 03' W. She has been ordered to remove crew and papers if fire becomes beyond control and sent SAN FRANCISCO to stragglers route if fire is subdued. My P.C.S. 045 degs. 15' N. 027 degs. 52' W. 090 degs. 7.5.

(C.1, 080907Z to C. in C. W.A.)

My 080907. ST. LAURENT has 70 ton pump and party on board SAN FRANCISCO. HALIFAX standing by. Weather 3965 2136. (C.1, 081212Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Screening SAN FRANCISCO. P.C.S. at 1300Z, 045 degs. 18' N. 027 degs. 51' W. 091 degs. 8.

Three officers and 26 ratings from ST. LAURENT on board SAN FRANCISCO. She has jettisoned part of cargo and located centre of fire. Estimated fire now under control.

(ST. LAURENT, 081615Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Fire subduing in SAN FRANCISCO. Pump broke down but repair almost completed. P.C.S. at 1800Z, 045 degs. 22' N. 027 degs. 30' W. 095 degs. 8. On request from Master it is necessary to leave ST. LAURENT working party on board owing to unco-operative crew who apparently would not be sorry to abandon ship. Weather 9070 1933.

(ST. LAURENT, 081830Z to C. in C. W.A.)

125

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- Convoy S.C.154E. SAN FRANCISCO. (Contd.) Well done. Recommend you steer SAN FRANCISCO for Commodore's noon R/V, 10th, 047 degs. 18' N. 019 degs. 30' W. subject to orders to the contrary from C. in C. W.A. Remove your crew at daylight. My P.C.S. 045 degs. 45' N. 025 degs. 28' W. 095 degs. 7.75. (C.1, 082303Z to ST. LAURENT)
- CHAUDIERE. E.T.A. Londonderry 1615Z/8th. Serious leaks in reserve feed tank. (CHAUDIERE, 081114Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- ZWARTE ZEE. Rescue tug ZWARTE ZEE out of action owing to engine defects for approx. one week. (N.O.I.C. Barry, 081124 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
- L.C.P.(L) 541. Your 071545A. Were any casualties sustained to R.N. Personnel. (Comdr. Force "J", 081236A to Admty.)
- CAPE BRETON. Your 071708A. Asdic defect can be made good without docking. Boiler cleaning in hand. (F.O.I.C.N.I.081711A to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- Group Z. Kola Inlet sailed Group Z less ROBERT EDEN escorted by Russian destroyers and minesweepers. Speed 9 knots E.T.A. ice edge 1500C/9. Your 250937 Feb. para. 2 refer. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 080901A to S.B.N.O. Archangel)

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- KILISSI. German controlled French KILISSI arrived Candia 7th from Valencia.
(F.O.G.M.A.080042A to 10th S/M.F.)
- T.G.21.16. Arrived.
(C.M.S.F.081003A)
- M.K.F.29. Request you sail GLASGOW as necessary R/V M.K.F.29 in position:
(A) 039 degs. 50' N. 008 degs. 09' W. at 111200A.
(2) M.K.F.29, 19 ships and WARSPITE escorted PRINCE ROBERT, NAIRANA, ACTIVITY, CYGNET, (S.O A/S Escort) WOODCOCK, CRANE, REDPOLE, BENTINCK, DRURY, BYARD, CALDER, BURGESS and CURZON.
(3) Route. JA 040 degs. 01' N. 018 degs. 30' W.
S. of A. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots.
(F.O.G.M.A.081443A) as amended 081827A)
- T.F.21.16. Depart Casablanca when ready about 11 March operate against submarine concentration assuring adequate protection U.G.S.-G.U.S. convoy routes if these routes become threatened. Co-ordinate your operations with T.F.21.11 if you go north.
(C. in C. Lant, 081629 to C.T.F.2116)
- SALVONIA. Your 061118. Ministry of Marine states SALVONIA entered flying Red Ensign but asked for facilities of man of war.
(1) N.O.I.C. in their opinion acted correctly in accordance with his instructions as strictly speaking we are not entitled to base any man of war or merchant ship at Horta not provided for in agreement.
(2) They suggest Embassy should ask Portuguese Gov. for permission to station 2nd tug at Horta flying Red Ensign. They would be placed in more difficult position with Germans if she flew White Ensign. They ask that this procedure should always be followed in future by us before taking action with resultant friction which they are anxious to avoid.
(3) Embassy has been informed.
(N.A. Lisbon, 081817 to B.S.N.O. Azores)
- U-Boats attacked. Cominch reports that U.S.S. CAMPBELL attacked sound contact at 062105 and U.S.S. COCKERELL attacked periscope and wake at 062115 both in area 34 degs. 32 degs. N. 21 degs. 20 degs. W.
(D.C. 081918A to F.O.G.M.A. S.B.N.O. Azores.)

CONAM /...

127

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

CONAME

CONAME arrived Legunto last night and left about 1800 today 8th March for Barcelona with 720 tons iron ore ultimate destination Germany. (R.O. Valencia, 081921)

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Wicket-
Keeper"

With a view to intercepting U-Boat or U-Boats Westbound from Indian Ocean operation "Wicket-Keeper" has been laid on.

(2) Phase 1 consists of search of an area between 22 degs. 10' E. and 25 degs. 40' E. as far South as 38 degs. S. by A/C of S.A.A.F.

from Port Elizabeth to be carried out on 8th March.

(3) Phase 2 consists of a similar search between 18 degs. E. and 22 degs. E. on 9th March backed up by 4 trawlers. This search will be moved to area 16 degs. E. to 20 degs. E. on 10th March and maintained until dusk 12th March. LEWES joins surface forces on 10th March.

(C. in C. S.A. 081031C)

U/B
attacked
240 miles
S. of East
London.

A/C has attacked U-Boat with depth charges in 38 degs. 00' S. 25 degs. 25' E.
(C. in C. S.A. 081552C)

128

8.3.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- ULTOR. ULTOR sailed from Malta at 1315/7th by Standard route to Kaso Straits. Thence to patrol North Skopelos Island.
2. She may be encountered about 2330/8th.
(Capt. S.1 080859A to ULTIMATUM, (R) 1st S.F. F.O.L.E.M.)
- Operation "Shingle". No. 47 5111 tons discharged at Anzio during 7th March to which high figure L.C.I.(L)s and L.C.Ts. from Naples contributed 720 tons. Sea and swell now moderate. Conditions generally good for unloading.
2. No air activity reported.
3. Intermittent shelling continues, but no damage or casualties reported.
Anzio party in good fettle.
(C. in C.Med., Naples 080912.)
- DOLFIJN. From Kaso Strait proceed Malta (route).
2. You are to proceed diving by day on 10th and 11th. Your surface speed is estimated at 8½ knots.
(Capt. S.1 080920A to DOLFIJN.)
Establish anti U-Boat patrol in Kaso Strait forthwith para. 2 F.O.L.E.M.'s 081622 refers.
(Capt. S.1 081911A to DOLFIJN.)
Following is a repetition of my (708) 2108 begins: Capt. S.1 repeated DOLFIJN, UNDINE, Air H.Q. E.Med. from F.O.L.E.M. My 081622 para. 3 DOLFIJN keep within Aegean total bombing restriction area.
(F.O.L.E.M. 082110B to DOLFIJN, Capt. S.10.)
Do not proceed south of a line 070° from Cape Plaka.
(Capt. S.1 082145 to DOLFIJN.)
- DZIK. From Malta to join G.U.S.33 for passage to Gibraltar for o.r. to U.K.
(Capt. S.1 081110.)
- Swedish relief vessels at Piraeus. Swedes have been informed that relief vessels when visiting Athens should anchor only at Piraeus harbour and not in Salamis Strait. Swedes enquire what exactly is meant by Piraeus Harbour since they regard it as covering a fairly wide area including St. George's Harbour in the Limin Irakleous where wheat is milled.
2. Request you will signal exact limits of area to which you consider mining restrictions imposed by A.M. 211926 Jan. apply.
(Admty. 081201A to F.O.L.E.M.)

/Operation...

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Broom" in Levant. . . . At 1501/7th U-Boat in vicinity 033° 17' 028° 46' course 275°. 2. Destroyer and aircraft will be carrying our operation "Broom" M.J.A.O. 23 starting in 033° 40' 023° 40' at 1701/9th thence Eastward to long. 026°. (Capt. S.1 081214 to DOLFIJN, ULTOR.)

U/B reports. Am over enemy S/M in 34.06 N. 28.17 E. (A/C FFMC No T.O.O.) Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 34.0 (?°)N. 28.17 E. (A/C FFMC 081312B.) Have lost touch with enemy S/M in 33.47 N. 28.22 E. W.T. (A/C FFOO 081345B.)

TERPSICHORE, UNDINE (A/S operations.) In position ordered in your 072211B. Not in touch with UNDINE. My course 090° speed 30 knots to make position between S/Ms reported by (gr. omitted?) at 1312 and 1345. (TERPSICHORE 081540B to F.O.L.E.M.)

20,000 ton ships at Naples. 2 troopships not exceeding 700 feet length and of about 20,000 tons can now be accepted at Naples at any one time. D. of S.T's 072223 refers. (C. in C.Med. Naples 081649A.)

Escort vessel attacked. 2 escort vessels 350 Candia 5 leader attack left burning after several violent explosions. (A/C FBCH 081940B.) Escort vessel still attackable. (A/C FBCH 082000B.) Course of escort vessels 340 speed 10. (A/C FBCH 082010B.)

Enemy convoy attacked. P.C. and S. of enemy 5 medium vessels, 2 escort vessels 42° 56' N. 10° 27' E. 120° 5 knots. (A/C VAKL 081952B.) P.C. and S. of enemy 6 medium vessels 43° 07' N. 10° 28' E. 180° 5 knots. (A/C VAKL 081955.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 4 medium vessels 43° 14' N. 10° 27' E. 180° 5 knots. (A/C VAKL 081957.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 2 medium vessels 43° 35' N. 10° 10' E. 180° 5 knots. (A/C VAKL 082103.) Have attacked enemy with bombs level. Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack and surface attack. (A/C VAKL 082305.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 6 medium vessels 43° 20' N. 10° 10' E. 030° 7 knots. (A/C VAKL 082320.)

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Cosintrep 239. 1. U-Boat in Tyrrhenian sea bombed by aircraft night 7th/8th March bodies seen in water, probably guns crew. Destroyers hunting.
2. Cositintrep 238 not issued.
3. Nothing sighted by destroyers which swept Istrian Coast and north shore of Gulf of Venice during night 4th/5th March. (C. in C.Med. 082214.)
- Situation report L.D. 310. 4. Destroyers swept Istrian Coast and west (082214 says north) shore of Gulf of Venice during 4th/5th March but sighted no shipping.
5. Convoy K.M.S.43 was attacked by about 25 enemy aircraft north of Algiers at 1925/8th. 4 claimed shot down by fighters for loss of one. No damage or casualties to convoy.
6. During clearance of Q.B.132, 24 miles swept by M/S F. 12th on 7th March. (C. in C.Med. 082217.)

War Diary.

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U-Boat
disposition
No.32.

Area D. Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F at 1603Z/7th in Northern Approaches to Mozambique Channel. Scale of air escort Z. Other areas no fresh information no change in scale of air escort. Indian Ocean indication by D/F unknown German Unit 600 to 800 miles S.E. Madagascar 2015Z/7th.
(C. in C. E.F. 080342Z)

TRUCULENT,
TACTICIAN,
Patrol
reports.

Following are points from patrol reports of P.315 TRUCULENT and P.314 TACTICIAN. All times F.G. Dates February.

- (2) P.315 TRUCULENT 1st far East Patrol.
- (3) 0843/11 machine gunned by MITSUBISHI T. in 006 degs. 28' 091 degs. 57'.
- (4) 1806/14 missed with 4 torpedoes 2000 tons merchant ship entering Sabang.
- (5) 1334/15 at range of about 9000 yards scored one possible hit on 7000 tons merchant ship similar to HIROKAWA more leaving Sabang. Result unobserved. At 1822 in 005 degs. 53' N. 095 degs. 23' E. engaged 500 ton merchant ship with gunfire and scored 11 hits before being forced to dive by fire from naval battery. Final result of the action was unobserved but when last seen the target was stopped, settling and on fire.
- (6) P.314 TACTICIAN 4th Far East patrol.
- (7) 0725/20 005 degs. 53' N. 096 degs. 46' E. missed Japanese S/M I with 5 torpedoes.
- (8) 1315/28 engaged with gunfire small 300 foot motor vessel with cargo of army motor transport in 003 degs. 03' N. 100 degs. 18' E. This ship was finally sunk by torpedo at 0730/29th.
(C. in C. E.F. 080636Z)

Convoy
A.M.1.

Arrived convoy A.M. one escorted by JUMNA, PENN less KEREN, FLAMINGO.
(N.C.S.O.Madras, 081009Z)

U/B
Estimate.

(D.D.I.C.081807A)

132

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

L.27,
P.553. A.M. 241914 and 260516. L.27 - proposal for employment. Suggestion that P.553 (ex U.S.) be returned.
(B.A.D. 080011Z.)

COMBATANT. Your 071659 (N.T. in W.R.) Have searched area 25 miles round position indicated negative result F.O.N.F. had ordered arrival to be expedited. Request instructions.
(COMBATANT 080558 to Comnob Bermuda.)

U.C.14. U.C.14 to avoid sub. altered through TP. 40.30 56.00, TQ. 40 N. 60 W. TR. 39 N. 70 W.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 081345Z.)

T.G.27.3 Cancel my 072309*. Task Group 27.3. MELVILLE and escorts Comcortdiv 47 in BORUM MALOY. E.T.D. New York 1100Q/8 for Londonderry.
Route (via Ponta Delgada for fuel.)
This complies with Cinclant's 041817.
(U.S.S. MELVILLE 081350.)
* Ref. 072309 - T.G. 27.3 (MELVILLE and escorts Comcortdiv 47 in BORUM MALOY) departing Ambrose 1100Q/8 for Londonderry route through... Ref. 041817 Comcortdiv 47 in BORUM proceed N.Y. in time be ready there in all respects for extended operation by noon 7th Mar. etc.

S.C.154,
SS. SAN FRANCISCO. My 080907 and my 081212 (N.T. in W.D.) H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT reports no change. Have ordered her to remove crew and papers at dusk if fire not subdued by then. H.M.C.S. HALIFAX rejoining. My P.C. and S. 045° 18' N. 038° 47' W. X. 090° 7.5. Weather report 3965 2136.
(S.O.E.G.C.1 081359Z.)

Routes given to PASTEUR. Para. 3 of your 071829 confirmed.
(D.O.D.H. 081406A to B.A.D.)

T.A.94. T.A.94 NU. at 082000Z altering for 039° 28' 072° 14' thence destination omitting H.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R. 081437Z to SS. AQUITANIA.)

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 081450Z, Cominch 081617Z.)

P.T.337,
lost. Cr. No. 1198. Attack on enemy positions Nubia New Guinea P.T. 337 overdue and presumed lost. Preliminary reports last seen by another boat approx. 070200L 1 mile due east of Nubia in Hansa Bay. Extracts Key Memoranda 2, 3 and 5 possibly compromised through 13th March. Additional facts when

/received...

War Diary.

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

P.T. 337
lost.
(Contd.)
received. Am promulgating column change for March 16th as per your 081357.
Ref. 081357: Admiralty today promulgating following. Para. 1. S.P. 02440* (2) as from 0001 G.M.T. 16th March bring into force reserve set of recognition signals.
(C.N.O. 081552 to Comnaveu.)
* Recognition signals indication book.

S.C. 153.
Average speed 6.7 knots. Off Oversay at 0300Z/1st. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 081647A.)

Search for
hulk of J.R.
POINSETT.
P.C. and S. at 1700Z 043° 00' N. 055° 25' W. 293° 10 knots.
By 2100Z/8 will have searched impact line abreast at visibility distance, area between 043° 26' N. 056° 00' W. 042° 13' N. 056° 00' W. 042° 55' N. 054° '28' or 35') W. 041° 40' N. 054° 00' W. 042° 28' N. 054° 00' W. Hulk not found. Empty lifeboat sighted in 042° 42' N. 055° 21' W. at 1030Z/8 intend searching to eastward if no further instructions. Weather report 7862 2536.
(ST. JOHN 081705Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

Radar decoys
used with
U-Boats.
C. 1 R.O.P. with O.N.? 224 indicates correction to Section D of my 282035 February P.D. F.R.R. regained at 6000 yards read regained at 1000 yards.
(F.O.F.N. 081740Z.)

GENERAL WM.
MITCHELL.
Diversion orders.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R. 082038Z.)

U/B and
casualty
reports.
Para. A. SRABRA (VALERA intended) torpedoed 11.30 N. 76.27 W. 070040Z. Para. C. Army patrol plane Radar contact 12.05 N. 78.50 W. 071532Z. Surface craft sound contact 20.50 N. 74.11 W. 081510Z.
(Cominch 082125Z as amended 102114Z.)

T.G.. 27.3
T.G.. 27.3 U.S. MELVILLE (A.D.2.) escorted by U.S.S. BORUM (D.E.790) and MALOY (D.E.791.) Departed Ambrose 1458Z/8 bound Londonderry.
(P.D.New York 082145Z.)

QU'APPELLE,
LONG BRANCH,
HESPELER.
H.M.C. Ships on completion of working-up are allocated to C. in C.C.N.A.
(N.S.H.Q. 072157Z.) *

8.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial March 7th. Paras. 7 - 11 cover South Pacific
No. 778. Forces.
3. Los Negros Island. Allied Naval co-operation
continues. Throughout day three destroyers engaged
single enemy guns along Northern Approaches
Seeadler Harbour encountering nil return fire.
4. M.T.Bs. destroyed two luggers strafed personnel installations
Bogia Harbour near Hansa Bay destroying fuel ammunition dump
night 5th/6th.
7. Single Liberator harassing Rabaul night 5th dawn 6th drove off
single intercepting night fighter. 14 Corsairs swept northern
Gazelle Peninsula morning 6th straffing 6 barges 1 small coaster.
Noon 4th eight Dauntless, 24 Avengers covered by 21 Corsairs 8
Hellcats, 8 Warhawks dropped 46 tons bombs Lakunai with unobserved
results. Nil opposition encountered. 24 Mitchells followed ten
minutes later dropping 257 fragmentation clusters Tobera starting
six fires whereof three believed aircraft in revetments. 10 - 12
aircraft seen Rapapo revetments. 22 fighters escorted whereof one
Corsair unsuccessfully attacked 7 enemy fighters preparing to land
Rapapo.
(G.H.Q.S.W.F.A. 080938.)

New Britain. South Coast. Unopposed Allied landing effected 1st
March three miles east Pulie river mouth.
Admiralty Preceded by naval and air bombardment Allied forces
Islands. landed south shore Hyane Harbour Los Negros Island
morning 29th Feb. Momote airfield occupied after
slight opposition. Four determined enemy counter
attacks on 1st and 2nd March repulsed with heavy
enemy losses. Enemy shore batteries entrance Seeadler Harbour on
Hauwei (?Ndril) Islands bombarded by Allied naval units, 2nd March.
(L.H.Q.Melbourne 081600L.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack Para. B. 1. A/C sighted possible periscope at 1314Z
& sighting 7th lat. 33° 18' N. long. 28° 48' E.
summary. 2. A/C reported A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat at
1733Z/7 in lat. 33° 51' N. long. 29° 09' E.
3. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0450Z/8 in lat.
47° 11' N. long. 07° 42' W.
(D.D.I.C. 081113A.)
1. Ships of E.G.1 sank U-Boat in 45° 46' N. 23° 10' W. at 1950Z/1
after prolonged hunt. Contact first attacked at 0912Z/29th Feb.
and U/B finally surfaced after torpedoing one of the hunting
frigates.
2. U.744 was sunk by C.2 escort group in 52° 01' N. 22° 37' W. at
1541/6 after hunt lasting 30 hours. Prisoners from the U/B were
recovered.
(D.A.U.D. 081641A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 081339A, 081351A.)

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1. Convoy R.A.57 escorted by M/3 18 in READY was about 55 miles N. by E. of Cape Wrath at 1859A today; and at 0747A the Escort Carrier CHASER with nine destroyers arrived at Scapa.

LEOPOLD,
sunk.

2. C. in C.C.N.A. reports that at 2100Z today the U.S. Destroyer LEOPOLD of Task Group 21.5 escorting Convoy C.U.16 was torpedoed about 420 miles W. by N. of Rockall. LEOPOLD was later reported to have sunk.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
ASPHODEL
sunk.

3. (a). At 0130Z the Corvette ASPHODEL of Escort Group B.4 while escorting Convoy S.L.150/M.K.S.41 was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat about 390 miles W.N.W. of Cape Finisterre. Ships of E.G.B.4 assisted by WHITEHALL, WRESTLER and the Escort Carrier TRACKER are hunting the U-Boat. Five survivors from ASPHODEL, including her 1st Lieutenant, have been rescued.

(b). At 0016 south-bound U-Boat was attacked by A/C on patrol about 420 miles West of La Rochelle; and a Force of Enemy Destroyers off La Rochelle was sighted by A/C several times during today.

North Atlantic.

WARSPITE.

4. WARSPITE (damaged by air attack off Salerno on 16th September, 1943) sailed from Gibraltar for the U.K. today with Convoy M.K.F.29, after temporary repairs.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

5. (a). 5489 tons were discharged at Anzio today, of which 78 tons came from Naples in L.C.I.(L)s. The weather was good, sea smooth, light winds.

(b). Enemy shelling of the port has increased in severity and heavy casualties are reported by the Army, though no naval damage or casualties are reported.

/Adriatic...

136

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Adriatic.

6. The destroyers TROUBRIDGE and TENACIOUS last night bombarded Pupnat and Blato (Korcula) following reports of Germans in those towns. Destroyers on patrol off the coast of Albania sighted no shipping off Vis or in Lagosta Channel. In the Neretva Channel (south of Hvar Island) our coastal forces attacked a small schooner and left it on fire and abandoned.

SS. CLARK
MILLS,
damaged.

7. SS. CLARK MILLS reported being torpedoed or mined 9 miles north of Cape Farina (about 30 miles east of Bizerta) this morning. The ship was abandoned but was subsequently reported to have been beached.

A/S search.

8. Search by surface and air forces was carried out today for a U-Boat reported about 180 miles N.N.W. of Alexandria. One aircraft carried out a depth charge attack; the periscope was sighted again 10 minutes later.

Aegean.

9. A Beaufighter last night attacked with R.P. a 250/300 ft. destroyer in the Rhodes, Kos, Scarpanto area; 3 fires were started on board and several violent explosions occurred.

East Indies.

10. SS. BRITISH LOYALTY was torpedoed in Addu Atoll Harbour today.

China.

11. U.S. Aircraft attacked 3 motor vessels in the Hon Gay/Campha area today.

137

War Diary.

9.3.1944.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

New Britain.

12a. M.T.Bs. last night sank 3 and severely damaged a fourth enemy barge loaded with personnel off the northern extremity of Willaumez Peninsula.
(b). On the previous night M.T.Bs. sank a small freighter off Lindenhafn.
(c). Advanced troops from Arawe area occupied Moewe Harbour, 50 miles west of Gasmata, today.
(d). 19 Liberators and 26 Mitchells, without escort, bombed the dock area and northern shore of Simpson's Harbour, Rabaul at midday today. 43 aircraft bombed the area east of the harbour this evening.

13. Three Japanese aircraft bombed Saidor (Huon Peninsula, New Guinea) airfield and shipping off shore about midnight 8/9th March. No damage to shipping is reported.

War Diary.

9.3.1944.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Channel
Coastal
Forces.

It is intended to reinforce coastal forces in Channel as soon as practicable for offensive operations against enemy minelaying.

2. The 54th and 58th M.T.B. Flotillas are re-allocated to Nore Command and A.C.O.S. is requested to sail them as soon as available after 13th March.

3. C. in C.Nore is requested to allocate two flotillas of D.Class M.T.Bs. of approx. equivalent strength and to report earliest date they can be spared for transfer to Portsmouth Command.

4. C. in C.Nore is further requested to state the bases to which he wishes 54th and 58th Flotillas allocated.

(A.C.N.S.H. 091111A to C. in C.Nore, C. in C.Portsmouth, A.C.O.S.)

Operations.Biscay A/S
Operations.
ASPHODEL
sunk.

My 2155. U-Boat previously reported was on surface, course 180°, speed 15 knots, when first sighted in 46° 08' N. 09° 39' W. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Estimated hits nil. U-Boat has dived position 46° 07' N. 09° 39' W. Returning to base, fuel.

(A/C NTQ83 to 19 Group. T.O.R. 090016.)

U-Boat reported position 46° 08' N. 09° 39' W. at 2155Z, course S. (Air H.Q. Gibraltar 090115A to 19 Group.)

One submarine on surface bearing 090°, distant 4 miles, course unknown. My position 45° 30' N. 18° 14' W.

(HELMSDALE 090126Z to Whitehall W/T.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 44° 31' N. 02° 45' W.

(A/C KCP 24 090130A to 19 Group.)

4 surface vessels, position 44° 31' N. 02° 44' W. course 350° 13 knots.

(A/C KCP 24 090133A to 19 Group.)

Regret ASPHODEL sunk by submarine in 045° 24' N. 018° 09' W. at 0130Z.

(B.4 090220Z to Admty.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 3 destroyers 45° 00' N. 02° 55' W. 265° 18 knots.

(A/C UKW 57 090222A to 19 Group.)

My 090220Z. TRACKER, CLOVER searching for S/M. NORTHERN SUN searching for survivors. Request TRACKER and destroyer be retained with convoy during daylight tomorrow to ensure strong air search.

(B.4 090232Z to C. in C.W.A.)

3 destroyers 044° 49' N. 002° 53' W. 070° 18 knots.

(A/C 57 090245A to 19 Group.)

Join me with all despatch. My position 045° 39' N. 018° 14' W.

(B.4 090315Z to WRESTLER, WHITEHALL.)

3 destroyers 046° 22' N. 004° 14' W.

(A/C 24 090358A to 19 Group.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 46° 25' N. 04° 10' W.

(A/C 090400A to 19 Group.)

Am over submarine in 45° 48' N. 03° 32' W.

(A/C 50 090440A to 19 Group.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 44° 30' N. 02° 57' W.

(A/C 22 to 19 Group. T.O.R. 090451A.)

/Cancel...

War Diary.

9.3.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
ASPHODEL
sunk.
(Contd.)

Cancel 0440. Enemy previously reported are surface vessels, 4 destroyers, 45.32 N. 03.09 W. 045° 15 knots. No bombs dropped.
(A/C 50 090515A to 19 Group.)
My 090232Z. BAYNTUN and CLOVER in contact with submarine. Have ordered hunt to exhaustion. Only 5 survivors so far.
(B.4 090547Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 090232Z approved. TRACKER is to be detached to act in accordance with my 031835A and 041726A at dusk tonight unless in contact.
(C. in C.W.A. 090827A to B.4.)
BAYNTUN hunting? S/M in approx. 045° 24' N. 018° 09' W.
TRACKER's A/C covering area until dusk.
(B.4 091034Z to T.G.21.11.)
Report on ASPHODEL. Convoy course North. She was in position on starboard bow. Radar contact 100° 2 miles at 0056Z. "Foxers" streamed. Reported S/M course 150° thence 120° after 15 minutes. No star-shell fired until 0120. Consider stern (?hit) at about 5000 yards. S/M dived 0126. 4 (?submerged submarines) believed F working at 0126½.
Reported asdic contact 0128 and H one 0129. Seen to blow up 0130. First Lieut. survivor now in CLOVER was on bridge and states following. "Foxers" did not untrip correctly. Torpedo hit aft. Ship going 15 at 3500 yards range. No depth charges fired. At present do not know whether Captain realized "Foxers" not operationally correct and if so was trying to step aside. CLOVER now detached.
(B.4 091222Z to F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.W.A.)
Very approx. position T.G.21.11, U.S.S. BOGUE and destroyers, is 048° 30' N. 022° 01' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 091355A to Ships.)
Proceed forthwith to assist BAYNTUN and CLOVER hunting S/M in 45° 24' N. 18° 09' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 091507A to ST. CATHERINES.)
P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 47° 03' N. 05° 06' W. 205° 15 kts.
(A/C LCD 21 092027 to Fort Southwick.)
My 2027. Destroyers position 47° 03' N. 05° 08' west, course (?15 knots). Flak.
(A/C LCD 21 092035 to 19 Group.)
My 2027. Still in touch with enemy previously reported.
(A/C LCD 21 092137 to 19 Group.)
Position and course of enemy 45° 50' N. 04° 45' W. 200°.
(A/C LCD 53 092250A to 19 Group.)
No enemy sighted in area 47° 03' N. 05° 06' W. Continuing search.
(A/C WNT 59 092335A to Fort Southwick.)

Operation
F.X.

Scapa arrivals CHASER with ONSLAUGHT, OFFA, OBEDIENT
Capt. D.3 in MILNE, Capt. D.23 in SERAPIS,
SAVAGE, MATCHLESS, ORIBI, VIGILANT.
(A.C.O.S. 090747A to H.Q.C.C.)
Scapa arrival ORESTES.
(A.C.O.S. 090815 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

/Attacks...

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.X. (Contd.) Attacks on U-Boats by A/C from CHASER during Operation F.X. Details. (CHASER 090835A to Admty.) See Lion Copy. Position at 092000. R.A.57, S.O. M/S 18 in READY, 059° 10' N. 00° 50' W. to Loch Ewe, 9. (A.C.O.S. 091212^A to Admty.) R.A.57 now in position B. E.T.A. Ewe Buoy 0900A/10th. (M/S 18 091859A to C. in C.H.F.)

V.P. Operations. A. Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol SK. 2. V.P.68. 3. p.m. 9th March or first suitable day thereafter. 4. At S.Os. discretion. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 57° 30' N. 03° 00' E. 8. Yes. (A.C.O.S. 091015A to Admty.) A.M. 091111. Intend to attempt V.P.68, V.P. 69 and V.P. 70 again between now and 0101A/13th sailing M.T.Bs. as desired by C. in C. Nore as soon thereafter as possible. (A.C.O.S. 091711 to Admty.) A.Carry out V.P. 1. Patrol SN. 2. V.P. 69. 3. a.m. 10th March or 1st possible day thereafter. 4. At S.O.discretion. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 057° 30' N. 003° 00' E. 8. Yes. (A.C.O.S. 091803A to Admty.)

A/S operations off Western Ireland. My 090938Z. Request you will sail VINDEX and available ships of 6th E.G. at 1900 today. (C. in C.W.A. 091141Z to Cdre. D.W.A.) Your 090938Z. VINDEX, WASKESIU, QU'APPELLE, PRESCOTT, OUTREMONT and EDMUNDSTON sailed to comply. (Cdre. D.W.A. 092037 to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C. Operations. My 051430A. Returned at 1100A today. 2. Operation successful. (A.C.O.S. 091240A to Admty.) My 071656A. Sailed at 2304A today. S.C. HESSA. Para. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 092320A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 091523A.) (V.A.Dover 091544A.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/10th and movements for following 24 hours. A. SCEPTRE, VIKING and ZWAARDFISCH as in my 071713. (F.O.S. 091711 to Admty.)

Operation "Overlord". With reference to Section I, para. 1 of Admiralty pamphlet M.053859/43, Organisation and Chain of Command for Cross Channel Operation. I propose, if you agree, that all U.S.Naval Forces allotted to Operation "Overlord" should come under my Operational Command as from 1st April, 1944. (A.N.C.X.F. 091739A to Comneveu.)

/Operation...

SECRET

Home Commands
Operation FX.

Lion Copy

140A.

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

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

090835A March

From CHASER

Date 9. 3. 44.

Received 1813

P/L by T/P

Addressed Admiralty

Info C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.E., V.A.D.

C.A.F. J. 151/43 para.1.

(1) H.M.S. CHASER 816 Squadron Swordfish February 26th 1944.

Aircraft M.

- (2) 0800A day.
- (3) 72 degs. 18' N. 17 degs. 45' E.
- (4) 6 R P
- (5) nil

Aircraft F.

- (2) 1232A day
- (3) 72 degs. 31' N. 18 degs. 08' E.
- (4) 8 R P
- (5) one hit, one probable hit. U-boat not seen to dive.

Aircraft G.

- (2) 1416A, day
- (3) 72 degs. 50' N. 18 degs. 08' E.
- (4) 2 R P
- (5) nil.

March 4th 1944.

Aircraft B.

- (2) 0612A, day
- (3) 73 degs. 05' N. 26 degs. 40' E.
- (4) 8 R P
- (5) 2 hits. U-Boat eventually destroyed.

Aircraft G.

- (2) 0805A. Day
- (3) 73 degs. 22 mins. N. 24 degs. 40 mins. E.
- (4) 8 R.P.
- (5) 1 hit. U-Boat dived leaving LOL trail. 5 escort vessels homed to positions.

March 5th. 1944.

Aircraft L.

- (2) 0634A. Day
- (3) 72 degs. 41 mins. N. 15 degs. 10 mins E.
- (4) 8 R.P. (5) Nil.

Aircraft F.

- (2) 0850A, day
- (3) 72 degs. 10' N. 13 degs. 45' E.
- (4) 8 R P
- (5) U-boat destroyed.

/Aircraft H

Aircraft H.

- (2) QX 1138A, day
- (3) 72 degs. 03' N. 12 degs 30' E.
- (4) 8 R P
- (5) nil

March 6th 1944

Aircraft M

- (2) 0700A, day
- (3) 70 degs. 37' N. 6 degs. 10' E.
- (4) 6 R P
- (5) 1 hit. U-boat submerged.

Aircraft F.

- (2) 0720A, day
- (3) 70 degs. 37' N. 6 degs. 10' E.
- (4) 6 R P
- (5) 2 hits. Escort vessels homed and engaged U-boat with gunfire. U-boat submerged. Considered to be same U-boat attacked by M at 0700A.

Aircraft A.

- (2) 0734A, day
- (3) 70 degs. 47' N. 4 degs. 52' E.
- (4) 6 R P
- (5) Nil. U-boat remained on surface.

Aircraft B.

- (2) 0753A, day
- (3) 70 degs. 47' N. 4 degs. 52' E.
- (4) 6 R P
- (5) nil. U-boat submerged. Same U-boat as attacked by A at 0734A.

Aircraft X.

- (2) 0928A, day
- (3) 70 degs. 04' N. 5 degs. 48' E.
- (4) 6 R P
- (5) Q/1 hit. 2 probable. U-boat destroyed.

Aircraft X.

- (2) 1700A, day
- (3) 69 degs. 02' N. 4 degs. 50' E.
- (4) 8 R P
- (5) 1 hit. probably others. U-boat submerged leaving oil trail.

Air combats by Wildcats.

Aircraft Q and R.

- (2) 1046A February 24, 1944
- (3) 68 degs. 36' N. 4 degs. 02' E.
- (4) F.W. 200
- (5) E.A. damaged in fuselage and one engine.

/Aircraft O and P.

SECRET

140B.

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 -

Aircraft O and P.

- (2) 1400A February 27, 1944.
- (3) 72 degs. 54' N. 29 degs. 06' E.
- (4) JU 88
- (5) E. A. damaged in one engine.

090835A

Book Office
Air Attacks on U-boat by Naval
Aircraft and Reports (A/NAD.1971/42
28. 1. 1943).

1st Lord
5th S.L.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (UT)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
U.W.R.
Ops. (2)
Plot
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D.A/S.W.
D.A.U.D.
C.C.L.S. (2)
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Usbonne
A.L.C.
D.N.A.O.
E.A.W.T.
Air

A

il

War Diary.

9. 3. 1944.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

- Operation "Specimen".
1. Information. R/C shows two Narvik destroyers in Gironde on 5th March and two Elbings in Brest on 8th March. These ships may proceed for exercises or to escort U-Boats. M-Class minesweepers, Sperrbrechers, and U-Boats operate from Biscay ports.
 2. Forces taking part. Force 26 comprising BELLONA, (S.O.), TARTAR (S.O.), 10th D.F. ASHANTI, HURON, HAIDA, ATHABASKAN.
 3. Intention. To carry out sweep of the southern approach to Brest with the object of intercepting enemy warships.
 4. Method of execution. Force 26 is to pass Gate L 1000A/10th March and proceed through positions AA. 180 Bishop Rock 10 and BB. 49° 22' N. 8° 02' W. to reach CC. 46° 55' N. 5° 11' W. at 0145A/11th March. S.O.A. after passing BB. to be 26 knots.
 5. On reaching CC. Force 26 is to sweep on course 180° until 0215 and is then to turn and sweep back through CC. If nothing sighted when CC. is reached at 0245 Force 26 is to retire with all despatch on course 310° until West of 8° W. and thence through BB. and AA. to Plymouth.
 6. If contact has been made with the enemy, Force 26 is to endeavour to withdraw outside distance of 120 miles from the enemy's coast as soon after daylight as possible. Force 26 is then to return through BB. keeping outside 120 miles from enemy coast.
 7. Fighter protection. Fighter escort from 0805/11th March will be provided by Mosquitoes and Beaufighters. S.O. Force 26 is to report estimated 0800 position if withdrawal route is other than that laid down in para. 5.
 9. Lettered positions for enemy reports. AA., BB., and CC., see para. 4. DD. 48° 00' N. 6° 45' W. EE. 47° 00' N. 8° 00' W. (C. in C. Plymouth 091809A to BELLONA, D/F 10.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Akureyri. R/C of Akureyri carried out by a F.W. from 5000 ft. at 1155A. Aircraft departed course N. at 1204 and was sighted from Hushvik 066° 02' N. 017° 11' W. and Thorshofn 066° 12' N. 015° 20' W. at 1214 and 1224, course east.
(A.C.I.C. 091412A to Admty.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. Coastal Force Vessel reports acoustic mine detonated at 1028 today in 130° Z. 51 approx. 3 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 091101 A and Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 091743A to C. in C. Nore.)

NORMA damaged. Mine exploded 18 miles 190° 3 Buoy close astern of NORMA. Steering defective. Salvage tug required immediately. Ship proceeding down swept channel to 51 Buoy, making some water in No. 5 hold. KINGSTON OLIVINE is standing by. Cmdre. and Staff embarked in WESTMINSTER.
(WESTMINSTER 091525A to C. in C. Nore.)

/Departure...

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

NORMA damaged. (Contd.)
Departure H.M.Tug DIVERSION to assist merchant vessel mined at 3 buoy. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 091712A to C. in C.Nore.)
Salvage Officer reports SS. NORMA able to proceed under own power using hand steering and is not making water. Is anchored at Rough. Vessel will proceed at 0700A to Southend escorted by THAMES QUEEN with Tug KENIA standing by. E.T.A. 1230A.
2. Request KENIA may be relieved by ST. MELLONS in Barrow. THAMES QUEEN available for special escort on arrival. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 092232A to C. in C.Nore.)

U-Boats.

LEOPOLD. U.S.S. LEOPOLD torpedoed at 58.36 N. 25.57 W. at 092100Z. (C. in C.W.A. 092111Z.) *? That*

Casualties & Defects.

MIMICO. Sailed MIMICO for Greenock. E.T.A. 1700/10. My 071855 refers. (MENTOR 091906A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Control of Air Cover over Convoy. After further representations by Canadian Naval and Air H.Q. Senior Officers of Escorts and Carrier Captains, the question of the control of air cover over a convoy has been reconsidered. The advent of V.H.F. intercommunication has had considerable effect in favour of adopting the suggestion that the Carrier should control all air cover in the immediate vicinity of a convoy.
2. If you agree, intend to issue the following instructions in a G.M. Details. (C. in C.W.A. 091815A to H.Q.C.C.)

143

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B report. Periscope sighted in 36° 09' N. 6° 02' W. course 180° speed 8 or 7 knots. Had submerged so long that no useful attack could be made.
(A/C C/S PNZV 090710.)
Nr. 3. Nothing further seen.
(A/C C/S PNZV 090740.)

Convoy CALDER, CURZON attacking A/S contact west of Ridge.
M.K.F.29: Convoy not attacked.
U/B. (S.O.E.G.4 091004 to F.O.G.M.A.)
Contact lost. CALDER rejoining. BALFOUR taken over hunt from CURZON who then rejoined. Convoy well clear. LA DECOUVERTE joining BALFOUR.
(S.O.E.G.4 091052A to F.O.G.M.A.)

In E.G.4's 091004A position west of Ridge is in approx. 35° 50' N. 06° 10' W.
(F.O.G.M.A. 091222A.)
R/Vd 1720A P.C. and S. 035° 48' N. 006° 25' W. 262° 13.
(E.G.7 091830A to F.O.G.M.A.)

WISHART, Your 071716 March.
re-allocation of escorts. Intentions are in para. 5 of A.M. 071236 Feb. qualified by para. 5 of A.M. 051758 March but order of relief of older vessels may be varied at your discretion.
(F.O.G.M.A. 091253A to D.O.D.(F))

Spanish 1. KILISSI. Probable programme. To load about
Cargoes 15000 oranges Segunto, return Valencia 9th or 10th,
for France. lift cargo here and proceed either Burriana or
Castellon. Possibly complete and sail for France
on 13th.
2. SAUMUR. Probable programme. Complete load about
equal 1,850 tons iron ore Segunto and proceed France. Possibly
sail March 11th.
(Valencia 091345 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

MULGRAVE. H.M.C.S.MULGRAVE damaged due to grounding. Seaworthy but A/S inoperative. Repairs impossible at Horta. Owing to leaky tanks will have insufficient fuel to reach U.K. Propose she be sailed in tow of tug FLAUNT.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 191451Z to Admty.)

144

War Diary.

9.3.1944.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U-Boat off
the Cape:
Operation
"Wicket-
Keeper".

Following amplifies my 081552. S/M sighted 6 miles ahead of aircraft course 270 at 1550. S/M dived when aircraft one mile away. Five depth charges dropped 150 feet ahead of swirl. (?20) seconds after disappearance of submarine. No visible result seen. Spacing of depth charges 60 feet depth setting 25 feet.

2. Deterioration in weather rendered maintenance of air patrol impossible. Intention is to continue search to South Westward of last known position at daylight 9th March and subsequently to lay on max. air and surface effort as for phase 2 in my 081031 but extended to 40° 40' S.
(C. in C.S.A. 090009C to Admty.)

"Omega"
search.
Torpedoing
of ST. LOUIS
1st Feb.

Request information on following:
A. Nature of "Omega" search. LOWESTOFT's 262225Z refers. B. Any action with depth charges by M.L. 1041 following torpedoing of ST. LOUIS. Your 021810Z refers.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 091854A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

Operation
"Tabarin."

Your 011517 March. Concur in visit of WILLIAM SCORESBY to base A. and B.
2. If opportunity occurs she should also visit the mainland of Grahamland and leave British flag there.
3. If fuel and weather considerations permit she should visit Laurie Island preferably on the return voyage. Instructions contained in C.O. tel. No. 6 of 23rd January, 1943, apply.
(Admty. 091855A to N.O.I.C. Falklands.)

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Shingle" Naval ammunition expenditure. Summary of the main items of bombardment ammunition expended in support of the 5th Army between 20th January and 23rd February in rounds H.E. 6" 23 (three ships) - 8500, 5.25" (three ships) - 7800, 4.7" 9.12 def. (four ships) - 3800, 4.7" 11 (two ships) 3500. (C. in C.Med. 090029.)

A/S Operations. Am proceeding to carry out close search in 034° 15' N. 028° 40' E. Aircraft's 082138Z (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (UNDINE 090116B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) Naval & Air Authorities concerned.)

My 091402 (N.T. in W.D.) Attacks on contact have so far produced no result. Intend to search in close proximity during the night. (UNDINE - 091806B.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 34.02 N. 28.46 E. (A/C C/S 973C 091350B to A/C C/S DM7.)
Nr. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 34° 41' N. 27° 43' E. probably a submarine. (A/C CXZO 092100Z to DM7.)

SS. CLARK MILLS. mined or torpedoed. SSSS - torpedoed or mined 9 miles north Cape Farina 090540. (CLARK MILLS No T.O.O. Recd. 0705.) SSSS - Abandoning ship. (CLARK MILLS No T.O.C/9 Recd. 0720.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep 48. At Anzio, total tonnage discharged during 8th March was 5446 tons of which 281 tons was unloaded from L.C.I.(L)s and L.C.T.sailing from Naples. Fine weather with slight swell.
2. Enemy aircraft over area but no bombs dropped.
3. Enemy shelling continues though on reduced scale. No damage reported.
4. One acoustic mine detonated off Anzio, light sweeping operations in progress. (C. in C.Med. Naples 090916A.)

ULTOR, A/S Patrol. From position 034° 31' 021° 36' about 1301/9th proceeding on surface at 9 knots to carry out anti U-Boat patrol in vicinity 035° 09' 023° 22'.
2. U-Boat reported in 034° N. 028° E. at 0801/9th course 28°.
3. A.H.Q.E.M. requested to arrange total bombing restrictions for above route and submerge bombing restrictions within radius of 20 miles of 035° 09' 023° 22' from 0001/9th until further orders. (Capt. S.1 091010 to ULTOR, (R) N. & A.Authorities concerned, UNDINE, URANIA, ACTIVE, BEAUFORT, TERPSICHORE.)

/NADA...

Confidential.

MESSAGE.

Received by WD
after typing of IN
Diary.

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

M E S S A G E
AIRMAIL OGRAM.

091335/March. 145A

From: R.A. Alexandria.

Date: 18.3.44.
Recd: No. T.O.R.

Addressed: Admiralty. Info. D.S.T.O.X. P.S.T.O. M.E.

K.R.& A.I. Art., 900. Egyptian Schooner EL SHARKEY AH stranded on 28th October 1943 inside Mingar Garab reefs at Tobruk and was holed and embedded in sand. Salvage operations effected by H.M. Naval Base, Tobruk H.M.S. GENERAL BIRDWOOD and Greek Caique APOSTOLOS. Schooner towed off after pumping and lightening. Holes plugged and vessel eventually towed to Alexandria.

Owners :- Michel Gabel, Sami Khouri and Vincent Matousian.

Port of Registry, Alexandria.

Cargo :- Ammunition and tyres owned by H.M. Government D. 46 not signed but Bond for sum £5,150 sterling (K.R.& A.I. 899 (211)) obtained and vessel released.

Full report and retainer to Treasury Solicitor follow.

091335

Advance copy Ops.

O.D.

Salvage.

Plot.

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. Pim.
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C.
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
C.C.R.T. (2)
Cdr. Holbrook.
Salvage Dept.
D. of S. T. (15)
Hydrog. (2)
D.P.D.
N.I.D. 10 (3)

W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Leggett's Committee.
D.M.R. (2)
M. (2)
S.Br.
N.L.

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

NADA. F.O.G.M.A's 291806 February and V.A.Malta's 021121 (not to all) concur that NADA should proceed to Malta to make changes in crew, complete complement and work up.

2. For political reasons it is preferred that NADA should be based on Gibraltar on completion of working-up although there would be no objection to occasional visits to Malta to adjust personnel. NADA should not be sent to Eastern Mediterranean at present. (V.C.N.S. 091136A to C. in C.Med.)

Troopships Paraphrase of 081649A.
for Naples. (C. in C.Med. 091304A to D. of S.T.)

M.K.F. Cases have been occurring with increasing frequency
Convoys: in which ships have been sailed in M.K.F.convoys
ships in- with insufficient fuel to reach U.K. making it
sufficiently necessary to send these ships ahead under separate
bunkered. escort to fuel at Gibraltar subsequently rejoining
the convoy.

2. This reached a peak in M.K.F.29 in which three ships were sailed insufficiently bunkered the effect of this was accentuated by the fact that reports indicating this requirement were received separately so that it was necessary to detach two escorts for each of the three ships from the escorts of the main convoy thereby most seriously jeopardising the safety of the remaining ships the slower ships are frequently the offenders so that they must be detached correspondingly early to ensure sufficient time to fuel at Gibraltar. Even so in M.K.F.29 it has been necessary for some of the Gibraltar A/S striking force to escort these slower ships to overtake the convoy west of the Strait thereby taking ships away from offensive operations against U-Boats.

3. A contributory factor to this shortage of bunkers is the fact that ships from India frequently arrive too late at Port Said to top up before sailing in the M.K.F.convoy.

4. Admiralty is requested to inform D. of S.T. that in future if ships in M.K.F. convoys are unable to reach U.K. without topping up after leaving Port Said it may be necessary at the Commander in Chief's discretion to detach these ships on passing Gibraltar to wait for the next M.K.F. convoy since the risk to the next convoy incurred by detaching ships from the already small escort is not justified. This solution appears preferable to the only alternative of holding whole convoys in Gibraltar Bay whilst the delinquents complete with fuel.

5. Sailing authorities are to bring the implications of this signal to the attention of Commodores and Masters of ships sailing in M.K.F.convoys.
(C. in C.Med. 091314A.)
W.D.Note. See P.S.T.O.Med. 101010A.

Speed of In order to reduce wear and tear of machinery and
Italian damage to weather Italian cruisers routed independ-
cruisers. ently should normally proceed at a speed of 25 kts.
This also minimises risk of being torpedoed by
"Gnats". Cancel 582B.
(C. in C.Med. 091738A.)

147

9.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.E.Balkan
Sitrep No.
114.

3.(a). Greece. Brit. L.O. reports 4th March agents in Piraeus sabotaged SS. LUXEMBURG while in dry dock. Crank shaft and other vital parts of main engines as well as furnaces wrecked. LUXEMBURG is a freighter of 4,700 tons. (C. in C.M.E. 092000B.)

Operation
of A/C
from L.S.T.

Flight deck was installed on U.S.L.S.T. 386 for operation "Husky" from which Piper Cub was successfully flown your 041541 refers (N.T. in W.D.) Technical details. (C. in C.Med. 092032A to Admty.)

U-Boat
attacked.

BLANKNEY attacking contact in 041° (703') 012° (732'). (EXMOOR 092234 to F.O.W.It.)

SEMINOLE.

Intercepted by Colombo W/T. S.O.S. Unread position at 2300 G.M.T. Lat. 36 R. 45 N. Long. 004.31 E. Course unread. 11 knots. Master. Unread. (SEMINOLE 092328Z.)

147^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.)

Titles of Commanders in Mediterranean Theatre.

T.O.O./Nil 9th March

From A.F.H.Q. Algiers

Date 10/3/44
Time 0700

CIPHER TELEGRAM

Addressed Agwar, War Office (AA1). C. in C. Middle East, FLAMBO, SOS Natousa, FAIRBANKS, FATIMA, No. 1 District, No. 2 District, No. 3 District, ABS, MBS, EBS, IBS, PBS, NORBS, Adv. HQ MAAF, C. in C. Mediterranean (Naples), 7 Army, FARGO, FALCON, NAD, 1 Armd. Div. 6 Armd. Div. 21 Army Tank Bde, 25 Army Tank Bde, 85 U.S. Div.

IMPORTANT

W/4756/62473 cipher 9 March - 205241. CITE FHGOT.

Para. 1. The following titles for Commanders in the Mediterranean Theatre will be effective forthwith.

- (A) General Wilson to be Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean Theatre
- (B) General Devers to be Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean Theatre
- (C) General Alexander to be Commander in Chief Allied Armies in Italy.

Para. 2. The Title Allied Armies in Italy replaces the Title Allied Central Mediterranean Force.

Para. 3. Registered cable address to designate General Alexanders Command remains unchanged and is Filpot.

T.O.O./Nil

Received in War Registry at 0740/11th
Circulated by W.O. to W.O. Depts. and
W.C.O., Air Ministry, Admiralty

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Sec.
P.A.S. (S)
Nav. Sec.
U.W.R.

D.C.
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)
Hd. of M. (2)
D.S.D.
D.S.O.
H.W.R. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.C.O.D. (4)
D.C.O.P. (4)
I.P. (2)
W.D.

9.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/boat disposition. My 080342Z area G Japanese U/boat indicated by D/F at 1706Z/8th to be to S.E. Ceylon. Scale air escort remains Y other area no fresh information no change in scales air escort except area D which reduced to Y. (C. in C.E.F., 090332Z).

Daily Opsum No.725 Strategic 6/7th March. 9 U.S. Liberators (B.24) minelaying K Sichang anchorage (Gulf of Siam) and diversionary bombing oil installations adjacent Prong Island. 5 Aircraft successful minelaying. 3 aircraft bombed Prong Island area. Results unobserved unsuccessful. 1 aircraft ?late over primary bombed Moulmein A/F and railway area.

7/8th March. 4 U.S. Liberators (B.24) shipping K Sichang Island (Gulf of Siam). One freighter sunk 1 probable 1 damaged. Near misses other vessels. Prong Island oil installations bombed. (A.C.S.E.A. 090845Z).

FORT MCLEOD (sunk 3rd March). B. 2 degs. 1' N. 77 degs. 6' E. at 031633Z. C. U/boat. D. Torpedo and gun. E. Three. F. 58 survivors comprising total ships complement. G. Yes seven rounds fired. H. Yes. J.K. and L. Thrown overboard in weighted bag in 500 fathoms. N. Master. (C. in C.E.F. 090940Z).

Tanker TOORAK sunk. British tanker TOORAK in collision with MATTHEW P. DEADY (U.S.) in Aden Outer Harbour at 0450Z today. TOORAK sunk by stern in nine fathoms. MATTHEW P. DEADY suffered only superficial damage. No casualties in either vessel. (Com. Aden, 091013Z).

SS. BRITISH LOYALTY torpedoed in Addu Atoll. SS. BRITISH LOYALTY was torpedoed in Addu Atoll Harbour to-day 9th. (2) Kilindini pass to Air H.Q. East Africa. (C. in C.E.F., 091151Z to S. & A. E.I., Admty. C. in C.S.A., Air H.Q.E.Af., 222 Group).

W.K. transmissions ?Blockade runner. Reference transmission at 2105Z/7 from unknown unit calling "Dan" on commercial wave and transmissions 1955Z and 2016Z both 8th March in all cases using 4 letter call signs and 5 letter groups. Bearings indicated general area between latitudes 30 S. and 40 S. and longitudes 50 E. and 70 E.

This procedure is associated with surface blockade runners but might be extended to U/boats engaged in similar traffic. (V.C.N.S. 091312A to C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A., F.O.E.A.,C.S.4).

War Diary.

9.3.1944.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Montevideo
Dock.

In order to secure the early arrival of dock in
Ceylon it is suggested the following action should
be taken.

(C. in C.E.F. 091338Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

150

9.3.1944

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

13 tugs Maximum endurance of 13 days at 9 knots.
for U.K. 2. It appears that calls at Bermuda and Ponta Delgada are inevitable. Request information whether they should be sailed singly or in groups. If groups are preferred delivery dates indicate that three groups of 4, 5 and 4 respectively would be the most economical. 3. Request your remarks.
(B.A.D. 090001Z to Admty.)

LORD KELVIN, Encountered heavy ice 045° 38' N. 059° 39' W.
GODERICH. Sustained slight damage to condenser. LORD KELVIN ordered to proceed to St. Pierre to await further orders from shore authority. Intend proceeding St. Pierre to carry out your 062012Z passing through 045° 29' N. 058° 05' W. P.C. and S. at 2400Z 045° 29' N. 059° 39' W. 090° 12 weather report.
(GODERICH 090031Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

Convoy 40 ships arrived New York 8 March including J.E.
O.N.225. WARD. MEDINA arrived 9th March.
(P.D.New York 09236Z, 091424Z, 091600Z.)

Convoy 8th March 31 ships arrived New York, 20 Norfolk.
U.G.S.30. (P.D.New York 090238Z.)

ST. JOHN. Your 091857Z (N.T. in W.D.) My position at 101000Z will be 042° 39' N. 053° 48' W. FOUNDATION FRANKLIN in company. Weather report.
(ST. JOHN 090921Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

S.C.154: Your 082303*. Fire in hand but necessary ST.
SS. SAN LAURENT party remain on board today. (OWEN SOUND)
FRANCISCO. joined company 0425Z. My P.C. and S. 045° 37' N. 024° 52' W. S. 090° 8. Weather report.
(ST. LAURENT 090900Z to S.O.E.G.C.1.)
*Recommend you steer San Francisco.

U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 091457Z, Cominch 091631Z.)

H.M.C.S.GROU. Allocated from new construction to the mid-ocean escort force for duty with E.G.6 to date 8th March
(C. in C.C.N.A. 091457 Z.)

Bermuda In view of delay to Maritime Commission Frigates
working-up and small number of new ships now expected to
base. work up at Bermuda consider there is no justifi-
cation for keeping working-up base in existence
after early April unless there are additional
commitments unknown to me.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 091603Z.)

/Assessment...

9.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Assessment
of attacks
on U/Bs in
which U.S.
and other
United
Nations
forces
co-ordinate.

Your 031555. We will assess attack referred to.
2. Agree with proposal re co-ordinated attacks
and suggest this procedure be brought into force
forthwith.
(D.A.U.D. 091759Z to Cominch C.N.O.)

JANE A.
DELANO, (U.S.)
(reported
breaking
up on
4th March.

1. H.X.281.
3. 9th March.
4. Heavy weather damage including cracked hull.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 091932Z.)

Special
barge
convoy.

Cinclant 041824 (route) thence destination.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 092001Z.)
(W.D. Note, Amended by 111606Z.)

H.M.C.S.
GROU.

Departure A.M./9th. H.X.282.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 092051Z.)

H.M.C.S.
DUNVEGAN.

Departure A.M./9th to O.N.226 to rejoin W.8.
(C.O.P. Halifax, 092053Z, 101210Z.)

SS. LEOPOLD.

C. in C. C.N.A. 092111Z. See Home Commands.

Employment
of 6 D/Es.
transferred
to French.

French wish that six D.Es. being transferred to
them by the U.S. to be based at Casablanca under
orders of French Admiral to be employed by agree-
ment with Comorseafron for escorting French or
Allied convoys (Atlantic and possibly Med.)
2. We should prefer these vessels to be assigned
to the Med. to be based as required by C. in C.

Med.

3. Failing 2. we consider they should be assigned to a U.S.
area.
4. Request B.A.D. will confirm that Fenard Mission has ensured
that a full supply of spares and stores will go with each ship.
5. We do not want these vessels in Western Approaches.
(D.F.S.L. 092111⁴ to B.A.D.)

French
Naval
Effort.

Your 252021Z Feb. Concur in U.S. proposals
but we should like to reserve our position with
regard to withdrawal of U.S. Navy Squadrons from
Moroccan Sea Frontier, and suggest that this
withdrawal be reconsidered when the date is more
definitely known and the U/Boat situation in the

Straits can be appreciated.

2. Another consideration is that it is not yet clear what will

/be...

9.3.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

French Naval Effort. (Contd.) be the effect of withdrawing one Liberator squadron from West Africa and it may prove that the French Squadrons can be better employed in that area. (V.C.N.S. 092124A to B.A.D.)

NABOB. Norfolk arrived 8th March for repairs. (N.S.H.Q. 092129Z.)

U.S. Escort of U.G.S. G.U.S. convoys in Med. To afford increased protection for U.G.S. - G.U.S. convoys within the Med. and at the same time to permit increased protection of other Mediterranean Convoys with the forces now available in that theatre I am considering having U.S. escort of U.G.S. convoys terminate voyage at Malta and return with same numbered G.U.S. convoy. Request your early comment. (Comminch and C.N.O. 092325 to Admty.)

Stragglers report No. 42. One arrived New York from C.U.16 ERIN first engine defects. One arrived Halifax from O.N.225. FORT TICONDEROGA-6th straggler. Unable to make R/V. One arrived St. Johns Newfoundland, from O.N.225. ELISHA GRAVES OTIS (U.S.) 7th cracked hull. 3 arrived Halifax from S.C.154. SAHALE (U.S.) 4th hull and engine defects WEST NILUS (U.S.) 5th Boiler and engine defects. EMPIRE MOUFLIN 6th steering gear defects. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from S.C.154. FERNCLIFF (Nor.) 5th defective steering gear. 23 arrived Halifax from H.X.281 MOSLI (Nor.) 3rd engine defects. JOHN MITCHELL (U.S.) THOMAS HOWELL (U.S.) and BARTHOLOMEW GOSNOLD (U.S.) 4th DEL NORTE (U.S.) EDWIN C. WEED (U.S.) ELOY ALFARO (U.S.) and CAVALCADE (Pan.) 5th. WILLIAM T. COLEMAN (U.S.) 6th. All lost convoy in heavy weather. HORACE BUSINELL (U.S.) 4th heavy weather damage. Two injured men. HENRY RICHARDSON (U.S.) 4th lifeboat defects. Three injured men. WILLIAM WINDOM (U.S.) 4th lifeboat defects. CITY OF YOKOHAMA fourth boiler and lifeboat defects. ROGER MOORE (U.S.) fifth Hull and lifeboat defects. Cargo shifted. JOHN T. HOLT (U.S.) fifth Heavy weather damage. LEIV EIRIKSSON (Nor) fifth cracked Hull. GEORGE P. GARRISON (U.S.) fifth cracked plating WILLIAM S. THAYER (U.S.) fifth Deck cargo shifted. MARY AUSTIN (U.S.) fifth lost convoy. Minor defects. AMERICAN ROBIN (U.S.) fifth steering engine and intake defects. ZAMALEK and KINUTE ROCKNEI (U.S.) sixth both lost convoy. Heavy weather damage. ARTHUR L. PERRY (U.S.) seventh lifeboat repairs. Deck cargo shifted. One arrived New York from H.X. 281 JAMES L. GILLIS (U.S.) 8th heavy weather damage. Cargo shifted. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X. 281 MOKIHANA (U.S.) 7th Deck cargo shifted. One arrived New York from H.X. 282, BEN F. DIXON (U.S.) 6th Machinery defects. (N.S.H.Q. 092325Z.)

9.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest March 8th. Paragraphs 14 to 26 cover South
 Serial Pacific Forces.
 No.779. 5. Allied minesweepers destroyers and landing
 craft entered Seeadler Harbour forenoon effecting
 landing Lombrum point on South Western shores of
 harbours apparently without opposition. Area
 occupied by evening. Supporting these operations 12 Mitchells
 bombed strafed enemy positions. One Mitchell landed
 successfully Momote Airfield.
 12. Motor torpedo boats strafed, damaged, single barge found
 John Albert Harbour on East Coast Garove Island night 5th/6th.
 13. Same night motor torpedo boats scored many hits on single
 camouflaged lugger Hansa Bay. Considerable shore fire met.
 16. United States destroyers bombarded enemy positions East of
 Torokina Rivermouth forenoon 7th. Throughout that date Jap
 positions around Empress Augusta Bay bombed, strafed by two
 Liberators, 12 Dauntless, 6 Avengers, 46 Aircobras.
 (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090540Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M
 attack
 and
 sighting
 summary.

1. A/C of 19 Group attacked surfaced U/B with
 depth charges at 2133Z/8 in 46° 08' N. 09° 39' W.
2. H.M.S. HELMSDALE sighted U/Boat on surface
 at 0126Z 9th in 45° 30' N. 18° 14' W.
3. H.M. Ship attacked by U/Boat in 0130Z/9 in 45
 24' N. 18° 09' W.
4. A/C U/179 sighted periscope at 0610Z/9 in 36°
 09' N. 06° 02' W.
5. A/C over periscope about 1111Z/7 in 34° 06' N. 28° 17' E.
6. Am. CLERK MILLS mined or torpedoed at 0540Z/9 in 37° 20' N.
 10° 20' E.
7. Aircraft attacked U/Boat with depth charges at 1252Z/8 in
 38° 00' S. 25° 25' E.

Para. B. 1. A/C of 19 group made A.S.V. contact at 0030Z/9
 in 44° 31' N. 02° 45' W.
 2. A/C made A.S.V. contact at 0300Z/9 in 46° 25' N. 04° 10' W.
 (Admty. 091201A to Comminch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B (D.D.I.C. 091438A, 09144A.)
 estimates.

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.X.

1. Convoy R.A.57 arrived ~~island~~ at Loch Ewe at 1236A today.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
1 U/B (be-
lieved U.845)
sunk by
FORESTER,
ST. LAURENT,
& SWANSEA.
One U-Boat
and enemy
destroyers
attacked
by A/C.

2. (a). The destroyer ST. LAURENT with OWEN SOUND, escorting the SS. SAN FRANCISCO from Convoy S.C. 154, sighted a U-Boat at 1630Z today about 580 miles W. by S. of Lands End and, assisted by FORESTER and SWANSEA from the Convoy Escort, attacked the U-Boat at 1759Z and again at 1926. At 2233 the U-Boat surfaced and at 2358 was sunk by gun fire, 45 prisoners including three officers being taken. The U-Boat is believed to be U.845.
(b). Two groups of Enemy destroyers having two destroyers in each group were constantly sighted early this morning by our A/C, steering to the south ward off the Gironde. At 0150 one of the groups was attacked by A/C with six bombs; and at 1030 Mosquito A/C attacked and claim hits with 6-pounder guns upon an inward-bound U-Boat escorted by four destroyers N.E. of Gijon, when three escorting Ju. A/C are claimed to have been shot down.

A/S Opera-
tions off
Western
Ireland.
1 U-Boat
sunk.

3. At 1600 today a Sunderland A/C sighted a U-Boat about 420 miles W.N.W. of Cape Clear, and at 1740 reported having sunk the U-Boat whose crew had taken to dinghies.

Engagement
off Terschel-
ling, one
enemy tanker,
one trawler,
and one tug
damaged.

4. Six M.T.Bs. of the 55th M.T.B. Flotilla attacked an enemy convoy about 19 miles off Terschelling at 0255A today. An escort trawler was left stopped and on fire, a 2000/3000 ton tanker was torpedoed and seen to have her bows broken off, and a 500 ton tug was left lying on her beam-ends after nine men claiming to be Dutchmen had been removed from her. M.T.B. 617 was slightly damaged, but our Forces sustained no casualties.

M.Ls. shelled.

5. Between 1410 and 1425 today six M.Ls. from Dover engaged in a mid-channel mine clearance sweep were fired at by enemy coastal batteries. Four salvos, totalling eleven rounds, of estimated 6-inch shells were fired in a visibility of 2 miles; but no damage was caused.

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Convoy
L.G.E.1.

6. The first local convoy eastbound from Lagos, L.G.E.1, sailed to-day.

Mediterranean.

U/B off
Palermo.

8. SS. WILLIAM B. WOODS reported being torpedoed this afternoon in 38.36 N. 13.45 E. (about 30 miles N.E. of Palermo.) The ship sank later.

Operation
"Shingle".
U.450 sunk.

9(a). The recent measures taken to meet the Army's increased requirements at Anzio bore fruit to-day when 7509 tons were put ashore. Nearly 3000 tons of this total were carried in 12 L.S.Ts of which 90% was in trucks. The sea was smooth and good for unloading. No enemy air action against the port or town is reported. Shelling still continues, but on a reduced scale.
(b) After a hunt of 10 hours (c.f. 8th March para. 6) EXMOOR, URCHIN, BRECON and BLENCATHRA, with air co-operation, sank U.450 at 0609 to-day in 40.53 N. 12.28 E. (N.W. of Ponza.) The C.O.3 other officers and 47 ratings were picked up.

Adriatic.

10. TYRIAN and TEAZER shelled Koso^vro, Korcula Island last night, where German troops were reported. No shipping was sighted off Vis or in Lagosta Channel.

Aegean.

11. An M.T.B. was in action last night with 2 F lighters and 2 caiques north of Rhodes. Some damage was inflicted on the enemy who were driven back, and the M.T.B. was also damaged and suffered casualties.

156

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Escort
Carriers.

12(a). On arrival of the escort carriers BEGUM and ATHELING C. in C. Eastern Fleet intends to equip and attach these ships to the Fleet to reinforce the fighter protection for the main supporting force of battleships, thus leaving the fleet carriers free to form part of an advance striking force.

(b) BATTLER and SHAH will be allocated to trade protection.

China.

13. U.S. Kittyhawks sank a 200 ft. freighter in the Tongking Gulf area to-day.

America and West Indies.

14. The stem half of the U.S. JOEL R. POINSETT which broke in half on 4th March when in Convoy O.N.225 about 145 miles E.S.E. of Sable Island was sighted this evening floating in 43.50 N. 54.15 W. (190 degs. Cape Race 160 miles). It is described as abandoned.

Australia and New Zealand.

Admiralty
Group.

15. The consolidation and reinforcement of Los Negros Island continues, supported by air and naval units. The minefields in Seeadler Harbour are being cleared.

War Diary.

10.3.1944.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

16. A Navy Catalina hit this morning with a 1000 lb. bomb a 3000 ton freighter at Hollandia Harbour, New Guinea, setting it on fire.

Solomon Is. 17. Mechanised landing craft to-day sank a Japanese barge carrying 75 personnel off the northern extremity of Williaumez Peninsula, New Britain.

Bougainville. 18(a). Last night, heavy enemy shore batteries shelled M.T.B's operating off south-western Bougainville, but without effect. A U.S. destroyer subsequently bombarded and silenced Motupina Point Battery. Two U.S. destroyers bombarded enemy positions east of Torokina perimeter this afternoon.
(b) An allied destroyer made 3 attacks on an enemy submarine off Choiseul Bay after dark to-day. Some debris was seen afterwards.

War Diary.10.3.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

AMBITIOUS. A.M. 091111 and my 091712. Owing to withdrawal of M.T.Bs. from Shetlands AMBITIOUS will no longer be required as depot ship for coastal force.
2. Anticipate she will be available for other duties from 20th March.
(A.C.O.S. 101226A to Admty.)
My 101226. Request AMBITIOUS be sailed to Lerwick when no longer required in Aberdeen.
2. All stores and personnel not required to be sent south with M.T.B. Flotilla should be returned to Lerwick in AMBITIOUS.

Lerwick
Coastal
Force Base.

Consequent on the reallocation of the 54th and 53th M.T.B. Flotillas Coastal Force Base at Lerwick should be reduced to C. & M. basis.
(D.D.O.D.C. 102216A to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.Biscay A/S
Operations.
Two U-Boats
and Enemy
destroyers
attacked.

Contact regained with destroyers 45° 24' N. 04° 32' W. 090° (25 knots.)
(A/C LCD 21 100024 to Fort Southwick.)
Enemy previously reported are two destroyers.
(A/C LCD 53 100040 to 19 Group.)
2 destroyers position 45° 59' N. 03° 32' W.
course 090° speed 25 knots. Line stern. Heavy flak.
(A/C WNT 59 100050 to 19 Group.)

Enemy previously reported position two destroyers 45.48 N. 04.27 W. 1(?6)0° speed 20 knots. Remaining in position until 0215.
(A/C LCD 53 100115 to 19 Group.)

Contact made type 2 destroyers, position 45° 29' N. 03° 15' W. course 150°.

(A/C WNT 25 100135A to 19 Group.)

Have attacked with 6 bombs, estimated near miss. Flak intense. Shadowing. Request instructions.

(A/C LUNT 59 100150 to Fort Southwick.)

Off patrol. Contact lost with destroyers last seen in 45.33 N. 04.32 W. 160°, 20 knots, 0130.

(A/C LCD 53 100205A to 19 Group.)

Returning base, position 46° 00' N. 03° 00' W. Enemy previously reported position 46° 00' N. 03° 00' W. 090° speed 25 kts.

(A/C WNT 59 100230 to 19 Group.)

Negative bombs dropped. Bomb sight failed. Enemy previously reported position 45.19 N. 03.01 W. 165, 15 knots. R/B fuel.

(A/C WNT 25 100240A to 19 Group.)

Position of enemy 44° 00' N. 05° 00' W.

(A/C 24 101020 to 19 Group.)

Aircraft reported brief A.S.V. contact at 0200. Have searched until 0900 without result. My P.C. and S. at 0900Z 044° 31' N. 019° 18' W. 020° 12. BAYNTUN and CLOVER in company. Weather 7471 3413.

(C.2 101112Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/P.C. and S....

10.3.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
Two U-Boats
and Enemy
Destroyers
attacked.
(Contd.)

P.C. and S. of enemy, 3 destroyers and one S/M,
44° 08' N. 04° 50' W. 060° 12 knots, at 1030.
(A/C 24 101115 to 19 Group.)
Am attacked by 4 Jus. Enemy previously reported
are 3 destroyers, one submarine, small craft 400,
course 060° 12 knots, 44° 08' N. 04° 50' W. at 1030.
(A/C 24 101130A to 19 Group.)
Inconclusive D/F bearings at 1324Z and 1344Z indi-
cate that a convoy has probably been reported by a
U-Boat. S.C.154 most likely.
(D.D.I.C. 101511A to Escorts S.C.154.)

- Reference loss of ASPHODEL. Report in accordance with 876 N.
A. 0056Z/9th March. Starboard side range 2 miles.
B. Radar, confirmed by sighting.
C. Initial course for U-Boat 110° altering to 230° speed 12 knots.
Known. Dived at 190 (seconds?) on course 230° altering to port.
D. ASPHODEL opened range to 6000 yards, then closed to fire R.F.Ps.
at 5000 yards range. No side-step procedure a C.I.138. Speed 15
knots until range 3500 yards then 7 knots, alter course 20° to
port until range 2300 yards as U-Boat (German) dived. Speed then
increased to double full ahead. E. None.
F. 0132. Hit on starboard side aft.
G. Paravanes streamed. Units untripped and suspected of not
working correctly (and?) retripped.
H. Slight sea, moderate swell, visibility good.
I. Contact gained whilst on screen in position CD. 6000 yards.
J. No, as far as is known. K. No.
L. (U-Boat?) fired from bow torpedo tubes.
(CLOVER 101640Z to Admty.)

S/M sighted and dived in 048° 48' N. 020° 35' W. OWEN SOUND,
SAN FRANCISCO in company.

(ST. LAURENT 101630Z to C. in C.W.A.)

ST. LAURENT and OWEN SOUND attacking U-Boat in 048° 39' N.
020° 41' W. SAN FRANCISCO still in company. Have detached
FORESTER to assist. My P.C. and S. 049° 00' N. 020° 16' W. 008°
5 till BERNHARD rejoins. BERNHARD stopped for 2 hours. HALIFAX
standing by.

(C.1 101759Z to Admty.)

My 101759. FORESTER and ST. LAURENT in contact. SWANSEA
detached to assist hunt. ST. LAURENT to detach at dawn depending
on P.L.E. HALIFAX still with BERNHARD. My P.C. and S. at 1801Z
or 1816Z 049° 08' or 27' N. 020° 14' W. 060° 7.3. Resumed course
20° at 2100Z. Weather 4872 3772.

(C.1 101843Z to C. in C.W.A.)

D/F bearings at 2117Z indicate convoys may have been reported
by U-Boat.

(D.D.I.C. 102236A to O.S.70/K.M.S.44.)

A/S Opera-
tions off
Western
Ireland.
U/B sunk
by A/C.

A.S.V. contact 51° 01' N. 21° 45' W. Contact lost.
Visibility is 100 yards or less.
(A/C TDSP 100046 to 1 H.O.)
Am over enemy S/M in 52° 40' N. 20° 20' W.
(A/C MXOU to 1 H.O. T.O.R. 101555.)
U-Boat has dived position 52° 35' N. 20° 19' W.
(A/C MXOU 101603 to 1 H.O.)
Over U-Boat resurfaced 52° 35' N. 20° 19' W.
(A/C MXOU 101624 to 1 H.O.)

/Second...

War Diary.

10.3.1944.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. U/B sunk by A/C. (Contd.)

Second E.G. is to sail A.M. 11th to R/V VINDEX, and 6th E.G. as ordered by VINDEX.
(C. in C.W.A. 101629 A to E.G.2.)
S/M sunk. My position 52° 35' N. 20° 19' W. Crew have taken to dinghies.
(A/C MXOU 101740 to 15 Group.)

S.C. Operations.

Intend to sail S.C.119 from Scalloway.
1. A.M. 14th March weather permitting.
2. 065° 50' N. 012° 00' E.
3. RAMOSE LEGION. 4. 4. 5. 040° Muckle Flugga.
6. No.
(A.C.O.S. 101050A to Admty.)

Intend to sail S.C.operation from Scallo westbound.
1. A.M. 12th March weather permitting. 2. 064° 30' N. 011° 25' E.
3. RAMOSE ORPHAN. 4. 4. 5. 052° Outer Skerries. 6. No.
(A.C.O.S. 101055A to Admty.)

Operation "Specimen."

Aircraft sighting last night indicated possible 2 groups of destroyers may be at sea.
2. Estimated position as follows. Group A.2 destroyers in 045° 15' N. 004° 00' W. at 0230A/10th. Group B. 2 destroyers in 045° 08' N. 003° 00' W. at 0240A/10th. Both groups steering to southward at 20 knots.
(C. in C.Plymouth 101111A to 26 Force.)
At 1030 Liberator reported 4 destroyers escorting inward-bound U-Boat in 044° 08' N. 004° 50' W.
2. Mosquitoes attacked and claim hits with 6 pounder guns on U-Boat, and 3 escorting Jus. 88 shot down.
(C. in C.Plymouth 101329A to 26 Force.)
Operation "Specimen" cancelled. Return to Plymouth by reverse route.
(C. in C.Plymouth 102113A to Force 26.)
My 102113. Keep west 006° W. until 0600A/11.
(C. in C.Plymouth 102140A to Force 26.)

S/M Patrol.

TRADEWIND, VAMPIRE, HERSCHELL leave 180° Garrock Head 2 miles at 1630A/(?12th) for 180° Bishops Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 1230/14th speed 10 knots. Thence S/Ms to westward.
(Capt. S.3 101115A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/11th and movements for the following 24 hours.
A. SCEPTRE on patrol off Kya.
B. ZWAARDFISCH patrolling vicinity 63° 29' N. 1° 03' E.
(F.O.S. 101736A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols.

(C. in C.Plymouth 101130A.)
(C. in C.Portsmouth 101317A.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

10.3.1944.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation R.A.57 arrived.
F.X. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 101236A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation Intend to commence operation C.W.12th March.
C.W. 2. Available ships of C.2 group, LUNENBERG and CAMROSE are to leave Lough Foyle so as to operate in area C by dusk 12th March. Ships will temporarily form 21st Escort Group.
3. Following ships are to temporarily form 22nd Escort Group and are to assemble at Lough Foyle as early as possible but not later than a.m. 14th March for exercises. Twenty Second Escort Group are to be sailed to commence sweep in area A by dusk 16th March. First division BULLEN, LOUIS BENTLEY, second division ANGUILLA, PETUNIA, CARISBROOKE CASTLE.
4. On completion of duty with M.K.F.29 seventh Escort Group will be joined by PELICAN and CYGNET for operations in area B.
5. On completion of present duty ninth Escort Group will be sailed to relieve 21st Escort Group probably on 16th March.
6. LAWSON, MANNERS and MOUNSEY will probably be required to relieve certain ships of 22nd Escort Group on 20th March.
7. Small scale air patrols will commence 12th March. Full scale air patrols will commence 16th March.
(C. in C.W.A. 101825A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Engagement Preliminary report of Coastal Force Operation
off Terschelling. Escort night 9/10th March, 1944.
Trawler, 1. M.T.B. 617, 621, 629, 668, 624 and 652 of 55
Tanker, & M.T.B. Flotilla was ordered to carry out an offensive sweep Terschelling to Texel to intercept
Tug damaged. possible eastbound convoy.
2. Unit arrived in initial position at 2356A and swept S.W. At 0013A Radar contact 3800 yds. indicating 20 ships to the southward. Unit altered course to N.E. to shadow. At 0255A in 051° Terschelling 19 miles M.T.Bs. 668, 624 were detailed to deal with escorts. M.T.Bs. 617, 621, 629, 652 carried out zone attack N main target, which consisted of one three-island-type Tanker 400 feet long 2000/3000 tons On run in unit came under heavy fire from escorts and crossed bows of flak trawler which was repeatedly hit with gun fire and left stopped and on fire.
As Unit disengaged the torpedo target was seen to be hit under foremast and bows were observed to be broken off. Unit disengaged to North and stopped at 0321A.
3. M.T.B. 617 was hit in after fuel tank by 37 m.m. which necessitated her return to base. S.O. transferred to M.T.B. 621 and detailed M.T.B. 668, 624 to carry out a torpedo attack. The remaining unit carried out a diversionary gun attack on a trawler at 0425, a brisk exchange of shots was made with no decisive results although many hits were observed.
On receiving signal from M.T.B. 668, 624 giving result of action with tug (see para. 4) unit set course for base.
4. At 0415A M.T.B. 668, 624 on arrival in attacking position found that convoy had split. No torpedo targets were in sight except the Radar contacts. These were investigated and found to be a tug of about 500 tons and a trawler on approach of unit trawler made off.

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement
off Terschel-
ling. Escort
Trawler,
Tanker &
Tug damaged.
(Contd.)

An attack by M.T.B. 624 with torpedoes failed so unit attacked with gun fire, and after short burst target was silenced.

M.T.B. 668 went alongside and took off 9 men who all claimed to be Dutchmen, and stated that an armed German guard all jumped overboard and were not seen again. The ship was again attacked with gun fire and was last seen lying on her beam end. Unit proceeded independently to base.

5. No casualties. Slight damage to M.T.B. 617.
(C. in C.Nore 102302A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

Search for
U-Boat.
LEOPOLD sunk.

U.S.S. JOYCE and Plane 157 L. Four from Iceland left in vicinity where LEOPOLD sank to continue search for sub. Position of attack 58.40 N. 25.50 W. My 092111Z refers. Request plane coverage for convoy.
(C.T.G. 21.5 100509Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U/B sunk by
C.2 on 6th
March.

We congratulate C.2 Escort Group on their skill and determination in the sinking of U.744 on the 6th March, 1944 after a hunt lasting for 30 hours.
(1st S.L. 101310A to C.2.)

U/B sunk by
AFFLECK on U.358
1st March.

We congratulate AFFLECK on her skill and determination in the sinking of a U-Boat on 1st March 1944 after a hunt lasting 36 hours.
2. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to convey Their Lordships congratulations to the survivors of GOULD on the great part they played in this action and their sympathy on the loss of their ship with so many of her company.
(1st S.L. 101312A to AFFLECK.)

Casualties & Defects.

GOULD.

Your 081149. Board of Enquiry into the operational side of the loss of GOULD is being held.
(F.O.G.M.A. 101601.)

Shipping & Convoys.

J.W.58.

Amend date of arrival at Loch Ewe to read not later than p.m. 25th March. My 072217A paras. 1 and 2 refer.
(D.T.D. 102129A to C. in C.W.A.)

163

10.3.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.K.F.29,
GLASGOW.

Cancel previous R/V. Manoeuvre as necessary to R/V in (B) 039 degs. 25' 017 degs. 15' at 111600A.

(F.O.G.M.A.101125Z to GLASGOW)

Sailed at 1256Z/10th from Horta 1 Pink to R/V as in your 090356. S. of A. 24 knots.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 101626Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

REGINA.

Arrived Horta 100935Z, in tow of SALVONIA.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 101151Z)

MAZURKA.

Arrived Horta 0105Z/10th for repairs and boiler clean. Date will be given later.

(S.B.N.O. Azores, 101359Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

GOULD.

Re: Board of Enquiry. (F.O.G.M.A.101601)

See Home Commands.

MULGRAVE
(Damaged.)

If convoy speed can be maintained, MULGRAVE should be sailed to join M.K.S.42 with FLAUNT in attendance, towing as necessary.

(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to arrange R/V.

(3) Final destination of MULGRAVE is Plymouth.

(4) S.B.N.O. Azores 091451 which has been passed to C. in C. Plymouth refers.

(D.O.D.(H), 101644A)

10 U.S.
L.C.I.(L)s
DAKINS.

10 U.S. L.C.I.(L)s will arrive Horta about 17th

March ex U.G.S.35 for onward passage to U.K.

(2) Request you will sail DAKINS as requisite to Horta to provide onward escort to Falmouth.

(D.O.D.(H), 102024A to F.O.G.M.A.)

Disposal
of Italian
Fleet.

Your 051425/. You have no doubt seen Prime Minister's statement of yesterday in House of Commons concerning Italian Fleet. This should help to allay unrest in Italian crews.

(Admiralty, 102336A to B.N.A. Madrid).

/? 051245 (Given Most Secret Distribution) intended.

South Atlantic.

L.G.E.1.

Eastbound. Sailed Arrangements. 1700Z/10th.

(N.C.S.O.Lagos, 101438Z, 101504Z)

U/B /...

164

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B off
Walvis
Bay.

U-Boat reported in 20 degs. 58' S. 12 degs. 59' E.
at 1500.
(Base. 74 R. 101545A to C.J.P.R.)

Operation

"Wicketkeeper". Referring to my 081031 para. 3 search has been extended to-day Friday to 40 degs. 40' S. If no sightings obtained intend to extend search tomorrow Saturday to 42 degs. 00' S.
(C. in C. S.A. 101725C to Admty.)
Searching area until 12th March LEWES joining 10th March.

War Diary.10.3.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.U/B
hunts.Am over enemy S/M in 34° 34' N. 27° 46' E.
(A/C G.G.F.P. 100032Z.)

Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 180° and estimated speed 10 knots.

(A/C GCFP 100046Z.)

A/C's 1000(?46) consider this to be another U/Boat. TERPISCHORE and ACTIVE proceeding to position. UNDINE, URANIA continuing search (?as) in my 091806B. BEAUFORT proceed Port Said E.T.A.(?15)00B 10th.

(UNDINE, 100515B to Naval and Air Authorities Levant and West of Alex.)

Nr. 3. Am over enemy S/M in 34° 38' N. 27° 41' E.
(A/C GCFP 100601Z.)

Nr. 4. Enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted. When first sighted was on course 360°.

(A/C GGFS 100617Z.)

S/M has dived bearing 040° 10 miles.

(A/C GGFP 100745Z.)

E.T.A. 0130B/11th. TERPICHORE and URANIA in company.
(UNDINE 102023B to F.O.L.E.M.)Operation
"Shingle"
Sitrep 49.
U.450 sunk.At Anzio 5489 tons were discharged during 9th March of which 78 tons came from Naples in L.C.I. (L)s. Weather good, sea smooth, light winds.
2. Enemy shelling of port has increased in severity. Heavy casualties reported by Army; no Naval damage or casualties reported so far.

Anti-personnel shells again being used.

3. U.S.S. MADISON reported contact in 41° 12' 12" 27' at 092000, and subsequent hunt by D.22 in EXMOOR, BLANKNEY, BRECON, BLENCATHRA with Leigh Light Wellingtons and Hudsons co-operating resulted in the killing of U.450 at 100609 in 40° 53' 12" 28' E. The C.O. 3 Officers and 47 Crew have been picked up, 5 men missing.

(C. in C. Med. 100946.)

Daily
Opsum 317.
Enemy
Destroyer
attacked.

8/9 March, 1 Beaufighter attacked a 250/300 ft. destroyer with 8 x 60 lb. R.P. in the Rhodes, Cos, Scarpanto area. 3 fires started on board and several explosions occurred.

9th March. S/M reported 180 miles N.N.W. of Alexandria. Continuous search maintained and 1 Baltimore (A.30) dropped depth charges on sighting periscope. Periscope seen again 10 minutes later. Search proceeds.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 101003Z.)

M.K.F.
convoys:
Ships
insufficiently
bunkered.Two of ships referred to in C. in C. Med.'s 091314A were MOOLTAN and SCYTHIA.
2. Third vessel was DUCHESS OF RICHMOND caused by breakdown of pumps in fuelling lighter at Augusta draft having precluded her going alongside fuelling jetty.
(P.S.T.O. Med., 101010A.)

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- UPROAR: UPROAR reports at 1440/29 Feb. in 43° 03' 05"
patrol 59' fired four torpedoes at 3000 ton Merchant
report. Vessel bound Marseilles to Toulon. Two hits
result unobserved vessel probably sank.
(S.10, 101109.)
- Swedish Your 081201. Suggest Swedes be told that
Relief safety cannot be guaranteed north of line drawn
ships. between Kynosoura Point and Cape Keos, vide Chart
894, QBs. 247 and 261 cover present mined areas.
(F.O.L.E.M. 101248B to Admty.)
- DOLFYN. Leave patrol forthwith for Malta via Kithera
Channel passing north of Crete. Routeing (route)
(Capt. S.1, 101404 to DOLFYN, (R) 1st S.M.F.,
UNDINE, 101736 (R) ULTOR, FOLEM, 10190?Z (R)
ULTOR and Naval and Air Ministries.)
Air A/S search will take place 1930 tonight between Cape
Plaka and Kaso. North of this line total bombing restrictions
are in force in Aegean as usual.
(F.O.L.E.M. 101720B to Capt. S.1.)
- ULTOR. Leave patrol forthwith and proceed through
position (1) 035° 41' 023° 15'; 2. 035° 49'
023° 30" thence close south of Cristiani and
West Stampalia and then routed in accordance
with my memo. W.D.20 to patrol north Skopelo
Island as originally ordered.
2. You are to proceed diving at 200 ft. between positions
1. and 2.
(Capt. S.1, 101416A to ULTOR (R) 1st S.M.F.)
Examine port Potamo (Antikithera) during daylight 11th
and then proceed in accordance with my 101416.
(Capt. S.1, 101718A to ULTOR (R) DOLFYN, F.O.L.E.M.)
- SS.WILLIAM Intercepted by Niton Radio 1535 G.M.T. 500 kc/s
B. WOODS type A.2. SSSS 38.36 N. 13.45 W. torpedoed.
torpedoed. (K.H.Q.C. WILLIAM B. WOODS, 101520 G.M.T.)
W.D. Note: It is thought that throughout these
signals the longitude should read East, not West.
SSSS Position 38.36 N. 13 R 45 west torpedoed
abandoning ship.
(WILLIAM B. WOODS T.O.R. 101640A.)
SSSS Stern now under water. (Intercepted by Niton Radio.)
(WILLIAM B. WOODS, No T.O.O. 10th Recd. 1850)
- UNDINE. (Engaged on A/S operations). Intentions etc.
(UNDINE, 101704B.)
- U.G.S. and Suggestions in C. in C.U.S. Fleet's 092325 are
G.U.S. welcomed.
convoys. (C. in C. Med., 101814A to Admty.)

167

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

PIPINOS. Leave patrol at 0201/12th passing east of Kaloyeri Rocks, close west of Nikaria and Kinaros and east of Stampalia to arrive in Kaso Straits at 0102/15th.
(Capt. S.1 101914 to PIPINOS (R) ULTOR, F.O.L.E.M.)

Re-organiza- Following is promulgated.
tion of (C. in C.Med. 101929A.)
whaler groups.

Enemy Convoy Nr. 1. P.C. and S. 3 medium merchant vessels
attacked. 2 escort vessels 43° 25' N. 10° 10' E. 180° 5 kts.
(A/C C/S CJGZ 102030A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Nr. 2. Have attacked enemy with bombs level result
of attack unobserved.
(A/C C/S CGJZ 102100A.)

Cositintrep No.3. SS. CLARK MILLS mined off Bizerta a.m./9. Ship
241. subsequently beached.
4. Upnat and Blato (Korcula) bombarded by destro-
yers night 8/9th. Following report of Germans in
those towns. No shipping sighted off Vig or in
Lagosta Channel or by destroyers on patrol off Albanian Coast on
same night.
5. Small schooner left abandoned and on fire in Heretva Channel
(43° 05' N. 17° 07' E.) after attack by Coastal Forces night 8/9th
March.
6. In Aegean M.L. attacked three lighters escorted by caique on
night 7/8th near Niseros. 1 lighter and caique damaged. Another
caique captured by M.L. south of Lhios (?Khios) on same night.
7. SS. WILLIAM B.WOODS torpedoed by U-Boat 35 miles north of
Palermo p.m./10th.
(C. in C.Med. 102221A.)

SIRIUS. My P.C. and S. at 2200B 031° 50' N. 031° 42' E.
025° 20 knots. E.T.A. Limassol 0700B/11th.
(SIRIUS 102255 to F.O.L.E.M.)

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CANTON A.M. 191556+ para.6. Ships company of CANTON are urgently required for other duties.
 (2) M.W.T. are proposing that ship be sailed to Middle East in time to enable those in excess of care and maintenance party to join M.K.F.30. A merchant navy crew to be sent out in K.M.F.30 would join CANTON a few days after former ships company leaves.
 (3) Further signal will be made at an early date.
 (A.C.N.S.(F), 100053A to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)).
 + Acceleration of withdrawal of A.M.Cs.

Bi-weekly U/boat disposition No.32. Areas A and B believed clear of U/boats. Scale of air escort W.
 Area C no fresh information but German U/boat may still be in Socotra area. Scale of air escort east of Socotra Y. Remainder of area X.
 Area D Japanese U/boat believed still in Northern Approaches to Mozambique Channel from D/F 7th.

Scale of air escort Y.
 Areas E and F there have been no recent indications of U/boats in these areas scale of air escort remains X.
 Area G U/boat possibly Japanese torpedoed tanker BRITISH LOYALTY 9th March in Addu Atoll. Another Japanese U/boat believed south east of Ceylon from D/F of 8th March. Scale of air escort Y.
 Indian Ocean enemy unit possibly freighter U/boat now meeting south or south east of Mauritius from D/F 2016Z/8th March.
 (C. in C.E.F. 100334Z).

ASCOT sunk Feb. 29th. (A) ASCOT.
 (B) 800 miles 070 degs. from Diego Suarez (approx.) 29/2/44, 1205 ships time.
 (C) S/M. 250/300 feet long (details).
 (D) Torpedo and gunfire. Ship sunk.
 (E) One which hit starboard side in engine room.
 (F) 8 survivors, total complement believed 55 or 56.
 Three or four believed killed by explosion, remainder killed in water by machine gunfire from submarine.
 (G) 30 to 40 rounds from main armament after ship was abandoned, ship finally sunk at 2200.
 (H) No. Aerials shorting after explosion.
 (I) Lifeboats interrogated by Japanese on S/M. European seen in conning tower. Despatch case taken from Master whose hands were then cut, and he was thrown into water. Crew then machine gunned and majority killed.
 (J) and (K) No precise information, but it appears likely that books were not dumped. No effort made by enemy to board, and ship caught fire when shelled. Consider risk of compromise slight.
 (N) Two apprentices, only officers surviving.
 (O) Not known.
 (S.O.T. Aden, 100652Z).

169

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Numbers of Troops to be carried in trade convoys.

With present shortage of escort vessels on E.I. Station it may be necessary, if movement of troops is not to be seriously impeded to make local relaxation to number which may be carried in trade as opposed to troop convoys, whenever the U/boat situation permits. C.A.F.O. 2247/43 refers.

- (2) Intend that (?these) relaxations be referred to by the following terms, loading
- (A) as for troop convoys loading. (B) No limit by service category. Overall limit 75% capacity of boats and rafts. Loading (C). No limit by service category. Overall limit, passenger certificate or 75% of lifeboat capacity, whichever is greater. Loading (D). In accordance with C.A.F.O. 2247/43.
- (3) The above term may also be used in requesting (?permission) for movement of labour forces and Poles.
- (4) Prior permission of the C. in C.E.F. is always to be asked if it is desired to depart from loading "D". (C. in C.E.F. 100858Z).

Escort Carriers for the Fleet.

On arrival of BEGUM and ATHELING, A.M. 232357 February refers, it is my intention to equip and attack these two escort carriers to the Fleet to reinforce the fighter protection for the main supporting force of battleships thus leaving the fleet carriers free to form part of an advance striking force.

- (2) This will involve changes in the squadron for the four Eastern Fleet escort carriers as follows. (BATTLER, SHAH - Trade protection) (Details). (C. in C.E.F. 100924Z to Admty.).

RANEE

B.A.D. Washington 230145 (not to all addressees) request RANEE return passage to be expedited as much as possible and in any case to arrive Esquimalt by 10th May.

- (2) RANEE expected to leave Cochin about 23rd March.
- (3) To transport 23 Dauntless S.B.D. aircraft from Auckland to U.S. on return passage.
- (5) Request decision. (C. in C.E.F. 101130 to Admty.).

War Diary.

10.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- Zig-zagging. Navy Dept. comment on A.M. 051235, and proposals. (B.A.D. 180107Z.)
See Lion Copy.
- SALVONIA. Your 071435Z* to C. in C.W.A. Red Ensign Rescue Tug SALVONIA is now based Azores for rescue duties. (Admty. 100121A to F.O.N.F.)
*Information requested whether tug SALVONIA now based Azores.
- Allocation of Italian Training S/Ms. As between British and U.S. Navies. (A.C.N.S. (F) 100543A.)
- Allocation of French S/Ms. Your 032030 not to F.O.C.W.Af. Propose following allocation, choice of boats being left to French Authorities.
A. 1 to U.S. for Casablanca when relief for MARSOUIN required.
B. 1 to U.S. for general use. This should be first available submarine. Sailing to destination required by Cominch to be arranged direct with C. in C.Med.
C. 2 to British for Freetown.
This conforms to agreement in B.A.D's 181937 December para. 8, giving the U.S. 4 French S/Ms exclusive of the Casablanca requirements.
(A.C.N.S.F. 100549A to B.A.D. C. in C.Med.)
- U.744 (sunk 6th March.) Congratulations of T.L. (1st S.L. 101208A to N.S.H.Q.)
- U/B estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 101529Z, Cominch 101603Z.)
- Convoy T.U.8. 16 ships arrived New York March 10th, 5 ships arrived Boston 091445Z. (P.D. New York 101646Z.)
- BUXTON & OCTAVIA damaged. When berthing alongside H.M.C.S. BUXTON at Reeds Point, St. John N.B., Wednesday 8th following damage was sustained by BUXTON. (Details). Damage in OCTAVIA is slight. (OCTAVIA 101741Z.)
- U/B & A/S activities. All times Z. Para. A. U.S.S. LEOPOLD torpedoed 58. 36 N. 25.57 W. 092100. My 082125 VALERA torpedoing corrected to 11.30 N. 76.27 W. 070540. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C.
Para. C. P.C. 1168 attacked sound contact about 19.51 N. 75.07 W. 101300.
Para. D. U.S.S. SPRY attacked sound contact 05.46 N. 51.52 W. 091600.
(Cominch 102114Z.)

/JOEL...

SECRET

170A

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.)

Zig-zagging.

100107Z/March.

Date: 10.5.44.

From: B.A.D.

Recd: 0650

P/L BY DIRECT LINE.

Addressed: Admiralty.

Navy Department comment on your 051235/ as follows;

1. Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) concurs as regards placing basic instructions in N.C.S.I. and G.I.R.O. Navy Department make following proposals regarding procedure:

Basic areas for zigzagging to be defined in terms of B.A.M.S. areas and that for areas where current instructions are not likely to change basic instructions be brought up to date prior to inclusion in N.C.S.I. and G.I.R.O. If you concur, Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) proposes to place following in G.I.R.O.

Ships of 10 knots and over:

- A. Throughout the following B.A.M.S. areas in their entirety: 1-A, 1-B, 2-A, 2-B, 3-A, 5-C and 5-D.
- B. In the described portions of the following B.A.M.S. areas:
 - 3-B: When north of a line drawn from 42 South, 25 East to 42 South, 04 East; thence to 32 53' South, 15 West.
 - 3-C: When north of a line drawn from 42 South, 25 East to 42 South, 39 East; thence 38 30' South 45 East.
 - 7-A: In whole of area except in Persian Gulf when West of 57 East.
 - 7-B: When North and West of a line drawn from 38 30' South 45 East to 14 South, 80 East.
 - 5-A: When West of 120 East.
 - 9-A: Except when between longitudes 09 30' East and 12 East, and when within 15 miles of the Italian and Tripolitanian Coasts.
 - 6-A: When West of line drawn from Aleutian Islands along 170 West to 42 North.
 - 6-B: When West of a line drawn from 42 North, 170 West to 28 North 170 West to 28 North, 152 West thence to equator at 152 West.
 - 6-C: When West of line drawn from equator at 170 West to 28 South, 170 West to 28 South, 159 East.

160

The above instructions are subject to such modifications as are contained in or which shall be promulgated in B.A.M.S. lettered or numbered messages.

/2.....

2. N.C.S.O's would appear to be sufficiently instructed by current B.A.M.S. lettered and numbered messages and Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) considers it preferable to continue general promulgation by this means as other B.A.M.S. messages to limited areas do not cover ships entering area subsequent to time of transmission.

3. Inclusion in route instructions is already covered by A.M's 012035 and 031946 and Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) 052059, all February.

4. In addition Navy Department proposes that in order to simplify general promulgation of zigzag requirements, B.A.M.S. areas shall not be sub-divided by CEOP line. In the Atlantic, therefore, British authority would make necessary promulgation for the whole of areas 1-A, 1-B, 3-A and 3-B, and Navy Department for areas 2-A, 2-B and 4. In the Indian Ocean Navy Department will promulgate for the whole of area 5-A. Foregoing would not affect responsibility of diverting authorities for individual ships.

5. It is presumed you will indicate whether you wish to incorporate any instructions for British ships under 10 knots.

100107Z amended by
NAD 15-22-52

Proposed revised procedure for promulgating zigzagging areas.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (U.T) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
U.W.R.
Capt. Pim
Ops. (2)
Plot.
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (2)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T. (30)
D.A/S.W.

D.A/U.D.
D. of S. 2A
S.N.D. (2)
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Blake. (4)
U.S.N. (3)
D. of P. (3)
D.T.D. (4) (T.D.02271/43)
D. Map Room.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
M. (2)

113
SD

171

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

JOEL R. POINSETT
(Marine casualty
4th March.)

Abandoned stern half sighted floating at 190° Cape Race 160 miles.
(PORTAGE 102130Z to F.O.N.F.)
JOEL R. POINSETT abandoned position 43° 50' N. 054° 15' W. at 2100/10th.
(SHERBROOKE 102220Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
Failed to locate derelict SS. JOEL POINSETT.
Proceeding Halifax in accordance with your 091857Z.*
FOUNDATION FRANKLIN in company, P.C. and S. at 2300Z 042° 40' N. 055° 55' W. 289° 10 knots. Weather report 0019 3482 2681
(ST. JOHN 102240Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
* Not received. This message was cancelled, see 110209Z.

Casco. British Staff will be withdrawn from Casco about 15th March.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 102224Z.)

13 tugs for U.K. Your 090001. Tugs should be sailed to Ponta Delgada unescorted but in groups as proposed in your para. 2.
2. Onward passage from Azores will be arranged when date of arrival is known.
(D.O.D.H. 102349A to B.A.D.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 780. March 9th. Paras. 11 - 16 cover South Pacific Forces.
2. Same night* another Navy Catalina strafed sank minimum two of three barges eastbound with one fishing vessel off Lindenhafen Plantation Gasmata area. Previous night motor torpedo boats sank small freighter heading southwest off Lindenhafen.
*W.D.Note. Apparently night 8/9 March intended.
10. Three enemy barges loaded with personnel sunk and 4th severely damaged by M.T.Bs. off northern extremity Willaumez Peninsula same night (8/9 March.)
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 100603Z.)

10.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

- Para. A. 1. BAYNTUN and CLOVER made two attacks on U-Boat at 1035Z/9 in 45° 24' N. 18° 09' W.
2. A/C attacked U-Boat on night 7/8th in Tyrrhenian Sea.
3. A/C sighted U-Boat on surface, course 180°, at 0032Z/10 in 34° 34' N. 27° 46' E.
4. A/C sighted periscope, course 360° at 0601Z/10 in 34° 38' N. 27° 44' E.
5. Br. Tanker BRITISH LOYALTY torpedoed on 9th March in Addu Atoll harbour.
- Para. B. 1. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2346Z/9 in 51° 01' N. 21° 45' W.
2. CALDER and CURZON attacked contact at 0904Z/9 in 35° 50' N. 06° 10' W.
3. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1150Z/9 in 34° 02' N. 28° 46' E.
4. UNDINE attacked contact before 1606Z/9 in 34° 00' N. 28° 00' E.
5. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2100Z/9 in 34° 14' N. 27° 32' E.
6. BLANKNEY attacked contact at 2134Z/9 in 41° 03' N. 12° 32' E.
(D.D.I.C. 101207A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 101423A, 101442Z.)

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A/S
Operations
off Western
Ireland.
Three
U-Boats
Attacked.

1(a). A U-Boat, attacked and apparently damaged by A/C at 0325 to-day about 250 miles West of Rockall, was sighted again at 0410A steering N.E. at 9 knots; and another U-Boat attacked and apparently disabled by A/C at 0050 about 350 miles West of Valentia was attacked again by A/C at 0601 and submerged leaving large oil-patches. (b) The five Sloops of E.G.2 left Lough Foyle at 1321A to-day to R/V with E.G.6 and the Escort Carrier VINDEX who reported at 2348N that one of her A/C had made a very good attack upon a U-Boat about 450 miles W. by N. of Valentia.

TIRPITZ.

2. A B.2 report dated yesterday as to the present state of TIRPITZ is held by Admiralty to add further confirmation to their previous conclusion that TIRPITZ will be ready to move south from Alten Fiord for repair by about the middle of March; and, referring to this report, C. in C. H.F. has requested to-day that A/C Squadron 801 in FURIOUS may at once be brought up to full operation strength. He considers that the eight A/C of 801 squadron now available may prove to be not really operational, and points out that few of the six A/C of 880 Squadron now also available in FURIOUS are likely to be fully operational again.

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Wicket-
keeper".
U-Boat
Attacked
South of
the Cape.

3. C. in C. S.A. reports that three Catalinas attacked a U-Boat at 1030 to-day in 41.28 S. 17.40 E. (about 390 miles South of Capetown). Wreckage was seen and C. in C. S.A. considers that the U-Boat was probably sunk. Search is continuing by surface vessels and aircraft. No wreckage was visible on 12th, but oil extended for about 2 miles.

174

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4. Unloading to-day continued at a high rate and 7347 tons were discharged. Erratic and slight shelling continues; no naval casualties are reported. Slight damage was caused to the port in a dive-bombing attack this morning.

Air attack
on Toulon.

5. After being restricted in their operations by bad weather for two days 122 B.24's of the Strategic Air Forces, escorted by 51 P.38's attacked Toulon to-day. Direct hits are reported on a destroyer, 2 merchant ships and several S/MS. Repair shops, dry docks, jetties and the arsenal were well covered.

6. An M.T.B. last night sank a schooner in 43.05 N. 17.11 E. (off Hvar, Yugoslavia): 28 German prisoners were taken.

China.

7. 6 U.S. Liberators bombed Kowloon Docks to-day.

Australia and New Zealand.

Solomon Is.

8(a) M.T.Bs last night attacked an enemy armoured barge west of Garove Island and forced it on a reef, where it is considered destroyed.
(b) M.T.Bs last night, with spotting Catalinas destroyed 5 barges in St. George's Channel.
(c) American Marines landed successfully this morning at Linga Linga Plantation, Ellonore Bay, (near base of Willaumez Peninsula, New Britain)
(d) The destruction of Rabaul town by aircraft continued to-day and further damage was caused at the harbour.

175

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Admiralty Is. 9(a) Allied forces landed to-day on Hauwei Island which commands the approach to Seeadler Harbour. Naval, air and artillery bombardment demolished large calibre guns on the island.
(b) M.T.Bs are now operating in the Admiralty Islands, supporting landing parties and hunting enemy barges in Seeadler Harbour where two barges were destroyed to-night.

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

WEAR,
DOVEY.

Intend ships to sail to join West Africa Command as follows. WEAR with O.S.72 March 23rd. DOVEY with O.S.74 April 12th.
(C. in C.W.A. 111444A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
One U-Boat
(believed U.
845) sunk
by FORESTER,
ST. LAURENT,
and SWANSEA
on 10th March.

D/F bearings at 2117Z indicate U-Boat may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C. 110007A to THUNDER.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 46° 45' N. 09° 17' W
(A/C 18 110015 to 19 Group.)
U-Boat has dived, position 46° 45' N. 09° 17' W.
(A/C 18 110020A to 19 Group.)
U-Boat has dived position 46° 45' N. 09° 17' W.
Attack not made. Markers dropped.
(A/C WZF 18 110220 to 19 Group.)
U.361 sunk in 048° 47' N. 021° 02' W. by creeping attack and gunfire at 2338Z.
(FORESTER 110050Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 110050Z. ST. LAURENT with OWEN SOUND in company at 1630. FORESTER relieves OWEN SOUND at 1815. U-Boat hunted after creep attack at 1926 until surfaced at 2233. SWANSEA then in company. U-Boat sunk by gunfire at 2338. No evidence of "Gnats".
2. 45 prisoners. FORESTER 2 officers including medical officer, 15 ratings. ST. LAURENT 5 ratings. SWANSEA 1 officer, 22 ratings. U-Boat was large.
3. My P.C. and S. 048° 57' N. 020° 59' W. 027° 15. Weather.
(FORESTER 110200Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 110050Z. Later evidence shows U-Boat was probably U.845. No damage or casualties in H.M. Ships.
(FORESTER 111503Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 43° 21' N. 09° 38' W.
(A/C WKZ 77 to 19 Group. Recd. 110437.)
Attack abandoned.
(A/C WZK 77 to 19 Group. Recd. 110442.)

A/S Opera-
tions off
Western
Ireland.
Three U-
Boats
attacked.

U-Boat previously reported was on surface. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat on surface position 52° 05' N. 09° (?19° intended) 50' W. apparently disabled. Returning to base.
(A/C 110050 to 15 Group.)
My 0045. U-Boat re-surfaced and dived in 57° (?) N. 20° 43' W.
(A/C WLNK 110130 to Artunshofdi.)
K.120 sighted U-Boat in 57° 54' N. 20° 19' W. course 170°, 10 knots at 0045A. U-Boat seen to submerge. A/C reports no attack made.
(R.A.F. Iceland 110150A to H.Q.C.C.)
My 0315. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge in 57° 51' N. 20° 32' W. U-Boat on surface apparently disabled, course N.E.
(A/C WLNK 110325 to Artunshofdi.)
Am over enemy S/M, flak in 57° 51' N. 20° 32' W.
(A/C WLNK 110327A to Artunshofdi.)

/Am...

War Diary.11.3.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. Three U-Boats attacked. (Contd.)

Am over enemy submarine in 52° 05' N. 19° 50' W. Enemy submarine previously reported was when first sighted on course ?005°, speed unknown. (A/C PZR 29 110405 to 19 Group.)

My 0315. Over U-Boat, course N.E. 9 knots, 57° 57' N. 20° 42' W. (A/C WLNK 110410A to Artunshofdi.)

Further signals from King/120. "My 0045, U/B re-surfaced and has dived in 57° 52' N. 20° 43' W. T.O.O. 0130A". Time in 0315A, "Am over enemy submarine flak in 57° 51' N. 20° 32' W." T.O.O.

0327A, "My 0325A, have attacked U/B with depth charges in 57° 51' N. 20° 32' W." Is on surface apparently damaged, course N.E. (R.A.F. Iceland 110442Z to H.Q.C.C.)

Further signal from K/120. "My 0315A, over U-Boat course N.E. 9 knots in 57° 57' N. 20° 42' W." K/120 has set course for base. (R.A.F. Iceland 110540A to H.Q.C.C.)

U-Boat previously reported, course 320° speed 12, when first sighted in 052° 05' N. 019° 50' W. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. All depth charges dropped. U-Boat has submerged. Large patches of oil. Marker dropped. (A/C PZR 29 110601 to 19 Group.)

German S/M made a sighting report at 0726Z 63 groups, bearing 230° 1st Class within 30 miles. My position 050° 37' N. 019° 03' W. (?304°.) (C.1 110754Z to Admty.)

Following approx. positions. VINDEX, 6th E.G. WASKESIU, OUTREMONT, QU'APPELLE, PRESCOTT, EDMUNDSTON 051° 03' N. 021° 05' W. T.G. 21.11, U.S.S. BOGUE and destroyers 049° 01' N. 025° 10' W. (C. in C.W.A. 111321A to Ships.)

Sailed escort group 2 to R/V with VINDEX. (Cdre. D.W.A. 111321A to C. in C.W.A.)

By D/F at 1821Z U-Boat estimated within 100 miles of 58° 00' N. 22° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 112138A to C. in C.W.A.)

One of my aircraft attacked submarine in 052° 48' N. 022° 21' W. Reports very good attack. Escorts investigating. (VINDEX 112348N to C. in C.W.A.)

S/M Patrols. ZWAARDVISCH is to leave patrol during the night 11/12th by route "Pink" so as to pass through 062° 01' N. 000° 35' W. at about 2100A/12th. Thence 090 degs. Muckle Flugga, 10 miles to Lerwick, E.T.A. 0700A/13th, proceeding during the day north of 062° N.

(Capt. S.9 110925A to S/Ms.)

Request you sail SIRDAR with escort so as to arrive in position ZZ 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 2200A/15th March.

2. From this position SIRDAR proceed unescorted as in my 111010A.

(Capt. S.5 111005A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

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

A. SCEPTRE, and VIKING as in my 101736.

B. ZWAARDVISCH (P.322) 62° 20' N. 000° 10' W. through 62° 01' N. 000° 35' W. at 2100/12th and 090° Muckle Flugga 10' to Lerwick, E.T.A. 0700/13th.

(F.O.S. 111701A to Admty.)

/M.Ls...

War Diary.

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

M.Ls. shelled. Between 1410 and 1425/10th M.Ls. 142, 143, 203, 293, 141 and 257, whilst engaged in mid-channel mine clearance sweep in Q.Z.X.1125, were subjected to shelling from enemy coastal batteries. Four salvos were fired. Two rounds in the first two, four in the third, and five in the fourth. Estimated size of shells six inch. Visibility 2 miles. No indication of position of enemy batteries.
(V.A.Dover 110949A to Admt.)
My 110949. There were no casualties or damage. Shooting was not very accurate.
(V.A.Dover 111201A to Admt.)

Coastal Force Patrols.. (C. in C.Portsmouth 111321A.)
(C. in C.Plymouth 111433A.)
(V.A.Dover 111610A.)

Operation "Foremost." A.M. 111135. Intend S/Ms taking part in operation "Foremost". My 0111912 Feb. para. 6 refers, shall make the coastal passage from their bases up the west and east coast unescorted.
2. Request Cs. in C. and local authorities concerned and coastal command may be warned in this sense.
(F.O.S. 111924A to Admt.)

S.C.Operation. (HESSA.) My 092320A. Returned at 2315 today.
2. Operation unsuccessful.
(A.C.O.S. 112335 to Admt.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in FURIOUS. Present position as regards fighter squadrons in FURIOUS is causing me considerable anxiety particularly on account of A.M. 111135.
2. State of 801 Squadron is as follows -
Establishment 15. Total now 10 of which two are out of action leaving max. of 8 which are all due for inspection. It is anticipated that these eight will not prove really operational.
3. 880 Squadron which is temporarily attached to FURIOUS originally consisted of 11 aircraft. Of the six now remaining only one is really operational and few of the other 5 are likely to be fully operational again.
4. Request immediate steps be taken to bring 801 Squadron up to full operational strength.
(C. in C.H.F. 111951A to Admt.)

Special File. (St. Eval 112130A to Air Ministry.)
See Special File.

179

11.3.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Zenit Patrols. Areas covered by enemy meteorological aircraft activity from 11th Feb. - 10th March 1944 inclusive. Details.
(D.M.S. 111129A to A.I.G. 47.)

Mining.

Smiths Knoll clearance sweep. O Sweepers cut one mine in 096° 54 G Buoy 3.4 miles at 1053. Also one mine in 344° 57 Buoy 4.3 miles at 1310. Both mines new type.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 111459A to Admty.)
Oropesa trawlers report 2 Furtng(sic) mines cut and one exploded in Sweep in 344° 57 Buoy 4.3 miles at 1455. Mines are Type R.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 111613A to Admty.)

O Trawlers report one mine detonated in 340° 57 Buoy 4.4 miles at 1515.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 111645A to Admty.)

Your 081125A. Operations today. Para. 2A, area 2 miles N.W. of North Western limit 2 laps each 5 cables wide swept on North Western limit of area. Four mines swept in 344° 57 Bouy 4.3 miles. One mine swept in 340° 57 Buoy 4.4 miles. Total 5 mines. Para. D, Q.Z.X. 1230 35% from Eastern limit cleared. One mine swept in 096° 54G Buoy 3.4 miles.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 111950A to C. in C.Nore.)

(Capt. M/3 Gt. Yarmouth 131655A to C. in C.Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ. Following reported graded B.2 and dated 10th March 1944 has been received. Early in March TIRPITZ was listed to starboard and then port, on the 8th she was brought to even keel. Her top hamper, removed from aft during the welding operations, has now been replaced. The welded places have been red-leaded. Repair ships still alongside. On the 9th the welding hut on the after deck was removed. The diving tank has been raised.

Comment: Report adds confirmation to previous conclusion that TIRPITZ will be ready to move south for further repairs by about mid-March.

(D.D.I.C. 111135A to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2.)

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE BARD. Kola Inlet arrived EMPIRE BARD. My 051301 refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 110823A to Admty.)

SVAVA sunk. SS. FORT BEAUSEJOUR was in collision with SS. SVAVA approx. 2100/10th. SVAVA sunk 1 cable E. 20 E Buoy. FORT BEAUSEJOUR entered Tyne 1030 today with 11 survivors and one dead body. 6 survivors proceeding Methil in EMPIRE SETTLER. 8 believed missing.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 111058A and 111750A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

/STUBBORN...

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

STUBBORN.

My 042144A. Intend to sail GRIPER to Holy Loch a.m. tomorrow to tow STUBBORN to Plymouth.

2. Capt. S.3rd is requested to sail GRIPER and STUBBORN as requisite.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 111128A to Admty.)

GRIPER towing STUBBORN sailing Holy Loch 1100A/12th for Plymouth. E.T.A. 0900A/15th speed 7 knots.

2. Request fighter protection.

(Capt. S.3 111435A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Troop
Convoys.

A.M. 221753. Following is revised Troop Convoy programme up to the end of April. Details.

(D.O.D.H. 111328A.)

181

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Convoy U.G.S.34. Vapex sighted by unidentified A/C probably Me.110 disappeared to the north eastward at 0740. (BIDEFORD, 110810A to F.O.G.M.A.(R) Com N.O.B.Oran)

T.F.61, T.G.21.16 Arrivals Taskfor. 61 U.S.S. EVARTS, WYFFELS, DECKER, DOBLER, SMARTT, WALTER ~~SEAR~~ BROWN, WILHOITE, COCKRILL, DALLUS, ELLIS, COLE, U.S.C.G. CAMPBELL, H.M.S. SPITEFUL, KILMARNOCK. Departures Task Group (?21.16) U.S.S. BLOCK ISLAND, BRENNAN, CORRY, BRONSTEIN, BOSTWICK, THOMAS. March 11. (C.M.S.F., 111953).

Air attack on convoy. Eastbound convoy (3 ships sighted) attacked southward Portimao this a.m. presumably by enemy aircraft. (2) 4 to 5 loud explosions heard at 0950 followed by Oerlikon and heavy A/A gunfire. (3) Convoy too far away for accurate observation. (R.O. Portimao, 111227).

Corvettes for Portugal. My reference sheet No. O.17 of 8th March. Ministry of Marine wish to purchase 4 corvettes from U,S.A. if Admiralty has no objection. (N.A. Lisbon, 111752).

Disposal of Italian Fleet. Your 102336. Statement has had desired effect. (N.A. Madrid, 111857A to Admty.) re: Prime Minister's statement concerning Italian Fleet.

South Atlantic.

"Omega" search. Torpedoing of ST. LOUIS 1st Feb. A.M. 091854A. (A) Omega search Combined Air and surface search issued as combined H.Q.W.A. Tactical Instruction No.1 in conjunction with Titan search Coastal Command A/S Tactical Instruction No.42. (B) It is believed that three depth charges were fired. I have already ordered a board of enquiry to investigate this episode. There appears no likelihood of damage to S/M. (F.O.C.W.Af., 110858Z). My 021810. French survivors state U/boat which sank F.S. ST. LOUIS closely resembled French S/M. REDOUBTABLE. Their description is not definite enough to confirm this identity. (F.O.C.W.Af., 111116Z). / Re torpedoing of ST. LOUIS.

/ U-boat...

182

11.3.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

U/boat attacked S. of the Cape. U/boat attacked with depth charges by Catalina in 41 degs. 28' S. 17 degs. 40' E. at 1030. (C. in C.S.A. 111111C). Further to my 111111 first attack evidently damaged U/boat which when sighted was on course 260 degs. U/boat opened fire when aircraft four miles away. Aircraft was damaged but landed safely. Depth charge explosions completely blotted out U/boat. On second run in U/boat had pronounced list. One remaining depth charge very close to starboard bow. Shortly afterwards large air bubble appeared.

(2) 2 more Catalinas homed and second attack made on conning tower appearing in oil streak at 1048. Estimate straddle two nearest within 20 ft. Wreckage consisting of number of four foot planks and orange bag or dinghy was photographed.

(3) Oil patch then measured 400 yards and half to three quarter mile. In opinion of crew of second aircraft U/boat sunk.

(4) LEWES LADY ELSA and NORWICH CITY reached area at 1500 and are continuing search in conjunction with single Catalina aircraft. Air effort can be maintained until noon 12. (C. in C.S.A. 112151C).

NORWICH CITY Am returning to Simonstown with badly leaking tube request SOUTHERN BARRIER escort me. Position 040 degs. 52' S. 017 degs. 48' E. course 006 degs. speed 8 knots. (NORWICH CITY, 112241C to C. in C.S.A.).

Closing down of ASSEGAI and GOOD HOPE. High Commissioner and I are much concerned that no message for General Smuts on the closing down of ASSEGAI and GOOD HOPE, has yet been received my 231105 February refers. (C. in C.S.A. 111143 to Admt.).

High Commissioner has been informed of principal reasons behind Admiralty decision to close down.

(2) It has been pointed out that:

(a) These establishments have been of very great value to the efficiency and well being of the Fleets concerned, etc. (Admt. 111806A).

1 - 6 Reasons for closing down.

(7) If you see no objection please approach General Smuts on the above lines.

(D.O. (Presumably Dominions Office) No T.O.O.).

U/boat contact. Have fired 2 patterns on a suspicious contact. Intend searching area until daylight tomorrow. KILKHAMPTON not met my position 009 degs. 49' N. (033 degs. or 039 degs.) 50' W. (KILMALCOLM, 111530).

11.3.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French
Cruisers.

A.M. 061544. A. All ships capable of accurate indirect fire. B. See my 201301 Feb. and Cominch 251501 Feb. C. LORRAINE oil remainder type S.A. and S.F. D. All ships will complete fitting with type 8 6M when supplies arrive in accordance with A.M. 122027 Jan. GLOIRE is already fitted. (C. in C.Med. 110905A to Admty.)

Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep No. 50. The recent measures taken to meet army's increased requirements at Anzio bore fruit yesterday when 7509 tons were put ashore. Nearly 3000 tons of this total were carried in 12 landing ships tanks of which 90% was in trucks. Landing craft tanks and landing craft infantry (large) from Naples contributed 367 tons.

2. Sea smooth good for unloading.

3. No enemy air action against port or town reported shelling still goes on but on reduced scale.

4. Ref. Sitrep 49 following are further details of U-Boat kill before breakfast. At 092000 MADISON and LIVERMORE investigated attacked and lost a contact. At 092230 BLANKNEY in attacking a contact rode over U-Boat jumping wire lost Asdic dome returned Naples. At 100400 URCHIN joined hunt from Naples and BRECON attacked and lost contact. At 100500 EXMOOR made contact and carried out two attacks one medium one deep. About 100600 U-Boat surfaced in middle of EXMOOR, BRECON, BLENCATHRA and URCHIN. Intense fire was opened by all ships at close range. U-Boat crew abandoned ship fire in conning tower prevented boarding U-Boat sank quickly.

(C. in C.Med. (Naples) 110920A.)

Opsum No. 318. 10th March, 1 Wellington sighted periscope in approx. position of S/M reported my Opsum 317 (101003Z,) sighting passed to Naval Units. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 111016Z, 111211Z.)

Mine type GY. Has been recovered. Description. (C. in C.Med. 111109A.)

TRADEWIND
(for
Eastern
Fleet)

Leave Scilly Isles 1230A/14 diving by day.
2. - 4. Arrangements.
(Capt. (S)3, 111201A.)

VAMPIRE
(for Med.
Fleet.)

ANTIOPE.

Com. N.O.B. Oran is requested to sail ANTIOPE to join G.U.S.33 destination Gibraltar.

2. Request Cominch will arrange with F.O.G.M.A. onward route of ANTIOPE B.A.D. 071949 not to all addressees.

3. Steady speed of 9 knots prevents this S/M proceeding in G.U.S. convoys west of Gibraltar.

(C. in C. Med., 111528A.)

11.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- THEMISTOCLES. Your 110827 request instructions whether I may proceed direct from position $038^{\circ} 11' 012^{\circ} 06'$ to position 110. I passed position 123 at 1615.
(THEMISTOCLES, 111631A to N.O.I.C. Naples.)
- ULTOR. Patrol in S.W. Aegean West of longitude $024^{\circ} 40'$. 2. Object destruction of Piraeus Crete traffic.
(Capt. S.1, 111825A to 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)
- Ports in Crete for relief ships. Suda is already mined last mine due to ripen 15/3. No guarantee possible. No objection to Port Nikolo Gulf? of Mirabella. Your 071805.
(F.O.L.E.M. 111937B to Admty.)
- U/B hunt. Co-operate with ship hunting Submarine in $38^{\circ} 53' N. 14^{\circ} 04' E$.
(A/C Base 3/T 112118A to A/C C/S HWYJ.)
- KILISSI (German.) Expected to leave Valencia after midnight 11th for French Port.
(F.O.G.M.A. 112359A to 10th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10)
- Cositintrep No. 240. The record figure of 7509 tons discharged at Anzio on 10th March. Little air activity as shelling was on a reduced scale.
2. During night 9th/10th March Destroyers shelled Korso O. (Korcula) no shipping sighted during patrols off Vis and in Lagosta Channel.
3. Two F lighters and 2 Caiques were damaged by Coastal Forces North of Rhodes night 9th/10th March. Our craft suffered some damage and casualties.
(C. in C. Med. 112213.)
- Situation report No.312. 2. TYRIAN and TEAZER shelled Kosovo (Korcula) during night 9/10 March where German troops reported. No shipping sighted off Vis or in Lagosta Channel.
3. On same night M.T.B. in action with 2 F lighters and 2 Caiques north of Rhodes, F lighter turned back damaged. M.T.B. also suffered some damage and casualties.
(C. in C. Med., 112216.)
- DZIK. Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 112354) (To join G.U.S.33 and return to U.K.)

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U-Boat
disposition
No.33.

All areas. No fresh information. No change in scale of air escort, except that whole of area C to be X. Indian Ocean U-Boat indicated by D/F south or south east of Chagos Archipelago 1630Z/10th probably moving south.
(C. in C. E.F. 110340Z)

China
Operations.

8th March. 13 U.S. Mitchells (B.25) floating docks near Wuchang. 24 U.S. Kittyhawks P.40 escorted. 70 x 500 inst. 1 gun boat sunk. 1 direct hit docks. Interception by 10 E/A over target. U.S.A.A.F. claim 0-1-0. U.S.A.A.F. losses 2-0-5.
(H.Q. A.C.S.E.A. 111247Z)

BRITISH
CHIVALRY.

Have you any news of BRITISH CHIVALRY due Abadan 2nd March from Melbourne.
(D.T.D. 112201A to S.N.O.P.G.)

War Diary.11.3.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Navigation
lights.

Request Commodores of U.K. bound convoys be instructed that ships in convoy are to burn navigation lights as in C.A.M.S.I. 191/43 section 2(a) paragraphs 1 and 2.
(D.T.D. 110015A to Connav, C. in C.C.N.A., F.O.G.M.A., F.O.L.E.M., F.O.C.W.Af., V.A. Malta, Info. B.A.D., C. in C. Med., C. in C.W.A.)

Air-Sea
co-operation
between
British
and U.S.
forces.

Cominch accepts proposals in sub.paras. C. and D. of para. 3 of Admty. 280124 Nov. and that Nationality of the Senior Officer of close escort decides whether Convoy is British or U.S. Escorted.

2. Ref. para. 2 of A.M. 261954 Feb., Cominch will be prepared to meet our requirements in a few weeks when the publications are available.

3. Cominch finds the position referred to in para. 4 of A.M. 261954 Feb. satisfactory.

4. Admiral King writes;
"Until revised publication is available, a conference could not be profitable."
(B.A.D. 110029Z.)

CORFU,
CILICIA.

Instructions now given for CORFU and CILICIA to proceed to Mobile Alabama as soon as possible for conversion and anticipate CHITRAL.
(B.A.M.R. 110107Z.)

Search for
SS. JOEL
POINSETT
(marine
casualty
4th March)

In view of your 102254Z* cancel my 102240Z Proceeding wreck. P.C.S. at 0201Z/11 042° 50' N. 057° 00' W. 063/ 10kts. Approx. E.T.A. wreck position 1800Z/11. Weather report.
(ST. JOHN 110209Z to C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

* N.T. in W.R.

✓ Could also be 276° 256° 195°.

Y.M.S.30
B.Y.M.S.
2030.

Weekly minesweeping summary No.224 states that U.S. minesweeper Y.M.S.30 was mined and sunk 25th January 1944.

2. Monthly statement of British losses for month of January published by "P" branch and dated 12th February. States that B.Y.M.S. 2030

was lost 26.1.44.

3. Request information as to whether Y.M.S.30 and/or B.Y.M.S. 2030 was vessel lost.

(B.A.D. 110249Z to Admty.)

U.S.escort
of U.G.S.
Convoys in
Med.

Your 092325 March.
This valuable assistance in the Mediterranean would be welcomed.
(V.C N.S. 111117A to Cominch.)

187

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

MILWAUKEE
T.G.120.2.

MILWAUKEE reported for duty. New designation
T.G. 120.2 T.G. Commander C.O. MILWAUKEE.
(Com. 12th Fleet, 111251.)

FITZROY,
COMBATANT,
CHAMOIS &
CHANCE.

Cancel my 071856. Ships arrived Argentina too
late to sail with or overtake B.5. Now intend
A. FITZROY proceed U.K. with C.4 escorting
H.X.283.
B. COMBATANT, CHAMOIS, CHANCE proceed with B.2
escorting S.C.155.
(F.O.N.F. 111316Z.)

U/B
estimates.

(N.S.H.Q. 111515Z, Cominch, 111521Z.)

Special
Barge
Convoy.

Cancel my 092001 New route (details).
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 111606Z.)

INDOMITABLE.

INDOMITABLE expects to be ready to leave Norfolk
for U.K. on the 20th April.

2. The only new construction escorts which are
expected to be ready at that time are HOLMES,

RIOU and HOTHAM. If employed with INDOMITABLE they would arrive
U.K. about 2nd May.

3. Propose to employ these Frigates accordingly accepting the
delay in arrival in U.K. of 11 days for HOLMES and 7 days for
HOTHAM which will occur over their normal passage as additional
convoy escort. There is no suitable convoy for INDOMITABLE
until U.T.12, sailing from New York 2nd May.

4. In this case HARGOOD, LABUAN and DOMINICA are expected to
be available for oceanway leaving New York about 29th April.
(B.A.D. 111715Z to Admty.)

TOURVILLE,
DUQUESNE,
SUFFREN.

Decision on their future is required. Policy is
understood to be as stated in Admty. 241427 Feb.

2. Navy Dep. agree but consider that it is
possible to induce the French to repair one of
these ships themselves at Dakar with materials
provided by U.S.

4. Your early concurrence is requested
(B.A.D. 111937Z to Admty.)

SEAWOLF.

Will be sailed for Halifax about March 15th*
011700 refers.

(S.B.N.O.W.At. 112053Z.) Note:- Delay in
circulation due to message being originally
received undecypherable.

* Re: Release of SEAWOLF.

/U/B...

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

U/B
sighting
summary.

Para. B. Radar contact by A/C 10.54 N. 79.53 W. 111415Z.
Para. D. P.V. sighted wake 13.50 N. 71.15 W. 111555Z course 260. Admty. pass to Comaveu and H.Q.C.C. (Cominch, 112106Z.)

Certain
escort
carriers.

It is expected to sail the following escort carriers for U.K. thus:

Ship	Convoy	Load.
PREMIER	C.U.17	British
NABOB	U.T.10	American and 852 Squadron.
EMPRESS	C.U.19.	British and 850 Squadron.
SPEAKER	C.U.19	American
RULER	C.U.22 or H.X.288	British.

2. Confirmation is requested that it may be expected that PREMIER, SPEAKER and RULER will return to U.S.A. in convoys U.C.17, U.C.19 and U.C.22 respectively. (B.A.D. 112125Z to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.781.

March 10th. Para. 14 to 19 cover South Pacific Forces.

3. Consolidation and reinforcement continues Los Negros Island; supported by air and Naval Units. Minefields Seeadler Harbour being cleared.

9. Single Jap barge carrying 75 personnel sunk off Northern extremity Williaumez Peninsula by mechanized landing craft 10th March.

10. Advanced elements from Trawe Area occupied Moewe Harbour 50 miles west Gasmata 9th March.

12. After dark 9th March one or two Japanese bombers ineffectually raided Saidor Beach and airfield areas.

16. Following night (9/10 March) heavy enemy shore batteries shelled motor torpedo boats operating off southwestern Bougainville without effect. Single Jap floatplane also ineffectually participated. Motupina Point Battery subsequently silenced by bombarding United States Destroyer. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 110630Z.)

11.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A.

1. Liberator A/C 24/311 reported inward U/Boat escorted by 4 destroyers. U/Boat was later attacked by Mosquito A/C with 6 pounder gun at 0930Z/10 in 44° 08' N., 04° 50' W.
2. A/C -/304 reported U/Boat course 220° at 2315Z/10 in 46° 45' N. 09° 17' W.
3. Sunderland A/C U/422 heavily attacked U/Boat at 1435Z/10 in 52° 40' N. 20° 20' W.
4. ST LAURENT, OWEN SOUND and SWANSEA, and H.M.S. FORRESTER, heavily attacked U/Boat at 1630Z - 2338Z/10 in 48° 48' N. 20° 35' W.
5. A/C K/120 sighted U/Boat seen to submerge, resurface and again dive at 2345Z/10 in 57° 54' N. 20° 19' W.
6. A/C K/120 attacked U/Boat on surface, course N.E. at 0215Z/10 in 57° 51' N. 20° 32' W.
7. A/C C/53 reported U/Boat and attacked with depth-charges at 0305Z/11 in 52° 05' N. 19° 50' W.
8. A/C A/407 attacked U/Boat at 2328Z/10 in 52° 53' N. 21° 53' W.
9. Am WILLIAM B. WOODS torpedoed at 1520Z/10 in 38° 36' N. 13° 45' E.
(D.D.I.C. 111211Z.)

U/B
estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 111412A, 111439A.)

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland.

1. Three attacks were made early this morning, at 0017, 0120 and 0122, by Swordfish A/C from the Escort Carrier VINDEX upon a U-Boat about 460 miles W. by N. of Valentia. The U-Boat was also depth-charged by WASKESIU, OUTREMONT and QU'APPELLE of E.G.6, who lost contact at 0512 but are continuing to search. VINDEX considers that two or possibly three U-Boats were present.

2. The newly-formed 21st Escort Group, consisting of the Destroyer ICARUS (S.O.) and four corvettes, left Lough Foyle at 1420 today to carry out an A/S patrol in Area C from dusk tonight as part of Operation C.W..

Biscay A/S Operations.

3. An outward-bound U-Boat was attacked by A/C at 0609A today about 320 miles W. by N. of La Rochelle without observed result.

Convoy C.E.251, shelled.

4. Between 0432 and 0454 today enemy coastal batteries fired thirty rounds at Convoy C.E.251 when off the South Foreland. The British NEPHRITE 927 tons, was slightly damaged and had one fatal casualty; but no other damage was caused.

Mining.

5. Bomber Command aircraft laid 88 mines in Biscay ports last night.

Mediterranean.

SS. KILISSI sunk, CABO SAN SEBASTIAN attacked.

6. (a). The French SS. KILISSI which left Valencia at 0600 today southbound flying the German flag was sunk this afternoon by aircraft in shallow water off Ametlla do Mar about 12 miles south of Tarragona. KILISSI is said to have been in company with SS. SAUMUR (also German), which left Sagunto yesterday p.m.

(b). The Spanish SS. CABO SAN SEBASTIAN which held a ship warrant and was southbound with general cargo for Valencia, appears also to have been found in bad weather with low visibility near the position in which the enemy ships were expected and was accidentally attacked by our aircraft in mistake for one of the latter.

/Operation...

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Operation
"Shingle"

7. (a). A strong S.W. wind backing later to N.W, with very heavy swell and continuous rain impeded unloading at Anzio today. Nevertheless, 5399 tons were discharged, of which 2527 tons were from L.S.Ts. and 108 tons from L.C.I.(L)s from Naples. (b). No air raids are reported; but shelling was heavy during the early forenoon and after abating became heavier again in the evening, though no material damage or casualties are reported.

Adriatic.

8. (a). BICESTER and LEDBURY sank a schooner last night in 43.07 N. 13.53 E. (off Anema) during a patrol off the Italian coast. (b). M.G.Bs. shelled Bona Harbour, Korcula last night. Other coastal forces made an unsuccessful attack on a 1000 ton merchant ship; one M.T.B. was damaged but had no casualties.

9. M.G.Bs. on patrol off Grosseto Rocks (S.E. of Elba) last night had an engagement with 3 F-Lighters. No damage or casualties to our forces are reported.

East Indies.

Convoy
changes.

10. C. in C.E.F. intends to take advantage of the present lull in the U-Boat threat in the North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden to release shipping from convoy between Aden and the Persian Gulf and Aden and Bombay.

(Suman BRAKE)

Operation
"Covered".
BRAKE Tanker sunk,
U/B attacked.

11. (a). A force consisting of NEWCASTLE (C.S.4) SUFFOLK, BATTLER and ROEBUCK, working from Mauritius sank an enemy tanker at 1215 today in about 31.27 S. 72.38 E. (about 1000 miles S.E. of Mauritius) which had been sighted by BATTLER's aircraft with 3 U-Boats near her. *(See page 273)* (b). Swordfish from BATTLER made a promising night attack with rocket projectiles at 1841Z today on two of the enemy U-Boats in 31.08 S. 72.39 E. After the attack one of the U-Boats proceeded on an erratic course for about 2 minutes before disappearing, leaving an oil patch on the surface. *(Assumed "Probably Damaged (B)" A/S Report, April, 1944, p. 29)*

FROBISHER.

12. FROBISHER sailed from Colombo for Aden and the U.K. today (see 3rd March.)

/Burma...

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

- Burma. Naaf River landing. 13. The 44th R.M. Commando was landed last night south-west of Alethangyaw, at the entrance to the Naaf River, diversionary bombardment being carried out simultaneously near Indin. Opposition was slight.
- Coastal Force Operations. 14. (a). M.Ls. have carried out several clandestine operations during the present month. On the night of 2/3 March, 6 M.Ls. made a successful sweep into Ramree Roads, sank 5 supply sampans and brought back prisoners for interrogation.
(b). On the night of 29th February coastal forces bombarded Sitanarokia on Maya Peninsula near Indin.

Australia & New Zealand.

- Solomon Is. 15. (a). Two Allied destroyers shelled the enemy barge base in north-west Choiseul Island this morning.
(b). Further air attacks on Simpson's Harbour, Rabaul were made today.

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Information for Russia. Northern Fleet have asked for reports of U/boat encounters by escorts of J.W. and R.A.56 and 57 convoys, in particular for estimated numbers of U/boats, tactics employed by them and position of attacks. Also for positions of any ship sunk.

(2) The above is asked for mainly to check up their own D/F reports but would be of considerable interest to them, as would the number of U/boats destroyed.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 121016A to Admty.).

Milford Haven and Cardiff sub-commands. C. in C.W.A. 711/00/770/90. Concur in proposed completion of transfer of Milford Haven and Cardiff sub-commands.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121024A to Admty.).

ORANJE Hospital ship ORANJE should be sailed on 17th March for the Middle East calling at Gibraltar for orders. E.T.A. Gibraltar 21st March.
(D.S.T., 121209A to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth).

AMBITIOUS AMBITIOUS is probably required for duty with A.N.C.X.F. Your 101226 refers.
(D.M.S. 121757A to A.C.O.S.).

WARSPITE On arrival in U.K. WARSPITE will proceed to Rosyth when she will come under the orders of C. in C.H.F.
(2) H.M.S. WARSPITE will adjust complement including new 15 inch personnel and will then work up.
(3) A.M. 161936 of February and A.S. Rosyth's 081505 refer.
(D.O.D.H., 121854A to C. in C.H.F.).

Travel between U.K. and Ireland. 1. Subject to certain exceptions, all travel between Great Britain on the one hand and Northern Ireland and Eire on the other hand, will be suspended as from March 13th, 1944, for military reasons. Instructions and exceptions.
(Head of N.L. 122007A, A.G.M. 877 AZ).

Defence of U.K.

Scapa Tide and weather have reduced effectiveness of obstructions in Burra Sound Hoy entrance and a gap exists in the main channel between existing wrecks. Request confirmation spare block ship INVERLANE, which it is proposed to use partially to fill this gap, is not earmarked for any other purpose.
(A.C.O.S. 121126A to Admty.).

/Faeroes...

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. - Contd.

Faeroes A/A defences. All light A/A guns at Skaaelfjord now placed out of action. Admiralty O21035A February refers. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 121156A to Admty.).

Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. U/boats attacked by A/C from VINDEX and by E.G.6. My 112348N. Second and third aircraft attacking S/M in 052 degs. 38' N. 022 degs. 43' W. QU'APPELLE proceeding in support reports S/M firing tracer. WASKESIU and OUTREMONT detached to support QU'APPELLE. (VINDEX, 120135N to C. in C.W.A.). My 112348N. Aircraft have lost contact in 052 degs. 47' N. 022 degs. 53' W. First attack considered very good. 2nd aircraft's depth charges fell $\frac{3}{4}$ of S/M length short on starboard quarter. Third aircraft has also attacked 2nd aircraft damaged by gunfire. WASKESIU, OUTREMONT, QU'APPELLE hunting, with aircraft now searching over area. (VINDEX, 120210N to C. in C.W.A.).

My 120210N. WASKESIU in company QU'APPELLE and OUTREMONT is in contact with S/M in 052 degs. 47' N. 022 degs. 55' W. and has attacked with depth charges. Aircraft searching area. Air gunner of 2nd aircraft killed by S/M gunfire. My 120508N refers. Remainder of crew safe.

(VINDEX, 120513N to C. in C.W.A.).

One aircraft detected by Radar bearing 120 degs. height 6000 feet. My P.C.S. 53 degs. 47' N. 11 degs. 54' W. 044 degs. 8 knots.

(Escort S.L.150, 120715Z to Whitehall W/T).

My 120513N. WASKESIU, OUTREMONT and QU'APPELLE hunting U/boat 052 degs. 43' N. 023 degs. 00' W. with intermittent contacts. Aircraft patrolling area. My P.C.S. 052 degs. 53' N. 022 degs. 40' W. 168 degs. 11 knots. Amended R/V with E.G.2 will be signalled.

(VINDEX, 120915N to C. in C.W.A.).

Have detected one unidentified aircraft bearing 085 degs. height 7000 feet shadowing convoy 54 degs. 03' N. 11 degs. 28' W. Course 044 degs. speed 7 knots.

(Escort S.L. 150, 120945Z to Whitehall W/T).

My 0945. 2 planes.

(Escorts S.L. 150, 121024 to Whitehall W/T).

C.A.F.O. 171/44 part 1.

- (1) VINDEX, 825 Squadron, Swordfish mark II Nos. N.E. 868.
- (2) 0017/12th March.
- (3) 052 degs. 20' N. 022 degs. 48' W.
- (4) 2 250-pound Torpex depth charges.
- (5) Straddled, first close on starboard quarter, second along-side port bow.

(VINDEX, 121025N to Admty.).

1. VINDEX - 825 Squadron - Swordfish Mark II number L.S.428
 2. 0120/12th. 3. Within 5 miles of 52 degs. 20' N. 22 degs. 48' W.
 4. 2 250-pound Torpex depth charges.
 5. 1 short, 1 close on the starboard quarter U/boat covered by depth charge explosion. Confirmed by following A/C L.S. 430.
- (VINDEX, 121035N to Admty.).

/My...

195

12.3.1944.
Sunday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S operations off Western Ireland. U/boats attacked by A/C from VINDEX and by E.G.6. (Contd.).

My 120915N. Following received from E.G.6. Contact not regained after last depth charge attack at 0512. Search continues in vicinity 052 degs. 30' N. 23 degs. 20' W. T.O.O. 120945N. (VINDEX, 121044N to C. in C.W.A.).

1. VINDEX, 825 Squadron, Swordfish Mark II Number L.S.430.
2. 0122/12th.
3. Within 5 miles position 052 degs. 20' N. 022 degs. 48' W.
4. 2 250-pound Torpex depth charges.
5. Not observed. Sparks flew off U/boat as A/S passed over hull. (VINDEX, 121057N to Admty.).

If not in contact with enemy leave H.X.281 forthwith and proceed to Lough Foyle for fuel and further orders.

(C. in C.W.A. 121116A to E.G.9.).

For information.

Aircraft from VINDEX attacked U/boat (German) during night 11th/12th. 3 escort vessels were in contact with it at 0513A/12th in 052 degs. 47' N. 022 degs. 55' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 121119Z to C.T.G. 21.11).

Request you will sail CAPE BRETON when ready to join VINDEX and 6th E.G. in approx. 053 degs. N. 020 degs. W.

(C. in C.W.A., 121130A to N.O.I.C.N.I.).

My 052303 para.3. PRESCOTT and EDMUNDSTON are to return to Moville for fuel and orders.

(C. in C.W.A., 121135A to VINDEX).

My 120513. Consider 2 or possibly 3 submarines were present. My noon position today 052 degs. 15' N. 022 degs. 40' W. (two groups missed). Courses various.

(VINDEX, 121358N to C. in C.W.A.).

Biscay A/S operations. U/boat attacked by A/C.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 46 degs. 41' N. 04 degs. 37' W.

(A/C, LFL44, 120245A to 19 Group).

Am over enemy submarine in 46 degs. 57' N. 09 degs. 05' W. Submarine was on surface and when first sighted was on course 290 degs. estimated speed 12 knots.

(A/C, LFL 34, 120558 to 19 Group).

Have attacked U/boat with depth-charges. No result seen due to evasive action.

(A/C LFL34, 120609A to 19 Group).

P.C.S. of 2 destroyers and 1 trawler 49 degs. 50' N. (?08 degs.) 25' W. course 090 degs. speed 5 knots.

(A/C, 121535A to 19 Group).

T.G. 21.11, BOGUE and destroyers vicinity 048 degs. 40' N. 025 degs. 30' W.

(C. in C.W.A., 121828A to ships).

"Bigot" signals

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 120756A).

(Admty. 120732A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

(V.A.2, 120930A to Admty.).

See Special File.

/ S/M...

War Diary12.3.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M Request you will sail S/Ms. as follows:
patrols. (A) SATYR at 0700A/14th. (My 121111 Part I).
(B) SYTRIS at 0700A/15th.
(C) TAKU at 0900A/16th by following route:-
(P) 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 miles.
(Q) 061 degs. 02' N. 000 degs. 48' E.
(R) 060 degs. 51' N. 002 degs. 55' E.
(S) 058 degs. 28' N. 004 degs. 50' E.
(T) 057 degs. 53' N. 006 degs. 02' E., thence to patrol in
accordance with S.M. 04010/977.
(2) Submarines to proceed on surface at discretion of C.O.
North of 060 degs. thence diving by day.
(3) Return route to be (D) SATYR 5 miles to starboard of
outward route reversed. (E) SYRTIS 5 miles to port outward route
reversed. (F) TAKU reverse of outward route.
(Capt. S.9, 121111A to S.O. S/M. Lerwick).
Positions of submarines at 0800/13th and movements for
following 24 hours. (A) SCEPTRE of Kya.
(F.O.S. 121748A to Admty.).

Convoy Between 0432 and 0454 today, enemy batteries
C.E. 251 at Framzelli and Sangatte opened fire on C.E.251
shelled. when off South Foreland. Thirty rounds were
NEPHRITE fired. SS NEPHRITE suffered one fatal casualty
damaged. and superficial damage to upper works, and was
ordered to proceed to Southend. No other damage
to convoy and no shells reported on land.
(V.A. Dover, 121126A to Admty.).

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth 121251A).
Force
patrols.

TIRPITZ. My 111345. Meeting to discuss exercise.
Meeting to "Redwing" will not take place on board DUKE OF
consider YORK at Greenock at 1100/15th.
measures (C. in C.H.F. 121300A to Admty., 18 Group).
against. My 121300. Agenda for meeting is as follows.
(A) Purpose of meeting. To consider measures to
be taken in the event of TIRPITZ coming South.
(B) The question of control and co-ordination.
(C) The use of a codeword. See A/PD 0278/43 dated 8th March
1944 not to F.O.C.T. or C. in C. Rosyth.
(D) Plan of operation of disembarked F.A.A. Squadrons.
(E) Reconnaissance requirements.
(F) Degree of reliance to be placed on availability of heavy
bombers.
(C. in C.H.F. 121544A to Admty., 18 Group).
In view of Agenda contained in my 121544 perhaps you would
like to be represented.
(C. in C.H.F., 121550 to F.O.C.T., C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation Sailed ICARUS (S.O.), MORDEN, CHILLIWACK,
"C.W." CAMROSE, LUNENBURG to comply with you 101825A.
E.G.21. (Cdre. D.W.A., 121420 to C. in C.W.A.).

/ Operation...

War Diary

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Foremost" Following emergency routes are established for use in operation "Foremost". My 0119(742) Feb. refers. Details. (F.O.S. 121504A to 71 SMZ).

"V.P." operations. (A) My 091015. M.T.B.715 (S.O.), M.T.B.618, M.T.B.688 sailed at 1900A today. (2) Yes. (A.C.O.S. 121753A to Admty.).
(A) My 091803A. M.T.B.687 (S.O.), M.T.B.683 and M.T.B.681 sailed at 1915A today. (2) Yes. (A.C.O.S. 121754A to Admty.).

Mining

Smiths Knoll clearance. "O" sweepers detonated 3 mines in 350 degs. 57 Buoy 4.2 miles at 1330 today. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 121419A and 131720A to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy convoy. At 1125Z/12th following passed Ranga latitude 066 degs. 37' southbound, 8 knots. 2 tankers under 10 thousand tons in ballast, 1 tanker similar size loaded, 1 merchant ship about 3 thousand tons loaded, 1 merchant ship 4 thousand tons with deck cargo of motor vehicles. Escort 2 armed trawlers. (F.O.S., 121446A to SCEPTOR).
KE

U/boats

U/boat reported. By D/F at 1011Z/12. Position of U/boat was 64 degs. 10' N. 9 degs. 20' E. (D.D.I.C. 121347A to S/M's.).

Casualties and Defects.

STUBBORN Sailed STUBBORN in tow of GRIPER for Plymouth. My 111128 and Capt.(S) 3rd 111435 refer. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 121248A to C. in C. Plymouth). Capt.(S) 3rd S/F 111435. Speed is being adjusted so as not to be south of Longships during dark hours.
2. Tug STEEPHOLM will escort you to Plymouth from the vicinity of Milford Haven.
3. Report E.T.A. off St. Ann's Head. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121355A to STUBBORN).

FAME, DEVERON, KINGCUP. FAME E.T.A. Liverpool midday Tuesday or earlier if desirable. Docking defects propeller hull leaks and new refit for A/S dome. Port Dynamo armature defective. Very much hope, FAME can dock on arrival to avoid losing sea training again. DEVERON requires rudder repaired, your 100931A Feb. refers. KINGCUP under water leaks probably requiring docking and port side valve chest and cylinder cover of winch fractured. (B.6 122345Z to Capt. (D) Liverpool)

198

12.3.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B report. By D/F on 4412 k/cs at 0550Z U-Boat, probably west-bound, estimated within 75 miles of 47° 00' N. 23° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 120849A to S.B.N.O. Azores, Info. H.Q.C.C. F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. SERANTES, (Las Palmas to Huelva) sent in and examined found in order and released.
(Spanish.) (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 120930A.)
Ref. To complete February Programme Ministry of Economic Warfare desire SERANTES sent in if going to Cadiz or Mediterranean Port after calling Las Palmas.

Ore traffic. Departures 12th 61, 66, 55, 68 (all 4 sailed 0500.)
Suggest grand opportunity cripple ore traffic.
(H.M.C. Bilbao 121155 to Admty. pass M.E.W. (R) B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

Note: This signal has been passed to H.Q.C.C. F.O.S. C. in C.W.A. and C. in C. Plymouth by W.R. 61 - BALDUR, 66 - HOCHHERINER, 55 - SCHARLACHBERGER, 68 - MIDS LAND (Du.)

Blockade. Programme of interceptions for March i.e. 10th March to 9th April will be similar to February.
(D.E.W.D. 121451A to F.O.G.M.A.)

NICOLINE Time 1617A/12 also covered Ex Danish NICOLINE
MAERSK MAERSK M.988 in same position as on 9th March.
(aground Partly submerged with only super structure visible.
25th Dec. No signs of activity.
1943.) (P.R.T. Gibraltar 121940Z.)

South Atlantic.

U/B attacked Your 112157C (?112151C intended.) No wreckage
S. of the visible oil extending about 2 miles. NORWICH CITY
Cape. left patrols at 2230 with engine room defects.
(LEWES 120607C to C. in C.S.A.)

MALCOLM. Most desirable that MALCOLM should dock for bottom
scraping and examination of under water fittings.
Can docking be undertaken at Gibraltar if MALCOLM
sailed to arrive 29th, she will be required to
escort R.3.16 6th April.
(F.O.C.W. Af. 121140Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy This is a repetition of my 120826Z.
L.G.E.1. 1. L.G.E. 1 (Westbound) (two) Commodores portion
Calabar River 0700Z/13th vice Commodores portion
Cameroon River 0500Z/13th.
3. Commodores portion knots 9 vice Commodores
portion knots 11 to position F thence whole convoy knots 9.
4. New Brooklyn (Commodore) AMSTELKERK Calabar to Lagos
CONAKRIAN (vice Commodore) Duala to Forcados FORT CHIPEWYAN
Lagos PATHFINDER Port Harcourt to Lagos DEIDO, STANHILL, JOSEPH
FLINT Forcados to Lagos 0600Z/15th.
(N.C.S.O.Lagos 121716Z.)

U/B off Transient Catalina reports U-Boat sighted 20.00 N.
Mauretania. 16 W. at 121347Z.
(C.M.S.F. 121728.)
Request details and clarification of position 20 N.
16 W. reported your 121728.
(Cominch 122022Z to C.M.S.F.)
Correct U-Boat sighting position in Commorseafon's 121728 to
read 20.00 N. 16.50 W. Cominch's 122022Z refers.
(Casablanca C.C.O. 122327.)

WAKE ISLAND, Arrival Capetown 12th March.
MISSION BAY (C. in C.S.A. 121730C.)
(U.S.Escort
Carriers.)

NORWICH CITY. Unable to decode your message using S.P.2539 (5)
or S.P.2493 P.C. and S. at 2300 lat. 036° (755')
S. long. 018° 02' E. course 003° speed 8 knots.
(NORWICH CITY 122305C to ROODEPORT, SOUTHERN
BARRIER.)

200

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

KILISSI, Reference my 112359/A latest report confirms
SAUMUR. KILISSI sailing between 0400 and 0600/12th.
May join SAUMUR from Segunto.
(F.O.G.M.A.120155A to 10th S/M.F. (R) Capt.(S) 10)
/ Re German KILISSI expected leave Valencia on
11th for French Port.
KILISSI sailed about 0600 local time 12th.
(R.O. Valencia, 120830)
Enemy controlled merchant ships KILISSI and SAUMUR reported by
A/C 1 mile off Cape Tortosa at 1615 to-day northbound.
(F.O.G.M.A.122107A to 10th S.F. (R) Capt. (S) 10th S.F.)

U.G.S.34. VAPEX sighted by believed M.E.210. My position
020 degs. Cape Tenez 18.
(BIDEFORD, 120724A to C. in C. Med.)

Sitrep 51. Yesterday 11th unloading continued at high rate
Operation and 7347 tons were discharged. Total made up
"Shingle". as follows. From L.S.T.3005 tons. From
Naples L.C.I.(L) and L.C.T.626 tons. Merchant
ships 3716 tons. Daily discharge averaged
over preceding 7 days reached 4000 tons for the
first time since the initial build up.
(2) During raid on anchorage 2359/10 one enemy torpedo bomber
manned by Italians was shot down no damage to shipping. One
plane destroyed in dive bombing attack at 0715/11. Sea wall
damaged several buildings destroyed road leading from port was
blocked for a very short time. No naval casualties reported.
(3) Erratic and slight shelling continued. No naval casualties
reported.
(C. in C. Med. Naples, 121004A)

SALVATORE, SALVATORE AVEZ (as received join escort vessel
AREZZO. 1 destroyer and 2 corvettes in Monemvasia at 1530
11th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 121046A to ULTOR)
AREZZO, SALVATORE and escort gone from Monemvasia
visual recce 0850/12th. Destination probably Crete.
(F.O.L.E.M.121642B to Capt. (S) 1, (R) ULTOR)

Work-up C. in C. H.F. 111349. New routine is working
of cruisers well. Consider however to avoid long passage to
and Alexandria it would be preferable from May 1st
destroyers to October 1st for cruisers and destroyers
for Med to complete work up and boiler cleaning at
from U.K. Scapa.
(2) Request special attention may be given to
bombardment training with F.R.O's (D.O's) and
single seater spotting.
(C.in C. Med. 121229 to Adnty.)
Re: New routine of ships being boiler cleaned.

201

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Black Sea. From Intelligence reports March 4th to March 10th. Air March 3rd two E.Boats damaged in K Kiik Atlama land. R/C movement reports from Odessa sea(?) (?) to Crimea. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 121306C.)
- Caiques. W.D.20 para. 4. No objection for the time being to your sinking Caiques.
2. Para. 5 for 26th read 21st.
(Capt. S.1, 121420 to ULTOR (R) F.O.L.E.M.)
- Transfer of Italian ships to Russians. Request following message from Minister of Marine may be passed for confidential information, to Italian F. and C.Os. in your command begins: Further to my telegram 5th instant, I am informed that according to official communication any transfer of Italian ships to Russia is not foreseen as United Nations will make provision with their own shipping to supplement Russian Fleet in proportion increment which they have received from Italian Fleet. You can thus carry on with your work serenely.
A.R. Courten.
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 121821 as amended 160841 to C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw, F.O.L.E.M., F.O.W.I.T., V.A.M., N.O.I.C., W.Af., C. in C.E.F.)
- U/B reports. Nr.2. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 33° 55' N. 34° 35' E.
(A/C CXZA 111824)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 38° 53' N. 14° 04' E.
(A/C HNYN T.O.R. 112112)
- DZIK. Intend transferring DZIK to 5th S/M.F. a.m. 11th. N.O.I.C. Beirut pass to Pay Cdr. Whitehouse. (S.1., 121848.)
- UPSTART. leave patrol to arrive Maddalena at 1130/16th routed through 042° 43' 007° 20' at 0800 thence direct for Q.B.B.312.
(Capt. S.10, 121943 to UPSTART.)
- Situation report No.313
1. My 102202/para. 9, Ship subsequently sank.
3. M.T.B. sank Schooner in 043° 05' N. 017° 11' E. during night 10th/11th, 28 German prisoners taken. Destroyers had blank night off Vis.
4. Night of 11th/12th BICESTER and LEDBURY sank Schooner in 043° 07' N. 013° 53' E. during patrol off Italian coast.
5. Motor Gunboat patrol off Grosseto during night 11th/12th had engagement with 3 F lighters no damage or casualties.
(C. in C. Med., 122120A.) Situation Report No.311.

12.3.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat
disposition.

Area G Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F at 1227Z/
11th March to be to South Eastward of Ceylon.
Scale of air escort Y, and area F which increases
to Y. Other areas no fresh information, no change
in scale of air escort except area C which is re-
duced to W.
(C. in C.E.F. 120412Z.)

Convoy
Changes.

F.O.N.I.C. (359). A.B., A.P. and P.A. Convoys re-
lease class D ships forthwith.
2. Ships of A.P.34, A.P.64 and P.A.72 are to remain
in convoy until reaching dispersal point or des-
tination.

3. B.A.convoy release class D ships from March 14th.
4. B.A.65 is on March 13th composed and escorted as already
arranged.

(C. in C.E.F. 120506Z.)

Intend to take advantage of present lull in U-Boat threat in
North Arabian sea and Gulf of Aden to release shipping from convoy
between Aden and Persian Gulf and Persian Gulf and Aden and Bombay.
(C. in C.E.F. 120514 to Admty.)

Landing Craft A.M. 021652. A. Para. 3 confirmed and para. 4
bases in India noted.

B. Every effort is now being made to propose India
for all three services as a base from which am-
phibious operations can be initiated and maintained
in South East Asia Command.

C. The creation of Landing Craft bases which included engine
overhaul depots was started last November and still proceeding.
(C. in C.E.F. 120531Z.)

FROBISHER.

Sailed for onward passage U.K. 2. (Route.)
-(C. in C.E.F. 120844Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

SURF,
SPORTSMAN,
SICKLE.

P.239 (SURF) has returned from her first patrol of
18 days at sea. In spite of having a doctor on
board the entire crew suffered badly from prickly
heat and there were 5 cases of heat stroke. Future
patrols will have to be confined to areas where
she can retire and spend one day in three on the
surface.

2. Observing that P.229 (SPORTSMAN) and P.224 (SICKLE) are
A. Also without dehumidifiers or air conditioning
B. Understood to be so near due for refit that they are not likely
to be available for more than 2 or 3 patrols at the most it seems
questionable if in existing conditions it is worth while their
joining Eastern Fleet.

3. Request F.O.S. take urgent action on my 110719 Feb.
(Capt. S.4 121231Z to C. in C.E.F.)

/Organization...

War Diary.

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

~~East Indies - Contd.~~

Organization
of Canadian
mid-ocean
and support
groups.

N.S.H.Q. 082217 (BIGOT).

Following is the proposed organization of Canadian mid-ocean and support groups.

C.1. VALLEYFIELD, CHIBOGNE, FREDERICTON, GIFFORD, HALIFAX, EDMUNDSTON, FRONTENAC, MAYFLOWER, AGASSIZ.

C.2. ST. CATHERINES, MONNOW, FENNEL, CHILLIWACK, MORDEN, DRUMHALLER, OWEN SOUND, KAMLOOPS, SACKVILLE.

C.3. PRINCE RUPERT, ETRICK, EYEBRIGHT, RIMOUSKI,

BITTERSWEET, NAPANEE, FOREST HILL, LAMALBAIE, TRILLIUM.

C.4. MONTREAL, WENTWORTH, AMHERST, BRANDON, COLLINGWOOD, ATHOLL, NORTH BAY, NASTURTIUM, VILLE DE QUEBEC.

C.5. DUNVER, NENE, ROSTHERN, NEW WESTMINSTER, DAUPHIN, MIMICO LONG BRANCH, WETASKIWIN, LIPMA, E.G.6, NEW WATERFORD, WASKESIU, OUTREMONT, CAPE BRETON, GROU, TEME, E.G.9, MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT, PORT COLBORNE, ST. JOHN MEON.

First Canadian Destroyer OTTAWA, KOOTENAY, CHAUDIERE, GATINEAU, QU'APPELLE.

Second Canadian Destroyer SASKATCHEWAN, SKEENA, ASSINIBOINE, ST. LAURENT, RESTIGOUCHE.

2. If you agree request you arrange with C. in C.W.A. to implement the regrouping thereby releasing the corvettes mentioned para. 1 N.S.H.Q. ref. Fully anticipate ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR and MOOSEJAW will be relieved in the W.E.F. as necessary to arrive in the U.K. late April.

3. As can be appreciated unforeseen circumstances may require amendments and certain problems affecting group senior officers may arise both of which will be the subject of separate proposals. (C. in C.C.N.A. 121640Z to Admty.)

War Diary.12.3.1944.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Stragglers Report. Stragglers arrived week ending 11th March 5th FERNCLIFF (Nor.) S.C.154 defective steering gear 7th ELISHA GRAVES OTIS (U.S.) N.D. O.N. 225 cracked hull 7th MOKIHANA (U.S.) H.S.281 deck cargo shifted. 9th JAN A.DELANO (U.S.) H.X.281 heavy weather damage including cracked hull. (N.C.S.O.St. Johns N.F. 121217Z.)

U/B dis-positions. (N.S.H.Q. 121359Z.)

U.744. Congratulations of Naval Board and T.L. on sinking. (N.S.H.Q. 121507Z to C.2.)

LORD KELVIN. DRUMMONDVILLE screening LORD KELVIN cable repairs 046° 40' 057° 22'. (C. in C.C.N.A. 121705Z.)

NABOB. When ready about 18th March sail NABOB Norfolk to New York for loading U.S. planes and inclusion in U.T.10 to U.K. May operate own aircraft between Norfolk and New York. (Cominch 121902Z.)

JOEL R. POINSETT (marine casualty 4th March.) BRITISH EMPIRE (corrupt group) aircraft failed to locate wreck today. Weather unfavourable due to frequent heavy snow squalls. Intend searching 053° 00' W. to 051° 30' W. from 044° 00' N. to 043° 00' N. tonight and tomorrow. My position 130900Z will be approx. 044° 43' N. 051° 30' W. Radar completely broken down. FOUNDATION FRANKLIN in company. Weather report. (ST. JOHN 121935Z.)

U/B attack & sighting summary. Radar contact by A/C 11 N. 79.40 W. 111905 Radar contacts by A/C 12.04 N. 77.53 W. 111900 and 14.57 N. 75.14 W. 112310. Y.A.G.7 attached sound contact 36.55 N. 74.40 W. 121128. P.B.M. Radar contact 37.20 N. 72.25 W. 121350. All times Z. (Cominch 122000Z.)

T.G.21.14. Cr. No. 1852. Change Task Group designation. My 061915. To T.G.21.14. (Cinclant 122214.) Ref. 061915 - T.G.21.13 constituted as Captain Switzer in TRIPOLI Comcortdiv 7.

War Diary.

12.3.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

T.F.64. Cr. No. 1851. Change Task Force designation. My 062020, to read Task Force 64. (Cinclant 122240.) 062020 - this reconstitutes T.F.63 Captain Berdine in DECATUR Comcortdiv 23. W.D.Note. Cancelled by 131529.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 782. Bougainville. Two U.S. Destroyers bombarded enemy positions east Torokina perimeter afternoon 10th. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 120505Z.) Digest serial No. 782 March 11th. Paras. 9 to 13 cover South Pacific Forces.
7. 17 R.A.A.F. Beauforts bombed supply dumps Cape Hoskins. M.T.Bs. attacked single enemy armoured barge west Garove Island heading thereto night 10th/11th. Vessel forced on to reef considered destroyed.
13. Single Allied destroyer contacted? enemy S/M off Choiseul Bay after dark 10th. Three attacks made some debris seen afterwards. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 120615Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. A. 1. Aircraft from VINDEX attacked U-Boat in 52° 48' N. 22° 31' W. at 0048Z/12 and in 52° 38' N. 22° 43' W. at 0235Z/12. QU'APPELLE and OUTREMONT subsequently attacked contact.
2. Catalinas made 3 attacks on U-Boat in 41° 28' S. 17° 40' E. at 0730Z/11.
3. Aircraft attacked U-Boat course 290° in 46° 37' N. 09° 08' W. at 0507Z/12.
4. Ref. A.M. 091201A para. 6 CLARK MILLS was mined and subsequently beached.
Para. D. KILMALCOLM attacked suspicious contact at 1530Z/11 in 09° 00' N. 33° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 121201A.)

U/B estimates. (D.D.I.C. 121330A, 121333A.)

206

13.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Measures
against
TIRPITZ.

1. At 1107A today C. in C. H.F. left Scapa in DUKE OF YORK with one destroyer for a meeting at Greenock tomorrow to consider the measures to be taken if TIRPITZ comes South; and at 1311A a B.3 report was received by Admiralty that TIRPITZ and five destroyers had left Alten Fiord at 1230A yesterday. At 1930A today a B.2 report from another source stated that six destroyers had left Stjernesund in 70° 15' N. at 1230A yesterday; and at 2205A today a further B.2 report states that TIRPITZ was in her usual berth at Kaafiord at 1400Z today.

CHASER
damaged.

2. The Escort Carrier CHASER broke adrift from her buoy at Scapa at 1455 today and drove ashore on the North end of Fadda during a gale.

Biscay A/S
operations.
U. 575 sunk
by PRINCE
RUPERT and
T.G. 21.11.

3(a) At 0045 today a U-Boat was sighted by A/C 1100 miles due West of La Rochelle and at 0215Z was attacked and apparently disabled by an A/C from the Azores. At 0807Z it was again attacked by A/C with depth charges and seen to submerge at a steep angle leaving patches of oil. At 1510Z C.T.G.21.11 in the U.S. Escort Carrier BOGUE with five U.S. destroyers sighted the oil and at 1550Z was in sound contact with the U-Boat which at 1635Z was attacked by the Frigate PRINCE RUPERT from the Escort of Convoy U.N.227, forced by depth charges to surface, and destroyed at 1920Z by gunfire from PRINCE RUPERT, HOBSON and HAVERFIELD assisted by a Rocket attack by A/C from BOGUE. Many survivors were picked up. The U-Boat was subsequently found to be U.575.
(b) Two other U-Boats were sighted by A/C in the latitude of La Rochelle at 0437 and 0757 respectively today.

Mediterranean.U.S. escort
of U.G.S. -
G.U.S.
convoys in
Meditn.

4(a) In order to afford increased protection for U.G.S. - G.U.S. convoys within the Mediterranean and at the same time to permit increased protection of other Mediterranean convoys with the forces available Cominch has arranged that commencing with U.G.S.36 the U.S. escort of U.G.S. convoys will continue with the convoys as far as Malta, instead of Gibraltar, and will return with the same numbered G.U.S. convoys.

/(b) ...

207

13.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.U.S. escort
of U.G.S. -
G.U.S.
convoys in
Meditn.
(Contd.)

(b) C. in C. Med., however, would prefer the terminal point of U.S. escorts of these convoys to be Bizerta; and to this Cominch agreed.

PHOEBE and
escort
carriers.

5(a) PHOEBE (15th C.S.) sailed from Malta in K.M.F.29A today to join the Eastern Fleet. With certain escort vessels, she will escort the escort carriers ATHELING and BEGUM and other vessels to the East.

(b) On arrival at Port Said on 19th March it was found that one of PHOEBE's boilers needed retubing and that her speed was reduced to 26 knots.

Operation
"Shingle".

6. 6448 tons were discharged at Anzio today in improved weather. No aircraft were over the port area, but shelling is growing in intensity and accuracy. Many shells fell in the harbour, the Hard, the Mole and the boat harbour being hit. One L.C.M. was slightly damaged.

Adriatic.

7(a) Allied aircraft sank an M.L. off Zara to-day, damaged 2 E-Boats and several schooners, and set a steamer on fire.

(b) At Omis, south-east of Split, aircraft attacked shipping and blew up a Siebel ferry, sank a motor launch, and set a steamer on fire. The Coastal Air Force hit factories, oil tanks and dock installations in San Stefano (42.27 N. 11.07 E.) and the canal entrance at Marina di Pisa (north of Leghorn). At Talamone (near San Stefano) hits were made on the main quay, F-Boats, barges and schooners. The quay at Giglio (about 42.20 N. 10.55 E.) was hit and oil tanks set on fire. North of Elba a small convoy was bombed.

East Indies.M.V. TARIFA
sunk east of
Socotra.

8. AVON reported tonight that she had recovered 96 survivors from 3 lifeboats and 2 rafts from M.V. TARIFA (which left Aden on 2nd March for Melbourne) in 13° 39' N. 55° 49' E. (about 90 miles north-east of Socotra) and was proceeding to position 12° 25' N. 55° 15' E. to search for the remaining lifeboats

/and ...

208

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

M.V. TARIFA
sunk east of
Socotra.
(Contd.)

and rafts. It was subsequently reported that the ship was torpedoed and sunk in 12.48 N. 58.44 E. (about 220 miles east of Socotra) at 070730Z, and that 22 survivors had landed at Socotra (these were embarked by PARRET) and the rescue of a further 30 sighted by aircraft was expected.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. M.T.Bs. operating off Jacquinot Bay (S.E. coast of New Britain) last night shot down an enemy float plane. On the previous night M.T.Bs. shot down one east of Cape St. George (south point of New Ireland). Air attacks by the enemy on Allied M.T.Bs. attacking barges off Bougainville on both nights were unsuccessful.

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

WARSPITE. Admiralty's 161936. WARSPITE with M.K.F.29 is due 055° 13' N. 009° 05' W. at 0001A/15th routed from: HT 055° 00', 010° 00' to HU 055° 25', 008° 30', speed 14. Request you will provide escort to this position direct to Rosyth. S.O. of A/S escort M.K.F.29 is CYGNET. I do not consider WARSPITE should be unescorted.
(C. in C. W.A., 131228A to C. in C. H.F.)

VANSITTART. Cancel A.M. 051931. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail VANSITTART when ready to Port Talbot where she is to pay off into reserve for future employment as accommodation ship. C. in C. Plymouth's 071427 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 131925A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

M.M.S. 303. On completion of trials M.M.S.303 should be sailed to Milford Haven for onward routing to the Mediterranean.
(D.M.S., 132005A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Lerwick. Admiralty's 102216. Since C. and M. personnel will be accommodated in Knab Camp and as maintenance of buildings and machinery is already my responsibility it is suggested that coastal force organisation at Lerwick should revert to FOX. Coastal Force Lerwick agrees. 2. If approved request A.F.O. 1192/44 may be cancelled.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 131725A to A.C.O.S.)

Iceland A/S defences. Your 111145A, A.M. 041530A Oct. 1943 and A.L.T.O. 08730/43 of 26/7/43. Owing to shipping requirements it has been decided to postpone sailing FOSSBECK and accept lack of spare mine loop. 2. Can existing boom at Seidisfjord be maintained with present facilities?
(A.C.N.S.(H), 131932A to A.C.I.C.)

Operations.

S.C. operation. In view of weather MOLDE ordered to return to base at 122359A.
(A.C.O.S., 130002A to ONSLAUGHT.)

Biscay A/S operations. Am over enemy S/M in 46° 05' N. 27° 28' W. (A/C, 130045 to 19 Group.)
U-Boat Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface (possibly when first sighted, was on course 110° estimated speed 5 knots.)
H. 240) sunk by PRINCE (A/C 247 Group, 130147Z to 19 Group.)
RUPERT &

T.G. 21.11.

/My ...

U.S. 75
A/SW report
CB. 04050/44(3)

210

War Diary.13.3.1944.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S My 0147. U-Boat on surface position 46° 13' N.
 Operations. 27° 28' W. apparently disabled.
 U-Boat (A/C JFV6 130215Z to 247 Group.)
 (possibly U. Fortress attacked U-Boat in 046° 05' N. 027° 28' W.
 240) sunk by at 0145Z/13th, course 110°, speed 10 knots. U-Boat
 PRINCE on surface, apparently disabled.
 RUPERT and (S.B.N.O. Azores 130234Z to T.G. 21.11, C.3.)
 T.G. 21.11. U-Boat attacked by aircraft from Azores in 046° 13'
 (Contd.) N. 027° 28' W. on the surface, apparently disabled,
 at 0215Z/13.
 (C. in C.W.A. 130335Z to C.T.G. 21.11.)
 Am over enemy S/M in 46° 32' N. 06° 57' W. S/M
 was on surface, when first sighted was on course 090° estimated
 speed 8 knots.
 (A/C RKT 74 130437 to 19 Group.)
 My 0437. U-Boat has dived, position 46° 28' N. 06° 52' W.
 (A/C RKT 74 130515 to 19 Group.)
 Am over enemy submarine in 47° 06' N. 11° 31' W. estimated
 bearing 300° 8 knots. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed
 to submerge.
 (A/C MCM 41 130757A to 19 Group.)
 Am over enemy submarine in 46° 20' N. 27° 20' W. Submarine
 was on surface.
 (A/C RNSR 130805Z to S.H.9.)
 My 0805. Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Estimate
 one hit.
 (A/C RNSR 130807Z to S.H.9.)
 My 0805. U-Boat previously reported was on surface. Have
 attacked U-Boat with depth charge. Hull sank high angle. Only
 large patches of oil remain. Am circling. Await instructions.
 (A/C RNSR 130900Z to S.H.9.)
 R/206 attacked U-Boat in 46° 20' N. 27° 20' W. Estimates,
 one hit.
 (247 Group 130930Z to H.Q.C.C.)
 My 130335. U-Boat again attacked with depth charges. Hull
 disappeared at a steep angle leaving only patches of oil.
 (C. in C.W.A. 131126Z to C.T.G. 21.11.)
 Oil slick and Sono Buoys indicate submarine 46.25 N. 27.36
 W. D.E. on scene. Remaining vicinity. Weather.
 (C.T.G. 21.11 131510Z to Cominch, Cinclant.)
 My 131510. D.E. in sound contact.
 (C.T.G. 21.11 131550Z to Cominch, Cinclant.)
 Leigh Light Wellingtons hunting U-Boat in your vicinity.
 Sortie 1 1915Z - 2205Z, Sortie 2 2330Z-0230Z, Sortie 3 0400Z -
 0700Z.
 (S.B.N.O. Azores 131612Z to PRINCE RUPERT.)
 Am attacking enemy S/M in 046° 10' N. 027° W. U.S.S.
 HAVERFIELD and plane in company.
 (PRINCE RUPERT 131635Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 S/M destroyed in 046° 10' N. 027° 34' W. Survivors on board.
 (PRINCE RUPERT 131920Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 My 131510 and 131550. S/M brought to surface by D/C attack.
 Sunk by gunfire from PRINCE RUPERT, HOBSON, HAVERFIELD and Rocket
 attack by BOGUE planes. Large number of survivors being picked up.
 (C.T.G. 21.11 132020Z to Cinclant, Cominch.)

/It...

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

U.575-
Biscay A/S Operations. U-Boat (possibly U. 240) sunk by PRINCE RUPERT and T.G.2111. (Contd.)

It appears probable 2 S/Ms were concerned and possibly sunk. It is requested survivors be interrogated as to number of times they were attacked by air as position of attacks differ. Ref. PRINCE RUPERT 131920Z. (S.B.N.O.Azores 132320Z to C. in C.W.A.)

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. D/F bearings at 0130Z/13 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 130301A to VINDEX, E.G.6.) Your 121135. Intend detaching EDMUNDSTON and PRESCOTT at about 1600/13th. (VINDEX 131328N to C. in C.W.A.) VINDEX, 6th E.G. WASKESIU, OUTREMONT, QU'APPELLE, and 2nd E.G. STARLING, WREN, WILD GOOSE, MAGPIE, WHIMBREL operating vicinity 052° 30' N. 023° 40' W. (C. in C.W.A. 131407A to Ships.) Your 121135. PRESCOTT and EDMUNDSTON detached for Moville position 053° 00' N. 022° 59' W. (VINDEX 131800Z to C. in C.W.A.) CAPE BRETON sailed. (F.O.C.N.I. 131903A to C. in C.W.A.) E.G.7 escorting M.K.F.29, P.C.and S. at 2100A/13th 050° 10' N. 018° 24' W. 047° 13 knots. Weather. (PRINCE RUPERT 132105Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Spitzbergen. First enemy aircraft seen flying in Sassenfjord. ("Locomotive" 130830Z to Admty.)

TIRPITZ. Scapa departure C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with MATCHLESS. (A.C.O.S. 131107A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) B.3 reports TIRPITZ and five destroyers sailed from Alta 1230A/12th. Comment: TIRPITZ may be carrying out repairs trials. (D.D.I.C. 131311A to A.I.G. 21, A.I.G. 47.) A.M. 131311A. Request P.R.U. R/C of Altenfjord as soon as possible. (D.D.I.C. 131340A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.) Could you let me know present Russian S/M dispositions off Altenfjord. (C. in C.H.F. 131855A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.) B.2 source reports sighting 6 destroyers left Stjernesund 70° 15' N. 22° 40' E. at 1230A/12 and had not returned by 1530A/12th. Comment: This is from a separate source to A.M. 131311A. (D.D.I.C. 131930A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.) Your 111951. As the numbers of Seafire IB are limited it is intended to supply 801 Squadron with Seafire IIC replacements. 2. In order to make Seafire IIC available 880 Squadron will be rearmed forthwith with Seafire F Mk. III and will remain temporarily allocated to FURIOUS. Spares for Seafire F Mk.III

/will...

212

13. 3. 1944.

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

TIRPITZ. will be supplied to Hatston.
(Contd.) 3. The operational strength of 801 Squadron is 12 I.E.
(D.N.A.O. 132125A to C. in C.H.F.)
B.2 report states that TIRPITZ was in her usual berth at Kaafjord at 1400Z/13.
(D.D.I.C. 132205A to A.I.G. 21, A.I.G.47.)

Operation Intend following operation, short title C.X., during
C.X. forthcoming dark period. Object to counter possible repetition of inshore operations by U-Boats similar to those recently off Cornwall and in North Channel.

2. Primary object of all forces is destruction of U-Boats.
3. Area X, established enclosing line joining 058° 14' N. 007° 00' W. 058° 50' N. 007° 00' W. Rona, Cape Wrath, Tiump Head. Area Y enclosed by line joining North Rona, Cape Wrath, 058° 35' N. 004° 30' W. 059° 10' N. 004° 30' W.
4. Air patrols arranged - A. Night, to N. and W. of Area X and Y to depth 30 miles. B. Day, Scarer A/C in X and Y and area A above.
5. Surface forces 3rd E.G. and 4 corvettes of 6th E.G. latter temporarily designated 25th E.G.
6. Intention is for 3rd E.G. to patrol areas X and Y. 25th E.G. will act as additional close escort of E.N/W.N/U.R. and R.U. Convoys, as requisite. When not so employed 25th E.G. will also patrol in areas X or Y.
7. Air sea co-operation to take place as laid down in A.C.I.107 in addition to a loud speaker watch on port wave.
9. A/C and ships fitted with type 253 to keep it switched on day and night.
10. White flares may be used by A/C to assist in identification of A.S.V. contact. Green flares will be used by A/C to assist homing.
11. Cdre. D.W.A. is requested to sail A. 3rd E.G. p.m. 14th March to patrol areas X and Y. B. 25th E.G. a.m. 16th March to provide additional escorts as far as 004° 30' W. for W.N. 58 leaving Loch Ewe 2200A/16th March.
12. Consider ships should not proceed unescorted north of lat. 058° N. or west of long. 004° 30' W. after 1200/16th.
13. C. in C.Rosyth is requested to signal expected time of arrival of E.N.convoys in 004° 30' W. on sailing.
(C. in C.W.A. 131323A to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C.Portsmouth 131340A, 131639A.
Force (C. in C.Plymouth 131433A, 131806A, 131949A.)
Patrols. (V.A.Dover 131541A.)

Operation Under certain circumstances submarines will make
"Foremost". the coastal passage from their bases up the West and East Coasts of the U.K. unescorted.
2. All signals ordering these movements will be prefixed "Foremost."
3. Cs. in C. are requested to warn all local authorities to this effect.
4. F.O.S. 011912 February paras. 1, 2 and 3 refers.
(D.O.D.H. 131643A to C. in C.H.F.)

/S/M...

213

13.3.1944.

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

S/M Patrols. SCEPTRE is leaving patrol so as to pass 064° 21' N. 004° 03' E. at about 2100A/15th. Thence by route "Orange" and 090° Ocean 20 miles to Lerwick on the surface at C.O.'s discretion when 60 miles clear Norwegian coast.

(Capt. S.9 131715A to S/MS.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/14th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SCEPTRE off Kya.

B. VOX, 61° 49' N. 00° 35' W. through 62° 01' N. 00° 39' W. to patrol vicinity of 63° 30' N. 01° 10' E. Dived by day N. of 62° N.

H. VIKING as in my 101736.

(F.O.S. 131822 to Admty.)

Codewords "Helmet" and "Tinhat." It is intended to introduce two codewords relating to movements of enemy main Fleet Units to or from Norwegian Waters. Codewords are given in my immediately following signal.

2. Codeword A signifies there are indications that an enemy main Fleet Unit may sail from North Norway to southward and possibly to a German port within seven days.

3. Codeword B signifies there are indications that an enemy main Fleet Unit may sail from a German port northward and possibly to North Norway within seven days.

4. The warning implied by the codeword is to lapse after the seven days unless renewed by signal.

5. The purpose of these codewords is that Commands concerned may make preliminary plans or adjust the scale of minor operations to ensure availability of sufficient forces for operations against main Fleet Unit.

6. On receipt of a codeword it would be at the discretion of A.O.C in C. to inform U.S.8th Air Corps.

7. Codeword would be made by signal addressed to:

C. in C.H.F., C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C.Nore, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S., Air Ministry.

(A.C.N.S.H. 132208A to C. in C.H.F., H.Q.C.C., F.O.S.)

A.M. 132208A. Codeword A - "Helmet". Codeword B - "Tinhat".

(A.C.N.S.H. 132303A to C. in C.H.F. H.Q.C.C. F.O.S.)

Casualties & Defects.

STUBBORN. Your 121355A. E.T.A. off St. Annes Head 0800A/14. (STUBBORN 130755A to C. in C.Plymouth.)

My 121355 and your 130755. STEEPHOLM will R/V with you in 051° 37' 00" N. 005° 14' 24" W. at 0300A/14.

2. Adjust speed to pass Longships at 0700A/15th and endeavour to arrive Plymouth in daylight 15th.

(C. in C.Plymouth 131527A to STUBBORN.)

CHASER. CHASER broke adrift from buoy during gale at 1455 today and is now ashore on North End of Fada.

2. Rudder has gone and probably further damage. (V.A.2 131641A to C. in C.H.F.)

COTILLION damaged. In collision COTILLION in posn. 235 Chicken Rock 6' Stem badly damaged and will require docking. Intend proceeding Belfast.

(ABELIA 132330 to C. in C.W.A.)

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

?U/boat
report.

Following has been read by Gibraltar.
Nr.1. Position of enemy 40 degs. 45' N. 25 degs.
50' W.
(A/C, FFZM, 130550).

G. GARIBALDI
(Italian
cruiser).

Intend to sail for Freetown 140800A.
(F.O.G.M.A., 131004).

S.L.151

COWSLIP sailed 1100 to rejoin.
(C.M.S.F., 131115Z).

SS. ANGOLA
(Portuguese)

Your 081621 not intercepted no ship available.
(F.O.G.M.A., 131747A amended 142211A to Admty.).
M.E.W. requests Portuguese SS ANGOLA sailed for
Funchal and Lisbon be sent in if possible.

T.G.62.9,
T.G. 120.8,
(landing
craft
group).

On arrival Horta T.G. 62.9 redesignated T.G.
120.8 C.O. Lieut. Commander Henry in L.C.I.(L)
408. Request S.B.N.O. Azores sail Group to
Falmouth, when ready escorted in accordance with
Admty. 102024A on arrival Falmouth Task Group
dissolved.
(Cdr. 12th Fleet, 131802Z).

ANTIOPE

Intend to include French S/M ANTIOPE C. in C.
Med. 111528A refers with 3 S/MS. sailing with
escort for U.K. about March 19th in accordance
with my 121241A not to all.

ANTIOPE to be detached in approx. 36 degs. 10' N. 12 degs. W.
thence proceeding unescorted to destination. Request ocean
route.

(F.O.G.M.A., 132208A).

C. in C. Med. 111528A request you route independently to
Key West via (route) and furnish necessary recognition signals.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet, 132225 to F.O.G.M.A.).

✕ Sailing of ANTIOPE.

13.3.1944.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep 52.

At Anzio on 12th March 5399 tons were discharged. L.S.Ts. contributed 2527 tons, L.C.I.(L) from Naples 108 tons. Strong south-west wind backing later to north-west with very heavy swell and continuous rain did not assist unloading.

2. No raids reported. Heavy shelling during early forenoon, abating until 1700 when it became heavier again. No material damage or casualties reported.

(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 130940A.)

PHOEBE
and other
ships for
Eastern
Fleet.

On arrival K.M.F.29A Port Said request you will transit H.M. Ships concerned to Suez.
2. ATHELING to carry out repairs at Suez.
ATHELING 121834 not to all addressees refers.
3. PHOEBE will be detached to Alexandria and will be sailed for Port Said for transit to Suez after embarking stores.

4. ERNE and SHIEL will be detached to Alexandria and will remain in Mediterranean.

5. Request you sail PHOEBE, CAUVERY, SPEY, FINDHORN, LOSSIE, TAFF escorting ATHELING, BEGUM, ENGADINE, ATHENE and ARANDA for Eastern Fleet.

6. Request you sail NIGERIA independently for Aden and Eastern Fleet.

(F.O.L.E.M., 131011B to S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)

PIPINOS.

From Kaso Strait proceed Malta (route).
(Capt. (S) 1, 131038 to PIPINOS, (R) ULTOR and Naval & Air Authorities.)

M.L. 387
(internal
explosion
5th March).

M.L.387 is total loss.
(C.F.E., 131120B.)

TOURVILLE,
DUQUESNE,
SUFFREN.

No objection seen to proposals in B.A.D. 1119372* but no workmen could be spared from Casablanca or ports in the Med. for employment at Dakar.
(C. in C. Med., 131228A to Admty.)

* Repair of French Cruisers.

SIBYL -
special
operation.

It is very desirable but not essential that SIBYL should carry out a special operation which would entail the postponement of her departure from Malta for U.K. until 31st March and arrival at Blyth about 24th April.

2. Your 231504 Feb. not to F.O.L.E.M. Can this delay be accepted.

(S.1., 131235 to F.O.S.)

/Air ...

216

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air attack on SS. CABO SAN SEBASTIAN. German KILISSI sunk. German SAUMUR, CARMEN. Ministry of Marine report attack by Beaufighters nationality so far unknown on southbound Spanish CABO SAN SEBASTIAN. Also attack on German ship reported abandoned by crew. First attacks took place yesterday afternoon off Villa nueva y Geltru* and ship beached off Valcarca. Position of second attack not specified but took place same time. It is unfortunate that Spanish ship held ship warrant and was southbound with general cargo for Valencia. Request fullest possible details.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 131401 to Admty., F.O.G.M.A., R.O. Barcelona, R.O. Valencia.)
* 41.14 N. 01.48 E.
No.33. Departure 12th Segunto German SAUMUR iron ore, France transit Germany. Expected sailing 13th CARMEN Sete oranges transit Sweden.
(Valencia, 131825.)
Your 131405* is being passed to C. in C. Med.
2. German KILISSI left Valencia 0600/12th and German SAUMUR left Segunto p.m./11th both for France.
(F.O.G.M.A., 131936A to B.N.A. Madrid.)
* 131401 intended.
My 131715 British Vice Consul Tarragona report SAUMUR manned by German arrived Tarragona 0900 this morning. It was in convoy with another vessels which is said to have been sunk off Ametlla de Mar/ 30 miles south of Tarragona. Perhaps CABO SAN SEBASTIAN got mixed up in these operations. Admiralty pass to M.E.W.
(R.O. Barcelona, 131945.)
/ Approx. 40.51 N. 00.46 E.

SS. HALLAREN. Swedish Govt. intimate safe conduct vessel HALLAREN will sail from Piraeus to Venice at 0800 March 19th by standard route. Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Admty., 131720A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Allocation of French S/MS. My 032030.
(1) French would now prefer to offer ORPHEE instead of CASABIANCA.
(2) NARVAL's electrical equipment would stand hot climates better than ORPHEE's.
2. In consequence of above French propose following A.M. 100549 (A) ORPHEE (B) ANPIOPE. My 111528 refers.
(C) First NARVAL second to be decided later.
(C. in C. Med., 131731A.)

ULTOR. Proceed with all despatch to position 109° DD 37 miles.
(Capt. (S) 1, 131857 to ULTOR.)

/Ports ...

SECRET

216^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.)

Aegean Shipping
Summary

131845B/March

From: C.-in C.Middle East.

Date: 13.3.44.

Recd: 1959

Cipher

Addressed: S.O.(I) L E M., A.H.Q. Eastern Mediterranean,
Adv. H.Q. Raiding Forces, The War Office (For D.H.I.)

IMMEDIATE

419207.

I/80441 cipher 13th Mar.

Secret.

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intelligence Appreciation
24 hours to 1000 hours 13th March 1944. All times
GMT.

4. Photographic reconnaissance G.F. airfields 12 March.
Bad weather again prevented all photographic cover
with exception Maleme (Crete) which showed 9 single-
engined fighters (increase 4 since 11th March) and Calato
(Rhodes) which showed no operational aircraft.

5. GAF activity. 12 March nothing to report. Air
transport. 11 March eleven JU 52s landed Eleusis from
Heraklion (times not stated).

6. Aegean shipping summary. Convoy believed S.S.
SABINE (Ex-SALVATORE) and AREZZO heavily escorted reported
arrived Suda midday 12th March from Piraeus via
Monemvasia earlier reported to be carrying ammunition
and foodstuffs. This convoy together with Agathe convoy
represents intake 5100 GRT since 8th March partially
offsetting loss S.S. LISA (5300 GRT) 22nd February.
Danube barge traffic Piraeus-Crete continues, at
least 2 such vessels having recently arrived Western
Crete. Continued evidence caiques traffic Piraeus-
Crete via Central Cyclades. Photographic reconnaissance
and ground sources confirm departure from Rhodes 12th
March Danubelighter convoy 3 craft with armed auxiliary
escorts. Destination presumed Leros via Cos. No
further information Claudia convoy. Appreciation
Castelrosso unchanged.

131845B.

Marking overleaf.

ex LIVENZA

- 2 -

Advance Copy Ops., O.D, O.I.C.
Received in War Registry 0150/14.
Circulated by W.O. to W.O., A.M., F.O. Depts
and Admiralty.

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. Pin
Ops. (2)
Plot
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (5)
D.H.I. (5)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (C) (2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
M. (2)
D.P.D.
C.C.L.S. (2)
A.L.O.
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Ad. Blake (4)
C.W.R.

GC
57

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Ports for
Swedish
relief
ships.

Your 111937. Swedes are being informed that Port Nikolo may be used for supplying Crete. You should therefore refrain from mining this port. A.M. 211926 January refers.
2. It is assumed that you are taking no action against Port Naussa, Paros and Port Gavriou Andros (your 251015 January refers). Proposals for visits to these ports are expected in near future.
(Admty., 131940A to F.O.L.E.M.)
Reply 141231B.

PHOEBE.

Sailed.
(V.A.M., 132106.)
(W.D. Note: For Eastern Fleet.)

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Enemy force. My 1900 large number of enemy vessels passing me during yesterday heavy tropical rain storm at 1900Z in 004 degs. 03' N. 100 degs. 18' E. One destroyer only seen. Consider that Force consisted of 5 destroyers and one heavy unit course 345 degs. 16 knots destroyer zigzagging at 19 knots. (S.T.O.I.C. 130315 to C. in C.E.F.).

U/boat dispositions. All areas no fresh information. No changes in allocations of air escort. Indian Ocean U/boats by D/F 1744Z/12th within (?200) miles 031 degs. south (?071 degs.) east. (C. in C.E.F. 130332Z).

K.14. Intend to sail D.S.K. 14 0530Z/16th March to comply with C. in C.E.F. 091203 not to all addressees (N.T. in W.D.).
(2) S/M will patrol off Padang and Benkolen 24th to 29th thence proceeding through 004 degs, 01' S. 102 degs 01' E. direct to Christmas Island to arrive 1st April. From there D.S.K. 14 passes through 015 degs. 00' S. 109 degs. 00' E. at 1330Z/3rd thence direct to arrive Exmouth Gulf 0001Z/7th April. Speed from Christmas Island 7 knots.
(3) D.S.K.14 has been ordered to report her E.T.A. at Exmouth Gulf if it should differ by more than one hour from 0001Z/7th.
(4) to (7) Communications.
(8) D.S.K.14 will come under operational control of C.T.F.71 on crossing 006 degs. S.
(S.O.(S) Colombo, 131301Z).
Amended 190629Z.

Convoy Diego Suarez- Majunga 1. Sailed 13th (time corrupt) Escort STELLA POLARIS. (N.C.S.O. Diego Suarez, 131415Z).

SS TARIFA E.T.A. 013 degs. 00' N. 055 degs. 00' E. 140500Z. Intend searching to west of longitude 055 degs. between latitude 012 degs. and 014 degs.
(PARRET, 131645Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) AVON).
In 13 degs. 39' N. 55 degs. 49' E. recovered 96 survivors from 3 lifeboats and 2 rafts from TARIFA. Am proceeding to position 12 degs. 25' 55 degs. 15' to search for remaining lifeboats and rafts.
(AVON 132248Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) C. in C.E.F., PARRET).

U/boat report. By D/F at 1938Z/13 the position of a German U/boat was within 150 miles of 027 degs. S. 077 degs. E.
(C. in C.E.F., 132303Z).

219

13.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- U-Boat Estimates. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 131450Z, Cominch, 131615Z)
- T.F.63. C.R. No.1020. Cancel my 122240. My 062020.
T.F.64. Change Task Force designation to read T.F.64.
(C. in C. Lant, 131529)
- SS. FORMOSA. Swedes intimate safe conduct vessel FORMOSA will leave Saint John 0800/18 for Piraeus, following standard route. Request you will inform all Air and other authorities concerned.
(Admt. 131725A to C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.Ottawa. F.O.L.E.M., C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.G.M.A. F.O.W.Med. S.B.N.O. Azores. Connav.)
- U.G.S./ G.U.S. Convoys. Beginning with U.G.S.36 U.S. escort of U.G.S. convoys will terminate voyage at Malta and culminate (?return intended) with same numbered G.U.S. convoys. Provide special escort for G.U.S.35 from Gibraltar to U.S. in accordance with your 121822 (N.T. in W.R.)
(Cominch, 131925Z to (U.S.) C. in C. A.F.)
- C.U.16. Off Oversay 2200Z/11. All arrived.
(D.T.D.131943A)
- NABOB, living standard. C.O. NABOB reports extreme dissatisfaction of R.C.N. ratings with lower standard of general messing and accommodation. Strongly recommend that authority be given forthwith to put NABOB on Canadian scale of ration allowance. An early reply is requested in view of the conditions represented and the adverse effect on morale which is definitely suffering and reaching a serious point.
(B.A.S.R. Washington, 132020Z to Admt.)
- U/B incidents. Para. A. My 102114 VALERA considered sunk BOGUE escort sighted oil slick had sound contact 46.25 N. 27.36 W. 13.15.10. H.M.C.S.PRINCE RUPERT attacked sub. 46.10 N. 27.34 W. 13.16.35.
Para. C. P.C. attacked sound contact 10.12 N. 79.14 W. 13.08.27. All times Z.
(Cominch, 132132Z)
- SS. JOEL R. POINSETT. Liberator A/C reports wreck in 043 degs. 00' N. 053 degs. 46' W. (J) 2150Z/13. Bearing and distance from me 258 degs. 25 miles.

Proceeding/...

220

War Diary.13.3.1944.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.SS. JOEL R.
POINSETT.
(Contd.)Proceeding position at utmost speed. Will report
on arrival at wreck. (ST. JOHN, 132202Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial
No.783.March 12th paras. 8 - 12 cover South Pacific
Forces.

(5) Ground forces Los Negros Island extending
positions with Air Naval Artillery support.
Afternoon 11th our forces drove enemy from strong
positions West Papitalai Mission whence enemy had
launched previous unsuccessful attacks. Same day our forces
landed on Hauwei Island commanding approach Seeadler Harbour
where enemy well armed and entrenched. Naval Air and Artillery
bombardment demolished large calibre guns there. Another party
landed without opposition but Joluo Island 3 miles east Lorengau.
M.T.Bs now operating in Admiralty's supporting landing parties
hunting enemy barges Seeadler Harbour where two barges destroyed
night 11th-12th.

(11) Two Allied destroyers shelled enemy barge base north west
Choiseul morning 12th.

(12) Night 10th-11th Motor Torpedo Boats with spotting Catalinas
destroyed five barges one boat Saint George's Channel.
Single enemy floatplane strafed one M.T.B. causing only slight
damage.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.130730Z) / As received.

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

Para. A. (1) A/C B/172 attacked U/B sighted on
surface, course 110 degs. at 0145Z/12th in 46 degs
05' N. 27 degs. 28' W. (2) A/C L/58 sighted
U/B at 0017Z/12 in 45 degs. 59' N. 09 degs.
38' W. (3) A/C sighted U/B on surface, course
090 degs. at 0337Z/13 in 46 degs. 32' N. 06 degs.
57' W. (4) A/C sighted U/B course 300 degs.
attacked with depth charges at 0657Z/13 in 47 degs. 06' N. 11
degs. 31' W. Para.B. (1) Catalina A/C sighted U/B at 1347/12
in 20 degs. 00' N. 16 degs. 50' W.
(D.D.I.C. 131024Z)

U/B
Disposition.Estimates.
(D.D.I.C.131432A, 131433A)

221

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1(a) A B.2 report states that TIRPITZ was in Alten Fiord at 1740Z to-day.
(b) C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK arrived at Greenock at 0756A to consider the measures to be taken if TIRPITZ moves South; and at 1533A the Admiralty informed C. in C. H.F. and other authorities concerned that there are indications that TIRPITZ may sail from North Norway to the southward within the next seven days.

A/S
Operations
off Western
Ireland.
VINDEKX
attacked.

2. At 1155 to-day, while fuelling Escorts of E.G.2 about 410 miles W. by N. of Erris Head, the Escort Carrier VINDEKX was narrowly missed by a torpedo from a U-Boat which was at once hunted by the ships of E.G.2.

CHASER.

3. The Escort Carrier CHASER which drove ashore yesterday at Scapa was towed off by Tugs at 1100 to-day.

Engagement
off Dunkirk.

4. In a ten-minute engagement at 2145 tonight with an Enemy Convoy off Dunkirk M.T.B's 724, 698, 705 and 353 damaged two R-Boats by gunfire and torpedoed a coaster which is believed to have been sunk; and at 2335 they set a third R-Boat on fire. Two of the M.T.B's sustained slight damage, but there were no British casualties.

North Atlantic.

5. A submarine was reported in territorial waters one mile off Graciosa Light at 1250N to-day.

South Atlantic.

U.S.S. WAKE
ISLAND.
MISSION BAY.

6. The U.S. Escort Carriers WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY sailed from Capetown for Karachi to-day

Via /...

222

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U.S.S. WAKE
ISLAND.
MISSION BAY.
(Contd.)

via Diego Suarez, escorted by BANN.

Operation
"Wicket-
keeper".

7. C. in C. S.A. reported to-day Operation "Wicket-keeper" completed, one U-Boat was probably sunk on 11th March.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

8. 5125 tons were discharged at Anzio to-day. A heavy swell and strong winds hampered unloading. There were 12 alerts during the day and heavy shelling, though no damage was caused.

Adriatic.

9(a) Last night, coastal forces sank a large schooner off Murter Island (43.47 N. 15.37 E. 25 miles S.E. of Zara, Yugoslavia).
(b) Destroyers patrolled near Vis last night and the previous night, but sighted no enemy.

PIPINOS
damaged.

10. The Greek S/M PIPINOS, returning to Malta from patrol in the Aegean reports that she has been damaged by depth charge attack and asked at 2359B for permission to proceed to a nearer harbour, but was told to return to Malta.

East Indies.

SURF,
SPORTSMAN,
SICKLE.

11(a) During her first patrol the entire crew of the S/M SURF suffered badly from prickly heat. In spite of having a doctor on board there were 5 cases of heat stroke. Her future patrols will have to be confined to areas where she can retire and spend one day in three on the surface.
C. in C. E.F. deplors the fact that S/M's so ill equipped for tropical climates should be sent to join the Eastern Fleet; and he considers that SPORTSMAN, which arrived at Port Said on 15 Feb. and SICKLE who is carrying out repairs at Gibraltar should not proceed to the Indian Ocean until satisfactory air conditioning is fitted. (P. 202)

223

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of the United Kingdom.Selsey
Radar
Station.

It is understood the R.A.F. are about to be asked to take over the manning of Selsey Radar Station.

2. To improve the existing inshore cover it is proposed that Selsey Radar Station be closed and that the R.A.F. be asked to instal and man a new set at Bembridge.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 142329A to Admty.)

Operations.Biscay A/S
operations.Three attacks on U-Boats by A/C on 13th March.
Details.

(247 Group, 140005Z, 140145Z, 140210Z, 141232N to H.Q.C.C.)

132200Z position 46.12 N. 27.36 W., proceeding

to Casablanca through 40 N. 25 W., thence 34.55 N. 15.45 W.

S.O.A. 13. E.T.A. 0800A/18.

(C.T.G. 21.11, 140025Z to C. in C. Lant.)

U.575

PRINCE RUPERT 131920. S/M ~~possibly U.240~~ sunk by gunfire of PRINCE RUPERT, HOBSON, HAVERFIELD after being blown to surface by depth charge. Of 54 crew, 2 officers and 12 in PRINCE RUPERT, Captain and about 25 in U.S. ships.

(C.3., 141224Z to C. in C. W.A.)

VIMY and VOLUNTEER E.T.A. Horta 0900Z/15 for fuel. My P.C.S. (? 041°) 14' N. 034° 45' W., 124°, 16 knots.

(VIMY, 141258Z to C. in C. W.A.)

TIRPITZ.
Measures
against
her return
to South.

Your 132150A. No Russian submarine at present operating to the west of 025°. Present intention is for 1 submarine to man patrol area 2 able 642 17th March for 48 hours.

(2) Russians are willing to adjust their patrol programme to suit our disposition.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 140021A to C. in C. H.F.)

Request you comply with Admiralty 132125A para.2.

(D.N.A.O., 140153A to F.O.N.A.S., (R) FURIOUS, C. in C. H.F.)

Your 140230A. Herewith re-encyphered version our T.O.O. 132210 begins, Mosec to 8th U.S.A. Bomber Command. There is a strong possibility of TIRPITZ proceeding within the next four days along the Norwegian coast on return to base in Baltic. I would be grateful if preparations could be made to implement operation "Dormer" if necessary. Arrangements are being made by this H.Q. to make available three Norwegian observers as referred to in para. ten (11) of this operation instruction. Will keep you informed of further developments.

(H.Q.C.C., 140325A to Admty.)

Arrived Clyde C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with MATCHLESS.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 140756A to A.C.O.S.)

A.M. 132208. "Helmet".

(A.C.N.S.(H), 141533A to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S., Air Ministry.)

B.2 report states TIRPITZ was in Alten Fiord at 1740Z/14.

(D.D.I.C., 142140A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

/V.P. ...

224

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

V.P. Operations. (A) My 121753A. Force returned at 0835A to-day, owing to weather. (A.C.O.S., 140950 to Admty.)
(A) My 121754A. Force returned at 0840A today owing to weather. (A.C.O.S., 140955 to Admty.)
(A) Cancel mt 091015A and my 091803A. (A.C.O.S., 141005A to Admty.)

A/S operations off Western Ireland. VINDEX attacked. Commenced oiling (? at) 141000, my 141239 refers. At 1105 picked up asdic contact starboard side. Escort sent to investigate. At 1155 torpedo fired port side. Drastic avoiding action taken. Torpedo missed. 2nd E.G. who were all round now hunting in 055° 07' N. 021° 58' W. (VINDEX, 141236N to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 121230. Impeller pump will not produce delivery pressure of more than 15 pounds representing 10 tons per hour with fair weather length hose. Snorer damage control pump in delivery system was delivering about 46 tons per hour when VINDEX was attacked with torpedo (my 141236 refers). Fuelling will be resumed when additional escort from 2nd Escort Group have finished hunting U-Boat that attacked.

(VINDEX, 141239N to C. in C. W.A.)
052° 01' N. 027° 30' W. VINDEX, Escort Group 6th WASKESIU, QU'APPELLE, OUTREMONT, Escort Group 2nd STARLING, WHIMBREL, WILD GOOSE, MAGPIE, WREN operating in above vicinity.

(C. in C. W.A., 141324A to Ships.)
Escort Group 21 ICARUS, CHILLIWACK, MORDEN, CAMROSE, LUNENBURG operating off north-west coast of Ireland. My 141219A refers.

(C. in C. W.A., 141330A to Ships.)
Proceed forthwith to patrol area A.2 commencing in eastern half from south to north.

2. Unassessed report of southbound U-Boat vicinity 057° 40' N. 007° 35' W. at 0930A/14th.

(C. in C. W.A., 141525A to E.G. 21.)
My 141236. Nothing found in area by Second E.G. Am proceeding with Second E.G. in accordance with your 140958. My P.C.S. 055° 02' N. 022° 16' W., 225°, 13 knots.

(VINDEX, 141700N to C. in C. W.A.)
Situation Report homeward section. Amend P.C.S. E.G. 3rd 005° (? 055° intended) 35' N. 006° 31' W. to 056° 15' N. 009° 35' W. thence to northward, 13. E.G. 21st vicinity 053° 55' N. 008° 45' W. to operate west of Barrahead 12. My 141330 and 141219 refer.

(C. in C. W.A., 141735A to Admty.)

Spitzbergen. Your 291854. 202. Fuel supplies will last end June.
("Locomotive", 141250Z to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 141342A.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141526A.)

/Operation ...

225

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation Sailed 3rd Escort Group DUCKWORTH, ESSINGTON,
C.X. EKINS, COOKE, DOMETT and BERRY in accordance
with C. in C. W.A. 131323.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 141346A to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Patrols. Your 111005. Intend sailing SIRDAR escorted
by SKOMER at 1030A/15th March to arrive
destroyer R/V in position (ZZ) 180° Bishop
Rock 10 miles at 2200A/15th.

2. From position (ZZ) SIRDAR proceeds in accordance with your
111010A.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141640A to Capt. (S) 5.)

Position of submarines 0800/15th and movements for
following 24 hours.

- (A) SCEPTRE 64° 30' N. 007° 57' E. probably on the surface
through 64° 15' N. 004° 05' E. towards 62° N. 001° E.
(B) VOX on patrol vicinity 63° 28' N. 001° 08' E.
(C) SATYR leaves Lerwick 0700/15th through 090° Muckle Flugga
20 miles, 61° 02' N. 000° 48' E., 60° 51' N. 002° 55' E. toward
58° 28' N. 004° 50' E. dived by day when south of 60° N.
(F) VIKING (P.69) on patrol vicinity 50° 49' N. 010° 05' W.
(F.O.(S), 141749A to Admty.)

Operation Indicated increase in tanker deliveries to the
"Overlord". U.K. will more than offset the recently
Tanker declining stock position and improve the
deliveries prospects of attaining the desired target levels
to U.K. by 1st June at latest.
(Eisenhower, 141730Z.)

Operation Your 131643. Regret this is not acceptable on
"Foremost". west coast north of North Channel during
operations C.W. and C.X. details of which are not
held by all addressees.

2. Arrangements will be made to provide escort
for northbound S/Ms. from vicinity Mull of Kintyre to vicinity
longitude 004° W. In order not to reduce unduly the number of
ships on operation C.W. request S/Ms. may be sailed in groups
and at least 12 hours warning given of their departure.
(C. in C. W.A., 142304A to Admty.)

Mining.

Harwich. One ground detonated by M.M.S. at 1225 in 51°
56.2' N. 01° 41.9' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141332A and 141906A to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat My 140228A. Following from Coastguard Rhossili:
reported. Coastguard Port Eynon reports small fishing
vessel passed without lights immediately previous
to 140300A.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 140330A to Admty.)

/Coast ...

War Diary.

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boat
reported.
(Contd.)

Coast-watcher Mewslade Bay reported at 0220A/14 one low-lying craft bearing 130° Rhossili 1½ miles from shore which he said disappeared from sight while he was watching. Suspected submarine R.M.L.551 sent to investigate.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea, 140338A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

SEBASTIAN.

A.M. 022257 is cancelled. On completion of repairs to R/T DEXTEROUS request R/T THAMES be sailed to Loch Ewe to tow M.V. SEBASTIAN to Clyde and there await further orders.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 140438A to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

ABELIA.

ABELIA's 132330A. Arrived ABELIA with collision damage.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 140901A to C. in C. W.A.)

STUBBORN.

C. in C. Plymouth's 131527. Sailed STEEPHOLM to R/V.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141011A to Capt. (S) 3.)

CHASER.

My 131641. CHASER was towed off by tugs at 1100/14th.
(V.A.2., 141225A to C. in C. H.F.)

KEPPEL.

KEPPEL can be taken in hand at Belfast Floating Dock for A/S defects p.m./16th March, and is then to return to Clyde for completion of maintenance repairs.
(C. in C. W.A., 141331A to Capt. (D) Greenock.)

L.C.T.1027.

Departure Tug KROOMAN to assist L.C.T.1027 off Inner Shoalbuoy Lowestoft.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 141533A to N.O.I.C. Lowestoft.)

CUMBERLAND.
Alleged
sabotage.

An enquiry by M.I.5 and C.I.D. Representatives into alleged sabotage has been taking place in Palmers Hebburn. Ship involved was CUMBERLAND. Members of my staff have been called upon to furnish statements. I have not been informed of this matter.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 141747A to Admty.)

/HYDRA ...

227

War Diary.14.3.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

HYDRA. At 0425A/11th HYDRA grounded in Poolewe Bay after dragging her anchors by means of which ship soon afterwards succeeded in hauling herself off. No indications of structural damage but two blades of port propeller are chipped and slightly bent. Port engine knocks badly at speeds over 100 R.P.M. (and requires excessive steam pressure. Speed on this engine is therefore limited to these R.P.M. which on both engines give speed of 8 knots. Shaft does not appear to be bent. Request ship may be docked for fitting of new propeller during boiler clean commencing at Aberdeen 17th March. (M/S.18, 141841A to A.C.O.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

J.W.58 & V.A.2 131641. BITER (S.O.) and TRACKER are provisionally earmarked for J.W.58 and R.A.58. These carriers have recently been operating as a pair with U.K. - Gibraltar convoy. BITER complement aircraft is 3 Wildcats and 9 Swordfish II (fitted A.S. VX and Mark XXIV mines).
2. F.O.C.T. is requested (A) to inform C. in C. H.F. when BITER and TRACKER may be expected arrive Scapa (B) to increase fighter components as practicable with CHASER Wildcat. (C. in C. W.A., 140015A to C. in C. H.F., F.O.C.T.)
The following ships from H.X.283 are required to join J.W.58 east of Iceland (C) on 30th March: HORACE BUSHNELL, ARTHUR L. PERRY, JAMES M. GILLIS, WILLIAM S. THAYER, ELOY ALFARO, JOHN T. HOLT, BEN F. DIXON.
2. C. in C. C.N.A. is requested to arrange for these ships to part company from H.X.283 so as to arrive Reykjavik on 25th March, escorted by FITZROY, COMBATANT, CHAMOIS and CHANCE.
3. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail the ships southabout with the same escort to rendezvous with J.W.58 on 30th March as ordered by C. in C. H.F.
(D.O.D.(H), 141722A to C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C.)
Your 140015A. Have seen C. in C. H.F. and consulted with F.O.C.T. Intend BITER and TRACKER leave Clyde area 25th March to attend convoy conference Loch Ewe 26th and thence to Scapa. Complement of aircraft to be decided after meeting on 16th on CHASER's experience, which both C.Os. will attend.
(BITER, 142049A to C. in C. W.A.)

Group 6. Your Group 6 consisting of 7 ships arrived Dvina Roads at 1100A. Your 080901 refers.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 141225A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Stragglers. Stragglers week ended 14th March, nil.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 141225A to Admty.)
Your 041340 May 1943. Stragglers returned during week ending 14th March. Nil report.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 141628A to Admty.)

/Ships ...

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Ships for U.C. Convoys. Addressees pass to N.C.S.Os. Until further orders ships from Bristol Channel ports for U.C. convoys are to be sailed independently to Belfast for routing orders. (D.T.D., 141746A to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

SKOGOLAND, FALSTERBOHUS. Aircraft from Mac Ship sighted 2 Swedish ships, P.C.S. 043° 37' N. 034° 44' W., 180°, 12, showing on their side SKOGOLAND and FALSTERBOHUS. When challenged by aircraft the former showed correct recognition pendant for the day, the latter would not answer signal. GROU was sent to search the area commencing to return to the convoy at dusk if not in contact. (B.5., 141830Z to C. in C. W.A.)
My 141830Z. Time of first sighting was 1320Z. (B.5., 142207Z to C. in C. W.A.)

M/Vs. off Cape Wrath. Until further orders no merchant ships, except fish carriers and fishing craft, are to be sailed unescorted between Pentland Firth and the North Minch. Ships from the southward are to be routed to Methil or Loch Ewe accordingly. Ships may be transferred from F.N. to E.N. convoys at sea when convenient. C. in C. W.A. 131323A refers. (D.T.D., 142039A to C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore.)

Confidential.

MESSAGE.

228^A

OUT

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

MESSAGE

141519A/March

TO: N.S.H.Q.

DATE: 14/3/44

COLNAV.

COMINCH

S.B.N.O. West Atlantic.

S.B.N.O. Azores.

F.O.C.W.Af.

F.O.G.M.A.

C.in C. Med.

F O W Med.

V.A. Malta.

FOLEM

FOTALI.

Routes for Swedish safe conduct vessels.

P/L BY W/T

From Admiralty

DEFERRED

The following signal consolidates past signals and gives details of the routes which have been agreed by belligerents for Swedish safe conduct vessels engaged on Greek relief. For ease of reference these routes will in future be referred to by the undernoted colours whether outward or inward bound.

2. BLACK ROUTE (St. John (NB) - Piraeus)

From St. John through

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|----------------------|
| a) | 38 degs. 00 mins. N. | 66 degs. 35 mins. W. |
| b) | 38 degs. 00 mins. N. | 65 degs. 00 mins. W. |
| c) | 34 degs. 00 mins. N. | 64 degs. 00 mins. W. |
| d) | 34 degs. 00 mins. N. | 39 degs. 00 mins. W. |

To Gibraltar, thence to

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| e) | 38 degs. 10 mins. N. | 10 degs. 00 mins. E. |
| f) | 38 degs. 10 mins. N. | 11 degs. 30 mins. E. |
| g) | 37 degs. 00 mins. N. | 14 degs. 35 mins. E. |
| h) | 36 degs. 51 mins. N. | 012 degs. 14 mins. E. |
| i) | 36 degs. 30 mins. N. | 015 degs. 28 mins. E. |
| j) | 35 degs. 15 mins. N. | 20 degs. 00 mins. E. |
| k) | 20 Sea miles South of Gavdo | |
| l) | 34 degs. 36.5 mins. N. | 26 degs. 09.5 mins. E. |
| m) | 34 degs. 50.5 mins. N. | 26 degs. 38 mins. E. |
| n) | 35 degs. 02 mins. N. | 26 degs. 25.5 mins. E. |
| o) | 35 degs. 17 mins. N. | 26 degs. 28 mins. E. |
| p) | 35 degs. 34 mins. N. | 26 degs. 59 mins. E. |
| q) | 35 degs. 44 mins. N. | 25 degs. 30 mins. E. |
| r) | 36 degs. 10 mins. N. | 24 degs. 00 mins. E. |
| s) | 37 degs. 20 mins. N. | 24 degs. 00 mins. E. |
| t) | 37 degs. 36.2 mins. N. | 24 degs. 06.6 mins. E. |
| u) | 37 degs. 37.6 mins. N. | 24 degs. 06.6 mins. E. (Pilot) |
| v) | 37 degs. 37.6 mins. N. | 23 degs. 57 mins. E. |

- w) 37 degs. 47 mins. N. 23 degs. 47.2 mins. E.
- x) 37 degs. 47.8 mins. N. 23 degs. 45 mins. E.
- y) 37 degs. 55.5 mins. N. 23 degs. 37.5 mins. E. to Piraeus.

3. RED ROUTE (St. John (NB) - Salonika).

By Black Route as far as position

- m) 34 degs. 50.5 mins. N. 26 degs. 38 mins. E.

Thence direct to

- a) Turkish territorial waters off Fethiçh leaving same at:
- b) 40 degs. 23 mins. N. 26 degs. 13 mins. E. thence through
- c) 40 degs. 10 mins. N. 24 degs. 53 mins. E.
- d) 39 degs. 51 mins. N. 24 degs. 03 mins. E.
- e) 39 degs. 50 mins. N. 23 degs. 46 mins. E.
- f) 39 degs. 51 mins. N. 23 degs. 23 mins. E.
- g) 40 degs. 10 mins. N. 23 degs. 06 mins. E.
- h) 40 degs. 17 mins. N. 22 degs. 51 mins. E. (Pilot) to Salonika

Vessels bound for Chios, Samos and Mitylene break off Red Route as follows:-

- A. To Mytilene from Turkish territorial waters in latitude 39 degs. 00 mins N. due West to 39 degs. 00 mins. N. 26 degs. 40 mins. East. (Pilot).
- B. To Chios from Turkish territorial waters in position 38 degs. 22 mins. North. 26 degs. 16 mins. East due west to Chios Harbour.
- C. To Samos, from North end of Samos Strait to Huk Gatitza (Samos) for identification, thence coastwise not more than 1 mile offshore to Vathy Harbour.

4. PINK ROUTE (Piraeus - Venice)

By reverse of Black Route to position (1), thence through:

- a) 34 degs. 40 mins. N. 23 degs. 00 mins. E.
- b) 38 degs. 00 mins. N. 19 degs. 20 mins. E.
- c) 40 degs. 08 mins. N. 18 degs. 58 Mins. E.
- d) 41 degs. 00 mins. N. 18 degs. 30 mins. E.
- e) 42 degs. 00 mins. N. 16 degs. 45 mins. E.
- f) 42 degs. 40 mins. N. 15 degs. 40 mins. E.

On reaching position 18 sea miles 265 degs. from SAN GIOVANNI IN PELLAGO Light, vessel will take on pilot for Venice.

5. BROWN ROUTE (Piraeus - Corfu)

By Pink route to position

b) /...

Confidential.MESSAGE.OUT

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

-3-

b) 38 degs. 00 mins. N. 19 degs. 20 mins. E.

Thence through

- a) 39 degs. 48 mins. N. 19 degs. 00 mins. E.
 b) 39 degs. 56.4 min. N. 19 degs. 22.5 mins. E.
 c) 39 degs. 58 mins. N. 19 degs. 35 mins. E.
 d) 39 degs. 49.1 min. N. 20 degs. 00.4 mins. E.
 e) 39 degs. 46.1 min. N. 19 degs. 59.5 mins. E.
 (passage through nets here)
 f) 39 degs. 45.8 mins. N. 19 degs. 59.3 mins. E.
 g) 39 degs. 37.7 mins. N. 19 degs. 57.2 mins. E.

to entrance to Corfu Harbour.

6. BLUE ROUTE (Piraeus - Buenos Aires & The Plate)

By reverse of Black Route to Gibraltar thence through the following positions :-

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|----------------------|
| A. | 35 degs. 00 mins. N. | 18 degs. 00 mins. W. |
| B. | 25 degs. 00 mins. N. | 25 degs. 00 mins. W. |
| C. | 08 degs. 00 mins. S. | 32 degs. 00 mins. W. |
| D. | 21 degs. 00 mins. S. | 34 degs. 00 mins. W. |
| E. | 34 degs. 00 mins. S. | 52 degs. 00 mins. W. |

7. All additional routes agreed in future will be given a colour designation on promulgation.

8. Request this signal be passed to all air authorities concerned.

141519A amended by 152115A

for Hd. of M.I.(305)

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
 U.F.R.
 D.N.I. (5)
 D. of P. (3)
 Cps. (2)
 C.D. (5)
 Plot

D.T.D. (4)
 O.I.C. (3)
 W.D.
 D.S.D. 9 (2)
 U.S.N. (3)
 D.A/S.W.
 D.A/U.D.

M.(7) (H.445/44) and for F.O. Mr. Crowe,
 Air Min. Wing. Cdr. Broadley,
 M.E.W. Mr. Camps.

F.W.D. (3)
 C.J.L.S.

229

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Swedish
safe conduct
vessels.

Details of routes agreed by belligerents.
(Admty. 141519A) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.

SAUMUR,
KILISSI.

(F.O.G.M.A.140539A, 140919A, 141927A)
(R.O.Barcelona 141236, 141335)
See Mediterranean.

U/B report.

Am over enemy S/M in 36.50 N. 7.40 W.
(A/C ZUZM, 140849Z)

TERN.

Pink List for at least 6 months has shown TERN
at Gibraltar ship not known here. Request this
may be corrected. Basegrams and mail
continually arrive.
(F.O.G.M.A.141241A to Admty.)

S/M off
Graciosa.

AG/AC 96 14 March C/54 transit aircraft reported
U-Boat one mile off Graciosa light at 1250N/14.
(247 Group, 141305 to H.Q.C.C.)
Your message regarding S/M in territorial waters
off Graceoseu(?Graciosa intended) received 1425
and passed to G.O.C. Azores and also to Captain Penteadó.
Latter points out that S/Ms are within their rights in
entering territorial waters provided they are surfaced.
(Consul Azores, 1414500/March, to S.B.N.O. Azores)

ARCHIMEDE.

Intend to sail French Submarine ARCHIMEDE to
Oran escorted by Destroyer BASQUE E.T.D. 151800A.
(Arrangments).
(C.M.S.F.F. 141544Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

Spanish
use of
Porcupine
Banks.

(page 42A)
Your 031947. You have correctly interpreted
Admiralty views on this matter and should do your
utmost to kill this proposal. Should Spaniards
raise difficulties request you will report at
once to enable us to consider further action.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 141748A to N.A.Madrid)

War Diary.14.3.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U.S.S. WAKE Intend to sail U.S.S. WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY
ISLAND, escorted by H.M.S. BANN from Capetown 1300Z/14
MISSION BAY. for Karachi. Route and arrangements.
(C. in C. S.A. 141007C)
Sailed 1420B/14.
(C. in C. S.A. 141745C)

Operation "Wicket-keeper". Operation "Wicketkeeper" completed.
From interrogation of aircraft crews and examination of photographs both attacks were straddles.
Very large quantity of oil and considerable wreckage indicate damage sufficiently severe either to sink submarine or force her to the surface. Surface and air patrols in the vicinity of the attack ensured she had not surfaced by dark. Consider U-Boat probably sunk.
(C. in C. S.A. 141145C)

Operation "Tabarin". H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY left at 1300 G.M.T. to-day with stores for bases A and B. C.O. has been instructed in accordance with your 091855.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 141328Z to Admty.)

U/B's attacked 11th March and 8th March. By Catalina D. FP 279 at 1022C/11 in (D) 41.28 S. 17.40 E.
At 1022C Captain of aircraft saw ship which he identified as U-Boat and went straight in to attack. Made his course so as to attack up track. Took evasive action when U-Boat opened fire. Just as aircraft approached U-Boat it turned slightly to port and aircraft followed it attacking at an angle of 10 to 15 degs. to fore and aft line. Five depth charges dropped sixth hung up. U-Boat seen to be enveloped in water from explosions. Aircraft made circle to attack with remaining depth charge. U-Boat was now seen to have list to starboard. Depth charge exploded about five yards from port bow. U-Boat ceased turning and became almost stationary. 12 minutes after attack U-Boat submerged and a few minutes later air bubble appeared about 200 yards ahead of oil patch. At 1045C U-Boat surfaced about 400 yards on having turned through semicircle and was now heading 300 T conning tower only appeared the deck being just awash. Other two aircraft appeared shortly after.
(15) A very well executed attack it would appear that U-Boat was most certainly seriously damaged. Note paras. 14 and 15 very much abbreviated.
(C. in C. S.A. 141356C)

By Catalina P FP 174 at 1132C/11 in 41.13 S. 17.52 E.
(14) 8 about to start patrol when D/262 signal intercepted so homed D/262 and joined company at 1048C and established R/T

contact/...

War Diary.

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U/B's attacked 11th March. (Contd.) contact. At about same time A/262 arrived and told aircraft to follow. Both aircraft flew to and fro across oil when at 1132 and a half a white wash sighted about one mile ahead and 400-600 yards from oil conning tower then seen and aircraft went in to attack from 60 degs. on starboard bow. Six depth charges dropped straddling U-Boat immediately forward of conning tower which was enveloped in water when explosions had subsided conning tower had disappeared.

(15) Photographic evidence should confirm the kill. U-Boat must have been mortally wounded by D/262 aircraft A/262 was in company with P/262 during this attack and confirms the above narrative. No attack was made by this aircraft as no target visible but photographs of P/262 attack were taken. A/262 remained to home and co-operate with surface forces.
(C. in C. S.A. 141426)

By A/C 25 Squadron 1550C/8 in 38.15 S. 25.22 E.

(14) (Details). (15) Consider that attack was promptly executed but assessment impossible due to lack of photographs or visible evidence of damage.

(C. in C. S.A. 141502C)

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German H.S.293 glider bombs. Two specimens recovered from crashed aircraft Corsica. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, No T.O.O./14, recd. in W.R. 0520/17.)

SAUMUR, KILISSI (German). German controlled SAUMUR entered Tarragona 0900/13. (F.O.G.M.A., 140539A to 10th S/M.F.) German KILISSI reported sunk. (F.O.G.M.A., 140919A to 10th S/M.F.) My 131945 French SAUMUR left Tarragona midnight last night in north-easterly direction.

(R.O. Barcelona, 141236.)

My 141236 SAUMUR flying German flag full load and apparently northbound now anchored outside Barcelona harbour. Spanish colours are painted on her life raft.

(R.O. Barcelona, 141335.)

B.N.A. Madrid 131405. As a result of air R/C it was established that German ships SAUMUR and KILISSI were in vicinity of 040° N. 000° 10' E. at 0850/12 (? northbound) about 5 miles apart. Beaufighters which had been held in readiness were ordered to attack but owing to bad weather at aerodrome they did not take off till p.m.

(2) Attacking A/C left in 2 waves and during long flights through bad weather at low altitude wind-screens became abnormally covered in salt making recognition difficult. First ship attacked was reported by attacking A/C in a position off Geltru.

(3) The leader of the first wave on approaching this target became uncertain of its V/S and broke off the attack ordering by R/T the rest of his A/C not to attack. Owing to R/T interference from the second wave which was about to attack a second ship, this order was not received and the attack on the ships off Geltru was carried out by all A/C of the first wave except the leader.

(4) Second ship attacked was reported by attacking A/C to be in a position about 7 miles north-east of Cape Tortosa. This ship was attacked by the second wave at 1645/12 a few minutes after the first ship was attacked.

(5) The reported position of the targets, which put them about 40 miles apart, conflicted with the information received later from S.O.(I) Gibraltar 122109 not to Admty. This combined with the reports of pilots received on landing made it appear possible that the first ship attacked was not a legitimate target. A R/C machine was flown off at dawn on the 13th March to establish if possible the positions of the ships attacked. However, the fact that the first target proved to be Spanish was not established until the receipt of your 131946 not to Admty.

(C. in C. Med., 141808 to F.O.G.M.A.)

My 141601. SAUMUR fully loaded reported anchored off Barcelona 1335/14th.

(F.O.G.M.A., 141927A to 10th S/M.F.)

U/B report. One U-Boat (German) within 40 miles of 036° 40' 016° 20' at 2145/13th. (Capt. (S) 1, 140815 to DOLFIJN.)

War Diary.14.3.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 53. Tonnage discharged at Anzio went up to 6448 tons on 13th March, of which 2870 was by L.S.T. Sea calm slight swell. No A/C over port area. Shelling growing in intensity and accuracy. Many shells in harbour three hits on hard, also on Mole and boat harbour, one L.C.M. slightly damaged. (C. in C. Med. Naples, 140918A.)

ULTOR. Resume patrol in accordance with my 111825. (Capt. S.1, 141050 to ULTOR, F.O.L.E.M.)

CRICKET, Neither ship is seaworthy. Your 282353 Feb. GNAT. 2. Following is state of ships - CRICKET. Hull generally buckled and stern dropped one foot. Armament. Navigational equipment, W/T Dynamo. One boiler and engine room telegraphs removed. GNAT, fifty feet of bow missing. Armament and W/T removed.
3. Original intention was that CRICKET's bow should be attached to GNAT. This has not yet been done.
4. Do not consider work involved to make either of these ships seaworthy justified in view of existing pressure on docking, and repair facilities.
5. It is proposed to beach CRICKET and GNAT for live bombing. (F.O.L.E.M. 141224B to Admty.)

Ports for Swedish relief ships. Para. 2 of your 131940. Correct. (F.O.L.E.M. 141231B to Admty.)

Route for Swiss vessels entering Marseilles. Your 181616 October. Swiss War Transport Office state that German authorities in order to facilitate entrance to Marseilles have given their consent to the following alternative route being used by Swiss vessels visiting Marseilles:-
From Cap Creus direct to 42° 49' N. 05° 50' E. thence to 42° 59' N. 05° 50' E., thereafter by coastal route to the entrance South of the port of Marseilles. It is stated that the choice of route is left to the Captains according to weather conditions. Request your comments. (Admty., 141446A to C. in C. Med.)

Opsum 387 (Extract) DAF. 3 Missions, 10 Spitfires, 12 Kittyhawks shipping Omis/Zara/Dugi. 12 x 1000, 24 x 250 G.P. 6 hits Siebel Ferry at Omis exploded. Straffed sunk M/L off Zara damaged 2 'E' boats several schooners set steamer afire. (M.A.F., H.Q. 141701A.)

/U.S. ...

234

14.³.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

U.S. escort G.U.S. convoys in Mediterranean. After discussion with Cdr. U.S.N.F.N.A.W. it is considered that from logistic standpoint that it would be preferable for terminal port in Med. for U.S. escorts of U.G.S. convoys to be Bizerta. This will also ensure 6 clear days to turn round before sailing with same numbered G.U.S. convoy. 2. It is requested that U.S. I.C. A. Fleet may be instructed to signal in U.G.S. sailing telegram number of escorts if any who will accompany Casablanca detachments and not enter Med. U.S. Cdr. U.S. Fleet, 131925Z* refers. (C. in C. Med., 141758 to Cdr. U.S. Fleet.) *Re escorts of U.G.S. convoys.

ANTIOPE. Endurance of ANTIOPE is 3500 miles at 8 knots in calm weather. Com 10th Fleet 132225*. (C. in C. Med. 141822 to F.O.G.M.A. Com. 10th Fleet.) *Former Top Secret Circulation.

Attack on KILISSI and CABO SAN SEBASTIAN. 12th March (Add.) Further Mission 8 Beaufighters reported Opsum 386 attacked shipping off Spanish Coast. 14 hits with R.P. claimed on M/V 3000 tons off northeast tip Cape Tortosa, after attack ship seen to be beached. Another ship of approx. 3500 tons attacked position (?H corrupt group) 110 N. 0148. 1 pilot reports thought saw Spanish markings did not attack, visibility poor, haze and spray. (M.A.A.F.H.Q. 141857A.)

Bunkering of coal burning ships from U.K. and U.S.A. Report in your 212037* February will be forwarded shortly. (C. in C. Med., 142003 to Admty.)*212038 intended?

Situation report No. 314. 2. M.G.Bs. shelled BRNA Harbour (Korcula) during night 11th/12th March, other coastal forces made unsuccessful attack on one 1000 ton merchant ship. 1 M.T.B. damaged, no casualties. 3. During night 13th/14th March, coastal force sank 150 tons schooner off Murter Island (043° 47' N. 015° 37' E.) There were no survivors. 4. Destroyers patrolled in the vicinity of VIS sighted no enemy night 12th/13th March and 13th/14th March. (C. in C. Med. 142012.)

Inshore squadron report. Following were recent patrols night of 11/12 3 P.T. boats patrolled South of Capraia 12/13 bad weather 13/14 3 P.Ts and 2 M.A.S. attempted Putro but returned due to weather, 14/15 bad weather. (S.O.I.S. 142053.)

PIPINOS damaged. Your 142038*. Subsequent to depth charge attack am using one shaft only E.T.A. position A. at 0600/15th best speed 5½ knots. Request approval to proceed nearer harbour. (PIPINOS 142359B to Capt. S.1.) * N.T. in W.R.

235

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

BRITISH
CHIVALRY.

Due Abadan 3rd March from Melbourne not arrived.
(S.O.(I) East Indies, 140204Z.)
No news of your 112201*. N.C.S.O. Abadan 070614 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet only refers. (S.B.N.O.P.G. 140945Z to Admty.)* Any news of BRITISH CHIVALRY.

Bi-
weekly
U/Boat
disposition
No. 33.

Area A believed clear of U/Boats scale of air escort W. area B. and C. No definite information but possible Japanese U/boats unfixed since 6th March moved toward these areas. Scale of air X area. D. Japanese U/Boats unfixed in this area. Allocation of air escort Y area. E. No recent information but time of departure of air escort remains X.

Area F. and G. no fresh information but Japanese U/Boats probably operating in these areas scale of air escort remains Y. Indian Ocean U/Boat (German) by D/F in vicinity 027° S. 077° E. 1938Z/13.
(C. in C.E.F. 140339Z.)

SS.TARIFA.

Torpedoed and sunk in 12° 48' N. 58° 44' E. at. 070730Z. 22 survivors landed Socotra and report of rescue of further 30 survivors sighted by A/C expected shortly.
(C. in C.E.F. 140421Z.)

Have embarked 21 survivors all non cot cases from TARIFA off Socotra intend R/V PA 72 254° position YY. (Corrupt group) unless otherwise ordered to proceed direct to Aden.

(PARRET, 141705Z.)

Trincomalee
to Bombay
Convoy.

Sail 0930Z/14. Coastal Escort. POONA to Bombay, BARODA to Cochin.
(N.C.S.O. Trincomalee, 140957Z.)

SURF,
SEA ROVER,
patrol
reports.

Following are summarised reports of SURF and SEA ROVER first far East patrols.
2. SURF a.m. 5th sank by gunfire one 800 ton fuel lighter and one 250 ton tug in position 120°. Pulo Padang 95 miles and 36 miles respectively.

3. SEA ROVER 1405/3 missed with 6 torpedoes Japanese R 60 class U/Boat South of Penang. Enemy probably sighted tracks as she turned away. Sea was glass calm, 1612 engaged with gunfire 700 ton river steamer scoring about 20 hits and left it in a sinking condition stopped and ablaze.
4. 1430/6 engaged with gunfire 750 ton coaster and drove it ashore in position 3° 31' N. 99° 15' E. When all ammunition was expended enemy was on fire and continued to burn until 1915 when flames were still visible.
5. 1109/8 in 3° 39' N. 99° 14' E. fired 6 torpedoes at convoy of 5 merchant vessels escorted by one submarine chaser. Consider one definite hit was scored on 4000 ton ship and also one possible hit. Counter attack of 32 depth charges caused no

/damage...

War Diary

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

SURF,
SEA ROVER,
patrol
reports.
(Contd.).

damage.
6. All times FG.
(C. in C. E.F., 141136Z).

SURF,
SPORTSMAN,
SICKLE.

It is desired to invite attention to S.4's 121231 to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.(S).
2. It is most unfortunate that submarines so ill equipped for tropical climates should be sent to join the Eastern Fleet. Under the present circumstances I consider that SPORTSMAN and SICKLE should not proceed to the Indian Ocean until satisfactory air conditioning has been fitted.
3. F.O.(S) is requested to pass signal referred to in para.1. to Admty.
(C. in C.E.F., 141214Z to Admty.).

"Check Air"
system.

Extension of "Check Air" system to R.A.F. A/C and ground authorities agreed to by Air Ministry. Your 140909 and A.M. 231241A both August 1943 refer.
2. "A" Message being promulgated.
(D.T.D., 141905A to C. in C.E.F.).

Assault
Troops &
craft.

Your 011335 Para.1a. KEREN should be sailed to the Med. with personnel of Flotilla only. Flotilla will be re-equipped with landing craft after arrival. (C. in C. Med's. 091613 March to Admty. refers.)
2. Further signal will be made regarding Para. 1 B, c, d and e.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 141906A to C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.)).

Diego
Garcia,
Addu
Atoll.

1. Chiefs of Staff have revised defence plans for Diego Garcia and Addu Atoll.
2. Defence plan for Diego Garcia cancelled.
3. Principle amendments to Addu Atoll Defence Plan are:
a. Scale of attack. Attack by armed merchant cruisers now excluded.
b. - d. Details of defences.
(W.O., 142000A).

U/boat
reports.

By D/F at 1726Z/14th March on 7880 k/cs the position of U/boat was within 250 miles of 033 degs S. 073 degs. E.
By D/F at 1758Z/14th March on 7880 k/cs the position of U/boat was within 250 miles of 033 degs. S. 065 degs. E
(C. in C.E.F., 142051Z).
A.M.141855A⁺ and 141920A⁺ neither to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.)
Cross bearings of transmissions on 7880 kc/s at 1726Z/14 and 1758Z/14 place U/boats within 150 miles of 32 degs. 00'S. 071 degs. 00' E. and 33 degs. 00' S. 066 degs. 00' E. respectively.
(D.D.I.C. 142330A to C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.) C. in C.S.A.).
⁺ Not circulated in Admty.

237

War Diary.14.3.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

O.T.13.

Diversion order.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R. 141419Z.)D.D'URVILLE,
S.DE BRAZZA,
P.T.TISSIER.The Chief of the French Naval Mission proposes reassignment of French Vessels as follows:-
A. DUMONT D'URVILLE to the Indian Ocean instead of French Antilles.
B. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA to remain in the Pacific.
C. PRESIDENT THEODORE TISSIER as Liaison vessel

between the French Islands, based in Noumea.

Proposals A. and B. with a view to putting as much strength in the Pacific as possible.

2. Cominch's opinion is that these changes, which involve an alteration in SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA's assignment, should not take place at this time. He recommends that on completion of overhaul, DUMONT D'URVILLE be considered available for initial employment in the Mediterranean area in accordance with C.C.S. 358. Further, that the retention of PRESIDENT THEODORE TISSIER in the African area is highly desirable for training requirements incident to turnover of ships to French Navy.

3. May we have your comments.
(B.A.D. 141425Z to Admty.)U/B dis-
positions.Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 141510Z, Cominch 141620Z.)7 S/Ms
obtained
from U.S.A.
in 1941.

Disposal of 7 submarines obtained from U.S.A. in 1941 is under consideration. Details of the terms on which they were transferred cannot be found. Request information whether they have been included in the list of ships attached to the Lease Lend Charter recently signed.

Vessels concerned are P.511, P.551, P.552, P.553, P.554, P.555 and P.556 America Nos. R.3, S.25, S.1, S.21, S.22, S.24 and S.29 respectively.
(Admty. 141621A to B.A.D.)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Your 022058 February. Request report of any outstanding items of defects or A's and A's which may require completion on arrival of NEWFOUNDLAND in U.K.

(D.O.D.H. 141659A to B.A.M.R.)

Italian S/Ms
condition &
employment.

Cominch is anxious to know the condition and employment of the following Italian S/Ms. Your 111939* refers. AMMIRAGLIO CAGNI, ATROPO, AXUM, C.B.8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. CIRARIA (unidentifiable) CIRO MENOTTI, DISAPRO, ENRICO TOTI, GIOVANNI DA PROCIDA, H.4, LUGI SETTEMBRINI, MARCANTONIO BRAGADINO, MICHELIO OTARIA, PLATINO, RUGERO SETTIMO, TURCHESE, VETTOR PISANI, SQUALO.

(B.A.D. 141705Z to C. in C.Med.)

* re Completion of Italian S/Ms capable of leaving Med.

/SEAWOLF...

War Diary.

14.3.1944.

Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- SEAWOLF. Sails without escort from Bermuda at 1500/15 for Halifax (route and arrangements.) (N.O.B.Bermuda 141900.)
- T.G.27.1 This constitutes T.G.27.1 Captain Young in CARD, STERN, O'NEILL. Depart New York when loaded and ready 23 March proceed Casablanca where upon arrival report Comorseafron for unloading planes. When unloaded and as soon as ready return Hampton Roads report Comfair Norfolk on arrival. (C. in C.Lant 141904.)
- ALCOA BANNER, Unreported here request information.
COLUMBIA STAR, (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 141934Z.)
PORT CHALMERS.
- TOURVILLE, Request your concurrence before 17th March and
DUQUESNE, whether you wish a saving clause as in C. in C.
SUFFREN. Med's 131228 included in proposed message from
C.C.S. to Gen. Wilson.
(B.A.D. 141941Z to Admty.)
- T.F.63. This constitutes T.F. 63 Captain Murcaugh in NELSON
Desron 17 less MURPHY, Comcortdiv 52 in JORDAN,
Cortdiv 52 less LLOYD. On 23 March proceed New
York to Gibraltar and upon arrival report F.O.G.M.A.
as escort for G.U.S.35 scheduled depart therefrom 6th April.
Fuel available in G.U.S.convoy tankers or Azores if necessary.
(C. in C.Lant 141957.)
- Assessment It has been agreed between Admiralty and Cominch
of U/B that co-ordinated attacks in which U.S.Forces are
attacks. involved with other United Nation Forces occurring
in British Strategic Area Atlantic and Indian
Ocean will be assessed by Admiralty, those Atlantic
and Pacific Ocean will be assessed by Cominch.
U.S.Forces involved in cases where Admiralty assesses should
forward original action report with track chart traces and/or
photographs to Admiralty and send copy of action report direct to
Cominch.
(Cominch 142030 to U.S.Fleet.)
- Zigzagging Para. 1B of your 100107Z, last position reads 28°
areas. S. 159° E., should not long. be 160° E. to coincide
with western limit of B.A.M.S. area 6C?
(Admty. 142030A to B.A.D.)

/JEAN...

239

14.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

JEAN BART. Admiral Fenard has approached Cominch with proposals for a modified completion of the ship as follows:
3. U.S.Chiefs of Staff propose that Fenard be informed that present and prospective limitations of Allied facilities, resources and skilled labour preclude adoption of his proposals.
4. Unless other instructions are received by 0600Z/17 we intend to agree with U.S.Chiefs of Staff proposed reply to Fenard. (B.A.D. 142105Z.)

U/B reports. All times Z. P.B.M.Radar contact 37.28 N. 69.39 W. 131946. Patrol plane Radar contact area 10.15 N. 76.20 W. 140120B. 24 sights sub. 12.10 N. 60. 56 W. 141436 course 210. (Cominch 142109Z.)

H.X.283: Request you will sail FITZROY, COMBATANT, CHAMOIS, escort of ships to detach to Iceland (C). CHANCE to comply Admty. 141722.* Group will detach from H.X.283 in the vicinity 050° W. at dusk 18th thence (route) (to Reykjavik). (C. in C.C.N.A. 142256Z to F.O.N.F., see Amendment 172146A.)
* Seven ships from H.X.283 are to join J.W.58 east of Iceland (C) on 30 March. See Home Commands

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial March 13th. Paras 9 - 11 cover South Pacific Forces No. 784. 7. M.T.Bs. operating off Jacquinot Bay night 12/13th shot down single enemy floatplane.
8. American Marines successfully landed Linga Linga Plantation Eleonora Bay (near Base Willaumez Peninsula) morning 11th.
11. M.T.Bs. shot down one enemy floatplane East Cape Saint George night 11/12th. Another enemy aircraft ineffectively attacked our craft same area while other M.T.Bs. attacking barges off S.W. Bougainville were bombed by single enemy floatplanes same night and following night. (G.H.S.S.W.P.A. 140958Z.)

14.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C R/206 attacked U-Boat at 0805Z/13
in 46° 20' N. 27° 20' W.
2. PRINCE RUPERT attacked U-Boat at 1635Z/13 in
46° 10' N. 27° 00' W.
3. AVON reports picking up 96 survivors from Nor.
TARIFA at 2248Z/13 in 13° 39' N. 55° 47' E.
(D.D.I.C. 141054A.)

My 221059 July, 1942.

1. Reference my 081641A, para. 3, it is now reported that three U-Boats were sunk during the passage of R.A.57 all by Swordfish aircraft from CHASER using rocket projectiles.
2. Sunderland U/422 attacked U-Boat on surface with depth charges in 52° 35' N. 21° 41' W. at 1740/10. Crew seen to abandon ship and U-Boat sank stern first.
3. Ships escorting S.C.154 sank a U-Boat, probably U.845, at 2328/10 in 48° 47' N. 21° 02' W. Prisoners picked up.
4. After hunt by combined air and surface forces U.450 was sunk in 40° 53' N. 12° 28' E. at 0609/10. Prisoners were taken.
5. A U-Boat was attacked by three Catalinas at 0730Z/11 in 41° 28' S. 17° 40' E. Some wreckage and very large quantity of oil seen after attacks.
6. U-Boat was sunk in 46° 10' N. 27° 34' W. at 1920Z/13 by gunfire after being brought to the surface by depth charges. Aircraft from U.S.S. BOGUE also attacked with R.Ps. Presume you have details. Possibly same U-Boat had been attacked at 0045/13 and at 0900/13 by Wellington and Fortress aircraft from Azores.
(D.A.U.D. 141930Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 141409A, 141421A.)

SECRET

240A.

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.)

141730L March

FROM L.H.Q. Melbourne.

Date 15.3.44
Recd. 1415

CIPHER

ADDRESSED: The War Office, C. in C. India.

206910. 1219/INT cipher 14 Mar.

For D.M.I. from A.D.M.I.

Operations to 10 Mar. New Guinea. Saidor. Patrol activity only. Several enemy stragglers killed but no organized resistance.

Yalau. Preceded by air and naval bombardment allied landing effected unopposed at Yalau Plantation 5 March. Patrols east south and west have made no contact with enemy except at Bau Plantation in west where slight opposition met on 8 March.

Ramu Valley. Patrol activity only Saipa and Mataloi Areas.

New Britain. North Coast.

Talasea. Allied Force landed 6 March against slight opposition (?Hukclupai) Plantation (five miles northwest Talasea on west coast Willaumez Peninsula). Enemy resistance inland overcome and Talasea Airfield captured by 6 (or 8) March. 83 Japanese killed this operation. Indications remaining enemy withdrawing southwards from Talasea Area.

South Coast. Patrols from Arawo Area to Moewe Harbour and Ajut Bay now within 25 miles Gasmata without contacting enemy.

General. Considered probable enemy withdrawing all forces western New Britain to Gazelle Peninsula.

Admiralty Islands. Further enemy counter attacks supported by tanks repulsed by allied force Momote from 3 to 5 March. Allied drives 6 March west to Parlaka and north to Salami Plantation successful. Enemy attempt land reinforcements Salami beaches frustrated. On 7 March Allied forces occupied Papitalai Mission and plantation (northwest Parlaka). Allied Naval forces silenced enemy gun positions entrance Secadwyd Harbour on 8 March and escorted further allied force into Harbour landing Lombrum Point (three miles west northwest Parlaka). Large dumps petrol and aerial bombs found. Enemy casualties to 8 March 1,228 dead.

141730L

Received in War Registry at 0425/17.

Circulation over....

*Squadler
(p. 153)*

Circulated by War Office to War Office
Depts., Admiralty, Air Min. and Foreign f.

1st Lord
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)
D.D.O.D. (M)
M. (2)
D.P.D.
C.W.R.
Ad. Blake (4)
W.D.
I.P. (3)

NMB
62

15.3.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Measures
against
TIRPITZ.

1. (a). A B.2 report states that TIRPITZ left Kaafjord at 1200 A today for St. Jernsund and was returning at 1600A today.
(b). C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK at Greenock, considers that if TIRPITZ moves South she is likely to pass close to the northward of Andenes (69° 20' N. 016° 08' E.) and at his request a Russian S/M will sail tomorrow to patrol in area 2A until further orders.

U-Boat sunk
by STARLING.
U. 653 sunk

2. A U-Boat contacted at 0050 by A/C from VINDEX while being hunted by E.G.2 was detected by WILD GOOSE and MAGPIE of E.G.2 and sunk in one attack by STARLING at 0355N today about 520 miles west of Slyne Head.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

3. A southbound U-Boat was attacked by A/C at 0507 today about 550 miles west of St. Nazaire without observed result.

E-Boats off
Lands End.

4. A group of seven E-Boats first sighted by A/C at 2120A tonight was attacked by A/C at 2340 about 25 miles S. by W. of Lands End, and BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK on patrol off the Lizard were ordered to intercept them. Minelaying is suspected off the Lizard.

Engagement
off Cap Gris
Nez. M.T.B.
417 sunk. One
R-Boat sunk.
One enemy
trawler
damaged.

5. During an engagement with enemy trawlers off Cap Gris Nez at 2042 today, in which the enemy coastal batteries joined, M.T.B. 417 was set on fire and sunk, one R-Boat was sunk by gunfire from M.T.B. 418 who also repeatedly hit an enemy trawler and left her on fire. No survivors from M.T.B.417 were rescued by our forces, and four officers and 15 ratings from her are missing. Three ratings were slightly wounded in M.T.B. 418 who suffered superficial damage only.

North Atlantic.

1st Escort
Group and
Straits
Patrol.

6. (a). C. in C. Western Approaches is asking for the return of the 1st Escort Group which was sent to reinforce F.O.G.M.A. (see 2nd March) against the possibility of U-Boats attempting to pass into the Mediterranean. It is known that a number of U-Boats are about to attempt the passage, and F.O.G.M.A. points out that the withdrawal of E.G.1 will seriously embarrass A/S operations.

/(b)...

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

1st Escort
Group and
Straits
Patrol.
(Contd.)

6.(b). C. in C.Med. fully supports F.O.G.M.A's protest and points out that the added commitment of having to escort RICHELIEU (which left U.K. on 15th March) will also seriously deplete the Straits Patrols; but the Admiralty wish the group to return when due for boiler cleaning, and will replace them by another group should the situation demand it.

South Atlantic.

S.L.152, U/B
attacked.

7. AUBRETTIA, one of the escorts of S.L.152, attacked a S/M contact this afternoon in 12.36 N. 17.47 W.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

8.(a). In a raid on Naples by 20 to 30 or more enemy aircraft in the early hours of today H.M.R.T. EMPIRE ACE was sunk, a Liberty ship was damaged, and hospital ship ABA received a direct hit and had some casualties. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

(b). 6422 tons were discharged at Anzio today in a slight swell. There were 8 alerts and continuous shelling, but no significant damage is reported.

9. 10 U.S. Spitfires of the Coastal Air Force bombed a shipyard southeast of Sestri Levante (Near Spezia) today and caused damage. The docks at Follonica and Viareggio were also bombed and hit.

243

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

U/B report.

10. LULWORTH reported H/F bearing of a Japanese U-Boat this afternoon about 100 miles east of Kilindini.

Australia & New Zealand.

Admiralty Is.

11. A substantial force of U.S. troops from Los Negros Island landed near Lugos Mission on Manus Island this forenoon after two hours shelling of the beach by 4 destroyers.

War Diary.

15. 3. 1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

E.G.1. I trust that First Escort Group can be returned to my command shortly and arrive Belfast by 23rd March at the latest. They are due for maintenance-lay over by that date and are urgently required for a concerted operation in early April.
(C. in C.W.A. 150004A to Admty.)

Portsmouth Command. Your 091357 para. 1. No destroyer can be made available to relieve ALBRIGHTON as requested but it is intended to allocate two escort destroyers to your command ex W.A. by 1st April. In addition 6 Frigates should become available by mid April. A.M. 151909 refers.
(D.O.D.H. 151903A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

A.M. 270108 Feb. para. 5 (see Special File.)
Request the following ships may be allocated to C. in C.Portsmouth
A. 2 escort destroyers to arrive 1st April.
B. 6 Turbo Electric Captain Class frigates as they become available from working up. It is understood that they will arrive by mid April.
(D.O.D.H. 151909A to C. in C.W.A.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Forth. Loop Patrol Trawlers. The preparation of A/S trawlers for future operations is creating in some commands a shortage of trawlers to meet necessary operational requirements.
2. It is approved to reduce the trawlers allocated for Forth loop patrols from five to two, the loss in security being accepted.
3. Request you will transfer two KINGSTON trawlers to Western Approaches command and one KINGSTON trawler to A.C.O.S. and sail them as soon as convenient for Liverpool and Scapa respectively.
(D.O.D.H. 151710A to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. U-Boat sunk by STARLING. U. 653 sunk
A.S.V.X. aircraft obtained contacts in 053° 47' N. 024° 28' W. at 0050 and 0059 ahead of E.G.2 who have contact and are now hunting.
(VINDEX 150247N to C. in C.W.A.)
U-Boat destroyed in 053° 46' N. 024° 35' W. Initially detected by WILD GOOSE, then MAGPIE. Destroyed in one attack by STARLING which was intended to be preliminary to creeping attack. Quantities of wreckage etc.
(E.G.2 150355N to C. in C.W.A.)

D/F at 0639Z indicates U-Boat possibly within 75 miles of position of E.G.2 as at 0355N/15.

(D.D.I.C. 150835A to E.G.2, E.G.6, VINDEX.)

If not in contact with enemy proceed to operate in area between (bounded by) Meridian 027° 30' 031° 01' and parallel 051° and 053°.
(C. in C.W.A. 151032A to VINDEX.)

/Leave...

245

15.3.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland.
U-Boat sunk by STARLING.
(Contd.)

U. 653

Leave your present area so as to patrol in area C by dark tonight. Detach CAMBROSE and LUNENBURG so as to arrive Moville not later than 2200A/15th. (C. in C.W.A. 151037A to E.G.21.)
Should be grateful for any suggestion or opinions formed regarding the operation of my A/C which could increase their assistance to you.
2. Suggest following
A. Upon my A/C obtaining good A.S.V.X. contact propose they should always drop marine marker, duration of which is 2 hours, on estimated position of contact even though not confirmed visually.
B. Such contacts to be assessed by signal to you from VINDEX, as probable or possible.
C. If you then decide to sweep through area of contact, I will order Cobra (corrupt group) marker, the A/C homeing you by A.S.V (?if) required.
(VINDEX 151209N to STARLING.)

VINDEX, E.G. 6th WASKESIU, QU'APPELLE, OUTREMONT and E.G.2nd STARLING, WHIMBREL, WILD GOOSE, MAGPIE, WREN vicinity 052° 01' N. 028° 59' W. My 151236A refers.

(C. in C.W.A. 151426A to Ships.)

Arrived PRESCOTT and EDMUNDSTON.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 151757A to C. in C.W.A. E.G.6.)

Leave Lough Foyle at 1200 tomorrow and proceed to area A to commence sweep there by dusk 16th. C. in C.W.A. memorandum W.A. 00770/104 refers. BENTLEY on arrival will be sailed to join.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 151931A to E.G.22 in LOUIS.)

LUNENBURG arrived.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 152031A to E.G.21.)

My 141239.

280 tons diesel oil delivered to QU'APPELLE 15th March. VINDEX will have (gr. missed) tons fuel remaining at noon 16th March. Estimate this is sufficient to keep VINDEX and frigates only of E.G.6 at sea for the 14 days assuming that frigates consumption of diesel oil is not unduly heavy.

Intend to detach QU'APPELLE to base without further fuelling unless convenient convoy available. Unable therefore to fuel E.G.2 without seriously prejudicing my available sea time.

(VINDEX 152355 to C. in C.W.A.)

Biscay A/S Operations.

D/F of transmission at 0250Z/15th indicates U-Boat in vicinity of U.C.15.

(D.D.I.C. 150330Z to T.F.21.9.)

Am over enemy submarine in 47° 56' N. 17° 52' W.

S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge and when first sighted was on course 160°.

(A/C TNJ 37 150502 to 19 Group.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47° 30' N. 16° 00' W.

(A/C TWJ 37 to 19 Group T.O.R. 150505.)

U-Boat previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge.

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge one. Request instructions.

(A/C TNJ 37 150507 to 19 Group.)

/S.C....

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S.C. Operations. My 101055A.. Submarine Chaser VIGRA sailed at 0625A today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 150705 to Admty.)
My 101050A. H.Nor. M.S. NORDKAPP and S.C.HITRA sailed at 1045A today. NORDKAPP parts company from HITRA approx. 260 miles N.E. of Muckle Flugga and returns to Shetland. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 151102A to Admty.)

Measures against TIRPITZ. My 121544. Meeting revealed one outstanding question of priority. With his available forces 18 Group cannot meet my requirements of hourly R/C during daylight hours as far north as possible. Without such R/C the chances of intercepting TIRPITZ either with surface forces or with carrier-borne strike are considerably reduced. (C. in C.H.F. 151046A to Admty.)

Request you will ask C. in C.Northern Fleet to maintain submarine patrol in area 2 Able Until further directions. Your 140021 refers.

(C. in C.H.F. 151050A to S.B.N.O.Polyarnoe.)

Intend proceeding in DUKE OF YORK, MATCHLESS in company, to Scapa passing Clyde boom at 1000A tomorrow.

2. Route via Sound of Mull and Minches.

3. E.T.A. Scapa 0620A/17th.

(C. in C.H.F. 151316A to Admty.)

A German officer in a Norwegian port is reported to have remarked that TIRPITZ is sailing in the near future in order to dock in Germany. Her speed is reduced by over one third because of the damage she has sustained together with the dirty state of her hull, and she cannot sail in heavy weather. (Graded B.2.)

(D.D.I.C. 151620A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

My 151050. Consider if TIRPITZ sails she is likely to proceed by Fugloysund, Helvoy Fjord, and Vengsoy Fjord thence emerging from shelter water to pass about 5 miles North of Andenes 069° 20' N. 016° 08' E.

2. If first stage of passage south is made in open sea consider she is still likely to pass close to North of Andenes which is therefore considered most effective area for Russian submarine patrol.

3. Request you ask C. in C.Northern Fleet to adjust patrol accordingly.

4. British submarines will not be operating North of Lofoten Is.

(C. in C.H.F. 151708 to S.B.N.O.North Russia.)

Your 151050A arranged. S.M due to sail 16th March. Patrol being maintained as long as we require.

(S.B.N.O.North Russia 151818A to C. in C.H.F.)

B.2 reports that TIRPITZ left Kaafjord at 1200A/15th March for St. Jernsund and was returning at 1600A/15th March.

(D.D.I.C. 152120A to A.I.G. 21, A.I.G.47.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 151212A, 151445A.)
(C. in C.Portsmouth 151535A.)

/Engagement...

War Diary.15.3.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

- Engagement off Dunkirk. Yesterday in anticipation of the movement west-wards from Ostend of enemy small craft M.T.Bs. One enemy 724 (S.O.) 698, 705 and 353 were ordered to coaster sunk. patrol the vicinity of Dunkerque Channel off Three R- Gravelines. S.O. transferred at an early stage Boats damaged. to M.T.B. 698 owing to W/T defects in M.T.B. 724.
2. At 2020 our M.T.Bs. were passing Victor Buoy when shore-based Radar detected enemy shipping 3 miles west of Dunkerque proceeding west at about 8 knots.
3. Our force intercepted one coaster, 2 small auxiliaries, and approx. 10 escorts (E/R Boats and tank landing craft type unknown) at 2145 in the vicinity of Dunkerque A.W. Buoy. The three D. Class engaged on an opposite course and during a fierce ten-minute action, scored many hits on one coaster and at least two R-Boats. Hostile shore batteries engaged our forces with star-shell and accurate salvos estimated to be of about six-inch calibre. Our force then withdrew to Outer Ruytingen, M.T.B. 705 having sustained slight hull damage. The enemy were left firing at each other and bursts of red tracer were observed being fired vertically.
4. Meanwhile M.T.B. 353, stationed astern, sighted two coasters and at 2158 she fired two torpedoes at one of them at approx. range 1000 yards. One torpedo was seen to hit causing a heavy explosion and a high column of water and smoke where the coaster had been. It is considered that this vessel was destroyed. M.T.B. 353 was undetected and disengaged at slow speed and returned to harbour.
5. The D. Class were now ordered to attack a second group of enemy vessels also westbound at 2335, interception was effected just west of the Dunkerque A.W. Buoy when enemy was seen to consist of three coasters and 6 E/R Boats. Our force engaged on opposite courses in face of heavy and fairly accurate H.E. fire but misplaced star-shell from enemy shore defences and surface craft, and set one R-Boat on fire, then withdrawing without further damage or casualties.
6. Shore based Radar conditions were exceptionally good, our own and enemy forces being plotted throughout, and the resulting information, passed to our force was skilfully employed by the S.O. Own forces Radar was handicapped by shore jamming.
7. No casualties were sustained by our forces. M.T.B. 705 suffered slight hull damage and M.T.B. 724 slight damage to star-board tube and hull.
(V.A. Dover 151226A to Admt.)

Spitzbergen. Following from C. in C. Royal Norwegian Forces. Begins:- "General relief may be undesirable this spring. Request list of personnel who should be relieved at first opportunity". Ends.
(D.O.D.H. 151232A to "Locomotive".)

/S/M....

248

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

S/M Patrols. Sailed my 141640 at 1030A/15th. (SIRDAR.)
(C. in C.Plymouth 151343A to Capt. S.5.)
Positions of submarines at 0800A/16 and movements
for following 24 hours.

A. SCEPTRE 62° 35' N. 01° 40' E. probably on the surface through
62° 01' N. 01° 01' E. and 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles for Lerwick.

B. VOX as in my 141749.

C. SATYR 59° 50' N. 03° 50' E. diving by day through 58° 28' N.
04° 50' E. 57° 53' N. 06° 02' E. thence to patrol.

D. SYRTIS leaves Lerwick 0700/16 through 090° Muckle Flugga 20
miles, 61° 02' N. 00° 48' E. 60° 51' N. 02° 55' E. towards 58°
28' N. 04° 50' E. diving by day when south of 60° N.

E. VIKING on patrol vicinity 50° 49' N. 10° 05' W.
(F.O.S. 151721A to Admty.)
Request you will sail ULA at 1000A/17th through A. 090°
Muckle Flugga 20 miles. B. 061° 11' N. 001° 55' E. C. 060° 59'
N. 003° 29' E. D. 059° 17' N. 004° 33' E. to patrol in accor-
dance with S.M. 04010/545 on the surface at C.Os discretion when
60 miles clear Norwegian coast.
(Capt. S.9 151935A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Operation C.X. Cancel para. 11B of my 131323. E.G.25 are to be
sailed so as to commence patrol in area Y at 0800/
17th at which time E.G.3 is to patrol area X.
(C. in C.W.A. 151442A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

E-Boats off Lands End. In view of weather conditions BELLONA and Tribals
are to return to harbour on completion of run one.
MELBREAK and BRISSENDEN are to patrol in vicinity
180° Lizard 10, keeping a sharp lookout for E/Bs.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152108 to Force 26, MELBREAK,
BRISSENDEN.)

P.C. and S. of enemy (??) war motor boats 48° 40' N. 05° 20' W.
(?337°) 30 knots.
(A/C SPG 54 152120A to 19 Group.)
Force 112 sailed Dartmouth 2100.
(Cdr. Plymouth 152125A to Force 26.)
BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK become Force 115. A/C report 7 E-
Boats at 2120 in 48° 40' N. 5° 20' W. course 337° 30 knots.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152137A to Force 112, Force 114, BRISSENDEN,
MELBREAK.)
My 2120. Still in touch with 7 enemy E-Boats previously re-
ported P.C. and S. 49.08 N. 05.25 W. 350° 30 knots. Going into
attack.
(A/C SPG 54 152202 to 19 Group.)
My 15208A. Proceed with all despatch.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152206A to BRISSENDEN, MELBREAK.)
7 E-Boats reported in 049° 08' N. 005° 25' W. course 350°,
30 knots at 2202.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152222A to Convoy W.P.492.)
Have detected by R.D.F. in 180 Lizard 10 miles E-Boats.
(Devonport Port Wave 152230A to Ships.)
Force 115, BRISSENDEN, MELBREAK, E.T.A. vicinity Lizard Head
0030.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152302A to AZALEA, PRIMROSE, SKOMER.)

/Proceed...

249

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats off Proceed Mounts Bay at full speed.
Lands End. (C. in C.Plymouth 152324A to PRIMROSE, AZALEA.)
(Contd.) Suspect enemy minelaying in circle radius 2 miles
from 170° Lizard 5 miles.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152342A to Force 115, PRIMROSE,
AZALEA.)

My 2120. Still in touch with enemy previously reported. Have
attacked (?released) D.C. No results seen due to evasive action.
Position 49.38 N. 05.50 W. course 005° 30 knots.
(A/C SPG 54 to 19 Group. Recd. 160012.)
P.C. and S. of 5 enemy war motor boats 49° 47' N. 05° 48' W.
345° 25 knots.
(A/C NXP 80 152345 to 19 Group.)
E-Boats reported 230° Lizard 32 at 2325, course 005, 30 kts.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152349A to Force 115, AZALEA, PRIMROSE,
SKOMER.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C tactics 938N. During the present phase in the Atlantic it
with Atlantic is unlikely that a U-Boat will be found on the
Convoys. surface in the vicinity of a convoy during daylight
hours. It is considered that the chances of sur-
prising a U-Boat on the surface moving in to an
attacking position ahead of the convoy or proceeding
on passage in low visibility may still exist.

2. During daylight hours unless there are definite indications
that the convoy is threatened, A/S aircraft from escort carriers
operating with convoy should be employed to fly searches to max.
depth ahead of convoy or in direction of greatest probability
rather than fly defensive patrol round the convoy.

3. Consideration should be given to employing fighters for defen-
sive A/S patrol.
(C. in C.W.A. 151146A to Ships.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Baltic. Baltic and approaches. Recent naval activity.
(N.A.Stockholm 151751 to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

MIMICO. MIMICO taken in hand 13th March by Scott's
Shipbuilding Co. Greenock for essential hull defects
Completion date 27th March. F.O.I.C. Greenock
121751 refers.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 151220 to Admty.)

STUBBORN. Your 111435A. Arrived escorted by STEEPHOLM.
(C. in C.Plymouth 151757A to Capt. S.3.)

/U.K....

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

U.K. to
Gibraltar
Convoys.

My 132109A February. Owing to the reduced number of escort carriers available it is not possible to sail more than one Carrier to cover each U.K. to Gibraltar convoy. Intended programme as follows. Details.
(C. in C.W.A. 151158A to Admty.)

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORDSHIRE should be sailed on 18th March for North Africa calling at Gibraltar for orders. E.T.A. Gibraltar 23rd March.
(D.S.T. 151918A to D.S.T.O.Avonmouth.)

AMRA.

Hospital ship AMRA should be sailed on 21st March for North Africa calling at Gibraltar for orders. E.T.A. Gibraltar 26th March.
(D.S.T. 151922A to S.T.O.Cardiff.)

Convoys
J.W.58 and
R.A.58.

The following codewords have been allotted.
J.W.58 - "Barber".
R.A.58 - "Robot."
(D.T.D. 152006A to C. in C.H.F.)

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

E.G.1. A/S
watch on
Straits. From known presence of number of U/Boats about to attempt passage of Strait withdrawal of First Escort Group at this stage as in C. in C.W.A. 150004 will seriously embarrass anti-U/Boat operations.
2. If approval to retain this group is given ships will be boiler cleaned and top overhauled in rotation.
(F.O.G.M.A. 151148 to Admty.)

H.X.282. VOLUNTEER and VIMY left Horta 151425Z speed 17 kts to overtake H.X.282.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 151521Z.)

KILISSI. My 131405. Request full details fate KILISSI.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 151741A. to R. Officer Barcelona, F.O.G.M.A., Admty., C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

S.L.152,
U/B
attacked. Have attacked firm contact (corrupt group) position 012° 36' N. 017° 47' W. considered S/M Hydrophone (corrupt group) on bearing and water noises heard after 4th attack. PORTSDOWN in company. Intend remaining until nightfall.
(AUBRETIA, 151730B.)

Lost contact after sixth attack. Am rejoining convoy
PORTSDOWN proceeding independently.
(AUBRETIA 152130Z.)

252

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B
report.

Am over enemy S/M in 32.58 N. 19.45 E.
(A/C C/S 912A, 150315Z.)

PIPINOS.

Proceed to Malta by route ordered in my 131038
diving by day today. Surface speed 5½ knots.
Your 142359 to Capt. (S) 1 only.
(Capt. (S) 1, 150457A to PIPINOS.)

Proceed by (route) to Malta.

{3} Further routeing instructions follow.

{4} Cancel my 131038.

(Capt. (S) 1, 151450 to PIPINOS, (R) Naval & Air Authorities.)

Operation
"Shingle".

EMPIRE ACE sunk by enemy action. No casualties.
(H.M.R.T. EMPIRE ACE, 150715.)
This is 54 "Shingle" operation Sitrep.
5125 tons discharged during 14th March of which
354 tons were unloaded from L.C.I.(L)s. and L.C.T.
from Naples.

2. Heavy swell and strong winds hampered unloading, 12 alerts
during day and heavy shelling, no damage but Navy House
straddled.

3. Raid by 31 plus enemy aircraft between 0130 and 0230 on
Naples so far two enemy aircraft confirmed destroyed. H.M.T.
EMPIRE ACE sunk, one Liberty damaged, H.S. ABA received direct
hit and some casualties.

(C. in C. Med. (Naples), 150918A.)

SS. SAUMUR.

My 141335. SS. SAUMUR left Barcelona about
2330 last night.
(R.O. Barcelona, 150915 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)
Gib., B.N.A. Madrid, F.O.G.M.A. 151554A to
10th S/M.F.)

UNSWERVING.

UNSWERVING sailed from Malta at 0903/15th by
standard route to arrive west of Anti-kithera
channel about 1401/18th. Thence to patrol in
south-west Aegean west of longitude 025°.
(Capt. (S) 1, 150924A to 1st S/F., (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

BUGLOSS,
MEADOWSWEET.

Request your intentions for onward passage of
BUGLOSS and MEADOWSWEET to join Eastern Fleet.
My 022240 January not to F.O.L.E.M. refers.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 151344A to F.O.L.E.M.)

K.M.F. 29A.

Your 150959*. P. and S. of A. of K.M.F.29A
at 1200/15 032° 06' N. 025° 23' E. 14 knots.
Intend continuing present speed in view of large
reduction (group missed) to (corrupt group) E.T.A.

309 0430/16th, 390 1500. PHOEBE, ERNE, SHIEL E.T.A. Boom
0630. All times B.

(ARIES, 151355B to F.O.L.E.M.)

* N.T. in W.R.

/ULTOR ...

253

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ULTOR. Proceed to position in my 131857 by dawn tomorrow.
(Capt. (S) 1, 151417 to ULTOR.)

Hospital Carriers. Condition of Hospital Carriers, in this area has been causing serious concern by extensive demand for their services and consequent lack of time and facilities for maintenance and repairs.

2. Present position.
6. Meanwhile am awaiting decision as to allocation of carriers between Med. and U.K.
(P.S.T.O. Med., 151444A.)

Certain French Drs. and P.Cs. Designated Meditn. under Allied Naval C. in C. as initial employment SENEGALAIS, ALGERIEN, TUNISIEN, SABRE, PIQUE, CIMETERRE.
(Cominch, 151447Z.)

F.O.T.A.L.I. R.A. C.E. Morgan has assumed duties of F.O.T.A.L.I. vice R.A. R. McGrigor today 15th March.
(F.O.T.A.L.I., 151537.)

U. 450 (sunk 10th March) Congratulations on destruction.
(1st S.L., 151905A.)

Cable ships. No report has been received of progress made by M.L. MACKAY in Azores repairs. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to arrange her homeward programme in accordance with A.M. 141800. It may be possible for her to carry out Gib - Carcavellos repairs en route.

2. It is hoped that ARY* will shortly be in commission and based on Gib. Meanwhile MIRROR is being brought westward for repairs outstanding in this area.
(C. in C. Med., 151920A.) * ?ARAGO intended.

254

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Bi-weekly U/Boat disposition No. 34. Area D. From reported approach of Kilindini Harbour by unidentified aircraft night (?13th) 14th consider Japanese S/M was within 150 miles to the southward and is probably still in the vicinity. Scale of air escort Y. Other areas no fresh information, no changes in scale of air escort. Indian Ocean 2 U/Boats (German) indicated by D/F on night 14th/15th to be S.E. of Mauritius. (C. in C. E.F. 150326Z.)

Lubricating oil used by Japanese S/Ms. My 201307 Feb. refers. Technical details re U/B sunk by JUMNA, LAUNCESTON and IPSWICH (11/2/44) and by PETARD (12/2/44). 5. Use of this type of fuel oil would account for dirty exhaust reported by German U/Boats supplied, and Japanese U/Boats have also been observed to emit large volumes of smoke on increasing speed to avoid attack by torpedoes. (C. in C.E.F. 150546.)

TORNUS. Damaged tanker TORNUS to proceed to Calcutta for docking and permanent repair. 2. GERALDTON is to provide escort to Colombo. Further signal will be made regarding onward escort. (C. in C.E.F. 151117Z.)

U/B attacked 12th March. C.A.F.O. 151/43 part 1. 1. BATTLER 834 Squadron Swordfish F. 2. 1841Z/12 night attack. 3. 031° 08' S. 072° 39' E. 4. 8 Rocket projectiles fitted shot A.P.25 fired in pairs. 5. 6 R.P. under water trails passing under or through U/Boat amidships. Smoke clouds about 25 feet high over under water trail abaft conning tower. U/Boat proceeded on erratic course for approx. 2 minutes before disappearing leaving oil patch on surface. (BATTLER, 151614Z.)

U/B E. of Kilindini. H/F bearing Japanese U/Boat at (?151)608Z was (corrupt) strength 2 to 3. My P.C. and S. (?at) 1800Z 005° 54' S. (?041°) 47' E. 000° 13 knots still 0100Z thence Kilindini E.T.A. 161200Z. (LULWORTH, 151745Z.)

CANTON. Now to proceed to Middle East. Her crew will there be disembarked. 2. CANTON will then revert to D. of S.Ts. control. 4. When ready, to proceed to South Africa to disarm etc. (A.C.N.S. (F) 151808A.)

255

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

L. 27. B.A.D. Washington's 080011Z.
In the circumstances consider refit of L.27 should now be continued and that vessel should continue to run for A/S training thereafter for as long as practicable and then scrapped. No objection to P.553 being offered to U.S. (F.O.(S), 150037.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(Cominch, 151546Z; N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 151939Z.)

PREMIER. Owing to delay to QUEEN and consequent gap in ferry programme for R.N. aircraft between EMPRESS and RULER there will be an unacceptable back-log of about 80 erected aircraft by mid April unless PREMIER can arrive early in the month. Our 121521 refers.
2. Since aircraft allocations are now reaching a peak it is essential under present arrangements to have a C.V.E. ferry trip at least once every two weeks otherwise the consequent build up of aircraft cannot be accommodated.
3. If it is decided to employ PREMIER for Azores move request you consider routeing her independently to Norfolk after flying off aircraft to Azores. She should then arrived 11th April or early 12th at latest so as to load aircraft and sail for New York p.m./13th. She would then sail to U.K. in C.U.21 on 15th.
4. If PREMIER is not employed for Azores request every endeavour be made to sail her in U.C.17.
5. Request very early reply.
(B.A.D., 152005Z to Admty.)

Zigzagging areas. Confirm your 142030. 160° E. intended.
2. Amend area 9-A to read after 12° E. "When south of 38° N. and etc."
(B.A.D., 152223Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) A/C sighted U-Boat at 0849Z/14 in 36° 50' N. 07° 40' W.
(2) STARLING attacked U-Boat at 0455Z/15 in 54° 46' N. 24° 35' W.
(3) A/C attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0407Z/15 in 47° 56' N. 17° 52' W.

/(4) ...

15.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(4) A/C sighted U-Boat at 0315Z/15 in 32° 58' N.
19° 45' E.
Para. C. (1) Ineffectual torpedo attack on H.M.
Ship at 1255Z/14 in 55° 07' N. 21° 58' W.
Para. E. (1) Shore watcher reported sighting
U-Boat prior to 0838Z/14th in 57° 41' N. 07° 41' W.
(D.D.I.C., 151128A.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 151350A, 151351A.)

257

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1. (a). A B.2 report states that TIRPITZ returned to Kaafjord at 1615Z today. F.O.S. intends 14 S/Ms to proceed forthwith to patrol positions off the Norwegian Coast between 058° and 065° N. and that TALENT in addition should proceed at once to patrol north of Gim-sostromen. All these S/Ms will patrol to seaward of their respective emergency T positions until further orders; and eight further S/Ms will be held available to augment or relieve them. Meanwhile the S/Ms VOX and SARYR on patrol off Stadlandet were ordered today to move to Patrol positions T.16 and T.18 respectively and to attack no other ship than TIRPITZ.

(b). C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK left Greenock at 1004A today for Scapa.

E-Boats off
Lands End.
One E-Boat
sunk. Two
E-Boats
damaged.

2. (a). The seven E-Boats attacked by Wellington A/C off the Lands End at 2340 last night were part of a force of probably ten or twelve which, operating in four groups, attempted to approach the convoy route between Lands End and Battery Point. The E-Boats proceeded round Lands End and at 0220 today when six miles N.W. of St. Ives they turned to the southward and at about 0430 were intercepted about 20 miles S.W. of the Wolf Rock by the destroyers BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK who claim to have sunk one and damaged two with 4-inch shell and to have damaged several more with close-range weapons. Minelaying is not now suspected.

(b). At 2200A an A/C obtained a contact with further surface craft, believed to be enemy, about 20 miles S.E. of the Scillies, but lost contact at 2258.

North Atlantic.

U/B destroyed
in Straits.

U.392 sunk

3. AFFLECK attacked a U-Boat in the Straits of Gibraltar about midday today after an earlier attack by a M.A.D. Catalina. Five seconds after AFFLECK's hedgehog attack explosions followed by unexplained noises were heard and wreckage and quantities of oil appeared. F.C.G.M.A. considers the U-Boat was destroyed.

258

16.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Italian
Cruisers.

4.(a). As there is no immediate strategical necessity for Italian cruisers on the West Africa Station they are being withdrawn temporarily and sent to the Mediterranean where the Commander-in-Chief has reported that he can usefully employ them for movements of personnel and material.

(b). Of those which have been operating on these services one has been mined and the other three are temporarily out of action with defects.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle."

5. 5998 tons were discharged at Anzio today. Shelling is reported to have been more intensive and accurate, but caused no important damage.

6. B.25s of the Coastal Air Force attacked Leghorn Harbour today and report hits on quays and docks and on a corvette, an E-Boat, a merchant ship and other vessels. Spitfires hit a schooner at Gigliomarina, bombed Viareggio shipyards and docks, and foundry and dock installations at Sestri Levante. Hits and near misses were made on a destroyer off Spezia.

U/B in Port
Said area.

7. An aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 1330Z today in 31.40 N. 33.25 E. (60 miles E.N.E. of Port Said). No result is reported.

NIGERIA.

8. NIGERIA left Suez today to join the Eastern Fleet

East Indies.

U/B attacked
E. of Kilindi-
ni.

9. LULWORTH (Kilindini Escort Force) attacked an enemy S/M at 0033Z today in 05.17 S. 41.59 E. (100 miles East of Kilindini.)

/U/B...

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

U/B S.S.E.
of Calcutta.

10.(a). EL MADINA, in convoy H.C.44 was sunk at 1009Z today in 20.34 N. 89.36 E. (about 150 miles S.S.E. of Calcutta.) No U-Boat contact was established and ROHILKHAND one of the escort, at first considered there was strong possibility of internal explosion, though C. in C.E.F. reported later that a U-Boat was sighted at periscope depth and fired on 36 minutes after the attacks on EL MADINA, who is now believed to have been sunk by torpedo. 796 survivors of whom 46 were injured, were picked up out of a total of 1200 on board.
(b). An unidentified ship reported being attacked by a submarine in 20.56 N. 89.40 E. at 1235 today.

Australia & New Zealand.

11. 7 Liberators bombed the Naval dockyard at Surabaya, Java today.

12. Before dawn today 4 naval Catalinas attacked an escorted convoy of 3 merchant ships 70 miles N.W. of Hollandia (Dutch New Guinea). A merchant ship and an escort vessel were hit and set on fire. Two Liberators attacked later and made hits on two ships.

13. M.T.Bs. co-operating with a destroyer and a Catalina attacked 3 enemy barges in Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville last night, destroying two and hitting the third.

Admiralty Is.

14. M.T.Bs. killed 5 Japanese and captured 4 prisoners during daylight operations at Manus Island today.

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E/Boats off Lands End. One E/Boat sunk and several damaged by BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK. P.C.S. of enemy E/Boat 49° 50' N. 05° 50' W. 015°, 30 knots. (S.M.T.67 160001 to 19 Group.) Five E/Boats position 49.42 N. 06.02 W., course 310° 25 knots. (A/C NXP.80 160010A to 19 Group.) Enemy previously reported position 49° 58' N. 05° 57' W. 010° 25 knots. (A/C NXP.80 160020A to 19 Group.) At 2345 5 E/Boats in 49° 47' N. 05° 48' W. course 345° speed 25 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160022A to Force 115.) At 0031 E/Boats in 241 Lands End 15 by R.D.F. (C. in C. Plymouth 160031A to AZALEA, PRIMROSE, SKOMER.) Still in touch with enemy previously reported position 49° 55' N. 06° 03' W. 010° 30. (A/C S.M.T.67 160033A to 19 Group.) Proceed towards 220°. Lizard 34 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160045A to Force 115.) E/Boats in position 285° Lands End 10 miles at 0103. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160106A to AZALEA, SKOMER, PRIMROSE) Your 1600. Force 112 is patrolling 00° Eddystone Rock 7 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160108A to BRISSENDEN.) E/Boats in following positions at 0136. Group one, 350 Longships 9 miles; Group 2, 300 Longships 7 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160137 to Force 115.) Join convoy W.P.492 near you now. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160149A to RYE.) After crossing 5° 50' W. sweep to northward. A/C will use homing procedure C. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160200A to Force 115.) E/Boats in following position at 0208. Group 1. 009 Longships 7. Group 2, 014 Longships 11. Group 3, 341 Longships 7. Group 4. 021 Longships 13. (C. in C. Plymouth 160215A to Force 115.) Proceed towards 180° Lizard 15 at best speed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160217A to Force 112.) Enemy retiring south in 255 Longships 11 at 0239 at 37 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160239A to Force 115.) W/P 492 does not pass Longships until 0500. AZALEA and PRIMROSE will join you in vicinity of Wolf Rock about 0730. AZALEA and PRIMROSE comply. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160249A to AZALEA, PRIMROSE, CONQUEROR) Enemy's P.C.S. at 0255, 225 Lands End 17 miles, 180° 35 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160257A to Force 115.) My 160257. Group 2, 7 miles astern. Group 3, 14 miles astern. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160308A to Force 115.) Enemy previously reported position 49° 43' N. 05° 53' W. course 165° speed 30 knots. (A/C NXP. 80 160320A to 19 Group.) Group 3, 225° Lands End 19 at 0323, course 180° (C. in C. Plymouth 160322A to Force 115.) Enemy previously reported position 49° 27' N. 06° 00' W. course 150° speed 25 knots. (A/C NXP.80 160359 to 19 Group.)

/When...

261

16.3.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E/Boats off Lands End. One E/Boat sunk and several damaged by BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK. (Contd.)

When no longer in contact return to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1604431A to Force 115.) E/Boat activity took place along the convoy route between 300° Lands End and 300° Battery Point. Minelaying considered possible but not likely. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160512A to W.P.492, CONQUEROR, PRIMROSE, AZALEA, RYE, WILLOW, HAWTHORN, SYCAMORE, OAK, SICYON). Proceed to Falmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160606A to 397 Aux. M/S Group)

Fighter sweep taking off 0715 weather permitting. Remaining in vicinity 180° Lizard 10 until result known. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160622A to Force 115.)

Return to base. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160630A to Force 112.)

When passing the Lizard Head keeping within 3 miles of shore.

2. After passing 270° Longships keep as close to shore as safe navigation permits until passing 330° Battery Point. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160636A to SCIMITAR.)

ETA Boom 0940. MELBREAK in company. MELBREAK's 271 Lantern severely damaged by gun fire. (BRISSENDEN, 160657A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Fighters are carrying out sweeps from position 50° N. 06° W. for 30 miles to southward starting at 0715. (C. in C. Plymouth, 160740A to Convoy W.P.492.)

3 Ju. 88 position 50° 15' N. (08°?) 09' W. course circling height 500 feet. (A/C JCH.81 160944A to 19 Group.)

Enemy shipping plotted by Plymouth Radar 16th March. In 4 Groups, 0005 - 0309 up to 12 E/Boats 14 miles S.E. Scillies course N.E. 15 to 18 knots. Turned S. at 0220 18 knots, increasing to 35 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161246A to Admty.)

At 2120/15 Halifax A/C J of 502 Squadron on crossover patrol between Lands End and Ushant reported 7 E/Boats in 48° 40' N. 5° 20' W. steering 357° at 30 knots. MELBREAK and BRISSENDEN (Force 115) sailed from Plymouth to patrol in vicinity of 180° Lizard 10. Two Wellington A/C J/172 and K/612 of 19 Group were diverted to SHADOW, contact was maintained by them till 0450. These A/C made frequent reports of the enemy. Two of them attacked with depth charges at 2340 without being able to observe results. The enemy came within Radar range of Lands End at 0002 and were then plotted proceeding route Lands End until they turned at 0220 when in position 6 miles N.W. of St. Ives. They returned along the same route as they had approached, between Wolf Rock and Scillies and were intercepted by BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK at about 0450 about 20 miles S.W. of Wolf Rock. BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK claim 1 E/Boat sunk and 2 E/Boats hit by 4" shell and several damaged by close range weapons before the enemy escaped to the Southward. From the plot and reports by Force 115, it appears that probably about 10 or 12 E/Boats were operating. None of our ships suffered damage or casualties, the W.P. convoy being to the N. of the enemy's furthest on position. Minelaying is not suspected. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161255A to Admty.)

/Have...

262

16.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E/Boats, off Lands End One E/Boat sunk and several damaged by BRISSENDEN and MELBREAK. (Contd.)

Have A.S.V. contact position 49° 06' N. 06° 02' W. believed E/Boat. (A/C RUC 19 162200A to 19 Group.)
 Have A.S.V. contact position 49° 29' N. 05° 52' W. believed 3 destroyers, course 195° Continue in G. patrol. (A/C RUC 19 162240A to 19 Group.)
 Contact lost with E/Boat. Resume patrol. (A/C RUC 19 162258 to 19 Group.)
 Join and remain with P.W.492 convoy until further orders. (C. in C. Plymouth 162356A to STEEPHOLM.)

A/S operations off Western Ireland.

Am over enemy sub. in 55° 50' N. 26° 20' W. S/M was on surface course 318° 10 knots. (A/C KGNZ 160042A to N.D.3.)
 AC. 643 16th March Secret U/Boat sighted by Z/120 at 0030Z/16th in 56° 10' N. 26° 42' W. Flak. No further details. (R.A.F. Iceland, 160200A to H.Q.C.C.)
 FRONTENAC sailed to join Escort Group 9. (Cdre. D.W.A. 161420A to E.G.9.)

On relief by 9th E.G. return Londonderry. Your 161430 refers.

(C. in C.W.A. 161525A to E.G.21.)
 Sailed LOUIS (S.O.), ANGUILLA, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, PETUNIA, BULLEN to comply with my 151931A. First ship sailed 1150A, last ship 1450A. (Cdre. D.W.A. 161550A to C. in C.W.A.)
 Sailed BENTLEY to join 22nd E.G. (N.O.I.C. N.I., 161810A to E.G.22.)
 Proceed passing Gate at 0630A/18 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 151036 as amended by 160930. C. in C.W.A. 131756 refers. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 161836A to KITE.)
 Arrived ICARUS, CHILLIWACK and MORDEN. (Cdre. D.W.A. 162136 to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation "Foremost". Operation "Foremost". Following submarines are to be brought to immediate notice and sailed as quickly as possible as follows for Lerwick and patrols. ZEEHOND, SAFARI, UNA, STURDY, TERRAPIN, UNBROKEN, UNBENDING. (P.37).

2. Submarines from Clyde to be escorted as far as 004° 30' W., thence unescorted. Submarines from East coast ports proceed unescorted.

(F.O.S. 160104A to Capts.S.3, S.6, S.9, S.7, S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
 Request you will sail VIVID and TRUSTY forthwith unescorted to Lerwick proceeding with despatch (F.O.S. 160106A to A.C.O.S.)

Intend sailing UNBENDING and UNBROKEN by searched channel to Lerwick at 0600 today, E.T.A. Lerwick 2000A/17th. (Capt. S.6, 160115A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

/Submarines...

263

War Diary.16.3.1944.
ThursdayHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Foremost".
(Contd.)

Submarines are to sail as follows to proceed with all despatch.

A. ZWAARDFISCH by route G to 066° N. thence through 068° 30' N. 010° 01' E. to patrol position T.9.

B. SYRTIS by route B to 064° 30' N. thence to T.12.

C. TAKU by route B to 064° 01' N. thence to T.14.

D. TRUSTY by route 2 to T.20.

E. VIVID by route 2 to T.19.

F. ULA by route 1 to T.15.

2. Subs. proceed diving by day at C.Os. discretion when approaching W. but vital submarines are not sighted.

3. Object German ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ. No other ship to be attacked.

(F.O.S. 160246A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Intend to implement operation "Foremost" as follows.

A. 14 S/Ms to proceed forthwith to patrol positions off Norwegian coast between 058° N. 065° N. In addition TALENT is proceed to patrol position N. of Gimsostromen.

B. 8 further S/Ms will be held available to augment or or relieve those in A above.

(F.O.S.160411A to Admty.)

Intend sailing TRUANT by searched channel to Lerwick at 1500 today. E.T.A. Lerwick 0200/18th.

(Capt. S.6, 161224A to S.O.S/M Lerwick)

F.O.S. 160246 para. D. Sailed (TRUSTY)

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 161958A to S/Ms.)

Sailed F.O.S. 160246 para. E. (VIVID)

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 162032A to S/Ms.)

Operation "Foremost". It is imperative that enemy should not suspect presence of submarines off Norwegian coast. Until further orders all submarines except ZWAARDFISCH are to maintain patrol in waiting positions to seaward of their emergency T Position.

2. Waiting position for submarines off Stadtlandet are established as follows:

VOX and STURDY 10 miles 000° and 320° respectively from Svino Light 062° 20' N. 005° 16' E. SATYR position 062° 05' N. 004° 30' E.

(F.O.S. 162151A to S/Ms.)

For Purpose of attack VIVID and TRUSTY have complete freedom to enter Skudenness if necessary.

(F.O.S. 162356 to S/Ms.)

S/M
Patrols.

Proceed forthwith with utmost despatch direct to patrol position T.16, diving by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.

2. Object German Battleship ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ. No other ship to be attacked.

3. SCEPTRE estimated in 062° 40' 001° 40' E. at 0800A/16th, on route "Pink" returning Lerwick.

(F.O.S. 160224A to VOX.)

Cancel S.M. 04010/977 of 7th March 1944. Proceed forthwith diving by day direct position T.18.

2. Object German ship ADML. VON TIRPITZ. No other ship to be attacked.

(F.O.S. 160226A to SATYR.)

/C. in C. ...

War Diary.16.3.1944.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M patrols. C. in C.H.F.151050 and your 140021A. Intend to
(Contd.) establish patrol of one S/M in 068° 25' N. 014° 04' E. from 0001/18th March for about 14 days to cover northern end of Gimsostrommen. C. in C.H.F. concurs

Request this position is not communicated to Russians for reasons of security. Can you confirm that this will not interfere with Russian S/M disposition.

(F.O.S.160414A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Your 151708 para.2. Russian S/M. sails Kola Inlet 1500A/16th for this area remaining on patrol for 10 days. F.O.(S) H.F.160414 confirmed that no Russian S/M will operate to the S.ward of Andenes latitude 069° 19' N. Area 2A, will not be manned. My 151818 refers (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 161237A to C. in C.H.F.)

Positions of own S/Ms at 0800/17th and movements for following 24 hours. A. VOX, SATYR on patrol off Stadtlandet. B. TAKU 64° 19' N. 05° 59' E. proceeding to patrol off Kya, dived by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian coast. C. SYRTIS 64° 31' N. 04° 05' E. proceeding to patrol Kya vicinity diving during day within 60 miles of Norway. D. SWARDFISCH 65° 09' N. 02° 26' E. speed 11½ knots, through 65° 59' N. 03° 32' E. to 68° 29' N. 10° 01' E. thence to patrol vicinity 68° 29' N. 14° 19' E.

(F.O.S. 161756A to Admty.)

Amend my 011912 Feb. as follows: T.19 059° 05' 005° 01'.
T.20 058° 55' 005° 01'. 2. Add new position T.18 A 061° 07' 004° 22'. T.18 B 060° 57' 004° 24'.

(F.O.S. 162324A to S/Ms.)

S.C. My 071656A and my 121924A. Sailed S/M chaser
operation. HESSA at 0600 today. 2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 160729A to Admty.)

Operation Sailed CAMROSE to comply with your 160014A.
C.X. (Cdre. D.W.A. 160940A to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 131323 and 151442. PRESCOTT delayed with hull defects. Will not sail. S.O. remaining in ship

CAMROSE. CAMROSE Cdre. sail to comply with C. in C.W.A. 160014.
EDMUNDSTON S.O. and H.M.S. LUNENBURG proceeding at 1200 to area Y.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 160946A to C. in C.W.A.)

Sailed EDMUNDSTON and LUNENBURG to join CAMROSE in area Y.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 161332A to C. in C.W.A.)

Engagement
of Gris Nez.
M.T.B.417
lost.
One R/Boat
sunk.
One enemy
Trawler
damaged.

Last night 15th/16th, with the object of intercepting and attacking enemy shipping on passage between Calais and Boulogne our striking forces were disposed as follows; Group B. M.T.B.417, 418, 433 and 362 with torpedoes at No.3 buoy (102° S. Foreland 9.2 miles). Group A. M.T.B.207, 211 all with torpedoes at number 7 buoy (176° South Foreland 6.2 miles)

At 2000 shore-based radar reported five or more vessels of trawler size leaving Calais southbound. Group B was ordered to intercept and proceeded at 2012, enemy positions being passed by W/T in normal manner.

During the approach M.T.B.362 lost contact and through emission of smoke by M.T.B.418 possibly from

/defective...

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement off Gris Nez. M.T.B.417 lost. One R/Boat sunk. One Enemy Trawler damaged. (Contd.)

defective C.S.A. gear M.T.B.433 also lost touch. M.T.B.417 and 418 intercepted at 2042 in approx. 030° Cap Gris Nez five miles, and while turning to port to engage, M.T.B.417 was seen to be heavily hit causing an explosion, which set her ablaze. M.T.B.418, turning outside the leader, engaged at point blank range and sank one R/Boat of a group of six. Disengaging to N.W. in absence for further orders, M.T.B.418, while crossing the bows of a trawler, engaged and hit her repeatedly with all guns, leaving her smoking heavily from the Forecastle. A fiercely burning wreck thought to be M.T.B.417 was observed about one and a half miles to S.W. by M.T.B.418, who proceeded to close. Repeated attempts to investigate were, however, frustrated by concentrated fire from enemy shore-batteries surface craft, and wreck was observed to sink before help could be rendered. Subsequent search by M.T.B.418 disclosed only charred wreckage and no survivors could be found by her or by aircraft which swept the area at daylight. Only three ratings were very slightly wounded in M.T.B.418 and she suffered superficial damage. It is regretted that M.T.B.417 must be considered a total loss. Casualties S.O. M.G.Bs. in addition to two officers, one spare officer and fifteen ratings missing. Shore-based Radar reported 3 or 4 small enemy craft operating in the area from 2215 to 0030 and it may be possible that they recovered some survivors. (V.A. Dover, 161243A to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161356A.) (C. in C. Portsmouth, 161530A.) (V.A. Dover, 161612A, 161916A.)

Operation F.X. Request you will convey our congratulations to CHASER and all forces concerned in the destruction of three U/Boats during the passage of Convoy R.A. 57. (1st S.L. 161556A to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C shot down on 14th March. KNOCK JOHN FORT claims one E/A destroyed at 2306 on 14th bearing 270° Category one seen falling in flames and burning for some time on water on Maplins. This is confirmed by Great Nore Fort. Also one Category two at 2312 on 14th bearing 035° Seen also from Tongue Sand Fort but not confirmed by ships in vicinity. (C. in C. Nore 161152A to Admty.)

North Russia. German Air Force Activity March 1st - 15th as reported by Russians. Details. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 161706A to C. in C.H.F.)

266

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Off My 151523. One mine detonated by Sweepers
Farne at 151325A in 55° 30' 00" N. 01° 22' 15" W.
Islands. (N.O.I.C. North Shields, 161044 to Admty.)

Operation Request you will sail RUBIS for F.D.48 so as to
F.D.48 part company with escort in 180° Bishop 10 miles
(RUBIS.) 1900A/19th. Thence diving by day via route R
to position RA 047° 44' N. 006° 30' W.
RB 046° 13' N. 002° 59' W. arriving a.m. 22nd
March.

2. RUBIS is to patrol within 5 miles of RB and endeavour to
locate traffic route. When located or on 25th March whichever
is earlier, carry out FD 48.

3. If FD 48 is carried out before 25th March RUBIS is to
establish patrol in the vicinity RC 046° 30' N. 003° 32' W.

4. RUBIS is to leave RB or RC p.m. 25th and return by reverse
of outward route to R/V in 180° Bishop 10 miles at 0700A/28th.

5. No attacks are to be carried out until completion of FD 48.

6. See my 161214A for details of FD 48.

(F.O.S. 161151A to Capt. S.5.)

My 161151. As far as OH 280.

3. FD 48. a. F.S. RUBIS; b. About 25th March.

c. In Group on traffic route see para. 2 of my 161151 or if
no route is located in group between 046° 15' N. 002° 57' 30" W.
and 046° 11' N. 003° W.

(F.O.S. 161214A to Capt. S.5.)

My 161540. From 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles RUBIS proceed
diving by day through position: T. 049° N. 006° 30' W.
RA. 047° 44' N. 006° 30' W. to RB 046° 13' N. 002° 59' W. to
carry out operation as in F.O.S. 161214.

2. S.O.A. 110 miles per day.

(Capt. S.5, 161545A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Smiths
Knoll
clearance.

3 mines all detonated in sweep approx. position
052° 56' 3' N. 002° 14' 3' E.

(M/S 7, 161215A, 161550 to C. in C. Nore.)

Oropesa sweeper cut one R.type mine in 353° 57'
Buoy 4.6 miles at 1545 today.

(F.O.I.C. Gt Yarmouth, 161639A and 161747A.)

Operation
QU.26.

Carry out operation Q.U.26 034° on first suitable
night on or after 17th March. Force: 21st
M.T.B. Flotilla, 51st M.L. Flotilla. Laying
instructions.

(C. in C. Nore, 161526A to BEEHIVE.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ.

B.2. report states that TIRPITZ returned to
Kaafjord 16152/16.

(D.D.I.C. 162150A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

267

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- CERES. Devonport Dockyard estimate that 6 weeks would be required to make good essential defects to render CERES operationally fit.
2. Early decision is requested as to whether this work in CERES is to be put in hand.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 160013 to Admty.)
- KEPPEL. Arrived KEPPEL.
(F.O.I.C. 161125A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- CHASER. Intend sailing CHASER in tow of tug BUCCANEER and EMPIRE MASCOT escorted by Trawler CELIA at 0830 tomorrow by searched channel to Rosyth. E.T.A. May Island 1600/18th.
(A.C.O.S. 161154A to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- PICKLE. Owing to distorted boiler tubes PICKLE capable of steaming one boiler only.
2. Propose sailing ship to Harwich with LARNE in company A.M. tomorrow.
(M/S7, 161725 to C. in C. Nore.)
- BULLEN (Sabotage). A case of suspected sabotage has occurred in BULLEN circumstances of which are as follows. Before proceeding to sea today a lathe tool was found jammed between the teeth of the control rack of the steering gear. If undiscovered the rack would have been completely ruined and the steering gear immobilised. No person from the shore had been on board since the ship's arrival at Londonderry on 15th March. The matter is being investigated.
(Capt. D. Liverpool, 162145A to D.N.I.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- O.N. and O.N.S. convoys. On arrival at "Westomp" S.O. of Mid-Ocean Escort Group is to signal names of Stragglers. Nil reports are to be made.
(C. in C.W.A. 161535A, W.A.G.M. 940N.)
- Convoys J.W.58 and R.A.58. Macgregor's Signal 101150. Subject to C. in C. H.F.'s approval agree use of COPELAND for this purpose on assumption that RATHLIN which is allocated for J.W.58 will return in R.A.58 and provided that RATHLIN is kept clear of passengers for rescue work.
(M.W.T. 162215A to N.O.I.C. Murmansk.)

268

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MISTRAL,
TRAMONTANA.
(Spanish
fishing
vessels)
PYSBE.

MISTRAL and TRAMONTANA will leave Pasajes for
Newfoundland Banks March 25th. (arrangements.)
(6) PYSBE: (local arrangements in N.F.)
(B.N.A. Madrid, 161355A).

U/boat
destroyed
in Straits.

U. 392 sunk

At 0900A/16th M.A.D. Catalina reported magnetic
contact in centre of Strait. At 1000 and 1010
M.A.D. Catalina fired Retro bombs with no results
- at 1110 M.A.D. Catalina lost contact. At 1145
AFFLECK gained asdic contact within one and a half
miles of M.A.D. Catalinas smoke floats. At 1212

AFFLECK fired hedgehog pattern in position 220 Europa 14.4 miles.
Five seconds after bombs struck water three distinct explosions
followed by unexplained noises almost immediately pieces of wood
and bubbles broke surface. Quantities of oil covering wide area
also reported.

2. Consider this probable kill.
3. Anti-U-boat operations continue.
(F.O.G.M.A. 161815A).

Defence of
Gibraltar
harbour
against gli-
der bombs.

Further to my 291915. First priority in fitting
high powered jammer type 651 must be accorded to
ships.

2. It is, however, probably that, from well-
disposed positions these jammers would
neutralise the accurate control of glider bombs
directed against Gibraltar, and consideration

will be given to providing some in due course.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 162013A to F.O.G.M.A.)

RICHELIEU

Request immediate information of P.C.S. of
RICHELIEU.
(F.O.G.M.A. 162313A).

South Atlantic.

S.L.150/
M.K.S.41.

Arrived U.K. March 14th.
(D.T.D., 161213A).

5 M.F.Vs.

C. in C.S.A. 261245 para.2 intend to sail
M.F.Vs. 190, 141, 142, 143, 144 escorted by TEST
to Diego Suarez for onward escort and routing to
Trincomalee to comply with the following approx.
programme.
(Cdre., Durban, 161331Z).

269

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SPORTSMAN. A.M. 232357/February.
If SPORTSMAN has not already sailed her departure is to be deferred pending further instructions.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 160020A)

Floating dock from Montevideo. (F.O.L.E.M.161010, 162310B) See East Indies.

U.593. Reference report of loss of HOLCOMBE forwarded under cover of your No.1356/Med. 427/2/37 of 24th Feb. Request further details of search which resulted in detection of U-Boat after 8 hours by two ships.
(Sunk 13/12/43)
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 161011A to C. in C. Med.)

1st Escort Group and Straits patrol. Fully support F.O.G.M.As 151148 at this critical time in anti U-Boat campaign in the Straits.
(2) The added commitment of having to escort RICHELIEU will also seriously deplete the Straits Patrols. C. in C. Western Approaches' 150004 refers.
(C. in C. Med. 161017A to Admty.)

Refit of French Cruiser. Saving clause in my 131228 is important.
B.A.D. 141941 refers the French cause considerable trouble by trying to move workmen to suit themselves and it is undesirable that they should receive indirect encouragement.
(C. in C. Med. 161100A)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.55.
6422 tons discharged during 15 March in slight swell 26 35 545 60 tons respectively from 10 L.S.T. 4 L.C.T. 3 L.C.I.(L) from Naples.
8 alerts and continuous shelling but no significant damage.
(F.O.W.I.T.161118A)

PHOEBE Intend sailing PHOEBE to Port Said on completion of exercises (p.m.?) 18th. F.O.L.E.M.'s 131011/3 refers.
(for Eastern Fleet)
(R.A.Alexandria, 161235)

U.S. escort of G.U.S./ U.G.S. convoys in Med. Refer C. in C. Med.141758. *
My 131925/ modified in that U.S. escort of U.G.S. convoys will terminate voyage at Bizerta rather than Malta. Request that C. in C. Med. will arrange for local escort of small number of Casablanca detachers and joiners in order that U.G.S. escort groups may remain intact for Med. passage.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 161252Z).
/ and * re escorts for U.G.S. convoys.

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

U/B attacked in Port Said area. Am over enemy S/M in 31.40 N. 33.25 E. enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted. When first sighted was on course 200 degs. speed 3 knots.
(A/C C/SCX ZG, 161330Z)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges at 1332Z/16.
(A/C C/SCX ZG, 161340Z)

KILISSI (German) sunk 12 March. French KILISSI flying German flag and carrying cargo of oranges for Germany was torpedoed by A/C in shallow water between 1600 and 1700 hours March 12th off Ametlla de Mar about 12 miles south of Tarragona.
She caught fire and sank within few minutes. Only mast can now be seen and she is considered

total loss. 5 members of crew were killed and 23 wounded. Latter were taken to hospital Cape Tortosa.
(R.O. Barcelona, 161340).

Present Employment of Italian S/M's. Your 141705.
(A) Waiting refit and fit to leave Med. on completion CAGNI.
(B) Waiting refit but not fit to leave Med. on completion - MENOTTI, SETTEMBESNI (?SETTEMBRINI) OTARIA, SETTIMO.
(C) Refitting and fit to leave Med. on completion - ATROPO low priority. CORRIDONI ready for service 21st March. DIASPRO, PROCIDA not ready for some time.
(D) Engaged in operations against enemy - MICHELIO PLAQIJO (unidentifiable by W.D.)
(E) Earmarked for operations against enemy CB 8-12. 4 men S/M's not all in working order.
(F) Lost AXUM Oil hulk TOTI. Fit for supplying power and unable to dive PISANI. Hopeless condition TURCHESE C. and M.
BRAGADINO+ Parts removed to replace those in other S/M. H.4.
(G) Local A/S training Taranto SQUALO. Must be near dockyard as condition very poor and unfit to leave Med.
(C. in C. Med. 161548 to B.A.D.)

ULTOR. Leave patrol tonight to pass through following position.
(A) 035 degs. 49' 023 degs. 30' at 1201/17
(B) 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 15' at 1802/17.
proceed between (A) and (B) dived at 200 feet.
(Capt. (S) 1, 161708A to P.53 (ULTOR) (R) P.63 (UNSWERVING), F.O.L.E.M.)
From position 035 degs. 14' (sic) 023 degs. 15' at 1801/17th proceed to dive by day on 18th and then on the surface at 8½ knots to R/V with an escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 0630/20th.
(2) Thence by swept channel to Malta.
(Capt. (S) 1, 161740A to ULTOR (R) Naval and air authorities)

War Diary.

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNSWERVING. After entering Aegean you are to examine approaches to Monemvasia before continuing your patrol as previously ordered.
(Capt.(S) 1, 161805A to UNSWERVING (R) ULTOR, F.O.L.E.M.)

NIGERIA (for Eastern Fleet). Departure.
(N.O.I.C.Suez, 161811B)

M.K.F.29A. (Extract). 16th March Port Said arrivals. Ships for Eastern Fleet. ATHELING, BEGUM, ENGADINE, ATHENE, CAUVERY, SPEY, FINDHORN, TAFF, LOSSIE.
Departure NIGERIA.
(N.O.I.C.Ports Said 161857)

UPSTART. Patrol report blank.
(S.10, 161935)

SS. PETER (Torpedoed 19 Feb.) CX source reports SS. PETER (Compare summary 26 February) after being torpedoed reached Volos where now aground and cargo coal being salvaged.
(C. in C. M.E. 161940B)

M.E.Balkan Sitrep No.121. (4) Adv. H.Q. Force 133 reports. Night 10/11 Mar. 2 M.G.Bs entered Lagosta harbour but withdrew after exchanging fire with partisans on shore.
(C. in C. M.E. 161950Q)

Cositintrep No.247. Part (2).
(1) SS. MAIDEN CREEK towed to Bougie and beached
U-Boat hunt continues.
(2) One L.C.I.(L) sunk and two L.C.T's damaged during air attacks on Anzio early 17th March.
During remainder of day only slight air activity and shelling of port and anchorage on reduced scale.
(3) Coastal Forces operating from Bastia attacked convoy of "F" lighters off Genoa a.m. 17th March. Results of torpedo fire unobserved.
(C. in C. Med. 182126)

272

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/boat attacked E. of Kilindini. Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charge. My position 005 degs. 17' S. 041 degs. 59' E. (LULWORTH, 160033Z to C. in C.E.F., F.O.I.C.E.A.). My 160033 attacked 3 good contacts have lost contact. Still hunting. (LULWORTH, 160201Z).

U/boat dispositions. Area D. Bombay U/boat to south east of Soemba by D/F at 1600/15th was attacked by LULWORTH at 0033Z/16th in 005 degs. 17' S. 041 degs. 59' E. scale of air escort Z Indian Ocean. U/boat indicated by D/F at 2003Z/15th within 120 miles of 003 degs. S. 084 degs. E. Other areas no fresh information. No change in scale of air escort. (C. in C.E.F., 160325Z). Admiralty's estimate. (D.D.I.C. 161310A).

BATTLEER BATTLEER is now on passage to Durban for refitting. (C. in C.E.F., 160453Z).

P.552 Damage to P.552. N.O.i/c Durban's 071356 refers. It is considered that the repairs required to make this S/M. suitable for A/S training are not repetition not justified. (2) Request approval for vessel to be paid off. (C. in C.E.F. 1605142Z to Admty.).

Floating dock for Montevideo. Effort being made to repair ORIANA at the expense of MASTERFUL. Your 091338Z+WEAZEL has developed defects involving three weeks work. Every effort is being made to get the dock away before the monsoon. (F.O.L.E.M. 161010B (R) as 162310B to C. in C.E.F.). + Message incomplete rep. requested.

Fortnightly report for period 27th Feb. to 9th March. Seacos, 114, 16th March, 1944. Section Two. 2.(a) On the night of 29th Feb. coastal forces bombarded Sitanarokia on Mayu Peninsula near Indin. Fires and explosions occurred among Jap barracks. Opposition slight. (b) On the night of 2nd March 6 M.Ls. carried out successful sweep into Ramraa Roads. 5 supply sampans were sunk and 4 members of their crew were brought back for interrogation. (c) On the night off 11/12th March the 44 R.M. Commando was landed S.W. of Alethangyaw at entrance to Naaf River, diversionary bombardment by M.Ls. being carried out simultaneously near Indin, opposition slight. (d) Several clandestine operations were carried out by M.Ls. during the period. (S.A.C.S.E.A., 161037).

/H.C.44...

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies. - Contd.

H.C.44: Survivors from EL MADINA have been picked up.
EL MADINA No U/boat contact established. Consider strong
sunk. possibility of internal explosion. IRRAWADI is
remaining in vicinity after dark. ROHILKHAND is
rejoining convoy if no contact made then.
(ROHILKHAND, 161115Z).

SS. EL MADINA reported torpedoed and sunk at 1009Z/16 in
020 degs. 54' N. 089 degs. 36' E.

(C. in C.E.F., 161300Z).

Request immediately air R/C (and?) rescue ship. Escort
carrying out Star search.

(Omitted 161639FG, to C. in C.E.F.).

2 Beaughters proceeding at utmost speed.

((?) 161755FG to ROHILKHAND).

Unknown SSSS 20.56 N. 89.40 E. Submarine attacking.
ship attacked. Ends.
(C/S, BMD31, No T.O.O./16).

Operation Following is a repetition of my 2 part message
"Covered" T.O.O. 150449 and 150551 which was addressed to
Tanker BRAKE C. in C.E.F.(S.E.A.C.) only.
sunk, 12/3 Colombo W/T Station's 161149 refers. Begins.
C. in C.(S.E.A.C.) from C.S.4. Operation
covered all times Z. Enemy tanker was sighted by BATTLE's A/C.
at 1001/12 in 031 degs. 27' S. 072 degs. 38' E. course 260 degs.
10 knots with one U/boat 3 cables on each quarter and one 8
miles astern with oil east of her. U/boats dived later.
(2) NEWCASTLE, SUFFOLK and BATTLE 4 cables apart with ROEBUCK
screening were 160 degs. 38 miles from sighting position.
(3) ROEBUCK was ordered to attack and sighted enemy at about 13
miles at 1116. Opened fire at 1126 at 15800 yards ceased fire
at 1212. Probably 3 hits with torpedoes obtained.
(4) Tanker stopped and abandoned almost at once. Explosions
and fires occurred on board and she sank at 1215.*
(5) NEWCASTLE followed ROEBUCK in but did not close inside 23
miles from enemy.
(6) BATTLE flew off 3 sorties of 2 aircraft each to attack U/Bs.
with R/P the first in daylight and the others after moon rose.
One of these aircraft sighted 2 U/boats in company at 1840 14
miles from carrier attacked leading one and claimed a possible.
(C.S.4, 161547Z to Admt.).

* German tanker BRAKE, U-boat supply ship.
(TSO/FDS/X.311/50, 14.2.1950)

TANTIVY, 1. Sighted on surface and unsuccessfully attacked
patrol by aircraft at 1240FG/29th February 75 miles west
report. of Flat Cape. This may have compromised area.

2. Until 15th March area utterly void of all
surface craft. A/C seen over but not patrolling

Straits on 4 occasions. Small trawler patrolling north of
(corrupt group) way on 1 day only. Area between Prince Island:
Krakatoa: 005 degs. 59' S. 105 degs. 39' E.: Catherine Rocks ?and
(group missed) Point appeared to be (2 groups missed).

3. At 0330FG/15th March put down by 2 S/M Chasers off North
western corner Prince Island. These did not hunt but went

/ seaward...

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies

TANTIVY,
patrol
report
(Contd.).

seaward course 240 degs. TANTIVY followed.
Several A/C patrolling (?waters) (?west) line
joining Java Head to (corrupt group) Cape.
Nothing further seen or heard during subsequent
retirement. Unable to tell if sudden activity
indicated projected movement through Straits or
presence of TANTIVY or relief suspected.

4. Large change of water density after heavy rain. Dangerous
fast tide close to north and west coast Prince Island.
5. E.T.A. longitude 082 degs. E. dawn 23. My P.C.S. at 1730Z/
16 005 degs. (?38') S. 101 degs. 26' E., 282 degs. 11.
(TANTIVY, 162029Z).

275

16.3.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

YARRAWONGA,
TAMARA,
(Swedish
relief
vessels.)

Swedish Govt. intimate safe conduct vessel YARRAWONGA will sail from St. John to Piraeus at 0800/22 and that safe conduct vessel TAMARA will sail from Piraeus to St. John at 0900/23. Both vessels will follow "Black" route.
2. Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Admty. 160218A to all Naval authorities concerned.)

Convoy
O.N.226.

51 ships arrived New York March 15th.
(P.D.New York 160244Z.)

Employment
of Italian
Cruisers.

A.M. 070536. C. in C.Med. has reported that Italian cruisers can be usefully employed in Med. for heavy troop movements into Italy and other transfers of personnel and material. Of those which have been operating on these services one has been mined and the other three are temporarily out of action due to defects.
2. As there is no immediate strategical necessity for Italian cruisers on West African Station, ABRUZZI and GARIBALDI are being sent to the Med. temporarily as well as AOSTA.
(V.C.N.S. 161311A.) See M.02390/44.

SEAWOLF,
MATAPEDIA.

Request you arrange for MATAPEDIA to function with SEAWOLF and provide escort to Halifax.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 161320Z to Comnob Bermuda.)
To avoid suspected U-Boat area amend route and destination (details).
(C. in C.C.N.A. 161440Z, Comnob Bermuda 161830.)
Proceed with MATAPEDIA to new destination Shelburne (route).
(Comnob Bermuda 162351 to SEAWOLF, MATAPEDIA.)
W.D.Note: see 170535Z.

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 161420Z, Cominch 161640Z.)

Convoy C.U.17
Possible U/B
430 miles
N.N.E. of
Flores.

Urgent attack delivered by CHARLES LAWRENCE on possible sub sound contact 47.17 N. 32.17 W. at 1618Z.
(?CHARLES LAWRENCE 161700.)

U.G.S.37, list
of landing
craft in-
cluded. T.G.
65.9.

Landing craft my 162043* will sail in U.G.S.37 as follows: 8 L.S.Ts. (details) 10 L.C.Is. (details.) C.T.F. 65 upon arrival Med. direct all L.S.Ts. report Com. 8th Fleet for duty (at appropriate point near Azores C.T.F.65 detach all L.C.Is. direct this detachment, thence instituted T.G.65.9) proceed Horta where upon arrival landing craft report Com. 12th Fleet for duty. Task Group then

/dissolved...

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U.G.S. 37, list of landing craft included. T.G. 65.9 (Contd.) dissolved. C.T.F. 20 direct all landing craft report Port Director Norfolk for inclusion in U.G.S. 37. (C. in C.Lant 162022.) * Ref. 162043. This reconstitutes T.F. 65 Comdr. Headden in INGHAM Comcordiv 58 in PRICE Cortdiv 58 Comdesdiv 66 in BRECKINRIDGE Desdiv 66 STANTON, SWASEY, KENNEBEC effective 18th March. Escort convoy U.G.S. 37 departing Hampton Roads 24th March.
- T.F. 65. This reconstitutes T.F. 65 INGHAM, PRICE, BRECKINRIDGE, STANTON, SWASEY, KENNEBEC, effective 18 March. Escort Convoy U.G.S. 37 departing Hampton Roads 24 March to Bizerta and return escorting G.U.S. 37. KENNEBEC proceed with Casablanca Section to return with G.U.S. 36. C. in C.Med. expected arrange for local escort Casablanca Sections both ways. Landing craft that will accompany U.G.S. 37 by separate despatch. (C. in C.Lant 162043.)
- U.G.S. 36, G.U.S. 36. Escort U.G.S. 36 to Bizerta. My 141929 modified accordingly. C. in C.Med. expected provide local escort for Casablanca sections both ways. Ref. 141929 - escort convoy U.G.S. 36 into Med. to Malta and return escorting G.U.S. 36 when directed by Comnavaw. (C. in C.Lant 161941 to C.T.F. 64.)
- T.G. 21.15. Cr. No. 1602. This constitutes T.G. 21.15 Captain Vest in CROATAN Comcordiv 13 in FROST, HUSE, INCH, SNOWDEN, BARBER. Depart Hampton Roads when ready about 24th March operating against reported submarines that may endanger North African convoy routes. Further orders later. (Cinclant 161959.)
- TROUNCER, PUNCHER, RANEE. It is noted in Director of Plans Aircraft Carrier State of 1st March Table B, that TROUNCER, PUNCHER and RANEE are assigned as Assault Carriers. 2. Request early confirmation of this since TROUNCER is already in hand for modification and is due to embark an Avenger Squadron. A slight delay in this case would be inevitable. (B.A.D. 162101Z to Admty.)
- Stragglers report No. 43. One arrive St. Johns N.F. from H.X. 281. JANE A. DELANO (U.S.) March 9th. Heavy weather damage including cracked hull. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X. 282, GALVESTON (U.S.) March 12th damaged propeller and shaft. One arrived Halifax from H.X. 282, POTTER (Pan.) March 12th engine defects. One arrived Hlfx. from O.N. 226, BOSTON CITY March 13 boiler defects. One arrived Halifax from S.C. 155 L.S.T. 292 and POTTER (Pan.) both March 15th

/with...

War Diary.

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Stragglers with engine defects. Three returned Cape Henry
report No. from U.S.S. 36. HARRY LANE (U.S.) March 14th,
43. (Contd.) engine trouble. MANCHESTER COMMERCE 14th, steering
gear trouble. CHARLES CROCKER (U.S.) 16th,
crack in starboard side.
(N.S.H.Q. 162217Z.)

U/B incidents. No report on 15. A. Sub. fired on P.B.M. 10 - 15
N. 78 - 32 W. 0425/16. B. P.C. 469 attacked
sub contact 10.22 N. 79.03 W. 1900/15.
33. CHARLES LAWRENCE attacked ground contact 57.17
N. 32.17 W. 1618/16.
D. Crash boat sighted sub. 22.52 N. 73.44 W. 1415/16 all times Z.
(Cominch 162221Z.)

RANEE. B.A.D. has no objection provided ship arrives
Esquimalt by 10th May. 2. Your 101130 refers.
(B.A.D. 162255Z. to C. in C.E.F. Info. Admty. N.Z.N.E)

Australia & New Zealand.

SUTLEJ. Due Fremantle 11th March has not arrived.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 160302Z.)

Digest 786. March 15th. 3. Substantial force U.S. troops from
Los Negros Island landed near Lugos Mission on
Manus Island two miles West Lorengau airfield mid
morning.

4. Four destroyers shelled beach for two hours prior landing also
artillery.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160516.)

Part 2.* 3. M.T.Bs. destroyed one enemy barge off Southern
Los Negros Island and captured another intact night 13/14th.

9. Same night three barges contacted Garove Island by other
patrol craft but escaped.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160652Z.)

* Presumably Digest No. 786 part one of which has not yet been
received.

British My mission will finish its work at Pearl Harbour in
Pacific a few days time when I would propose to proceed to
Force. meet Admiral Halsey.

2. I have however now seen Admiral Nimitz who in-
forms me that he understands that arrangements are

/being...

War Diary.

16.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

British
Pacific
Force.
(Contd.)

being made to maintain all British Naval Forces in the Indian Ocean and that none will proceed therefrom to the Pacific this year.

3. I was informed at the Admiralty that logistic arrangements could not be provided ashore for both the Indian and Australian areas.

4. I should therefore be glad to receive further instructions before leaving Pearl Harbour.

5. Admiral Nimitz has seen this signal.

(British Admiralty Pacific Mission 160545Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. AUBRETIA attacked U-Boat contact at 1530Z/15 in 12° 36' N. 17° 47' W.

2. A/C Z/120 sighted U-Boat course 318° at 2330Z/15 in 55° 10' N. 26° 42' W.

3. LULWORTH attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0033Z/16 in 05° 17' S. 41° 59' E.

Para. C. 1. A/C R/225 sighted suspicious wake. Nothing further seen 0811Z/15 in 44° 52' N. 10° 26' W.

Para. D. 1. A/C sighted U-Boat at 1150Z/15 in 52° 30' N. 04° 30' E.

2. Transit A/C reported U-Boat at 1350Z/14 in 39° 10' N. 28° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 161147A.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 161515A, 161520A.)

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| HOME COMMANDS
(Classification
by subjects) | - Policy
- Defence of United Kingdom
- Movements
- Operations
- Allied Air Activity
- Enemy Air Activity
- Mining
- Enemy Intelligence
- U-Boats
- Navigational
- Technical
- Casualties and Defects
- Shipping and Convoys |
| FOREIGN STATIONS
(Classification
by stations) | - North Atlantic
- South Atlantic
- 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.

279

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ

1. In anticipation of a possible sailing of TIRPITZ from Alten Fiord to the southward, the five S/Ms. on patrol off the Norwegian Coast at 0800 this morning are being re-inforced to-day by three more, and at 0017A to-day F.O.S. requested S.O. S/M. Lerwick to sail a further seven S/Ms. with despatch to waiting patrol positions off the Coast with instructions to take every precaution against detection and to attack no other ship than TIRPITZ.

E/boats
off
Falmouth.

2. A force of E/boats operating in three groups approached the convoy route off the Lizard between 0130 and 0240 this morning when they were engaged by the Falmouth shore batteries and retired at high speed south-eastward. Our coastal forces failed to intercept them; and minelaying off Fowey and Dodman Point is considered possible.

M.T.B.
patrol
shelled.

3. From 2132 to 2220 to-day, while operating five to eight miles North of Cap Gris Nez, M.T.Bs. 433 and 418 were accurately shelled by enemy Coastal Batteries. A series of 4-gun 6-inch salvoes was fired and M.T.B.418 was hit by splinters but no damage or casualty was caused.

South Atlantic.

U/boat
sunk.
U. 801

4. U.S.S. CORRY and BRONSTEIN assisted by aircraft from BLOCK ISLAND (C.T.G.21.16) sank a U/boat at 1421Z today in 16.42 N. 30.28 W. (285 miles west of St. Antonio, Cape Verde Is.) after numerous night and day attacks. 47 survivors were picked up.

Mediterranean

U/boat
attack on
S.N.F.17
2 ships
torpedoed.

5. SS. DEMPO and MAIDEN CREEK in Convoy S.N.F.17 were torpedoed by a U/boat off Bougie in 37.08 N. 05.27 E. this morning. The former subsequently

/ sank...

280

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

U/boat
attack on
S.N.F.17:
2 ships
torpedoed
(Contd.).

sank and the latter, severely damaged, was towed to Bougie and beached. A U/boat hunt is in progress.

Operation
"Shingle"

6(a) During an air raid at 0355 to-day L.C.I.(L) 273 was hit and sunk and L.C.Ts. 277 and 551 were damaged. During the remainder of the day there was only slight air activity, and shelling of the port and anchorage was on a reduced scale.
(b) 6500 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. U.S.S. MADISON and EBERLE three times attacked a suspected U/boat in approx. 41.10 N. 12.20 E. (25 miles south-west of Anzio) early this morning. About 1500 D14 joined the search, which continues.

7. Coastal forces operating from Bastia attacked a convoy of 5 F-lighters off Genoa this morning. The results of their torpedo fire were not seen.

East Indies.

Raider
reported
on Fremantle-
Colombo
route.

8.(a) M.V.ROOKLEY on arrival at Fremantle reported intercepting at 0419Z on 9th March a signal from M.V. BEHAR (Melbourne for Bombay) saying that she was being shelled by a warship raider in 20.32 S. 87.10 E. Nothing further has been heard.
(b) A force of 2 or more unidentified ships passed through the Lombok Strait south-bound at 1900Z/6 (see 7th March), but in order to have reached BEHAR's position by 0419Z/9 it would have had to proceed at a speed of 30 knots.
(c) On 2nd and 3rd March SS SUTLEJ now 5 days overdue at Fremantle should have been near the position given in BEHAR's signal. The fact that this ship is overdue and the report by BEHAR lead C. in C.E.F. to conclude that a Japanese raider may be operating in the area. (But c.f. 21st March para.6c).

U/boat off
Maldiv
Island.

9. SS ITTERSUM (Colombo for Durban) reported being shelled by probably a submarine at 2025Z and 2040 G.M.T. today in 06.12 N. 71.03 E. (Maldiv Islands area). At 2245 she reported no damage sustained and that she was proceeding and believed she was being followed. An escort was sent to her until p.m./18.

/ 10. It...

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

10. It is reported that the U.S. tanker H.D. COLLIER was torpedoed by a U/boat on 13th March in 21.30 N. 66.11 E. (about 200 miles South of Karachi).

11. FROBISHER sailed from Aden for the U.K. today.

Australia and New Zealand.

Admiralty
Islands.

12. Supported by destroyer and artillery bombardment U.S. forces on Manus Island to-day reached the east bank of the Lorengau River.

282

17.3.1944.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Flag of Vice Admiral Palliser will be struck at sunset, 17th March. His staff and office will remain in KENT.
(C. in C. H.F., 171315A to H.F.)

Operations.

Operation "Foremost". (S/O S/M Lerwick, 170008A to S/MS.)
(S/M Patrols). Operation "Foremost". S/MS. are to sail as follows. Proceed with despatch.

G. STURDY by route 1 to T.17.

H. TRUANT by route 2, position 2A and 2B only to T.18A.

J. UNBROKEN by route 2, position 2A and 2B only to T.18B.

K. UNA by route 2 to T.21.

L. ZEEHOND by route 2 to T.22.

M. SAFARI by route 2 to T.23.

N. FERRAPIN by route 2 to T.24.

2. Submarines proceed diving by day at C.O's discretion when approaching coast but vital submarines are not sighted.

3. Object German battleship TIRPITZ. No other ships to be attacked.

(F.O.(S), 170017A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

My 162151A. It is not intended to lay down definite waiting positions other than those now ordered for S/MS. off Stadlandet. Other S/MS. are to use their discretion to keep away from coast sufficiently to ensure not being detected.

(F.O.(S), 171132A to S/MS.)

At 1520A parted company with ZEEHOND, SAFARI and UNA. I am proceeding to comply with your 161915A.

(CAMROSE, 171526A to C. in C. W.A.)

A/S operations off Western Ireland.

D/F bearings at 0551Z indicate U-Boat has reported convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 170744A to O.N.S.31.)

D/F bearings at 0830Z and 0840Z indicate U-Boat has probably reported convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 171025A to O.N.S.31.)

If not in contact with enemy proceed forthwith to operate in area bound by 047° 30' N. and 050° N. and 026° W. and 030° W.

2. Second E.G. will probably support O.N.S.31 as far as 030° W.

(C. in C. W.A., 171133A to VINDEX, E.G.6.)

My 170744 and 171025R. D/F bearings of transmission at 1031Z indicate convoy is being shadowed.

(D.D.I.C., 171225A to O.N.S.31.)

Spitzbergen. Your 151232A. Following for C. in C. Royal Norwegian Force. Begins. There is so far no emergency for anyone being relieved. If opportunity is given following sixteen might be relieved. Your 291854A, comforts are wanted. Ends.

("Locomotive", 170800Z to Admty.)

/Coastal ...

283

17.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 171055A, 171509.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 171305A.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171325A, 171518A, 171845A.)
(V.A. Dover, 171550A.)

E-Boats off Falmouth engaged by coastal batteries. At 0130/17 a group of probably 2 E-Boats was plotted in 095 Lizard 8. Subsequently 2 more groups were plotted intermittently S.E. of Dodman Point. Falmouth shore batteries opened fire on the southernmost group, who then moved eastwards. At 0240 all groups proceeded to the S.E. ward at high speed. Force 27 (HAIDA, ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN) proceeded on an easterly course to endeavour to intercept if the enemy doubled back to Brest, and Force 113 (M.T.Bs. 96, 98, 91) endeavoured to intercept the southern group but both forces were too far west to make contact. The P.W. convoy had already passed the Lizard at 0100 and was at no time in danger. Minelaying is possible off Dodman Point and Fowey and Q.Z.S. channels are being swept.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171331A to Admty.)

TIRPITZ. TIRPITZ undergoing repairs in Altenfiord may sail any time in near future. When I have indication she has sailed or is about to sail I intend to put following plan into operation with object of her destruction.

2. General intention. To maintain a force of one battleship, one fleet carrier, 2 escort carriers, 3 cruisers and 6 destroyers off Norwegian coast with following intention:
(A) To ensure TIRPITZ does not come south outside Leads.
(B) To attack with carrier borne Air Forces if favourable opportunity presents itself.

3. For this purpose following forces are established: Force 5 under V.A.(2) H.F. consisting of ANSON, FURIOUS, 2 escort carriers as detailed by F.O.E.C., BERWICK, BERMUDA, JAMAICA and 6 destroyers as detailed by V.A.(D) H.F.
Force 6 under C. in C. H.F. consisting of DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, 2 escort carriers as detailed by F.O.E.C., KENT, BELFAST, ROYALIST and 6 destroyers as detailed by V.A.(D) H.F.

4. On receipt of preparative codeword for this operation:
(A) Force 5 will prepare to sail at short notice from Scapa.
(B) Force 6 will continue any special training necessary for this operation.

5. On receipt of executive codeword for operation:
(A) Force 5 will sail from Scapa as ordered by C. in C. H.F.
(B) Force 6 will assemble at Scapa and prepare to sail 2 days after Force 5 has sailed.

6. The preparative and executive codewords for this operation are given in my immediately following signal.
(C. in C. H.F., 171411A to A.I.G.47, R.A.N.A.S. Orkneys, C.C. Groups 16, 18 and 13.)
My 171411. Preparative codeword "Packard". Executive codeword "Cosmic".
(C. in C. H.F., 171531A to H.F.)

/Biscay ...

284

17.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Biscay A/S operations. Estimate 2 inward and 10 outward bound boats in Bay of Biscay area.
(F.O.(S), 171639A to S/Ms.)

S.C. operation (HESSA). My 160729A. Returned at 1700A today.
2. Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S., 171746A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/18th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) VOX, SATYR off Stadtlandet.
(B) TAKU, SYRTIS off Kya.
(C) ZWAARDFISCH 68° N. 09° E., probably on surface through 68° 30' N. 10° 02' E. to patrol vicinity 68° 27' N. 14° 20' E.
(D) VIVID 60° 05' N. 03° 50' E. to patrol off Skudesnes.
(E) TRUSTY 59° 35' N. 04° 10' E. to patrol off Skudesnes.
(F) UNA, SAFARI, ZEEHOND unescorted, vicinity Fair Isle, E.T.A. Lerwick 1200/18th.
(G) ULA 62° N. 04° E. to patrol off Stadtlandet.
(H) TRADEWIND (P.329) 44° 44' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day to southward. Crosses 43° N. at 0430/19th.
(J) VAMPIRE 45° 45' N., 12° 26' W. dived by day to southward, S.O.A. 115 miles in 24 hours.
(K) SIRDAR 48° 15' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day to southward, S.O.A. 120 miles in 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 171809 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 170910Z.
Aircraft heard south of island 0842.
(A.C.I.C., 171230A to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation "Hostile XX". My 131806. Intend carry out operation "Hostile XX" tonight.
(2) Force "Hostile XX" is to sail from Plymouth to pass Gate at 1800A/17th.
(3) Support Force TALYBONT (S.O.), BRISSENDEN is to pass Gate at 2015A/17th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 171024A to DEFIANCE, M.T.B.F./52, M.L.F./10, Capt. (D) 15.)

Smiths Knoll clearance. 1 G.R. mine cut by PELORUS in approx. 052° 57' N. 002° 11' E. Mine subsequently sunk.
(M/S.7., 171629A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation N.L.119. My 171550. Operation N.L.119 abandoned owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover, 172130 to Admty.)

285

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

German U-Boats. (a) On February 27th one U-Boat type unspecified reported leaving Elbe river with Japanese crew two Japanese officers but German officer in command. Graded B.2.
(b) Reported from Giderhaven that Japanese personnel are receiving instruction in new anti-detection devices with a view to their operating in Far Eastern waters. Graded C.3.
(c) All 750 tons U-Boats now reported complete with new anti-detection apparatus. Graded C.3.
(d) Very small U-Boats type not discerned reported early March building at old yards Gdynia. Graded C.2.
(e) Information requested in your 161939A is being sought. (N.A. Stockholm, 171551 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Comment:
Para. (A) Japanese U-Boat men have been reported previously at Hamburg (C.2.)
Para. (B) and (C). The nature of the new anti-detection gear is not yet clear and enquiries are being pressed.
Para. (D). Building of small U-Boats has been previously reported at Gdynia (C.O.) Small U-Boats are believed to have exercised in the area recently (B.2.)
Para. (E). This signal contains questions to elucidate the purpose of the anti-detection gear.

Casualties and Defects.

GEORGE W. CHILDS. On completion of towing SEBASTIAN, Loch Ewe to Clyde, it is requested you will arrange for Rescue Tug THAMES to tow GEORGE W. CHILDS from Clyde to Tyne. (Capt. Rescue Tugs, 170407A to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

CHASER. Departure CHASER in tow of tugs EMPIRE MASCOT and BUCCANEER escorted by CELIA. (A.C.O.S., 171015A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

M.L. 125. Explosion occurred in engine room of M.L.125 on 15th causing extensive damage to installations beyond repair by local resources. (V.A. Dover, 171157A to Admty.)

BULLEN. Capt. D. Liverpool's 162145. This ship did not come up river at Londonderry and was not at any time berthed alongside daylight 15th. Ship exercised at sea, anchored Moville night 15th/16th, and left Moville 1100/16th. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 171229A to D.N.I.)

CUMBERLAND (Sabotage). Your 141747A. Sabotage was discovered at Scapa 14th Feb. and thorough investigation held at request of C. in C.H.F. Inquiries of Palmers Yard, Hebburn, incidental to main inquiry. Circumstances now being investigated. (D.N.I., 171621A to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

286

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Group 10, Sailing of Group 10 now deferred. Will cross
Group 11. Dvina Bar a.m. tide 22nd maximum number of ships
 8 including EMPIRE CELIA. Provisional date
 for Group 11 cross Bar a.m. tide 30th. Air
 cover for Group 10 arranged. Presume you will
arrange for Russian Naval Escort from ice-edge now 045° from
Golordetski. Normally ice-edge should be reached p.m./24th.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 171445A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Convoys
J.W.58 &
R.A. 58.
(BITER).

Your 160855A. Arrangements have been made to
provide BITER with stores and 811 Squadron with
Squadron Mobile Equipment peculiar to Wildcat V
aircraft.
2. Wildcat V Flight ex CHASER should embark with
Squadron Mobile Equipment.
(D. of Stores, 172231A to F.O.C.T.)

287

War Diary.

17.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RICHELIEU:
orders for
escorts.

Your 162313* estimated 0800/17th position 50° N.
18° W. course 180°, speed 18 knots.
(D.O.D.H. 170206A to F.O.G.M.A.)

* Requesting P.C. and S. of RICHELIEU.

Alter course forthwith and adjust speed to R/V
with F.S. RICHELIEU in position B. 042° (930') N.

018° 00' W. at 0900A/18.

2. F.S. RICHELIEU codeword "Sleeve" is escorted by ONSLAUGHT S.O.
MARNE and O.R.P. PIORUN and is proceeding at S.O.A. 18 knots.

3. Instruction for ONSLAUGHT, MARNE and PIORUN after R/V will be
signalled.

(F.O.G.M.A. 170740A to ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, BRILLIANT, (R)
RICHELIEU, C. in C. Plymouth, MARNE, C. in C. Med. ONSLAUGHT, S.B.N.O
Azores, PIORUN, C. in C.W.A. Admty.)

My 170740. Para. 3. When R/V has been made part company
and proceed to R/V M.K.S.42/S.L.151 in position A. 045° 06' N.
018° 30' W. at 181900A and escort DUNNOTTAR CASTLE at best speed
to Clyde (route and arrangements.)

6. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE is carrying 2749 personnel.

(F.O.G.M.A. 171226A, 172344A to ONSLAUGHT, PIORUN, MARNE.)

T.G.62.9
10 L.C.I. (L)

Arrived Horta 1103Z/17th.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 171328Z.)

HART,
WISHART.

Authorities will not allow HART and WISHART to
remain in port more than 24 hours. They have accord-
ingly sailed and will carry out local A/S patrol
R/Ving off Funchal at 0900 G.M.T/18 in accordance
with your 161507.

(N.C.S.O. Funchal 171425 to F.O.G.M.A.)

TRADEWIND,
VAMPIRE,
SIRDAR.

Proceed diving by day to patrol within a radius
of 10 miles of following positions P.329 (TRADEWIND)
all positions N. and W. 040° 30' 012° arriving
at 0630/20th.

P.72 (VAMPIRE) 041° 30' 012° arriving at 2100/20th.

P.226 (SIRDAR) 042° 30' 012° arriving at 2230/21st.

2. Arrangements for bombing restrictions.

3. Orders for R/V with EVADNE will be signalled later.

(F.O.G.M.A. 171828A to TRADEWIND, VAMPIRE, SIRDAR.)

(R) as 171858A to Admty. and S. & A. at home and Med. Station.

Orders for R/V with EVADNE at 1400/23 for escort to Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A. 172202A.)

SOKOL, DZIK,
TORBAY.

Intend sailing at 0630/19th for U.K. escorted by
EVADNE (arrangements.)
(F.O.G.M.A. 171928A, 172010A.)

/U.575...

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U.575 Prisoners state 500 ton U-Boat commissioned Blohm and Voss summer 1941. C.O. Oberleut. Wolfgang Boehmer. Left St. Nazaire 29th Feb. on last patrol. No sinkings last 2 patrols. Armament two double twenty MM. Also 37 MM. installed before last patrol. Carried Radar Wanx TWB Naxos and Borkum. Meteorologist carried on last patrol. Will arrange send 23 survivors from Casablanca to U.S. on 20th March if concur. C.T.G.21.11 to Cominch 132340 refers. (C.M.S.F. 172011Z.)

Spanish ships My 121451. M.E.W's selections for interception for inter- if possible are:-
cepting. A. M.V. MONTE ALBERTIA due Teneriffe shortly.
B. SS. MONTE SOLLUBE due Las Palmas end of March probably for Med. port.
C. Las Palmas will select another ship entering Med. first week in April.
D. C.C.S.O. to select one outward bound from Med. (D.E.W.D. 172011A to F.O.G.M.A.)

U/B report. 17 March BB. transit C4Y CC Port Lyautey. S/M seen to submerge in 35° 16' N. 6° 19' W. at 1530 area searched by Lyautey Madcat for three hours nil result. Estimated very probably U-Boat. (A.C.H.Q.Gibraltar 172058A.)

T.G.21.12. Cease support of U.G.S.35 and operate against subs. reported west of Madeira and approaching that area from the north until necessary arrive Casablanca about 28th March. (C. in C.Lant 172236 to C.T.G. 21.12, Info. C.T.Gs 21.11, 21.16, 21.14, and authorities concerned.)

South Atlantic.

Operation Your 141145C*. This is most satisfactory.
"Wicket- (D.A.U.D. 171224A to C. in C.S.A.)
keeper". *re Operation "Wicketkeeper" completed.

Training es- Re closing down.
tablishment. (C. in C.S.A. 171629A.)

War Diary.

17.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- P.552. Details of damage. Vessel is unseaworthy as submarine until thoroughly refitted, but can function as a surface vessel. C. in C.E.F. 160514 refers. (C.S. Durban 171642Z.) Damage to P.522. Repairs to make this S/M suitable for A/S training are not justified.
- GARIBALDI,
ABRUZZI,
AOSTA. Request you sail Italian cruisers as follows to Gibraltar for fuel and onward routeing into Med. Admty. 161312 refers. GARIBALDI as soon as convenient. ABRUZZI after change of propeller. AOSTA on completion of defects your 081151.
2. Owing to heavy commitments at Med. dockyards it is most undesirable that these cruisers should arrive on the station with defects.
3. Request you report estimated dates of arrival of ships at Gibraltar so that their onward routeing and future employment may be decided.
(C. in C.Med. 171744A to F.O.C.W.Af.)
- SS. THEMISTO. Request any news THEMISTO unreported Capetown since 11th. Refer my B.A.M.S. 261909Z.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 171816Z to Admty.)
- M.L.256,1019. M.L.256 report has only sufficient petrol to (corrupt group) Inlet of Kotonu but cannot return to Takoradi without refuelling. M.L.1019 can now only keep gale watch as Asdics have broken down.
(M.L.228 171817Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
- ASTURIAS. D. of S.T's 232305A Feb. (N.T. in W.R.) Confirmed date of completion of ASTURIAS 15th April. Can destination and towing arrangements now be signalled
(F.O.C.W.Af. 171938A to Admty.)
- Saldanha Bay. Re - use to be made of oil fuel installations.
(Admty. 172203A.)

290

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 56. Total discharged March 16th was 5998 tons. Ten L.S.T. four L.C.T. from Naples responsible for 2485 and 485 tons respectively.
2. Shelling reported more intensive and accurate but caused no important damage.
3. During air raid at 170355 L.C.I.(L) 273 hit and sunk and L.C.Ts. 277 and 551 damaged. Details of casualties not yet recd. (F.O.W.It. 171132A.)
- DIDO. C. in C.Med's 181109 and F.O.W.It's 181529. Request information progress of repairs and estimated date of readiness for service of DIDO. (D.O.D.F. 171143A to C. in C.Med.)
- SPORTSMAN, SICKLE. A.M. 160020. SPORTSMAN and SICKLE are to remain in the Mediterranean. (D.O.D.F. 171144A.)
- QUERCY. N.O.B.Cran is requested to sail French A.M.C. QUERCY to join M.K.S.43 for destination in U.K. as arranged by Admiralty.
2. QUERCY carries personnel, stores and wine for French ships based in U.K.
3. To return to Med. with stores for Med. (C. in C.Med. 171202 and 181000.)
- Montevideo Dock. Ref. A.M. 151344 March. BUGLOSS and MEADOWSWEET (?detailed) to escort. My 161010 March, and C. in C.E.F. 200505 Feb. and 091332 Feb. last two not to all addressees. (C. in C.Levant 171225B.)
Requesting intentions for onward passage of BUGLOSS and MEADOWSWEET.
- M.L. & H.D. M.L.Flottillas. The re-allocation of M.L. and H.D.M.L.Flottillas is being planned to meet future requirements. This is being done on the assumption that all boats building in the Levant are allocated to Med. Station at any rate for the year 1944 and also none will be given to Turkey. Request early confirmation. (C. in C.Med. 171240 to Admty.)
- JOHAN MAURITS. Owing to short time available to effect satisfactory repairs, request your assistance if required pending return to Alex. (Capt. F.Levant 171505 to F.O.G.M.A.)

/PIPINOS...

291

17.3.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

PIPINOS. Orders to R/V with escort and proceed to Malta. (Capt. S.1 171514A.) Your (?) 171514. Normal speed now available. Estimated position 1900B/18th 034° 42' 020° 15'. (PIPINOS 172330B to Capt. S.1.)

SCARAB, SCARAB has 2 6 inch mark XII guns for 4 C.R. shell APHIS, completes repair degaussing in mid April ship is COCKCHAFFER. worked up.
2. APHIS has 2 6 inch mark XII guns for super-charge and 6 C.R.shells completes refit and 14 days working up about 24th April.
3. COCKCHAFFER after refit at Haifa is due to arrive Alexandria beginning of April for fitting of 2 6 inch mark XII guns for 4 C.R.shells requires 14 days work up and will be available about 20th April.
4. All will have 7 or 8 single Oerlikon. C. in C.Med. 092020* and 091714* neither to all. (F.O.L.E.M. 171743B.)
* N.T. in W.R.

Italian C. in C.Med. 171744A see South Atlantic. cruisers.

Cositintrep Cositintrep No. 245 not issued. No. 246. 3. SS. DEMPO and SS. MAIDEN CREEK were torpedoed by U-Boat off Bougie a.m. 17th March. SS. DEMPO subsequently sank tugs proceeding to assist MAIDEN CREEK. U-Boat hunt in progress. (C. in C.Med. 171914A.)

S.N.F.M.

Situation (All information already given in other signals.) report No. 316. (C. in C.Med. 171924.)

ULTOR Your 161805 to UNSWERVING. Depth charged by A/S patrol report. vessels off Potamo 11th. Missed one F-Lighter and sank another in Monemvasia 13th. Weather report. (ULTOR 172115A to Capt. S.1.)

War Diary.

17.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No. 34. Area A believed clear of U-Boats scale air escort W areas B and C and E although no positive evidence of U-Boat in these areas the possibility exists scale air escort X area D no fresh information. Hunt for U-Boats off Mombasa continuing scale air escort Z area F EL MADINA in convoy H.C.44 sunk in 020° 54' N. 089° 36' E. at 1000Z/16th. Scale air escort Y area G although no fresh information since Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F S.E. of Ceylon on 8th March U-Boat may still be in area scale air escort remains Y.
(C. in C.E.F. 170337Z.)
(?Ref.) Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No. (?34) H.D. COLLIER reported torpedoed 13th March in 021° 30' N. 066° 11' E. Increase scale of air escort in areas A and B to Y.
(C. in C.E.F. 171007Z.)

Raider report. SS. (should be M.V.) ROOKLEY on arrival Fremantle reported intercepting following signal at 0419Z/9 begins:
RR RR BEHAR 020° 32' S. 087° 10' E. shelled by raider. Ends. Nothing further was heard. Comment:
It is possible that BEHAR was shelled by part of force consisting of 2 or more unidentified large ships with escorts which was reported by U.S. S/M on patrol as passing southbound through Lombok Strait at 1900 G.M.T/6. If correct this would have meant that this force proceeded at a speed of 30 knots.
2. Signal has been made to BEHAR to report.
3. On 2nd and 3rd March SS. SUTLEJ now 5 days overdue at Fremantle should have been in vicinity of position given BEHAR's signal.
4. Report in para. 1 and the fact that SUTLEJ being overdue suggests the alternative possibility of a Japanese raider operating in this area.
(C. in C.E.F. 170809Z.)

EL MADINA (sunk 16th March.) Ref. my 161300* . Further report reveals.
1. No U-Boat contact established. S.O. Escort and Chief Officer of Ship (survivors) consider nature of damage indicated internal explosion, but it is possible sinking was caused by mine.
2. 796 survivors of whom 46 are injured out of total complement of 1200 have so far been picked up. It is feared casualties are heavy as stern of ship from No. 4 Hatch was blown off.
3. Details of loading are being ascertained.
(C. in C.E.F. 170924Z.)
* SS. MADINA reported torpedoed and sunk.

SS. H.D. COLLIER. Reports being torpedoed by S/M at 1820Z/13 in 021° 30' N. 066° 11' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 171013Z.)

293

17.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

BRITISH CHIVALRY. Your 151243* and S.O.I.E.I's. 140204Z BRITISH CHIVALRY has not arrived Abadan due 3rd March. No news. (S.O.I.Basra 171401Z to Admty.) * 161243 intended.

OCEAN SALVOR, crew trouble. Admiralty's 140500. Owing to virtual immobilisation of vessel by conduct of section of crew, and the urgent need for OCEAN SALVOR's assistance in salvage work on TOORAK and ERLING BROVIG, 25 members of crew were paid off on 13th February 1944 and native crew were signed on in their place. Legal action is being taken against officers. (Com. Aden 171439Z.)

TARIFA, (sunk 7th March.) Forwarded in accordance with E.F. 716H/71/27. B. 12° 48' N. 58° 44' E. 0720Z/7. C. S/M which surfaced after attack resembled 750 ton U-Boat or Japanese R.O.33. Very rusty condition. D. Torpedo. Ship sunk. E. Two torpedoes struck first in number 3 hold port side second on port quarter. F. 146 survivors three killed. G. No. H. No. SSSS made W/T gear damaged by explosion. I. No effort made by submarine to contact boats. J. and K. All books sank with ship in steel safe in deep water. N. Master. (S.O.I. Aden 171457Z.)

FROBISHER (for U.K.) Departure. (Com. Aden 171519Z.)

U/B report. Aircraft report being over S/M in 019° 45' N. 089° 12' E. at 1500Z/17. (C. in C.E.F. 171712Z.)

Amphibious operation. Following is N.Y.F.C.A's 171430Z begins- from 5 SS. Brigade pass to Admty. from C.C.O. Skeleton Brigade Headquarters 5 and 44 AO. D. OS. carried out amphibious operation in Arakan area 11th to 18th March. (?Now) engaged in harassing task on enemy's line of convoy. (?Detailed report) following. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Chittagong 171803Z to Admty.)

SS. ITTERSUM. SSSS 6 R 12 N. 71 R 03 E. shelled. (BMSX (ITTERSUM) 172030Z, C. in C.E.F. 172121Z to S. & A. incl. Air H.Q. E.Af.) Shelled by vessel probably S/M 2025 and 2040 G.M.T. no damage sustained position 22 (corrupt group) G.M.T. 005° 48' N. 071° 40' E. Am proceeding believe being followed. (ITTERSUM 172245.)

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

TOURVILLE,
DUGUESNE
and SUFFREN. Your 111937 and 141941. Concur with C.C.S.
proposed action. C. in C. Med's saving clause
to be inserted in proposed message.
(1st S.L., 170006A to B.A.D.)

U-Boat
Report. SSSS Position 29 R 10 N. 75 R 25 W. DE WSL.
(KWJH(BOUND BROOK), No.T.O.O./17, recd. 0345)

SEAWOLF. Add this to my 161528Z/ and correct as necessary.
Arrangements for escort of SEAWOLF to new
destination Shelburne.
(Cominch, 170535Z) (162351 appears to refer)
/ N.T. in W.D.

ILE DE
FRANCE. Diversion.
(D.O.D. (H), 171209A)

PASTEUR Diversion.
(D.O.D. (H), 171216A)

L.23. For L.23 total bombing restrictions on run escorted
from Bay of Fundy assembly area 171800Z to St.
Johns N.B. E.T.A. 172517Z.
SEAWOLF passed 038 degs. 55' 063 degs. 45' at
171200Z due 041 degs 30' 066 degs. 00' at 180745Z and 042 degs.
50' 066 degs. 00' at 181630Z and then 043 degs. 22' 065 degs.
13' at 182130Z en route Shelburne N.S. R.C.N. Corvette believed
in company.
(Cominch, 171320Z to Admty.)

H.X.280. Average speed 7.5 knots. Off Oversay at
1730Z/8.
All arrived.
(D.T.D. 171432A)

U-Boat
dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 171440Z, Cominch, 171615Z)

S.C.154. Average speed 7.8 knots. Off Oversay at 0330Z/14.
All arrived.
(D.T.D. 171519A)

INDOMITABLE,
Escorts. Your 111715 approved to use HOLMES, RIOU and
HOTHAM as escorts for INDOMITABLE.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 171858A to B.A.D.)

Bunkering /...

295

17.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Bunkering at Halifax. Understand that there is no Canadian objection to H.M. Ships and U.S. Naval Vessels being bunkered from Admiralty fuelstocks at Halifax. My 241247 December refers. Request confirmation that you agree and that arrangements will be made accordingly. (D. of S. 171922A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

U-Boat incidents. All times Z. Para. A. Patrol plane sighted sub. 11.00 N. 78.29 W. 170720. Sub. attacked plane 11.01 N. 78.21 W. 170844 originally reported at 10.01 N. 78.21 W. Plane attacked sub. which returned fire 11.00 N. 78.28 W. 170915. BLOCK ISLAND aircraft attacked surfaced sub. 16.45 N. 30.00 W. 161820 and attacked periscope same area 170503. Para. B. Radar contact by aircraft area 11.05 N. 78.30 W. 170530. Para. C. Radar contact by aircraft 09.58 N. 78.21 W. 161905. (Cominch, 172115Z)

SPEAKER, EMPRESS. SPEAKER will ferry U.S. aircraft and EMPRESS British in C.U.19 to U.K. (Cominch, 172219Z)

T.G.21.12. Cease support of U.G.S.35 and operate against subs reported West of Madeira and approaching that area from the North until necessary arrive Casablanca about 28th March. (Cinclant, 172236 to C.T.G.21.12)

Italian Naval Vessels. IZ 2690 JSM 1579. Admiralty will act as the executive agency to carry out the decisions of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. (J.S.M. Washington, 172309Z)

U-Boat sunk. (U.801) This re-encipherment of C.T.G.21.16 172019 begins My 171014. Nailed him after numerous night and day co-ordinated attacks with aircraft coaching surface escorts on U-Boat forced to surface at 1419Z within 7 miles of T.G. and two miles CORRY and BRONSTEIN and sunk by intensive gunfire of both ships at 1425Z 16.42 N. 30.28 W. 47 survivors aboard ?BLOCK ISLAND 7 wounded two seriously Captain not saved. No additional data to identify as refueller. No results so far to-day's search am continuing hunting this area ends. (Radio Washington, 172335Z)

War Diary.

17.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest March 16. Paras. 12 to 17 cover South Pacific
No.787. Forces.
(11) Enemy S/M indicated 35 miles east
Salamaua night 15th.
(13) M.T.B's co-operating with one destroyer and
single Catalina attacked three enemy barges central Empress
Augusta Bay night 15/16th, two barges destroyed, third also
hit.
(17) R/C aircraft unsuccessfully attacked surfaced Japanese S/M.
southbound 275 miles West of Kapingamarangi midway (?midday)
16th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 170800Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M.attack Para. A. (1) Br. EL MADINA torpedoed and sunk at
and sighting 1009Z/16th in 20 degs. 54' N. 89 degs. 36' E.
summary. (2) A/C attacked U-Boat with depth charges, course
200 degs at 1330Z/16 in 31 degs. 40' N. 33 degs.
25' E.
Para.C (1) CHARLES LAWRENCE attacked possible
U-Boat contact at 1618Z/16 in 47 degs. 17' N. 32 degs. 17' W.
Para. D. (1) A/C J/103 attacked U-Boat contact at 0757Z/16th in
47 degs. 39' N. 10 degs. 04' W.
(D.D.I.C.171105A)

U-Boat Estimates.
Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 171405A, 171441A)

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1. In readiness to intercept TIRPITZ if she should move south from Alten Fiord, four S/Ms. left Lerwick to-day for waiting patrol-positions off the Norwegian coast to reinforce the eight S/Ms. already in position off that coast at 0800 this morning.

Convoy
C.U. 17.
SEAKAY
sunk.

2. At 1020Z to-day the U.S. tanker SEAKAY, 10,342 tons, in the 14½-knot convoy C.U.17 was torpedoed by a U-Boat believed to have been operating singly about 420 miles West of Cape Clear. SEAKAY capsized and was sunk by gunfire and torpedo from the Convoy Escort, all her crew of 85 being rescued except one drowned. Two attacks were made on the U-Boat at 181232 and 181242Z respectively by SIMS and D.F.J. GRIFFIN a periscope being sighted after the first and explosions heard after the second. At 1325K the Convoy proceeded with three Escorts, leaving four U.S. destroyers to hunt the U-Boat; and at 1136A C. in C. W.A. ordered the Escort Carrier VINDEX with E.G.6 to proceed towards the position.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

3(a) 5747 tons were discharged at Anzio today: the total would have been higher but for continuous alerts. Shelling was only intermittent.
(b) ORION carried out successful bombardments in the Anzio area today.

West coast
of Italy.

4. 36 B.25s attacked shipping and docks at Leghorn today; the dock area and shipyard and the seaplane base were hit and fires started. 9 U.S. Marauders dropped 35 x 1000 G.P. bombs on Piombino dock area and buildings.

Adriatic.

5. Spitfires today attacked a gunboat in the mouth of the River Drin, Albania and left it aground and burning fiercely.

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

SS. NANCY
MOLLER.

6. See 22nd March.

Australia and New Zealand.

New Guines.

7(a) A patrol Liberator attacked a small
convoy north-east of Hollandia before dawn
today and sank a small ship and damaged or sank
a medium freighter.

(b) A reconnaissance Liberator attacked and
hit an enemy destroyer 70 miles north-west of
Wewak in the early hours.

Surabaya
bombed.

8. 12 Liberators bombed Surabaya Naval Base
last night, starting very large fires and
explosions.

War Diary.

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

O.9, O.10, O.15. After consulting with the Dutch C. in C. who concurs intend following policy for Dutch S/Ms O9, O.10, and O.15 in view of their age and generally poor material condition.
(1) No periodical refit to be undertaken. S/Ms to continue running as long as they can be maintained economically by ship's and depot ship's staffs. Transfer O.15 from operations with 9th S/M Flotilla to A/S training with 7th S/M flotilla.
(F.O.S.181306A to Admty.)

TRUANT. TRUANT will proceed Eastern Fleet on completion of present operations and outstanding working-up practices.
(F.O.S.181346A to Capts. S.3, S.6)

Portsmouth. In order to carry out refits and A/S training it is necessary to begin these at once leaving only three H.D.M.L's running and available for patrol and escort work. The provision of an M.L. Flotilla as requested in my O91357A is therefore a matter of increased urgency.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181631 to Admty.)

E.G.1. The following further considerations are forwarded in continuation of my 150004A.
(D) I consider GARLIES and GORE should return to Belfast for maintenance within a period of about 400 hours running. Reasons.
(E) I would still prefer the whole group to return to Belfast to avoid splitting them up and without them I may be left with only one support group for Atlantic Operations from 2nd to 9th April if C.W. and C.X. Operations are continued over the period of no moon.
(F) If reliefs for GARLIES and GORE are still required BENTLEY (Turbo) and MOUNSEY (Diesel) can be made available to sail from Belfast about 20th March. These two ships were earmarked for reliefs in Operation C.W.
(C. in C. W.A. 181905A to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Lerwick
Coastal
Forces.

Your 131725. I agree subject to concurrence of F.O.(S).
(A.C.O.S.181751A to N.O.I.C.Lerwick)

War Diary.18.3.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

A/S Operations off Western Ireland. SEAKAY in Convoy C.U.17 sunk by U-Boat. By D/F at 2249Z/17 U-Boat estimated within 45 miles of 50 degs. 30' N. 19 degs. 40' W. (D.D.I.C.180035A to O.N.S.31, C.U.17, E.G.2) Estimate C.U.17 will cross 10 degs. 30' W. 1900Z/19th. (Escorts C.U.17, 180752Z to C. in C. W.A.) Convoy under attack in 51.10 N. 020.20' W. (U.S. Warship, 181020Z to C. in C. W.A.) SEAKAY torpedoed after urgent attack by D.T. GRIFFIN brought submarine to surface at 1000Z, lat. 51.10 Long. 20.20. GRIFFIN and SIMS remaining in area. REEVES picking up survivors. (C.T.G.21.6, 181040Z to Admty, C. in C. W.A.) Your 181020Z. This is considered to be a single U-Boat. 3 escorts may be left to hunt. (C. in C. W.A.181102Z to C.U.17) If not in contact with enemy proceed forthwith to operate in area 60 miles north of area given in Para.1 of my 171133A. (C. in C. W.A. 181136A to VINDEX, E.G.6) REEVES picked up one Army Officer and 28 members Armed Guard all present 57 members Merchant crew including Officers. Purser states he is uncertain of number aboard but believes all present. Total survivors 86. SEAKAY turned turtle and sunk by gunfire and torpedoed D.T. GRIFFIN. S.O., REEVES, and SIMS remaining at scene of action for 24 hours after last contact with sufficient fuel to remain three days or more. C.U.17 proceeding with three escorts. Weather 4865 1874. (C.T.G.21.6, 181325K to C. in C. U.S. Fleet) Report whether you are still in contact U-Boat. Your 181040Z refers. (C. in C. W.A.181822A to D.T. GRIFFIN) German station is attempting to call and jam by A/C on 43.40 K/cs. Intend to continue broadcasting Bogus reports on frequency and shift to 6550 K/cs. (VINDEX, 182356A to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation "Foremost". (S/M patrols to intercept TIRPITZ). Capt. (S) 7 160149. ZEEHOND arrived Lerwick 0543A/18th. (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 180636A to F.O.S.) My 171809 add new para. (M) UNBROKEN sailed Lerwick 2350/17th through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 15 and 61 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 50' E. to patrol off Utvaer. (F.O.S.180708A to Admty.) At 0805A/18th sailed F.O.S.170017 para (L) (ZEEHOND) (S.O.S/M Lerwick, 180812A to S/M's) Capt.(S) 7th 160149A. SAFARI and UNA arrived Lerwick. (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 180855A to F.O.S.)

My /...

War Diary.18.3.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Foremost". (S/M patrols to intercept TIRPITZ). (Contd.) My 171809 add (N) TERRAPIN 135 Muckle Flugga 20 through 60 degs. 42' N. 00 degs. 05' E. 61 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 50' E. 60 degs. 40' N. 02 degs. 50' E. to south east. (O) TRUANT 135 Muckle Flugga 20 through 60 degs. 42' N. 00 degs. 05' E. 61 degs. 01' N. 00 degs. 50' E. to patrol off Utvaer. (P) STURDY 135 Muckle Flugga 20 through 60 degs. 42' N. 00 degs. 05' E. 61 degs. 02' N. 00 degs. 49' E. to patrol off Stadtlandet. (F.O.S.180907 to Admty.) Excessive ?leaking of both engine muffler and group make long intervals of diving impracticable. Am returning Lerwick. E.T.A.1600A. (TRUANT, 181030A to F.O.S.) Para.(H) of my 170017. For TRUANT substitute UNBROKEN. TRUANT 181030 refers. (F.O.S.181146A to S.O.S/M. Lerwick) TRUANT estimated in position 2 B at 1030, returning Lerwick with defects. (2) UNBROKEN sailing to relieve her. My 181146 refers. (F.O.S.181153A to S/M's) F.O.(S) 170017, para. (K). Sailed at 1150A/18th.(UNA) (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 181155A to S/M's) My 171809 as amended by my 180907 para (O) TRUANT estimated vicinity 61 degs. 00' N. 00 degs. 50' E. at 1030/18, returning to Lerwick, 10 knots. (F.O.S.181209 to Admty.) It is almost certain if TIRPITZ moves south she will pass through Gimsostromen. Adjust your patrol accordingly. (F.O.S.181211A to ZWAARDVISCH) Sailed at 1355A/18th Para.(M) of F.O.(S) 170017 (SAFARI) (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 181455A to S/M's) Arrival TRUANT. (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 181630A to Admty.) Para. H. of F.O.S.170017 as amended by his 181146 sailed 1520A/18. (UNBROKEN). (S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 181640 to S/M's) Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/19th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) ZWAARDFISCH on patrol vicinity 68 degs. 27' N. 14 degs. 20' E. (B) TAKU, SYRTIS off Kya. (C) ULA of Bredsund. (D) VOX, SATYR, STURDY off Stadlandet. (E) TRUSTY, VIVID off Skudeness. (F) UNBROKEN off Sognefiord. (G) TERRAPIN 58 degs. 32' N. 5 degs. 01' E. probably diving by day to patrol off Lister Light. (H) ZEEHOND 59 degs. 03' N. 4 degs. 25' E. probably dived by day to patrol off Josing Fiord. (J) SAFARI 60 degs. 20' N. 3 degs. 15' E. probably dived by day to patrol off Lister Fiord. (K) UNA 60 degs. 09' N. 3 degs. 25' E. probably dived by day to patrol off Egersund. (L) UNBENDING 61 degs. 04' N. 3 degs. 15' E. to patrol off Utvaer. (F.O.S.181804 to Admty.)

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

S.C. My 150705A. Returned at 0710A today (VIGRA).
Operations. (2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S.180810 to Admty.)
Intend to sail S.C. Operations from Scalloway
(1) p.m. March 31st. (2) 61 degs. 42' N. 04 degs.
48' E. (3) RAMOSE EDIFICE. (4) 2 days. (5) 062 degs. out
Skerries. (6) No.
(A.C.O.S.181140 to Admty.)

Operation K.2. Operation "Knitting Two" completed with satisfactory results.
(N.O.I.C.Newhaven, 180925A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Tanker T.38. My 181008. In anticipation of the possible movement of the Tanker T.38 northward from Boulogne the following patrols were assumed at 2300 yesterday.
Attempted interception off Boulogne. Group Z. M.T.Bs 361, (S.O), 353 and 354 at East Varne Buoy to attack off Ambleteuse.
Group A. M.T.Bs 231 (S.O), 211, 202 at number 7 Buoy to attack off Wissant under cover of fire from our coastal batteries.
(2) At 0250 Shore Based Radar detected one large vessel and 10 escorts leaving Boulogne northward and Group Z was ordered to proceed to attack.
(3) The enemy proceeded northward at 12 knots but when four miles South of Cape Griz Nez turned back slowly towards Boulogne which was entered at 0525.
M.T.Bs 353 and 354 lost contacts with M.T.B.361 in very low visibility and returned to East Varne Buoy. M.T.B.361 obtained radar contact believed to be the main target at a range of 3500 yards and closed to attack in Boulogne Harbour entrance but was unable to sight any vessel in thick fog. The target echo became confused with shore echoes when M.T.B.361 was five cables from Boulogne Breakwater Light and she withdrew when it became apparent that the enemy had entered Boulogne.
(4) Groups A and Z were recalled when it was seen that the enemy was entering Boulogne as were M.T.Bs. 699, 705, 698, 359 and 362 which had been sailed to attack off Gravelines.
(V.A. Dover, 181204A to Admty)

Operation "Plane 42". Carry out operation "Plane 42" tonight.
(V.A. Dover 181214A to L.C.P.(L) 156)

M.T.Bs. shelled on 17th March. Between 2132 and 2220/17th M.T.Bs. 433 and 418 whilst operating in vicinity five to eight miles north of Gris Nez, were subjected to fire by enemy coastal batteries. A series of 4 gun salvos were fired, estimated calibre 6-inch. Shooting was good and track of M.T.Bs. followed accurately. M.T.B.418 was hit by shrapnel splinters. No casualties or damage were sustained.
(V.A. Dover, 181219A to Admty).

/Coastal.....

War Diary.

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 181358, 181439)
(V.A. Dover, 181532A, 181835A)
Overseer position 48.54 N. 03.19 W. Best times during daylight or dark from 3 hours before to 3 hours after high water.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181507A to H.Q.C.C.)

Operation "Overlord". Dartmouth. The removal of BERTA or a similar oiler from Dartmouth during "Overlord" is not acceptable.
(2) Dartmouth must be available as a port which can be used by ships burning fuel oil such as minesweepers escort destroyers and possibly cruisers.
(3) Sufficient local storage ashore or afloat at Dartmouth does not exist and the problem is therefore one of rapid replenishment from Plymouth which can only be accomplished by a mobile oiler.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 182031 to Admty.)

Operation F.Y. Following is operation FY. Object - safe passage of convoy J.W.58 and R.A.58.
(2) D day is day J.W.58 sails from Loch Ewe and will be 27th March unless otherwise ordered.
(3) Routes are defined in my 190220. Enemy information is being sent S.O's of forces.
(4) Forces taking part (A) Local escort J.W.58, RATTLESNAKE (S.O) ORESTES, ONYX, LOYALTY of 18th M/S Flotilla and RHODODENDRON. Local escort for R.A.58 will be signalled later.
(B) Through escort WESTCOTT (S.O), INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL, WRESTLER, STARWORT, HONEYSUCKLE, BLUEBELL, LOTUS.
(C) Fleet destroyer escort SAUMAREZ, (D.23 (S.O)) SCORPION, STORD, SERAPIS, ONSLOW (Capt. D.17) OFFA, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, OPPORTUNE, ORIBI, IMPULSIVE, VENUS.
(D) A/A cruiser escort DIADEM wears flag of C.S.10 who will conduct operation
(E) Carrier escort BITER (S.O), TRACKER.
(F) Support group KEPPEL (S.O), BEAGLE, WALKER, BOADICEA.
(G) Iceland group escort FITZROY (S.O), and M/S COMBATANT, CHAMOIS CHANCE.
(H) Covering force will be provided as necessary from Home Fleet.
(J) 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 movements as follows. Escorts proceeding Loch Ewe should arrive in daylight if possible. Reference para. (4) above.
(A) Local escort J.W. convoy to arrive Loch Ewe D minus 1.
Local escort R.A. convoy to arrive Skaalefiord at least 24 hours before convoy is due to pass Faeroes.
(B) To arrive Loch Ewe by D minus 1.
(C) S.O's attend conference Loch Ewe on D day then to Skaalefiord independently. Remainder of fleet destroyers except 4 are to arrive Skaalefiord a.m. D plus 1 and fuel.

(D) /...

304

War Diary.

18.3.1944.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation F.Y. (Contd.)
- (D) C.S.10 in DIADEM to attend convoy conference at Loch Ewe on D day, then to return to Scapa.
- (E) Carrier escorts arrive Loch Ewe D minus 1 and sail for Scapa after convoy conference.
- (F) Support group to arrive Skaalefiord a.m. D plus 1, fuel and receive instructions from Capt. (D) 23 on his arrival.
- (6) Conduct of operation. (A) J.W.58 is to sail p.m. D day escorted by through and local escort. Route Red unless otherwise ordered. All ships are capable 10 knots.
- (B) Fleet destroyer escort and support group are to join J.W.58 about latitude 063 degs. N. am. D plus 2, when local escort is to leave. One of local escorts is proceeding into Skaalefiord, and report through N.O.I.C.Faeroes addressed A.I.G.47 last known P.C.S. of convoy.
- (C) C.S.10 in DIADEM, BITER, TRACKER escorted by 4 fleet destroyers are to proceed to join J.W. 58 about latitude 063 degs. N. The 4 escorting destroyers are then to proceed to Skaalefiord, fuel, and rejoin convoy.
- (D) Support group is acting in support of convoy throughout its passage as required by C.S.10.
- (7) A.C.I.C. is requested to sail Iceland group of 5 Merchant Ships (Ex convoy H.X.283) with escort shown in para (4). (G) to R/V with J.W.58 at 1200A. D plus 3. Unless otherwise ordered R/V is to be in position Z 067 degs. 10' N. 002 degs. 25' W. Iceland group escort is then to proceed to U.K.
- (8) 18 Group C.C. is requested to provide A/S air escort as far Northwards as possible for both outward and homeward convoys.
- (9) S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to sail R.A.58 as soon as practicable after arrival J.W.58. Route Blue unless otherwise
- (10) If necessary to alter route by signal new positions are to be ordered with reference to lettered position on routes Red and Blue.
- (11) Attention is called N.R. C.i. article 142 (D) (E) (F).
- (12) Movements on completion.
- (A) Local escort. On leaving J.W. 58 ships of 18th M/S is accordance with my 092211. Remainder return to base.
- (B) Through escorts return to base. Fleet destroyer escort return to Scapa.
- (C) DIADEM and escort carriers return to Scapa.
- (C. in C. H.F. 182353A to H.F.). See also C. in C. H.F. 221411.

Mining.

- Operation F.D. 48. (RUBIS).
- S.5's 161540A. Sailed Needles 0735.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth, 180758A to C. in C.Plymouth)
- Intend to sail RUBIS at 0730A/19 to comply with your 161540A para. 2.
2. Routed by standard route.
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 181629A to Capt. (S) 5.)
- Your 161540A. Arrived. (RUBIS).
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 181941A to Capt. (S) 5.)

/Minelaying ...

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Minelaying operation. My 171829. Sail 0800A tomorrow BLYTH carry out para. (A) and PETERHEAD para. (B). Return to harbour on completion. (C. in C. Plymouth, 181249 to BLYTH, PETERHEAD.)

Smiths Knoll clearance. 2 mines cut and sunk in approx. (1) 052 degs. 57' N. 002 degs. 11' E. (2) 052 degs. 55'30" N. 002 degs. 13'30" E. (M/S.7., 181512A to C. in C. Nore.) Clearance of Q.Z.X.1237 completed. 2 mines cut and sunk. My 181512A refers. (M/S.7., 181748A to C. in C. Nore.)

Yarmouth. 'O' sweepers report mine foul of sweep now cleared and sunk in 338 degs. 57 Buoy 4 miles at 1607. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 181721A to C. in C. Nore.)

Humber. One mine detonated by sweeper at 181130 in 160 degs. H.3 Buoy 2miles. (F.O. Humber, 181740A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation N.L.119. My 181532. Operation N.L.119 abandoned owing to weather. (V.A. Dover, 181839A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

FELIX,
HENRY,
TANAFJORD,
BRYNILEN
sunk. Norway shipping casualties. Following vessels are reported damaged or sunk. (A) February 11th FELIX, 2047 tons torpedoed beached near Flatanger. (B) February 13th HENRY, 626 tons. Ref. my R.S. 697 vessel now reported sunk. (C) February 14th TANAFJORD, 336 tons and BRYNILEN 316 tons sunk by air attack in Hammerfest. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 181248 to Admty.)

Navigational.

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 180716A to Admty.)

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth eastern entrance closed due to fog. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 180858A to Admty.) Port of Portsmouth eastern entrance opened. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 180933A to Admty.)

306

18.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- GRAPH. Towing GRAPH. Tow parted 0310Z. Located at 0700Z. Endeavouring to take submarine in tow again. Position 56 degs. 09' N. 07 degs. 23' W. Request orders and assistance.
(EMPIRE JOHN, 181000A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Request you will sail ALLEGIANCE with all despatch to assist Tug EMPIRE JOHN towing S/M GRAPH. Tow parted at 0410A and relocated at 0800A today in 56 degs. 09' N. 07 degs. 23' W. GRAPH is battened down and has no crew.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 181203A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
Your 181000A. Tug ALLEGIANCE being sailed now from Campbeltown to your assistance. Report situation forthwith, keeping me informed regarding your P.C.S.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 181209A to EMPIRE JOHN.)
Weather too bad connect S/M. S/M derelict and dangerous to navigation.
(EMPIRE JOHN, 181210Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Sailed ALLEGIANCE in accordance with your 181203A.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 181220A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
S.O. is to detach 1 ship to proceed to 056 degs. 09' N. 007 degs. 23' W. to stand by ex German submarine GRAPH broken adrift from tug EMPIRE JOHN. Tug ALLEGIANCE is being sailed from Campbeltown to assist. GRAPH is battened down with no crew on board.
(C. in C. W.A., 181505A to E.G.22.)
My 182310A. Weather conditions make use of Carley Float impossible. GRAPH may have good chance of drifting clear of Dubh Artoch? Lighthouse.
(BULLEN, 182355 to C. in C. W.A.)
- HYDRA. HYDRA can be taken at Dundee for docking, change of propellers and boiler cleaning forthwith.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 181005A to Admty.)
- TRUANT. Engine defects.
(TRUANT, 181030A to F.O.S.)
See Operations.
- SAVAGE. Intend to sail SAVAGE to arrive Hull a.m./21st March for refit at Humber Graving Dock.
Admiralty's 071110 refers.
(V.A.D., 181509A to F.O.I.C. Humber.)
- M.T.B. 625. M.T.B. 625 refloated, towed to Lerwick and dry dock.
(C.S.V.O. Lyness, 181720A to A.C.O.S.)
- CHASER. Your 161154A. Arrived.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 181720A to A.C.O.S.)
- KEPPEL. Arrived Clyde KEPPEL.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 182114A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

/CUTTY SARK ...

307

War Diary.

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

CUTTY SARK. Your 171010A amended by your 180740.
CUTTY SARK entered Loch Eriboll at 2045 for
shelter and owing to boiler defects.
(A.C.O.S., 182322A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Shipping and Convoys.

C.W. 255, Owing to lack of shipping C.W.255 and C.E. 253
C.E. 253. postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 181035A to Admty.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Sailed OXFORDSHIRE 1210A/18th. E.T.A. Gibraltar
0230A/23rd.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 181233A to Admty.)

Troopship Following is Summary 30 of major troopship move-
movements. ments in and out of Clyde and Liverpool during
period to 15th April. Details.
(D.S.T., 182131A.)

308

18.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

LINDA,
THYRA
(Danish) Sailed 18th 0900.
(R.O. Las Palmas, 181050 to F.O.G.M.A.)

RICHELIEU. RICHELIEU and escort are to alter course forthwith for (W) 036° 17' N. 009° 27' W. thence direct to Q.B.A.87 and proceed at best speed.
(2) Report E.T.A. Europa Point forthwith.
(3) RICHELIEU will anchor in Gibraltar Bay while escort refuel. It is imperative that RICHELIEU is not observed during passage of Straits and while at Gibraltar. Passage of Straits and fuelling of escort must therefore take place during dark hours. (F.O.G.M.A., 181209A to RICHELIEU, (R) S.B.N.O. Azores, Admty., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Med., ANTHONY, ANTELOPE, BRILLIANT.)
Your 181209A. E.T.A. Europa Pt. 2300A/19.
(RICHELIEU, 181520A to F.O.G.M.A.)

S/M sunk Commorseafron 181535Z. See Lion Copy.
in Straits (Abbreviated report see A.C.H.Q. Gib. 181945A
16th March. postea.)

E.G. 1. Para. 2 of my 151148. Should boiler cleaning be commenced.
(F.O.G.M.A., 181731A to Admty.)

Gib. G.R. Ref. Opsum. 16/3-ZE further details of attack
Opsum. P.8/63 at 0855 positions 35.55 N. 05.45 W.
Sup. 17th obtained definite M.A.D. contact of U-Boat.
March. Commenced tracking procedure with smoke floats supplemented by P.1/63 U-Boat on easterly course. P.8 at 0905 commenced bombing run but contact lost. French sloop escorting French S/M on surface passed over position 30 seconds previously apparently causing U-Boat to take evasive action. P.7/63 arrived to assist search. P.8 regained M.A.D. contact at 0935 one mile east original position. After laying 15 smoke floats P.8 attacked with 24 Retro bombs. No results seen. Tracking continued at 0945 P.1 attacked with 23 Retro bombs. Crew member of P.7 believed he saw surface evidence of bomb explosions. 3 aircraft continued tracking and directed Bdr. to attack. At 1028 DR. attacked. No results. Aircraft continued tracking but lost contact at 1030 and commenced spiral search. At 1205 position 35.54 N. 05.14 W. Br. corvette obtained contact and attacked with hedgehog. 3 explosions followed by breaking up noises and smell of oil. .
2. Fresh locker boards with flesh adhering picked up. 5 hours later large quantities of oil. U-Boat believed sunk. All times A.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 181945A.)

SECRET

308^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.)

*U-boat sunk in Straits
16 March by MAD
Catalina & AFFLECK.*

181535Z/Med
Date. 19.3.44.

From Comorseafron

Recd. 0303

C. C. M. Cypher. A.

Addressed. Cominch
Info. Cominch, Asdevlant Comnavnaw
C. in C. Med. A.C.M.Q. Gibraltar Admiralty

Begins: At 160855 all times A PBV Five BU number 08154. Lieutenant Spears Pilot obtained definite Med contact submerged submarine 35-55 North 05-45 West while on assigned Straits Barrier patrol. Contacted team plane Catalina BU number 08176 Lieut Lingle Pilot by voice and 2 planes commenced Clover Leaf tracking. Subs track established with float lights but French Sloop escorting French submarine passed over track 30 seconds prior bombing run at 0905 apparently causing U-Boat take evasive action since contact lost on bombing run no. Retros dropped. Spiral search started contact regained 0935 1 mile East original spot. Track again determined and 0940 24 bombs fired no evidence hits. Second attack 23 bombs by plane at 0945 and probably surface evidence of explosion seen. Tracking continued and British DD coached by planes to accurate attacking position dropped charges at 1028. Planes continued tracking losing contact at 1030 due evasive action taken by Sub after destroyer attack. DD reported contact lost at 1045. Three Mad Catalinas in Area conducted Spiral search conjunction 10 surface vessels 1205 Corvette K.462 reported contact 3555 North 0531 West and attacked at 1210 and 1212 at this spot. Pilots of plane sighted object resembling sub hull beneath surface 100 yards Port Beam of Corvette object disappearing few seconds later. Vessel sent boat pick up samples of wreckage and was visible on surface plane at spot object seen. Plabis shifted qempch to Dasttard setting up barrier point Europa to Almena prevent possible escape into Med. total four MAD planes now engaged barrier emerations using Sonar buoys as added aid. Report now on hand from H.M.S. AFFLECK states Hedgehog bombing attack at 1212 resulted in three distinct explosions five seconds later followed by other noises thought caused by breaking up of U-boat followed by large quantities oil and air bubbles to surface. Later searching area boat recovered debris including locker tops with human flesh attached. AFFLECK stated his attack made on contact obtained by MAD Catalinas. All evidence indicated U-boat destroyed by cumulative damage air and surface attacks. Co-ordination between air and surface force was excellent.

/Cominch.....

Cominch 142030 should chart and photos all purely MAD data go Admiralty in addition ASW-6 form or are originals of MAD data still desired by Cominch.

181535Z

✓ as received

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

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
3rd S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.F.S. (H)
A.C.H.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
D.C.N.A.N.
Fin. Sec.
Parl. Sec.
Nav. Sec.
U.W.R.
D. Map Room.
Capt. Pin.
D.C.D. (F) (2)
D.C.D. (H) (4)
Duty Capt.
Plot.
D.D.I.C. (3)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (3)
D.T.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.A/U.D.
HD. of M. (2)
D.S.O.
D.P.D.
Hydrog. (2)
W.D.
I.P. (3)
Admiral Osborne.
Admiral Blake.
-/mm D.A.W.T.
C.C.L.E. (3)
U.S.N. (3)

309

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Indicator
loops at
S.A. ports.

On completion of the laying of Saldanha Bay indicator loops in about one months time loop laying operations at South African ports will be complete.

4. Request disposal of CECILE MAPLESON.
(C. in C. S.A., 181132C to Admty.)

ASTURIAS.

Your 200301* February. No tugs are available to tow ASTURIAS from Freetown for repairs for the time being.

3. In the meantime her present complement should be reduced to the minimum required and on arrival of merchant Navy C. and M. party she should be paid off for return to M. of W.T.

(Admty., 181508A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

* Re information requested whether it is still intended to take ASTURIAS in hand in the U.S. etc.

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TOURVILLE,
DUQUESNE,
SUFFREN.

1. C.C.S. approve operating TOURVILLE, DUQUESNE and SUFFREN as long as possible without repair except from local resources.
2. Ships are to be laid up when no longer operational and crews used elsewhere.
3. Use foregoing to influence French Govt. re hold of their share of the task. Press them to repair at Dakar as soon as possible, one cruiser selected by you. No workmen should be moved by the French from Casablanca or ports in the Med. for employment on this repair work at Dakar without your concurrence.
(Agwar, 180253Z to Allied C. in C. Med.)

SS. MAIDEN
CREEK
(S.N.F.17)

MAIDEN CREEK in tow arrived damaged.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 180800A.)
Torpedoed by Italian U/B (W.D. Note: C. in C. Med. 182120 states that the U/B was German) 0850 G.M.T./17 in 037° 08' N. 005° 27' E. now afloat severely damaged Bougie harbour.
(HAMILCAR, 181220.)
Beached at Bougie.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 181809A.)

ULTOR.

ULTOR reports being depth charged by A/S vessels off Potamo 11th March and sinking one F lighter and missing another in Monamvasia 13th March.
(Capt. (S) 1, 180955.)

A/S
operations
25 miles
S.W. of
Anzio.

If no contact obtained by 1800 BLENCATHRA and JONES having joined by that time intend to detach TUMULT and TUSCAN to others carrying out A/S sweep through (A) 040° 50' N. 011° 30' E. (B) 040° 40' N. 012° 00' E. (C) 040° 45' N. 012° 40' E. thence to Q.B.214, 238. LAFOREY, BLENCATHRA and JONES will carry out cross over patrol in area 039° 45' to 040° 30' and 010° 40' to 011° 40' E. in hope that S/M is D/F'd in this area tonight. Forecast position 0600 040° 33' N. 011° 34' E. Weather report 6488 1823.

(Capt. (D) 14, 181026A.) (See F.O.W.It. 181218A.)

Have obtained a bearing by H/F D/F bearing is believed to be enemy S/M transmitting a naval enigma signal second class (German) 004° distance uncertain reciprocal bearing 168° sense not determined. My position 39° 52' N. 11° 11' E. (estimated)
(LAFOREY, 182340A.)

MONOWAI,
Personnel
shipping
situation.

- Para. 2 of A.M. 171655.
2. MONOWAI will arrive Gibraltar about 22nd.
 3. No onward escort can be provided until return of E.G.1 to U.K. on relief by ships referred to A.M. 291834 February.
 4. The escort situation in the Med. is such that the provision of special escorts can only be

/provided ...

311

18.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.MONOWAI,
Personnel
shipping
situation.
(Contd.)provided at expense of convoys already at sea.
5. The withdrawing of MONOWAI and loss of DEMPO
will seriously affect the personnel shipping
situation in this theatre.
(C. in C. Med., 181054A.)Operation
"Shingle".Sitrep No.57.
L.S.T., L.C.Ts. and L.C.Is. from Naples respons-
ible for 2270, 658 and 193 tons respectively out
of total of 6500 tons unloaded during 17th March.
2. Only three alerts and 30 shells during the day.
3. Suspected U-Boat attacked three times by U.S.S. MADISON and
EBERLE 25 miles south-west of Anzio between 0430/17 and 0938/17
contact then lost. About 1500 D.14 joined search which
continues.
(F.O.W.It., 181218A.)SS. DEMPO
(S.N.F.17)Attacked 0850 G.M.T./17th in 037° 08' N. 005°
27' E. Sunk by U/B torpedo at 1000 G.M.T./17th
in 036° 57' N. 005° 35' E.
(HAMILCAR, 181230A.)Route used
by Swiss
vessels
visiting
Marseilles.No objection to proposal in A.M. 141446.
(C. in C. Med., 181306A.)M.V.
HALLAREN.Swedish mercy ship HALLAREN sails from Piraeus
at 0901/19th for Kaso Strait.
(Capt. (S) 1, 181455A to UNSWERVING.)AKKA
(Swedish
Relief
Ship)Sailed Gibraltar 1535/18th for Piraeus by
standard (Black) route. Description.
Not to be molested this voyage.
(Capt. (S) 10, 181547 to (S) 10th.)U/B
attacked.Several attacks on German contacts in 031° 48' N.
034° 06' E. Contact lost but continuing search
this area until dawn.
(COMMANDANT DOMINE, 181955B.)Situation
report
No. 317.My 171924 para. 3 SS. MAIDEN CREEK now beached
at Bougie. U-Boat (German) hunt continues (W.D.
Note: HAMILCAR 181220 states that the U/B was
Italian).
(3) During night of 17th/18th March 2 convoys
were detected by Radar in the vicinity Viareggio
but both retired before attack could be made.
(C. in C. Med., 182120.)

/Benghazi ...

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Benghazi
minesweeping
report.

Details of 3 mines found on coast.
(S.N.O.C., 182225B.)

Cositintrop
no. 247.

Cin C., med, 182126 [See March 16, page 271]

313

18.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Bi-weekly U/B disposition. No. 35. Ref. Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No. 34 and my 171007Z. Area A. B. C. and E. no fresh information. No change in scale of air escort. Area F aircraft reports being over S/M in 019° 45' N. 089° 12' E. at 1500Z/17. Scale of air escort Y. Area G ITTERSUM reported being shelled by probable S/M in 006° 12' N. 071° 03' E. at 2030Z/17. Scale of air escort Y. Area D no fresh information reduce to Y. (C. in C.E.F. 180338Z.)

SONAVATI. H.M.I.S. SONAVATI left Palk Strait 17th March with surveying party also stores and reliefs for James. Routed through positions A. 00° 02' S. 82° 10' E. B. 12° 50' S. 94° 20' E. E.T.A. James 0130Z/24th March, returning to Colombo by reverse of the above route. (C. in C.E.F. 180411Z.)

Operation "Diplomat". Intend following operation: Object
A. To intercept possible Japanese raiders which may be operating against shipping on Australian/Indian route
B. To deter the enemy from such operation by our Fleet breaking W/T silence in area to westward of Cocos.
2. Execution. A. RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, LONDON, CUMBERLAND, GAMBIA, CEYLON and 10 destroyers to leave Ceylon area 22nd March to arrive in approx. 008° S. 082° E. on 24th March.
B. 3 tankers escorted by D.S.TROMP to leave Trincomalee 19th March to R/V Fleet in above position.
C. Fleet to refuel on 24th and probably 25th March.
D. Fleet to R/V U.S.Aircraft Carrier SARATOGA and 3 U.S. destroyers in approx. 013° S. 084° E. on 27th March.
E. Combined Force then to return to Trincomalee arriving on 31st March.
3. Codeword for this operation is contained in my immediately following signal.
(C. in C.E.F. 180501Z.)
Code name for operation in my 180501 codeword "Diplomat".
(C. in C.E.F. 180506Z.)

Tanga. Intend removing all explosives from R.N.A.S.Tanga earliest opportunity and closing down station to (corrupt group) as fast as possible to avoid malaria season now about to commence. Request very early instruction para. 8 A.M. 251206 Feb. refers. (Com. N.A.S.E.Af. 180733 to Admty.)

Bunkering of coal burning ships. Further to my 050435*. Cochin reports only two ships per month from Med. are bunkered at the port of normal routeing East Coast India. These ships could therefore be accepted at Colombo.
2. Coal bunkering at Colombo only 20 tons per hour; rate at Cochin is no better.

314

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bunkering of
coal burning
ships.
(Contd.)

3. Aden on the other hand is reported to average over 100 tons per hour.
4. It is proposed therefore that the few coal burning ships from U.K. and U.S.A. bound East Coast of India should take sufficient bunkers at Aden to their final destination.
(C. in C.E.F. 181048Z.)
* re Ships that coal bunker at Cochin.

SS. ITTERSUM.

Further to my 172121Z.* SS. ITTERSUM sustained no damage. An escort provided until p.m. today. Report at 2245Z/17 stated attacking vessel was probably a U-Boat which was believed to be following.
(C. in C.E.F. 181005Z.)
* SS. ITTERSUM reports being shelled by a S/M.

EL MADINA
(sunk 16th
March.)

Ref. para. 1 my 170924Z. U-Boat was sighted at periscope depth and fired on 36 minutes after attack on EL MADINA who now believed sunk by torpedo. Foregoing reported by Masters of RISALDAR and JALAGOPAL and endorsed by C.O. ROHILKHAND.
(C. in C.E.F. 181107Z.)

BRAGANZA &
SALSETTE I.

Request organization at Bombay to come into force on 1st April in accordance with my 150636 Feb. may be generally promulgated.
(C. in C.E.F. 181203 to Admty.)

Raider.

Personal from 1st S.L.
Your 170809. In view of possibility of raider activity request you will consider emphasising to all shipping in threatened area the vital necessity for immediate report of suspicious vessels and particularly of any aircraft sighted.
2. I should be glad of your appreciation of raider threat and any counter measures you think necessary.
3. Presume you are arranging for cruiser escort for SARATOGA from Fremantle.
(1st S.L. 181331A to C. in C.E.F.) *Reply: 210908Z, page 367.*

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/boat reports. D/F of WW message at 0005Z on 4190 kc/s indicates U/boat within 60 miles of 49.30 N. 42.30 E. (N.S.H.Q., 180209Z). Aircraft report begins. A.S.V. contact in 042 degs. 23' N. 063 degs. 13' W. at 181545. Probably U/boat (German) Ends. (C. in C.N.A. 181700Z).

TROUNCER, PUNCHER, RANEE. Your 162101Z. The assignment of three additional C.V.Es. as assault carriers is now under consideration. If approved you will be requested to select the three most convenient ships. There appears to be no need to interfere with your existing arrangements for TROUNCER. (A.C.N.S.(A), 181322A to B.A.D.).

Two U.S. A.Ps. for North Africa. A.Ps. GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON and GENERAL WILLIAM MITCHELL scheduled to sail unescorted from Hampton Roads 27th March and 29th March respectively for North Africa. Please advise if escort can be provided within the Med. for either or both of these ships to permit discharge at Oran rather than Casablanca. My 172045 of February refers. (Cominch, 181443Z to C. in C. Med.).

U/boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q., 181457Z).

Alaskan Sea Frontier Merchant ship control area. Ref. Cominch 151548, effective 15th April the North West Sea Frontier Merchant Ship Control Area is discontinued and replaced by the Alaskan Sea Frontier Merchant Ship Control Area with headquarters at Adak. Effective above date Commander Alaskan Sea Frontier will assume the responsibility for exercise of merchant ship control in the below defined area in the Pacific north and west of a line connecting the following points.
(A) North American mainland at 054 degs. 40' N.
(B) 054 degs. 40' N. 014 degs. W. (C) 042 degs. N. 146 degs. W. thence along 42nd parallel. That portion of the former North West Sea Frontier Area not included in the Alaskan Sea Frontier Area is incorporated in the Western Sea Frontier merchant ship control area.
(Com. 10th C. & R., 181541). + N.T. in W.R.

G.U.S.31 66 ships arrived New York today. (P.D. New York, 181926Z).

U/boat incidents. All times Z. Para.A. U.S.S. GRIFFEN attacked sub. 51.10 N. 20.29 W. 181000 SEAKAY torpedoed sunk same area on 18th BLOCK ISLAND Group sank U/boat 16.42 N. 30.28 W. 171425 with 47 survivors.

/ Para.C....

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies

U/boat
incidents
(Contd.).

Para.C. U.S.S. GUADALCANAL Radar contact 34.45 N. 21.00 W. 171835. Radar contacts by aircraft 10.43 N. 77.37 W. 180453 and 10.50 N. 77.45 W. 181030 and 11.08 N. 79.11 W. 181155.
Para.D. P.B.M. Radar contact 32.55 N. 61.10 W. 181215.
(Cominch, 182108Z).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No. 788
March 17th.

Paras. 11 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces.
2. During six hour patrol from early daylight off shore Gasmata area single Allied M.T.B. encountered nil opposition observed nil signs enemy activity. Party landed Gasmata Island finding nil Japanese.
Natives report Japanese completely evacuated Gasmata two days ago.
9. M.T.Bs. killed 5 Japanese captured 4 prisoners during daylight operations Manus Island 16th. Los Negros Island Japanese resistance continues west of Papitalai but enemy hill position captured 17th. Supported by destroyer and artillery bombardment U.S. Forces on Manus reached east bank Lorengau river same date. Total enemy casualties to date 1585 leaving approx. 1900 effective Jap troops whereof 300 on western Los Negros Island.
10. Reference convoy approaching Hollandia early hours 16th refer Digest 787 para.3., 2 Liberators also attacked scoring hits on two ships. One freighter one escort vessel already smoking prior Liberators attack.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 180535).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A,(1) Port Lyautey transit plane O4Y sighted U/boat submerging at 1430Z/17 in 35 degs. 16' N. 06 degs. 19' W.
(2) American tanker H.D. COLLIER reported torpedoed at 1802Z/13 in 21 degs. 30' N. 66 degs. 11' E.
(3) A/C sighted U/boat at 1500Z/17 in 19 degs. 45' N. 89 degs. 12' E.
(4) Dutch SS ITTERSUM reports SSSS shelled at 2030Z/17 in 06 degs. 12' N. 71 degs. 03' E.
(D.D.I.C. 181151A).

/ U/boat...

317

18.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 181435A, 1442A, Cominch 181631Z).

Progress of Points from 29th Meeting A.U. Committee on 15th
A/S campaign. March, 1944.

A. Rate of killing U/boats satisfactory in last two months. Our casualties serious from U/boat campaign in Indian Ocean where outstanding features is boldness of commanders operating in focal areas. Great contrast to North Atlantic where our forces subdue far larger number of U/boats.

B. Measures recently have been taken to increase and improve escort forces in Indian Ocean.

C. Recent enemy tactics indicate:- A. U/boats spread sparsely travel fast overnight to concentrate for attack on convoys.

B. Co-operation between U/boats and enemy R/C aircraft west of Ireland (R) less effective against homeward than against outward convoys.

D. Anti-Gnat Foxer device fitted to escorts effective but manoeuvrability, speed and endurance adversely effected. New type of Foxer, now in production, should improve this.

E. Depth charge still a reliable weapon but great hopes that new Squid in conjunction with depth prediction gear will prove most damaging weapon. Hedgehog proving highly satisfactory in skilled hands.

G. Institution of support groups, permitting "hunts to exhaustion" most successful and remunerative.
(D.A./U.D. 182103A).

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1. At 0800 today ten of our S/Ms were in their respective waiting-positions off the Norwegian Coast in readiness to intercept TIRPITZ, and five more S/Ms are on passage to reinforce them.

Engagement in Dover Straits. Enemy tanker (possibly REKUM) apparently sunk. M.T.B. 212 damaged. Dover and South Foreland Batteries shelled.

2. (a). With the object of intercepting an enemy tanker, believed to be T.38 the German REKUM, 5540 tons, which left Boulogne northbound at 2032 tonight escorted by about 12 E/R Boats, M.T.Bs. 212 and 206 were stationed at the East Varne Buoy to attack to the northward of Boulogne; four other Coastal Force groups were also stationed in support and 4 M.Ls. laid mines 1 to 2½ miles North of Nieuport Jetty. At 2117 M.T.Bs. 212 and 206 sighted the E/R Boats off Boulogne and at 2142 were heavily engaged by them at close range off Cap Gris Nez assisted by accurate shelling from the enemy Coastal Batteries which continued until 2311, caused the M.T.Bs. to withdraw, and inflicted slight damage and two serious casualties in M.T.B. 212. At 2241 also M.T.Bs. 359, 354 and 362, approaching the enemy from No. 3 Buoy, were similarly engaged off Calais by the E/R Boats and Coastal Batteries and withdrew at 2245; and at 2251 near misses on the E/R Boats are claimed by an Albacore A/C and four bomb-hits upon a larger vessel off Gravelines by another Albacore A/C at 2305. (b). Meanwhile at 2157 our Coastal Batteries engaged the tanker with 58 rounds of 15 inch and 95 of 9.2, to which the enemy Coastal Batteries replied from 2205 till 2312 with 60 to 70 rounds which caused considerable damage and six civilian casualties in Dover Town as well as damage to the South Foreland batteries. (c). The tanker apparently stopped about one mile N.W. of Calais at 2320; and V.A. Dover considers that she may have been sunk by shell-fire.

Date of action given in V.A. Dover signal dated 21/2/44 incorrect.

Humber site bombed.

3. At 2220 tonight three H.E. and several phosphorus bombs were dropped by about 40 enemy A/C on Site G.R.1 in the Humber area where 12 baskets had been lit at 2210. Several fires were started on the Site but no damage was caused in the Parent Site.

Mining.

4. Bomber Command laid 332 mines last night in the Heligoland area.

War Diary.

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

2 U/Bs sunk
by T.G.21.16
440 miles W.
S.W. of C.
Verde Is.

5. (a). BLOCK ISLAND's group reports sinking a U-Boat later ~~ascertained to be U.501~~, in 13.03 N. 33.38 W. (about 440 miles W.S.W. of the Cape Verde Is.) at 0829Z today, and picking up 8 survivors.
(b). C.T.G.21.16 believes that his group also sank a second U-Boat in the neighbourhood of the former, at 1450Z today in 13.03 N. 33.42 W.

Mediterranean.

K.M.S.44,
attacked.

6. About 25 enemy aircraft attacked convoy K.M.S. 44 after dark this evening, north of Bougie. No ship was damaged. Our fighters shot down one enemy aircraft.

Raid on
Solta Is.

7. A force from Nos. 2 and 43 R.M.Commandos with U.S. O.S.S. troops of strength equal to one commando landed with naval and air co-operation on Solta Island, south of Split, last night and eliminated the entire German garrison of 106, capturing 98 of them. Our casualties were very light. The Allied force, after re-embarking today landed on Vis.

Operation
"Shingle."

8. (a). P.C.545 on patrol west of Anzio sank an E-Boat which approached the port early this morning. U.S.S. MADISON made contact with an E-Boat at 2345 which withdrew apparently undamaged.
(b). 5358 tons were unloaded at Anzio today. There were no air raids but heavy shelling.

9. P.T.boats operating from Bastia last night encountered a northbound convoy of 2 F-Lighters and 2 E-Boats, and sank one of the former. The remaining lighter engaged its escort. Our craft suffered no damage or casualties.

10. 33 B.24s of the Strategical Air Force dropped 161 tons of bombs on Metkovic docks, marshalling yards and town today. The Tactical Air Force bombed San Stefano Harbour and the Coastal Air Force also bombed the docks at San Stefano, Castiglioncello, and Porto Ferrajo.

/Enemy...

19.3.1944.

Sunday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy convoy
attacked.

11. The French contre-torpilleurs LE FANTASQUE and LE TERRIBLE on patrol off the west coast of Morea sank 3 or probably 4 ships out of an enemy convoy of 5 15 miles south of Katakoli Bay at 0300 today.

Aegean.

12.(a). The Turks are now taking a stiffer attitude over the use of Turkish waters by the British Coastal and Schooner Force and F.O.L.E.M. thinks a diplomatic demarche may be made.
(b). In view of the lack of air defences coastal craft and schooners make use of Turkish waters, as inconspicuously as possible. German pressure is now being increased, but so long as the Turks can be persuaded to turn a blind eye to strict observance of international law it is most desirable that the operations against the enemy's communications in the Aegean should continue.

Black Sea.

13.(a). N.L.O. Black Sea sends details of Russian attacks on shipping in the Black Sea between 10 and 17th March.
(b). The sinkings of shipping of late have more than offset the reinforcements received from the Aegean. Stringency in the Black Sea and Aegean will continue to compel the enemy to move ships from one to the other according to the situation at the moment.

East Indies.

14. SS. BRITISH UNITY reported being attacked by a U-Boat 0909Z today in a position about 340 miles N. E. of the Seychelles. One torpedo struck her but failed to explode, and the ship fired at and outdistanced the submarine, and proceeded on her voyage.

19.3.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

New Guinea.

15. (a). 5 Allied destroyers carried out a sweep of Wewak shipping lanes last night, sinking one small freighter. These destroyers also bombarded shore positions at Wewak (New Guinea) and on Kairiru and Musku Islands, off Wewak, last night silencing shore batteries and starting fires visible 30 miles away. Enemy aircraft attacked the destroyers, but caused no damage.

(b). A convoy of 2 ships with 5 escorts, which had been sighted yesterday evening approaching Wewak from the west, was subjected this forenoon and this afternoon respectively to two full scale air attacks, the two cargo vessels and 3 of the escorts being sunk.

16. Allied destroyers bombarded enemy positions in the western sector of Los Negros Island today, with good results.

322

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PREMIER C. in C.W.A's. 171445 and B.A.D. Washington's 152005 para.3. Subject to the submarine situation at the time permitting PREMIER will proceed independently from the Azores to Norfolk.

2. A.M. 121521, para.3 is modified accordingly.
(D.O.D.H, 192248A to C. in C.W.A.).

Capt.D. As from 21st March Captain (D) 1st Destroyer
Portsmouth. Flotilla is to undertake the duties of Captain (D) Portsmouth and is to be responsible within the Ise of Wight Area for the control and administration of destroyers and escort forces that may use the area. His responsibilities will not extend to escort M.Ls. but will include A/S Trawlers, Fleet Sweepers, and Dan layers.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 192306A to Admty.).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Scapa. Your 121126A. Confirm that blockship INVERLANE is not required for any other purpose. Proposal to use her to fill gap in Burra Sound Hoy approved.
(D.L.D., 191313A to A.C.O.S.).

Lerwick Your 181751. Concur.
Coastal (F.O.S., 191431A to A.C.O.S.).
Forces.

Operations.

A/S Following is re-encypherment of my 182325Z.
operations Begins. SIMS and GRIFFIN made second series
off of attacks in 51.33 N. 20.30 W. at 181232 and
Western 181242Z respectively. Periscope sighted after
Ireland. first attack and underwater explosions
U/boat after second. No further results observed
attacked 181002Z. GRIFFIN attack and sighting. Search-
on 18th ing area. 2000Z position 51.38 N. 20.03 W.
March. (D.T. GRIFFIN, 190107 to C. in C.W.A.).
Your 182356. Report by signal details of
transmissions including any call sign and opera-
ting signal heard and type of traffic.
(C. in C.W.A., 191049A to VINDEX).

VINDEK and E.G.6 WASKESIU, QU'APPELLE, CAPE BRETON,
OUTREMONT, GROU vicinity 049 degs. 45' 027 degs. 59'. My
191236A refers.

(C. in C.W.A., 191322A to Ships).

If QU'APPELLE is unable to fuel from O.N.S.31 detach her
to Londonderry as convenient.

(C. in C.W.A., 191825A to VINDEX).

My 182356 and your 191049.

Interference experienced from unknown R/T station on about
4360 kc/s. Suspicions aroused at 2120 N when own aircraft

/attempted...

323

19.3.1944.
Sunday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations.

A/S
operations
off
Western
Ireland.
U/boat
attacked
on 18th
March
(Contd.).

attempted call sign was heard. Station then appeared to repeat in German, signals made to A/C about 30 seconds after their transmission. Bogus messages then sent to CASHMAN ABLE but station only appeared to respond once. WASK-ESIU ordered to use H/F D/F and reported suspicious R/T transmissions bearing 65 degs. 74 miles from 50 degs. 01' N. 27 degs. 25' W. at 2230 N. A/C. searched without results. After short silence station appeared to try and establish communication with and home another station as word "Vector" was heard each time in 4 or 5 word messages. Jamming commenced on 4340 kc/s at 2150N and continued until past 0100 on 19th. Apart from own A/C. call signs the following words only were distinguished, "Neun-und-Dreissig Aubrecht" at beginning and "Bitte Kommen" at end of messages.

(VINDEX, 191830A to C. in C.W.A.).

Completed search of area 1500Z/19. Negative results. GRIFFIN, REEVES, SIMS proceeding destination at 18 knots, E.T.A. Merville 0030Z/21. 84 of 85 men aboard. SEAKAY rescued, now on board REEVES. One Seaman First Class U.S.N. drowned, body recovered, received burial at sea.

(D.T. GRIFFIN, 191910Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Am sending FRONTENAC in with burnt out receiver of 271. No spares carried in group. Request repairs may be carried out at Merville and that FRONTENAC rejoins as quickly as possible.

(E.G.9, 191919Z to Cdre. D.W.A.).

My 191326A. QU'APPELLE detached at 1900A today to R/V. with convoy O.N.S.31 at (?0900A) tomorrow for fuelling from convoy oiler, rejoining E.G.6 on completion. My P.C.S. at 2100A, 049 degs. 02' M. 026 degs. 47' W., 270 degs. (?11) knots.

(VINDEX, 192105A to OTTAWA).

Operation
"F.Y."

Routes through following positions. All following positions are north and west unless otherwise indicated.

Route "Red":-

A. 059 degs. 00 mins. 005 degs. 30 mins. B. 059 degs. 34 mins. 004 degs. 47 mins. C. 062 degs. 10 mins. 005 degs. 47 mins. D. 070 degs. 20 mins. 000 degs. 00 mins. E. 073 degs. 40 mins. 013 degs. 50 mins east. F. 073 degs. 56 mins. 026 degs. 30 mins. east. G. 071 degs. 52 mins. 035 degs. 40 mins east. thence to position MU.

Route "Blue".

H. 070 degs. 20 mins. 038 degs. 20 mins. east. J. 072 degs. 35 mins. 038 degs. 20 mins. east. F. As above. K. 072 degs. 55 mins. 015 degs. 00 mins. east. L. 070 degs. 00 mins. 003 degs. 45 mins. east. O. As above.

My 182353 refers.

(C. in C.H.F. 190220A to H.F.).

J.W.58.

1.(A) Through escort WESTCOTT (S.O.), INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL, WRESTLER, STARWORT, HONEYSUCKLE, BLUEBELL LOTUS.

(B) Local escort RHODODENDRON.

(C) Support group KEPPEL (S.O.), BEAGLE, WALKER, BOADICEA.

/ (2) Ships...

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Operation "F.Y." (Contd.). (2) Ships in (A) and (B) above are to be sailed to arrive Loch Ewe during daylight 26th and will come under orders of C. in C.H.F. on arrival. (3) Ships in (C) above are to be sailed to arrive Skaalefiord a.m. 28th, fuelling, and coming under orders of Capt.D.23 on his arrival. (C. in C.W.A., 191639A to F.O. Greenock).
- Operation "C.W." Leave Lough Foyle at 0800 tomorrow and proceed to area A. There contact S.O.E.G.22 in (LOUIS). S.O.A. is to be 15 knots. (Cdre. D.W.A., 191013A to BYRON). My 171220 BULLEN is to proceed to Larne on relief by DACRES. (C. in C.W.A., 191128A to E.G.22.). On completion of duty with C.U.17, E.G.7 is to patrol in area B. PELICAN is to proceed to Londonderry to disembark C.O. with fractured ankle. First Lieut. of PELICAN is to assume command temporarily. C.O. CYGNET is to assume duties of S.O. E.G.7. (2) PELICAN is to rejoin E.G.7 after disembarkation of C.O. (C. in C.W.A., 191313A to E.G.7).
- Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 191320A, 191539, 191658A).
- "S.C." operation. My 151102A. HITRA returned at 1300 today. 2. Operation successful. (A.C.O.S. 191626A to Admty.).
- S/M. patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/20th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) ZWAARDFISCH, TAKU, SYRTIS, ULA, VOX, SATYR, STURDY, TRUSTY, VIVID, UNBROKEN, as in my 181804. (B) TERRAPIN off Lister. (C) ZEEHOND off Josing Fjord. (D) SAFARI 58 degs. 12' N. 05 15' E. to patrol off Lister. (E) UNA off Egersund. (F) UNBENDING off Utvaer. (F.O.S., 191734A to Admty.).
- Sweep in Baie de la Seine. In accordance with my 181358 S.G.Bs. GREY FOX, GREY OWL and GREY GOOSE carried out an offensive sweep in the Baie de la Seine last night. Object, destruction of possible eastbound shipping from Cherbourg.
2. Plots of enemy movements were received from Beachy Head and Ventnor shore Radar Stations. Extreme and abnormal conditions of anomalous propagation were experienced. Plots of three separate tracks were passed to the Force, the third of these being the main target, which was continuously plotted from 095 degs. Ile St. Marcouf 7 miles at 0200 till position north of Plateau de Calvados at 0400 when it faded. Four plots of this track were passed to the striking force at 0208, 0219, 0236 and 0304.

War Diary

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Sweep in
Baie de la
Seine
(Contd.).

(3) When the plot faded temporarily an Albacore from Tangmere was sent for reconnaissance only to investigate. Ar 0245 this confirmed the revived plot, but was ordered not to bomb in view of the possible proximity of the striking force.

(4) The striking force was handicapped by continuous false echoes and suspected Radar jamming.

The visibility was poor until 0100 when it improved.

(5) Continuous attempts by the striking force to effect an interception all failed, and they left the area at 0345.

(6) The enemy was probably aware of the presence of our forces as starshell was fired from shore at intervals.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 192043A to Admty.).

Biscay A/S
operations.
Contact
attacked.

Have A.S.V. contact position 46 degs. 31(N.
10.06 W. Bombs dropped.
(A/C, SQX12, 192044A to 19 Group).

Mining.

Operation
"F.D.48"
(RUBIS).

My 181629A. Sailed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 190842A to Capt. S.5.).

Smiths
Knoll
Harbour.

Your 081125 and my 121302.
2 Mines swept in Q.Z.X. 1241 yesterday.
3 exploded, 1 sunk.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 190903A to C. in C. Nore).

Operation
"Hostile 23"

(B) Convoy route east of Roches Douvres 22nd - 28 March.

(C) 8 motor launches, 2 M.T.Bs., M.T.B.678 S.O. Details and positions.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 191512A to DEFIANCE, M.T.B.F. 52, M.L.F.10, Capt. (D) 15th, 10th Group).

Casualties and Defects.

GRAPH

My 182355 (A).

Tug EMPIRE JOHN had left submarine before my arrival. LONGBRANCH also standing by with me.
(BULLEN, 190122A to C. in C.W.A.).

Tug ALLEGIANCE proceeding to take GRAPH in tow. Have detached LONGBRANCH in execution of previous orders. Request instructions.

(BULLEN, 190704A to C. in C.W.A.).

When GRAPH is in tow rejoin group.

(C. in C.W.A., 191002A to BULLEN).

Unable to take GRAPH in tow. Endeavoured to transfer men by Carley float without success. ALLEGIANCE will nor lower boats in spite of my pumping oil. EMPIRE JOHN who returned this morning has broken his steering rod and ALLEGIANCE towing him

War Diary

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

GRAPH back to Campbeltown, expects to come back for
(Contd.). GRAPH at 0200. I am remaining with S/M. in
143 Skerryvore 23½.
(BULLEN, 191215A to C. in C.W.A.).

My 191215A. 2 attempts have been made to transfer 4 men
by Carley to GRAPH but owing to heavy swell and labourings of
S/M. it is impossible to board and take it in tow. Fear S/Ms.
is drifting dangerously close to west coast of Islay. Posi-
tion 170 degs. Dubh Artach 13 miles.

(BULLEN, 191730A to C. in C.W.A.).

BULLEN's 191215, on arrival of ALLEGIANCE request you will
sail her forthwith to assist GRAPH.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 191733A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).

Arrived LONGBRANCH.

(MENTOR 192045A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Detach GROWLER at best speed to assist GRAPH adrift with
no crew on board in 55 degs. 55' N. 06 degs. 33' W. at 1730A/19.
BULLEN is standing by.

(C. in C.W.A., 192125A to B5).

BULLEN. BULLEN 161145, Capt.(D) Liverpool 162145 and
(Sabotage). Cmdre. (D) W.A. 171229. F.O.I.C.N.I. is reques-
ted to convene a Board of Enquiry to investigate
the case of attempted sabotage on 15th or 16th
March and also to report on general state of
discipline of ship, immediately on return of BULLEN to Larne about
21st March. No shore leave is to be granted to ships company
of BULLEN until further orders.
(C. in C.W.A., 191649A to F.O.I.C.N.I.).

HYDRA Request you will sail HYDRA in accordance with
Admiralty's 191815A.
(A.C.O.S., 192351A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Shipping and Convoys.

K.X.15 K.X.15 sailed a.m. 061850A and 121449A refer.
(2) Escorts ARCTURUS, STOCKHOLM, AILSA CRAIG,
GULLAND, GRAIN.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 191731A to F.O.G.M.A.).

327

19.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

K.M.F.29B - One U-Boat making M/F homing signal fixed in
U/B reports. 035° 25' N. 015° 10' W. at 190115Z. Second
U-Boat fixed by single M/F D/F bearing in about
036° 05' N. 015° 00' W. at 190200Z (? fading)
M/F D/F bearing 035° distance uncertain at time
of signal. My P.C.S. 035° 15' N. 014° 25' W., 099°, 15. No
attack yet developed, escorts investigating. Weather report
1213.
(GODAVARI, 190401Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

Corvettes Your 111752. U.S. would be unlikely to release
for corvette type ships but may have other patrol
Portugal. craft available. Admiralty have no objection
to approach being made to U.S., but Portuguese
request may have some bearing on present
negotiations for entry of U.S. Navy Squadron
into Azores.
(V.C.N.S., 190850A to N.A. Lisbon.)

RICHELIEU. Under present conditions shall not be anchored
in Gibraltar before 0400.
If secrecy of intermediate passage through the
Straits is to be preserved, propose that I
proceed independently at best speed in order to arrive Algiers
before dark Monday 20th.
(RICHELIEU, 191009A to F.O.G.M.A.)
Your 181725A shall be three hours late because screen
cannot maintain speed in present sea.
(RICHELIEU, 191450A to F.O.G.M.A.)

TRADEWIND, Following was made as my 191702 to TRADEWIND,
VAMPIRE, VAMPIRE and SIRDAR. Begins. All times in
SIRDAR, my 171928A and 172202A neither to all are
DZIK. deferred 24 hours. Sailing of DZIK cancelled
owing to defects. Ends.
(F.O.G.M.A., 191708A.)

South Atlantic.

GARIBALDI, Your 171744*. GARIBALDI with Admiral Oliva
ABRUZZI. and Aosta will sail for Gibraltar March 25th.
ABRUZZI with Admiral Biancheri about April
10th after docking.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 191307Z to C. in C. Med.)
* Re sailing Italian cruisers for Gib. for onward
routeing into Med.

328

19.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.A/S
operations
S.W. of
Anzio.My 182340*. Request immediate confirmation.
Signal Constant 78 group strength 5.
(LAFOREY, 190014A to Naples.)
* D/F S/M report.KANARIS
damaged.I was rammed on port bow by HAWKINS at 00(04)
19th. The extent of damage is forward of 20
feet abaft the fore peak on port side and down
to 3 feet above the waterline. My best speed
is 12 knots in sea 2. P.C.S. 0800B/19th 033°
02' N. 020° 47' E. 090° 12 E.T.A. position 309 is 0600 21st.
(KANARIS 190915B.)Operation
"Shingle".Sitrep No. 58. 5747 tons discharged yesterday.
Of this total L.S.Ts. provided 1930 tons L.C.Is.
from Naples 103 and L.C.Ts. from Naples 189 tons.
2. Total would have been higher but for
continuous alerts. Shelling was only intermittent
3. P.C. 545 on patrol West of Anzio sank an E/Boat at 190100.
(F.O.W.It., 190950A.)

MAURITIUS.

Your 111252. MAURITIUS may be sailed for U.K.
when she can be spared.
2. If time and circumstances permit leave will
be given before "Overlord" otherwise after
"Overlord".
(1st S.L. 191314A) O.D.1149/44.Abadan A.A.
defences.3. I consider risk is justifiable and concur
in withdrawal A.A. defences including smoke
screen at Abadan.
(P.A.I.C. 191315.)Use of
Turkish
waters
by
coastal
and
Schooner
force.Turks are now taking stiffer attitude over use
of Turkish waters by coastal and schooner forces.
Following information is forwarded in case
diplomatic demarche is referred to Admiralty.
1. Coastal Force Base is ~~wasted~~ ~~(wanted)~~ ^{established}
~~intended~~ ~~(in this)~~ ⁱⁿ ~~area~~ ^{Castellorizo} ~~but in~~ ^{area} view of lack of
air defences in island ~~harbour~~ ^{coastal} craft and schooners
lie up in Turkish waters at either Vathi or
Kakava ringing changes and camouflaging when
possible. In addition to craft ~~staging~~ ^{staging} here
one base schooner is ~~always present~~ ^{always present}
2. Coastal striking forces operating ~~from bases~~ ^{from bases} using
advance bases in Gulf of Kos or Mandelyah. ~~Self~~ ^{Self} camouflaged by
day.
3. Raiding Forces using H.D. Motor Launch^{es} and Levant Schooner
force Caiques carry ~~out~~ ^{out} R/C and offensive operations on enemy
communications from hideouts in Turkish territorial waters.
Camouflage is ~~(corrupt)~~ ^(corrupt) by day and frequently ~~changes~~ ^{changes} are made
in ~~(corrupt)~~ ^(corrupt) hideouts in which craft are well separated.
4. A base Caique is attached to each group and special fuel

/and...

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Use of Turkish waters by Coastal and Schooner Force. (Contd.)

and stores ~~at~~ ^{operations} Caiques are arranged from Izmir (R) by an officer on staff of B.N.A. Ankara.
 5. In the past ~~keepers~~ have enjoyed good will of Turks but German pressure is now being increased. As far as possible only places understood to be approved by Turks are used and every effort is made to move round and keep craft dispersed to elude R/C.

6. Our ~~non~~ ^{own} secret organizations have given considerable help in the past, enjoying as they do considerable facilities from ~~Monte~~ ^{Turks}. ~~(E)~~ They are ~~now~~ also feeling the pinch from stiffening of Turkish attitude and have had to ~~(S)~~ to disassociate themselves completely from Raiding Force activities in order to avoid being compromised.
 7. Nevertheless so long as Turks can be persuaded to turn a blind eye to strict observance of international law it is most desirable operations should continue. Profit and loss accounts to date and scope of intended future operations will be sent by air mail. Earlier operations suffered to some extent from lack of experience and co-operation but this has now been improved. As weather improves camouflage of craft and dispersal will also become easier and more efficient.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 191425B.) *(Text checked by War Diary, F.O.L.E.M., March, 1944. case 8923)*

Russian operations in Black Sea.

From intelligence report March 11th to March 18th, inclusive.

1. Air attack on enemy shipping: March 10th one F. Boat sunk in Kiik Atlama: March 12th 2 barges 800 to 1,000 tons sunk South West Cape Tarkhan: March 13th one E/Boat set on fire in Feodosia: March 14th one F. Lighter damaged off Akmechet: March 16th IN? Dnieper estuary one F/Boat, one R/Boat and 3 Siebel ferries sunk and one ammunition barge, one barge, and 3 Siebel ferries damaged: March 17th 4 E/Boats set on fire in Feodosia.
 3. Shore Battery in Dnieper estuary set on fire one merchant vessel March 9th and March 16th sank 2 barges and damaged 2 tugs and one M.L. March 15th one tug towing barge came and surrendered on south shore of estuary.
 5. Several reports given of enemy submarines located off Caucasus Coast, but none of any attacks on them.
 (N.L.O. Black Sea, 191815B.) *(See amendment 291315C)*
 N.I.D. Comment:- Para. 1 and 2. Show a welcome increase in Russian air activity.

AREZZO,
 SALVATORE.

Ready to sail from Suda Bay.
 (Capt (S) 1, 191855 to UNSWERVING.)

PHOEBE.

PHOEBE reports one boiler damaged by over heating. Preliminary investigation shows considerable retubing necessary. Ship can steam 26 knots with three boilers. Request instructions whether ship should be sailed in this state to Eastern Fleet or repaired in Levant.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 191907B. to C. in C.E.F.)

War Diary.

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UPROAR,
UNIVERSAL.

Intend sailing UPROAR at 1400/21st routed Q.B.B. 312. 042° 01' 008° 18' at 2359/21st, 043° 40' 008° 28' at 2358/22nd to patrol off Cape Noli until 0100/25th thence move to zones SS and St.
2. UNIVERSAL is to restrict her area to zones SU and ST after 2300/21st.
(Capt. (S) 10, 191951A. to UNIVERSAL, C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.G.M.A.

Situation
Report
No. 318.

1. ORION carried out successful bombardments in Anzio area on 18th March. P.C. on patrol West of Anzio sank E/Boat at 190100. 6500 tons discharged 17th March and 5747 tons on 18th March in fair weather, intermittent shelling caused no damage in port area.
2. Arriving (sic) night 18th/19th March P.T. boats operating from Bastia encountered northbound convoy of 2 F. lighters and 2 E/Boats. One F. Lighter was sunk. Enemy escort was engaged by remaining lighter no damage or casualties to our craft.
3. French light cruiser LE FANTASQUE and French Cruiser LE TERRIBLE on patrol off Morean coast report sinking 3 ships of enemy convoy of 5 and probably sinking 4th in position 15 miles south of Katakolo Bay at 0300/19th.
(C. in C. Med., 192200A.)

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat dis- My 181538Z. Japanese U-Boat indicated by single
position. bearing from Colombo at 2358Z/18 to be off West
Coast India possibly between Bombay and Karachi.
2. Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F at 0037Z/19 to
be within 200 miles of 018° N. 091° E.
3. A/C obtained U-Boat S/M sighted (as received) in 005° 03' 3.
044° 10' E? at 0001Z/18.
4. Scale of air escort in all areas unchanged.
(C. in C.E.F. 190403Z.)

RANEE. Is to remain at Cochin till further orders.
Admiralty 161959 refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 190603Z.)
Your 101130. In view of B.A.D's 162255 and 172253
approved for RANEE to comply with your para. 3 providing this will
not delay arrival of Esquimalt on 10th May.
(D.O.D.F. 191257A to C. in C.E.F.)

K.14. Add 24 hours to all times in my 131301.
(S.O.S. Colombo 190629Z.)

STORM, Summarized report of (P.233) STORM 1st Far East
Patrol report. Patrol.
2. 072348 F.G. fired 4 torpedoes at S/M Chaser in
mistake for larger target. All missed.
3. 121835 F.G. sank by gunfire 500 ton merchant ship
in 004° 34' N. 099° 20' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 190636Z.)

33. BRITISH SSSS. Position 00.24 S. 59.05 E. Firing at S/M.
UNITY 190855.
attacked. (GPPW BRITISH UNITY 190905.)
SSSS. Position 00.14 05.59 torpedoed 0909Z.
(BRITISH UNITY 190909Z.) (Different longitude.)
SSSS. Position 00.24 S. 59.05 E. Torpedoed.
(BRITISH UNITY 190920.) (Different latitude.)
Now being pursued by submarine and steering N. 25° W. true 190930Z.
(BRITISH UNITY 190940Z.)
Tanker BRITISH UNITY report being attacked by S/M at 0900Z on
the 19th March in 000° 24' S. 059° 05' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 191019Z.)
Lost sight of enemy S/M hull down on horizon at 0945Z in 000°
16' S. 058° 59' E. bearing 155°. One torpedo struck on starboard
side but failed to explode no ships damaged. 2 torpedoes passed
astern of me. Proceeding on voyage.
(BRITISH UNITY 191400Z.)

/EMERALD...

332

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

EMERALD,
DANAE.

Your 191151 Feb. para. 2. Making allowance for necessary boiler cleaning and subject to no delay in escort duty at present arranged on in homeward passage EMERALD E.T.A. Gibraltar 1st May.
2. DANAE E.T.A. Gibraltar 23rd April.
(C. in C.E.F. 191028 to Admty.)

U/B attacked.

R.A.F. Vizagapatam intercepted reports of enemy S/M at 1010Z, 020° 27' N. 088° 40' E. A surface escort vessel attacking. N.O.I.C. Calcutta to confirm position.
(Combay 191135Z.)

U/B report.

By D/F at 1711Z/19 on 7880 k/cs the position of a German U-Boat was within 250 miles of position 030° S. 065° E.
2. Kilindini pass to A.H.Q.E.A.
(C. in C.E.F. 191912Z.)

333

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

- A/S operations. NEW GLASGOW and TRENTONIAN passed through datum 0445Z carrying out expanding box search. (NEW GLASGOW, 190450Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 051432Z. Para. B. A/C Radar contact 1545Z/18 42.23 N. 63.13 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 190704Z.)
- C.U. 18. Admty. pass* to S.B.N.O. Azores for info. Sailed, 24 ships. (P.D. New York, 191444.) * Passing action being taken by War Registry to S.B.N.O. Azores and F.O.G.M.A. P.6988.
- Stragglers report. Stragglers arrived week-ending 18th March. 12th GALVESTON (U.S.) H.X.282. Damaged propellor and shaft. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 191227Z.)
- H.X. 283. Assume state (Y) forthwith. (C. in C. C.N.A., 191429Z to Escorts H.X.283.)
- U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 191433Z; Cominch, 191545Z.)
- Combined British/ U.S. book for A/S operations. Production of a combined book of such a comprehensive nature as outlined in A.M. 091256* would not be acceptable. (Reasons). (2) There is a requirement for a small pamphlet laying down certain procedures and safety measures to be adopted when surface forced and/or aircraft of mixed nationalities are working in co-operation or close proximity. (3), (4) Proposed arrangements for compiling pamphlet. (5) Any more comprehensive scheme than that outlined in paras. 2 and 3 above has no prospect of success. (B.A.D., 191615Z.) * Re proposed combined book.
- H.X. 283. H.X.283 scattered. Request broadcast of Cdre.'s position at 1501Z/19th 045° 29' N. 047° 37' W., 110°, 8 knots and R/V for 1501Z/20th 044° 20' N. 043° 01' W., 097°, 9½ knots. SS. RIVERVIEW PARK returning St. Johns N.F. damaged by collision. Weather report 6562 1153 ice nil. (C.4., 191701Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

/Your ...

19.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

H.X. 283. Your 191539Z*. ASHLEY not with (? convoy) my
(Contd.) 191701Z refers. Have no detailed damage except
PARK/ making water. Visibility at 0900Z when
collision believed to have occurred was 50 yards.
(C.4., 191855Z to F.O.N.F.)
* N.T. in W.R.
/ As received presumably RIVERVIEW PARK intended.

Zigzagging. D.T.D., 191721A. See Lion Copy.

U/B Para. B. Aircraft Radar contact 42.23 N. 63.13
incidents. W., 181545.
Para. C. Radar contact by aircraft 10.24 N. 77.12
W., 182155.
P.C.1254 attacked sound contact 09.35 N. 79.57 W.
191235. British plane sighted sub. 14.58 N. 61.21 W. 191535.
All times Z.
Para. D. U.K. X BELMONT sound contact 09.35 N. 80.02 W. 191513.
Y.P.261 sound contact 36.48 N. 75.25 W. 190110.
(Cominch, 192000Z.)

Certain As vessels Mydis 151447* become ready for service
French sail them to Gibraltar where direct ships report
Drs. and C. in C. Med. Ships are available to you as
P.Cs. escorts en route.
(Cominch, 192020Z to Cinclant.)
* Various American built ships for French Navy
in Mediterranean Command area.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest March 18. Paras. 8 to 11 cover South Pacific
No. 789. Forces.
(5) Preliminary report states 5 Allied destroyers
swept Wewak shipping lanes night 18th, 19th
sinking one small freighter.
(6) Enemy counter attacks west Papitalai repulsed 17th with 67
enemy killed. Next day Lorengau township captured fighting
continuing north and east of towns hit. Strong defences
including land mines machine guns in caves, elaborate bunkers
hidden trench system encountered Lorengau area during operations
17th. Single Allied destroyer bombarded suspected enemy
emplacements western end Pityilu Island north Seadler harbour.
Total enemy dead to 17th number 1700.
(7) 12 Liberators bombed Surabaya Naval Base night 17th/18th
starting very large fires explosions.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 190610Z.)

Confidential.

MESSAGE.

OUT

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

Zig-zagging.

191721A/March

Addressed: B.A.D. Washington.

Date: 19.3.44

C.T.P. (T/K)

From: Admiralty.

Your 100107Z.

Para. 1, 2 and 4 concur.

Para. 5. It is intended to issue following basic instructions in N.C.S.I.s for British managed ships of over 7 but under 10 knots in described portions of B.A.M.S. areas.

Area 1A. Between 43 degs. and 60 degs. except between 43 degs. and 55 degs. North when Eastward of 20 degs. W.

Area 2A. Between 40 degs. and 60 degs. North except between 55 degs. N. and 60 degs. N. when Westward of 45 degs. W.

Area 1B. Between 40 degs. and 43 degs. North when Westward of 20 degs. W. and within 200 miles of African Coast.

Area 2B. In Carribean and within 200 miles of South American Coast and 500 miles from Trinidad and Cape San Roque.

Area 3A. Within 200 miles of African Coast and 500 miles of Freetown.

Area 3B. Within 200 miles of African Coast and 500 miles of Capetown.

Area 3C. Within 200 miles of the African Coast, in Mozambique Channel and within 500 miles of Durban.

Area 4. Within 200 miles of South American Coast when North of 25 degs. S.

Area 7A. Within 200 miles of East African, South-East Arabian and East African Coasts, in the Gulf of Aden, and within 500 miles of Bombay and Colombo.

2. Unless Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. has any objection it is proposed to include the agreed zig-zag instructions in N.C.S.I.s.

191721A

for D.T.D. (983)

✓ Rc: Basic instructions in N.C.S.I.s
91 RO Navy Dept.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- H.A. 1st S.L.
- U.W.R.
- Capt. Fin.
- Ops. (2)
- Plot.
- C.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)
- D.T.D. (C)

- D. of S.T. (30)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A.U.D.
- D. of S. 2A.
- S.N.D. (2)
- W.D.
- I.P. (3)
- Ad. Blako.
- U.S.N. (3)
- D. of P. (3)
- D.T.D. (4) (T.P. 2271/43)
- D. Map Room.

- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. Citadel.
- M. (2)

19.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) Portuguese SS. PUNGUE stopped by
U-Boat on 12th March in 18° 30' N. 25° 00' W.
(2) Dutch DEMPO torpedoed and sunk at 0947Z/17
in 37° 08' N. 05° 27' E.
(3) American MAIDEN CREEK torpedoed at 0947Z/17
in 37° 08' N. 05° 27' E.

Para. B. (1) U.S. Ships MADISON and EBERLE attacked suspected
U-Boat three times at 0330Z to 0830Z/17 in approx. 41° 10' N.
12° 20' E.
(2) COMMANDANT DOMINE attacked contact at 1755Z/18 in 31° 48' N.
34° 05' E.
(D.D.I.C., 191108Z.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 191400A, 191405A.)

Assessment
of attacks
on U/Bs.

Admiralty and Cominch have agreed that co-ordinated
attacks on U-Boats occurring in British Strategic
Area Atlantic and Indian Ocean in which U.S.
Forces are involved with other forces of the
United Nations will be assessed by Admiralty:
those in the U.S. Strategic Area Atlantic and

Pacific Ocean by Cominch.

2. In cases where Cominch assesses, original action reports,
track charts, traces and photographs if obtained are to be
forwarded to him with copy of action report to Admiralty.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 191543A.)

336

20.3.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1. At 2308A to-day F.O.(S) informed the fifteen S/Ms. on waiting patrol off the Norwegian coast that TIRPITZ is not now expected to move south in the very near future, and ordered eight of the S/Ms. in question to return to Lerwick forthwith. The remaining seven S/Ms. are resuming their regular patrols off the coast and the instructions to them to remain to seaward of their positions are cancelled.

Dover
shelled.
WASP
buildings
damaged.

2. From 0008 till 0112 our coastal batteries engaged an enemy convoy off Gravelines with 26 rounds of 15-inch and 27 of 9.2 shell. The enemy shore batteries replied at 0029 with about 26 rounds, eight or ten of which fell in Dover Town and caused extensive damage to the annexe and main building of WASP and to civilian property as well as some casualties none of which was naval.

M.T.Bs.
shelled.

3. From 0013 till 0056 M.T.Bs. 211 and 202 while attempting to intercept a westbound group of small enemy ships off Cap Gris Nez were accurately shelled by enemy coastal batteries and withdrew without damage.

GRAPH.

4. The ex-German S/M GRAPH, who broke adrift from the Tug EMPIRE JOHN at 0310Z on the 18th March about 35 miles N.W. of Sanaig Point (Islay) could not be boarded again owing to the weather and at 0819A to-day was sighted aground on the coast of Islay about 3 miles south of Sanaig Point. She had no people on board.

South Atlantic.

5. The British tanker MATADIAN was torpedoed by a U-Boat in the early hours of today in position about 80 miles S.S.E. of Lagos. The ship was to have joined Convoy L.T.S.14, but did not do so.

337

20.3.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

6. 5353 tons were unloaded at Anzio today in a heavy swell. There was one air raid, which caused no damage, and little shelling.

7. Wellingtons, Halifaxes and Liberators dropped 66 tons of G.P. and 7920 x 4 incendiary bombs on Monfalcone Submarine Base in the Gulf of Trieste, last night. Good concentration is reported on shipbuilding shops, warehouses, and Cant aircraft works. Other ports bombed were Porto Ercole (42.23 N. 11.13 E.) and San Stefano.

8. Coastal forces operating in the Aegean captured 18 ton caique today.

East Indies.

9. The first Mauritius - Rodriguez - Mauritius convoy sailed today.

America and West Indies.

H.X.283:
4 ships in
collision.

10. SS. WILLIAM GRAYSON in H.X.283 is proceeding to St. Johns N.F., probably damaged, escorted by TRAIL and two rescue ships, having been in collision on the night 18th/19th March with an unknown ship (apparently SOCONY VACUUM) about 240 miles E.S.E. of Cape Race. Two other ships in the convoy, WILLIAM H. ASHLEY and RIVERVIEW PARK have been in collision and are also proceeding to St. Johns N.F. leaking badly but in no immediate danger. SOCONY VACUUM suffered only superficial damage and remained with the convoy; the other three ships returned to St. Johns N.F.

20.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

11. A gunboat was damaged and a medium merchantman probably sunk in a small convoy attacked by a patrol Liberator before dawn today 12 miles north-west of Hollandia, New Guinea.

12. Destroyers continued their co-operation with the Allied forces in the Admiralty Group bombarding hostile targets on Los Negros Island, where they destroyed an ammunition dump.

Bombardment
of Kavieng.

13(a) This morning a U.S. Naval force which included battleships heavily bombarded Kavieng for 3½ hours, firing over 1000 14-inch and 12,000 5-inch shells, producing large fires and explosions throughout the entire period, exploding large ammunition stores and razing almost the entire town. The enemy fire was ineffective during the approach and was quickly silenced except for intermittent A/A.

Landing on
Emirau I.

(b) At the same time substantial forces landed without opposition on Emirau Island in St. Matthias Group, 70 miles north-west of Kavieng. A further landing was made on Elomuspu Island off the south-east coast of Emirau Island; slight opposition was encountered but the Allied forces suffered no casualties.

(c) Allied M.T.Bs. today raided Loniu on the south coast of western Los Negros Island and destroyed 30 barges, boats and canoes loaded with stores, possibly in preparation for escape, and also burned 25 buildings containing food, ammunition and stores.

U-Boat Campaign.

A/S
operations
in Atlantic.

14. The U-Boat concentrations are now more in mid-Atlantic than they have been in recent months, and the Admiralty are of the opinion that more definite arrangements than at present exist, are required for the control of the U.S. escort carrier task groups and the British carrier and support groups. The Admiralty today made proposals to that end.

20.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Nore
Command.
Armament of
Captain
class
Frigates.

Herewith repetition of my 201236. Request very early approval for following proposals for increasing the armament of Captain class Frigates allocated to Nore Command. Details.
(2) Request C. in C. W.A. arrange for any preparatory work possible to be carried out in Frigates referred to in his 111727, before joining Nore Command.
(D.O.D.(H), 201930A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Operation
C.W.

Arrived FRONTENAC.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 200726A to E.G.9.)
Sailed BYRON.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 200826A to E.G. 22.)
FRONTENAC sailed to join Escort Group 9.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 202050 to E.G.9.)

Enemy
Convoy
bombed.
Dover and
M.T.Bs.
shelled.

At 2127 yesterday 19th shore-based Radar detected one medium sized or large vessel and six smaller in approximate position 8 miles N.E. of Dunkirk westbound at 13 knots.
2. One Albacore of 415 Squadron attacked this group which was seen to consist of four small vessels at 2251 off Gravelines with six 250-pound bombs, claiming near misses. A second Albacore intercepted at 2305 and observed four bomb hits on larger vessel. No other vessels were however seen at the time.
3. From 0008 to 0112 enemy was engaged with 26 rounds of 15-inch and 27 of 9.2-inch by our coastal artillery who make no claims. Hostile shore batteries replied at 0029 with about 26 rounds mainly in the Dover area, 8 or 10 of which fell in the town. Extensive damage to annexe of WASP resulted from direct hit, and blast damage was also caused to main building. Civilian property also suffered considerably. Casualties were military 2 killed, 1 seriously wounded. R.A.F. 5 slightly wounded, civilians 2 missing, 1 seriously wounded and 2 slightly. There were no naval casualties.
4. M.T.Bs. 211 (S.O.) and 202, patrolling at Number Seven Buoy, were ordered to East Varne and at 2352 to attack off Wissant under cover of the fires of our shore batteries. Correct use of shore-based Radar plots, which were passed to him continuously, enabled the S.O. to sight R-Boats of the enemy screen but no torpedo target could be located. Our M.T.Bs. were shelled by enemy shore defences when from 0013 until 0056 while attempting to intercept a second westbound group, estimated to be of six small vessels, they were forced to withdraw in face of increasingly accurate fire from batteries south of Gris Nez. Neither damage nor casualties resulted to our M.T.Bs.
(V.A. Dover, 201039 to Admty.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.

20.3.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out Operation "Tunnel" tonight in accordance with Memo. O.P.T.U.
(2) Information. Enemy. Two large merchant ships sighted with M-class minesweepers in Morlaix Roads a.m. today may move eastward tonight. Two NARVIKS and two ELBINGS seen in Brest on 17th. MOEWE-class T.B. based on Cherbourg and Brest. E-Boats based on Cherbourg or further west. Own Force 112 M.T.B. 678 (S.O.) 676, 96, 90 and 98 rendezvous 184 Start Point 19 at 1830 and proceed east of Roches Douvres to establish patrol 180 Barnouic Light 4 from 2230 till 0200/21st. A/C will patrol on 49° 10' N. between 4° 40' and 6° 10' W. from 2100.
Execution. (3) Force 26 comprising ships addressed is to pass Gate at 1830A today and proceed to pass through position (AA) 010 Heaux Light 7 at 2230 and thence through (BB) 000 Triagoz 9.
(4) From (BB) Force 26 is to proceed to establish patrol within 10 miles of (CC) 49° 23' N. 3° 32' W. If no enemy information has been received Force 26 is to leave (CC) at 0230/21st for Plymouth.
(5) Force 26 is not to proceed east of 3° W. unless called by Force 112 to support. Force 112 has orders not to proceed west of 2° 54' W. between 2200 and 0100 unless in contact with enemy.
(11) Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1247. Disregard Q.Z.X.1235 if in contact with the enemy.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201516A to TARTAR, ASHANTI, HAIDA, HURON.)
(A) Force 112, M.T.Bs: 678 (S.O.), 676, 96, 90, 98.
(B) 1640A/20. M.T.Bs. 96, 90, 98 are to R/V in position 184 Start 19 at 1830.
(C) Direct to (XX) 030 Roches Douvres 2, thence eastwards to (YY) 180 Barnouic.
(D) Vicinity of (YY) (C) interception and destruction of enemy shipping on passage. Force is not to proceed west of 2° 54' W. between 2200 and 0100 unless in contact with the enemy.
(F) 0200A/21 (YY) (XX) to Plymouth M.T.Bs. 96, 98, 90 are to be detached to return Dartmouth at first light.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201518 to M.T.Bs. 678, 676, 96, 90, 98.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 201534A.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201703A.)

Operation F.Y. R.A.58. C. in C. H.F. has no objection to COPELAND being used. Your 101150A and M.O.W.T's 162215A refer.
(D.T.D., 201835A to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

TIRPITZ. S/M Patrols. 0759A/21st, positions of submarines and movements for following 24 hours.
Paragraphs (A), (B), (C), (E), (F) as in my 191734.
(D) SAFARI off Lister.
(F.O.(S), 201844A to Admty.)

341

20.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- TIRPITZ. (1) It is not now anticipated TIRPITZ will come south in the very near future.
S/M Patrols. (2) Following S/Ms. return to Lerwick forthwith by reverse of outward route: UNBROKEN, UNBENDING, VIVID, TRUSTY, UNA, ZEEHOND, SAFARI.
(Contd.) (3) ZWAARDFISCH return to Lerwick forthwith by route O.
- (4) STURDY proceed forthwith to resume anti U-Boat patrol in HH in accordance with H.I.P.68.
(5) VOX proceed at 0800/21st to anti U-Boat patrol in FF.
(6) All passages to be made dived by day within 60 miles of Norwegian coast, thence on the surface at C.O.'s discretion.
(F.O.(S), 202308A to S/Ms.)
- (1) Submarines indicated below commence attack on shipping in coastal areas specified. Instructions to remain to seaward in my 162151 are cancelled.
- (A) TAKU forthwith between 064° 18' and 065° 00'.
(B) SATYR forthwith between 062° 00' and 062° 22'.
(C) ULA forthwith Bredsdund Dybet.
(D) TERRAPIN forthwith in vicinity T.24. After 2000/21st between 058° 05' and 059° 17'. Skudesnesfiord is not to be penetrated east of 005° 34'.
- (2) SYRTIS proceed forthwith diving by day within 60 miles Norwegian coast to attack shipping between 066° 30' and 067° 18' using only Ottvaer Fiord, Tennholm Fiord, Fleinvaer Fiord, or passage between Fleinvaer and Brikvaer Island.
(3) Submarines will be recalled to arrive Lerwick TAKU, SATYR, SYRTIS 30th March; ULA, TERRAPIN 31st March.
(F.O.(S), 202329A to S/Ms.)

A/S VINDEX 182356, your 191049 and VINDEX 191830.
operations. Traffic appears to be normal G.A.F. R/T.
VINDEX. (D.N.I., 201853A to C. in C. W.A., VINDEX.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber site On night of 19th March.
bombed. (A) Approximately 40 hostile A/C were plotted approaching Humber area at 2145. Flares were dropped in vicinity of site G.R.1 and 12 baskets were lit at 2210.
(B) Radlett were informed immediately afterwards.
(C) Several phosphorus bombs exploded over the site at 2220 setting fire to a wide extent of grass and rubbish on the site. In addition two double erupting fires, one boiling fire, and a group of pillar fires were ignited by the incendiaries. Two 1000 kilo H.E. were also dropped on the site and at least one other not yet identified. No incidents in parent site.
(F.O. Humber, 202350 to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation Carry out Operation Q.U.23A, 034° 21st March or
Q.U.23A. first suitable night. Force 51st M/L. Flot.,
21st M.T.B. Flot. Scattered lay alongside
convoy route.
(C. in C. Nore, 201125A to BEEHIVE.)

/Sweep ...

20.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Sweep of
Q.Z.S. 443.

Ships addressed pass Gate at 0900 tomorrow and proceed to Fowey by Q.Z.S. 443 - 416 and 418 sweeping in K formation from lat. 50° 13.24 of Q.Z.S. 443 to F.6 buoy. Recover sweeps and steam to Fowey where vessels will remain as ordered. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201506 to MALPEQUE, GUYSBOROUGH, CANSO.)

Sweep off
Start Point.

Request you will sail FORT WILLIAM, MINAS, CARAQUET and COWICHAN to Torquay. Arrived in daylight tomorrow, sweeping route E in H formation, thence sweep through positions 50° 11'30" - 03° 56'00" - 50° 11'30" - 03° 36'50" - to Dart Buoy, thence 090° Berry Head 2 miles. Recover sweeps and proceed to anchor off Torquay keeping clear of harbour entrance. (C. in C. Plymouth, 201558 to R.N.O. Fowey.)

Technical.

Trials
of four
concrete
ships.

Your 191129 - concur.
(D.T.D., 201804Z to Comnaveu.)

Casualties and Defects.

GRAPH.

Sailed ALLEGIANCE to comply with your 191733A. E.T.A. BULLEN's 191830A position 0700/20th. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 200125A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

GRAPH was lost in Radar Land echo from coast at 0500 in approx. 55° 48' N. 06° 28' W. GROWLER arrived 0700 and cannot (?close) inshore owing to deep draught. S/M is not yet visible.

(BULLEN, 200730A to C. in C. W.A.)

My 200730. S/M sighted aground on rocky coast in 55° 48.8' N. 06° 27' W.

(BULLEN, 200819A to C. in C. W.A.)

If you are satisfied that under present conditions nothing more can be done by you to salve GRAPH, BULLEN is to proceed to Larne, GROWLER and ALLEGIANCE to Campbeltown. BULLEN report intentions.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 201003A to BULLEN, GROWLER, ALLEGIANCE.)

Your 201003. Nothing further can be done by myself to rescue tugs to salvage GRAPH. Rescue tugs are proceeding to Campbeltown and BULLEN to Larne.

(BULLEN, 201130 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Arrival GROWLER.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 201642A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

HYDRA.

Sailed HYDRA to conform with Admiralty's 191815A. E.T.A. S.E. Tay Buoy 0800/22nd. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 201629A to A.C.O.S., N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

343

20.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HDME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

FANCY. RECRUIT caused following damage to FANCY when manoeuvring alongside oiler. Two large holes above waterline, one in M/S Mess deck and one in D.C. workshop. Estimated date of completion April 1st. Ship can be made ready for sea at 48 hours notice if urgently required. RECRUIT sustained no damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 201745 to Admty.)

GEORGE W. CHILDS, LENA LUCKENBACH. Cancel reference to GEORGE W. CHILDS in A.M. 170407A. Tug THAMES on arrival at Clyde is now required to tow M.V. LENA LUCKENBACH to Tyne. F.O.I.C. Tyne is requested to sail Rescue Tug ROODE ZEE on completion of refit to Loch Ewe to R/V with THAMES and assist with tow to Tyne. (Capt. Rescue Tugs, 201906A to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Atlantic Convoy Cycles. To meet requirements in Admiralty's 160251A drastic alterations of Trans-Atlantic convoy cycles must be effected in mid April. 2. A very early decision is required on this matter since it affects allocation of ships to "Overlord" their fitting out and training programme, the reformation of C groups proposed in C. in C. C.N.A's 121640, and co-ordination of escort arrangements with R.C.N. 3. In the meantime I am proceeding with the fitting out and special training programme on the assumption that Trans-Atlantic convoy cycles will be altered as required. (C. in C. W.A., 201914A. to Admty.)

20.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

KILISSI
(sunk 12th
March.)

Your 141808*. Ministry of Marine informs me wreck of KILISSULIE (?KILISSI intended) 1 1/4 miles N.W. Cape Tortosa Cape light. I have replied she no doubt managed to get inside territorial waters before sinking.

Grateful for any information of counter attack inevitable Spanish protest under German pressure against violation of territorial waters.

(B.N.A.Madrid 201145 to C. in C.Med.)

* Attack by Beaufighters on two German ships.

T.G.120.8

T.G.120.8 escorted by DAKINS departed Horta 1109Z/20 routed as in Admty. 281950 Jan. codeword "Drain" S.O.A. 12 knots. E.T.A. Falmouth 0800Z/25. (S.B.N.O.Azores 201428Z.)

E.G.1.

Your 181731*. AFFLECK and BALFOUR can run up to 1000 boiler hours and GARLIES and GORE 375 hours on all four diesel engines.

2. It is desirable for maintenance to be carried out in U.K. and GARLIES and GORE should return to Belfast within a period of about 400 hours running. It is not desired to carry out boiler cleaning and top overhaul at Gibraltar.

3. Request you will report as soon as practicable the date on which ships must leave to comply with above.

4. Depending on the need in Straits and U-Boat situation elsewhere consideration will be given to sending another group to relieve E.G.1.

(V.C.N.S. 201608A to F.O.G.M.A.)

* Should boiler cleaning be commenced.

K.M.F.29B
U/B report.

GODAVARI reports:- My 190401Z. Attack did not develop U-Boats being handed off by ROTHER and VANQUISHER. Consider total of three U-Boats were in contact. T.O.C. 191557 ends. (F.O.G.M.A. 201613A.)

? U/B sunk
in Straits
on 16th March.

Pieces of wood similar to lockers have since been recovered. Wood has soft interior with plywood exterior. On one side one piece is varnished and stained, another has dark green imitation rexine stuck on. Wood had only been in water short time and was not sodden.

2..Wood in my 161815* was creosoted.

3. Samples being sent to D.N.I.

4. By examination under microscope small pieces of flesh adhering to splinters of locker wood proved to be human.

(F.O.G.M.A. 201831A.)

* re Attack on U-Boat by Catalina.

/MATADIAN...

345

War Diary.

20.3.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MATADIAN
sunk.

(?Ship) believed to be MATADIAN torpedoed position
05.09 N. 04.35 E. Am following S/M on surface.
(M.L. 289 200421Z.)

Ship torpedoed assumed MATADIAN at about 0400/20th
near 05° 09' N. 04° 35' E. M.L. 289 engaged at
1000 yards surfaced submarine which dived.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 201825Z.)

Ref. 191758. L.T.S. 14 MATADIAN did not join sunk 05° 06' N.
04° 47' E. at 0330Z/20th March. No casualties all survivors
landed Lagos 2000Z/20th.
(N.C.S.O.Lagos 202203Z.)

346

War Diary.

20.3.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

DIDO. Your 171143. Repairs to DIDO due to complete on March 29th ship ready for service on April 2nd. (V.A. Malta, 200916)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.59. Of 5858 tons unloaded on March 19th 1995 tons were from L.S.T's and 15 from L.C.L.(L) from Naples. No air raids but heavy shelling. U.S.S. MADISON made contact with an E-Boat at 2345 which withdrew apparently undamaged. (F.O.W.I.T. 201118A)

SPORTSMAN, UNSWERVING, NEREUS. From position 035 degs. 03' 026 degs. 42' proceed through Kaso Strait to patrol in Western Aegean North of line joining South point of Kithera and the South point of Santorin and west of longitude 025 degs. 27' but you are not to go inside the Cyclades. Enter OF area through position 036 degs. 17' 024 degs. 59'.
(2) Object destruction Piraeus - Cretan traffic.
(3) Own force. You will be informed of movements of Levant schooner force caiques and coastal force which may affect you. P.63 (UNSWERVING) patrolling in Western Aegean west of longitude 025 degs. will be ordered to patrol south of your area. G.S. NEREUS patrolling vicinity of Scarpanto will be ordered clear of Kaso Strait when you are passing through Matrozos proceeding to patrol off west coast of Morea.
(4) Intelligence. See Submarine intelligence note and intelligence pass to you by S.O.(I) L.E.M.
(5) Submarine should not be attacked unless definitely proved hostile.
(6) It is the present intention to recall you to arrive Malta on 7th April.
(Capt.(S) 1, 201338A to SPORTSMAN)
After 1201/22nd patrol in South West Aegean south of latitude 036 degs. 05' and west of longitude 025 degs. 30'.
(2) Do not approach within 25 miles of Cristiani between 1801/22nd and 1801/23rd.
(Capt. (S) 1, 201924A to UNSWERVING, (R) S.(1), NEREUS.)
Remain to the east of longitude 027 degs. 18' in your patrol area from 0001/22nd to 0003/23rd.
(Capt.(S), 1, 201930A to NEREUS, (R) 1st S.F. F.O.L.E.M.)

Night Transits of Canal. To enable regular night transits to be made, which are highly desirable on account of volume of shipping, I have approved extension of existing limited lighting of Suez Canal. The final decision to put system in operation will depend on observation test from the air. (F.O.L.E.M. 201350B to C. in C. Med.)

SALVATORE /...

347

20.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SALVATORE,
AREZZO,
GERDA
TOFT. P.R.U. of Suda at 0935B/20th show SALVATORE and
AREZZO left and GERDA TOFT arrived.
(F.O.L.E.M.201540B to Capt.(S) I. (R) UNSWERVING)

L.S.T.407. L.S.T.407 referred to in my 261959(N.T. in W.R.)
February para. 4 now total constructive loss and
cannibalised.
(C. in C. Med. 201633A)

U.S.S. GEN. Your 181443. Two destroyers provided by C. in C.
A.E.ANDERSON, Med. can meet U.S.S. GENERAL A.E. ANDERSON west
GEN W. of Gibraltar and escort to Oran. One U.S. and
MITCHELL. one British destroyer will escort from Oran to
7 degs. W. on return journey.
(2) Regret not practicable to provide escort for
GENERAL WILLIAM MITCHELL.
(C. in C. Med. 201642A to Cominch)

Convoy Your 161601 and F.O.G.M.A's 111740.
X.K.15. In addition to ships mentioned Admiralty are
informed that 10 to 12 Coasters and one tug will
sail in the convoy.
(2) Request you will state if escort can be
increased, if necessary, some delay can be accepted.
(D.O.D.(H), 201916A to C. in C. Med.)

U/B Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position Bliplost
Reports. 315 degress Datum 22.
(A/C. C/S FAUJ, 202155A)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 315 degs.
Datum 22.
(A/C C/S FAUJ, T.O.R.202213)

War Diary.20.3.1944.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/Boat My 190403. Indian Ocean unsuccessful attack
dispositions. by U/Boat (probably Japanese) in 000° 24' south
059° 05' E. at 0900Z/19th may indicate U/Boat
previously operating in area D has moved to
Eastward. U/Boat (German) by D/F within 250
miles of 030° S. 065° E. at 1712Z/19. Scale
of air escort in all areas unchanged.
(C. in C.E.F. 200338Z.)

D.K.A./ So long as there is evidence of U/Boat operating
A.K.D. in N. Mozambique area consider it preferable to
convoys. retain ships in convoy accepting weak escort
rather than release ships to sail independently.
2. Proposed that present cycle be continued
using light S.A. trawlers on following lines.

Your 181127* not to F.O.E.A. refers.

- A. D.K.A. convoys to leave Durban escorted by two S.A. trawlers.
- B. A.K.D. convoys to leave Kilindini escorted by 4 S.A. trawlers.
- C. Two trawlers from A.K.D. convoys to R/V with Northbound
D.K.A. convoy in region of 13° S. and reinforce D.K.A. convoy
thus providing 4 trawlers for upper leg of this route.
3. This provides for Durban-Kilindini portion of D.K.A./A.K.D.
convoys being run on three groups of two S.A. trawlers spare.
4. To speed up shipping consider ships of 10 knots and over
in southbound convoys can now be dispersed to proceed independently
to destination on reaching latitude of 18° S.
(C. in C. E. F. 200339Z to C. in C.S.A.) Special circulation. N.T.
in W.D.)

Convoy Sail, 0500Z/20th. E.T.A. Rodriguez 0300Z/23rd.
Mauritius 6 knots. Escort. H.M.S. SOLVRA, RECORDER (Cable
Rodriguez ship, to carry out repairs) SS ZAMBESIA.
Mauritius 1. (N.C.S.O. Mauritius, 200507Z.)

BRITISH Vessel mentioned in my 191019* is proceeding on
UNITY. voyage. One torpedo hit ship but failed to
(attacked explode, 2 others missed astern. U/Boat was
19th March.) gunned and last seen at 0945Z in 000° 16' S.
058° 59' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 200652Z.) * re tanker BRITISH UNITY
report being attacked by S/M 19th March.

War Diary

20.3.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

A/S
operation.

At 0012Z/20th in 41 degs. 39' N. 62 degs. 37' W. obtained H/F D/F transmission WW signal on 4190 kc/s no bearing estimated near. Now using this position for data of new expanding box search. (NEW GLASGOW, 200130).

A/S
operations
in Atlantic.

Personal for Cominch from 1st Sea Lord. Now that the U/boat concentrations are more in mid - Atlantic than they have been in recent months I am of the opinion that more definite arrangements are required for the control of your C.V.E. task groups and our carrier and support groups than exist as a result of your messages 052212 and 052215 both January. Exact location of forces engaged in U/boat hunting cannot be known, and without some control the risk of wasted effort and unexpected encounters always exists.

2. As the Admiralty control shipping east of the "Chop" line, I suggest that C. in C. Lant, should inform C. in C.W.A., when his task forces are about to operate in this area and that C. in C. W.A. on behalf of the Admiralty, should allocate both to your task forces and to our support groups, areas in which to operate. C. in C. W.A. would, of course, exercise no other form of control, and would similarly place his support groups at the disposal of C. in C. Lant, when west of the "Chop" line.

3. If this procedure is not acceptable, I suggest that the next best compromise is for C. in C. Lant, and C. in C.W.A. to be instructed to arrange between them by signal the areas in which their forces should operate.
(1st S.L. 201206A).

U/boat
dispositions.

Estimates. .
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 201446Z, Cominch 201635Z).

H.X.283
3 or 4 ships
in collision.

GRAYSON probably damaged proceeding St. Johns N.F. escorted by TRAIL, CAILIFF, TENACITY your 201059 not to all addressees. Can you identify ship in collision with GRAYSON.

(2) ASHLEY (WILLIAM H. ASHLEY intended) and RIVERVIEW PARK proceeding St. Johns N.F. unescorted after what appears separate collision. Both vessels leaking badly but no immediate danger. (F.O.N.F., 201605Z to C.4, C. in C.C.N.A.).

Your 201616Z+. W. GRAYSON reports name of ship in collision with her not known.

(CAILIFF, 201915Z to F.O.N.F.).
+ N.T. in W.R.

T.G.21.8

Cr. No. 1204.
Task Group 21.8 JACOB JONES Cortdiv 3 escort convoy C.U.19 scheduled depart New York for U.K. 28th March. Return New York escorting U.C.19. (C, in C. Lant, 201824).

350

20.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- STORMONT. Allocated to E.G. 9 to date 20th March.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 202006Z.)
- S.C.156. To include 4 loaded concrete ships urgently
required in U.K. speed for acceptance for this
convoy is to be 7½ knots. Opportunity may be
taken to include other slow ships which qualify.
B.R.L.O. New York 051649 and 051645 to Admiralty and N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa refer.
(D.T.D., 202116A.)
- U/B (A) BLOCK ISLAND group reports sinking U-Boat
incidents. with eight survivors 13.03 N. 33.38 W. 190829Z.
(C) P.B.2Y Radar contacts 10.30 N. 78.40 W.
191710Z. U.S. C.G. BELMONT attacked sound
contacts 09.32 N. 79.55 W. 191950Z and 09.35 N.
79.58 W., 200006Z.
(Cominch, 202124Z.)
- Zigzagging. Instructions for British managed ships in your
191721/ will be included in Giro. Com. 10th
Fleet (C. & R.) concur inclusion of zigzag
instructions in N.C.S.I.
(B.A.D., 202143Z to Admty.)
/ Re basic instructions in N.C.S.Is. for British managed ships
of over 7 but under 10 knots.
- Bermuda Complaining that the yards not fully occupied.
dockyard. (Cdre. Sup. i/c Bermuda, 202205Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Digest 790. March 19th. Paras. 9 to 12 cover South West
Pacific Forces.
3. Reference paragraph 2 yesterday's digest
Convoy seen approaching Wewak evening 18th; 2
full scale air attacks one forenoon second afternoon involving
total 40 Liberators, 62 Mitchells and Bostons with fighter
escort sank five ships off Wewak whereof Liberators claimed one
medium cargo vessel attack bombers one cargo vessel three escorts.
About 500 Japanese strafed in water estimated at least same
number went down one ship alone. Two enemy fighters inter-
cepting were destroyed: we lost three attack bombers.
5. Reference paragraph 5 yesterday's digest further report states
5 United States destroyers also bombarded shore positions Wewak
Kairiru, Muschu Islands night 18th/19th starting fires visible

351

20.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest 790. 30 miles away. Enemy air attacks caused nil
(Contd.) damage while shore batteries silenced.
6. Enemy pockets resistance still remaining
western sector Los Negros Island. Next day
Allied destroyers bombarded enemy positions
this area with good results.
7. M.T.Bs. reconnoitring Lindenhafen east of Gasmata 18th
reported area appeared evacuated. Nil enemy contacted but
storage tank and pillboxes shelled on (? land). Luiger
rendered unserviceable.
8. Afternoon 18th U.S. S/M observed auxiliary aircraft carrier,
two destroyers northern entrance Makasfer Strait heading south.
12. M.T.Bs. operating East Buka passage night 17/18th destroyed
two of four heavily laden barges probably carrying ammunition
or pyrotechnics.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 201018).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack and sighting summary. Para.A. (1) Br. BRITISH UNITY reported being
attacked by U/boat. Torpedo struck ship but
failed to explode. Ship fired at U/boat at
0855Z/19 in 00 degs. 24' S. 59 degs. 05' E.
Para.B. (1) Escort vessel attacked U/boat at
1010Z/19 in 20 degs. 27' N. 88 degs. 40' E.
(2) A/C sighted U/boat at 0001Z/18 in 05 degs. 03' S. 44 degs.
10' E.
(3) U.S. Liberator A/C attacked contact at 1944Z/19 in 46 degs.
31' N. 10 degs. 06' W.
(D.D.I.C., 201118A).

U/boat dispositions Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 201347A, 201118A).

352

21.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1. Admiralty have to-day informed C. in C. H.F. that the departure of TIRPITZ from Alten Fiord is no longer considered to be imminent; and a B.3 report received to-day states that she exercises daily in the Fiord and that a new repair-ship, which Admiralty consider may be HUASCARAN, has arrived there.

Enemy
Convoy
shelled.

2. Between 2132 and 2206 to-day our coastal batteries fired eleven rounds of 15-inch and seventy rounds of 9.2 at a large enemy vessel which had left Boulogne northbound with about 20 escorts at 2035. Four probable hits and seven straddles are claimed, and the enemy entered Calais at 2330. The enemy coastal batteries replied with about 35 rounds of which some 15 fell in the South Foreland area causing no damage.

M.T.B.
patrol
attacked.

3. At 2355 to-day M.T.Bs. 253 and 256, while proceeding inshore of three other M.T.Bs. of their own patrol, were attacked by some E or R-Boats 9.8 miles N.N.W. of St. Valery-en-Caux and withdrew. M.T.B. 253 suffered slight damage and two minor casualties.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

4(a) Tonnage discharged today at Anzio fell to 4523 tons, on account of the weather preventing work at X Beach. Gunfire was heavy, and a bomb fell in the harbour but caused no damage.
(b) Monte Corvino Aerodrome is temporarily out of action owing to ash from the eruption of Vesuvius.

5. RICHELIEU arrived at Algiers today from the U.K. on passage to the East.

353

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation
"Diplomat".

6(a) RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, LONDON, GAMBIA, CEYLON, CUMBERLAND, 5 British and 2 Netherlands destroyers sailed from Trincomalee early this morning, to search for suspected raiders in the Indian Ocean. C. in C. E.F. intends the Fleet to R/V with U.S. Aircraft Carrier SARATOGA and 3 destroyers from Fremantle on 27th March, when the combined force will return to Trincomalee.

(b) The appreciation by C. in C. E.F. of the recent raider sortie is that it can be connected with the report of 2 or more unidentified ships passing through the Lombok Straits on the evening of the 6th March. This appears to have been a high speed sortie and there seems to C. in C. E.F. to be no evidence at present that raiders are still operating on the trade routes.

(c) However, he considers that the operation now being carried out will afford opportunity to intercept any raiders that may be operating. If raider activity shows signs of persisting it may be necessary to establish a patrol of carriers with cruisers on the Australian route.

7. EMERALD sailed for the U.K. today from Colombo. She is proceeding via Mauritius.

GRENA.

8. See 23rd March.

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese
destroyer
sunk.

9(a) Two Liberators claim to have sunk in the early hours of today with 4 direct hits with 1500 lb. bombs a Japanese destroyer 20 miles east of Tadjji, New Guinea.

(b) This forenoon 6 squadrons of Liberators and 4 squadrons of Mitchells dropped 160 tons of bombs on the barge repair depot at Kairiru Island off Wewak, New Guinea, causing many large explosions. In the afternoon Mitchells attacked the barge staging point at Murik Lagoon 35 miles east of Wewak, destroying villages, store dumps and several barges.

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

10. An Allied destroyer bombarded enemy positions on the eastern shore of Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville last night, with good results.

11. The occupation of Emirau Island (see 20th March) was completed this evening.

War Diary.

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

G.M.Mine. A new type of moored contact mine has been laid by German E/Boats, to be known as type G.M. for Mike. 2 - 7 Description.
8. It appears possible that G.M. can also be laid by aircraft without parachute, but recovery of a sinker is required to confirm this.
(D.T.M., 211936A.)

Policy.

Travel to Ireland. A.G.M.877AZ para 5. The facilities for wives to accompany service husbands on leave have been withdrawn.
(Head of N.L.210356A. A.G.M.894 AZ.)

SCYLLA. Request you will sail SCYLLA to arrive Spithead p.m. 30th April.
2. SCYLLA is to come under the administration of N.C.E.T.F. from 1st May.
(D.O.D. H. 211128A to C. in C.H.F.)

Portsmouth Command. Your 181631. Regret that there are no M.Ls. available.
(D.D.O.D. C, 211229A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

SEA NYMPH for Philadelphia. My 072142. Route for SEANYMPH to St. Johns Newfoundland for onward routing.
2. "Chop" in longitude 35° W. Admty. 301808 Sept. 1943 refers.
3. Passage to be made on surface at C.O.'s discretion and escorted to longitude 13° W. S.O.A. 10 knots.
(F.O.S. 211633A to Capt. S.3.)

Ten corvettes for Portsmouth. A.M. 270108* (See Special File). Request you will allocate and sail worked-up Flower-Class Corvettes to C. in C. Portsmouth as follows:
a. 4 about April 11th.
b. 3 about April 19th.
c. 3 about April 23rd.
(D.O.D.H. 211821A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

S/M Patrols. Cancel paras. A, B, C, D, E, F of my 201844, add new paras. All positions approximate.
L. ZWAARDFISCH 68° 30' N. 12° 31' E. probably on surface through 68° 25' N. 10° 01' E. then course 210° 10 knots.
M. UNBENDING, UNBROKEN, 61° 01' N. 03° 10' E. to (2B) 61° 02' N. 00° 50' E. and (2A) 60° 42' N. 00° 05' W. to Lerwick.
N. VIVID 59° 30' N. 04° 05' E.
O. TRUSTY 59° 17' N. 04° 10' E.

356

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- S/M patrols. (Contd.)
- P. UNA 58° 47' N. 04° 45' E.
Q. ZEEHOND 58° 27' N. 05° 10' E.
R. SAFARI 58° 16' N. 05° 25' E. S/Ms in paras N. to R. will proceed to Lerwick through 2C. 60° 40' N. 02° 50' E. and (2B) see para. M.
S. STURDY 62° 48' N. 04° 11' E. to patrol 65° 20' N. 01° 14' E.
- T. VOX leaves Stadlandet 0800A/21st for patrol in 63° 28' N. 01° 10' E.
U. SYRTIS 65° 15' N. 09° 44' E. proceeding to patrol in vicinity 67° 01' N. 12° 32' E. S/Ms in paras. L. to U. diving by day while within 60 miles of Norway, 2½ knots dived 10 knots on surface.
V. TAKU patrolling off Kya.
W. ULA off Bredsund.
X. SATYR off Stadlandet.
Y. TERRAPIN in Lister and Skudesnes areas. (F.O.S. 210142 to Admty.)
All times Zone A. Positions S/Ms at 0800/22nd and movements for following 24 hours.
A. TAKU, ULA, SATYR, TERRAPIN as in my 210142.
B. SYRTIS in Bodo Area.
C. ZWAARDFISCH 65° 35' N. 05° 50' E. through 62° N. 01° E. to Lerwick, probably on the surface 10 knots.
D. STURDY on patrol vicinity 65° 20' N. 01° 14' E.
E. VOX on patrol vicinity 63° 28' N. 01° 10' E.
F. UNBENDING, UNBROKEN, approaching Lerwick from North East.
G. TRUSTY 60° 59' N. 00° 58' E.
H. VIVID 60° 55' 01° 05' E.
J. UNA 60° 29' N. 03° 05' E.
K. ZEEHOND 60° 15' N. 03° 20' E.
L. SAFARI 60° 05' N. 03° 25' E.
S/Ms. in paras G. to L. are proceeding to Lerwick probably on the surface, speed 8 to 10 knots, when more than 60 miles from Norwegian coast by following route 2C 60° 40' N. 02° 50' E.
2B. 61° 02' N. 00° 50' E. 2A. 60° 42' N. 00° 05' W. (F.O.S. 211744A to Admty.)
UNBENDING and UNBROKEN arrived. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 211758A to Admty.)
ULA is to return Lerwick forthwith through 062° 50' N. 003° 30' E. and 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, diving by day within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast, otherwise on the surface at C.O.'s discretion. (F.O.S. 211918A to S/Ms.)
As from 0800/22nd SATYR area is extended to latitude 062° 40' N. to include Bredsund. My 211918 and 202329 para. 1 B. and C. refer. (F.O.S. 212026A to S/Ms.)

TIRPITZ. A.M. 141533. Cancel "Helmet". (A.C.N.S. H. 210315A to C. in C.H.F.)
It is realised that C.Os. of S/Ms have probably now informed their ships companies of object of operation "Foremost". If we are to have any chance of success against TIRPITZ in similar circumstances in future, it is vital that the enemy should be unaware of concentration of S/Ms that we can bring against him.
2. Captains S are to take necessary steps to warn all concerned of need for reticence and co.'s of S/Ms are to take similar action before return to harbour. (F.O.S. 211224A to Capts. S. Home.)

/Search...

War Diary.

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Search for
U-Boat off
North Corn-
ish Coast.

Investigating oil patch, position 50° 48' N. 05°
04' W. No traces of wreckage.
(A/C 210805 to 19 Group.)
Proceed ahead of convoy at best speed. Orders
follow.

(C. in C.Plymouth 211645A to TANATSIDE, WENSLEYDALE)
U-Boat (German) reported by visual sighting from
shore at 1500A today off Newquay.

2. Carry out A/S sweep 2 miles either side of line joining 050°
33' N. 005° 09' W. and 050° 28' N. 005° 15' W.-

3. Rejoin convoy when it passes you.

(C. in C.Plymouth 211711A to TANATSIDE, WENSLEYDALE.)

U-Boat reported off Newquay at 1500A today from visual
sighting from shore.

2. Destroyers and aircraft are searching area.

3. Convoy escorts are to maintain a particularly careful A/S watch
whilst off north Cornish coast.

(C. in C.Plymouth 211720A to Admty. Escorts W.P.494,
SCIMITAR, SKATE, AZALEA.)

S.C.Opera-
tions.

Cancel my 181140. Intend to sail S.C.Operation
from Scalloway 1. p.m. 22nd March weather permitting

2. 61° 42' N. 04° 48' E. 3. RAMOSE EDIFICE. 4.

Two days. 5. 062° Out Skerries. 6. No.

(A.C.O.S. 210906A to Admty.)

Intend to sail S.C.Operation from Scalloway 1. a.m. 24th March
weather permitting. 2. 65° 50' N. 12° 00' E. 3. RAMOSE

CHAMPION. 4. 4 days. 5. 040° Muckle Flugga. 6. No. 3.

(A.C.O.S. 210912A to Admty.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 211105A.)

(C. in C.Plymouth 211425A.)

(C. in C.Portsmouth 211433A, 211514A.)

(V.A.Dover 211622A.)

(C. in C.Nore 211652A, 212138A.)

Engagement
in Dover
Straits.
Enemy tanker
(possibly
REKUM) ap-
parently sunk.
M.T.B.212
damaged.
Dover & South
Foreland
Batteries
shelled.

^{19/20}
In anticipation of the eastward movement during
night 20/21 from Boulogne of an escorted enemy
tanker (T.38) Group Z, M.T.Bs. 212, and 206 were
stationed at East Varne Buoy with the object of
attacking as close northward of Boulogne as prac-
ticable.
M.T.B. 211 of this Group became defective and did
not sail.
Group A, M.T.Bs. 359 (S.O.), 354 and 362 and Group
B composed of 2 D type and 2 70 foot type M.T.Bs.
were held in Dover at short notice.
It was intended that Group A should approach from
No. 3 Buoy (102 South Foreland 9.4 miles) and inter-
cept off Calais and that Group B should attack in
co-operation with Albacore of 415 Squadron off
Gravelines.

/Group E...

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement in Dover Straits. Enemy tanker (possibly REKUM) apparently sunk. M.T.B. 212 damaged. Dover & S. Foreland Batteries shelled. (Contd.).

Group E, FYLDEA (S.O.) and SARPEDON and Group Y, M.T.Bs. 433 (S.O.) and 436 were at No.7 Buoy, the former to patrol, if ordered, to 135 degs. East Varne Buoy 3 miles with the object of deceiving enemy Radar as to our intended line of approach, and the latter to assist the retirement of Group Z. 4 M.Ls. of 50th and 52nd Flotillas laid mines successfully in approx. 1 to 2½ miles north of Nieuport Jetty.

2. At 2032 shore based Radar detected one very large vessel and about 12 escorts leaving Boulogne northbound. Accordingly Group Z was ordered to intercept, Group E to patrol as arranged, and Groups A and B were despatched to their waiting positions.

3. Group Z sighted small craft in beam of searchlight on Boulogne Breakwater at 2117.

Repeated efforts to pierce the enemy screen were unsuccessful and at 2142 in approx. 158 degs. South Foreland 17.8 miles, our Force was sighted and heavily engaged by escorting E/R boats, with guns of 20 m.m. and 37 m.m calibre at 200 to 300 yards. Our M.T.Bs. were forced to disengage at high speed, and while withdrawing were chased by E/R boats for about 2 miles. Hostile shore batteries joined in and accurate shelling of Group Z continued until No.7 Buoy was passed at 2311. M.T.B.212 suffered slight damage to bridge turret and hull and 2 ratings seriously wounded. M.T.B. 206 was not hit.

4. Groups E and Y were accurately shelled intermittently in the vicinity of East Varne between 2215 and 2245 and were withdrawn to No.7 Buoy when Group Z was known to be safe.

5. Our coast artillery engaged the larger vessel at 2157, firing 58 rounds of 15 inch and 95 rounds of 9.2 inch. Enemy shore batteries replied between 2205 and 2312 with about 60 to 70 rounds which fell in the Dover and South Foreland areas, causing considerable damage to civilian property in Dover town and injuring 6 civilians.

Considerable damage also resulted to equipment of South Foreland batteries. No other damage or casualties to service establishments or personnel are reported. At 2225 when in 137 degs. South Foreland 16 miles, the main target was reported by the shore plot to have reduced from 12 to 6 knots.

Group B, waiting near V Buoy, reports observing two explosions at this time in the plotted position of the enemy.

Plot became stationary at 2320 1 mile N.W. of Calais entrance in which position Radar echo subsequently faded at 0030.

6. Meanwhile Group A approaching from No.3. Buoy was continuously illuminated and engaged by shore batteries from 2210. At 2235 unit intercepted what appears to have been the ahead screen in approx. 122 degs. South Foreland 16.3 miles. At 2241 enemy vessels engaged our force which at 2245 was compelled to disengage in face of increasingly accurate and heavy opposition from escort vessels, whose fire appears to have been controlled by directing ship.

Group A suffered neither damage nor casualties.

7. Aircraft R/C today reports seeing no large ship in Calais or vicinity. It appears possible target may have been damaged by shellfire and sunk. P.R.U. and further air R/C at low water have been requested.

(V.A. Dover, 211211 and 211818A to Admty.).

/ Operation...

War Diary.

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation C.W. Sweep ahead S.L.151/M.K.S.42 due to pass 055° N. 010° W. at 1100/22nd on completion patrol area B 2nd and B.4.
2. Sweep ahead of O.N.229 due R/V off Oversay at 0830/24th.
3. KITE is to assume duties of S.O.E.G.7th at sea on departure of CYGNET for base. My 171220 and 191313 refer.
(C. in C.W.A. 211240A to E.G.7.)
Returning to Lough Foyle from patrol with one surgical case intend to disembark into FOXGLOVE for passage Londonderry. E.T.A. 1900A.
(REDPOLE 211345A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Biscay A/S Operations. If not in contact with enemy shift area of operations to area between (?parallels) 047° 30' and 050° 01' and meridian 024° 30' and 027° 30'.
(C. in C.W.A. 211244A to VINDEX, E.G.2, E.G.6.)
E.G.2, 210924. My position 2100 (?00), 046° 12' N. 026° 18' W. Suggest sweeping 020° at 11 knots.
(VINDEX 211251A to E.G.2, E.G.6.)
VINDEX, E.G.6th, WASKESIU, QU'APPELLE, CAPE BRETON, GROU, OUTREMONT and E.G.2nd STARLING, WHIMBREL, WREN, WILD GOOSE, MAGPIE operating approx. vicinity 048° 01' N. 025° 30' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 211356A to Ships.)
Proceed forthwith at best speed to Scapa.
(C. in C.W.A. 211819A to E.G.2.)
D/F bearings at 2034Z/21 indicate U-Boat in your immediate vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C. 212205A to Escorts K.X.15.)

Operation F.Y. Request information as to number of black-oil tankers and approx. cargo to be included in J.W.58: also confirmation that gear mentioned in my 091323 is being sent.
(S.B.N.O.Polyarno 211251A to Admty.)
My 211819. One arrival second E.G. is to be placed under orders of C. in C.H.F. for next J.W.convoy. Ships will be required to leave harbour about 28th March.
(C. in C.W.A. 211936A to E.G.2.)
My 140015. The earliest date on which it is estimated BITER defects can be made good is 28th March. ACTIVITY is therefore detailed for J.W.58/R.A.58 in place of BITER. BITER 161350 refers.
2. F.O.C.T. is requested to implement para. 2 of my 140015 for ACTIMTY.
3. ACTIVITY (S.O.) and TRACKER are to sail from Clyde as necessary to comply with C. in C.H.F. 182353 para. 5E.
(C. in C.W.A. 211944A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation C.X. Arrived DUCKWORTH, COOKE and BERRY for fuelling.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 211535A to C. in C.W.A.)
Sailed E.G.3 in DUCKWORTH, COOKE, BERRY.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 212029 to C. in C.W.A.)

360

War Diary.

21.3.1944.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Smiths Knoll clearance. Following G.R.mines swept in Q.Z.X. 1241 to date 16th March. 4 B.Y.M.S. in G formation end Cutters only.

1. 3 miles 062° 54D Buoy at 1227/16th detonated.
2. 4.6 miles 353° 57 Buoy at 1545/16th detonated.
3. 4.7 miles 353° 57 Buoy at 1546/16th, exploded in sweep when attempting to clear.
4. 3.6 miles 337° 57 Buoy at 1229/18th, detonated.
5. 3.9 miles 337° 57 Buoy at 1338/18th, detonated.
6. 4 miles 338° 57 Buoy at 1607/18th cut, sunk by rifle-fire.
7. 4.3 miles 339° 57 Buoy at 1725/18, detonated.

(Cdr. M/S Lowestoft 211120A to C. in C.Nore.)

Operation "Hostile 21". My 161641. Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 21" tonight.

2. Force "Hostile 21" is to sail to pass Gate at 1715A/21st.
3. Support Force TARTAR (S.O.) HURON is to proceed on completion of NEX at about 2215 direct to arrive YY. at 0030 to take up and then patrol in accordance with my 161641? (C. in C.Plymouth 211127A to DEFIANCE.)

Your 211831A. Detail another destroyer of 10th D.F. in place of TARTAR for duties in accordance with para. 3 of my 211127A. (C. in C.Plymouth 212017A to Capt. D.10.)

Lyme Bay. 4 mines cut in 270° Portland Bill 14 miles. Mines very old cannot be identified. Intend carrying out search in K formation 2 miles square of position. (M/S 4 211154A to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Sweep off Start Point. Your 201558A. Searched to Start Point 0930° (sic) 2.2 miles. Nothing found. (CARAQUET 211840Z to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats off Lands End. P.C. and S. of 3 E-Boats 49° 42' N. 05° 38' W. 090° 20 knots. (A/C 210600 to 19 Group.)

TIRPITZ. Following B.3 report has been received:-
A new repair ship has arrived in Kaafjord. TIRPITZ carries out exercises in Altafjord every day.
MONTEROSA is possibly going south this month.
Comment: Repair ship may be HUASCARAN.
(D.D.I.C. 211602A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

Enemy convoy. At 1410, 2 V.M. 3 escorts passed Renga 066° 30' N. course south, speed 9 knots. (F.O.S. 211649A to TAKU, (R) SYRTIS.)

361

War Diary.

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- EMPIRE
BASCOBEL. Send assistance, engine disabled, 2 miles 270°
from South Bishop.
(EMPIRE BASCOBEL 210315Z to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
- WARSPITE. In view of general conditions of boiler rooms in
WARSPITE I consider it essential that one further
main steam pipe be replaced on port side. This
can be completed by the time leave period expires.
Request your concurrence and confirmation that ship will not be
required before 24th April.
(C. in C. Rosyth 211320A to C. in C.H.F.)
- M.L.205. At approx. 0200/21st a fire occurred in the ward
room flat of M.L.205. Damage sustained is estimated
to take 4 - 5 weeks to make good.
(HORNET 211757 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- PERSIAN. 4" Mark 5 C Gun in PERSIAN completely out of action.
Beyond repair at Stornoway. Propose sailing PERSIAN
under escort for repairs as soon as possible.
(MENTOR 211915 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Shipping & Convoys.
- Stragglers. Stragglers return week ending 0915/21 March:-
O.N.S.31 SHERIDAN inexperienced fireman.
O.N. 228 ALDEBARAN leakage in crank case.
O.N.228 ARGOS HILL unable to maintain speed.
O.S.71/K.M.S.45 BENEDICT damaged firebars.
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 211100A to Admty.)
- Stragglers returned from convoy during week ending 21st March.
DEBRETT from O.S.71/K.M.S.45.
(N.C.S.O.Belfast 211416A to Admty.)
- Group 10. Following ships will form Group 10, DAPHNELLA,
LUCERNA, MYDRECHT, EMPIRE CELIA, CHARLES M.SCHWAB.
2. Only 5 ships are being sailed in this group as
icebreaker LENIN is not available.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 211111A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

362

War Diary.21.3.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- U/B report. Have lost A.S.V. contact in 36° 43' N. 06° 50' W. probably U-Boat.
(A/C C/S WIJJ, 210106A.)
- DITTANY. DITTANY is defective at Gibraltar. Your 20120Z* refers. Intend to sail her with O.S.71.
(F.O.G.M.A., 211000A to F.O.C.W.Af.)
* 201020 intended - Situation Report, DITTANY with O.S.70.
- E.G. 1. First Escort Group are all overdue for boiler cleaning or top overhaul except BALFOUR.
Fast (2) As E.G.1 is apparently urgently required convoy. propose forming fast convoy consisting of MONOWAI, PEGU (ex M.K.S.43), EMPIRE MIGHT, RIPPINGHAM GRANGE both in S.L.152 escorted by
- E.G.1. EMPIRE REGENT and CITY OF LINCOLN could also be included.
(3) DOUGLAS, VISCOUNT and WITHERINGTON could be used to escort BULOLO.
(4) A.M. 201608, 210045, C. in C. Med. 210836 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 211110A.)
Your 211110. Para. 2. Approved. MONOWAI may embark to capacity.
(V.C.N.S., 212345A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- M.V. MONTE Your 172011* (A) not intercepted.
ALBERTIA. (F.O.G.M.A., 211152A to Adnty.)
* Motor vessel MONTE ALBERTIA.
- U/B report. A/C's 211212*. E.T.A. position 36° 29' N. 04° 06' W. at 1530A.
(INVER, 211305A to F.O.G.M.A., (R) DELPHINIUM.)
(cf. A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar 220225A.)
* Reporting position of enemy S/M.
- Suspicious 211930A sighted M/V about 8000 tons P.C.S. 036° ship. 43' N. 011° 45' W., 000°, 9.
(EVADNE, 211935A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- T.G.21.11. Depart Casablanca when ready about 22nd March to operate south of 40 N. and west of 14th meridian against subs. reported proceeding south-west between Portugal and Azores by Cominch
211600. Co-ordinate your operations with C.T.G. 21.12 and keep latter advised of your movements.
(Cinclant, 211959 to C.T.G. 21.11.)
- FOZ DO Your 151845 and your 281243* Feb. No objection DOURO. to proposed route. As U.S. Authorities are involved presumably you will inform U.S. N.A. as previously.
(Adnty., 212340A to N.A. Lisbon.) * Re routing of Barque FOZ DO DOURO.

363

21.3.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

A/S operations. Unable to carry out Omega sweep. No details held. Intend sweeping mean course 225° from position 005° 00' N. 004° 50' E. commencing 210500Z. S. of A. 10.5 knots. Weather report. (TEES, 210200Z to N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

U/B report. A.M. 210544A* not to S.B.N.O. Azores or H.Q.C.C. Cross bearings of U-Boat transmission on 6795 k/cs at 0411Z/21 give position within 200 miles of 29° 00' N. 30° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 210649A to F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.G.M.A., S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C.)
* Not circulated in Admiralty.

E.G. 55 SNOWDROP, CROCUS. (1) SNOWDROP and CROCUS asdic defective. If unable to repair both ships intend taking SCHIAFFINO to Takoradi.
(2) Am transferring asdic 96 to SNOWDROP. CROCUS not yet diagnosed.
(S.O. E.G.55, 210911Z to N.O.I.C. W.Af.)

U/B believed sunk by T.G. 21.16. C.R. No.1296. My 200121 (N.T. in W.D. but cf. Cominch 212100Z in America and West Indies.) Probably sank another sub. vicinity last killing: lat. 13.08 N. long. 33.42 W. at 191450Z. Sub. under persistent attack by BRONSTEIN who tracked her 4500 yards for hour and half C.U.S.290. On each attack strong positive sound contact lost between 200 and 300 yards. After first attack 1421Z fresh oil found with some debris. On last attack 1448Z BRONSTEIN attacked directly over target indicated depth 200 feet. Warned sub. was surfacing. 1630Z plane sighted thick layer of oil spreading to large area starting from narrow point directly at point last attack buoyed by plane. This definitely not morning kill as fighter pilot and rescued gunner-observer saw second sub. blown out of water with bow high sink stern first. Destruction corroborated by sub. survivors. Also distance separating and fact oil remained directly vicinity sinking. Believe this R/V area as planes found second sub. lying to, surfaced when they attacked indicating waiting for R/V. Believe third sub. refueller about to surface when kill took place. This revaluation based on quantity of oil so large even permeated atmosphere affecting pilot flying low M.A.D. plane along with complete disappearance target after final attack and inability 2 escorts and planes regain contact in 24 hour diligent search. Next morning search plane found oil spread over 4 mile area vicinity attacks. Captain first kill Kapitän-Leutnant Johann Brans sub. U.801. 2nd Flotilla Lorient departure Circa 25th Feb. AA continuing search.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 210958.)

/Lines ...

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Lines of approach to Capetown. The following lines of approach to Capetown are established.

(2) No.1 from 028° 29' S. 015° 11' E. No.2 from 030° 31' 012° 40'. No.3 from 033° 12' 011° 49' all to end of the northern approach channel 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E.

(3) No.4 from 034° 26' S. 012° 22' E. No.5 from 038° 00' 014° 10'. No.6 from 039° 21' 018° 21'. No.7 from 036° 54' 023° 45'. No.8 from 15 miles 180° from Cape Agulhas all to end of southern approach channel 034° 26' S. 018° 26' E.

(4) Bring approach C No.4 into force for shipping approaching from the north and west.

(5) Approach channel No.8 remains in force for shipping from the east.

(C. in C. S.A., 211540B.)

G.R. Opsum Period ending 1800/20th.
 221. U/B 3. (A) F.R. Sund. C/343. (B) Locate and sweep
 attacked ahead O.T.13. (C) 1609. (D) 22.12 N. 20.04 W.
 210 miles (E) Wake and swirl of supposed U/B attacked.
 W.N.W. of (H) 2 sticks of 4 - 250 D/Cs. from 100 ft. in
 C. Blanco. large patch oil seen after attack 1 flame float
 dropped.
 (A.H.Q.W.Af., 211805.)

U/B A. U.S.S. BRONSTEIN series of attacks on sub.
 attacked by 13.08 N. 33.42 W. 191421 to 191448. All times
 BRONSTEIN Z. BOUNDBROOK SSSS cancelled 170255.
 (T.G.21.16). (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 212100Z.)
 BOUNDBROOK
 re SSSS.

365

War Diary.21.3.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep No.60.
L.S.Ts., L.C.I. from Naples and L.C.T. from
Naples provided 1, 48, 4, 102 and 330 tons
respectively out of 5353 unloaded March 20th.
Heavy swell one fruitless air raid little
shelling.
(F.O.W.It., 211020A.)

Landing
Craft.

10 British L.S.T.(2) will be able to sail in
M.K.S.45 without waiting for relief by U.S.
L.S.T. 14 British and 3 Greek are now working on
Anzio maintenance.

2. This 27 is the total number of British and
Greek L.S.T.(2) other than those under long term repair.
3. It is not yet possible to forecast the date by which the 18
U.S. L.S.T. due in U.G.S.36 will be available at Naples to
relieve the L.S.T. now working on Anzio maintenance, but it will
not be in time for these ships to sail in M.K.S.45.
4. The situation regarding supply to Anzio will be kept under
vigilant scrutiny with a view, should it be possible, to
releasing these L.S.Ts. at a date earlier than their relief by
U.S. L.S.Ts.
5. Request information whether it is intended that the three
Greeks should proceed to U.K. If at all practicable, it is
considered desirable that they should remain in Meditn., in
which case four U.S. L.S.Ts. must be included to make up the
28 required.
(C. in C. Med., 211047 to Admty.)

U/B
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 35° 35' N. 4° 06' W.
(A/C C/S PCZY, 211205.)
Am over enemy S/M in 36° 29' N. 4° 06' W. S/M
was sighted on surface and seen to submerge.
When first sighted was on course 090° speed 6
knots. Have attacked with depth charges.
(A/C C/S PCZY, 211212.)

UNIVERSAL.

Leave patrol to pass 042° 34' 006° 35' at 0400/
24th, 042° 00' 007° 49' at 2358/24th to arrive
Maddalena 1145/25th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 211249A.)

PHOEBE.

Intend entering PHOEBE to Canal 0545 March 22nd
for transit to Port Said and onward routeing to
Alexandria.
(N.O.I.C. Suez, 211725 to Admty., Info. F.O.L.E.M.,
S.N.O.R.S.C.A., N.O.I.C. Port Said, C. in C. Med.,
C. in C. E.F.)

Allocation
of French
S/MS.

Your 131731A. No objection.
(Admty., 211926A to C. in C. Med.)

/Cositintrep ...

War Diary.

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositintrep No. 250.
K.M.S.44 attacked. Cositintrep No.249 not issued.
1. Convoy north of Bougie attacked by approximately 25 aircraft p.m./19th March no ships damaged. Fighters shot down one enemy aircraft.
4. Nothing sighted by destroyers patrolling Vis night 17th/18th and 18th/19th March.
(C. in C. Med., 211940.)

Convoy X.K.15. A.M. 201916. GENERAL BIRDWOOD will arrive Gibraltar 20th March and can reinforce escort.
2. Tug DONAU can act as additional Rescue Ship.
3. If this is not considered sufficient escort X.K.15 must be delayed until 48 hours after K.X.15 arrives Gibraltar and one trawler from that convoy could be sailed back to U.K. as additional escort.
4. Request instructions.
(C. in C. Med., 212302A to Admty.)

E.G. 1 Fast convoy. No objection to proposals in F.O.G.M.A. 211112 (211110 intended?).
(C. in C. Med., 212308A.)

Raid on Solta Is. Raiding force of 2 C.D.O. as S.P. Ops. group landed heavy weapons troop 43 R.M. Cmdo under Com. Lt. Col. K.M.T. Churchill attacked Solta Islands south of Split Yugoslavia on 19th March. Entire German garrison of 106 eliminated as follows: seven killed, one officer and 77 O.Rs. captured, one missing believed buried under debris. Own casualties two Cmdo., 11 O.Rs. wounded, U.S. one O.R. killed and two wounded. Raid was carried out without hitch according to plan with first class co-operation from Navy and R.A.F.
(Fortbase, No T.O.O./21.)

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Operation "Diplomat". Departures RENOWN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, ILLUSTRIOUS, LONDON, GAMBIA, CEYLON, CUMBERLAND, NAPIER, NORMAN, NEPAL, VAN GALEN, TJERK HIDDES, QUILLIAM, PATHFINDER.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 210320Z.)

Bi-weekly U-Boat dis- position No. 35. Area A Japanese U-Boat may be in this area from sinking of H.D. COLLIER 18th March and single D/F bearing from Colombo 2358Z/18th March scale air escort X area B, a Japanese U-Boat mentioned under area A may now be in area B scale air escort X. Area C no fresh information since sinking of TARIFA 7th March, area believed clear of U-Boats scale air escort W. Area D no fresh information since Japanese U-Boat plotted by D/F and attacked by LULWORTH night 15/16th March. It is believed this U-Boat has moved to the eastward and possibly is the one which attacked BRITISH UNITY N.E. of Seychelles 19th March scale air escort X. Area E no fresh information but Japanese U-Boat mentioned under area A may have moved south scale air escort X. Area F no fresh information but Japanese U-Boat possibly still operating in Northern Bay Bengal scale air escort X. Area G IPSWICH reports hydrophone effect of torpedo in 005° 34 mins. N. 078° 43' E. at 1645Z/20, which points to one U-Boat being in the area scale air escort Y.
(C. in C.E.F. 210354Z.)

Raider situation. Personal for First Sea Lord.
During last few months ships at sea in this theatre have shown no reluctance to report suspicious vessels. Your 181331. I consider non receipt of warnings is nearly always attributable to early damage of W/T or failure to establish communication over long distances. Need for immediate report is continually impressed on all masters.
2. My appreciation of recent raider sortie is that this can be connected with report of U.SS/Ms on patrol in Lombok Strait, Com. 7th U.S. Fleet 070850 (071850 intended) refers. It would appear to have been a H/S sortie and there is no evidence at present that raiders are still operating on trade routes.
3. In view of U.S. A/C carrier SARATOGA's H/S strong destroyer escort and powerful air force I have not considered cruiser escort necessary.
4. Operation "Diplomat" now being carried out by Eastern Fleet will afford opportunity to intercept any raiders that may operate. My intention that Fleet shall show W/T activity at selected moments should act as a deterrent. If raider activity shows signs of persisting it may be necessary to establish a carrier cum cruiser patrol on the Australian route. This would however tend to prejudice combined and other training of carrier squadrons for carrier patrol.
(C. in C.E.F. 210908Z.)

/WAKE ISLAND...

368

21.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

WAKE ISLAND,
MISSION BAY.

Early information is requested regarding return route desired for these ships. My 101231 refers. (C. in C.E.F. 21115Z to B.A.D.)
Passage of U.S. Carriers WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY to Karachi.

CANTON
(for return
to D. of
S.T's control)

Sailed from Colombo to Aden for onward routing to Suez Admty. 151808 refers. Route etc. (C. in C.E.F. 211358Z.)

Suspicious
ship.

Unidentified surface R.D.F. contact in 004° 56' N. 079° 10' E. at 2300 F.G. behaviour suspicious steering west and then south speed 10 knots. (EMERALD 211637Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) C.S.4.)
My 211637. My P.C. and S. of vessel at 0012 F.G. 004° 42' N. 079° 09' E. 180° 11 knots. Am proceeding. (EMERALD 211803 to C. in C.E.F. (R) C.S.4.)

R.N. Air Stn.
Tanga.

Your 180733. No objection to action proposed. (Admty. 211707A to Com. N.A.S. E.Af.)

369

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

PATROLLER. My 170445/ amend destination to read Pearl Harbour.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 210042Z)
/ San Francisco departed 1620/15 PATROLLER for
New Orleans.

BRITANNIC
and other
personnel
ships.

Several personnel ships of which largest is
BRITANNIC have been delayed by repairs which are
expected to be completed in early April.

(2) If such ships as are ready in time could be
despatched to the U.S. and be included embarked
to capacity in the first available C.U. convoy
instead of waiting for U.T.2 we should secure the

following advantages:- (a) personnel whom we had hoped to lift
in U.T.11 (?U.T.2 intended) would arrive earlier in the U.K.

(b) Ships would arrive in the U.K. in time to be included in
K.M.F.31 where their lift will certainly be needed.

(3) Request you investigate whether the inclusion of these ships
in C.U. convoys would be acceptable to U.S. Naval authorities.

(D. of S.T. 210236A to B.A.D.)

H.X.283. SS. HORACE BUSHNELL lost convoy and arrived
St. John's N.F.19th with engine trouble.
SS. WILLIAM H. ASHLEY proceeding St. Johns N.F.
with collision damage. R/V will not be broadcast.
Your 202101/ refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 210502Z to FITZROY).
/ P.C.S. of FITZROY names of stragglers (N.T. in
W.D.)

It would appear from H.M.S. KARANJA's 202101 that SS. WILLIAM H.
ASHLEY was detached from H.X. 283 with Iceland portion instead
of SS. JAMES M. GILLIS.

C.4 is requested to report if SS. JAMES M. GILLIS is with H.X.
283.

(C. in C. C.N.A. 211421Z)

(1) H.X. 283. (2) RIVERVIEW PARK N.D, WILLIAM H. GRAYSON
(U.S.) (?WILLIAM GRAYSON intended). (3) 21st March.

(4) Collision Damage.

(N.C.S.O.St. Johns N.F. 211827Z)

H.X. 283 59 ships 043 degs. 35' N. 036 degs. 51' W. Z 098
degs. 9½ knots 043 degs. 50' N. 039 degs. 12' W.

(2) 1 Ship TURNBULL missing at R/V.

(3) F.O.N.F.'s 201605Z SOCONY VACUUM number 103 report probably
in collision with GRAYSON night of March 18th/19th suffering
superficial damage. Weather report 2856 0846.

(C.4, 211930Z)

C.U.17. Off Oversay at 0030Z/20.
All arrived except SEAKAY.
(D.T.D. 211244A)

H.X.281. Average speed 8.7 knots. Off Oversay at 0700Z/14.
All arrived.
(D.T.D.211245A)

U.S.S. /...

370

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S.S. GEN. A.E. ANDERSON. Sail 27 March unescorted to point West of Gibraltar for R/V with escort to Oran ref. C. in C. Med. 201642. After discharging at destination sail ship to Hampton Roads. (C.N.O.211510)

U/B Dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 211518Z, Cominch, 211602Z) X 1200Z/20 March one approximate F.P. C.P. from poor D/F.

S.C.156. Concrete ships. In view Admty 202116 not to all authorities sailing of concrete ships VITRUVIUS, WILLIS A. SLAYTER, ARTHUR NEWELL, TALBOT and DAVID O. SAYLOR in convoy S.C.156 delete them from convoy C.K.2. My 112137 refers. (Cominch, 211604Z)

NORTHWAY (L.S.D.) In accordance Cominch 012007, NORTHWAY escorted by ASCENSION, THORNBOROUGH, TROLLOPE depart Bermuda Sea Buoy 1200Z/21 for Ponta Delgada (route) (N.O.B.Bermuda, 211728) NORTHWAY arrived Bermuda with starboard circulating water pump defective journals on impeller shaft are heavily scored entailing complete removal of shaft. Fitting spare shaft and bearings and alignment. Time four to five days working continuously. B.A.D's 211751/2 refers. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 212238Z). NORTHWAY to be sailed via Bermuda and Horta to U.K. with special cargo.

T.A.96. Diversion order. (Cdr.10th Fleet C. & R. 212030Z)

U/B incidents. Para. A. U.S.S. BRONSTEIN series of attacks on Sub. 13.08 N. 33.42 W. 191421 to 191448. All times Z Admiralty 211105 not to all addressees. BOUNDBROOK SSSS cancelled 170255. (Cominch, 212100Z)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest No.791. March 20th paras. 8 to 11 cover South Pacific Force. Before dawn patrol Liberator attacked four ship convoy including one medium one small merchantmen two gunboats 12 miles North West Hollandia course unknown. Medium merchant vessel claimed

probably /...

371

21.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest probably sunk one gunboat damaged.
No.791. (5) Destroyers continue co-operation bombardment
(Contd.) hostile targets Los Negros Island where one
ammunition dump destroyed.
(6) Morning 20th U.S. Navy Task Force including
battleships heavily bombarded Kavieng for three
and a half hours firing over 1000 14 inch shells and 1200 ?
inch producing large fires explosions throughout entire period
exploding large ammunition storage razing almost entire town.
Enemy fire ineffective during approach quickly silenced save for
intermittent ack ack. Simultaneously substantial forces landed
without opposition Emirau Island in Saint Matthias Group 70 miles
North West Kavieng. Slight opposition encountered further
landing Elomuspu Island off South East coast Emirau Island but
nil casualties reported.
(C.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 210602)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) Br. Tanker MATADIAN torpedoed and sunk, no casualties. M.L.289 engaged surfaced U-Boat at 1000 yards U-Boat dived at 0330Z/20 in 05 degs.05' N. 04 degs. 47' E.
Para. B. (1) A/C made A.S.V. contact at 0006Z/21 in 36 degs. 43' N. 06 degs. 50' W.
Para. C. (1) Trainer A/C reported periscope and wake prior to 1330Z/20 in 51 degs. 20' N. 05 degs. 30' W. Ref. SSSS message from BOUNDBROOK on 17th March is any further information available?
(D.D.I.C.211105A)
My 221059 July 1942. (1) At 0050/15 a U-Boat was sunk by E.G.2 in 53 degs. 46' N. 24 degs. 35' W. after it had been detected by A.S.V.Z. fitted aircraft from VINDEX.
(2) Presume you have details of sinking of U-Boat in Straits of Gibraltar by hedgehog attack from AFFLECK at 1212/16 after detection by U.S. Catalinas at 0855/16.
(D.A.U.D.211958A)

U/B Estimates.
Dispositions. (D.D.I.C.211405A, 211414A)

372

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

General

Trans -
Atlantic
Convoys.

1. In order to make available the additional A/S forces required for Operation "Overlord" it is intended to abolish the S.C./O.N.S. Convoys and to run H.X./O.N. Convoys on the existing cycles at speeds of 10, 8 and 9 knots in rotation, the increased size of these convoys being accepted. It is proposed to effect this change in mid-April.

Home Commands

Convoy
K.X.15
attacked
by U/boat.

2. At 2037Z to-day the Trawler SKOKHOLM escorting Convoy K.X.15 about 480 miles West of St. Nazaire reported that a torpedo had passed astern of her. But no contacts were obtained and search for the U/boat was abandoned.

Greenwich
and
Deptford
bombed.

3. An attack by enemy aircraft at 0108 to-day caused fires in the Royal Victualling Yard at Deptford which were under control at 0335; and two H.E. bombs in the grounds of the R.N. College at Greenwich caused much superficial damage. Extensive damage was also caused by blast to the Seaman's Hospital at Greenwich, part of which is occupied by Admiralty.

South Atlantic

Operation
"Tabarin"

H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY erected the Union Flag with documents at Cape Renard, Grahamland to-day.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"

5(a). 5612 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day,

/ although...

373

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle"

although X beach was still out of action though the weather. There was little shelling or enemy air activity. Vesuvius is still active and Monte Corbino airfield is still out of action.
(b) U.S. aircraft bombed Leghorn again to-day, hits being made on the oil tanks and shipyards. An M.L. was slightly damaged when 8 Ju.88 attacked Komriza at dusk today. There were some civilian but no naval casualties.
(c) An M.T.B. from Maddalena intercepted and sank last night a small boat containing 11 escapers from Sardinia attempting to reach German occupied Italy.

Landing
on Hvar
Island.

6. It was reported that the Germans were evacuating Hvar Island, and a reconnaissance force in strength consisting of 200 Commandos, with a force of occupation consisting of 400 partisans was despatched to Hvar today. Part of the enemy garrison of 200 was captured and the remainder dispersed into the woods.

East Indies

SS. NANCY
MOLLER.

7. In the early hours of to-day EMERALD reported picking up survivors of SS. NANCY MOLLER who was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine in 02,14 N. 78.25 E. (about 240 miles S.S.W. of Ceylon) at 0800/18.

STONEHENGE
lost.

8. The submarine STONEHENGE is 48 hours overdue from patrol off Car Nicobar or Nancowry and must be considered lost.

America and West Indies.

SS. WATUKA

The small British SS. WATUKA sank as the result of an explosion, at first reported as being of unknown origin but subsequently known to have been caused by a U/boat at 0856Z today in about 44.32 N. 62.54 W. (about 70 miles East of Halifax N.S.).

/ Australia...

374

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand .

10. The reduction of Wewak continued this forenoon by 36 Liberators. Simultaneously 97 U.S. medium bombers with fighter escort attacked coastal traffic between Wewak and Aitape, sinking two small freighters and a number of barges and armed patrol boats.

11. M.T.Bs. last night sank a solitary enemy barge encountered south of Bogia and attacked a Japanese camp and gun position in the Kronprinz Harbour area.

12. B.A.D. Washington reports that Allied destroyers to-day supported the ground forces operating in the Admiralty Islands, and that other destroyers bombarded enemy positions at Augusta Bay. (*Empress Augusta Bay*) See B.A.D. 261745Z. Page 435

375

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Ten
Corvettes
for
Portsmouth.Admiralty's 211821. Following ships are allocated to Portsmouth Command and are required to sail on dates shown.
(A) BUTTERCUP, LAVENDER, KRIEZIS, TOMPAZIS - April 11th.
(B) HEATHER, GENTIAN, CAMPANULA, BURDOCK, WOODSTOCK, REGINA - April 21st.
(C. in C. W.A., 221030A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)ANTARES
for Med.C. in C. Plymouth's 211204.
1. ANTARES is to proceed to join Command of C. in C. Med.
2. Request she may be sailed as additional escort for K.M.S.46 to R/V with convoy as arranged by C. in C. W.A.
(D.O.D.(H), 221224A to C. in C. Plymouth.)U.S.S.
PROCYON.As declared speed of U.S.S. PROCYON is only 13½ knots, request you will sail ship to Gibraltar in K.M.S.45.
(D.O.D.(H), 222000A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

STRATAGEM,

Capt. (S) 5 and Capt. (S) 3 are requested to sail STRATAGEM and SPIRIT respectively about 30th March for Gibraltar and onward passage to Eastern Fleet.
(F.O.(S), 222046A to Capts. (S) 3 and (S) 5.)Operations.Operation
C.X.Arrived CAMROSE, LUNENBURG. C. in C. W.A. 201148A refers.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 221105 to C. in C. W.A.)
EDMUNDSTON arrived.Sailed CAMROSE and LUNENBURG. C. in C. W.A.'s 212153A refers.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 221701A to C. in C. W.A.)Proceed forthwith to carry out sweep in area bounded by line joining:- 058° 14' N. 007° 01' W., 058° 50' N. 007° 01' W., North Rona, Cape Wrath, Triumpan Head. Aircraft are co-operating in your area by day and to north-west of your area by night. Type 253 to be kept switched on day and night. Enemy report to C. in C. W.A. in Self Evident Code.
(C. in C. W.A., 221916A to E.G.22.)Operation
"Knitting 3".

Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs. 253 (S.O.) 251 in support at 1930/22nd for patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 00° 10'00" E. and 00° 45'00" W., proceeding and returning passage 4 and ordered to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 221115A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
My 221115A. Postponed 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 221430A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Enemy ...

376

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Enemy convoy and South Foreland area shelled. At 2035 yesterday shore-based Radar detected one large vessel and about 20 escorts leaving Boulogne northward at 12 knots.
2. Two units of M.T.Bs. which were at short notice in Dover in anticipation of this movement were sailed for V Buoy, thence to attacking positions half a mile west and one and a half miles east of Dunkirk B.W. Buoy.
3. Four Albacores of 415 Squadron were flown off from Manston, three to attack with bombs in conjunction with the M.T.Bs. and one to illuminate the target at the estimated time of the first M.T.B. attack.
4. Between 2132 and 2206 our coastal batteries engaged the enemy with eleven rounds of 15" and seventy rounds of 9.2". Four probable hits and seven straddles are claimed. The enemy entered Calais at 2330.
5. Enemy batteries replied with about 35 rounds of which some 20 fell in the sea and the remainder in the South Foreland area. No damage or casualties have been reported.
6. When it was seen from the plot that the main target had entered Calais the M.T.Bs. were withdrawn to V Buoy and later returned to harbour without incident.
(V.A. Dover, 221151A to Admty.)

Operation "Plane 42". Carry out Operation "Plane 42" tonight.
(V.A. Dover, 221308A to S.O. L.C.P.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221404A.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221448A.)
(V.A. Dover, 221611A, 221629A.)

Operation F.Y. Amendment Number One my 182353 refers. For BITER read ACTIVITY throughout.
Para. (4) (F) add 2nd Escort Group STARLING (S.O.) WILD GOOSE, WREN, MAGPIE, WHIMBREL.
Para. (6) (D) for Group is read Groups are. Add - under orders of STARLING.
Para. (7) add - route direct for Pentland passing west of Orkneys thence by war channel FITZROY to the Nore remainder to Granton.

(C. in C. H.F., 221411 to H.F.)

Request you will arrange - (a) that no Russian submarines are to westward 022° 30' E. from 1st April. My 151708 and Admty. 090202 February refer and (b) that maximum number of Russian submarines are on patrol during passage of J.W. and R.A. 58 in accordance with my 171315 December to F.O.S. only.

(C. in C. H.F., 221753A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

The undermentioned black-oil tankers will be included in J.W.58 with following cargoes for Admiralty account. NOREG, LACKLAN.

2. Complete set of oiling-at-sea gear as requested in your 041323 being shipped in LACKLAN for BRITISH VALOUR. Your 211251A not to all addressees refers.
3. J.W.58 is expected to consist of 50 ships made up as follows:
47 dry cargo (including 5 for U.S. Army account)
3 tankers (2 fuel, 1 spirit).

(D.T.D., 221830A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/Para. 2 ...

377

War Diary.22.3.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.Y. (Contd.) Para. 2 of C. in C. W.A. 211944. Following arrangements made -
 (A) ACTIVITY embarking 5 Wildcat V and S.M.E. ex 816 Squadron and disembarking Swordfish air and ground crews not required to Machrihanish.
 (B) TRACKER embarking one Wildcat V ex 816 Squadron.
 (C) ACTIVITY embarking special Arctic stores ex BITER.
 2. ACTIVITY is to signal final complement of A/C carried in both ships and intentions to comply with C. in C. H.F. 182353. (F.O.C.T., 221905A to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation C.W. STRULE sailed in accordance with my 211021A. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 221436A to E.G.22.) Detach ANGUILLA tonight to proceed to Greenock. (C. in C. W.A., 221752A to E.G.22.) QU'APPELLE is to be detached to Londonderry forthwith to fuel. (C. in C. W.A., 221755A to E.G.6.) Arrived FRONTENAC. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 221820A to C. in C. W.A.) E.G.3 is to proceed to Londonderry forthwith to top up. Cdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail E.G.3 when ready to sweep in area bounded by parallel 050° N. 047½° N. and meridian 024½° W. 027½° W. (C. in C. W.A., 221842A to E.G.3.) Proceed to Belfast forthwith. (C. in C. W.A., 222108A to BENTLEY.)

VINDEX and E.G. 6 patrol. In view of fuel consumption have detached QU'APPELLE for Londonderry at 1500A to-day in 049° 58' N. 025° 02' W. Anticipate fuel situation of VINDEX and 6th E.G. will necessitate leaving patrol on 26th March. (VINDEX, 221550A to C. in C. W.A.) Leave patrol area a.m./26th. Destinations VINDEX to Clyde, 6th E.G. to Moville for fuel. (C. in C. W.A., 221912A to VINDEX, E.G.6.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines 0800/23rd and movements for following 24 hours.
 (A) TAKU, SATYR, TERRAPIN as in my 210142.
 (B) SYRTIS patrolling off Bodo.
 (C) STURDY on patrol vicinity 65° 19' N. 001° 15' E.
 (D) VOX on patrol vicinity 63° 29' N. 001° 08' E.
 (E) ZWAARDFISCH 62° 17' N. 001° 21' E. speed 10 knots to Lerwick.
 (F) ULA arriving Lerwick from north-east.
 (H) RUBIS on patrol vicinity 46° 12' N. 002° 59' W. (F.O.(S), 221727A to Admty.)

Engagement with E/R Boats. In accordance with my 211514, M.T.Bs. 257 (S.O.), 250, 253, 256 and 249 carried out a patrol between St. Valery and Fecamp last night. Object being the destruction of shipping.

378

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagement with E/R Boats. (Contd.)

2. M.T.Bs. 257, 250, 249 remained 14 miles off shore while M.T.Bs. 253, 256 proceeded to a position 6 miles north of St. Valery. At 2355 M.T.Bs. 253, 256 were attacked by an unknown number of E or R-Boats in 342° St. Valery 9.8 miles and withdrew to rejoin the remainder of the unit. M.T.B. 253 suffered slight damage and two minor casualties and subsequently returned to harbour.

3. At 0106 the remaining M.T.Bs. sweeping to the southward to investigate, encountered at least 9 R-Boats in 346° St. Valery 10.2 miles. These were avoided and search continued. At 0137 a twin-engined aircraft circled round the unit for 10 mins. between 0130 and 0300. Many Radar echoes were obtained, but all were found to be spurious. No torpedo targets sighted. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221957A to Admty.)

Biscay A/S operations. Convoy K.X.15 attacked by U-Boat.

At 2037Z/22 position 47° N. 14° W. SKOKHOLM in position H reported torpedo missed astern. Suspect one U-Boat shadowing off starboard quarter to convoy. No contacts. Search abandoned owing to SKOKHOLM limited speed and range. (ARCTURUS, 222153Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Deptford bombed.

At 220108 local attack by enemy aircraft dropped incendiary bombs (explosive type) resulting in large fires on opposite bank of River and supply and reserve depot. One small fire in yard caused by incendiary bomb in wharfinger store, S.E. corner of yard next to boundary wall quickly dealt with by fire-guard, damage negligible. R.N. fire force directed to assist U.S.A. contingent in supply and reserve depot. All available hydrants put into operation over boundary wall and one trailer pump sent with crew together with heavy unit crew to assist. Fire reported under control 0335. (Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford, 220420 to C. in C. Nore.)

Greenwich bombed.

2 large-calibre bombs on College ground have caused much light superficial damage. 2 slight casualties. Request earliest possible action by appropriate authority to re-establish living quarters and class-room. (Cdre. R.N.C. Greenwich 220440 to Admty.)

Enemy action on night 21st/22nd March resulted in extensive damage by blast to Seaman's Hospital Greenwich which is occupied in part by Admiralty. (C.C.W. Deptford, 221748A to Civil Lord.)

379

22.3.1944.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation N.L.120. My 211622. Operation N.L.120 abandoned owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover, 221143A to Admty.)

Humber. Magnetic mine detonated at 1010 in 221° No.15 buoy 2½ miles.
(F.O. Humber, 221202 and 221837A to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich. Two ground mines detonated by B.Y.M.S. in (A) 202° 53A Buoy 4 cables. (B) 190° 53B Buoy 2.8 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 222153A, 231027, 231156A.)

Casualties and Defects.

HYDRA. Your 201629A. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 220840A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

KHEDIVE. Regret KHEDIVE was in collision with SS. STUART QUEEN at 0223A today in 055° 24' N. 006° 25' W. STUART QUEEN proceeding from Belfast to Londonderry considered to be at fault continues voyage without assistance. Damage sustained by

KHEDIVE. Details.
(KHEDIVE, 220955A and 260915A to F.O.C.T.)
Clyde arrival KHEDIVE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 221156A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Group 10. My 211111A. Sailed Group 10 with JOHN A. DONALD additional.
This 6th ship was added after personal guarantee from Admiral Papaien that ice passage would be much easier and that LENIN would be available if difficulty arose.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 221900A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Channel Convoys cancelled. A.M. 132045 (See Special File).
It will be necessary to stop Channel coastal convoys between 1st and 4th May.
2. The following convoys arranged under the present schedule are therefore to be cancelled: C.W.265 and C.E.263, W.P.515, W.P.516, P.W.515 and P.W.516.
3. C. in C. Portsmouth's 1261/0/0303/87 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 222008A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gib. G.R. WX 27339. A 1428 22nd March.
Opsum U-Boat attacked in 36.29 N. 04.06 W. 090 or 010? -
21 March. 6 C/T only attacked submerged - 090 degs. Green -
15 secs. after C/T disappeared - 4 Torpex -
first D.C. exploded 70 ft. short second on leading
edge of swirl third 60 ft. overshoot no oil seen
but patches small air bubbles rose for 25 mins.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 220225A)

T.G.21.11. T.G.21.11 departed Casablanca 220800A to operate
as directed C. in C. Lant's 211959.
(C.M.S.F. 220743)

U-Boat 2 U-Boats estimated positions 039 degs. 30' N.
Reports. 012 degs. W. S.W. bound. 040 degs. 30' N.
010 degs. W. southbound.
(F.O.G.M.A. 221141A to P.329 (TRADEWIND), P.72
(VAMPIRE, P.226 (SIRDAR), (R) SOKOL, TORBAY)

Spanish My 261330 February. ENRIQUE ILLUECA, ROSA ILLUECA
Ships in and JOSE ILLUECA now openly engaged in German
German Orange trade and should be intercepted and or sunk.
Orange Even one success should put stop to (corrupt
Trade. group). Spanish ships in orange trade.
(2) Valencia please follow procedure laid down
in my 261330 February.
(3) Barcelona please give earliest possible nature
of sailings. (4) Reporting Officer will refer to these ships
as "H" and "I".
(B.N.A.Madrid, 221817A to ?F.O.G.M.A.)

Spanish Left Segunto 1600/22nd with iron ore for Germany.
CARMEN FREIXAS. (F.O.G.M.A. 222331A to 10th S/M.F. (R) Capt. (S)
10th, S.O.I. Med.)

South Atlantic.

R.A.T.E. Propose that Flag of R.A.T.E. be hauled down on
3rd April C. in C. S.A. concurs.
(R.A.T.E. Durban, 220800Z)

E.G.55 My 210911. (1) Vessel will not be detached.
SNOWDROP. (2) SNOWDROP will require base electrical and
asdic assistance 1st light 24th 03.13 N. 06.28 W.
Weather report 5488 1164.
(S.O. E.G.55, 221801Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi)

381

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

"Gnat" Your 091225B Feb. Approved.
"Cricket". (1st S.L. 220228A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Decoy balloon. A.M. 930A* A. BLACKMORE 0540/18 position 39° 05' N. 17° 34' E. B. Not detected by radar. First sighted bearing right ahead approx. 5 cables distant. C. Drifting at approx. one knot in S.E. direction. D. Not applicable. E. N.W. Force 1. F. 15 miles. G. Slight with short low swell from N.W.
2. During recovery one of the two foil reflectors sustained damage.
3. Balloon is being forwarded at first opportunity. (F.O.T.A.L.I. 221039A.)
* As received ?A.G.M.930A T.O.O. 062230 Nov.

Radar Station. Radar station reported on Cape Noli. (Capt. S.10 221137 to 10th S/M F.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep 61. Weather prevented work on X Beach causing tonnage discharged during 21st March to fall to 4523 tons. L.S.Ts. responsible for 1730 tons L.C.I.(L) from Naples 175 tons. Heavy gunfire, bomb in harbour but no damage. Monte Corvino Aerodrome out of action temporarily owing to ash from Vesuvius. (F.O.W.It. 221220.)

U/B report. Nr. 1. S/M sighted astern of "Neighbour" 1700B. (J9W 221740Z.)

Convoy X.K.15. A.M. 201916*. Amend refer. your 161601 (sic) to read your 101601 (sic). (D.O.D(H) 221936A.) * re Increase of escorts.

U/B reports. Am in contact with S/M in 032° 00' N. 025° 18' E. (TENBY 222105B.)
No. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 32° 33' 23° 44', probably a S/M. (A/C 9J8B 222330B.)
(Recd. about 221530 by War Diary.)

TAMARA. Following is repetition of Capt. S.1 221735. Begins: Swedish Mercy Ship TAMARA leaves Piraeus 1101/23rd by standard route for Gibraltar. Ends. (F.O.L.E.M. 222356B to SPORTSMAN, UNSWERVING, NEREUS.)

382

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SS. NANCY MOLLER. Missing survivors of NANCY MOLLER in 002° 39' N. (corrupt group) 29' E. (EMERALD, 220202Z.) EMERALD reports picking up survivors of SS. NANCY MOLLER which was torpedoed by Japanese U/Boat in 002° 14 mins. North 078° 25 mins. East at 0800/18. (C. in C.E.F. 221339Z.)

STONEHENGE lost. P.232 (STONEHENGE) is now 48 hours overdue, has failed to answer signal and must be considered lost. (S.O. S/Ms E.F., 220211Z.)

Bi-weekly U/Boat disposition No. 34. Area G. Survivors from NANCY MOLLER picked up in 002° 39' N. 078° 29' E. Scale of air escort Y. Other areas no fresh information no change in scale of air escort. (C. in C.E.F. 220359Z.)

PHOEBE. PHOEBE reports one boiler damaged by overheating and that the ship is now limited to 26 knots with 3 boilers.
2. F.O.L.E.M. has been requested to undertake this work in the Levant since facilities on this station are very strained.
3. PHOEBE has now been in commission for nearly two years and most of her officers and over 150 ratings have served in the ship for 2 years and must shortly be due for relief.
4. In view of the foregoing and the fact that she was ordered out in a hurry to meet an immediate threat which does not now appear to be so imminent, it is suggested it might be better for PHOEBE to return to U.K. to recommission before proceeding to join the Eastern Fleet. (C. in C.E.F. 220937Z to Admty.)

U/B report. By D/F at 1045Z on 22nd March on 16200 kc/s. the position of a Japanese U/Boat was within 150 miles of 003° N. 089° E. (C. in C.E.F. 221203Z.)

BRITISH LOYALTY. No casualties in BRITISH LOYALTY. Your 181130* refers.
2, 3. Details of damage.
4. Probably ship can continue in use as harbour hulk. Not considered profitable to attempt to tow ship to another port for repair. (C. in C.E.F. 221213Z.)*Re names of casualties if any and condition of vessel.

/U.S.S. M.T. ...

22.3.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U.S.S. MT. VERNON,
MARIPOSA. Return passage from Bombay to U.S.A.
(2) Escort will be provided for U.S.S. MT. VERNON from Bombay to Australian Waters and subject to Compac concurrence ship may embark to capacity.
(3) Separate ocean escorts for MARIPOSA cannot however be provided but consider it desirable that ship should not sail unescorted. Subject to delay in MT. VERNON being acceptable propose that both ships should now sail from Bombay in company.
(C. in E.F. 221251Z) Reply: Concur (U.S.) C. in C. Pacific Fleet 231315, Concur para. 3 B.A.D. 250109Z)

WAKE ISLAND,
MISSION BAY. Arrived and left WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY escorted by QUADRANT and RAIDER.
(N.O.I.C.Diego Suarez, 221342Z)

Abadan Defences. Following from Chiefs of Staff.
We have approved withdrawal of A/A defences from Abadan area and Kirkuk.
(2) A.O.C. in C. Mideast should be ready at three days notice to operate fighter defence organisation and adequate warning system at Abadan and Kirkuk.
(P.A.I.C. Mideast 221400Z)

U/B dispositions.. Admiralty estimate.
(D.D.I.C. 221900A to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.), A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.22.3.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.SS. JOEL R.
POINSETT.Arrival p.m. 21st. ST. JOHN ex screening SS.
POINSETT.
(C.O.P.Halifax 220100Z.)
O.N.225 JOEL R.POINSETT (U.S.) in tow of OCEAN
EAGLE arrived Halifax 2233Z/21.
(N.C.S.O.Halifax 221312Z.)

U/B report.

D/F 2307Z/21 indicates that you may encounter
southbound U/B today March 22nd.
(D.D.I.C. 220846A to Escorts of O.N.3. 31 & U.C.16,
Info. C. in C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. H.Q.C.C. C. in C.W.A.)Trans-
Atlantic
Convoys.To make available the additional A/S forces re-
quired for "Overlord" it is intended to abolish
S.C./O.N.S.convoys and to run H.X/O.N.convoys
on existing cycles at speeds of 10, 8 and 9 knots
in rotation the increased size of these convoys
being accepted.

2. It is proposed to effect this change in mid April. M.W.T. agrees.
3. Request your early concurrence.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 221140Z to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Info. B.A.D. Comnavu,
C. in C.W.A.)

SS. WATUKA
sunk.Merchant ship sank as result of explosion of un-
known origin approx. position 044° 32' N. 062° 54'
W. at 0856Z.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 221148Z.)
SS. WATUKA sunk by unknown explosion at 0850Z/22nd
in lat. 044° 30' N. 062° 51' W. 25 crew (including?) surgical
cases landed in Halifax 1430Z/22nd one missing my 222025 with
list of survivors follows.
(N.C.S.O.Halifax N.S. 222020Z.) Note position.
Request Admty. 1320/2/4/40. A. WATUKA. B. March 22nd 0650Z
044° 02' N. 062° 51' W. C. Thrown upside in metal box. D. Went
down with ship in closed weighted bag. E. Approx. 48 fathoms.
G. Chief Officer and W/T operator. I. No. O. No.
(N.C.S.O.Halifax N.S. 222027.) Note another different posn.

A.T.101 N.U.

Diversion order.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R. 221514Z.)U/B disposi-
tions.1200Z/22 one estimated vicinity of Halifax may
have sunk SS. WATUKA at 0930Z/22nd. One vicinity
49 N. 39 W. from D/F at 2307Z/21st.
(N.S.H.Q. 221616Z.)
Estimate.
(Cominch 221631Z.)

385

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

WAKE ISLAND, Will return U.S.A. via Cape your 211115* refers.
MISSION BAY. (B.A.D. 221647Z to C. in C.E.F.)
* re Passage of U.S. Carriers WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY.

WILLIAM H. Arrived 21st March, collision damage.
ASHLEY, (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 221707Z.)
(H.X. 283.)

U/B incidents. (C) U.S.C.G.C. 9 attacked sound contacts 36.54 N.
74.40 W. 221651Z and 221815Z. K.76 made contact
same area 221720Z. Radar contact by U.S.S. WASP
A/C 13.36 N. 73.47 W. 191353Z.
(Cominch 222055Z.)

Captain This supersedes my 160035. Estimated date of
Class Frigates arrival in U.K.
(B.A.D. 222119Z.)

Employment Cominch agrees with temporary moves communicated
of Italian in A.M. 161311Z.
Cruisers. (B.A.D. 222239Z to Admty. Info. C. in C. Med.
F.O.W.A.F.) / Former Top-secret

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial March 21st. Para. 7 to 10 cover South Pacific
No. 792. Forces. (2) Early hours 2 R/C Liberators bombed
single destroyer 20 miles east Tadjji scoring 4
direct hits with 1500 pound bombs. Vessel
claimed sunk. Same aircraft saw 3-4 small
merchant vessels 40 miles west Tadjji heading west. Other
aircraft sank 2 small freighters same vicinity.
(5) Rarak Island in Seeadler Hourbour 1 miles north Lorengau
occupied 20th. Total known enemy dead (and casualties?) number
over 2000 plus further 600 estimated.
(6) To March 20th total enemy casualties sustained Western New
Britain number nearly 4000 killed plus 124 prisoners.
(10) Noon 21st patrol aircraft saw single enemy submarine Saint
George's Channel heading Rabaul.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 220700Z.)

386

22.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. A/C Y/52 attacked U-Boat with depth
charges, course 090° at 1112/21 in 36° 29' N. 04°
06' W.

Para. C. 1. Shore watcher sighted conning tower
at 1415/21 in 50° 28' N. 05° 04' W.

2. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2130/21 in 32°

33' N. 23° 44' E.

3. H.M.Ship reported hydrophone effect of torpedo at 1645/20
in 05° 34' N. 78° 43' E.

Para. D. A/C C/343 attacked wake of supposed U-Boat at 1709/20
in 22° 12' N. 20° 04' W.

(D.D.I.C. 221043Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 221407A, 221408A.)

387

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Biscay
A/S
operations.

1. At 1444A today F.O.S. informed S/Ms on patrol that about twelve outward-bound and three or four inward-bound U/Boats are East of 016° W. in the northern Biscay area; and one U/Boat was sighted by A/C at 1351 about 380 miles West of the Gironde and another at 1650 about 30 miles W.S.W. of Lorient.

Enemy
Convoy
attacked.

2. At 0851 today a north-bound Enemy Convoy of two M/Vs and two Escorts was attacked by Beaufighter A/C about 20 miles S.W. of Stadlandet.
Many hits with cannon on the Escort Vessels are claimed and a large explosion was seen in one of the M/Vs.

South Atlantic.

U/B
attacked
440 miles
W.S.W.
of C. Verde
Is.

3. BLOCK ISLAND's group made another promising attack on a U/Boat contact at 1041Z today in 13.15 N. 33.40 W. (about 440 miles W.S.W. of Cape Verde Is.) near the position where C.T.G. 21.16 believes he sank 2 U/Boats on 19th March. Several deep underwater explosions were heard 9 minutes after CORRY's last depth charge attack at 1256Z and escorts and aircraft were unable to regain contact after 18 hours' search. This and the previous attacks resulted in much oil spread over a wide area.

Mediterranean.

Escort
carriers.

4. ATHELING, BEGUM, ATHENE and ENGADINE left Suez with escort today, to join the Eastern Fleet.

Operation
"Shingle".

5. 4200 tons were unloaded at Anzio today. X beach is still unfit for use. There was one air raid and intermittent shelling: no naval damage was caused.
GRENVILLE carried out two shoots against a German strong point near Anzio today.

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".
(Contd.)

5. 36 U.S. bombers are reported to have attacked Leghorn today; cloud prevented observation of results.

Capture
of Hvar I.

6a. Destroyers patrolling of Vis last night sighted nothing. Coastal force craft operated in Neretva and Peljesac Channels, but also had a blank night.

b. A combined raiding force of 200 of 43rd R.M. Commando and 400 Partisans was landed without opposition on Hvar Island in the early hours of today. After dispersing the enemy and capturing about 80 the Commando re-embarked and returned safely to Vis during the night 24/25 March leaving the Partisan force behind as a garrison. (c.f. 22nd March.)

East Indies.

FORT MCLEOD.

7. SS. FORT MCLEOD, Colombo for Durban independently, who reported being torpedoed on 3rd March 300 miles S.W. of Colombo, is overdue at Durban since 19th March.

GRENA.

8. The Norwegian tanker GRENA (Aden for Abadan) is reported to have been torpedoed at 210909Z in 20.27 N. 59.38 E. (about 40 miles East of Masira.) The ship sank.

Convoy.

9. Convoy Mauritius - Rodriguez one arrived at Rodriguez today.

M.V.BEHAR.

10. M.V.BEHAR, MELBOURNE for Bombay who was stated by M.V. ROOKLEY to have reported being shelled by a warship raider on 9th March is over-due at Bombay since 18th March and has not replied to signals.

Australia and New Zealand.

11. Six Mitchells bombed Kairiru barge base of Wewak, New Guinea, again today.

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

12. Allied M.T.Bs. were fired at ineffectively from shore off central Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville in the early hours of today. A destroyer co-operating with them silenced the fire.

13. Destroyers today bombarded Eloae Island, off the south-west coast of Manus Island, and Mussau Island, New Hanover.

390

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

VAMPIRE Your 231102. VAMPIRE sailed in accordance with Cap. (S) 3rd 111201. (F.O.S., 231614A to F.O.G.M.A.).

PROCYON Please cancel sailing of PROCYON. Admiralty 222000A refers. (Com. 12th Fleet, 231733 to Admty.). Cancel A.M. 222000.

U.S.S. PROCYON is to remain at Clyde until further orders. (D.O.D.(H), 231937A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operations.

Operation "Plane 42" My 221308A/March. Operation abandoned due to weather. (V.A. Dover, 230220A to Admty.).

Operation "C.W." LOUIS fuelled and sailed. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 230315A to C. in C.W.A.). Arrived BENTLEY. (F.O.I.C.N.I., 231025A to C. in C.W.A.). Sailed MOUNSEY, LAWSON and FLINT CASTLE to relieve E.G.7. E.T.A. position B.4 1500/23rd. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 231115A to C. in C.W.A.). Clyde arrivals CYGNET, CRANE, REDPOLE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 232316 to Admty.).

Operation "F.Y." One of the 2 tankers ex J.W.58 in addition to BRITISH VALOUR can it is estimated be turned round in time to sail with R.A.58, the second being ready for R.A.59.

2. This, however, would leave no tankers in North Russia to meet commitment referred to in Admiral Fisher's 061212. Request early decision on this. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 230951A to Admty.). Comnavu wishes to sail MILWAUKEE to North Russia escorted by two D.Es. at an early date.

2. Request you proposals. (A.C.N.S.(H) 231944A to C. in C.H.F.).

Coastal Force patrols. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 231035A). (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 231053A). (C. in C. Portsmouth 231320A). (C. in C. Plymouth 231502A). (V.A. Dover, 231651A, 231841A).

Operation "Downstream" Admiralty 062031. Request 15th M.S.F. may be made available to help Escort Convoys in operation "Downstream" after exercise "Leapyear". (F.O. Force "S", 231046A to C. in C. Nore).

/ Biscay...

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

Biscay A/S operations. Two U/boats sighted. Four Ju.88 position 45 degs. 36' N. 09 degs. 16' W. (A/C, SBA 22, 231345 to 19 Group). Am over enemy submarine (?with Ju.s.). My position 45 degs. 25' N. 09 degs. 58' W. at 1330. (A/C, SBA 11, 231351 to 19 Group). About 12 outward-bound U/boats and 3 or 4 inward between 045 degs. N. and 049 degs. N., East of 016 degs. W. (F.O.S., 231444A to Submarines). Safe. A/C. last seen position 45 degs. 20' N. 10 degs. 10' W., course 330 degs. height 2000 feet. (A/C, SBA 22, 231520A to 19 Group). Am over enemy submarine in 47 degs. 23' N. 05 degs. 00' W. (A/C, URV 23, 231650 to 19 Group). Enemy submarine previously reported was on the surface. (A/C, 231700A to 19 Group).

S/M patrols. Positions of submarines at 0800/24th and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) TAKU off Kya. (B) SATYR off Stadlandet.
- (C) TERRAPIN off Lister. (D) SYRTIS off Bodo.
- (E) STURDY, VOX as in my 221727.

(H) RUBIS on patrol as in my 221727.
(J) TORBAY 43 degs. 35' N. 13 degs. 22' W., dived by day to northward, speed of advance 105 miles in 24 hours.
(K) SOKOL 43 degs. 35' N. 12 degs. 54' W., dived by day to northward, speed of advance 105 miles in 24 hours. (F.O.S., 231747A to Admty.).

Cancel my 212004 February, 061219, 0621267 and 081105. Following is new forecast of submarine patrol. Submarines are to be sailed and recalled to conform without further signal:

	Submarine	Leave Lerwick	Return Lerwick	Patrol
(a)	ULA	24th March	approximate 4th April	Leads
(b)	VENTURER	29th March	12th April	Leads
(c)	UNSHAKEN	3rd April	17th April	Leads
(d)	TAKU	10th April	3rd May	Leads
(e)	SYRTIS	11th April	1st May	Leads
(f)	SATYR	12th April	2nd May	Leads

(2) TAKU, SYTRIS, SATYR on returning present patrol remain at Lerwick until required at (d) (e) and (f). (F.O.S., 231844A to Capt. (S)3, (S) 9.).

Cable repairs. ALERT. Commercial Cable Co., have requested G.P.O. to arrange for repairs to their main 1 and 2 cables off S.W. Eire, and G.P.O. have agreed to use of cable ship ALERT for these operations. (2) Work should be carried out in following order.

Details.
4. Request you will arrange for ALERT to carry out these repairs as soon as practicable and for escorts as necessary. (A.C.N.S. (H), 231949A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Allied Air Activity

Enemy Convoy attacked. At 0851 today in 061 degs. 55' N. 004 degs. 50' / East...

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy Convoy attacked (Contd.). East, 2 merchant ships and 2 escorts attacked by Beaufighters, course north, 6 knots. (F.O.S., 231024A to S/Ms.).

Mining

Harwich One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1538 in 51 degs. 59' N. 1 degs. 46.3 E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 231631A, 231939A, 232311).

Portland Controlled Minefield. F.O.I.C. Portland has represented that the controlled minefield guarding Portland Harbour which was laid as an anti-invasion measure, occupies a square mile of water urgently required for berthing ships during the assembly period before "Overlord."

(2) With the scale of attack now to be expected and continued crossing of loops by small craft during assembly the field is of relatively small value.

(3) Approval is therefore requested to begin lifting this minefield on 30th March, when MINOR ONE will become available. It is desired to progress this work as much as possible before 15th April and in any case to complete it before 1st May.

(4) Mines will be weighed instead of blown to avoid damage to breakwaters. Work is expected to take up to 30 days but some reduction in this time may be expected.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 232323A to Admty.).

Technical

U/boat anti-Asdic devices. Your 161939A. It is now learnt that 500 ton type U/boat had been undergoing experiments with new form of anti-Asdic device.

Details. Graded C.2.

(N.A. Stockholm, 231551 to Admty.).

N.I.D. Comment: A.M. 161939 requested details of trials with submerged U/boats at Hamburg near a mast with nets and aerials (reported in N.A. Stockholm's 111731).

2. Already reported (A.2) that the U/boat command was disappointed with recent tests with new U/boat devices.

3. The information in the signal is new and not yet assessed.

Casualties and Defects

PERSIAN Your 211915. PERSIAN should be sailed to Greenock for repairs to 4" Mark 5 gun by O.C.A.S.

On completion of repairs ship is to be sailed to Harwich to join M/S 6.

(D.M.S., 231855A to MENTOR).

War Diary

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

MULGRAVE MULGRAVE arrived Greenock in tow ex S.L.151 for onward routeing to Plymouth. C. in C.W.A. 211255 refers.
(2) C.O. States. (A) Vibration develops at 7½ knots. (B) Both propeller blades are bent. (C) Possibility of damage to a bracket cannot be excluded. (D) Rudder post loosened. (3) Request ship may be examined to determine if she is fit to proceed Plymouth under own power.
(Capt.(D) Greenock, 231910 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

ORESTES ORESTES returning to Loch Ewe with starboard bilge-keel detached from Hull probably from 53 Station aft. Diving operations are being requested at daylight.
(M/S 18, 232017A to A.C.O.S.).

Shipping and Convoys

W.P.515 and W.P.516 W.P.515 and W.P.516 arranged under present schedule are to be cancelled.
(C. in C.W.A., 231209A to N.O.I.C. Cardiff).

"Bolero" shipping. I fully endorse C. in C. Portsmouth's request in his 222002 that "Bolero" should cease as from 1st April.
(ANCXF, 231223A to Admty.).

394

23.3.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B report. U/B estimated near you to-day 23rd March bound S.W.
(D.D.I.C., 230855A to Escorts of O.S.71/K.M.S.45 Info. F.O.G.M.A.)

Relief of E.G. 1. A.M. 201608* para. 4.
It is earnestly requested that a Group may be sent to relieve Escort Group 1 as early as practicable.
2. The value of having a Group working as a team has been amply demonstrated.
(F.O.G.M.A., 231150A to Admty.)
* Depending on need in Straits and U-Boat situation consideration will be given to sending another Group to relieve E.G.1.

HAWKINS. Intend to sail HAWKINS for U.K. at 241800A. (Route)
(F.O.G.M.A., 231752A.)

J.W. MACKAY. My 221220 January and C. in C. Med. 181820 March.
2. Cancel operation B.3.
3, 4. JOHN W. MACKAY to proceed to Halifax.
(D.S.D., 231934A.)

U/B report. Am investigating suspicious object oil patch,
possible periscope, wake or swirl in 36° 41' N.
7° 39' W.
(A/C TRWC, 231957.)
U-Boat previously reported periscope only sighted course East
speed 5 knots lost touch with U-Boat last seen in 36.40 N.
07.40 W. Request instructions.
(A/C TRWC, 232020.)

South Atlantic.

Operation "Tabarin". Your 091835*. Following received from H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY: Union flag with documents erected at Cape Renard on the mainland to-day 22nd March.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 231311Z to Admty.)
* 091855 intended.

Naval Air Development in S.Africa. My 121122* paras. 3 and 4 (B) are cancelled.
My 231441 and A.M. 181705/ refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 231449B.)
* 121122 Feb. intended. / 181705 Feb. intended.

395

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

SS. FORT
MCLEOD.

Overdue shipping. (BKLD) FORT MCLEOD due Durban 19th March from Colombo not arrived. Ship reported being torpedoed 3rd March. (C. in C. S.A., 231517B.)

GARIBALDI,
AOSTA.

Intend to sail GARIBALDI and AOSTA in company at 1800Z/25. Route. For Mediterranean. (F.O.C.W.Af., 231545Z. See Amendment 241721Z.)

396

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- U/B Report. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 32.32 N. 23.55 E. probably a S/M.
(A/C C/S G26D.230502Z)
- Operation "Shingle". Sitrep 62. In spite of X Beach still being out of action through weather 5612 tons were unloaded 22 March. 1620 374 103 tons respectively from L.S.T./L.C.T./L.C.I. from Naples.
(Two) Little shelling or enemy air activity.
(Three) Vesuvius still in good form. Monte Corvino still out of action.
(F.O.W.It. 231102A)
- PHOEBE. Your 191907 March. Request early estimate of when these repairs will be completed.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 23125A to F.O.L.E.M.)
- LE CURIE. Intend sailing P.67 (LE CURIE) 1400/23rd and via Q.B.B. 312 thence direct 042 degs. 53' 007 degs. 13' at 2000/24th to patrol in zone S.T.
(Capt.(S) 10, 211215)
- X.K.15. Your 212302. X.K.15. Request you will reinforce escort in accordance with proposal in para. 3. Delay to convoy can be accepted.
(D.O.D.(H), 231251A to C. in C. Med.)
As amended 241533A.
- Minelaying. (2) It is intended to continue to use of TEVIOT BANK and M.L's for offensive minelaying on west coast Italy.
(Remainder of signal deals with material.)
(C. in C. Med. 231736A)
- LE TRIOMPHANT. N.O.I.C.Algiers is requested to sail LE TRIOMPHANT at 1400A/26 to Gibraltar for fuel.
(2) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail ship as soon as convenient after fuelling to overtake and join G.U.S.34.
(3) LE TRIOMPHANT has only one engine and her machinery is in a condition which makes it advisable for her to cross the Atlantic in convoy as far as longitude of Bermuda.
(4) Cominch is requested to consider routing LE TRIOMPHANT independently from longitude of Bermuda to Boston.

(5)/...

397

War Diary.

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LE TRIOM-
PHANT.
(Contd.)

(5) Present state of LE TRIOMPHANT endurance 2550 miles at 10 knots and 2500 miles at 15 knots. Maximum speed 23 knots. C.M.S.F. is requested to arrange for ship to be fuelled at sea. (C. in C. Med. 231756A)

Speed of
Ships for
Convoy.

N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 191724. Ships which are intended for Med. Service must be able to declare a speed of $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots in order to be included in Routine Convoys.

(2) ORKLA and MATHILDE SIMON with a declared speed of $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots on leaving U.K. can be expected to have their speed reduced by 2 knots within a short time of their arrival in the Mediterranean owing to the excessive Marine growth during summer months.

(3) It is requested that only ships capable of maintaining Convoy Speed should be allocated to the Med. (C. in C. Med. 232246A to Admty.)

398

War Diary.23.3.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.U-Boat
disposition.

My 220359Z. Area G - NANCY MOLLER was sunk in 002° 14' N. 078° 25' E. at 0200Z/18th March by Japanese U-Boat. By D/F at 1045Z/22nd March a Japanese U-Boat was within 150 miles of 003° N. 089° E. Scale of air escort Y. Other areas no fresh information no change in (?scales) of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F., 230347Z.)

M.V. BEHAR.

Overdue at Bombay since March 18th no reply made to signal mentioned in para. 2 of my 170809* not to all addressees.
(C. in C. E.F., 230831Z.)
* Re interception of signal by SS. ROOKLEY from BEHAR.

Kantalai
Air Station.

Your 270651 February.
2. Kantalai is being established to meet the need for an Air Station in Ceylon designed to take a carrier group. Message deals with questions raised by A.C.S.E.A. 101330 and C. in C. Ceylon 202105.
(5th S.L., 231050A to C. in C. E.F.)

V.L.R.
bombers.
Airfields.

(Extracts). The priority allotted to preparation of runways in Ceylon for V.L.R. bombers affects the following major naval projects: A. Provision of storage accommodation at Kantalai for F.A.A. stores. B. Construction of Kantalai aerodrome.

(2) The early operation of V.L.R. bombers from Ceylon is of the highest importance for the reasons given in my 240843Z. On this account some delay in completion of Kantalai aerodrome may have to be accepted.

(3) It is essential to provide accommodation for the valuable stores in para. 1A.

(4) C. in C. Ceylon has made urgent representations concerning the need for additional labour and material to be sent to Ceylon and I should be grateful if this could receive fullest possible support in view of above as regards the runways of several existing airfields are giving trouble due primarily to their original hasty constructions. At present: (A) Avuniya will be out of action for approx. two months.

(B) Katskurunda Sigeriya and Tatmalana though not out of action for long periods are constantly requiring attention.

(C) China Bay is still under construction.

(6) The position is likely to deteriorate further with increased use and onset of wet season.

(C. in C. E.F., 231321.)

/TOORAK ...

399

23.3.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

- TOORAK. Tanker TOORAK has been refloated and berthed Aden Inner Harbour for repairs, my 091013* refers. (Com. Aden, 231617Z.)
* Sunk in collision with MATTHEW P. DEADY (U.S.)
- German prisoners at Antananarivo. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez reports Governor General Madagascar refuses to allow German prisoners now at Fort Dauphin to be handed over to British authorities on ground that they are French and not British prisoners.
2. Is it desired to press for the transfer of these prisoners from the French authorities. (C. in C. E.F., 231623 to Admty.)
- GRENA. Norwegian Tanker GRENA torpedoed at 0909Z/21st March in 020° 27' N. 059° 38' E. N.O.I.C.E.Af. pass to A.H.Q.E.A.
(C. in C. E.F., 231837Z.)
- PHOEBE. Your 220937, para. 3.
There is no objection to officers or men remaining in one ship for a number of years, provided such service does not entail being abroad for more than 2½ years.
(2) PHOEBE commissioned in September 1940 and complement has since been adjusted twice - in May 1942 and August 1943.
(3) As ship has only been abroad about six months it is not intended that she should recommission at present.
(V.C.N.S., 232350A to C. in C. E.F.)

400

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U.C.16. Diversion order.
(D.T.D. 230015Z.)
U.C.16. Position recommended in your 221858 received as 39.30 N. 43.01 W. Request verification
Meanwhile convoy has been ordered to turn 45° to Port. Request you assume control of convoy forthwith.
(D.T.D. 230017Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- ?U/B report. At 0254Z in 044° 14' N. 062° 17' W. first D/F. bearing 2nd Class series 2 line 2 true bearing 187° or reciprocal text 0156/23 59 SYHW YVDD.
Weather.
(WENTWORTH 230345Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 190704Z. Para. A. SS. WATUKA sunk by U-Boat in 44.32 N. 62.54 W. at 0856Z/22. My 051432Z and 040520Z, for para. C. now read para. D.
(N.S.H.Q. 230610Z.)
- Spanish Fishing Vessels. Your 181252. Paras. 6A and 6B. Re security inspection.
(N.S.Ottawa 231420Z to Admty.)
- U/B dispositions. 1200Z/23 March. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 23150Z, Cominch 231605Z.)
- U.T.10. Diversion order.
(Cdre. 10th Fleet 231527Z, as amended 231942Z.)
- Concrete ships in S.C.156. P.D. New York's 222216, acceptance of these ships in S.C.156 is dependent on declaration of 7.5 knots. My 202116A refers and only applies to S.C.156. There is no authority for final sentence of P.D.New York 222216 which is unacceptable.
2. W.S.A. informed Admty. that these ships made 7.57 knots when loaded on trials.
(D.T.D. 231724A to B.A.D.)
- U/B incidents. Para. D. B.24 sights surfaced sub. 24.35 N. 76.39 W. 231719Z.
(Cominch 232111Z.)

/Spanish...

401

23. 3. 1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Spanish fishing vessels.

Following from F.O.N.F. T.O.O. 181411 begins N.S.H.Q.'s 241348 Feb. It is understood that C.T.F. 24 intends to institute a patrol of the fishing areas and to board all Spanish and Portuguese ships encountered.

He is taking steps to obtain the necessary patrol vessels. Ends. 2. Assume you are keeping U.S. Naval Authorities fully informed on all developments with regard to Spanish fishing vessels operating on Newfoundland Banks. (N.S.H.Q. 231933Z to Admty.)

CERRO GORDO (tanker.)

Have you any news of CERRO GORDO (U.S.) due Norfolk 2nd March from O.N.224. (D.T.D. 231951A to N.S.H.Q.)

French S/Ms for A/S training.

A.M. 211926. Cominch agrees with allocation of French S/Ms for A/S training as follows: ORPHEE to relieve MARSOUIN at Casablanca under U.S. Control. MARSOUIN to be demilitarised. NARVAL and one other to British Control. It appears this may be ARETHUSE on arrival of

GLORIEUX in Med. C.O.S. French Navy has also requested Cominch to refit CASABLANCA in the U.S. on completion of GLORIEUX. (B.A.D. 23225Z.)

Stragglers report No. 44.

1 arrived New York from U.G.S. 36. PETER (Nor.) 15th ordered back. Redestined 1 arrived Boston from H.X.283 JAMES M.GILLIS 16th salty boilers. 1 arrived Halifax from H.X.283 JOHN J.CRITTENDEN (U.S.) 17th. Ordered in by Commodore. Insufficient speed. 4 arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X.283 HORACE BUSHNELL (U.S.) 19th lost convoy. Engine trouble. RIVERVIEW PARK, WILLIAM GRAYSON (U.S.) and WILLIAM H.ASHLEY (U.S.) all 21st with collision damage. (N.S.H.Q. 232237Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial No. 793.

March 22nd. Paras. 9 to 14 cover South Pacific Forces.

9. Single destroyer bombarded enemy positions eastern shores Empress Augusta Bay night 20th with good results.

12. Occupation Emirau Island completed evening 21st. Nil activity reported.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 230650Z.)

402

23.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. SKOKHOLM missed by torpedo at 2037Z/22
in approx. 47° 00' N. 14° 00' W.
2. EMERALD picked up survivors from Br. NANCY
MOLLER torpedoed by Japanese U-Boat at 0800Z/18th
in 02° 14' N. 78° 25' E.

Para. B. 1. TENBY reported U-Boat contact at 1905Z/
22 in 32° 00' N. 25° 18' E.
2. A/C reported sighting U-Boat at 1500Z/22 in approx. 32° 00' N.
25° 55' E.
(D.D.I.C. 231003Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 231335A, 231350A.)

403

24.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Enemy
Convoy
attacked.
One E/R
Boat
probably
sunk.

One
large
Vessel
(believed
M.23) and
one E/R
boat
damaged.
M.T.Bs. 699,
698, 361, and
354 slightly
damaged.

1. At 0145 today one large and one medium-sized Vessel, with a close screen of six Flak trawlers and a seaward screen of six E/R boats, left Calais east-bound and, on arriving 4½ miles N.N.W. of Gravelines, were illuminated from inshore by one Albacore A/C of 415 Squadron and bombed by two other Albacores who claim to have scored two direct hits and four near misses on the large vessel and to have straddled and probably damaged two of the Escorts.

At the same time M.T.Bs. 699 and 698 on patrol engaged the six E/R Boats, setting two on fire (of which one was probably sunk) and scoring two hits with 6 pounder shell on the large vessel; after which M.T.Bs 361 and 354, also on patrol, attacked with torpedoes without result and withdrew under heavy fire from the escorts. At 0413 M.T.B.204, arriving from a supporting-group off Dyck Bank, fired one torpedo at the large Vessel in the entrance of Dunkirk Harbour; and at 0434 a large explosion was seen inside the Harbour.

M.T.Bs. 699, 698, 361 and 354 sustained slight damage, and one officer and two ratings in M.T.B.698 were wounded. All the attacks were unobserved; and the large vessel is believed to have been M.23, a 4400 ton ship of the ATLANTA class.

H.S.L.
2706
sunk.

2. At about 1250 ^{23⁴} today, while on P.Y.B. patrol off Orfordness, H.S.L. 2706 was sunk by cannon-fire from an unknown A/C. Three survivors, of whom one has since died, were landed at Yarmouth by H.S.L. 2679.

Enemy
tanker
believed
sunk
by
SATYR.

3. The S/M SATYR on patrol off Stadlandet torpedoed a 2000 ton Norwegian tanker today and believes the tanker sank.

Biscay
A/S
operations.
U/Boat
attacked
by A/C

4. At 1201Z today the Frigate MOURNE, S.O. of E.G.B. 2 escorting Convoy S.C.155, sighted a U/Boat about 800 miles West of Lorient. The U/Boat was hunted by GARDINER of E.G.B.2 and attacked by an A/C on patrol; and at 1426A C. in C.W.A. ordered the Escort Carrier VINDEX with four frigates of E.G.6 to assist in the hunt. At 1500Z MOURNE reported that other U/Boats were near convoy S.C.155; and at 1627A F.O.S. estimated that some ten or twelve U/Boats were on passage in the Bay of Biscay to the East of 016° W.

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

5. 5359 tons were unloaded at Anzio today. There was the usual intermittent shelling. Aircraft dropped mines in the anchorage: these were subsequently swept. URCHIN engaged enemy strong points in the Anzio area today.

Adriatic.

6. A ^{R/C} R.C.N. Commando landed on Brac Island last night. Five Spitfires today gunned 9 E-Boats off Pasman Island, Yugoslavia; one exploded, two were set on fire, and one was left smoking. Kittyhawks set a 200 ft. landing craft on fire at Sibenik. Split harbour was also bombed this morning.

Swedish
relief ship
accidentally
bombed.

7. Spitfires bombed a Swedish relief ship 20 miles east of Dugi (presumably Dugi Island (approx. 44 N. 15 E.) intended) before recognising her: the vessel was unharmed.

Leghorn.

8. An air attack on Leghorn, the details of which resemble in every particular that stated to have taken place yesterday, is reported to have taken place today.

East Indies.

V.L.R.bombers. 9. C. in C.Eastern Fleet sent yesterday and today messages dealing with V.L.R.bombers, for which runways are being prepared in Ceylon under priority. He considers that the operation of V.L.R. bombers from Ceylon may well cause the Japanese to move their fleet from the Singapore area and should also have a serious effect on their fuel supplies.

NIGERIA.

10. NIGERIA arrived at Colombo today from the U.K. to join the Eastern Fleet.

War Diary.

24.3.1944.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Mine off
St. Lucia.

11. A magnetic mine was exploded before 1946 today in 14.01.34 N. 61.01.03 W. Port Castries and Gros Islet were closed until further notice.

Australia & New Zealand.

Admiralty
Group.

12. 3 destroyers bombarded Pityilu Island today, destroying 3 launches and all buildings and fuel store.

13. A Liberator made a direct hit with a 500 ton bomb on a minesweeper type vessel 85 miles north west of Wewak, New Guinea, today.

406

24.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Flag of C.S.1. Flag of R.A. R.R. McGrigor Commanding 1st C.S. will be hoisted in KENT at 0800/27th March. (C. in C.H.F. 241019 to H.F.)

PROCYON. Request you sail PROCYON K.M.S.47. (Com. 12th Fleet 241609 to Admty.)

BURZA. C. in C.W.A.'s 211306A. Request F.O.C.R.F. will nominate port to which BURZA can be sailed forthwith to pay off into category B. (Head of M.II 241803A to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

S.C. Operation. My 210906A. Sailed HITRA at 0420A today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 240445 to Admty.)

Operation C.W. Fuelled and sailed to comply with your 221842 DUCKWORTH, ESSINGTON, DONNETT, BERRY, COOK and EKINS (Cdre. D.W.A. 240630A to C. in C.W.A.) Cancel previous instructions. Join and support O.N. 229 at 0800/25th. (C. in C.W.A. 241142A to E.G.3.)

E.G.22nd, STRULE, BYRON, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, LOUIS operating north of Minches. My 241202 refers. 25th E.F. LUNENBURG, CAMROSE operating north of Minches. 9th E.G. MATANE, SWANSEA, NORTH BAY, OWEN SOUND, ATHOLL, BADDECK operating off north west coast of Ireland. E.G.7th KITE, LAWSON, MOUNSEY, FLINT CASTLE, PELICAN sweeping ahead of O.N.229 till 010° W. thence to area north west of Ireland. E.G.3rd DUCKWORTH, BERRY, COOKE, ESSINGTON, DOMETT, EKINS operating north west of Ireland. (C. in C.W.A. 241307A to Ships.)

P.C. and S. 055° 48' N. 008° 50' W. 280° 9 knots. 62 ships present. B.6 E.G. and 3rd E.G. in company.

(B.6 241945A to C. in C.W.A.) DUMBARTON CASTLE proceed on completion of "Foxer" trials to pass Clyde Light Vessel at 1900A/25th to R/V with 7th E.G. on operation C.W. C. in C.W.A.'s 241824A refers.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 242318A to DUMBARTON CASTLE, KITE.)

Arrived QU'APPELLE.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 242256 to C. in C.W.A.)

Biscay A/S Operations. S.C.155. Revert to state W. (C. in C.W.A. 240908Z to S.C.155.) K.X.15. Revert to State W. (C. in C.W.A. 241006A to K.X.15.) 1 S/M on surface bearing 180° distant 10 miles, course unknown. My position 47° 47' N. 22° 59' W. (MOURNE 241201Z to Admty.)

Am over enemy S/M in 47.20 N. 22.30 W. sighted on surface and seen to submerge. (A/C BMH 13 241255 to 15 Group.)

/Incomplete...

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. (Contd.) Incomplete D/F bearings at 1134Z/24 indicate that a convoy, probably S.C.155, may have been reported. (D.D.I.C. 241302A to Escorts S.C.155.) A.M. 241302A. Further bearings indicate that convoy reported may have equally been H.X.283. (D.D.I.C. 241328A to Escorts S.C.155.) In 047° 28' N. 024° 51' W. at 1134Z U-Boat transmitting sighting report on 9350 k/cs bearing 100° ahead. (C.4 241350Z to Admt.) Your 241328A. Bearings from E.G.6 indicate S.C.155 only. (VINDEX 241423 to C. in C.W.A.) If not in contact with enemy hunt U-Boat reported by MOURNE in 047° 37' N. 022° 59' W. at 1301 (C. in C.W.A. 241426A to VINDEX, E.G.6.) MOURNE 241201Z. U-Boat attacked by A/C and being hunted by GARDINER until arrival of VINDEX. Other U-Boats in vicinity but believed they have not sighted convoy. P.C. and S. of convoy at 1300Z, 47° 55' N. 22° 59' W. 38° 8. Weather. (B.2 241500Z to C. in C.W.A.) Estimate 10 to 12 U-Boats on passage in Bay of Biscay to the eastward of 016° W. (F.O.S. 241627A to S/Ms.) My 241320A. Am complying with your 241426A. (VINDEX 241642A to C. in C.W.A.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 241035A, 241656A.) (C. in C.Portsouth 241307A.) (V.A.Dover 241600A.)

S/M Patrols. VOX is to leave patrol at 0001A/26th by route "Pink" and 090° Muckle Flugga 8 miles to Lerwick on the surface at C.Os. discretion south of 062° N. (Capt. S.9 241041A to S/Ms.) A. TAKU, SATYR, TERRAPIN, SYRTIS, STURDY as in my 231747. D. RUBIS as in my 221727. E. TORBAY 45° 10' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day to northward, speed of advance 105 miles in 24 hours. F. SOKOL 45° 10' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day to northward, S.O.A. 105 miles in 24 hours. K. VOX on patrol vicinity 63° 30' N. 01° 05' E. leaves patrol 0001/26 dived by day through 62° 01' N. 00° 40' W. thence probably on surface to Lerwick. (F.O.S. 241751A to Admt.)

/Enemy...

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Enemy con-
voy attacked.
1 E/R Boat
probably sunk.
One vessel
(believed M.
23) and one
E/R Boat
damaged.
M.T.Bs. 699,
698, 361,
and 354 slight-
ly damaged.

On the night of 23rd/24th in anticipation of the eastward movement from Calais of M.23, Group B., M.T.Bs. 699 (S.O.) and 698 and Group X M.T.Bs. 361 (S.O.) 354 and 362 were despatched to patrol in vicinity of Dyck Bank with the object of intercepting and attacking off Gravelines in co-operation with Albacore aircraft of 415 Squadron. M.T.B. 204 with M.T.Bs. 433 (S.O.) and 418 in support was ordered to wait approx. 3 miles north of Dunkirk to attack in vicinity of Dunkirk 15W Buoy.

2. At 0145 shore based Radar detected 1 very large and 1 medium vessel with at least 12 smaller escorts leaving Calais eastward.
3. Groups B and A, which had been withdrawn to V Buoy while Albacores were searching for small craft detected in the Dunkirk Channel, made prompt use of information from the shore plot and intercepted in the vicinity of Dunkirk B.W. Buoy.

4. It was intended that 4 Albacores of 415 Squadron under Swin-gate ground control should attack with bombs east of long. 2° E. and that a fifth should illuminate the target with flares for the M.T.Bs. from inshore. 2 of the bombing aircraft were driven off by intense A.A. fire but 2 made successful attacks. 2 direct hits and 4 near misses are claimed on the large vessel and straddles on 2 of the escorts which latter are claimed as probably damaged. Illumination of the target by aircraft was highly successful.

5. Group B lying stopped in approx. 340° Gravelines Light 4½ miles sighted 6 E/R Boats approaching. Enemy opened fire and Group B proceeded and engaged 6 R-Boats of seaward screen meanwhile sighting a close screen of 6 flak trawlers. During a fierce running fight 2 R-Boats were severely damaged and set on fire and it is probable that one of them was sunk. Enemy illumination then became almost continuous and Group was engaged by the flak trawlers but 2 hits with six pounder were scored on the large vessel before disengaging to seaward. Group then turned and fired all torpedoes at a range of 2500 yards from enemy's quarter without observed result. Both boats sustained slight damage to hulls and super-structures. 1 officer and 2 ratings wounded in M.T.B. 698.

6. Group X, less M.T.B. 362 who had lost contact, approached undetected to 1500 yards during the lull after Group B's engagement. Fire was opened on unit by escorts and torpedoes fired simultaneously. 1 of M.T.B. 361's torpedoes misfired and did not run. No hits claimed. M.T.B. 362 attempted independent attack but was frustrated by 6 R-Boats. Unit came under heavy fire when withdrawing but only slight damage sustained by M.T.Bs. 361 and 354. No casualties.

7. M.T.B. 204 waiting in approx. 012° Dunkirk entrance 5.6 miles sighted 2 trawlers entering harbour at 0352. At 0400 the main target was sighted lying stopped off the harbour and one torpedo was fired at a range of about 1000 yards. The port torpedo failed to fire owing to faulty firing mechanism. M.T.B. 204 dis-engaged to remedy fault and then returned to 350° Dunkirk entrance 1.5 miles when at 0413 the stern of the large vessel was seen in the harbour entrance. The port torpedo was fired and M.T.B. 204 retired under smoke without observing result. At 0434½ a large

/explosion...

409

War Diary.24.3.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Enemy con-
voy attacked.
1 E/R Boat
probably sunk.
One vessel
(believed M.
23) and one
E/R Boat
damaged.
M.T.Bs. 699,
698, 361,
and 354
slightly
damaged.
(Contd.)

explosion of an orange colour with a black centre was observed in Dunkirk harbour from a distance of about 5 miles. In spite of constant use of starshell round the force the attacks were pressed home entirely unobserved and there is no doubt that the diversion caused by the Albacores was of great value. M.T.B. 204 returned to harbour with neither damage nor casualties.
8. M.T.Bs. 433 and 418 were not called on to take any part and returned to harbour without incident.
9. My 240947. Track E5D refers.
(V.A.Dover 241103 to Admty.)

Operation "Plane 42". Carry out operation "Plane 42" tonight.
(V.A.Dover 241134A to S.O. L.C.P.L.)

H.S.L. 2706 sunk. Following from F.O.I.C. Yarmouth. Begins:-
R.A.F. H.S.L. 2706 sunk by gunfire from aircraft approx. 1250 today in approx. 52° N. 02° 45' E. on P.Y.B. patrol. Following is brief report from survivor. Begins:-
"When approaching P.Y.B. position returning aircraft observed jettisoning bombs. V.H.F. report from aircraft 'an enemy aircraft in vicinity'. Further R V.H.F. report stated 'friendly fighter shot down 5 minutes previously'. All guns fully manned. Arrived on position watching Dan was being laid when unknown aircraft attacked H.S.L. 2706 causing immediate fire in engine room. Aircraft made four attacks in all until attacked in turn by two other unknown fighters which chased first plane off by gunfire." Ends.
H.S.L. 2679 on P.Y.B. position 52° 10' N. 02° 30' E. at approx. 1250 heard on V.H.F. American aircraft state "am circling speed boat which has been shot up and is on fire". At 1255 H.S.L. 2679 observed large column of black smoke. Proceeded and observed 2 Hudson and 1 Mustang which led 2679 to smoke. Arrived and found 2706 a blazing wreck. No sign of life. Carley float nearby. Closed and took off 3 survivors. Names. Casualties. Names. Investigation is being held by R.A.F. authorities.
(C. in C.Nore 241140A to Admty.)

Operation F.Y. Intend sailing ACTIVITY and TRACKER passing Clyde Light Vessel 1900A/25th, E.T.A. Loch Ewe 1000A/26th. C. in C.H.F. 182353 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 241218A to Admty.)
Your 231715A. Request you will sail RATTLESNAKE to arrive Loch Ewe p.m. 26th March irrespective of whether armature has arrived or not.
(A.C.O.S. 241452A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

/A.M....

410

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
F.Y.
(Contd.)

A.M. 141722. Previous experience of B.A.M.S. has shown that engines are unreliable in heavy sea. 2. In view of this, request you will consider detailing trawlers in place of CHAMOIS and CHANCE to escort H.X.J. 283 from Reykjavik to R/V with J.W.58 if weather conditions make this advisable. (D.O.D.H. 242039A to A.C.I.C.)

Patrol in
Seine Bay.

M.T.Bs. 256, 257, 250, 253, 251 and 249 carried out patrol in accordance with C. in C.Portsmouth 231320.

3 E/R Boats sighted 2 miles S.E. of eastern limit of patrol and further group of 2 2 miles to N.W. Aircraft dropped "Window" on unit at various times thereby making Radar practically useless. No torpedo targets sighted. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 241227 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Mining.

Operation
N.L. 120.

My 231651. Operation N.L.120 abandoned owing to enemy activity. (V.A.Dover 240856A to Admty.)

Operation
"Hostile 22".

My 191512. Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 22" tonight without support force. 2. Force is to sail from Plymouth to pass gate at 1715A/24th. (C. in C.Plymouth 241051A to DEFIANCE, M.T.B.F.52, M.L.F.10.)

Explosion on
15th March.
(STARLING.)

Ref. 876 A.Z. At 0232, 0257, 0303 and 0306 on 15th March in 53° 46' N. 024° 35' W. Underwater explosions. Details. (E.G.2 241130A to Admty.)

Smiths Knoll
clearance.

O sweeper reports mine detonated in sweep 338° 57 Buoy 3.1 miles at 1458 today. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 241549A to Admty.)

Operation
Q.L.10B.

Carry out operation Q.L.10B 108° night 25/26th March. Forces employed. M.T.B. Flotilla 21, M.L. Flotilla 51. 2 boats M.T.B. Flotilla 35, 987, with torpedoes. (C. in C.Nore 241725A to BEEHIVE.)

411

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy convoy. Convoy 4 merchant ships, one tanker, with escort 5 patrol vessels, one armed whaler passed Skorpen 061° 36' N. at 1615Z/24th northbound 10 knots. (F.O.S. 242122Z to SATYR.)

Casualties & Defects.

DRAGON. Arrangements have been made for O.R.P.DRAGON to be taken in hand at Chatham on 7th April for fitting of pom poms.
3. C. in C.Portsmouth is requested to sail ship accordingly.
(D.O.D.H. 240125A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

ARTEMUS WARD. S.O.S. Rammed. Taking water No. two hold 5.30 a.m. 4 miles W.N.W. Bishop and Clerks. Master. (ARTEMUS WARD No T.O.O. Recd. 240550.)
S.O.S. Abeam Skomer Island 0600 G.M.T. Want tug boats to stand by.
(ARTEMUS WARD No T.O.O. Recd. 240717.)

At 0720A/24. Tug ABEILLE IV. left Haven to assist ARTEMUS WARD in collision with unknown vessel in 255° S.Bishop 2½ miles. ARTEMUS WARD entered Haven under own power at 0911/24 and ABEILLE IV at 0913/24.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 241653A to Admty.)

PERSIAN. My 232325A. Ship is proceeding unescorted. (MENTOR 240928A to Admty.)
My 232325A and 240928A. Sailed PERSIAN. (MENTOR 241401 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

M.T.B. 617, Departure tug KROOMAN to assist M.T.Bs. 617, 632
M.T.B. 632. aground on N.E.Scroby.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 240945A to Admty.)

DAKINS. E.T.A. D.1 Buoy 1500A/25th. DAKIN's S.L.Radar defective and training of 3 inch guns very stiff. (DAKINS 241327Z to C. in C.Plymouth.)

ORESTES. My 232017. Forward 25 feet of starboard bilge-keel is detached and hanging free. In view of danger to propeller should more of bilge-keel become detached N.O.I.C. Aultbea is being requested to re-move hanging portion as soon as possible. It is suggested that ORESTES be given a quick docking at Scapa for removal of remainder of starboard bilge-keel only. I consider that ORESTES can well manage with one complete bilge-keel until the autumn. Also I consider it most undesirable for remaining portion of bilge-keel to be left in place as it will inevitably become detached shortly. Detachment of bilge-keel was first noticed shortly after the premature explosion of a practice depth charge which prompted instructions from myself to the Commanding Officer to investigate

/all...

412

24.3.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ORESTES. all possibilities of damage but there is a degree
(Contd.) of evidence that defect was initiated by heavy
weather experienced on March 1st and 2nd.
(M/S 18 241351A to A.C.O.S.)
M/S 18's 241351A. ORESTES can be docked at 0900
tomorrow. Request you will sail ORESTES to arrive Scapa daylight
tomorrow.
(A.C.O.S. 241806 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
My 241351 and N.O.I.C. Aultbea's 241711. Owing to local
shortage of oxygen and difficulty in obtaining replenishment it
is unlikely that hanging portion of ORESTES bilge-keel can be
removed before noon 26th at the earliest. ORESTES is therefore
being sailed to Scapa forthwith. E.T.A. Switha Boom 1130A
tomorrow. Ship will proceed on her port engine only.
(M/S 18 241954A to A.C.O.S.)
Sailed ORESTES to Scapa for docking. M/S 18's 241351A
refers.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 242047 to A.C.O.S.)

COURBET. A.M. 231353. It is considered necessary that tem-
porary repairs be carried out before COURBET under-
takes passage from Clyde. Proposed that Messrs.
Lamont of Greenock with the assistance of Liver-
pool and Glasgow Salvage Association commencing 26th March carry
out blanking off and shoring bulkhead. This work it is antici-
pated will be completed in 10 days. Request approval.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 241635 to Admty.)

PARK HOLLAND. Aground take D/F (unread) immediate danger (unread).
(PARK HOLLAND to Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd.
242210 G.M.T.)
Report your position immediately and assistance will
be sent.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 242355A to PARK HOLLAND.)
Request you sail ALLEGIANCE forthwith to assist PARK HOLLAND
believed to be ashore off Barra Island at 2300A. Further signal
will be made direct to ALLEGIANCE when position of ship is known.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 242359A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

413

24.3.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

U/boat
report

Submarine sighted N. 3550 W. 0610.
(A/C, C/S, AUU2, 241302).

ANTONIA
DIAZ
(Spanish
Auxiliary
Vessel).

Cadiz Ceuta in ballast intercepted and sent in
under escort on information received Cadiz and
Ceuta.
(2) Ceuta states owner German.
(5) Vessel detained.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 241750A amended 260435A).

ARAGO

Your 151920. Before ARAGO can undertake cable
repairs she requires increase in ships personnel
(details). Ship also requires docking and
repairs. Request personnel may be provided and
it may be confirmed it is intended that repairs and docking is
to be carried out at Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A., 241835A to C. in C. Med.).

Security
personnel
for Horta.

Stating that he wishes to instal a Port Security
Detachment at Horta generally to organise and
exercise proper security measures for the pro-
tection of British interests in Port.
Proposed arrangements.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 241900Z).

Spanish
ships to be
intercepted.

My 172011.
As it was not possible to intercept M.V. MONTE
ALBERTIA M.E.W. supplies names of three ships from
South America for North Spanish ports in the
hope that interception of any one and if possible
two may prove practicable.
(2) Ships are JOSINA calling Las Palmas about 26th March en
route to Santander and departure will be reported.
GENERALIFE and CABO PRIOR due Santander and Vigo respectively
about 9th and 11th April.
(D.E.W.D., 241948A to F.O.G.M.A.).

ANTIOPE
(French
S/M.).

Has insufficient endurance to reach Bermuda. Your
132225 refers. Intend sailing her about March
28th escorted by trawler (route) to Horta for
diesel fuel thereafter proceeding unescorted to
Bermuda S. of A. 8 knots. Request onward route from Horta to
Bermuda.
(F.O.G.M.A., 242337A to Com. 10th Fleet).

414

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

U/boat
attacked
440 miles
W.S.W. of
Cape Verde
Island.

Attacked moving bubbling oil slick 231041Z 13.15
North 33.40 W. within seven miles my last attack
my 210958 not to all. Positive Sonobuoy and
sound contacts on sub. Several deep underwater
explosions heard nine minutes after CORRYS last
11 dc. attack 1256Z escorts and planes unable
regain contact after 18 hours search. Much oil
observed spread large area due this and previous
action.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 241527).

GARIBADLI,
AOSTA.

My 231545Z. Amend E.T.A. Gibraltar to read
1600Z/30th ships intend exercise whilst on passage.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 241721Z).

415

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U-Boat Report. Have obtained A.S.V. contact. Probably submarine in 31 degs. 45' N. 25 degs. 50' E. (A/C 9751 via Alex, 240255 to A/C Base D.M.7)

Raid on Solta I. and occupation of Hvar I. 209519. F.22326 24th March 1944. Citeehgct. Signed Wilson. Island of Solta off Dalmatian Coast was raided 19th March by force from Nos 2 and 43 Commandos and (U.S.) O.S.S. troops of strength equal to one commando. Troops landed night 18/19 March and formed up for attack on German garrison in town of Grohote. Garrison bombed at 0700 hours followed immediately by Commando attack. Entire Island garrison of 106 eliminated. 7 killed and one officer and 97 O.R.s taken prisoner. Own casualties 11 C.D.O. wounded, 1 U.S. O.R. killed, 2 U.S. O.R.s wounded. Allied Force re-embarked bay 19 and now on Vis. 2 S.S. Bde. operating under Force 266 reports Island of Hvar also off Dalmatian Coast being evacuated by Germans. A R/C force in strength consisting of 200 Commandos plus occupying force of 400 partisans was dispatched to the island 22nd March. Late reports from 2 SS Bde. state that Partisans after heavy fighting, captured 40 P.Ws. and that 160 remaining enemy have dispersed into woods in small parties. Commandos and Partisans are now sweeping the island. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 241030A)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.63. 4200 tons unloaded 23 March with X Beach still unusable. Unloading of three Liberty ships completed during day tonnage from L.S.T's L.C.T's and L.C.(L) from Naples 1445 170, 141 respectively. (2) One air raid and intermittent shelling at Anzio. (3) Vesuvius still spectacular but appears to have done its worst. Ash is now falling in the Gulf of Salerno instead of on Monte Corvina aerodrome and flying will commence as soon as aircraft have been (?dusted). Naples group of ports is now discharging at a rate of 12 million tons a year while Vesuvius is estimated to be doing 30 million tons a day. We can but admire this gesture of the Gods. (F.O.W.It. 241042A)

LA SULTANE. Intend sailing F.S. LA SULTANE at 1200/26 on the surface during daylight 26th otherwise submerge by day through: (A) 039 degs. 32' 002 degs. 04' at 1000/27th to (B) 041 degs. 36' 002 degs. 51' at 0900/28th for special mission. (2) Returning diving by day on 29th through (B) at 0001/29th and (A) at 2330/29th to R/V Algiers escort in 036 degs. 53' 002 degs. 59' at 1830/30th. All positions North and East. (3) All times zone minus 1. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 241512A)

Sono /...:

416

War Diary.24.3.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Sono Buoy. Recent combined anti-submarine operations have proved unsuccessful on several occasions. This was largely due to

(A) Time lag between aircraft sighting as U-Boat dived and subsequent arrival of surface forces, or

(B) Inability of aircraft to identify a disappearing A.S.V. contact at night.

(2) Situation could be improved considerably by use of expendable Sono buoys from M.A.C.A.F. aircraft. Direct contact by aircraft could then be expected until surface forces arrive.

(3) Request all possible action may be taken with Air Ministry to raise supply priority to highest level. M.A.C.A.F. agree. (C. in C. Med. 241837A to Admt.)

L.S.T's for U.K. Greek and U.S.L.S.T's. The success of the recent special measures has built up a sufficient reserve of supplies in the Anzio Bridgehead to enable all British L.S.T. to be released without waiting for their relief by the incoming U.S.L.S.T. My 211047 refers. It is therefore intended to sail 24 British L.S.T. in M.K.S.45 unless they have to be delayed to comply with Freedom F.22461 of 24th March.

(2) Whatever the decision regarding the Greek L.S.T. they will have to be retained for a troop movement until relieved by the incoming U.S.L.S.T.

(3) Improved weather next month and/or an advance by the Army sufficient to free Anzio from shelling should it be hoped reduce the need for employing L.S.T. for maintenance sufficiently at any rate to permit of the refitting of the U.S.L.S.T. now in use. (C. in C. Med. 241858)

U/B Report. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 32 degs. 40' N. 23 degs. 12' E. (A/C 903A, 242030Z)

Situation Report No.320. (2) GRENVILLE carried out shoots against German strong point near Anzio on 23rd March.

(3) M.L: slightly damaged when 8 Ju.88 attacked Komisa at dusk 22nd. /

(4) Destroyers patrolling off Vis night 22nd/23rd March sighted nothing. Coastal force Neretva and Peljesac Channels also had blank night.

(5) M.T.B. from Maddalena intercepted and sank small boat during night 21st and 22nd March containing 11 escapees from Sardinia attempting to reach German occupied Italy.

(6) UNSWERVING reports sinking F lighter in Monemvasia 036 degs. 41' N. 023 degs. 03' E. on 13th March.

(C. in C. Med. 242245) / Some civilian but no naval casualties.

? Patrol not begun until 15th

417

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-Weekly U-Boat disposition No. 36. Area A - no information but in view of U-Boats operating in Area B, scale air escort X.
Area B - in view of sinking of GRENA, my 231944Z refers, scale air escort Y.
Area C - believed clear of U-Boats, scale air escort W.
Area D - no fresh information, Scale air escort X.
Area E - no fresh information but area not definitely clear of U-Boats, scale air escort X.
Area F - no fresh information but U-Boats may be in area, scale air escort X.
Area G - no fresh information but one or more U-Boats probably in area, scale air escort remain Y.
(C. in C. E.F., 240337.)

German prisoners at Antananarivo. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez reports satisfactory settlement of prisoners mentioned in my 230631* Governor has now agreed to hand over prisoners to own guard(?) for transportation to Diego Suarez. My 231623 refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 240401Z.)
* N.T. in W.R.

Convoy Mauritius - Rodriguez 1. Arrived Rodriguez 23rd. RECORDER and SOLVRA E.T.A. Rodriguez 0010Z/24th, speed 9 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Mauritius, 240640Z.)

V.L.R. bombers. My 231321. The operations of V.L.R. bombers from Ceylon may well cause the Japanese to move their fleet from Singapore area, and should also have a serious effect of their fuel supplies.
(C. in C. E.F., 240843Z.)

BRAGANZA, SALSETTE. As from 1st April 1944 BRAGANZA and SALSETTE I will be merged into one establishment named BRAGANZA.
2. SALSETTE II and SALSETTE III will remain as at present but will be re-named BRAGANZA II and BRAGANZA III from same date.
(Admty., 241219A to A. Mge. 719A.)

BEGUM, ATHELING. Fighter escort carriers for Eastern Fleet para.3 of A.M. 151936 and R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 201203.
2. Until the policy for this theatre is decided it is not possible to give a firm date as to how long it will be necessary to use BEGUM and ATHELING as fighter escort carriers with the Fleet.
3. As far as can be foreseen at present they will be required for the above work certainly until August.
(C. in C. E.F., 241556Z.)

/M.V. BEHAR ...

418

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

M.V. BEHAR.

Have you any news of BEHAR (Br.) due Bombay
18th March from Melbourne.
(D.T.D., 241804A to S.O.(I) Bombay.)

SS. NANCY
MOLLER
(sunk 18th
March.)

Request you will report in due course the plotted
and actual positions of NANCY MOLLER when
diverted at 170918 and whether ship acted upon
that diversion.
(D.T.D., 241907A to C. in C. E.F.)

419

War Diary.24.3.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U-Boat Reports. U-Boat by D/F of WW message on 4190 K/cs at 0004Z/24th within 60 miles of 045 degs. 00' N. 045 degs. 00' W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 240101Z to Escorts, O.N.S. 31, O.N.228, 240105Z to QUEEN MARY)

D/F of transmission on 4190 K/cs at 0003Z indicates U-Boat perhaps within 100 miles of 45 degs. 00' N. 45 degs. 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 240339A to Escorts O.N.S.31)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Attack and Sighting Summary. Para. C. H.M.C.S. BATTLEFORD obtains radar contact in 44.00 N. 62.30 W. at 0100Z/23rd.
Para. D. H.M.C.S. TRURO attacks doubtful A/S contact in 44.00 N. 62.30 W. at 0410Z/23rd.
(2) A/C obtains A.S.V. contact 44.14 N. 62.46 W. at 0900Z/23rd.
(N.S.H.Q. 240657Z)

SEANYMPH. (P.223) SEANYMPH leaves 056 degs. 30' N. 013 degs. W. at 0200A/27th as ordered in F.O.S.211633 and 222052 E.T.A. St.Johns N.F. 1300A/2nd April.
Time of crossing "Chop" 0800A/30th.
(2) Request bombing restrictions West of "Chop".
(4) Communications.
(Capt.(S)3,240943A to C. in C. C.N.A. as amended 241851A)

U-Boat sighted. One S/M on the surface then submerged at 0900 my position 44 degs. 19' N. 63 degs. 13' W. Am conducting sweep of the area
(Ship at sea, 241300Z)
My 241300 amend to read "submerged at 0945".
(Ship at sea, 241400Z)

Box sweep completed. Unable to gain contact on S/M. Continuing to area await further orders.
(Ship at sea 241415Z)

Trans-Atlantic Convoys. Concur your 221140/.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 241305Z to Admty.)
/ A/S forces for "Overlord".
A.M.221140 concur.
(2) It is assumed effective strength of C groups as in N.S.H.Q.'s 082217 para 2 (C) not to all is acceptable even with increased size of convoys.
(3) In arranging convoy cycles request you bear in mind that eight knot ships loading lumber in Gulf of Lawrence will require not less than three weeks from time of arrival Sydney inbound to leaving Sydney outbound if conditions allow independent sailing in that area.
(N.S.H.Q. 242058Z to Admty.)

Convoy G.U.S.32 82 ships arrived. LA FONTAINE PARK detached for St. John.
(P.D. New York, 241408Z)

U/B /...

420

24.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 241543Z, Cominch, 241619Z)

Bermuda A/S R.C.N. wish to take over Bermuda working up Base.
W.U.B. Various considerations.
 (5) If approved for R.C.N. to take over W.U.B. very
 early decision is necessary to enable them to do so
 while it is still alive and running, and see it at
normal output rather than build up from a dying concern. Under-
stand R.C.N. attach great importance to this. Estimate only
six ships will be working up after April 7th decreasing thereafter
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 241633Z)

MATAPEDIA, Your 241825. P.C.S. 043 degs. 47' N. 063 degs.
SWIFT 00' W. 330 degs. 14 searching for H.M.C.S. SWIFT
CURRENT. CURRENT. Radar out of action temporarily.
 (MATAPEDIA, 241901Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

T.G.21.15. Cr. No.1891. T.G. 21.15 departs Hampton Roads
 2030Z to-day. E.T.D. X/S 0200Z/25 course
 Southeast to Lat. 35 thence East speed 16.
 (C.T.G. 21.15 242000). Constitution of T.G.21.15.

L.26. Sailing 1100Z/26th to Philadelphia (Arrangements).
 (C. in C. C.N.A. 242048Z)

U-Boat (A) BLOCK ISLAND group attacked moving bubbling
incidents. oil slick and positive sound contacts 13.15 N.
 33.40 W. 231041 and 231256.
 (B) Surface craft sighted sub. on surface 44.19 N.
 63.13 W. 240945. All times Z.
 (C) PBM sighted Wake had Sono Buoy contacts 10.08 N. 79.50 W.
231845. Several Radar contacts same general area 23rd/24th.
(Cominch, 242130Z).

T.G.27.5. This constitutes T.G.27.5 PHEASANT, AUK,
 CHICKADEE, NUTHATCH. Escort Convoy C.K.2 scheduled
 sail Charleston about 1st April via Bermuda to
 Azores. Army tug will join at Bermuda. On
arrival Horta T.G. dissolved. T.G. Comdr. direct 1 a.m. report
Com. 8th Flt. temporary duty as escort section convoy destined
Med. and report with remainder A.M.'s Com. 12th Flt. as escort
remainder convoy to U.K. After arrival U.K. Com. 12th Flt.
requested sail a.m. when ready to Med. and direct then report
Com. 8th Flt. temporary duty.
(Cinclant, 242251) amended 261606.

421

24.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No.794.

March 23. Paras. 8 to 12 cover South Pacific Forces.

- (6) M.T.Bs sank solitary enemy barge encountered just south of Bogia night 21st also strafed Jap. camp and gun position Kronprinz Harbour area.
- (7) Ground situation Admiralty Islands unchanged but supply and construction continue. Delayed report that crews of two Allied M.T.B's raided Loniu on south coast Western Los Negros Island daylight 20th destroying thirty barges hits canoes loaded with stores possibly in preparation for escape also burned 25 buildings containing food ammunition stores.
- (10) Allied M.T.B's encountered ineffective shore fire off Central Empress Augusta Bay early hours 23rd. Co-operating Destroyer silenced this fire.
- (11) Aircraft sighted S/M east of Nissan Island noon 21st M.T.B's twice made possible S/M contacts Feni Island vicinity 23rd.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 240606Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

- Para. A. (1) Mosquito C/248 sighted surfaced U-Boat, course N., at 1543Z/23 in 47.23 N. 05.00 W. 3 M/S in company.
- (2) Sunderland M/461 sighted U-Boat at 1231Z/23rd in 45.25 N. 09.58 W. 4 J.U's 88 seen in vicinity, thought to be in company.
- (3) Nor. tanker GRENA torpedoed at 0909Z/21st in 20.27 N. 59.38 E.
- Para. B. (1) A/C sighted periscope, course E., at 1857Z/23 in 36.41 N. 07.39 W.
(D.D.I.C. 241133A)

U-Boat
dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 241420Z, 241422A).

422

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- TIRPITZ. 1. A B.1 report states that TIRPITZ left her berth this morning and has been lying all day inside Auskarneset (69° 57.6' N. 023° 08.9' E.)
- SATYR damaged. 2. The S/M SATYR on patrol off Stadtlandet reported at 2215A to-day that she had sustained damage by grounding heavily and was leaving her patrol.
- Biscay A/S operations. 3. Two U-Boats were attacked by an A/C on patrol at 2310 to-day about 350 miles West of St. Nazaire without observed result.
The four Frigates of E.G.6 operating with VINDEX relieved GARDINER hunting a U-Boat 800 miles West of Lorient at 2155A yesterday; but the air search from VINDEX had to be abandoned owing to fog, and contact was lost.
- Enemy convoy off Dunkirk. 4. A patrol of three M.T.Bs., despatched from Dover to intercept torpedo-targets on passage eastwards from Dunkirk, were prevented by star-shell and confused Radar echoes from sighting four eastbound vessels located off Dunkirk at 0010 to-day and withdrew at 0037.
- Enemy trawlers attacked. 5. At 0458A to-day a patrol of six M.T.Bs. attacked three small northbound trawlers 4½ miles W. by N. of Ymuiden and obtained several hits upon two of them. The enemy shore batteries opened fire and the M.T.Bs. withdrew.
- E-Boats off Lizard. 6. Between 0105 and 0200 E-Boats, apparently operating in three groups, were located by Radar South and East of the Lizard. Our coastal forces failed to intercept them, and minelaying by one of the groups is suspected.

Mediterranean.

- Operation "Shingle". 7(a) At 0240 today GRENVILLE rammed and sank an E-Boat 6 miles S.W. of Anzio, taking Italian C.O. and Italian and German prisoners.
(b) 5690 tons were discharged at Anzio today in a moderate swell. There was intermittent shelling but no air raids.

/Leghorn ...

423

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Leghorn.

8. 24 U.S. Marauders dropped 45 x 2000 and 4 x 1000 G.P. bombs of Leghorn.

9. No enemy were sighted by destroyers or coastal forces operating off the Dalmatian islands last night.

East Indies.

TRESPASSER.

10. C. in C. E.F. reports that during her fourth Far East patrol, in Zone G, TRESPASSER laid 12 mines successfully.

Burma.

11. A minesweeper was damaged today in the Naf River by enemy air attack and had a few casualties.

Australia and New Zealand.

12(a) Three Allied destroyers bombarded Loniu and Mataan Villages on the south coast of Los Negros Island and also destroyed a village on Rambutyo Island, south-east of Los Negros. A destroyer bombarded suspected emplacements on Pityilu Island.
(b) Destroyers also co-operated by bombardment with ground forces in the Torokina perimeter, Bougainville.

13. Early this morning M.T.Bs. sank a single enemy barge off Garove Island (north of New Britain) killing 35 Japanese and capturing four.

14. Nine escorted Mitchells attacked shipping and small craft off Muschu Island (off Wewak, New Guinea) this afternoon, probably destroying 7 barges, one sea truck and one lugger.

15. Heavy air attacks were made on Rabaul today.

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

FOLEY My 241320A. Sailed FOLEY.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 250741 to C. in C. W.A.)

ANTARES My 241411A. ANTARES sailed.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 250749A to Admty).

Flag of C.S.10 is to be transferred temporarily from BELFAST to DIADEM at 0800/26th March.
(C. in C. H.F., 250814A to H.F.)

VERSATILE Sailed VERSATILE S.O.A. 16 knots, E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200A/29th. Routed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 201332A and F.O.G.M.A's 211020A.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 250905A to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Southend W.S.(?30). PHOENIX unit C.127 successfully sunk in 202 degs. East Cant whistle buoy 3.3 cables.
(N.O.I.C. Southend 251604 to C. in C. Nore)

Cancel my 242320. Request you will sail PHOENIX units C.1 series number 128 and 129 to arrive off Southend pier half hour before high water p.m. 26th and 27th respectively.
2. N.O.I.C. Southend is requested to sink these units on the first of ebb tide in 6 to 9 feet charted depth in area B. My 092121 refers.
(C. in C. Nore, 252304A to Capt. Tilbury).

Operations

Operation "Plane 42" My 241134. Abandoned due to proximity of enemy patrol.
(V.A. Dover, 250211A to Admty.).

Biscay A/S operations. Nr.1. Distress pyrotechnics. Position PLI reached
Two U/Bs. My position is 44 degs. 55' N. 10 degs. 37' W.Dr.
attacked Nil seen, but A.S.V. contact maintained. 03
by A/C. mark dropped.
(A/C, 250240A to 19 Group).
Your 241426A.

Contact not regained since E.G.6 relieved GARDINER at 2155A in 047 degs. 10' N. 023 degs. 21' W.
Air search abandoned at 2230 owing to fog. Morning search also recalled. Am now attempting final search before abandoning hunt.

(VINDEX, 251109A to C. in C.W.A.).
Am over 2 enemy S/Ms. position 46 degs. 58' N. 10 degs. 39' W. S/Ms. were on surface.
(A/C, NDX 71, 252237 to 19 Group).
Hunt U/boat reported 46 degs. 58' N. 10 degs. 29' W. Listen for transmissions of shadowing A/C.
(19 Group, 252254A to A/C PAW 84).

/Have...

425

25.3.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations Cont.

Biscay A/S
operations.
Two U/bs.
attacked
by A/C
(Contd.).

Have attacked U/boat with depth-charge.
Number increased to 04.
(A/C, NDX 71, 252310 to 19 Group).

Operation
"C.W."

Arrived and sailed FLINT CASTLE.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 250425A to C. in C.W.A.).
Sailed DUMBARTON CASTLE for trials, thence to
comply with my 242318A. R/V as ordered in

your 250358.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 251024A to KITE).

E.T.A. Merville 1000A tomorrow. Following boiler hours and
urgent defects. MATANE, SWANSEA, BADDECK, NORTH BAY, OWEN
SOUND, ATHOLL. Details.

(E.G.9, 251602Z to Cdre. D.W.A.).

After departure of 9th E.G. for Londonderry 7th E.G. is to
patrol in area B by day and area C by night.

(C. in C.W.A., 252249A to E.G.7).

Operation
"F.Y."

Your 221753 all arranged.

(2) 7 to 8 S/Ms. will be on patrol.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 250821A to C. in C.H.F.).

My 241120A. Sailed (RATTLESNAKE).

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 251013A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

Intend to sail U.S.S. MILWAUKEE p.m. 26th by searched
channel route to Scapa. E.T.A. 0620A/27th.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 251415 to C. in C.H.F.).

C. in C.H.Fs. 241735. Request you will sail MILWAUKEE to
arrive Scapa a.m. 27th.

(A.C.N.S.(A), 251635A to C. in C. Rosyth).

Your 241735. Request you will include U.S.S. MILWAUKEE in
J.W.58 destination Kola Inlet for onward routing to Archangel
for temporary loan to Soviet Navy (A.M. 171654A/February para.
3A. refers).

(2) Comnavy is arranging for Soviet naval escort from Kola to
Archangel.

(2) Request accommodation for up to 300 officers and men ex-
MILWAUKEE in escorts of R.A.58.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 251808A and 261514A to C. in C.H.F.).

KEPPEL take BEAGLE, WALKER, BOADICEA under your orders and
proceed to pass Gate 0630A/27th to comply with C. in C.W.A.

191639 para.3. C. in C.H.F. 182353 refers. E.T.A. Skaalefiord
1000A/28th.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 252024A to KEPPEL).

Coastal
Force
patrols.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 251015A).

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 251150A, 251344A).

Operation
"Knitting 3"

Intend sailing M.T.B. 255 with M.T.Bs. 613 (S.O.)

426

25.3.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations.

Operation "Knitting 3" (Contd.). 614 in support at 1930/25th for patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 00 degs. 10' E. and 00 degs. 45' W. proceeding and returning passage four and ordered to be within 20 miles of English Coast by daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 251201 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

E/boats off Lizard. Did you obtain any Radar or other indication of E/boats in the vicinity of convoy between 0100 and 0230/25th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251258A to WENSLEYDALE).
At about 0105/25 unidentified plots were reported about 14 miles E. by S. of Lizard. There appeared to be three groups of E/boats, of which one group proceeded North till off Falmouth, then turned E. and S.E., going round the P.W. convoy which was then off D.1 buoy. No attack was made, nor did the convoy escort locate anything in the vicinity. Another group turned S.W. from the initial position, and disappeared from Radar screen when 13 miles South of Lizard on a course of 170 degs. The third group remained in an area about 16 miles E. of the Lizard on various courses, and may possibly have been E/boats minelaying. At about 0200 and shortly afterwards all plots faded out on S.E'ly or southerly courses. Force 113, M.T.Bs. 414, 96 and 90, on patrol south of Start were sent to a position which might have intercepted the enemy, but neither they nor Force Hostile 22 on return from Channel Islands area sighted anything. Fragmentary plots indicated vessel 40 miles south of the Start at 0400/25, which may have been of E/boats returning to Guernsey or Cherbourg via Channel Islands.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 251303A to Admty.).

Operation "C.X." E.T.A. Loch Ewe buoy 2000A today.
(E.G.25, 251300A to C. in C.W.A.).

"S.C." operations. My 240445. Returned at 1430A today (HITRA).
(2) Operation unsuccessful.
(3) Operation will be repeated 27th March weather permitting.
(A.C.O.S., 251555 to Admty.).

Intend to sail S.C. Operation from Scalloway.
(1) A.M. 28th March. Weather permitting.
(2) 59 degs. 48' N. 05 degs. 05' E. (3) Ramose Splinter.
(4) Two days. (5) 092 degs. Sumburgh Head. (6) No.
(A.C.O.S., 251617A to Admty.).

Enemy Convoy off Dunkirk. Last night M.T.B. 236, 203 and 724 were despatched to patrol vicinity 51 degs. 08' N. 02 degs. 30' 30" E. from 2300 with object of intercepting M.23 or other suitable torpedo target on passage eastwards from Dunkerque. From 0007 continuously until 0115 star-shell and some H.A. tracer were observed by the Unit to be fired by shore defences. Illumination

/ was ...

427

25.3.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Enemy was in the form of a barrage to seaward of
Convoy convoy-route commencing to the westward and moving
off gradually to the eastward.
Dunkirk At 0010 the unit proceeded one mile to northward
(Contd.). of patrol position to avoid detection by star-
shell which was bursting overhead and to seaward.
Shore-based Radar detected 4 vessels of undeter-
mined size proceeding eastward from off Dunkerque at 15 knots at
0010. This plot and the enemy position at 0015 were received
by unit at 0020 and interception course at 12 knots was set at
0025 by M.T.Bs. 236 and 203, M.T.B.724 lying off to northward in
pre-arranged supporting position.
Continued star-shell was so blinding as to preclude visual contact
and the many confused echoes obtained prevented interception
by ship borne radar. No enemy vessels were sighted throughout
proceeding and the unit withdrew to seaward at 0034, leaving
patrol at 0037 when it became clear from the plot that enemy had
passed ahead of our forces. Further search to the eastward was
abandoned in view of the proximity of our minefield Q.Z.X.1230.
At 0046 at which time enemy is estimated to have passed Q.Z.X.
1230, unit felt one heavy explosion and 2 fainter, but could not
determine the source. Weather has prevented air R/C of enemy
coast throughout the command.
(V.A. Dover, 251611A to Admty.).

S/M. SYRTIS is leaving patrol so as to pass through
patrols. 066 degs. 01' N. 006 degs. 22' E. at approx.
1400A/28th, thence by route "Orange" and 090 degs.
Muckle Flugga 12 miles to Lerwick proceeding on
surface at C.Os. discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian
coast.
(Capt.(S) 9, 251623A to Submarines).

Positions of submarines at 0800/26th and movements for
following 24 hours.
(A) SYRTIS, SATYR, TAKU, TERRAPIN, and STURDY as in my 231747.
(B) VOX 62 degs. 25' N. 00 degs. 11' W. through 62 degs. 01' N.
00 degs. 38' W. to Lerwick, dived by day North of 62 degs. N.
(C) ULA vicinity of Muckle Flugga through 62 degs. 01' N. 00 degs.
11' E, thence course 030 degs. probably on the surface 9 knots.
(H) RUBIS 46 degs. 50' N. 04 degs. 30' W., dived by day through
47 degs. 44' N. 06 degs. 30' W. towards 49 degs. N. 06 degs. 30'
W.
(F.O.S., 251744A to Admty.).

On night 24th/25th.
Engagement (1) Six M.T.Bs. of 55th and 50th Flotillas were
off ordered to patrol 15 miles off Ymuiden, object
Ymuiden. interception of E/boats, if no E/boats located by
2200A Unit to sweep convoy route and attack any
enemy shipping found.
(2) Unit arrived at initial position at 2045A
remained on patrol line until 2200A. Unit then steered for
Egmond Light. Later a large number of lights were observed from
Ymuiden. Thinking a convoy was probably either entering or
leaving, course was altered for Ymuiden.
(3) At 2336A when off Ymuiden 3 Echoes were detected close inshore
steaming north, they appeared to alter course and remained close
inshore.

/ At...

428

War Diary25.3.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperations

Engagement off Ymuiden (Contd.). At 2338A all lights went out and unit swept north along convoy route. When off Egmond Light shore batteries opened fire with starshell and H.E. Unit withdrew to seaward. When firing ceased Unit continued sweep. About 10 minutes later a violent battle was observed to southward off Ymuiden, which lasted for 10 minutes, much tracer and starshell being observed. After firing ceased, a large glow was observed on the water. Unit swept as far as Texel and turned south at 0243A.

(4) At 0458A arrived off Ymuiden, three small trawlers were observed in 282 degs. Ymuiden 4.5 miles steering north as light was breaking. It was decided to make a short attack. Unit closed and obtained numerous hits on leading two trawlers, shore batteries opened fire, unit withdrew and set course for base.

(5) No casualties, no damage.

(6) Weather Wind N.W.2, sea calm, visibility extreme. (C. in C. Nore., 251832A to Admty.).

SATYR patrol. One tanker believed sunk on 24th March. Negative patrol. Grounded heavily. Only suspected damage is to bow cap and aperture. Ship completely manoeuvrable both diving and surfacing. My P.C.S. at 2100A/25th 62 degs. 23' N. 04 degs. 46' E., 238 degs. 9 knots. One 2000-ton Norwegian tanker hit by torpedo and believed sunk off Stadtlandet on 24th March. (SATYR, 252215A to F.O.S.).

Allied Air Activity

Off Egersund. Have attacked enemy 3 merchant vessel 2000 tons with torpedoes. Result nil. (A/C, 489 Sqdn, 250530 to 19 Group). My 0530. 3 enemy vessels in 58 degs. 20' N. 6 degs. 15' E. stationary. (A/C 489 Sqdn, 250532 to 18 Group).

Mining

Search off Lizard. Proceed forthwith with all available ships and carry out search of area with-in a circle radius two and a half miles about centre in 49 degs. 59' N. 4 degs. 50.4' W. 50.4.

2. Anchor Mounts Bay on completion.

3. Proceed at first light tomorrow Sunday and search QZS 452, 410 and 425. (C. in C. Plymouth, 250959A to TADOUSSAC).

Operation "Q.L.10B" My 241725A. Unit is not to proceed north of latitude 52 degs. 20' N. Should E/boat activity develop, on east coast Unit H may be directed to cover the approaches to one of the Dutch Ports. (C. in C. Nore, 251116A to BEEHIVE).

429

25.3.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMining - Contd.

Q.Z.X.1241 My 121302 and my 191729.
and (A) Clearance of QZX 1241 completed. Total of
Q.Z.X.1237. seven German "R" mines swept. Check sweep of
area carried out with negative result.
Mine reported in my 241549 is considered to have
been a foul lay, ship on turn, sweep being slack
when swept.
(B) Clearance and check sweep of QZX 1237 west of limit reached
by 7th M/S Flotilla completed. Negative result.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 252244A to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence

TIRPITZ B.I. report at 1730Z/25th states that TIRPITZ
left her berth a.m. 25th March and has been lying
all day inside Auskarneset (69 degs. 57.6' N. 23
degs. 08.9' E).
(D.D.I.C., 252302A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47).

Casualties and Defects

PARK Approximate position aground 1 mile South Glass
HOLLAND. Island Light.
(PARK HOLLAND, 250130Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Your 242359A. Sailed (ALLEGIANCE).
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 250139A to F.O.I.C.
Greenock).
Ship breaking up.
(PARK HOLLAND to All Ships, No T.O.O. Recd. 250447Z).
Position of PARK HOLLAND is 57 degs. 50' N. 6 degs. 38' W.,
1 mile south of Glas Eilean Light.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 250337A to ALLEGIANCE).
Rescue Tug ALLEGIANCE will reach you about 1800A to-day.
Local lifeboats have been ordered to your position.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 250613A to PARK HOLLAND).
Cancel my urgent distress messages made at 0415Z/25th.
Ship underway escorted by R.A.F.H.S.L. Proceeding naval base.
(PARK HOLLAND to F.O.I.C. Greenock, No T.O.O. Recd. 251215).
Cancel previous instructions. Proceed direct to Stornoway.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 251233A to ALLEGIANCE)
Your 232306. PARK HOLLAND arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 251636A to N.C.S.O. Clyde).

LENA N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe reports that SS. LENA LUCKEN-
LUCKENBACH BACH in tow of ROODE ZEE and THAMES will leave
M.5 buoy at 1000A/27 March for Tyne.
(2) Request escort.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 251008A to C. in C.W.A.).
Sailed at 1430A/25 for Tyne Rescue Tug THAMES towing M/V.
LENA LUCKENBACH routed outside Skerryvore and via Minches to R/V
with Rescue Tug ROODE ZEE at M.5 buoy at 1000A/27. Approx.
E.T.A. Tyne 30th March.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 251501A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

430

25.3.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SEAMAN H.M. Rescue tug SEAMAN collided with Wall on leaving this a.m. Stem damage and vessel leaking in fore peak. Sailing delayed to effect repairs. Dry-docking probably necessary. (F.O.I.C. London, 251036 to Admty.).

ORESTES Scapa arrival ORESTES. (A.C.O.S. 251037A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

PERSIAN PERSIAN arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 251000A to MENTOR).

SATYR Damaged by grounding. (SATYR, 252215A to F.O.S.). See operations.

Shipping and Convoys

Group 10, Latest position Group 10 Danilov 124 degs. 70
Group 11. cable. Position therefore unsatisfactory as regards time factor. Provisional date for Group 11 is crossing Dvina bar on March 30th. Maximum number 9 ships. Request Naval escort be arranged from ice edge accordingly. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 250945A to S.B.N.O. Polyarno).

431

25.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Ships in German orange trade. Ref. my 22(?)18)17 and 261258/1 (? following) arrangements to expedite reporting of enemy sailing ships and Spanish trade in enemy interests. Barcelona will pass coded message to Madrid by telephone which will be transmitted by W/T to Gibraltar via Admiralty. This should enable Gibraltar to receive reports of sailings within 2 or 3 hours. Following ships have been added CONDECORADO = L. German SAUMUR = Z. Other ships referred to in Barcelona 241806 are so small they have not been included.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 251421A.)

SS. ZURICH. Swiss SS. ZURICH leaves Marseilles about 28th for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D., 251510A to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. MONTE JAVALON. Your 172011 para. D. Spanish MONTE JAVALON bound to Buenos Aires sent in and examined found in order and released.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 251620A to Admty.)
M.E.W's selections for interception.

Ships in German orange trade. My 251421 add CASTILLO VERA = K. Presumably it will be unnecessary now to make usual routine most immediate sailing signal in case of lettered ship.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 251805A to Admty.)

U.S. A/C shot down by STRIKER's fighters. STRIKER reports fighters shot down unidentified aircraft in 036° 14' N. 015° 12' W. Now believed to have been American C.54. MOYOLA proceeding to look for survivors. T.O.O. 251330. Ends.
(F.O.G.M.A., 251824A.)
My 251330Z*. Wreckage examined by MOYOLA undoubtedly American. No survivors or bodies recovered. Believed A/C exploded in air. 5 packages mail for Casablanca recovered.
2. A/C gave no recognition signal either nor F or Pyrotechnic and was mistaken for F.W.200.
(STRIKER, 251907Z.) * Not received.

Spanish fishing vessels - route. Your 161355. Request you will arrange to have Spanish fishing vessels follow route A in A.M. 211859 October 1943 as amended by A.M. 111310 February. This routing was contained in A.M. 170552 February which I regret was not repeated to you.
You should also signal Admiralty (and for N.S.H.Q) F.O.G.M.A. and Com. Tenth Fleet (C. and R.) actual time and date of sailing.
(Admty., 251830A to N.A. Madrid.)

/SS. JOSE ILLUECA...

432

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. JOSE
ILLUECA.

Sailed Valencia p.m./25th with oranges for Germany.
(F.O.G.M.A., 252123A to 10th S.F., LE CURIE, S.O.(I) Med., Capt. (S) 10.)

U/B report.

Radar contact possible S/M position 036° 51'4" N. 011° 50'7" W. search made no contact.
(EVADNE, 252300A.)

South Atlantic.

N.D.
servicing.

As the N.D. depot at Saldanha Bay is now in operation, merchant ships should call there for N.D. servicing in preference to other South African ports.

2. N.D. ships passing the Cape area should accordingly be routed to Saldanha Bay in addition to Capetown or other South African port, but Masters should be instructed that the ship need not proceed to Saldanha Bay for routine N.D. servicing provided that:

- (a) the ship has been serviced at an N.D. depot within the last 2 months and nets have not been streamed since.
- (b) no weather damage has been suffered to the gear.
- (c) nets have been fitted in the ship for under 6 months.

3. N.D. vessels not proceeding west of Durban should be serviced at Durban.
(Adnty., 250448A.)

CANTON.

A.M. 151808/18th.
(5) CANTON should proceed to Simonstown for disarming estimated to take 2 weeks. Ship will then be taken in hand for conversion at Capetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 251234B.)

BREEMANT,
BRONSTEIN.

My 251655Z F.O.C.W.Af. only. Intend to sail at 2200Z/25 U.S. destroyers BREEMANT and BRONSTEIN for New York. Route.
(Comar Dakar, 251825Z.)

433

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- U/B report. Nr. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 32° 04' N. 25° 04' E.
(A/C GGFL 250015Z.)
No. 2. Have lost touch with enemy unidentified 32° 04' N. 25° 04' E.
(A/C CGFL 250210Z.)
- Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 64 of 6359 tons unloaded 1403 was from L.S.T. and 307 from L.C.T. from Naples.
2. Usual intermittent shelling. Aircraft dropped mines in the anchorage.
3. GRENVILLE carried out two bombardments on 23rd.
4. At 250240 GRENVILLE rammed and sunk an E-Boat in 225 Anzio 6th. Five Italian prisoners including C.O., two German.
5. Vesuvius quieter.
(F.O.W.It. 250954.)
- Cositintrep 209790, 22946 cipher 25 March. Part 4.
No. 260. Dalmatian Islands. Second SS. Bde. reports C.D.O.S evacuated Hvar 2200 hours 23rd, Partisan Group remains to mop up. Eighty German and twenty Italian P.Ws. captured. Our casualties three wounded. C.D.O. R.C.N. party landed Island of Brac night 23/24 March but details not yet available. (See 10.452/21471)
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers 251000.)
- ALBACORE. ALBACORE now in hand for investigation and repair. (Details). Request instructions whether other vessels of same class and builders should be taken in hand as available for dynamic balancing of all main turbine rotors.
(C.S.Malta 251152 to Admty.)
- WAYLAND To sail in K.M.S. 30 on about 8th April to Levant (Fleet re- pair ship.) for onward routeing to Eastern Fleet.
2. Arrangements.
(C. in C.Med. 251210A.)
- ORPHEE. Cominch agrees that ORPHEE is to be allocated for A/S training at Casablanca under U.S. control.
2. Com. N.O.B.Oran is requested to sail ORPHEE as convenient after repairs are completed about 1st April to Gibraltar for onward routeing by F.O.G.M.A. to Casablanca.
(C. in C.Med. 251218A.)

/ULTIMATUM...

War Diary.

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ULTIMATUM. UNSWERVING. ULTIMATUM sailed 1301/25th to pass through Antikithera Channel diving daylight 28th to patrol in S.W.Aegean south of 036° 05' and west of 025° 20'.

(Capt. S.1 251408 to 1st S/M F. G.S. NEREUS, MATROZOS, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

P.34 (ULTIMATUM) is to pass through position B. 035° 49' 023° 30' before 1201/28th and then to proceed through 035° 47' 023° 49' before carrying out patrol ordered.

2. P.63 (UNSWERVING) is to remain north lat. 035° 55' from dawn 28 until noon 28th then pass through position B. about 1601/28th. Thence diving at 200 feet to position A. 035° 4' 023° 15' at 2230/28th.

(Capt. S.1 251509 to ULTIMATUM, UNSWERVING, (R) 1st S/M F. NEREUS G.S. MATROZOS, F.O.L.E.M.)

W.D.Note. Cancelled sic 270740A.

SS. GERDA TOFT. GERDA TOFT ready to sail from Suda in ballast. (Capt. S.1 251650A to SPORTSMAN, UNSWERVING, ULTIMATUM.)

M.A.A.F. Opsum 398. E-Boats attacked. 24th March 15 Spitfires strafed 9 E-Boats off Pasmán Island. 1 E-Boat exploded 2 caught fire 1 left smoking. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. 251730A.)

DUGUAY-TROUIN. F.A.N. 319 Refers (150338 Jan.)
1. DUGUAY-TROUIN will be taken in hand shortly at Bizerta for retubing of two condensers, partial retubing of boilers and certain electrical work.
2. Decision to carry out work in Med. taken owing to French volunteering to employ ships staff for majority of work and fact that ship is a useful operating unit, particularly as her guns can use American ammunition. Latter point is important owing to general shortage of French stocks. (Allied C. in C.Med. 251745A.)

Q attachment. Ships engaged in anti U-Boat operations in the Med. are seriously handicapped in dealing with deep U-Boats by lack of Q attachment.
2. It seems probable this equipment could be fitted at Malta, Gibraltar and Alexandria during routine dockings if necessary parts and instructions were sent.
3. Request information on this point. (C. in C.Med. 251745A to Admty.)

M.A.A.F. Opsum 398. Swedish Relief ship bombed. 2 missions 24 Kittyhawks 200 ft. landing craft Sibenik. 12 x 1000, 12 x 500, 24 x 250 G.P., near misses set vessel afire by strafing. 11 Spits. reported M/V 20 miles E. Dugi or (?Dugo 14 x 250 G.P., dropped 4 bombs 1000 feet astern of vessel identified as Swedish relief ship, broke A.A. attack. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. 251800A.)

War Diary.

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNIVERSAL.

Patrol report blank.
(Capt. S.10 251849.)

JOSE
ILLUECA.

Sailing dusk tonight 25th with oranges for Germany.
(R.O.Valencia 251851 to C. in C.Med. F.O.G.M.A.)

Situation report No.321. Extract. Operation "Shingle". L.S.T. observed mines being laid by A/C night 23/24 which were subsequently swept.
GRENVILLE rammed and sank an E-Boat off Anzio at 0240/25th March. Italian C.O. 2 German and 3 Italian ratings taken prisoner. (W.D.Note. Number of prisoners differs from F.O.W.It's report.)
URCHIN engaged enemy strong point in Anzio area on 24th March. During the night 18th/19th March M.L. captured 19 ton caique in Aegean with cargo of plate glass.
(C. in C.Med. 252119A.)

436

War Diary.25.3.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Bi-weekly
U-Boat
German dis-
position 35.No fresh information. No change in scale of
air escort except area D which reduced to W. and
area G which reduced to X.
(C. in C. E.F. 250334Z).FORT LA MAUNE
(sunk 25 Jan)
OLGA E.
EMBIRICOS
(sunk 29 Jan)
SAMBRIDGE
(sunk 18 Nov)Com. Aden 281442 February and para. 5 your 091227
February. Unless Lifeboat distress signals were
not received by Socotra until 31st January it is
not clear why information of a sinking was not
available to you until that date.
(2) Owners of SS. SAMBRIDGE sunk 18th November,
1943 now allege that mutilated distress message
made by that ship was received by SS. TARANTIA 200
miles distant although not received by Aden 100
miles distant. It is not known in Admiraltywhether this message was read by Socotra or whether it was re-
broadcast by TARANTIA or whether it ever reached Eastern Fleet
H.Q.(3) Admiralty are fully aware that 500 K/cs reception at Aden
W/T is far from satisfactory for Technical reasons, but your
remarks on these incidents are requested and in particular so that
a suitable reply may be made to owners of SAMBRIDGE.
(D.S.D. 250334A to C. in C. E.F.)Convoy
Changes.

F.O.N.I.C. (367). Add new sub. paragraph:-

(A) On occasions when it is clear that a convoy
will be unable to arrive off Colombo, Trincomalee,
Madras or Vizagapatam to enable the berthing of
all ships at their destination to be completed
before dark the following procedure may be carried out to avoid
the whole convoy delaying its arrival until following day:- At
the discretion of S.O. escort Comdre. of C.J. and J.C. convoys
may detach the fast ships to proceed ahead when the convoy is
within 4 hours steaming of above ports.(B) The above instructions do not apply to personnel ships which
are to remain in convoy until reaching their destinations.(C) This order is to be brought to the notice of Cdre. and S.O.
escort at the convoy conference.

(C. in C. E.F. 250442Z)

ENGADINE,
ATHENE.(1) ENGADINE reports ships has not docked for
12 months.(2) ATHENE reports some fresh water tanks require
sailing cleaning and cement washing.(3) Both ships will require boiler cleaning on
arrival.(4) Request information of future employment of these ships in
order that their programme may be arranged.

(C. in C. E.F. 250637Z to Admtty.)

RICHELIEU /...

437

25.3.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

RICHELIEU. Request RICHELIEU may be sailed so as to arrive Aden p.m. 2nd April C. in C. Med. 231258 (N.T. in W.R.) not to all addressees refers.
(2) Comic Aden is requested to sail ROTHERHAM PETARD and one Frigate to R/V to 013 degs. 07' N. 043 degs. 04' E. to escort RICHELIEU to Aden.
(3) F.O.L.E.M. is requested to signal time of R/V.
(4) Further signal will be made regarding onward passage from Aden.
(C. in C. E.F. 250641Z)

TANTIVY, P.319(TANTIVY) 1st Far East Patrol. Sunda Strait
TRESPASSER first to 15th March.
Patrol (2) No shipping sighted except for one small
Reports. trawler patrolling north of Thwartway Island on
one day and 2 S/M Chasers off Prince Island proceeding seaward on 15th.
(3) Only air patrol was west of line (corrupt group
Cape Java Head on 15th.
(4) P.312 (TRESPASSER) 4th Far East Patrol.
(5) 12 mines laid successfully. (6) Shipping sighted during
patrol.
(C. in C. E.F. 250646Z)
Approx. position 003 degs. 26' 30" N. 099 degs. 29' E. My
250646 para. 5 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 250702Z)

U/B sighting Following enemy S/M sighting reports graded most
reports. reliable and reliable respectively have been
received since 1st Jan. from military coast
watching organisation on Somalia coastline.
One. Most reliable. 2 Jan. area EIL. 9 and 23
March area Alula.
Two. Reliable. Area Alula sightings made on following dates 4,
22, 27, 30 Jan. 25 Feb. 4 March on 20 Mar. 2 sightings made
EIL area 22nd Feb. All Alula sightings have been within 30 miles
either side of this place. These reports culminated in a most
reliable report of 23 March when coast watchers were machine
gunned by submarine 20 miles East of Alula. One coast watcher
was wounded. Considered this incident tends confirm reliability
of reports being submitted by this coast watching organisation.
Maintenance this coast watching organisation entails approx.
360 European and Somali watchers 14 w/t. sets and considerable
adm. problems over great distances. Consider this unjustified
unless full use of reports is made. Grateful your views.
(G.O.C. in C. E.Af. 251430 to W.O)

U-Boat By D/F at 1710Z/25th on 19680 K/cs the position
reports. of one or possibly two German U-Boats was indicated
within 250 miles of 015 degs. S. 083 degs. E.
Indefinitely fixed.
On night 24th March a U-Boat probably Japanese was
off Ras Pasni (025 degs. 10' N. 063 degs. 20° E.)
(C. in C. E.F. 252206Z)

25.3.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S.S. Cominch 242014 agree to C. in C.E.F.221251 para.3.
MT. VERNON. (B.A.D. 250109Z.)

INDOMITABLE, E.T.A. Bermuda. Your 231515 not to Admiralty
OCEANWAY, RIOU and HARGOOD 26th March. DOMINICA 30th
escorts. March. LABUAN now indefinite, as also is
ST. HELENA with whom it had been hoped to replace
her.

2. Admiralty have already refused a delay to
TORRINGTON for another job so consider neither INMAN nor
TORRINGTON should be held. If it is necessary, which does not
appear likely, RIOU could postpone joining INDOMITABLE until
she passes through Bermuda.

3. HARGOOD and DOMINICA are now the only available escorts
for OCEANWAY. DOMINICA is uncertain and they could not be
ready to leave New York before 30th April at least. Intend,
therefore, to cancel special arrangements for OCEANWAY and sail
her in C.U.23 on third May.
(B.A.D. 250223.)

Concrete Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. Fully appreciate sense
ships. of your 231724 these ships will not proceed in
B.X.101 and S.C.156 unless they declare $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots
for each convoy.
(B.A.D. 250255Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. Para. (C) 1, H.M.C.S. SWIFT CURRENT sights
S/M surfaced U/B in 44.19 N. 63.13 W. 0945Z/24th.
attack 2. A/C obtains A.S.V. contact in 43.58 N.
and sighting 62.50 W. 1839Z/24th.
summary. (N.S.H.Q. 250638Z.)

O.N.S.31, Incomplete bearings on poor D/F fix of trans-
O.N.228, mission at 0605Z on 4190 kc/s of one group B.
U/B may indicate U/Boat (German) in the vicinity
report of O.N.S.31 or possibly O.N.228.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 250801Z to Escorts O.N.S.31 &
O.N.228 (R) C. in C.C.N.A., F.O.N.F., A.F.H.Q.,
A.O.C. in C. E.A.C., Cominch, S.B.N.O. W.At.,
No.1 Group St. Johns N.F., Admty.)

O.N.S.31. No H/F D/F activity in the vicinity of convoy.
Your 250801Z refers.

(S.O.E.G., C.5, 250948Z to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.N.228. Your 250801Z. No H/F D/F activity near convoy.

Bearing of transmission at 0605Z 047° or 220° distant. My
position course and speed 1000Z $043^{\circ} 57' N.$ $044^{\circ} 52' W.$ (S)
 $257^{\circ} 8$ knots. $044^{\circ} 04' N.$ $042^{\circ} 22' W.$ Weather report.
(B.7, 251201Z to N.S.H.Q.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 251453Z, 251516Z.)

/Emergency...

War Diary.25.3.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Emergency fuelling tankers. A case has occurred lately of all escort oilers being separated from Eastbound convoy. Suggest tankers whose cargo could in emergency be used for fuelling escorts and which have sufficient hose, be indicated in sailing telegram repetition telegram suffix E. (N.S.H.Q., 251511Z.)
- L.26. Cancel my 242048 and 242050* (not received). Ship will now proceed via Cape Cod Canal. (C. in C. C.N.A. 251533Z.)
* Bombing restrictions.
Route etc. to Philadelphia. (C. in C. C.N.A. 251806Z.)
- T.F.66. This constitutes Task Force 66, TANEY, MENGES, J.E. CAMPBELL, Cortdiv 21 less BARBER LOY plus FISKE FESSENDEN, HOUSATONIC. Escort convoy U.G.S.38 departing Hampton Roads 3rd April to Bizerta and return escorting G.U.S.38. (C. in C. Lant, 251806.)
- ANTIOPE. Route from Horta to Bermuda. (Cdr. 10th Fleet, 251815Z.)
- T.G.21.16. This constitutes task Group 21.16 effective 2nd April CORE, D.L. HOWARD, Cortdiv 9 less FISKE FESSENDEN plus LOY. When ready about 3rd April depart Hampton Roads operate offensively against reported enemy S/M giving priority to those which might menace U.G.S.- G.U.S. convoy lanes. Fuel tankers in U.G.S.- G.U.S. convoys. Further orders later. (C. in C. Lant 251856.)
- SPEAKER. Norfolk sailed March 24th SPEAKER for New York to load Aircraft and for inclusion in C.U.19 for U.K. (N.S.H.Q. 252034Z.)
- U.S.S. GEN.
H.W. BUTNER. Diversion order. (Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) 252040Z.)
- Italian S/Ms. Disposal between British and U.S. control for A/S training purposes, Cominch's counter-proposals.
5. Request your early remarks on Cominch proposals observing that the majority of the submarines reported unfit to leave the Med. will come under British. (B.A.D. 252109Z to Admty.)

440

War Diary.25.3.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Cont.

- T.G.65.1. This constitutes Task Group 65.1. INGHAM
L.S.T.540 when ready 27th March depart Hampton
for Med.
(Cinclant, 252118.)
- U/B and missing incidents. Para. A. Y.M.S.170 exploded magnetic mine
14.01.34 N. 61.01.03 W. before 1946/24 all times
Z. Para. C.B-24 sighted surfaced sub. 09.30 N.
60.00 W. 1108/25, A/C radar contact 43.58 N.
62.50 W. 1839/24.
Para. D. 2P.Vs Radar contacts 43.15 N. 67.00 W.
1140/25, A/C radar contact 42.25 N. 67.00 W. 2002/24.
(Cominch, 252130Z.)
- UGANDA. UGANDA has been offered for transfer to Royal
Canadian Navy.
2. Request report as soon as possible.
a. Firmest approximation to completion date
ex. trials.
b. Expected state of ship on leaving U.S. as regards out-
standing defects and As. and As.
3. N.S.H.Q. have been given 21st August as approx. date of
readiness ex trials.
(Admty. 252231A to B.A.M.R.)
- NORTHWAY. NORTHWAY escorted by ASCENSION, THORNBOROUGH
and TROLLOPE left Bermuda 2145.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 252331Z to S.B.N.O. Azores
B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)
- SS. WATUKA Further to my 222027Z and reference O.R.S.742.
(Sunk 22nd March.) 3. 0850Z March 22nd 44.30 62.51 W.
4. Not sighted.
5. Not seen.
6. Not known. 6a. -
7. Vessel struck portside aft and sank in
five minutes.
8. Murray MacDonald A.M.
9. Not been.
10. Torpedo.
11. Master's books overside in metal box. W/T Books down
with ship in closed and weighted bag.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 252525Z (sic)).

441

25.5.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest 795. 8 - 12 cover South Pacific Forces.
2. Patrol Liberator twice attacked minesweeper
New Guinea type vessel 85 miles North West Wewak heading
North early hours scoring one quarter ton direct
hit.
4. Encircled Japs offering vigorous resistance Los Negros
Island. Situation relatively unchanged around Lorengau.
3 destroyers bombarded Pityilu Island destroying all vessels
buildings fuel store and 3 launches.
12. Destroyers bombarded Eloae Island South West coast Manus
Island 23rd with unobserved results, but destroyed estimated
150 drums fuel during shelling of plantation on Mussau Island.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 250946Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. R/59 sighted U/Boat on surface course 090° and twice attacked after U/Boat submerged in 47° 37' N. 22° 59' W. at 1155Z/24. MOURNE probably sighted U/Boat in same position 1201Z/24. Para.B. A/C sighted conning tower course 115° in 35° 50' N. 06° 10' W. at 1202Z/24th. (D.D.I.C. 251114A.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 251329A, 251346A.)

442

26.3.1944
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"F.Y."

1. C.S.10 in DIADEM with Capt. D.23 in SAUMAREZ left Scapa at 1631 to-day for Loch Ewe to attend the Convoy Conference of Convoy J.W.58; and three M/Vs. of the Iceland Group left Reykjavik at 1722A to-day with FITZROY, CHAMOIS, CHANCE and SPOSA as Escort to R/V with Convoy J.W.58 in due course off N.E. Iceland.

East Coast.
Engagements
with E/boats.
One E/boat
damaged by
MACKAY.

2. Two groups of E/boats were operating off the East Coast last night, one off Smiths Knoll and the other off Orfordness. At 0003 to-day MACKAY, guarding the seaward flank of Convoy F.S.1, engaged seven of the Smiths Knoll Group and damaged at least one; and at about 0001 SHELDRAKE on patrol engaged the Orfordness group close to No.3. Buoy and drove them off to the S.E.

Engagement
off
Dutch Coast.

3. At 0109 to-day M.T.Bs. 203 and 229, while attempting to lay mines in the Zuydecoote Passage, engaged a trawler-type enemy vessel at 500 yards range which, after being hit several times, ceased firing. The minelaying was abandoned.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"

4(a). It was reported this morning that flying is now possible from Montecorvino.
(b) 6309 tons were discharged at Anzio to-day. Two enemy aircraft were shot down during an air raid at 2049; no damage was caused but minelaying is suspected, Shelling was less heavy.

5. Evidence was received to-day showing that a U/boat was very likely destroyed by H.M.T.MULL in 38.07 N. 09.41 E. (between Sardinia and Tunisia) on 10th March. MULL was the single escort of a small convoy.

6. B.26s. bombed Leghorn Harbour to-day with good concentration.

Aegean

7. UNSWERVING reports one probable hit with torpedo on the German MV. GERDA TOFT to-day.

443

26.3.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

8. SS. TJISAZAK, Melbourne for Colombo, was torpedoed by a U/boat and sunk to-day in 02.30 S. 78.40 E. (about 320 miles east-south-east of Addu Atoll).

The survivors were taken on board the Japanese submarine and massacred, the Captain and a Red Cross nurse being taken below and not seen again. 5 men escaped by swimming. (See also p. 29, April).

26.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

HAWKINS,
FROBISHER.

On arrival in U.K. HAWKINS about 29th March, FROBISHER about 6th April are to come under the orders of C. in C. H.F. (D.O.D.(H), 260154A to C. in C. H.F.)

Flag of
C.S. 10.

Flag of Rear-Admiral R.R. McGrigor Commanding First Cruiser Squadron will be hoisted in KENT at 0800/27th March. (C. in C. H.F., 261019 to H.F.)

Operations.

SATYR
patrol.

Your 252215. Well done. When well clear report number of torpedoes fired. (F.O.(S), 260004A to SATYR.)
Your 160004A. 4 torpedoes expended. Position 61° 01'. (SATYR, 261716A to F.O.S.)

Biscay A/S
operations.

A/C attacking U-Boat in 46° 58' N. 10° 39' W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 260018A to SALADIN.)
D/F bearings at 2230Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 260020A to VINDEX, E.G.6.)

Friendly A/C continually homing and dropping flares on destroyers as neither have I.F.F. P.C.S. 47° 44' N. 10° 12' W., 25°, 18 knots.

(SALADIN, 260145A to Plymouth.)

Your 260953. Flares were dropped between destroyer and SS. explosions felt at 2300A/25th in 046° 58' N. 010° 33' W. (SALADIN, 261045A to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Sub. sighted 46° 46' N. 11° 43' W., burning red flare. Did not attack. Submerged as circled. (A/C NTQ96, 261236A to 19 Group.)

Engagements
off Smiths
Knoll and
Orfordness.
1 E-Boat
damaged by
MACKAY.

E-Boat Smiths Knoll. Cover Ijmuiden. (C. in C. Nore, 260029 to Nore.)
My 0029. Indications E-Boat taking northerly route as before. (C. in C. Nore, 260150A to Nore.)
Severe interference to the Nore port wave (1780 k/cs) from what are believed to be Army stations using call signs STT and YNY and transmitting 5 letter code with 5 figure indicators on a frequency of 1778.5 k/cs as measured by Baldock has been experienced between 2100/25th and 0930/26th March. These stations were received R.5 on 1780 k/cs at Chatham, Harwich and Yarmouth and endangered the conduct of operations against an E-Boat attack on the East Coast Convoy Route and operations against the enemy on the Dutch coast. (C. in C. Nore, 261225A to Adnty.)

E-Boat action night 25th/26th March. SHELDRAKE reports E-Boats first detected at 2355A by Radar 345° 3 Buoy 5.2 miles, general course 150/5°. Ships position 000° 3 Buoy 2.2 miles. Three E-Boats sighted at 0010 in line ahead in 070° 3 Buoy 2.4

/miles ...

445

26.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagements
off Smiths
Knoll and
Orfordness.
1 E-Boat
damaged by
MACKAY.
(Contd.)

miles. Fire opened with rocket illuminant 4 inch and Oerlikon from 076° 3 Buoy 1.5 miles, ship's course 060°. No hits claimed with main armament, several near misses. Enemy made smoke and retired at speed on general course 120° in line abreast.
2. Not considered that enemy laid mines in channel but may have jettisoned while retiring. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 261245A to C. in C. Nore.) Preliminary report of E-Boat activity last night.

1. E-Boats operated in two main groups.
Northern group near Smiths Knoll, southern at 3 Buoy.
2. Southern group came in on course of 270 speed about 16 knots making for 3 Buoy. They were detected by K.164 at 2335 at range of 16½ miles. C/F unit K two miles N.W. of Z.50 made no contact although E-Boats passed within 1¼ miles. SHELDRAKE on patrol 8A engaged 3 E-Boats at about 0001 close to 3 Buoy. E-Boats at once turned S.E. and retired at high speed. No other contact made. No evidence of minelaying. This may have been diversion for main attack further north.
3. Northern group were outside range of shore Radar. At 0003 MACKAY (Patrol 5) guarding flank of F.S. convoy detected E-Boats by Radar on N.W'ly course 5 miles east of Smiths Knoll buoy. On being engaged they retired N.E. at 0038 contact was again made in about same positions. Seven E-Boats believed to have been contacted. These may have been same group reinforced. Enemy again retired N.E. on being engaged. Hits were scored and at least one E-Boat was damaged. C/F units at Z.16, Z.18 and Z.20 made no contact although apparently well placed. At least 7 E-Boats in this group. Mines may have been laid east of Smiths Knoll but MACKAY successfully saved convoy being detected.
4. Shore Radar. K.164 and K.163 both plotted southern group. K.164 did well to keep continuous track of SHELDRAKE unit K and E-Boats, holding these to range of 24 miles.
5. Coastal Forces. It is disappointing that although both groups of E-Boats must have passed close to C/F units both coming in and retiring no contact of any sort was made.
6. Aircraft. E-Boats passed through A.S.V. Wellington patrols without being detected.

(C. in C. Nore, 261300A to Admty.)

Y supplement to my 261300.

(1) WINTERTON heard carriers intermittently on 45.8 m/cs from 0052 to 0130 and a snatch of R/T at 0058. Gorleston and Trimmingham heard carriers at 0057 and 0111 respectively.

(2) During each action MACKAY heard R/T traffic. Signal long green and short green heard several times also KARL and number during second action this signal has not been heard before. During second action excited voices urging HUGO 5 times to repeat. Consider this may confirm MACKAY's claim to have damaged one E-Boat.

(3) No positive evidence minelaying.

(4) Smudge signals after 0130 indicate E-Boats possibly steering for the Texel.

(C. in C. Nore, 261657A to Admty.)

/S/M ...

446

26.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M Patrols. ULA sailed 0715A/26th unescorted and on the surfaced at C.O.'s discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast. Proceeding by route B to 069° 30' thence patrolling vicinity of 069° 35', 017° 25' W.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 260815A to S/MS.)
Submarines 0801/27th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) SYRTIS off Bodo leaves patrol after dark 27th proceeding on surface 10 knots to pass through 66° 01' N. 06° 22' E. at 1400/28th.
(B) TAKU off Kya. (C) TERRAPIN off Lister.
(D) STURDY 65° 19' N. 001° 15' E.
(E) VOX arriving Lerwick from north.
(F) ULA 63° 40' N. 02° 20' E. probably on surface course 030° 9 knots.
(F.O.(S), 261749A to Admty.)

Operation "Knitting 3". Operation completed. Result satisfactory.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 261003A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operation F.Y. Arrived RATTLESNAKE.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 261021A to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)
A.M. 242039. HONNINGSVAAG and WINDERMERE will replace CHAMOIS and CHANCE.
(A.C.I.C., 261140A to Admty.)

Amendment number 2. My 182353 refers.
Para. 4 (A). No local escort will be provided for R.A. 58 but support groups are to remain with convoy until south of 058° 15' N.

Para. 4 (G). Delete COMBATANT. Para. 5 (F). Add after support group "less second escort group".

Para. 6 (C). First sentence add after 4 Fleet destroyers "and 2nd Escort Group".

Add new para. 4 (K). U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE will be included in J.W. 58.

(C. in C. H.F., 261200A to H.F.)

Intend sailing ELOY ALFARO, WILLIAM S. THAYER and JOHN T. HOLT South Iceland escorted by FITZROY S.O., HONNINGSVAAG and WINDERMERE at 1600A/26th to R/V with J.W. 58 (C. in C. H.F. 182353 para. 7 refers).

2. On completion escort duties (A) FITZROY to Nore (C. in C. H.F. 221411 refers) calling Methil 25th March.

(B) HONNINGSVAAG and WINDERMERE to Seidisfjord.

(A.C.I.C., 261404A to H.F.)

Scapa departure 10 C.S. in DIADEM with SAUMAREZ in company.

(A.C.O.S., 261631 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Proceed at best speed to join FITZROY with convoy which left Reykjavik at 1530Z and continue as escort until either

(A) HONNINGSVAAG (? can) overtake and join escort or (B) another auxiliary vessel joins off Seidisfjord.

2. S.O. Escort is to detach CHAMOIS and CHANCE when 2nd auxiliary vessel escort has joined.

3. CHANCE and CHAMOIS are then to rejoin route ordered in my S.O. 35 as nearest point west of meridian 015° W. and (? proceed) in accordance with S.O. 35.

(A.C.I.C., 261714A to CHAMOIS, CHANCE.)

/My ...

447

26.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation My 261404 sailed. S.O.A. $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
F.Y. (A.C.I.C., 261722A to H.F.)
(Contd.) Rosyth departure U.S.S. MILWAUKEE for Scapa.
E.T.A. 0621A/27th.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 261737 to A.C.O.S.)
My 261404 and 261218. Owing to defects
HONNINGVAAG, CHAMOIS and CHANCE have been sailed as extra
escorts as far as Seidisfjord where they will be relieved by
A/S trawler from Seidisfjord.
2. On relief CHAMOIS and CHANCE proceed to Granton joining route
in my 261218 in 015° W.
(A.C.I.C., 261946A to H.F.)

Coastal (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 261039A.)
Force (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 261225A.)
Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 261259A.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261331A.)

Operation Report forthwith your P.C.S. and proceed with
C.X. despatch into HHZ.
(F.O.(S), 261114A to SCEPTRE, E.G.25.)

Operation Carry out Operation "Plane 44" tonight.
"Plane 44". (V.A. Dover, 261226A to S.O. L.C.P.L.)
My 261226. Operation abandoned as visibility
was too great.
(V.A. Dover, 262358A to Admt.)

Engagement At 2100 yesterday Group X M.T.Bs. 203 (S.O.)
off and 229 with Group Y M.T.B.705 as support sailed
Zuydecoote to lay mines in the western entrance to the
Passage. Zuydecoote pass.
2. At 0020, when approaching to lay, Group X
sighted enemy vessel of trawler type at a range
of about 800 yards and withdrew undetected to
R/V with Group Y.
3. At 0049 Group X again proceeded to initial laying position
but, sighting two E-Boats lying stopped at a range of 600 yards,
again withdrew to R/V.
4. At 0109 units were challenged from the eastward with letter
'L' and enemy fired one star-shell. Units engaged a vessel
of trawler type at a range of five hundred yards and numerous
hits were observed on the target which, after the initial burst,
ceased firing.
5. Our forces sustained neither damage nor casualties. Lay
was not carried out.
(V.A. Dover, 261312A to Admt.)

Operation Carry out Operation "Tunnel" tonight in
"Tunnel". accordance with memo O.P.T.U.
2. Information - Enemy.

448

26.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Tunnel". (Contd.) 2 ELBINGS and 4 T.Bs. in Havre and none in Cherbourg or Brest on 25th March. E-Boats are based on Cherbourg or further west. M-class M/S may be in Cherbourg or Brest. R-Boats probably on patrol in the vicinity Triagoz Bank.

3. Own - Coastal Force patrols as signalled in my 261259.

4. Execution Force 26 comprising ships addressed is to pass Gate at 2000A today and proceed to pass through position (SS) 000° Ile Vierge Light 9 miles at 0015 and thence through (TT) 300° Ile de Bas Light 9 miles to (UU) 006° Ile de Bas Light 8½.

5. From (UU) Force 26 is return to Plymouth.

6. Disregard Q.Z.X.1235 if in contact with enemy light forces. Q.Z.X.1247 Force 26 is not to proceed east of 004° W. unless in action with enemy not to cross the line Les Hadb to Heaux. (C. in C. Plymouth, 261326A to TARTAR, HAIDA, ASHANTI.)

Mining.

Operation N.L. 120. My 251603. Operation N.L.120 abandoned due to interference by enemy patrol. (V.A. Dover, 261335A to Admty.)

Humber. Magnetic mine detonated at 1634 in 323° H.5 Buoy 5.5 miles. (F.O. Humber, 261939A and 261949A to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ, MONTE ROSA, TJELSUND. B.2 source reports SS. MONTE ROSA left Kaafiord 1500Z/24. Comment: As repairs to TIRPITZ have now been completed this vessel is probably returning to Germany. (D.D.I.C., 261755A to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. H.F.)

A.M. 261755A. Further B.2 report states MONTE ROSA passed Finnsnes (69° 13.5' N. 17° 59' E.) at 0330Z/25th and TJELSUND at 0800Z the same day. (D.D.I.C., 261827A to C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S), C. in C. H.F.)

B.1 report timed 2000A/26 states no change in position of TIRPITZ. A.M. 252302A refers. (D.D.I.C., 262226A to A.I.G.21, A.I.G.47.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. Submarine reported 290° No.6 Post Scourie 10 miles, course 360, speed 3 knots at 1307. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 261453A to C. in C. W.A.)

449

War Diary.26.3.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth eastern entrance and Needles channels closed due to fog.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 260646 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

ORESTES. Intend to sail ORESTES by searched channels and Minches to Loch Ewe at 1100 today.
(A.C.O.S., 260931 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
Scapa departure ORESTES.
(A.C.O.S., 261102A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)
Arrived ORESTES.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 261919 to A.C.O.S.)

FLINT CASTLE. FLINT CASTLE arrived with defects.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 260940A to C. in C. W.A.)

J.P. CRESSEY. Have encountered SS. J.P. CRESSEY off Niest Point. He has boiler trouble and one day's coal. Am standing by.
(SOUTHERN WAVE, 261015 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

My 261015A. Have taken ship in tow and proceeding south. Request destination where his repairs can be carried out and bunker replenished.

(SOUTHERN WAVE, 261115 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

Your 261115A. Report: (A) Where was tow bound originally.

(B) Extent of damage. (C) Bunker requirements.

(N.O.I.C. Oban, 261425A to SOUTHERN WAVE.)

Proceed forthwith to take over tow of SS. J.P. CRESSEY from H.M.T. SOUTHERN WAVE. P.C.S. at 1140A/26th, 57° 26' N. 06° 46' W., course 180°, 3 knots. Ship is to be towed to Aultbea.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261453A to ALLEGIANCE.)

Your 261425A. (A) Belfast.

(B) Leaky bunker tube and 40 tons of coal. I am now approaching Ardnamurchan Point.

(SOUTHERN WAVE, 261530 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

Your 261453A.

Now approaching Sound of Mull. J.P. CRESSEY bound Belfast will anchor himself Bloody Bay.

(SOUTHERN WAVE, 261635A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

My 261453A. Final para. For "Aultbea" read "Belfast".

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261717A to ALLEGIANCE.)

SS. J.P. CRESSEY disabled by leaky tubes and bound for Belfast is anchoring in Sound of Mull. ALLEGIANCE is proceeding to take in tow to Belfast.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261945A to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

War Diary.26.3.1944.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U-Boat Report. 2 U-Boats estimated bound S.S.W. within 80 miles of 38 degs. 00' N. 18 degs. 00' W. at 1200Z/26th. (D.D.I.C. 260930A to Escorts of S.L.152, C.T.G.21.12. C.T.G.21.11. Info. F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

DZIK, ANTIOPE. Intend sailing P.52 (DZIK) for U.K. ANTIOPE for Bermuda and fleet tender (corrupt group) wearing red ensign (?with) SS. TENDER HEART escorted by H.M.S. HAARLEM S. of A. 8½ kts. Route etc. (F.O.G.M.A. 261149A as amended 261905A)

Tank barges. See from M.W.T. London telegram Mast 2301(N.T. in W.R.) that it is proposed to tow tank barges from Freetown to Gibraltar for onward towage to U.K. as opportunity offers.

(2) There are a number of damaged ships awaiting towage to the U.K. as opportunity offers.

(2) There are a number of damaged ships awaiting towage to the U.K. which are already buying up valuable berths in a crowded anchorage. Request M.W.T. may be informed that these further additions are unacceptable. (F.O.G.M.A. 261447A to Admty.)

THYRAS. Danish THYRAS seized. (C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 261520A)

South Atlantic.

GARIBALDI, AOSTA. Sailed 1819Z/25. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 261027Z).

N.D. Servicing of ships. Request A.M. 250448 may be cancelled Capetown forms part of Saldanha Bay N.D. Depot and all servicing of ships is carried out in Capetown Docks where work is done alongside Servicing is not at present available at Saldanha Bay unless special arrangements are made. (C. in C. S.A. 261100B to Admty.)

War Diary.

26.3.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UNSWERVING. From 035° 41' 023° 15' at 2230/28th proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 0730/31st. Thence to Malta by Eastern Channel arriving Marsamxett 1230/31st.

2. You are to proceed diving by day on 29th your surface speed is estimated as 8½ knots.

(Capt. S.1 260943 to UNSWERVING.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep 65 5690 tons discharged in moderate swell. L.S.Ts. from Naples contributed 1024 tons L.C.T.67 tons L.G.I.(D) 17 tons.
2. Intermittent shelling no air raids.
3. URCHIN bombarded German strong points in bridge-head area on 24th firing 105 rounds.
4. Flying now possible from Montecorvino.
(F.O.W.It. 261020.)

Operation "Crust." Operation "Crust" completed as far as possible but original plan impossible. My position 1203/26th 037° 11' N. 018° 37' E. E.T.A. Outer end Malta N.E. Channel 1506/27th.
(P.49 (UNRULY) 261046A.)

RICHELIEU. Onward route to Port Said.
(F.O.L.E.M. 261120B.)

UPSTART. Intend (P.65) UPSTART to sail for patrol in zone SS. at 1430/28th (route).
(Capt. S.10 261143A.)

EMPIRE STRONGHOLD. Extent of damage. 2. Certificate has been granted for one voyage.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 261206B.)

CENTURION. CENTURION is now in dock and it is hoped to undock her on April 8 and to sail her after degaussing and compass adjustment with M.K.S.46 for U.K.
(F.O.L.E.M. 261224B.)

UNRULY. P.49 (UNRULY) in 037° 11' 018° 37' at 1201/26th proceeding on the surface at 8 knots to Malta N.E. Channel.
(Capt. S.1 261401A to all concerned.)

Escort group for Gib. Concur in para. 2 of F.O.G.M.A. 231150 but there are no support groups available at present. If you wish, the 4th E.G.. could be retained temporarily at Gibraltar if you can arrange onward escort for K.M.F.30 and return escort for M.K.F.30 to Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S.H. 261450A to C. in C.Med.)

/UNSWERVING...

452

26.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNSWERVING, Torpedo expenditure. Missed GERDA TOFT 19th
patrol report. secured one probable hit 0600/26th. Sank armed
caique 20th. Radar ?fix Cape Spada. Weather
report, position 3624.
(UNSWERVING 261951A.)

Situation 2. Destroyers and coastal craft sighted nothing
report 322. during night 24/25th March while patrolling in
Dalmatian Islands.
3. 200 R.M.Commandos landed at Gromin Dolac, (Hvar)
without opposition night 22/23 and returned safely
night 24/25 March with all craft intact.
4. 18 ton caique carrying Citrus and Olive Oil captured by coastal
force in (?Aegean) on 20th March.
5. On 10th March H.M.Trawler MULL carried out U-Boat attack in
038° 07' N. 009° 41' E. Subsequent evidence shows promise of
destruction of U-Boat.*
(C. in C.Med. 262033.)

* U. 343 destroyed

453

26.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat dis- My 250334Z. Area A. Japanese U-Boat contacted
position. Baluchistan coast at Pasni night 24th, probably
still in this area. Scale air escort X.
Area B. No fresh information but U-Boat appears to
have moved into area A. Scale of air escort Y.
Area C. A/C reported U-Boat in vicinity of 012° 40' N. 050° 50'
E. at 1217Z/25th, indicates U-Boat may be in Guardafui area.
Scale of air escort X. Other areas no fresh information no chan-
ges in scale of air escorts. Indian Ocean U-Boat (German) by
D/F 1710Z/25th approx. 700 miles S.E. of Chagos.
(C. in C.E.F. 260354Z.)

Survivors Arrival Bandar Abbas 0530Z/26th H.M.I.S. INVESTI-
of GRENA GATOR with 32 survivors ex GRENA.
(sunk 21st (N.O.I.C. Hormuz 260544Z.)
March.)

Opsum 742. 3. 2 enemy aircraft attacked minesweepers in Naf
River 1 vessel damaged and few casualties.
(A.C.S.E.A. 260700Z.)

Defence of Certain matters concerning the proposed limited
Abadan and defence organisation.
Kirkuk. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 261832Z.)

U/B hunt. Am searching vicinity 012° 29' N. 050° 19' E.
moving N.W. THYME in company.
(AVON 262115Z.)

26.3.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- EMPRESS. Norfolk departed March 25th EMPRESS for New York for inclusion in C.U.19 for U.K. (N.S.H.Q. 260150Z.)
- U/B report. Group investigated submarine contact reported by MATAPEDIA in 043° 35' N. 063° 21' W. (BUCTOUCHE 260530Z to C. in C.C.N.A.) MATAPEDIA gained A/S contact with (?UN) classified S/M lost at 600 yards and not regained. Group carried out observant around MATAPEDIA (corrupt group) contact. (BUCTOUCHE 260700Z.)
- FOZ DE DOURO. Barque FOZ DE DOURO sighted in 38° N. 28° W. at 241900. Request departure date Santos and destination. (D.T.D. 260628A to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- Mine off St. Lucia. References mine reported in Cominch 252130 port of Port Castries and Gros Islet have been closed until further notice. (S.C.I. Jamaica 260930.)
- Stragglers arrived week ending 25th March. 19 HORACE BUSHNELL (U.S.) N.D. H.X. 283 lost convoy engine trouble. 21 RIVER VIEW PARK N.D. WM. GRAYSON (U.S.) WM. H. ASHLEY (U.S.) H.X. 283 collision damage. 23rd LARRANAGA (U.S.) S.C.155 ordered to St. Johns by escort after engine breakdown. 24th BEN F. DIXON (U.S.) N.D. H.X. 283 lost convoy. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 261257Z.)
- U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 261350Z, Cominch 261558Z.)
- H.X.282. Average speed 9.4 knots off Oversay at 0700Z/20. All arrived. (D.T.D. 261605A.)
- T.G.27.5 Add BROADBILL, SWERVE to T.G. 27.5 as escort for convoy C.K.2 scheduled sail from Charlestown about 1 April. My 242251 modified accordingly. (Cinclant 261606.)
- T.G.21.14. Will proceed N.W. from 262000Z position lat. 0726 long. 28.15 sweeping back through area between that point and lat. 15 long. 35 have fuel for 11 days as of 261200Z. (21.14 261645.)

455

26.3.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- NIEUW
AMSTERDAM. Diversion order.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 261714Z to A.T.103.)
- Operations
in Pacific. 22nd March heavy enemy resistance met S.Lorengau
town. Allied Naval 22 March destroyers support
Admiralties Ground Forces other destroyers bom-
barded enemy positions E.Augusta Bay.
(B.A.D. 261745Z.)
- U/B report. Am over enemy submarine in 40° 12' N. 59° 04' W.
(A/C C/S ADBG 261810Z.)
Amended- see 261905Z.
Investigating possible periscope position 040° 12'
N. 050° 04' W. dropped buoy.
(A/C ADBG 261830.)
Aircraft's 261810 amend position to read 040° 12' N. 050°
04' W. periscope only sighted.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 261905Z.)
- U/B incidents. Para. B. MATAPEDIA sound contact 43.35 N. 63.21
W. Nedore 260530Z.
Para. D. F.F.S. MAROCAIN sub. contact 38.24 N.
74.34 W. 252022Z.
(Cominch 261815Z.)
- U.T.10. Diversion order.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 262103Z.)
- T.G.21.15. Proceed to operate against westbound subs. reported
in area of 42 N. 52 W. Cominch 261558. Future
operations probably against westbound subs. pre-
sently reported north of Azores further orders
later. Keep those interested informed your move-
ments.
(Cinclant 262103 to C.T.G. 21.15.)
- U/B contact. Attacked doubtful contact in 044° 31' 056° 08' at
2218Z/26. Contact not regained. Ice report 0091.
Weather report.
(RED DEER 262234Z.)
Attacked doubtful contact in 044° 31' 056° 56' at 2218Z/26.
Contact not regained. Ice report, weather report.
(RED DEER 262234Z.) W.D.Note. Different positions.

456

26.3.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial March 25th. Paras. 13 to 15 cover South Pacific No. 796.

6. Three Allied destroyers bombarded Loniu and Mataan villages south coast Negros, Los Negros Is. also destroyed village Rambutyo Island S.E. Los Negros.

9. 21 R.A.A.F. Kittyhawks bombed strafed Garove Island throughout day 24th. Early next morning M.T.Bs. sank single enemy barge off Garove Island killing 35 Japanese capturing four.

14. 15 strong enemy attack 24th penetrated American lines Northern sector Torokina Perimeter. Vigorous counter attack restored position. Morning 25th slight enemy shelling caused nil damage or casualties. Supporting ground forces 34 Dauntless 18 Avengers bombed supply areas gun positions around perimeter also spotted for artillery. Destroyers bombardment. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 261028Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M attack and Para. A. 1. Baltimore A/C sighted U-Boat course 070° sighting at 0840Z/24 in 45° 10' N. 08° 30' W. summary. 2. Mosquito A/C attacked U-Boat on course N, at 0815Z/25 in 46° 47' N. 02° 42' W.

Para. B. 1. Wellington A/C attacked 2 U-Boats at 2137Z/25 in 46° 58' N. 10° 39' W.

2. EVADNE reported possible U-Boat at 2200Z/25 in 36° 51' N. 11° 50' W.

Para. C. 1. U.S. A/C attacked 2 U-Boats at 1140Z/25 in 45° 10' N. 10° 10' W.

Para. D. 1. Transport A/C sighted U-Boat at 0720Z/25 in 50° 05' N. 39° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 261138A.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 261450A, 261451A.)

457

27.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1. A B.2 report states that on 25th March TIRPITZ was painted a light colour fore and aft and dark amidships.

Operation
F.Y.

2(a) The Convoy J.W.58, consisting of 47 M/V's, left Loch Ewe at 2046 to-day for North Russia.
(b) At 0814A KEPPEL with three other Destroyers of the Support Group left the Clyde for Skaalefiord (Faeroes), and at 2005A Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW with six other Destroyers of the Fleet Destroyer Escort left Scapa also for Skaalefiord. C.S.10 in DIADEM arrived at Scapa from Aultbea at 1805A, and the Escort Carriers ACTIVITY and TRACKER with four Destroyers arrived at Scapa at 2040 from Aultbea.

(c) The U.S.S. MILWAUKEE, which will accompany the Convoy to be lent temporarily to the Russian Government, arrived at Scapa at 0712; and at 2104A the three M/V's from Convoy H.X. 283 who are also to join the Convoy were estimated to be about 100 miles South of Seidisfiord escorted by FITZROY, CHAMOIS, CHANCE and SPOSA.

Engagement
off Ymuiden.

3. At 0141 a Patrol of seven M.T.B's engaged three trawler-type auxiliary vessels about ten miles West of Ymuiden and scored several hits on two of them.

U-Boat off
Scillies.

4. At 2026 to-day an A/C on patrol reported having sighted a U-Boat 27 miles N.N.W. of the Scillies.

North Atlantic.

U-Boat
hunting
forces to be
established.

5. Subject to escort commitments F.O.G.M.A. intends to establish one fast and one slow U-Boat hunting force: the former of 4 destroyers, the latter of 2 destroyers and 2 corvettes.

458

27.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

6a. Bombs and mines dropped at Anzio last night caused no damage. 20 fighter bombers attacked the anchorage at 1730, but only caused slight damage to one landing craft. It is claimed that at least 6 of the enemy aircraft were destroyed.

b. Increase in the swell reduced the tonnage unloaded today to 5005.

Adriatic.

7a. The weather prevented destroyer and coastal forces from operating in the Adriatic last night and the night previous.

b. The Tactical Air Force today damaged or destroyed off the Dalmatian Coast several small armed vessels, barges, landing craft and merchantmen.

8. The Coastal Air Force bombed dock installations at Follonica on the West coast of Italy.

East Indies.

Sinkings
by U/B.

9.(a) Survivors of SS. JOHN A POOR state that the vessel was sunk in 13.58 N. 70.30 E. (370 miles S.S.W. of Bombay) at 1615Z on 19th March.

(b) H.M.T. MAALOY is presumed to have been sunk with all hands by a U/Boat today in 05.25 N. 77.32 E. whilst on passage from Addu Atoll to Colombo. Wreckage and an empty life raft only were located. (p. 523)

459

War Diary.27.3.1944.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Lerwick Coastal Forces. F.O.S. 191431A and A.C.O.S. 181751A. A.F.O. 1192/44. Propose the title of Commanding Officer, Coastal Force Base, Lerwick should lapse at 2359/31st March and responsibility for Coastal Forces matters at Lerwick revert to N.O.I.C. Lerwick (H.M.S.FOX).
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 271549A to A.C.O.S.)

D.F.49. During period that destroyers addressed are attached to H.F.command they will form 49th Division S.O. URSA and will be administered by Capt. D.3rd D.F.
(R.A.D.H.F. 271831A to URSA, UNDAUNTED, ULYSSES, JAVELIN, WAKEFUL.)

PROCYON. A.M. 231927. Request you will sail U.S.S. PROCYON to Oran in K.M.S.47.
(D.O.D.H. 271924A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ROBERTS. Destination of ROBERTS is Clyde. Ship should arrive about 3rd April.
2. On arrival ROBERTS is placed under the orders of C. in C.H.F.
(D.O.D.H. 271934A to C. in C.H.F.)

Operations.

Operation "Tunnel." Your position by plot at 2355 was 346° Vierge Light 10½ miles.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270018A to Force 26.)
Your position by plot at 0025 was 019° Vierge Light 5 miles.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270036A to Force 26.)
Your position by plot at 0035 was 042° Vierge Light 8½.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270046A to Force 26.)
Your position estimated by Radar was 056° Ile de Vierge Light 7¼ at 0106.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270111 to Force 26.)
One J.210 Eddystone Rock 8, course 27, speed 20.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270128A to Force 115.)
Force 114 reported hydrophone contact bearing 170° from 090 Start Point 22, probably E-Boat. One at 0050 probably E-Boat.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270134A to P.W.convoy.)
Suspect E-Boat, 212 Eddystone Rock 9, course W., faded at 0140
(C. in C.Plymouth 270147A to P.W.convoy.)
224° Eddystone Rock 12 miles. Surface craft detected by Radar. Course 270°.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270155A to P.W.convoy, Force 115.)
Investigate position given in my 270155. If nothing found presume patrol south boom Eddystone Rock.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270228A to Force 115.)
Resume voyage.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270247A to Force 115.)
Unconfirmed patrol through 120° Eddystone Rock 15 to avoid Force 115.
Unconfirmed plot of E-Boat 180 Eddystone Rock 8 at 0100.
(C. in C.Plymouth 270255A to Force 26.)

/Enemy...

War Diary.27.3.1944.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Tunnel." (Contd.) Enemy course and speed main body 278 Eddystone Rock 11 at 0327. Ship astern 278 Eddystone Rock at 0335 Ship ahead 261 Eddystone Rock 12½ at 0338. Fowey ship 280 Eddystone Rock 16 at 0339. (C. in C.Plymouth 270355A to P.W.convoy.)

S.C. operations. My 210906A. Sailed S.C. HITRA at 0620A today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 270710A to Admty.) My 210912A. S.C.HES3A sailed at 1500A today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 271527 to Admty.)

Operation F.Y. Scapa arrival U.S.S. MILWAUKEE. (A.C.O.S. 270712A to C. in C.Rosyth.) Sailed BEAGLE, WALKER and BOADICEA at 0630A and KEPPEL at 0830A to overtake. My 252024 refers. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 270814A to Admty.)

Situation at 272104A. FITZROY, CHAMOIS, CHANCE, SPOSA, 3 merchant ships 063° 50' N. 016° 00' W. to northward 8½. HONNINGSVAAG 063° 25' N. 018° 00' W. to overtake FITZROY 10½. (A.C.I.C. 271140A to Ships.)

Sailed C.S.10 in DIADEM. C. in C.H.F. 182353 refers. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 271257 to A.C.O.S. C. in C.H.F.)

Position at 272000. ACTIVITY, TRACKER, DIADEM, PORT QUEBEC, STORD, SERAPIS, SCORPION due Scapa from West 16. ONSLOW, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIANT, ORWELL, OFFA, ORIBI, IMPULSIVE leave Scapa to Skaalefjord 20. SAUMAREZ Cape Wrath to Faroes 20. KEPPEL, BEAGLE, WALKER, BOADICEA Cape Wrath to Faroes 18. (A.C.O.S. 271236 to H.Q.C.C.)

Sailed ACTIVITY, TRACKER. R.A.D.H.F's 252007 refers. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 271311A to A.C.O.S. C. in C.H.F.)

Your 261404. Intend requesting No. 18 Group to provide R/C to assist R/V of Iceland group with J.W.58 on 30th March. Request route given FITZROY between Iceland and R/V. (C. in C.H.F. 271643A to A.C.I.C.)

ELM (my 261714 refers) is being sailed to arrive at junction of Q.Z.L. 55 and Q.Z.L.54 by 0930A/28th and await arrival FITZROY, CHAMOIS, CHANCE and SPOSA or HONNINGSVAAG escorting 3 merchant ships whose anticipated E.T.A. at this point 1530A/28th. ELM will come under orders FITZROY as additional escort to R/V J.W. 58 in position Z. 067° 10' N. 002° 25' W.

2. FITZROY is requested to pass ELM any necessary information.
3. After R/V at Z. HONNINGSVAAG and ELM return Seidisfjord alongside reverse route.
4. CHAMOIS and CHANCE proceed according to my 261714 para. 3 on relief by ELM. When 100 miles from convoy CHAMOIS and CHANCE reported their own P.C. and S. (A.C.I.C. 271740A to N.O.I.C. Seidisfjord, FITZROY.)

Scapa arrival DIADEM. (A.C.O.S. 271805A to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

/sailed...

War Diary.

27.3.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation Sailed D.23 in SAUMAREZ. S.O.A. 25 knots.
F.Y.(Contd.) (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 271925A to N.O.I.C.Faroes.)
Sailed Capt. D.17th in ONSLOW with OPPORTUNE,
ORIBI, OFFA, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, IMPULSIVE to
Skaalefjord. E.T.A. 0800A/28th.
(V.A.2 272005A to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

Scapa arrivals ACTIVITY, TRACKER escorted by VENUS, SERAPIS,
SCORPION, STORD.

(A.C.C.S. 272040 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

J.W.58. A. 2000/27th. B. WESTCOTT, INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL,
WRESTLER, STARWORT, HONEYSUCKLE, BLUEBELL, LOTUS, RATTLESNAKE,
ORESTES, ONYX, RHODODENDRON. C. 47.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 272046A to C. in C.W.A.)

J.W.58. Names of M/Vs.

(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 272048A to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 271901. Approved for RHODODENDRON and STARWORT to exchange duties.
STARWORT to Londonderry on completion of local escort duty.

(C. in C.W.A. 272259A to WESTCOTE.)

Your 271643. Ships proceed direct from 065° 50' N. 013°
30' W. to position Z.

(A.C.I.C. 272302 to C. in C.H.F.)

Biscay A/S Operations. By D/F at 0618Z U-Boat estimated within 100 miles
of 46° 00' N. 17° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 270831A to VERSATILE.)

D/F of transmission at 0635Z indicates U-Boat with-
in 100 miles of 47° 00' N. 26° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 270857A to T.G.21.7 escorting Convoy
C.U.18.)

Your 270831A. At 0618Z H/F D/F fix was obtained of U-Boat in approx.
046° 13' N. 018° 25' W. BALFOUR was detached and having swept
through position to westward with no contact is returning. My
P.C. and S. 047° 02' N. 018° 39' W. 015° 14.25 knots. Weather.

(E.G.1 271000A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Submarines are to leave patrol for Lerwick on
surface at C.Os. discretion when 60 miles clear of
Norwegian coast as follows.

2. TAKU so as to pass through 064° 20' N. 005° 01'
E. at approx. 0200/29th, thence through 062° 01' N. 001° 55' E.
and 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles.

3. TERRAPIN so as to pass through 058° 18' N. 004° 38' E. at
approx. 2000/29th, thence through 060° 52' N. 002° 55' E. and
061° 01' N. 000° 25' E.

(Capt. S.9 270939A to S/Ms.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/28th and movements for fol-
lowing 24 hours.

A. SYRTIS 66° 25' N. 08° 40' W. probably on surface through 65°
59' N. 06° 22' E. at 1400/28th, thence course 210°.

B. TERRAPIN, STURDY as in my 261749.

C. ULA 66° 45' N. 06° 25' E. probably on surface through 69° N.
10° E. 69° 30' N. 11° 30' E. to 69° 35' N. 17° 25' E.

462

27.3.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. D. TAKU leaves patrol off Kya p.m. 28th to pass
(Contd.) through 64° 20' N. 05° 01' E. at 0200/29th, thence
62° 01' N. 01° 55' E.
(F.O.S. 271704A to Admty.)

Operation "Knitting 4". Intend sailing M.T.B.
"Knitting 4". 255 with M.T.B. 253 (S.O.) 248 in support at 1930/
27 for patrol off enemy coast between longs. 00°
20' W. and 01° 20' W. Proceeding and returning
through passage 4 and to be within 20 miles of
English coast by daylight.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 271050A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

My 271050. Sailed 1945 and returned to harbour 2100 owing
to engine defects in M.T.B. 255.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 272112A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Operation "Knitting 3". My 261003A. Star shell fired from ships was ob-
served at intervals from 0003 when Force was in
247 Cap de la Heve 11.5, bearing N. 55 W.
The bursts gradually got nearer and the nearest
was 1000 yards while the Force was proceeding on a
northerly course to avoid making contact. The last salvo was at
0043.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 271147A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

SATYR P.214 (SATYR) report in accordance with I.S.O.H.30.
patrol. 1. 24th March 0959, P.C. and S. of 2000 ton un-
escorted tanker 062° 14' N. 005° 08' E. 058°, 8
knots. Fired 4 torpedoes at 5000 yards. One tre-
mendous explosion at one minute 6 seconds and 3
more smaller ones at correct interval and probable (one) 2¼ mins.
after firing. 9 minutes later nothing in sight except 2 trawlers
stopped in firing position. These had previously been observed
patrolling entrance to Vanelv Gabet. About 15 minutes later 3
more trawlers and an E-Boat appeared. All 6 vessels carried out
ineffective hunt but no counter attack.

2. 25th March 1007 in 062° 35' N. 005° 43' E. (fix) at 60 feet
bumped heavily on hard obstruction and came to periscope depth.
Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting clear. Even-
tually S/M surfaced in the middle of many fishing vessels at
ranges between 5 miles and 300 yards and after various bumps
came clear. Fishermen gave a friendly wave and went on with their
work. 1025 dived on course 270°.

3. Following damage has so far been found

A. Bow and torpedo apertures distorted.

B. Bad leak from sea into after oil fuel group. Consider S/M will
require to be docked.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 271213A to F.O.S.)

/Operation...

War Diary.27.3.1944.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Operation C.W. Unless in contact with enemy, leave O.N.229 so as to join and support H.X. 284 on p.m. 29th. (C. in C.W.A. 271233A to E.G.3.)
E.G.25th CAMROSE, LUNENBURG operating N. of Cape Wrath.
E.G.7th KITE, LAWSON, MOUNSEY, PELICAN, DUMBARTON CASTLE operating off N.W. coast of Ireland. My 271227 refers. (C. in C.W.A. 271341A to Ships.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 271424A.)
(C. in C.Plymouth 271450A.)
(V.A.Dover 271610A.)

M.T.B. patrol attacked. On night 25/26th M.T.B. 254 (S.O.) and 253 carried out patrol in accordance with my 251150A. In 312° St. Valery 5.3 miles M.T.B. 254 was illuminated by starshell from 3 or 5 torpedo boats, one of which was observed to be of the Iltis Class.

M.T.B. 254 was driven off before an attack could be made. When in 304° Pt. D'Ailly 3.5 miles at 0158 a heavy barrage from all types of guns was opened on the force, large quantities of starshell being used. M.T.Bs. disengaged to the northwards as the patrol became untenable. No damage or casualties were sustained. (C. in C.Portsmouth 271554A to Admty.)

Cable repairs. A.M. 231949A. Intend to sail ALERT escorted by (ALERT.) LINCOLNSHIRE at 0930A/29 by standard route to position P. 270 Longships four thence through Q. 51° 11' N. 9° 06' W. to carry out cable repairs in position A. 51° 26' N. 12° 06' W. in accordance with my 1858. (C. in C.Plymouth 271741A to Admty.)

Enemy Trawlers & Convoy attacked. Report of coastal force operation night 26/27. M.T.Bs. of 3rd and 4th Flotillas were ordered to carry out a sweep Edmond - Hook. Object to attack any enemy shipping found.
2. Arrived in initial position 294° Edmond 5 miles at 2220 vis: 100 yds. and swept southwards. At 2250 in 20° Ymuiden 4½ miles 3 trawler-type auxiliaries contacted by Radar on a northerly course. At this time M.T.Bs. 456, 457 lost contact owing to visibility which had deteriorated to 50 yds. Unit passed seaward of enemy but fire was withheld owing to lack of visibility. Unit then passed astern of enemy and A/C to N.16° E. in order to make closer attack from astern. During this manoeuvre M.T.Bs. 439, 442 and subsequently 441 lost contact and although enemy was closed to 30 yds. fire was again withheld as Radar contacts were obtained of remainder of units which confused the plot and it was deemed inadvisable to carry out an attack which might have caused confusion especially as during this period the enemy were quite amicably disposed. To clarify the situation at 0020 M.T.Bs. 439, 441, 442, 456 and 457 were ordered to R/V 270° Ymuiden 10 miles, M.T.Bs. 458 and 445

/remaining...

War Diary.

27.3.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy Trawlers & Convoy attacked. (Contd.) remaining in contact with the enemy. At 0141 on course 035° at range of 100 yds. fire was opened on last ship in enemy's line (a small trawler), numerous hits being observed, the two consorts also opening fire on the target. Unit disengaged and making wide sweep to port engaged 2nd trawler many hits being observed, enemy returning moderate but inaccurate fire.

3. T.0225 Radar contacts obtained indicating presence of convoy to the south. M.T.B. 445 was detached to regain contact with remaining boats whilst M.T.B. 458 shadowed convoy. No contact with remainder of unit made by M.T.B. 445. M.T.B. 458 continued to shadow convoy which proved to be a group of 7 naval ships including one destroyer and E. or R-Boats. At 0540 course was closed to attack - vis: 4 to 5 miles but at 2 miles range 3 E-Boats were detached and M.T.B. 458 was driven off and owing to daylight conditions set course for base.
(C. in C.Nore 271843A to Admty.)

Operations C.W. and C.X. Following are intended reliefs for ships on operations C.W. and C.X.
A. OUTREMONT, WASKESIU, GROU, CAPE BRETON to leave Loch Foyle a.m. 29th to relieve 7th E.G. on relief. PELICAN, KITE and DUMBARTON CASTLE to Greenock.

MOUNSEY and LAWSON to Belfast.

B. STRULE and LOUIS to leave operation C.X. a.m. 30th March for Londonderry.

C. BYRON to R/V with CUBITT and 3 frigates off Cape Wrath p.m. 31st March and proceed in company to Nore.

D. BYRON leaving 22nd E.G. CARISBROOKE CASTLE to join 25th E.G. temporarily.

2. It is intended to withdraw all ships from operations C.W. and C.X. not later than 2nd April.

3. Movements in para. 1 are to take place without further signal.
(C. in C.W.A. 271934A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/Cs requested. Request P.Rs. of Dieppe, Boulogne, Calais to identify enemy shipping.
(D.D.I.D. 270756A to A.D.I. Ph.)

Mining.

Operation "Hostile 23". Following is a repetition of my 271225 begins:-
DEFIANCE, S.O. M.L. Flotilla 10, S.O. M.T.B. Flotilla 52, Capt. D.15, No. 10 Gp. F.C. ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN, S.O. Force 26. Intend carrying out operation "Hostile 23" tonight.

2. My 242328 amend para. L to read 0130. Cancel para. M.

3. Force "Hostile 23" is to pass Gate at 1630A/27th.

4. Support force ASHANTI S(.O.) ATHABASKAN is to proceed on completion of N.E. X. at about 2215 direct to arrive YY. 049° 23' N. 003° 32' W. as soon after 0015 as possible, and then to patrol in accordance with my 242328.

(C. in C.Plymouth 271406A to ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN, Force 26.)

War Diary.

27.3.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.- Contd.

Q.Z.S.468.

6th M.S.F. is to leave Harwich on March 30th for Portland proceeding by Q.Z.S.446, 468, 458 and 459 carrying out an Oropesa search of Q.Z.S. 468 on route and arriving at Sandhead Buoy at 2100A. (C. in C.Nore 271834 to M/S 6.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ.

B.2 report states that on 25th March TIRPITZ was painted a light colour fore and aft and dark amidships. (D.D.I.C. 271718A to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2, V.A.D. C.S.10.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported.

Over U/B 50° 20' N. 06° 40' W. which (corrupt group) wrong recognition signal. (A/C SSY 18 272026 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

Rosyth.

Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility. (C. in C.Rosyth 270656A to Admty.)
Cancel my 270656A.
(C. in C.Rosyth 271354A to Admty.)

Brightlingsea.

Port closed owing to fog. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 270709A to F.O.I.C. Harwich)
Port now opened. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 271004 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 270724A to Admty.)
Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 270855A to Admty.)

Lowestoft.

Port closed owing to fog. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 271012A to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Casualties & Defects.

COURBET.

Your 241635. Approved essential work to be completed and ship ready for passage by 6th April. (D.O.D.H. 270138A to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

/SAMUEL...

War Diary.

27.3.1944.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- SAMUEL L. FULLER. Sailed SAMUEL L. FULLER with three tugs in company to Kames Bay via Sound of Islay. E.T.A. Kames Bay 0400/28th.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 270756A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- LONG BRANCH. LONG BRANCH has serious condenser defect. Hope to make good by 2000 tomorrow.
(MENTOR 270930A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- J.P. CRESSEY. Tug is now taking over and I am returning to Oban.
(SOUTHERN WAVE 270955A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- M.T.B. 695 damaged. Reports at 2328 in 210° Z. 51 2.8 miles, unit started to adjust position. At 2336 increase of speed was ordered by R/T which caused M.T.B. 691 to draw abeam of M.T.B. 695. M.T.B. 691 reduced speed, endeavoured to regain station, but collided with M.T.B. 695 amidships starboard side. Visibility was then almost nil. M.T.B. 691 returned to harbour with M.T.B. 695 in tow.
(MANTIS 271018A to C. in C.Nore.)
- SATYR. Intend to sail SATYR in company with ST. MAGNUS escorted by MOLDE 1500A/28 March to 28 Buoy. E.T.A. 0900A/29. N.O.I.C. Lerwick 261245 not to all addresses refers.
2. From 28 Buoy ST. MAGNUS proceed to Aberdeen and MOLDE escort SATYR to 23 Buoy. E.T.A. 1400A/29 March.
 3. Thence SATYR proceed to Dundee unescorted.
 4. Capt. 3.9 is requested arrange Tay Sanctuary to cover passage of SATYR while unescorted. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection from 28 Buoy to 23 Buoy.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 271512A to A.C.O.S.)

467

27.3.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B report. Possible Radar contact obtained ?bearing 236
Chipiona Light 6 miles in 19 fathoms at 0050.
Contact disappeared at 4000 yards no A/S contact and
doing observant for one hour.
(DOUGLAS 270056A.)

My 270056 abandoning search.
(DOUGLAS 270301A.)

Suspicious A/C 36.55 N. 07.55 W. course 120° height 15000 at
0715.

(DOUGLAS 270715.)

My 0056* and 0301+. If this was a U-Boat his course was for
Rio Guadalquivir.

Request permission to return there and patrol for 72 hours.

(DOUGLAS 270946A to F.O.G.M.A.)

* re Possible Radar contact. + Abandoning search.

U/B search. Aircraft's contact. Proceeding with VISCOUNT
from position 036° 03' N. 00° 20' W. Both ships
have set watch on 385 k/cs.

(WITHERINGTON 270435A to F.O.G.M.A.)

My 270435. Request amplification of report from A/C KQMI. Have
swept 10 miles east and 7 miles south and 7 miles west of position
A/C was located but no communication established. Now sweeping
north from 035° 39' N. 004° 17' W.

(WITHERINGTON 270805A to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. Leaves Marseilles about 31st March for Gibraltar.
GENEROSO (D.E.W.D. 271503A to F.O.G.M.A.)
(Swiss.)

LE Intend to sail LE TRIOMPHANT at 271800A to over-
take and join G.U.S.34. C. in C. Med. 231756
TRIOMPHANT. not to Com. Tenth Flt. refers.

(F.O.G.M.A., 271226A to C.T.F.62.)

My 271226 sailed.

(F.O.G.M.A. 271832A.)

U/S A/C Your 251824*. Request information whether any
shot down passengers were carried in aircraft concerned
by STRIKER's and if so how many.
fighters (D.O.D.(H) 271328A to F.O.G.M.A.)*Fighters shot
25th March. down unidentified A/C.

U/B hunting Subject to escort commitments intend to establish
forces to 1 fast and 1 slow U/Boat hunting force. 1st A/S
be striking force drawn from 13 D/F consisting of
established. ANTELOPE (S.O.) BRILLIANT, ANTHONY, VANOC.
Collective R/T callsign "Treadwheel" 2nd A/S
striking force drawn from Gibraltar escort force
and attached ships CAM, (S.O) VANQUISHER, SWEETBRIAR
WALLFLOWER. R/T callsign "Foursquare."
(F.O.G.M.A. 271632.)

468

27.3.1944
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

C.T.G.21.12.

Depart Casablanca 30th March proceed at good speed to arrive Sub. Area West of Cape Verde Island as relief for TRIPOLI.
(C. in C. lant 272211Z to C.T.G.21.12.)

SS. CONAME
CARMEN.
FREIXAS.

Spanish ships CONAME and CARMEN FREIXAS expected to depart from Gandia evening 27th with oranges for Germany.
(F.O.G.M.A., 272313A to 10th S/M F., LA SULTANE, LE CURIE, S.O.(I) Med. Capt. (S) 10.)

South Atlantic.

S.M.151/
M.K.S.42.

Arrived U.K. March 23rd less CADECEUS, (put into Casablanca engine trouble).
(D.T.D., 271212A.)

DINGLEDALE,
NIGERSTROM.

Collision R.F.A. DINGLEDALE, M.V. NIGERSTROM, slight damage, sea-going efficiency not impaired.
(N.S.O. Freetown, 271630Z.)

U/B hunt.

Cr. No. 1405. Proceeding southeast after submarine as suggested your 271608. Position 271800Z 0950 N. 31.50 W. In view of distance involved will plan refuelling at Dakar or Freetown as directed. Request confirmation W.X. 5380 1414.
(C.T.G.21.14, 272047 to C. in C. Lant.)

469

27.3.1944.
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Operation "Clerk" Operation "Clerk" completed. Regret Captain Lunn and Sergeant Gilmour not recovered. My P.C. & S. for Malta.
(SIBYL, 270421A, 270715).

Adjust your speed to arrive at end of Malta North - Eastern Channel at 0530/28th when you are to R/V with an escort.
(Capt.(S) 1, 270719 to SIBYL).

UNSWERVING UNSWERVING leave patrol forthwith passing between 035 degs. 49' 023 degs. 30' and 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 15' diving at 200 feet thence proceeding in accordance with my 260943 all times 24 hours early.

(2) Cancel my 251509.
(Capt.(S) 1, 270740A to UNSWERVING, ULTIMATUM (R) F.O.L.E.M., NEREUS, MATROZOS, 1st S.F.).

U/boat report. U/boat was north west of Ibiza by D/F at 260511 probably bound Toulon.
(N.O.i/c Algiers, 270928A to LA SULTANE).

VERSATILE Your 011252 and 181755.
Request information when VERSATILE may be expected to sail.
(C. in C. Med., 270952 to ?C. in C.W.A.).

D.14 No luck. Expected time of arrival 41 degs. 42' N. 10 degs. 12' E. at 1300 thence western patrol anticlockwise followed by eastern patrol (2 corrupt groups) S. of A. 15 knots.
(Capt.(D) 14, 271002A to F.O.W.It.).

Your 271334 (N.T. in W.D.). Intend to pass through position 041 degs. 57' 011 degs. 30' at 0230 approaching on course 67 degs. Thence 140 degs. speed 14 knots.
(Capt.(D) 14, 271910A to F.O.W.It.).

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 66. M.L.S.T. and L.C.I.(L) from Naples discharged 1360 and 135 tons respectively out of 6309 total for March 25th (sic but presumably 26th intended).

(2) Two enemy aircraft shot down during air raid at 2049 no damage but minelaying suspected. Weight of shells was reduced.
(F.O.W.It., 271038A).

U/boat attacked by MULL 10th March. H.M. Trawler MULL made U/boat attack 2153/10 in 38 degs. 7' N. 9 degs. 41' E. which shows promise of destruction.
2. Wreckage detained includes following:-
A. Several pieces woodwork of typical U/boat internal furnishing plywood construction with

(U.343

destroyed)

/laminated...

470

27.3.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

U/boat attacked by MULL 10th March (Contd.).
laminated softwood centre and hardwood outer veneers light varnish finish. Aluminium alloy screws.
B. Tube of German burn ointment in cardboard carton. Carbon elastic band and the contents of tube all in fresh condition.
C. Large quantity oil, small sample of which recovered but not yet analysed.
(3) Attack report and recorder trace indicate accurate attacks.
(4) MULL was single escort of small convoy and had to join convoy before obtaining further evidence.
(C. in C. Med., 271121).

CORRIDONI, GIADA, BRIN.
F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to sail CORRIDONI and GIADA for A/S Training Duties in Eastern Fleet. Ships to call at Massawa to embark any suitable spare gear.
(2) CORRIDONI is old and could only reach Colombo in easy stages and good weather. Destination probably Aden until end of southwest monsoon. GIADA fit for Atlantic weather. Destination probably Colombo.
(3) BRIN also for Eastern Fleet A.M. 100548 not to all should be ready to sail mid April. Condition as GIADA.
(4) F.O.T.A.L.I. is requested to report arrangements for forwarding spares for three submarines. C. in C.E.F. is requested to (A) Confirm destinations of CORRIDONI and GIADA (B) state destination of BRIN (C) state ports to which spares should be consigned.
(C. in C. Med., 271142A).

Italian submarines used for A/S training.
Concur in para.2 B.A.Ds. 252109/ as far as Mediterranean in concerned.
(C. in C. Med. 271234A to Admty. (R) B.A.D.).
/ Italian submarines used for A/S training.

U/boat reported off Alexandretta.
Owners here of Turkish Motor Boat DINTCH report sight of unknown submarine off Karatache at entrance to Gulf of Iskenderun. Captain beached vessel. Details awaited.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 271250C). See 301725C.

PHOEBE
Expected date PHOEBE can sail on completion of boiler repairs 27th April. My 240708 not to all (F.O.L.E.M. 271853B to Admty., C. in C. Med. C. in C.E.F. (R) PHOEBE, A.S. Alexandria, R.A. Alexandria).

UNTIRING
Your 261030, detaching 12 hours late, arrival 16 hours late. Acknowledge.
(UNTIRING, 271912A to Capt.(S) 1).

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intell. appreciation.
Some indications enemy preparing Volos as naval base.
(V. in C.M.E., 271915B).
/ Italian...

471

27.3.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Italian cruisers and destroyers troop ferrying. The capacity of Italian Cruisers and destroyers for troop ferrying has been fixed as follows. (A) Except emergency cases and short trips (24 hours) the following are maximum figures for (?troop) transfer. Cruisers MONTECUCCOLI class Thousand men with equipment and personal weapons. SCIPIONE class 500 men with ditto. Destroyers 300 men with ditto. (C. in C. Med., 272025).

Situation report No.323. (1) Operation "Shingle" unloading figure reached 6309 tons on 26th March. 2 enemy aircraft claimed by A/A during raid p.m. 26th aircraft believed minelaying. Shelling on reduced scale. (2) 4 schooners escorted by 4 armed Caiques intercepted by M.L. night 25th/26th south of Mitsyline? 1 schooner and 1 Caique cut off and captured. (3) 4 F. lighters intercepted by 4 M.T.Bs. and a P.T. boat off Levanto night 26th/27th. Torpedo fire unsuccessful but damage inflicted on enemy by gunfire. Some damage to 2 M.T.Bs. and the P.T. boat. A few casualties. (C. in C. Med., 272235).

Capture of Hvar Is. Hvar Island was attacked on March 23rd by combined raiding force of 200 all ranks 43 RM. Cdo. and 400 Partisans. Raid was a success many Huns killed and about 80 P.O.Ws. captured. Force Comdr. Lt. Col. R.W.B. Simonds R.M. 43 Cdo. R.M. cas. three O.Rs. wounded. Also two missing who may still be operating on Hvar with partisans. Hvar clear now of Huns except for eastern end. Cmdo. withdrew to Baiselonvis (Vis. Is.) on completion task leaving partisan force behind as garrison. (Fort Base, 272235A).

SUZANNE, GISELA. Expected to sail from Piraeus to Crete shortly. (Capt.(S) 1, 272347A to SPORTSMAN, ULTIMATUM).

472

27.3.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat My 260354Z. Area E survivors from SS. JOHN A. disposition. POOR stated vessel was sunk in 013° 58' N. 070° 30' E. 1615Z/19. U-Boat was presumably on passage either to or from North Arabian Sea. GERALDTON attacked doubtful contact in 018° (703) mins. N. 072° 36' E. 1530Z/25. Scale of air escort X. Area C. U-Boats reported off Guardafui 1217Z/25th March now considered was probably whales. Scale of air escort X other areas no fresh information no changes in scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 270322.)

BEHAR, Your 241804 no news C. in C.E.F. 230831 replies to.
M.V. SOLAR. (S.O.I. Bombay 270528Z to Admty.)

STOIC. Summary of STOIC first Far East Patrol.
All times F.G.
2. 0130/13th March in low visibility fired two torpedoes by asdic at unknown vessel probably destroyer 4° 03' N. 100° 18' E.
3. 0900/14th March 4° 00' N. 100° 30' E. missed with six torpedoes one large merchant vessel escorted by torpedo boat range 7000 yds.
4. 1130/19th March 5° 59' N. 95° 09' E. missed U-Boat at long range.
(C. in C.E.F. 271040 to Admty.)

SS. BRITISH Ref. E.F. 716 H/71/27.
UNITY A. BRITISH UNITY. B. 073° 24' S. 059° 05' E.
(attacked 12530/19th. C. S/M. D. Attempted torpedoing.
19 March.) E. 3 certain, probably 4. G. No. H. Yes.
J. 190855Z 190900Z 190930Z 191400Z to Admty.
refers. One torpedo struck starboard side forward and failed to explode. 2 passed close astern.
Wake of 4th sighted by some members of crew. 3 shots fired from 4 inch gun 2nd of which was near miss on periscope. Submarine surfaced 20 minutes later but took no further offensive action remaining in visual range for further 25 minutes.
(N.C.S.O. Bahrein 271049Z.)

473

27.3.1944.

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

N.S.H.Q. No report 26th March.
 S/M attack Para. C. 1. MATAPEDIA obtains Asdic contact
 and sighting 43.35 N. 63.21 W. 0508Z/26th.
 summary. 2. A/C obtains Radar contact 43.40 N. 63.25 W.
 0720Z/26th.
 3. A/C obtains Radar contact 42.30 N. 49.00 W.
 1120Z/26th.
 4. A/C sights periscope 40.12 N. 50.04 W. 1810Z/26th.
 Para. D. RED DEER attacks doubtful contact 44.31 N. 56.08 W.
 2218Z/26th.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 270909Z.)

Escort As far as can be seen at present one ferry trip
 carriers. by each tanker M.A.C. ship will suffice. Unless
 otherwise orders, M.A.C. ships are to resume
 operational service accordingly. A.M. 082352
 February refers.
 2. ANCYLUS is however to make a second trip in place of GADILLA
 who will not ferry.
 (D.T.D., 271148A.)

SVEADROTT. Request immediate confirmation Swedish oiler
 SVEADROTT sighted dead in water vicinity
 scheduled position of U-Boat 26.20 N. 45.50 W.
 271030Z. Flew only correct Secret 3 letter
 call sign. Hatches open. Falsework and other suspicious
 details reported by planes. My P.C.S. 1300Z 25.18 N. 50.27 W.,
 305, 17. CORRY will depart 290800Z. Weather.
 (C.T.G. 21.16, 271331 to Cominch, Cinclant, Comnaveu.)
 My 271331. Plane photo confirms ship Swedish SVEADROTT.
 (C.T.G. 21.16, 271416 to Cominch, Cinclant, Comnaveu.)

U/B (N.S.H.Q., 271450Z; Cominch, 271625Z.)
 dispositions.

Transatlantic 1. After sailing of O.N.S.32 on 28th March and
 trade S.C.157 on 13th April this slow convoy schedule
 convoys. will be suspended.
 2. H.X. and O.N. convoys will thereafter run
 with minimum speeds for inclusion of 10, 8, and
 9 knots in rotation. Short titles to bear
 appropriate suffix F, S or M, C.A.F.O. 58/44 refers.
 3. To even out import arrivals and afford adequate escort lay-
 over in U.K., H.X.M. and H.X.S. convoys should sail one and two
 days ahead of present schedule respectively. Sailing dates
 will accordingly be, H.X.F.287 on 12th April, H.X.S.288 on 18th
 April, H.X.M. 289 on 26th April, H.X.F.290 on 5th May, H.X.S.291
 on 10th May, H.X.M.292 on 19th May, H.X.F.293 on 27th May,
 H.X.S.294 on 2nd June and so on.
 4. O.N. convoys will sail as follows - O.N.F.231 on 7th April,
 O.N.S.232 on 14th April, O.N.M.233 on 22nd April and so on.
 5. The normal size of the convoys under the new arrangement is
 likely to be large. To avoid unduly large ones it will be
 important that as far as possible peaks and valleys in numbers

/presenting ...

War Diary.

27.3.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Transatlantic trade convoys. (Contd.) presenting are ironed out. To this end and notwithstanding para. 3 above convoys that are not well filled on their normal sailing dates may be held for further inclusions up to 24 hours.
6. Ships should not be excluded from convoy on grounds of excessive numbers without prior reference to Admiralty.
7. To expedite arrivals and turnround the faster ships in all H.X. convoys should be detached in a body with suitable escort if available for final stage of voyage whenever local conditions allow.
8. There would be no objection to similar detachments from O.N. convoys if desired by Comtenthfleet (C. and R.) (A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 271701A.)

UGANDA offered to Canada. 2 (A) 30th August but date must not be regarded as official.
2 (B) Cannot be given until very much later in the refit. Your 252231 refers. (B.A.M.R., 271712Z to Admty.)

D'URVILLE, DE BRAZZA, TISSIER. Your 141425. As DUMONT D'URVILLE has good endurance and is fitted for tropical service consider that she would be better employed in the Indian Ocean, where we are short of escorts, than in the Meditn.
2. Agree that no change should be made in present assignment of SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.
3. Subject to confirmation by C. in C. Med. that PRESIDENT THEODORE TISSIER is being usefully employed, agree that she should be retained in Meditn. for training duties. (V.C.N.S., 271806A to B.A.D.)

ANTIOPE. Your 24237A.* (Route from Horta to Bermuda). (Com. 10th Fleet, 251815Z to F.O.G.M.A.) * sic.

U/B incidents. Para. C. B/24 Radar contact 12.10 N. 77.02 W. 261800. Aircraft Radar contact 43.40 N. 63.25 W. 260720. Aircraft Radar contact 42.30 N. 49.00 W. 261120. All times Z. Aircraft sights periscope 40.12 N. 50.04 W. 261810. (Cominch, 272045Z.)

A.T.103. Diversion order. (C. in C. C.N.A., 272206.)

475

27.3.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
797.

March 26th. Paras. 13 to 15 cover South Pacific Forces.

Allied M.T.Bs. destroyed one barge off shore Open Bay - Kimbe Bay night 24th/25th.

(6) Encircled Japs Los Negros Island estimated to number 425 being slowly squeezed, offering slight resistance. On Manus Island Allied drive southward progressing rapidly and in support thereof 8 Bostons bombed strafed enemy positions morning. Single United States destroyer bombarded suspected emplacements Pityilu Island.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 270720.)

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

Para. A. (1) Mosquitoes of 151 Squadron sighted U-Boat with 2 escort vessels, course north-east at 1006Z/26 in 46° 20' N. 02° 50' W.
(2) A/C of 541 P.R. Squadron sighted U-Boat with 2 small vessels, course east at 1035Z/26 off St. Nazaire.

(3) Nor. tanker GRENA previously reported torpedoed now reported sunk at 0909Z/21 in 20° 27' N. 39° 38' E.

Para. B. (1) DOUGLAS obtained possible Radar contact at 2350Z/26th March in 36° 44' N. 06° 26' W.

(2) Jap U-Boat contacted Baluchistan coast on night of 24th March in approx. 25° 30' N. 63° 00' E.

(3) A/C reports U-Boat in vicinity at 1217Z/25 in 12° 40' N. 50° 50' E. (Thought to be a whale. D.D.I.C., 291103A.)

Ref. A.M. 261138A para. (B) (1) Wellington A/C attack now considered not to be a U-Boat.

(D.D.I.C., 271105A.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 271352A, 271358A.)

476

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Y.

1(a) At 2000A to-day Convoy J.W.58 was about 60 miles S.E. of the Faeroes, steering N. by W. at 9 knots.
(b) The Destroyers of the Fleet Escort and of the Support Group arrived at Skaalefiord (Faeroes) this morning; and at 1236 C.S.10 in DIADEM (conducting the Operation) with U.S.S. MILWAUKEE, the Escort Carriers ACTIVITY and TRACKER, E.G.2 and four Destroyers of the Fleet Destroyer Escort left Scapa to join the Convoy.

Mediterranean.

Re-arrange-
ment of
Med. escort
Groups.

2. Resulting from the extension to Bizerta of U.S. escort of U.G.S. and G.U.S. convoys the through Mediterranean escort groups will be re-arranged in 6 groups, the effect being to raise the numbers in each group to 6 vessels (except the 51st Group which will operate in the Heel area in A.H/H.A. convoys).

Operation
"Shingle".

3. 6165 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. There was intermittent shelling and some alerts, but no bombs were dropped. The U.S. destroyer LIVERMORE bombarded shore targets in the Anzio area to-day.

Air raid
on Vis.

4(a) 30 or more enemy aircraft raided Vis this evening. Three Partisan schooners were hit.
(b) Light coastal forces last night sank a convoy of 6 lighters carrying petrol and ammunition South of Vada Rocks (South of Leghorn). The escort was driven off. One P.T. boat was slightly damaged.

5. SPORTSMAN this evening entered Monemvasia anchorage (on the south-east coast of Greece) and torpedoed the German motor vessel "M.T.3".

Black Sea:
Convoy
attacked.

6. The Russians report a heavy air attack, in the course of which 7 Soviet aircraft were lost, on an enemy convoy consisting of 24 vessels off Cape Tarkhan. One 2000 ton merchant vessel,

477

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Black Sea:
Convoy
attacked.
(Contd.)

6 F lighters, 4 barges and one R-Boat were sunk,
and an F lighter and 2 R-Boats were damaged.

East Indies.

Convoy
Seychelles-
Colombo one.

7. The first Seychelles-Colombo convoy sailed
this morning, via Addu Atoll.

8(a) On return from patrol TAURUS reports that
on 13 March she bombarded Government House, Ross
Island, Port Blair with 40 rounds.
(b) TAURUS laid 12 mines in the Malacca Straits
during her patrol.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. This afternoon and tonight U.S. destroyers
and gunboats shelled fuel dumps and reported
enemy concentrations on the coast of Empress
Augusta Bay.

10. 5 U.S. destroyers to-day bombarded Kapinga-
marangi Atoll. (*? Caroline Is.*)

478

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy

- STRATAGEM. STRATAGEM leaves vicinity of Bishop Rock at 1800A/31st to 049° 30' N. 009° W. diving by day, thence by route Green to cross 043° N. at 2130B/5 April, thence as ordered F.O.G.M.A., daily advance 120 miles.
(Capt. S.5, 281100A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- WINCHELSEA. Your 220046A. WINCHELSEA is to be paid off into reserve at Tyne under Category B.
(A.C.N.S. H. 282234 to C. in C.W.A.)
- ROCKWOOD. Approval has been given for ROCKWOOD to pay off into reserve fleet under category B in the Tyne Area.
(D.O.D.H. 282327A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations

- Operation FY. Faeroes arrival SAUMAREZ.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 280506A to C. in C. H.F.)
Faeroes arrival ONSLOW, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, OFFA, ORIBI, IMPULSIVE. Your 252011A refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 280801A to R.A.D. H.F.)
KEPPEL, BOADICEA, BEAGLE, WALKER arrived Faeroes. Your 252024A refers.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 280840A to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Position at 282000. J.W.58. WESCOTT, INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL, WRESTLER, STARWORT, LOTUS, HONEYSUCKLE, BLUEBELL, RATTLESNAKE, ORESTES, ONYX, RHODODENDRON 061° 25' N. 005° 20' W.
10. DIADEM, U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, ACTIVITY, TRACKER, VENUS, STORD, SERAPIS, SCORPION, E.G.2., 060° 10' N. 004° 10' W. to northwards, 16.
(A.C.O.S. 281142 to Air Ministry.)
Scapa departures at 1236 C.S.10 in DIADEM with U.S.S. MILWAUKEE, ACTIVITY, TRACKER, VENUS, STORD, SCORPION and Escort Group 2 in company. At 1448 SERAPIS to join C.S.10.
(A.C.O.S. 281457A to A.I.G.47, N.O.I.C. Faeroes.)
SERAPIS sailed to overtake at 1450.
(R.A.D.H.F. 281542A to C.S.10.)
My 261404. 1. Trawler escort are now HONNINGSVAAG and
- ELM.
2. HONNINGSVAAG sailed late and overtook in lieu of WINDERMERE defective.
3. ELM from Seidisfjord. My 261946 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 281850Z to H.F.)

- S.C. My 251617A. Sailed VIGRA at 0500A today.
operations. 2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 280510 to Admty.)
My 270710A. Returned at 1330A today (HITRA).
2. Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 281420A to Admty.)

/My...

479

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

- S.C. operations. (Contd.) My 280510A. Returned at 2000A today.
2. Operation unsuccessful owing to engine trouble.
3. Operation will be repeated 30th March, weather permitting.
(A.C.C.S. 282050 to Admt.)
- Operation C.X. Arrived CARISBROOK CASTLE for fuelling.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 281007A to E.G.22.)
Sailed CARISBROOK CASTLE.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 281945A to E.G.22.)
- Operation "Knitting 4" Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs. 250, S.O. 248 in support at 1930/28th for patrol off enemy east between longitudes 00° 20' W. and 01° 20' W. proceeding and returning through passage four and to be within 20 miles of English Coast by daylight watch on 2450 kcs.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 281015 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
My 281015A. Cancelled owing to engine defect.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 282150A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- Operation C.W. 1. O.S.72/K.M.S.46 probably sighted by enemy aircraft at 0220A and 0830A. Aircraft did not close within 20 miles. Several attempts at interception by Hurricanes without success.
2. B.45. 272234. Further similar signals detected at 0430A bearing 269°. Searches at dawn unsuccessful. Request information as to origin of signals.
3. Estimated present P.C.S. 050° 48' N. 018° 25' W. 202° 7 knots (NAIRANA, 281015A to C. in C.W.A.)
Arrived WASKESIU, CAPE BRETON, GROU, OUTREMONT. Anchored in thick fog off entrance to Lough.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 281106A to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 281015A, para 2. Nothing is known of any casualties in this area.
(C. in C.W.A. 281421A to NAIRANA.)
In order to provide emergency striking forces against enemy U/Boats which may operate in the north Channel or north Minch area following organization is to be brought into force when ordered.
2. North Channel Area. Commodore (D) W.A. is to detail 3 ships daily from those exercising off Londonderry or lying at Moville.
3. The striking force may be augmented from escort groups exercising off Larne and from the A/S training Flotilla at Campbeltown.
4. The executive signal for sailing of ships will be "Carry out operation C.W." followed by the temporary group number to be assumed by ship detailed. Operations will be conducted in accordance with W.A. memorandum number 00770/104 of 24th Feb. 1944.
5. North Minches Area. A total of 4 ships is to be detailed daily by Cdre. Western Isles from ships working up to Tobermory

/and...

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

Operation and Stornoway of which 2 should be from Stornoway
C.W. whenever possible.
(Contd.) 6. Executive signal as in para. 4 substituting
C.X. for C.W. Separate order will be sent to
Cdre. W. Isles (Tobermory) and MENTOR.
7. Ships detailed are to be at 2 hours notice
when in harbour.
8. Cdre. (D) W.A. and Cdre. W. Isles are to inform C. in C.
W.A. daily of names of ships detailed and S.O. Duties are to
be taken from 0800 to 0800.
(C. in C.W.A. 281916A.)
S/M on surface sighted astern of convoy by A/C from
GADILA and attacked with R/P. 3rd E.G. hunted. O.N.229
P.C.S. 051° 36' N. 031° 50' W. 238° 9½ knots.
(B.6, 282130A to C. in C.W.A.)
Faint automatic distress signals on 500 kc/s were heard
at 1842A/27 in 52.02 N. 16.30 W. bearing 210°. Further
similar signals were heard at 0430A/28 in 51° 18' N. 17° 40' W.
bearing 269°. Searches were unsuccessful and nothing is known
of any casualties in this area but lookout should be kept for
possible survivors.
(C. in C.W.A. 282216A to STRIKER, S.L.152.)

S/M On completion of operation "Apparatus" you will
Patrols. probably be ordered to patrol in Statlandet.
(F.O.S. 281108A to ULA.)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/29 and movements
following 24 hours.
A. SYRTIS 63° 30' N. 02° 56' E. probably on the surface
through 62° 01' N. 01° 01' E. 10 knots to Lerwick.
B. ULA 69° 31' N. 12° 55' E. diving by day to patrol vicinity
69° 35' N. 17° 25' E.
C. TERRAPIN on patrol off Lister.
D. TAKU 63° 31' N. 03° 50' E. probably on the surface
through 62° 01' N. 01° 55' E. and 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles
to Lerwick 10 knots.
E. STURDY on patrol vicinity 63° 30' N. 01° 10' E.
(F.O.S. 281726 to Admty.)
My S.M. 04010/973 of 23rd March. Cancel all reference
to VENTURER. UNSHAKEN is to carry out her patrol in
Skudesnes area as in para. 4.(1).
(F.O.S. 281806A. to Capt. S.9.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 281315A, 281322A.)
Force (C. in C. Plymouth, 281446A.)
Patrols.

Operation Carry out operation "Tunnel" tonight in
"Tunnel". accordance with memo. O.P.T.U.
2. Information. Enemy. 2 Elbings and
4 T.Bs. seen in Havre on 25th March and sighted
at sea in Havre area on night 25th/26th.
M.Class minesweeper probably in Cherbourg - Brest area.
E/boats based on Cherbourg or further west. R/Boats carry out
patrol in vicinity of Triagoz Bank.
3. Own. Coastal force patrols as signalled in my 281446.

/Halifax...

481

28.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

Operation "Tunnel".
(Contd.)

Halifax aircraft will carry out A/S.V. search off French coast between 002° 45' W. and 004° 00' W. from 0120 to 0140/29.

4. Execution. Force 26 comprising BELLONA (S.O.) TARTAR (Capt. (D) 10) ASHANTI, HURON, HAIDA, and ATHABASKAN is to pass gate at 2215A today and proceed to pass through position (SS) 000° Ile Vierge Light 10 at 0300/29.

5. From (SS) Force 26 is to pass close to South of Q.Z.X. 1235, thence to eastward and through position (TT) 302° Triagoz light 10 to Plymouth.

6. Disregard Q.Z.X. 1235 1247, 1250 and 1256.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 281518A to BELLONA, D/F.10.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Cardiff area bombed.

Air raid over Cardiff Sub-Command. No incidents yet reported, apparently R/C. Mine-laying not suspected.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 280111A to C. in C.W.A.)
My 280111A. Between 2335 and 0045 approximately 30 enemy A/C operated at scattered points from Swansea to Bristol.

2. One H.E. Bomb dropped at Goldcliff near Newport. No damage or casualties. Eight killed and sixteen seriously injured by exploding A.A. shell in Royal Ordnance factory Cardiff. No other incidents.

3. Dock area at Cardiff effectively screened by smoke before alert sounded. "Windows" spread over an area 70 miles by 30 miles from Swansea to Chepstow and Minehead to Bristol. One E.A. claimed shot down by A.A. fire, crashed near Chepstow.

4. Minelaying not suspected. Cloud conditions unfavourable for photographic R/C.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 281535A to Admty.)

Mining.

N.L.120 and N.L.123.

My 271610A. Operations N.L.120 and 123 abandoned owing to extreme visibility.
(V.A.Dover, 280054A to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Troop transport to Norway.

Intercept letter to German Military in Denmark reveals following intentions to be carried out second part of March.

A. Personnel to be conveyed to Norway from Denmark by transports operated from Copenhagen to Oslo.

B. 50 vessels requisitioned in Holland are to be fitted out and supplied from Denmark for transport service in Norway.

C. New service of several presumably small Charter vessels with JUTLAND is to be inaugurated. Graded B.1.
(N.A. Stockholm, 281137, to D.N.I.)

/U/B...

482

War Diary.28.3.1944.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

U/Boats in Baltic. It appears from your reports of the number of U/Boats in various areas in Baltic that there has been of late a tendency for the total number of U/Boats still in the Baltic to increase. Any views which you may have formed as to possible reasons for this increase and any explanations reported to you would be of interest as the point is of importance in planning for the future. (D.N.I. 282251A, to N.A. Stockholm.)

U/Boats.

U/Boat off Scillies on 27th March. Aircraft reports sighting S/M at 2020A/27th in 050° 20' N. 006° 40' W. S/M fired wrong recognition signal. (F.O.S. 280114A to VIKING.)

Casualties and Defects.

J.P. CRESSEY. Arrived ALLEGIANCE with JOSIAH P. CRESSEY in tow. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 281302A to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

SATYR. My 271512A. Sailed. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 281520A to A.C.O.S.)

MULGRAVE. Your 231910. MULGRAVE can be docked by Ardrossan Dockyard Co. approx. 10th April. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 281735 to Capt. D. Greenock.)

MARGUERITE. M.F.V. MARGUERITE has again run main bearing. Intend towing MARGUERITE to Ardrossan.. B.E.O. Ardrossan is requested to undertake immediate repairs. (M.F.V. 24, 281955A to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

F.T.2. Sailed rescue tug EARNER escorted by EARRAID to tow F.T.2 back to Reykjavik. E.T.A. Seidisfjord 0600Z/30th. (A.C.I.C. 282000A to N.O.I.C. Seidisfiord.)

CHANCE. Your 281027. If necessary proceed to Seidisfjord for temporary repairs and report situation. (C. in C.H.F. 282128A to CHANCE.)

483

War Diary.

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Stragglers. Stragglers returned from convoy during week ending 28th March. Nil report.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 281010 to Admty.)
Stragglers week ended 28th March Nil.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 281100A to Admty.)

North Atlantic Rescue Tugs. Following their withdrawal from our North Atlantic convoys, the only British rescue tugs available for work in the North Atlantic are single tugs based at:-
Campbeltown, Ponta Delgada, St. Johns N.F., and Reykjavik.

2. A.C.I.50 is being amended in the sense that if a ship in convoy is disabled when no Rescue Tug is present the crew should be disembarked and the ship sunk unless S.O. of Escort decided there is a reasonable prospect of salvage by any of the Tugs mentioned in paragraph 1., in which instance the casualty should be left abandoned and a report made to shore authorities.

3. To assist S.O. of Escorts in making a decision a daily signal commencing on 1st April will be made by the Admty. to ships in Atlantic north of 35° N. giving the position and employment of all Rescue Tugs in that area.
(D.T.D. 281715A to C. in C.W.A.)

"Bolero" shipping. Your 222002A and A.N.C.X.F. 231223A. Owing to added "Bolero" commitments, Ministry of War Transport state they will be unable to stop "Bolero" until 25th April.

2. Request you will arrange a meeting with F.O.I.C. Southampton and Docks Manager Southampton consider whether local arrangements can be made to meet naval requirements as well as "Bolero". Ministry of War Transport will send representative to the meeting.

3. In any case it will not be practicable to divert 7 ships due Southampton between 1st and 3rd April.
(V.C.N.S. 281952A to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

484

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gib.G.R. A.l. 447 28th March W.X. 29241.
Opsum B. 227/114 ZEPF 21/1 1332 - Day SE not used -
27th March. 36.48 N. 07.56 W. Northerly - 5 to 6 - conning
tower (Rly?) surface for 1 minute and then
submerged. A/C circled for 30 minutes but
nothing further seen. Not attacked. All
times A.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 280230A.)

Routeing Re difficulties caused by change of route.
of My (? 270317) your 251830.
Spanish (B.N.A. Madrid, 281255A.)
fishing
vessels.

SS. MANU. Spanish SS. MANU Las Palmas 26th March for
Barcelona should be sent in and detained pending
further instructions.
2. Report by signal Master's explanation for
calling at Las Palmas when navircerted direct to Barcelona.
(D.E.W.D. 282053A to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

South Atlantic.

U.S.S. Route, from Dakar to New York.
BREEMAN, (F.O.C.W.Af., 280325Z.)
BRONSTEIN.

P.552. Request early decision on C. in C.E.F. 160514
March as P.552 complet^es limited repairs on 31st
March. C.S. Durban's 171642 March also refers.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 281029Z.)

485

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- H.1. UNST and H.1 returned 1945/26, S/M defective.
My 261939* and 271915 refer.
(S.N.O. E.Sy., '280035.)
* Arrivals and departures 26th March.
- U/B reports. Nr.1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position
41° 48' N. 11° 50' E.
(A/C ZZCS, 280318A.)
Nr.1. Proceed to position 40° 52' N. 13° 36'
E., illuminate contact.
(C/S O5F, 280512A to A/C YKVQ.)
Nr.1. Carry out square search for submarine in area of
25 miles radius of 40° 00' N. 12° 00' E. Report and attack.
(O5P, 280647A, 74K 280718 both to A/C YKVB.)
- NEREUS. Leave patrol p.m./31st and pass through (route
to Malta).
2. Your surface speed is estimated as 9 knots
you are to dive by day on 2nd.
(Capt. (S) 1, 280915 to NEREUS, (R) all
concerned.)
- SIBYL. Intend sailing P.217 (SIBYL) from Malta on 31st
March to join G.U.S.35 for passage to Gibraltar.
(2) Request all ships may be warned accordingly.
(3) S.O. S/MS. Gibraltar is requested to sail
SIBYL to U.K.
(Capt. (S) 1, 280944A.)
- RICHELIEU. Cannot accept risk of berthing you until the
weather moderates. On arrival position "Use"
you are to proceed towards Alexandria by route
R reversing your course so as to arrive "Use" at
0600B/29th. Port Said high light will be shown from 0400B
to 0600B/29th.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 281127B to RICHELIEU.)
- French S/M for special operation. A requirement may arise about 12th April for
LA MOQUEUSE or COMMANDANT DUBOC to carry out
a special operation to Aegean.
2. Request you inform me:
(A) Which you consider the more efficient and
best suited. (B) Present best speed.
(F.O.L.E.M., 281132B to S.N.O.L.A.)

/U.S. ...

486

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

U.S. escort of U.G.S. and G.U.S. Convoys. Rearrange-ment of Meditn. Escort Groups. Commencing with U.G.S.36 the U.S. escort will continue with convoy to Bizerta subsequently escorting the same numbered G.U.S. convoy from that port. The British escort of G.U.S. convoys from Levant will lay over at Bizerta subsequently escorting the next U.G.S. convoy to Levant.

2. As result the through Med. escort groups will be rearranged in 6 groups composed as follows:-
37th - JOHAN MAURITS (S.O.), DEPTFORD, AMETHYST, FRISO, CAMPION, SOUTHERN ISLES.
46th - FLEETWOOD (S.O.), HAZARD, COLTSFOOT, ANEMONE, CONVULVULUS, SAKTOURIS.
47th - DELPHINIUM (S.O.), EVELODE, USK, HYDERABAD, APOSTOLIS, SOUTHERN SEA.
48th - BARLE (S.O.), BERGAMOT, BRYONY, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, JONQUIL.
49th - DART (S.O.), SHIEL, GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, SHARPSHOOTER, WOLBOROUGH.
50th - PHEASANT (S.O.), BIDEFORD, ALISMA, SAXIFRAGE, SPIREA, PROTEA.

3. The 51st Escort Group composed of:- BLACK SWAN (S.O.), ERNE, PENTSTEMON, VETCH will operate in the Heel area in A.H./H.A. convoys.

4. Further signals will be made to effect the re-distribution of ships to conform with paras. 2 and 3 above.
(C. in C. Med., 281214A.)

R.G. receiver lost. Ref. C.B. 004222. R.G. receiver type D serial No. A.F.23 lost 23rd March in special landing operation in Loortha Bay Cephalonia. Personnel concerned are missing. Possibility of compromise must be assumed to exist.
(S.1., 281620 as amended 282259A.)

BULOLO. Required for "Overlord". Request you will sail her for U.K. as soon as practicable.
(V.C.N.S., 281723A to C. in C. Med.)

Black Sea. From Intelligence reports March 19th to March 24th inclusive.
(1) Air attack on enemy shipping. March 17th in and off Ochakov one F lighter one R-Boat and two Siebel ferries sunk and two Siebel ferries, 2 barges and two M.Ls. damaged. March 19th off Cape Tarkhan one 2000 (amendment 021930C) ton merchant vessel, six F lighters, four barges and one R-Boat sunk, one F lighter and two R-Boats damaged.
(3) Various. * March 17th CHARLOTTE 1600 tons sunk by mine leaving Sevastopol. March 19th shore batteries in Dneiper Estuary damaged one F lighter, one tug and one barge. March 21st one tug from Odessa surrendered. 22nd March enemy S/M shelled train and bombarded station between Sochi and Tukyse (? Tuapse intended)
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 281748C.)

* March 7th sunk by mine 50 miles W.N.W. of Sevastopol. Confirmed by F.D.S. 31.3.52.
/MATROZOS

487

28.3.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

MATROZOS.

From a position 037° 09' 020° 40' at 2330/31st proceed on the surface at 9 knots to R/V with escort in 036° 09' 014° 47' at 0630/2nd thence to Malta arriving Marsamxett 0845/2nd. (Capt. (S) 1, 281802A to MATROZOS.)

SPORTSMAN,
patrol
report.

2, At 2227/28th entered Monemvasia anchorage and torpedoed German motor vessel "M.T.3".
3. Your 271637*. This was not so.
(P.229 (SPORTSMAN), 282316B to Capt. (S) 1.)
* N.T. in W.R.

LA SULTANE.

Mission completed. Weather report.
(LA SULTANE, 282350A to N.O.I.C. Algiers.)

488

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly U-Boat dis-
position .
No. 37. One possibly 2 Japanese U-Boats are operating in the north Arabian Sea. Latest information by D/F fix 0001Z/28 approx. 200 miles S.E. of Ras Al Hadd. Scale of air escort area A X, Area B Y area E X. 2. Gulf of Aden and east African waters believed clear of U-Boats scale of air escort area C W area D W.

3. There are no indications of a U-Boat operating in the Bay of Bengal at the present time. Scale of air escort area F X.

4. U-Boat (German) indicated by D/F 1943Z/27 in vicinity of One and Half Degrees Channel scale of air escort G X.

5. Indian Ocean U-Boat plotted by D/F S.E. of Chagos Archipelago 25th March believed moving N.E.
(C. in C.E.F. 280340Z.)

Convoy Seychelles-
Colombo One. Sailed 0430Z/28 for Colombo via Addu Atoll 8 knots, escort TOOWOOMBA (S.O.) FREESIA, M.Ls. 845, 855, 847, 830. 3 ships.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 280445Z.)

Convoy orders. A.K.D. - D.K.A. convoys between Aden and Durban release class D ships forthwith.

2. Ships in convoy D.K.A. 15 are to continue in convoy till they reach dispersal point or destination.

3. Ships in convoy A.K.D. 19 disperse after crossing 010° N. to proceed on stragglers route to destination.

4. Ships in convoy D.K.A. 16 are to remain in convoy till they reach dispersal point or arrive Kilindini.

5. Ships in convoy A.K.D. 18 are to remain in convoy till they reach dispersal point or destinations.
(C. in C.E.F. 280536Z.)

U/B reports. 3333. Position 67 R 19 E 16 R 05 N submarine sighted.
(EDWARD PAINE 280946Z, EMPIRE BENEFIT 281013Z.)

Disposal of Italian training S/MS. C. in C.Med. 271142. A. Confirmed that CORRIDONI should proceed to Aden and GIADA to Colombo.
B. Italian S/M BRIN Class should proceed to Colombo.
(C. in C.E.F. 281136Z.)

TAURUS patrol report. Summary of H.M. Submarine TAURUS 4th Far East Patrol

2. 0300 F.G/13 bombarded Government House Ross Island Port Blair with 40 rounds. After TAURUS had withdrawn shore battery fired 6 rounds aimlessly

3. 1604 F.G/16 intercepted ferry boat with object of obtaining Japanese prisoners but appearance of aircraft caused TAURUS to dive. 4. 12 mines laid.
(C. in C.E.F. 281139Z.)

My 281139 para. 4. approx. position 002° 50' N. 100° 35' E.
(C. in C.E.F. 281141Z.)

/RANEE...

War Diary.

28.3.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

RANEE. Route for RANEE. A very short call at Auckland could only be arranged at risk of late arrival at Esquimalt and time will not repeat not allow a call to be made at a U.S. Port.
2. It is intended therefore that RANEE should not proceed to Auckland but should be routed direct to Esquimalt so as to ensure arrival by 10th May.
3. Admty. 191257 my 201253 and my 250901 refer.
(C. in C.E.F. 251307Z.)

U/B reports. By D/F at 1551Z/28 on 8940 k/cs the position of a Japanese U-Boat was within 150 miles of 020° 30' N. 066° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 281647Z.)
By D/F at 1942Z/28 on 7880 k/cs the position of a U-Boat (German) was within 300 miles of 031° S. 064° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 282110Z.)

490

28.3.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Convoy U.T.10 Diversion order.
 (D.O.D.(H), 280204A).

U/boat dispositions. Estimates.
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 281509Z, Washington W/T 281607Z).

SS. VENI Have you any news of VENI (Nor.) due Newhaven 19th.
 March from O.N.S.30.
 (D.T.D. 281627A to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

T.F.68 Due to sea conditions 1730Z position 41.28 N.
 44.28 W. course 092 speed 14 to track. Thence
 ZA. German voice transmission heard 72.5 at
 1355Z.
 (G.T.F. 68, 281708).

U/boat incidents. Para.C. P.C.465 torpedo wake and sound contact
 10.28 N. 79.28 W. about 0600Z/28.
 U.S.S. SELLSTROM, JOHN D. EDWARDS and SLOAT series
 of attacks on sound contact 34.20 N. 17.04 W.
 2105Z/27.
 (Cominch, 282053Z).

OAKVILLE Trials unsatisfactory. OAKVILLE returned to
 Yard. Your 241752/. Further trials due
 shortly.
 (B.A.M.R. 282118Z).
 / Subject to satisfactory trials, OAKVILLE
 expected to depart Galveston for Halifax 1700/25.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack and sighting summary. Para.A. (1) A/C L/248 and I/248 sighted 2 U/boats
 course 050 degs. and attacked one at 0815Z/27 in
 46 degs. 00' N. 01 degs. 33' W.
 (2) Fr. Catalina A/C. sighted U/boat on surface at
 1232Z/27 in 36 degs. 46' N. 07 degs. 57' W.
 (3) MULL attacked U/boat at 2153Z/10 in 38 degs.
 07' N. 09 degs. 41' E.
 Para.B. (1) A/C X/228 sighted two wakes course 090 degs. at 1457Z/
 27 in 47 degs. 23' N. 12 degs.42' W.
 (2) A/C made contact with U/boat before 0335Z/27 in 36 degs. 03' N.

/ 04 degs....

491

283.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

04 degs. 20' W.

(3) Turkish motor boat DINTCH sighted U-Boat
before 0950Z/27th in 36 degs. 30' N. 35 degs,
25' E.

(4) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0218Z/28 in
41 degs. 48' N. 11 degs. 50' E.

(D.D.I.C.281002Z)

My 221059 July, 1942.

(1) At 0915A/25th. Mosquito aircraft of 248 squadron attacked
surfaced U-Boat with 6 pounder anti-tank gun in position 46 degs.
47' N. 02 degs. 42' W. Number of direct hits are claimed
and U-Boat disappeared leaving oil patch. Consider U-Boat
was probably sunk.

(D.A.U.D. 281724Z)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 281445A, 281450A)

War Diary29.3.1944.
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsOperation
"F.Y."
One U/boat
sunk by
STARLING.

1(a) At 1845 to-day Convoy J.W.58 was about 180 miles N.N.E. of the Faeroes, steering 011 degs. at 9½ knots.

(b) Sixteen Destroyers of the Fleet Destroyer Escort and the Support Group left Skaalefiord (Faeroes) to-day to relieve the Local Escort in about 63 degs. N.; and RATTLESNAKE, ONYX, and ORESTES of the Local Escort returned to-day to Skaalefiord.

(c) One U/boat was sunk by STARLING of E.G.2 operating with the Support Group of Destroyers at 2320 to-day about 180 miles N.N.E. of the Faeroes.

Engagement
off Dieppe.

2. From 0240 till 0245 to-day a Force of six M.T.Bs. was heavily engaged at close range by two groups of R/boats and one larger Enemy Vessel about 2 miles N.W. by W. of Dieppe as well as by accurate fire from the enemy shore-batteries. Several R/boats were severely damaged. M.T.Bs. 611, 602, 608, 614 and 615 were also damaged and sustained 12 fatal casualties and 33 wounded of whom 8 are seriously injured.

Engagement
off Texel.
Faulty
star-shell
ammunition.

3. An attack by six M.T.Bs. of the 50th and 55th Flotillas on an Enemy Convoy off the Texel at 0240A to-day, and a second attack at 0413A, were both ruined by the failure of the M.T.Bs. star-shell ammunition.

E.G.1.

4. AFFLECK (S.O.) with GARLIES, GORE and BALFOUR of E.G.1 arrived at Lough Foyle at 1721A to-day from Gibraltar.

MediterraneanOperation
"Shingle"

5.(a). A total of 7828 tons were discharged at Anzio to-day.

(b) There were two air raids, the first at 1520 by 26 enemy aircraft, and the second at 2120. No damage was caused, but minelaying during the second raid is suspected.

(c) The U.S. destroyer LIVERMORE fired 103 rounds at shore targets.

6. Bombers to-day carried out widespread attacks against ports and anchorages in central Italy.

/ The...

493

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

The dock installations at Civitavecchia and San Stefano Harbour were bombed to-day. Porto Ferrario (Elba) was bombed with good results. At Leghorn small craft were bombed and hit.

7. About 12 enemy aircraft attempting to attack either Convoy M.K.S.44 or K.M.S. 45 off Dellys after dark to-day were intercepted this evening by fighters who shot down 2 or 3. The convoys were unharmed.

East Indies

Protection
of U.S.
tankers.

8. Admiral King has made representations about the routeing and scale of protection at present afforded to U.S. tankers running between India and the Persian Gulf. A large number of American tankers is involved, and the area has recently been a lucrative one for U/boats.

Coastal
Forces.

9. It is intended as from 1st May to re-organise the R.N., R.I.N. and Burmese Coastal Forces under one central authority, Captain, Coastal Forces, Eastern Theatre (C.C.F.E.T.).

494

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- BASUTO. (1) BASUTO is to proceed to Trinidad.
(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail BASUTO from Londonderry for inclusion in K.M.S.47.
(4) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to arrange for her to part company from the convoy providing trawler escort to Horta and after fuelling onward passage independently to Bermuda.
(5) S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic is requested to arrange onward passage to Trinidad.
(D.O.D.(H), 291256A to C. in C. W.A.)
- SPIRIT. SPIRIT leaves Scilly Isles at 1000A/1st April diving by day 120 miles daily by route red to 043 degs. N. E.T.A. 2230B/6th. Thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A.
(Capt.(S) 3, 291511 to F.O.G.M.A.)
- E.G.1. Arrived E.G.1 in AFFLECK with GARLIES, GORE and BALFOUR.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 291721A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- E.G.15. The following ships are to form 15th Group temporarily STRULE (S.O) INGLIS, LAWSON, LOUIS, MOORSOM, MOUNSEY.
(2) LAWSON, MOORSOM, MOUNSEY are to join remainder of Group at Londonderry on April 4th.
(3) 15th Group is to be sailed by Great Circle to arrive Argentia April 13th and will be required to sail thence about April 16th to escort S.C.157 to U.K.
(C. in C. W.A. 291810A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)
- EREBUS. A.M.151110A Feb. (see Special File) para. 3 and My 291320. Request EREBUS may be placed under my orders. She will join second Battle Squadron.
(C. in C. H.F. 292028A to Admty.)
- ROBERTS. A.M. 271934 and my 291320. On arrival in U.K. you will join Second Battle Squadron.
(C. in C. H.F. 292035A to ROBERTS)
- HAWKINS. A.M. 260154 and my 291320. On arrival in U.K. you will join First Cruiser Squadron.
(C. in C. H.F. 292148A to HAWKINS)
- FROBISHER. A.M. 260154 and my 291320. On arrival in U.K. you will join First Cruiser Squadron.
(C. in C. H.F. 292155A to FROBISHER)

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Lerwick Coastal Forces. Your 131725. (1) Approved that Coastal Force organisation at Lerwick should revert to FOX. (2) A.F.O. 1192/44 will be cancelled. (Head of M.II, 290515A to N.O.I.C.Lerwick)

Southend. "Maintop" Unit B.1 Serial number 94 successfully sunk in area A in 203 degs. 2.5 cables from East Cant buoy in least estimated depth of 12 feet. (N.O.I.C.Southend 291726A to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations.

Operation C.W. Your 282237A and C. in C. W.A. 271931A. Proceed to Greenock. (E.G.7, 290147 to PELICAN) B.6 282130. No contact made. After sweeping 30 miles down convoy course intend to abandon search at 1000A.

(E.G.3, 290805A to C. in C. W.A.)
You may encounter patrolling U-Boat between longitudes 29 degs. 00' W. and 33 degs. 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 290858A to SEANYMPH.)
Westbound U-Boat estimated near you to-day.
(D.D.I.C. 290859A to H.X. 284)
My 290805. Consider aircraft sighting was very probably a whale. Subsequent asdics have been under ideal condition covered area of probability. Subsequent D/F of a short WW message at 0111Z put a U-Boat at about 50 miles 060 degs from area swept.

(E.G.3, 291105A to C. in C. W.A.)
WASKESIU, OUTREMONT, GROU sailed to comply with C. in C. W.A. 271934A. CAPE BRETON did not sail owing to collision damage.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 291415A to E.G.7)
Arrived Clyde PELICAN.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 291444A to Admty.)

Operation F.Y. Faeroes departures ONSLOW, OPPORTUNE, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, OFFA, ORIBI, IMPULSIVE, KEPPEL, BOADICEA, BEAGLE, WALKER, SAUMAREZ.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 290438A to V.A.D. H.F.)
Following from ORESTES begins: J.W. 58. P.C.S. at 2000A/28th, 061 degs. 15' N. 004 degs. 55' W. 348 degs. 9 knots. Alter course to 016 degs. at 0600A/29th.
T.O.O. 290457A. Ends.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 290627A to H.F.)
Skaalefiord arrival ORESTES.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 290652A to H.F.)
Kola Inlet arrived Group 10. S.B.N.O.Archangel's 221900 refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 290803A to S.B.N.O.Archangel)

Skaalefiord /...

496

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.Y. (Contd.) Skaalefiord arrivals SERAPIS, VENUS, STORD, SCORPION.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 290842A to H.F.)
Departure from Skaalefiord VENUS, SERAPIS, STORD, SCORPION.
(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 291150A to H.F.)

Escort will be provided tomorrow by (1) Sunderland from first light to noon.

(2) Catalina from noon to last light. The Catalina after contacting convoy will leave to search Iceland section thence return to escort convoy.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 292234A to J.W.58, FITZROY.)

Arrived Skaalefiord, RATTLESNAKE, ONYX.

(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 292251A to H.F.)

2 Liberators will patrol 30 miles either side line joining the following positions: 062 degs. 31' N. 017 degs. 01' W. 063 degs. 39' N. 011 degs. 59' W. and 064 degs. 31' N. 006 degs. 01' W. 30th March.

(A.C.I.C. 292336A to Escorts J.W. 58)

Cable My 271741. ALERT sailed escorted by LINCOLN-
Repairs. SHIRE.
(ALERT). (C. in C. Plymouth, 291043A to Admty.)

Operation "Knitting 4". Intend sailing M.T.B. 255 with M.T.B's 250 (S.O), 248 in support at 2100/29th for patrol off enemy coast between longitudes 00 degs. 20' W. and 01 degs. 20' W. proceeding and returning through passage four and to be within 20 miles of English Coast by daylight watch on 2450 K/cs.

(N.O.I.C.Newhaven, 291149A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

My 291149A. Sailed M.T.B. 255 with M.T.B. 252 (S.O), and M.T.B. 248 in support.

(N.O.I.C.Newhaven, 292109A and 292324 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291412A)
(C. in C. Portsmouth 291537A)

S/M patrols. STURDY is to leave patrol at 0001/31st by route pink and 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 8 miles to Lerwick on the surface at C.O's discretion when South of 062 degs. N.

(Capt. (S) 9, 291455A to S/M's)

Submarines at 0801/30th and movements in following 24 hours.

(A) TERRAPIN, STURDY, VIKING as in my 281726.

(B) SYRTIS, TAKU arriving Lerwick from North East.

(C) ULA vicinity 69 degs 30' N. 16 degs. 50' E.

(F.O.S. 291656 to Admty.)

Enemy /...

497

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Enemy
 Convoy
 attacked.
 Faulty
 starshell
 ammunition.

Report of Coastal Force Operations night 28/29th March.

(1) Six M.T.B's of the 50th and 55th Flotillas were ordered to carry out Sweep Texel to Terschelling. Object intercept possible southbound convoy.

(2) Unit arrived in initial position at 2525A(sic) and turned N.E. along convoy route. At 2318A a southbound convoy was located consisting of a tanker of 4-500 tons fully laden, and two 3-Island merchant vessels of 1500-2000 tons preceded by a group of sweepers. At 2323A unit turned away and turned southward to shadow to starboard of convoy and it was decided to attack with zone firing from seaward. It was later decided to cut across the stern and attack from inshore in expectation of enemy entering Texel. Convoy however continued south. Unit was manoeuvred inshore and when at a range of 3000 yards were illuminated. At 2500 yards attempted to illuminate by 2 pdr. starshell but owing to faulty ammunition was ineffective.

At 0240A zone attack was ordered, range 1800 yards. Owing to failure of starshell only two ships were able to fire.

Gunfire was opened on convoy and several hits with 6D and pom pom were registered on one of the 3 Island merchant ships.

At 0245 unit was disengaged to N.W.

(3) Unit altered course to the southward. At 0413A closed convoy but at 3000 yards unit was illuminated by starshell and driven off by superior gunfire. Unit then returned to base.

(4) The failure of starshell completely ruined an attack that was developing most satisfactorily.

(5) Casualties - Nil.

Damage - M.T.B. 706 slight.

(C. in C. Nore, 291950A to Admty.)

Engagement
 off Dieppe.
 R-Boats
 damaged.
 M.T.B's 611,
 602, 608,
 614 and 615
 damaged.

My 281322A. After passage of convoy C.E. 255 Units X., Y and Z. were ordered to R/V in 108 degs. Beachy Head 24 miles. At 2359A. the force M.T.Bs 611(S.O), 614, 602, 613, 608 and 615 was ordered to proceed on a Southerly course to intercept enemy patrol or minesweepers which were being plotted on a Southwesterly course from Etaples towards Dieppe. Plots of the enemy were passed to the M.T.Bs and at 0236 they made contact with three small ships. These were closed and at 0240 in 305 degs. Dieppe 2 miles the enemy

opened fire at a range of 300 yards. The force altered to a similar Easterly course and engaged these enemy vessels which were considerably damaged. At the same time another group of enemy ships was sighted to seaward on opposite courses. This was engaged while heavy fire was concentrated on the force by a larger vessel inshore of the first enemy group and much starshell was fired from shore.

At 0245 the force disengaged to the Northward, having suffered damage and casualties, and under heavy and accurate fire from shore batteries, which continued until they were 8 miles clear of the enemy coast. It is considered that the two enemy groups consisted of R-Boats, while the larger vessel was a T.L.C. Mark III or a gun coaster. Many hits were seen on the

enemy /...

498

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement off Dieppe. R-Boats damaged. M.T.B's 611, 602, 608, 614 and 615 damaged. (Contd.)

enemy and a large explosion in one R-Boat. More than one R-Boat is considered to have been severely damaged. All M.T.Bs returned to harbour. Damage was sustained by M.T.Bs 611, 602, 608, 614 and 615. Casualties 12 killed, 8 seriously wounded, and 25 wounded. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 292006A to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

R/C's requested.

Request PR. of Dieppe, Calais, and Boulogne to locate enemy shipping. (D.D.I.C. 290808A to A.D.I. Ph.)

Mining.

Operation N.L.124.

Carry out operation N.L.124 tonight. Initial laying position 051 degs. 17' 15" N. 002 degs. 43' 30" E. Direction of laying 086 degs. for 20 cables. Details. (F.O.C.Dover, 291228A to M/L.52, M/L 50)

Humber.

Magnetic mine detonated at 1754 in 315 degs. H.5 buoy 6.4 miles. (F.O.Humber, 292013A and 292031A to C. in C. Nore)

Enemy Intelligence.

BORNHOFEN,
HARM FRITZEN,
GUDRID,
IRMA,
HENRY.

On February 13th German cargo vessel BERNHORST about 12,000 tons reported sunk near Sletta Haugesund southbound with ore. Same day eye witnesses reported sinking of 10,000 ton German cargo vessel in Bokn Fjord Stavanger. (2) Norwegian vessel GUDRID 1305 tons now reported sank same time as IRMA and HENRY B. 3 repeat B.3 (N.A. Stockholm, 291107 to Admty.)

O.I.C.Comment: (1) BERNHORST is evidently an error for BORNHOFEN It has been previously reported that HANS BORNHOFEN (2130 G.T) was torpedoed and sunk on 13th February, and that the HARM FRITZEN (4818 G.T.) was torpedoed and beached. Both these fitted in with TAKU's report of attacks. (2) No claim was made by M.T.B's to have sunk a third vessel. This may be an ordinary Marine casualty.

MONTE ROSA /...

War Diary.

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

MONTE ROSA. B.2 report states passenger ship approx. 20000 tons escorted by 4 armed trawlers and air escort passed Skorpen (61 degs. 36' N. 04 degs. 52' E.) at 1000A/29th March, course south, speed 10 knots. Comment: Probably MONTE ROSA. A.M. 261827A refers.
(D.D.I.C. 291235A to C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

Navigational.

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth, Needles, Channel closed due to fog.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 290548A to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

M.F.V.095. At 1225 to-day Belgian M.F.V. 095 under requisition for Naval Canteen Service (Admiralty's 211803A refers) sank at her mooring in Brixham Harbour for reasons not known.
(R.N.O.Brixham, 291330 to N.O.I.C.Dartmouth)

U.S.S. SCOTT. C.T.G. 21.7 281632.
Arrangements have been made for U.S.S. SCOTT to be received forthwith at Belfast and docked in floating dock for repairs to dome and bilge keel a.m. 31st March.
(D.O.D.(H), 291549A to C. in C. W.A.)

EGLINTON. SS. JUSTIN DOANE collided with EGLINTON at anchor in fog on the "Downs" at 0247A/29th. EGLINTON stem damaged. J. DOANE apparently undamaged.
(EGLINTON, 291620A to Admty.)

AYLMER.
(Sabotage) A case of suspected sabotage has been reported to-day by AYLMEER and is the subject of a Board of Inquiry convened by me for 0930 tomorrow. Details as at present known have been passed by my S.O.(I) to D.N.I. by telephone and request made for an official investigator to be sent.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 291646A to D.N.I.)

500

War Diary.29.3.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

FROBISHER. Intend to sail FROBISHER at 1830A/29 for U.K. (route).
(F.O.G.M.A. 291238A.)
Departure FROBISHER.
(F.O.G.M.A. 291950A.)

ANTIOPE. Arrangements for sailing from Azores for U.S.A.
(F.O.G.M.A. 291728A.)

A/S operation. During the night 29th/30th March 1st A/S striking force will sweep from Cape Saint Mary along 100 fathom line to 035° N. Request flare dropping A/C be informed that ships will be in line abreast 2 miles apart.
(ANTELOPE, 291748A to F.O.G.M.A.)

ARKALE, Spanish Ministry of Marine state fishing ships V.MANZANARES. ARKALE and VIERIRA MANZANARES which should have returned to San Sebastian by March 24th are overdue. Can you supply any information please.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 291806A to Admty.)

Straits blimp fence. See Cominch 291938Z etc. (in America and West Indies.)

JOSE ILLUECA. Now sails Valencia 2200 29th with oranges for Germany. My 252123 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 292138A. to 10th S/M F. CURIE. Admty. Capt. S.10, S.O.1, Med.)

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE. Propose NEWCASTLE should now arrive Simonstown at end April for refit your 220834 refers.
(Cdre. Supt. Simonstown, 291204B.)

Operation by M.Ls. A.M. 272207*. Details just received. Torpedoing sighted by M.Ls. 289, 574, 1016 and 1052 on A/S sweep, 289 and 574 closed at full speed U/Boat sighted close astern of wreck and chased at 17 knots to northward. 289 manoeuvred U/Boat up moon and engaged with Oerlikon and three pounder. U/Boat turned to Southeast and submerged counter attacked by Eye, Asdic defective. 574 Asdic efficient, regrettably lost touch
* Requesting report of action taken by M.L.289.

/with...

Head of Watch
War Registry.

War Diary has twice asked
to be supplied with a copy of
AM 272207 March (referred
to in FO C WAF 2913502
March). Can this now be
supplied please?

Clifford Ingram

W.P.
11/4/44

W.P.

Copy attached.

mtt
How
11/4

RESTRICTED.

MESSAGE 272207A/March OUT

FROM Admiralty

TO F.O.C.W.Af.

DATE 27.3.44.

NAVAL CODE (K2)

SENT

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.]

DEFERRED.

Your 200421. Request amplifying report of action taken by M.L. 289, may be signalled.

272207A
D.A.U.D. (Tel. 698)

501

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic

Operation
by M.Ls.
(Contd.)

with S.O. during chase commenced observant.
Subsequent search failed to regain contact.
H.D. M.Ls. rescued entire crew.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 291350Z.) W.D. Note: N.T. in W.D.
of A.M. 272207. W.R. were asked to supply a
copy, but have not complied.

GAZELLE.

Naval France have instructed Comar. Dakar to
sail GAZELLE for Mediterranean I have received
no instructions from this ship to be removed
from my station and have instructed Comar.
Dakar to retain her pending further instructions. She is
required as one of a recently formed escort group for reinforcing
G.S. and S.L. Convoys or to act as striking force North of Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 291858Z) (c.f. C. in C. Med., 291216.)

502

29.3.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B
reports.

F.O.W.I.T. reports that F.O. I.S. reports Mosquito aircraft sighted 1 S/M and 1 escort vessel in 042° 34' N. 011° 00' E. and enemy stationary. Air R/C has been arranged for first light.
(C. in C. Med., 290850, 291213 to S/Ms on patrol area G.)

Reported by D/F at 0306A U/Boat within 40 miles 038° 40' N. 005° 00' E.

(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 290432 to LA SULTANE, (R) F.O.G.M.A., C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10)

TEASER.

Your (?281)809 intend to proceed at 1600/29th March arriving Malta 0900 Thursday 30th.
(TEASER 290920 to F.O.T.A.L.I.)

Operation
"Shingle".

Situation report No. 67.
During 28th March out of total 6165 tons L.S.T., L.C.T. and L.C.I. ferries unloaded 1273, 526 and 152 tons respectively.
2. Alerts but no bombs dropped. Intermittent shelling.
(F.O.W.It., 291034A.)

BULOLO.

A.M. 281723* ROYAL SCOTSMAN arrives Algiers 3rd April to take over flag of S.O. Force P. Intend to sail BULOLO to U.K. escorted by SLAZAK and KRAKOWIAK leaving Algiers 8th April and calling at Gibraltar for fuel.
(C. in C. Med., 291116A.) *Re H.M.S. BULOLO required for "Overlord".

GAZELLE.

Owing to delay in sailing from U.S. of new construction escort ships allocated French in Med. and extra convoy movements taking place shortly it would be appreciated if you instructed Comar Dakar to sail GAZELLE to Casablanca as soon as possible final destination Algiers.
(C. in C. Med. 291216 to F.O.C.W.Af.)(c.f. F.O.C.W.Af. 291858Z.)
W.D. Note: Cancelled by C. in C. Med. 011752 April.)

Black Sea.

Intelligence report March 11th to 18th inclusive. Corrections to my 191815 from operation report received:

A.1. for March 10th read March 11th add four E/Boats damaged: March 16th.
2. add two barges sunk and one M.L. and three more tugs damaged
B. Add one merchant vessel 3000 to 4000 sunk by S/Ms off Cape Tarkhan.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 291315G.)

/Cable...

503

War Diary.29.3.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cable repairs. Following cable faults require immediate attention. Gibraltar Casablanca, Malta Gibraltar No. 3 and Naples, Palermo No. 2. Request urgent consideration be given to employment of MARIE LOUISE MACKAY or JOHN W. MACKAY on Gibraltar Carcarques repairs in order that MIRROR may complete jobs in Central Med. Refer my 151920. (C. in C. Med., 291701.)

H.A.33 Sailed. 2. CORRIDONI and GIADA sailed convoy - both for Augusta for onward routing in convoy to M.E. (N.O.I.C. Taranto, 291745.)

Safe conduct vessels - route. My 131940. Germans have proposed following route for safe conduct vessels sailing between Piraeus and Port Nikolaos. By Black Route as far as 35° 40.3' N. 25° 59' E. thence through 35° 17' N. 25° 59' E. 35° 12.3' N. 25° 44.6' E. to Hagios Nikolaos Harbour.

2. Request you will state whether above route (which if accepted will in future be referred to as Yellow Route) is acceptable.

3. Anchorage is stated to be bounded by lines joining
 - a. Ak Vagi.
 - b. Position 35° 12.1' N.
 - c. 25° 46.3' E.
 - d. Northern tip of Makronisos. It will be necessary to leave this anchorage unmined. My 071805 also refers.
4. Request early reply. (Admty. 291916A to F.O.L.E.M.)

U.223 destroyed. P.C. and S. of (corrupt group) at 1900A 038° 48' N. 014° 10' E. 070° 1½ knots. Contact very deep attacked 22 times. 4 British destroyers sunk. LAFOREY holding contact. 2 U.S. destroyers carrying out box patrol 3 miles out 3 P.Cs. patrolling to southward. (Capt. D.14, 291930A.)

U/Boat attempted to evade by turning back towards hunting destroyer at 2100. Contact lost for one hour but regained in 038° 49' N. 014° 14' E. at 2200 course 090° 1½ knots. (Capt. D.14, 292224A.)

Situation Report No. 324. 1. (Extract). Bombs and mines dropped night 26th 27th March caused no damage. 2. U.S. Destroyer LIVERMORE bombarded shore targets in Anzio area on 28th March. 3. Convoy of 6 Lighters carrying petrol and ammunition sunk by force of 3 L.C.(G) 4 M.T. boats and 4 P.Ts night 27th/28th south of Vada rocks. P.Ts. drove off 2 escorts believed destroyers inflicting possible damage. 1 P.T. boat suffered slight damage and 2 casualties. 4. Weather prevented destroyer and coastal forces operating in Adriatic night 25th/26th and 26th/27th March. (C. in C. Med. 292143A.)

/Cositintrep...

War Diary.

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositintrep
258.

Cositintrep 257 not issued.

1. Extract. 5005 tons unloaded at Anzio on
27th March and 6165 on 28th March. Slight damage
to landing craft during enemy air attack p.m.
27th March. A/A fire claim two damaged and
fighters four destroyed one probable and one damaged.
(C. in.C. Med., 292145A.)

505 .

War Diary.

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

WAKE ISLAND,
MISSION BAY.

Arrival U.S. escort carriers WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY escorted by COMETT and RAIDER. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 290334Z.)

Bi-weekly
U-Boat dis-
position
No. 38.

Japanese U-Boat by D/F at 1551Z/28th within 150 miles of 020° 30' N. 066° E. Scale of air escort in area A Y, B and E X other area no fresh information. No change in scales of air escort Indian Ocean U-Boat (German) indicated by D/F at 1942Z/28th to be within 300 miles of 031° S. 064° E. (C. in C.E.F. 290344.)

Escort
vessels at
Kilindini.

Request you will arrange to maintain at least two ships of Kilindini escort force at Aden while routine A.K.D. D.K.A. convoys are not running. 2. Intend that NEVASA and SALWEEN should proceed from Aden to Kilindini in company sailing about April 4th escorted by two ships of Kilindini escort force. Com. i/c Aden is requested to detail a third ship as additional escort from Aden to lat. 10° N. 3. Request you will arrange onward escort for NEVASA and SALWEEN from Kilindini to Durban and report names of ships detailed for the above duties. (C. in C.E.F. 290539Z to F.O.E.A.)

Naval works
in Ceylon
(including
Kantalai.)

Re labour shortage.
(C. in C.E.F. 290637Z.)

Coastal
Forces.

Future command and administration of coastal forces in Eastern Theatre. After discussion with F.O.C. R.I.N. it is intended to re-organize the R.N., R.I.N. and Burmese Coastal Forces under one Central Authority.

2. The following general outline of this new organization:-
 - A. Command. Captain Coastal Forces Eastern Theatre (short title C.C.F.E.T.) to command all R.N., R.I.N. and Burmese Coastal Forces except those allocated for local harbour defence. Coastal force base ships and coastal force shore bases also to be under command of C.C.F.E.T.
 - B. Local harbour defence flotillas to be operated by N.Os. i/c who will also carry out local administrations, all matters of policy being referred to C.C.F.E.T.
 - C. Administration. C.C.F.E.T. to be the administrative authority for all forces under his command and also local harbour defence flotillas. C.C.F.E.T. to refer R.N. and Burmese matters to C. in C. E.F. and R.I.N. matters to F.O.C.R.I.N.
3. East African local defence flotillas are to be administered as well as operated by F.O.E.A.
4. Date. This organization will come into effect on 1st May, 1944.
5. H.Q. After the withdrawal of the (?Indian) Coastal Forces the H.Qs. of C.C.F.E.T. will be at Vizagapatam for the present.
6. A further signal will be made appointing officers to the required duties.
(C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) 290731Z.)

/TEMPLAR...

506

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

TEMPLAR,
patrol
report.

TEMPLAR 5th Far East Patrol from 6th to 23rd
March in Malacca Straits was blank.
(C. in C.E.F. 290900.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Admiralty estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 291326A.)

GRENA
(torpedoed
21 March.)

Request you will state whether consideration was
given to ordering GRENA to join A.P. 65 at sea.
Your 231837 refers.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 291616A to C. in C.E.F.)

U/B reports.

By D/F at 1821Z/29 7880 k/cs German U-Boat was
within 200 miles of 003° N. 077° E.
(C. in C.E.F. 292014Z.)

D/F of transmission on 7880 k/cs at 1825Z/29th
indicates U-Boat within 100 miles of 02° 30' N. 080° 00' E. A.M.
291945A* not to C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) refers.
(D.D.I.C. 292346A.)

* N.T. in W.D.

Replacement
of lost
cargoes.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Mountbatten.
I wish to emphasise the importance of rapid re-
placement of valuable cargoes which may be lost as
a result of sinking due to submarine attack in the
Indian Ocean.

2. Although in proportion to the number of ships
at sea the sinkings that have occurred in recent months and which
show an upward trend are not of themselves considerable, the
narrow margin on which we are compelled to work at the end of a
long sea L. of C. is a serious consideration. The considerable
delay which must occur before cargoes and in particular special
items can be replaced may have a serious effect on current opera-
tions. This applies particularly to engineering stores which in
this theatre are urgently required for the development of internal
lines of communication.

3. I fully appreciate that whilst the Atlantic and Mediterranean
theatres are accorded priority it may be impossible to provide
the Eastern Fleet with sufficient escort vessels to afford a higher
degree of protection than at present, and that similarly require-
ments of the Air Command and for coastal aircraft cannot be met.
The only remedial action possible, therefore, seems to be very swift
replacement of lost cargoes.

(S.A.C.S.E.A. 292230Z.) *Reply: 131435Z April page 216.*

507

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

SPEAKER, Your 112125 para. 2. Provided Com. Tenth
RULER. Fleet (C. and R.) concurs (A.M. 290038* refers)
and that ships do not require boiler cleaning
in U.K. it is intended that SPEAKER and RULER
will return to U.S.A. in U.C.19 and U.C.22
respectively.
(D.O.D.(H), 290117A to B.A.D.)
* N.T. in W.D.

Your 281951*. Desire CHEBOGUE be used as escort.
(Comeastseafon, 291607 to Cominch.)
* Re sailing RULER.
Your 290038* affirmative.
(Cominch, 292241Z to Admty.)
* SPEAKER to be included in U.C.19 - N.T. in W.D.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 291440Z, Cominch 291610Z.)

T.G. 21.9. Task Group 21.9 in MARCHAND Cortdiv 20 will
escort convoy C.U.20 departing New York 6th
April for U.K. Return escorting U.C.20 when
directed.
(C. in C. Lant, 291554.)

U.S. A/C STRIKER reported in 251330 that her fighters
shot down unidentified aircraft in 36° 14' N.
by STRIKER 15° 12' W. There were no survivors.
25th March. 2. Examination wreckage reveals aircraft
undoubtedly American. Believed to have been
an Army C.54. Five packages of mail for
Casablanca recovered.
3. Request you will inform Naval and Army Authorities and
express Admiralty's deep regret. The incident will be
investigated when STRIKER returns to harbour, meanwhile warning
is being issued to all ships calling attention to similarity
between C.54 and F.W. 200.
(1st S.L., 291614A to B.A.D.)

T.F. 69. Task Force 69. TEXAS, AUGUSTA, COWIE, Desdiv
30, AMESBURY, Cortdiv 19, CATES, BURROWS,
MATTAPONI will escort convoy U.T.11 scheduled
depart New York and Boston 6-11 April to U.K.
and return escorting T.U.11 when directed by Admty. 4 ships
escort Boston section to R/V MARBLEHEAD detached from T.F.69.
(C. in C. Lant, 291649.)

Gibraltar (Cominch and C.N.O. re-encipherment F.O.G.M.A.
Straits 251140A). (Extract). Welcome proposal to
blimp raise day and night fence across Straits with
fence. M.A.D. blimps. We are investigating possibility
of base with two masts at Gibraltar.
(Cominch & C.N.O., 291938Z.)

508

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Gibraltar Straits blimp fence. (Contd.) I am prepared to furnish six blimps and operating facilities in Gibraltar area as proposed. (Cominch & C.N.O., 291939Z.)
Comnavnav's 241511. It is probable that submarines will continue attempt enter Mediterranean and as sound conditions become exceedingly bad by April more reliance to prevent passage must fall on M.A.D. Request consideration be given possibility employing M.A.D. equipped blimps in sufficient numbers maintain day and night fence across Straits. Considered feasible establish base with hangar and 2 masts at N.A.S. Lyautey, one mast at Agadir and 2 masts at Gibraltar. Latter will require British concurrence. This procedure will reduce flying hours P.B.Y. Squadron now based Lyautey and due to slow speed of blimps will give better coverage. (Cominch & C.N.O., 291942Z.)

U/B incidents. Para. C. Army Transport A/C sighted S/M 00.28 S. 07.30 W. 282128Z course 100 distance 10 miles. Para. D. P.B.M. Radar contact 22.50 N. 85.53 W. 0605Z/29. K.85 Radar contact 20.18 N. 82.45 W. 0944Z/29. (Cominch, 292059Z.)

Protection of U.S. tankers between India and Persian Gulf. Admiral King has forwarded to me a complaint by the U.S. Diplomatic Representative in Karachi, about the routeing and scale of protection at present afforded to U.S. tankers running between India and the Persian Gulf. 2. Admiral King remarks that the records do show that this area has recently been a lucrative one for-U-Boats and because of the large number of American tankers involved he requests me to represent the matter again to you. (B.A.D., 292141Z to Admty.)

Captain class frigates. This supersedes my 222119. Estimated date of arrival in U.K. (B.A.D., 292203Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) A/C from M.A.C. ship GADILA attacked surfaced U-Boat at 2030Z/28 in latitude 51° 36' N. 31° 50' W. (Thought to be a whale. D.D.I.C. 301128A.)

29.3.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(2) Am. JOHN A. POOR torpedoed and sunk at 1615Z/19 in 13° 58' N. 70° 30' E.

(3) Am. EDWARD PAINE sighted U-Boat at 0946Z/28 in latitude 16° 05' N. longitude 67° 19' E.

Para. B. (1) A/C reported possible U-Boat at 2253Z/27 in latitude 46° 30' N. longitude 11° 11' W.

(2) GERALDTON attacked contact at 1530Z/25 in latitude 18° 39' N. longitude 72° 36' E.

Ref. A.M. 271105A para. B (3) this report now thought to have been a whale.
(D.D.I.C., 291103A.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 291431A, 291508A.)

510

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Tungsten."

1. R.A.Escort Carriers in ROYALIST, with SEARCHER, EMPEROR, PURSUER, FENCER, FURIOUS, JAMAICA, SHEFFIELD, five destroyers and two tankers, left Scapa at 1917A today to take part in the air attack on TIRPITZ.

Operation
F.Y.

2. (a). At 0800 today convoy J.W.58 was about 250 miles N.N.E. of the Faroes.
(b). At 1025Z FITZROY returning from escorting the four M/Vs of the Iceland Group about 300 miles E.N.E. of Seidisfjord, was being shadowed by an enemy A/C and at 1120Z reported having obtained a German D/F transmission bearing.
(c). At 1147A C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with ANSON, BELFAST, VICTORIOUS, and five destroyers left Scapa to cover the convoy; and at 1200A the U.S. ELOY ALFARO of the Iceland Group escorted by HONNINGSVAAG arrived at Seidisfjord having decided to return there on account of ice encountered between 011° 20' W. and 010° W.

Enemy tanker
torpedoed by
TAKU on 24th
March.

3. The S/M TAKU reports today that at 0833 on the 24th March she fired six torpedoes at 3500 yards at a 10,000 ton tanker steering north at 9 knots off Kya (64° 27' N.) escorted by two destroyers, four trawlers and two A/C; and that three minutes later a large explosion was heard.

South Atlantic.

A/S situa-
tion.

4. (a). F.O.C.W.Africa reports:- "In addition to considerably increased troop convoy movements in near future there is strong indication of impending submarine activity in north part of this station. The already depleted surface and air forces available will be fully stretched to compete with this;" and he asks for an air support group to be provided to operate on the coast, or failing this, the U.S. Task Group now operating between the Equator and 30 degs. N. might be better employed nearer the west coast of Africa.

(b). After the recent American successes west of Cape Verde Islands it appears probable that the enemy submarines will pass between Cape Verde Is. and the coast. F.O.C.W.Africa intends, therefore, to institute an intermittent air and surface patrol north of this line, but this will of necessity be very weak.

(c)...

511

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

A/S Situation.
(Contd.)

4.(c). The Admiralty reply was to the effect that reinforcement could only be given to West Africa at the expense of the Western Approaches and it was not considered that this was justified by the seriousness of the present threat.

Mediterranean.

U.223
destroyed:
LAFOREY
sunk.

5. Captain D.14 in LAFOREY with TUMULT, BLENCATHRA and HAMBLEDON and U.S. destroyers KEARNY and ERICSSON attacked a U-Boat contact in 38.48 N. 14.10 E. (about 60 miles N.E. of Palermo) yesterday evening. About 0110 today the U-Boat surfaced in 38.54 N. 14.18 E. and attempted to escape; and simultaneously LAFOREY was torpedoed and sank in about 90 seconds. The remaining ships sank the U-Boat (subsequently found to be U.223) by gunfire.

Operation
"Shingle".

6.(a). 6361 tons were discharged at Anzio today. There was no interference from enemy action, but the rising swell curtailed unloading.
(b). U.S. destroyer EBERLE bombarded shore targets in the Anzio area today.

7. Further effective air attacks were made today on Leghorn harbour where shipping was damaged. Off the Dalmatian coast landing craft and small craft were hit.

8. A destroyer patrolled off Vis last night and coastal forces off Ploca Point, but sighted nothing.

Military
stores for
Turkey.

9. In view of the uncertain situation in regard to Turkey and in order not to waste shipping it has been decided to suspend the shipment to the Middle East of military stores for Turkey.

10. The Turkish SS. KROM was sunk by torpedo off Marmarice today in approx. 35.45 N. 28.27 E.

Black Sea.

11. The Russians report the sinking by Soviet warships in the Black Sea of a 5000 ton merchant vessel.

512

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

12. A submarine distress message was received by SS. TANDA at 1505Z today from SS. CITY OF ADELAIDE (Karachi for Fremantle) from a position 12.01 S. 80.27 E. (650 miles S.E. of the Chagos Archipelago). The signals ceased abruptly and it subsequently became known that the ship was sunk by a German U-Boat.

Australia & New Zealand.

Landing on
Pityilu Is.

13. Allied troops landed on Pityilu Island, in the Admiralty Group, this morning, after a preliminary bombardment by destroyers, M.T.Bs. and aircraft. Allied casualties were negligible. Occupation of the island was completed on 31st March.

14. A U-Boat made an unsuccessful attack on Allied M.T.Bs. near Emirau Island (70 miles N.W. of Kavieng) this afternoon.

513

30.3.1944.
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicyTORBAY,
SOKOL.Arrived TORBAY and SOKOL escorted by AMBROISE
PARE.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 302216 to F.O.G.M.A.).OperationsOperation
"F.Y."S.O. of convoy J.W.58 reported at 1845/29th his
P.C.S. as 064 degs. 12' N. 003° 48' W. 011°, 9½
knots.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 300135A to H.F.).

Provided draughts are suitable up to twenty ships
can be accepted of which ten should be sailed direct from
J.W.58. Particulars of draughts have not yet been fully rec-
eived. Archangel Kola passage is from three to six days under
present conditions and icebreakers require 48 hours for bunk-
ering etc. between trips. Time required in White Sea ports for
discharge and ballasting is 14 days for British and 20 days for
American ships. Your 291042C refers. Further signal will be
sent as soon as draughts position is clear.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 300921A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Am being shadowed by 1 enemy aircraft bearing 220° over
convoy "Embryo" in 67° 17' N. 02° 32' W, course 180, speed 10
knots.

(FITZROY, 301025Z to Whitehall W/T.).

Have obtained 2nd class German bearing by M/F D/F type of
transmission not identified bearing 85°, distance unknown,
frequency 520.

(FITZROY, 301120Z to Whitehall W/T.)

Scapa departures C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK, ANSON,
BELFAST, VICTORIOUS, ONSLAUGHT, JAVELIN, ALGONQUIN, PIORUN,
SIOUX.

(A.C.O.S., 301147A to H.F.)

Junker 88 R/C aircraft flew low over Group 10 on March 23rd
while ships were stuck in ice in the Gorlo.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 301300A to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

A.M. 251808. Request E.T.A. of U.S.S. MILWAUKEE at Kola
Inlet as U.S. Ambassador is contemplating meeting her on arrival.

(Ad. Fisher, 301419C to Admty.)

My 261404. HONNINGSVAAG escorting ELOY ALFARO arrived
Seidisfjord at 1200A/30th.2. HONNINGSVAAG reports ice encountered between 011° 20' W. and
010° 01' W. Cdre. in ELOY ALFARO decided to return Seidisfjord.

(A.C.I.C., 302240A and 310500A to H.F.)

Skaalefiord departure MILNE, METEOR, MARNE, MATCHLESS,
URSA, UNDAUNTED.

(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 302305A to R.A.D.H.F.)

Expect A/S air escort by 2 Catalinas from first to last
light 31st March. One Liberator will carry out A/S search
your route from 1600/31st.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 302312A to J.W.58.)

Your 301419. U.S.S. MILWAUKEE is with convoy J.W.58.
Estimated E.T.A. Kola a.m./4th April. Keep in touch with
S.B.N.O. North Russia.

(R.A.D.H.F., 302356A to Ad. Fisher.)

/Biscay ...

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Biscay A/S
operations.

Am over enemy submarine in 45° 37' N. 03° 16' W.
Enemy was on surface when first sighted, was on
course 270°, estimated speed 15 knots.
(A/C WVZ52, 300247A to Fort Southwick.)

Operation
"C.W."

By D/F at 0453Z, U/boat estimated within 60 miles
of 59° 00' N. 23° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 300904A to C. in C.W.A.).

Operation
"Knitting 4"

Operation complete. Result satisfactory.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 300946A to C. in C. Portsmouth)

TAKU
patrol.
Enemy tanker
torpedoed
on 24th March.

1. 24th March 0833, P.C.S. of 10,000 ton tanker
escorted by 2 Destroyers and 4 trawlers and 2A/C
64° 27' N. 10° 27½' E. 360°, 9 knots.
Fired 6 torpedoes from 3500 yards. After 3 mins.
1 large explosion. 3 other smaller explosions
were heard 2 before and 1 after. These were
thought to be torpedoes hitting shore. Result
not observed. Counter attack 3½' after firing by
1 charge from A/C.

(2) A/S sweep carried out 26th by various A/C and by Destroyer
at dawn on 27th.

(3) Asdic out of action during attack and at frequent intervals.
My 301257 refers.

(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 301255A to F.O.S.).

Operation
"C.X."

22nd E.G. BYRON, CARISBROOKE CASTLE operating
North of Minches. My 301249 refers.
25th E.G., CAMROSE, LUNENBURG operating North of
Cape Wrath.
(C. in C.W.A. 301312 to Ships).

Arrived BYRON for fuel.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 301345 to C. in C.W.A.).

Arrived STRULE and LOUIS.

(Cdre. D.W.A., 301630A to C. in C.W.A.).

Coastal
Force
patrols.

{ C. in C. Portsmouth, 301501A, 301850A).
{ C. in C. Plymouth, 301546A, 301556A).
{ V.A. Dover, 301628A).

S/M.
patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0759/31st and movements
in following 24 hours.

{A} TERRAPIN, VIKING as in my 281726.

{B} ULA as in my 291656.

{C} STURDY 62° 46' N. 00° 19' E. through 62° 01'

N. 00° 38' W. to Lerwick dived by day north of 62° N.

{D} SYRTIS approaching Lerwick from N.E.

(F.O.S. 301822 to Admty.).

Operation
"Tungsten"

Scapa departure.

R.A. Escort carriers in ROYALIST, SEARCHER,
EMPEROR, PURSUER, FENCER, FURIOUS, JAMAICA,

/SHEFFIELD...

515

War Diary30.3.1944.
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Tungsten" (Contd.) SHEFFIELD, BROWN RANGER, BLUE RANGER, VIRAGO, VERULAM, VIGILANT, SWIFT, WAKEFUL. (A.C.O.S. 301917A to H.F.).

E/boats off Yarmouth. E/boat activity last night 29th/30th March. Analysis of H.E. and Radar reports from C/F Units on Z line indicates that possibly two groups of E/boats attempted to penetrate the Z line near Z.16 and Z.20 at about 2330 and 0030 respectively. E/boats had advantage of setting moon and probably sighted units concerned and on realising they had been detected decided to cancel their operation. C/F Units made no visual contact with enemy. (2) This is one of the few recorded instances of C/Fs. being able to prevent the Z line being penetrated. (3) About 0155 A.S.V. Wellington detected 4 E/boats which fired on aircraft and then withdrew eastward. This engagement took place in approx. 52° 45' N. 3° 00' E. and is confirmed by "Garth" and five C/F units. (C. in C. Nore, 301955A to Admt.).

E/boats off Harwich. Have detected surface craft by R.D.F. 077°. Sunk Light Vessel 29 miles. 6 E/boats, course 270°. (C. in C. Nore, 302301A to Force 117, 395 M/S Aux. Group). My 2301. Position is 063°. Sunk Light Vessel 24 miles. E/boats moving fast. (C. in C. Nore, 302327 to 394 and 395 M/S. Aux. Groups). My 2327. Position 070°. Sunk Light Vessel at 2340. E/boats course is 225 degs. moving 10 knots. (C. in C. Nore, 302359A to 394 and 395 M/S. Aux. Groups).

Allied Air Activity

Enemy ship torpedoed by aircraft. My 301314 and 302008. Aircraft obtained 2 torpedo hits amidships ship on fire off Haugesund. Proceed to search for crew of A/C. crashed in 059° 19' N. 004° 10' E. (F.O.S., 302301A to TERRAPIN).

Enemy Air Activity

Iceland. 2 unidentified aircraft flying very high reported over Seidisfiord at 0825 to-day. Visibility poor and snowing. Aircraft apparently split. One turned north and was reported over Bakka-fjordur (066° 06' N. 015° 06' W.) at 0840, second aircraft (turned) south and was reported over Eskifjordur (065° 04' N. 014° 00' W.) at 0842. This was believed twin engine Ju.88 of height 1500 feet, course south east. (2) Unidentified aircraft also plotted at 0226 30 miles south east of Reykjanes course south west. (A.C.I.C., 300956A to Admt.).

30.3.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen

Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 290830Z. 2 engine aircraft crossing Island West of Beehrensberg 0815 course south east. Also 290830Z aircraft heard 0813 south of Island south-easterly direction.
(A.C.I.C., 301702A to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence

The
Sound.

Enemy convoy. Sound.

Following passed southbound today.

(A) At 1000 one 5,000 ton steamer in company with 4,000 ton SPERRBRECHER and vessel similar E/boat depot-ship TANGA.

(B) At 1100 6 E/boats class S.23.

(2) Northbound. At 1050 2 4,000 ton transport and one 3,000 ton vessel possibly minelayer. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 301249 to Admty.).

Comment by O.I.C.

Para.1. E/boat depot ship and eight E/boats were reported at Sen (Oslo Fjord) on 12th March (B.2).

Para.2. Possibly minelayer but probably M Class minesweeper escorting troop transports.

Off
Haugesund.

Following aircraft report gives P.C.S. of 1 large vessel at 1437A/30th 060° 04' N. 005° 19' E., 180° 12. At 1808A 059° 37' N. 005° 16' E. 220° 12.
(F.O.S. 302008A to TERRAPIN).

517

30.3.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

KITE. Arrived KITE and DUMBARTON CASTLE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 300056A to Adnty.)
KITE has been in collision with SS. ANNAGHMORE of
583 tons, at Tail o' Bank, Greenock, a.m. today,
both ships remaining afloat.
2. Preliminary examination of KITE reveals following damage.
Details.
3. KITE required docking and E.R.O.(C) Greenock estimates that
repairs will take 4 to 5 weeks to effect in dock.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 301322A to C. in C. W.A.)
During operations approximately ten days ago and in
moderate weather a crack was observed in the forecastle deck
plating of KITE.
2. The crack is located between 56 and 57 station starboard
commencing about one foot from ships side and extending inboard
athwart ships for two to three feet.
3. Cracks in this position have not previously been experienced
in the 7th E.G. and it is thought that this case may be due to
an original flaw in the deck plating.
4. Arrangements will be made to effect repairs concurrently
with collision damage repairs referred to in my 301322.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 301632A to C. in C. W.A.)

MARGUERITE. Sailed M.F.V. MARGUERITE in tow of M.F.V.24 for
Albert Harbour, Greenock.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 300630A to F.O.I.C.Greenock.)

PERSIAN. Intend to sail PERSIAN on completion of cali-
bration from Rothesay at 1700A/30th to Methil.
E.T.A. 1700A April 1st. C. in C. Rosyth is
requested to sail PERSIAN to Harwich. Adnty.'s
231855A refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 301248A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
PERSIAN delayed by M/F defects. Add 19 hours to my 301248A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 301608A to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Escort Groups Following groups are to be disbanded.
B.1, B.40, A. B.1 forthwith. B. Fortieth on next return to
B.2, B.5. U.K.
2. Groups are to be reformed as follows:- (A)
B.2 forthwith - HESPERUS, MOURNE, GARDINER, COTTON,
RUSHEN CASTLE, FLINT CASTLE, OXFORD CASTLE,
SHREWSBURY CASTLE. (B) B.5 on next return of fortieth group to
U.K. - EXE, MOYOLA, ANTIGUA, ASCENSION, HADLEIGH CASTLE, BERKELEY
CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, DUMBARTON CASTLE.
3. B.2 is to be based at Liverpool. B.5 at Greenock.
(C. in C. W.A., 301139A to Cdre. (D) W.A.)

K.M.F.30. K.M.F.30 sailed. Convoy composed, escorted, and
routed as in A.M. 211914, 231742, 241851, 251030,
251731, 271847 March except that C. in C. Plymouth
is sailing QUEEN OF BERMUDA escorted by PRINCE
ROBERT and WEAR to join convoy at sea.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 301004A to Adnty.)

518

War Diary.

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LE TRIOM-
PHANT. Cancel arrangements for LE TRIOMPHANT Fuel Horta. Further investigation condition her engines and boilers makes any high speed undesirable. Satisfactory arrangements now made to fuel at sea. (C.T.F.62, 302005Z)

T.G.21.12. C.T.G.21.12 departs Casablanca 301400A (route etc) to latitude Cape Verde Is. (C.M.S.F. 300904)

ARKALE and
V. MANZANARES. Your 291806. No information here. (F.O.I.C. Gib., 301226A to B.N.A. Madrid.)

1st A/S
striking
force. During the night 30th/31st. First A/S Striking force will sweep coastwise from 036 degs. 00' N. 006 degs. 30' W. to Cape St. Vincent. (ANTELOPE, 301630A)

BULOLO. Intend DOUGLAS to act as additional escort to BULOLO. C. in C. Med's 291116 and my 211110 refer. (2) WITHERINGTON and VISCOUNT will join M.K.S.44 as additional escort to U.K. (F.O.G.M.A. 301727A)

Information
for S.B.N.O.
Azores. As it seems that you are not now receiving full information as to movements of independent ships and convoys, it is proposed to re-institute the daily Azores 0800 summary which will give all information required. Your 291626 to C. in C. W.A. also refers. (2) Request your concurrence or remarks. (D.T.D. 301758A to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

U.G.S.36. Departures UZ7ALDEN, JOHAN MAURITS, DEPTFORD, CAMPION, FRISO, BLACK SWAN, AMETHYST, H.M.S/M SIRDAR, COLOMBO Tug MINDFUL, M.M.S.300 to U.G.S.36. Arrived and sailed to join U.G.S. 36 U.S.S. SPEED. (F.O.G.M.A. 301939A) / As received.

SS. ROMEU. My 172011. Understand Las Palmas has reported to you SS. ROMEU bound for Cadiz and Barcelona as selection C. (2) Very desirable to intercept before calling at Cadiz. (D.E.W.D. 302132A to F.O.G.M.A.)

ANTONIA /...

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

ANTONIA
DIAZ.

Your 241750*. Seize Auxiliary vessel ANTONIA DIAZ.
(D.E.W.D., 302310A to C.C.S.O. Gib.)
* Spanish vessel intercepted.

U/B
sighted.

(A) March 31st. (B) Port Lyautey. (C) U.S.A. A/C. (D) Periscope sighted at 1648Z in 33.58 N. 08.59 W. on course 315° periscope disappeared before attack could be made.
(Gibraltar (R.A.F.), 302331Z.)

South Atlantic.

GAZELLE.
A/S
Situation.

C. in C. Med's 291216 and my 291858 not to C. in C. Med. in addition to considerably increased troop convoy movements in near future there is strong indication of impending submarine activity in North part of this station. The already depleted surface and air forces available will be fully stretched to compete with this, and I cannot further reinforce the north at expense of remaining 2,000 miles of coast which needs protection. Removal of GAZELLE would disrupt newly formed escort group referred to in my 291858. Request he may be retained.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 301127Z to Admty.)

- (1) It appears probable that as at this time last year and due to lighter nights in North Atlantic enemy S/MS. may shortly congregate in West Coast and mid-Atlantic areas.
- (2) There are indications that this is already commencing which may also be connected with impending movements of 82 Division.
- (3) Submit that consideration be given to provision of air support group to operate on this coast.
- (4) Failing this American T.G. now operating between equator and 30° N. might be better employed nearer West Coast.
- (5) After recent American successes West of Cape Verde Is. it appears probable enemy submarines will pass between Cape Verde Is. and Coast.
- (6) Intend to institute an intermittent air and surface patrol north of this line but this will of necessity be very weak.
- (7) GAZELLE is urgently required for this purpose. My 301127 refers.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 301307Z to Admty.)

June 30.3.1950

ARMSTRONG.—In undying memory of CAPTAIN
HAROLD THOMAS "BEAKY" ARMSTRONG, D.S.O. with
Bar, D.S.C. with Bar, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Laforey,
March 30, 1944.

520

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Ships
intended
for Med.
Service.

M.W.T. advise they will do all that is possible to allocate ships with minimum declared speed of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots but in view of increased operational demands this may not always be possible. Your 232246 refers.
(D.T.D. 300004A to C. in C. Med.)

GAZELLE.

Repetition of F.O.C.W.Af.'s 291858.
2. Request your remarks.
(D.O.D.(F) 300114A to C. in C. Med.)
Your 300114* My 291216 refers.
(C. in C. Med., 301040A to Admty.)
* Sailing of GAZELLE for Med.

U.223
destroyed,
LAFOREY
sunk.

My (?300146) not to all addressees. Hunt over LAFOREY and S/M sunk about 01(?30) TUMULT, BLANCATHRA and HAMBLEDON assisted by 2 aircraft at dawn searching for survivors. BROCKLESBY E.T.A. Palermo 0600/30 with 90 (corrupt group). (?LEDBURY) at Palermo (?WILTON) Augusta for depth-charges.
(F.O.W.I.T. 300346A.)

F.O.W.I.Ts. 300346. Details will be signalled as soon as available.

(C. in C. Med., 300842A.) Re sinking of LAFOREY and U/B attacking.

LAFOREY in company with TUMULT, BLANCATHRA and HAMBLEDON all practically stopped and maintaining contact in 38.54 N. 14.18 E. at 0110.

2. S/M previously proceeding Eastwards appeared to alter to westward shortly afterward S/M surfaced and attempted to escape on surface, simultaneously LAFOREY torpedoed and sank in approx. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes.

3 S/Ms U.223 destroyed by gunfire of remaining ships.

4. Regret Capt. Armstrong not among survivors. Details of which will be signalled later.

(F.O.W.It. 301526A.)

U/Boat sunk a.m. 30th March off Ustica was U/223 commanded by Oberleutnant Gustav Keller who did not survive. Documents show she left Toulon 16th March having been in dock 16th Feb. to 26th Feb. 26 survivors including 2 officers landed at Naples three taken to Palermo. It is not intended to interrogate here and selection will be flown Algiers by first air opportunity.

(F.O.W.It., 301902.)

Sinking
of convoy
off Vada
Rocks.

Request no publicity be given to para. 3 of my 292143.
(C. in C. Med. 301051A to Admty.)

(P.59)
UNTIRING.

Passage report blank.
(Capt. S.10, 301201.)

/Operation...

521

30.3.1944.

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

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No.69, 7828 tons discharged 29th March of which L.S.T. ferry provided 1715 tons. L.C.Ts. 112, L.C.T.(B)s. 192.
(2) Two air raids, first at 1520 by 26 E/A, second at 2120. No damage. Expected mine-laying during the latter.
(3) U.S. destroyer LIVERMORE fired 103 rounds at shore targets. (F.O.W.It., 301242A as amended 301908A.)

Special craft. Reply to F.O.L.E.M. 132019 February.
1. Special craft being sent.
2. Suggest fullest use be made of assault unit and base at Taranto.
(D.D.O.D.(I), 301346A.)

ULTOR. (P.53) ULTOR sailed from Malta 1601/30th passed through Anti-kithera Channel diving daylight 2nd April to patrol in West Aegean north of 036° 05' and west 025° 01'.
(Capt. (S) 1, 301602A to 1st S/M.F., NEREUS, MATROZOS, F.O.L.E.M.)

ORION. A.M. 281518 March and A.M. 150019 February.
ORION should be sailed to arrive U.K. by 1st May.
(V.C.N.S., 301612A to C. in C. Med.)

S/M sighted 20th March. My 271250C. Reliable report DINCH incident occurred 1800 G.M.T./20th March 3 miles off Karatas light.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 301725C.)

DUMONT DURVILLE, PRES. TISSIER. A.M. 271806. Concur that DUMONT DURVILLE would be more usefully employed in Indian Ocean. She is too slow for fast convoys in this area.
2. PRESIDENT THEODORE TISSIER is being usefully employed at Casablanca but could be spared as a suitable vessel to relieve her is available.
(C. in C. Med., 301812.)

Enemy ship. 35 ton vessel expected to leave Port Nikolo for Scarpanto shortly.
(Capt. (S) 1, 301951A to NEREUS.)

SUZANNE. SUZANNE moved to Mardon. Probably about to sail for Crete.
(Capt. (S) 1, 301958 to SPORTSMAN, ULTIMATUM.)

Situation Report No. 325. (1) Operation "Shingle" unloading figure on 29th March rose to 7828 tons. Considerable air activity during the day but no naval damage caused.

522

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report
No. 325.
(Contd.)

(2) U-Boat (German) (? hunt) by LAFOREY, TUMULT, BLENCATHRA, HAMBLEDON, U.S.S. KEARNY and ERICSSON north of Palermo resulted in U.223 being forced to surface and being sunk by gunfire at approx. 0100/30th March in 038° 54' N. 014° 18' E. LAFOREY torpedoed as S/M surfaced and sank in 1½ mins. 3 Officers, 47 ratings survivors, C.O. missing, 26 prisoners of war taken.

(3) Approx. 12 enemy aircraft attempting to attack either M.K.S. 44 or K.M.S.45 off Dellys intercepted between 2100 and 2300/29th by fighters who claim 2 destroyed and one probable. Convoys unharmed.

(C. in C. Med., 302046A.)

523

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- U/B report. SSSS lat. 07 R 32 N. long. 88 R 00 E. Sighted submarine.
(MYNJ) SAMOKLA, 300150Z.)
- B.Y.M.S. 2148, 2217, 2223. B.Y.M.S. 2148, 2217 and 2223 are required at Ceylon before the break of the S.W. monsoon about the third week in April.
(2) Request you will expedite their onward passage as much as possible.
(3) Your 291145B refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 300421Z to F.O.L.E.M.)
- U-Boat disposition. My 290344Z. Area surrounding U-Boat (German) by D/F at 1821Z/29th within 200 miles of 003° N. 078° E. Wreckage, oil patch and raft sighted by aircraft at 0415Z/29th in 005° 25' N. 077° 32' E. possibly from trawler MAALOY overdue at Colombo. Scale of air escort X.
Outer areas no fresh information. Scales of air escort as follows Area A, B, C and D to be W; area E and F to be X.
(C. in C. E.F., 300428Z.)
- C. in C.E.F. (S.E.A.C.) (A) At 1200/12th April the address C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.) is to lapse.
(2) At this time the addresses R.N.L.O. Delhi (Royal Naval Liaison Officer, Delhi) and S.O. E.F. Kandy (Senior Officer Eastern Fleet Kandy) will be assumed.
(3) C. in C. E.F. will normally pass matters of interest to these Authorities and they need only be addressed when the matter specifically affects them.
(C. in C. E.F., 300453Z.)
- SS. AXIOS. Total loss off Sandheads as a result of grounding.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 301044Z.)
- NEWCASTLE. It is desired that NEWCASTLE should arrive Simonstown on 19th April to refit. Your 151012 para. 3 and Admty. 211504 refer.
2. Request confirmation she can be accepted.
(C. in C. E.F., 301202Z, to C. in C. S.A.)
- PROTECTOR. Request information concerning future employment of PROTECTOR. It is anticipated that ship could not be completed ready for trials until early 1945.
(C. in C. E.F., 301204Z to Admty.)
- H.M.T. MAALOY lost. Regret to report MAALOY must be presumed sunk with all hands by U-Boat on 27th March in 05° 25' N. 77° 32' E., while on passage ~~to~~ Addu Atoll to Colombo. Wreckage and empty life raft only

/located ...

524

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

H.M.T.
MAALOY
lost.
(Contd.)

located. Nominal crew list and any further
information will be signalled.
(C. in C. E.F., 301218Z.)

SS. CITY OF
ADELAIDE,
S report.

SSSS 12.01 S. 80.27 E. Signals ceased abruptly.
(SS. CITY OF ADELAIDE, 301505Z.)
Note: Message received from SS. TANDA via
Colombo W/T.

525

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B report. D/F of W.W. transmission at 2301Z on 3920 k/cs indicates U-Boat within 120 miles of 45.00 N. 40.00 W.
(N.S.H.Q. 300057Z.)

SAMARIA. Diversion order.
(Com. 10th Fleet 301107Z to SAMARIA.)

(P.223)
SEANYMPH,
L.23. Diversion order to avoid ice.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 301445Z to SEANYMPH.)
Bombing restrictions.
(Cominch 301628Z, 302119Z.)
Amend my 272254*. New route.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 301950Z.)
*(?272245Z March intended).
Cancelled 020401Z.

Military stores In view uncertain situation in regard Turkey and in for Turkey. order not waste shipping it has been decided to suspend shipment to Middle East of military stores for Turkey. Arrange as far as practicable cancel shipment to M.E. for Turkey of all U.S. Lease Lend Army stores and all Army stores from Canada. This veto applies only to complete equipments. Separate cable with regard to maintenance spares follows. Admty. and Air Min. sending similar instructions.
(War Office 301445A to B.A.S. Washington.)

U.S.Naval Establishment 17th Naval District and Alaskan Sea Districts. Frontier with identical boundaries, together with abolition of N.W.S.F., effective April 15th.
(Hydro 301500.)

PREMIER. A.M. 192248* is being repeated to you.
2. Can you provide A/S escort for PREMIER from vicinity of Bermuda about 9th April to Norfolk.
(D.O.D.H. 301538A to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
* PREMIER proceeding independently from the Azores to Norfolk.

INMAN and RIOU available p.m. 10th April your 301538 refers.
Your 171858 to B.A.D. only also refers.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 302145Z to Admty.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 301607Z, Cominch 301625Z.)

U/B attacked. H.M.C.S. MATAPEDIA carried out counter attack on probable U-Boat in 041° 55' N. 063° 47' W. at 1510Z/30. MATAPEDIA remaining in vicinity of chase searching with NEW GLASGOW assisting. Nil ice.
Weather report.
(NORANDA 301708Z.)

/Stragglers...

526

War Diary.

30.3.1944.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Stragglers
report No.
45.

One arrived St. Johns N.F. from S.C.155.
LARRANAGA (U.S.) March 21st. Ordered in by escort
after engine breakdown.
One arrived St. Johns N.F. from H.X. 283. BEN F.
DIXON (U.S.) March 24th. Lost convoy.
One arrived Halifax from S.C.156. HEYSER March
30th. Engine defects.
(N.S.H.Q. 302026Z.)

U/B incidents. B. H.M.C.S. MATAPEDIA attacked S/M 41.55 N. 63.47
W. 301510Z.
C. P.B.M. Radar contact 14.42 N. 76.54 W. 300413Z.
Columbian CALDAS attacked S/M 10.03 N. 77.28 W.
300150Z.
U.S.S. NUCLEUS attacked sound contact 14.46 N. 74.07 W. 301045Z
and 301435Z.
D. P.B.M. Radar contact 35.05 N. 64.12 W. 291850Z.
(Cominch 30240Z.)

OCTAVIA. While carrying out sweep trials winch OCTAVIA
developed major defect which will take about one
week to repair.
2. Do you wish ship proceed U.K. my 291822 refers
or repairs completed here meantime pending decision repairs are
being progressed.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 302145Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Sub. attack & sighting
summary. Para. A. 1. A/C sighted U-Boat prior to 0750Z/29
in lat. 42° 34' N. long. 11° 00' E.
2. SS. SAMOKLA sighted U-Boat at 0150Z/30 in lat.
07° 32' N. long. 88° 00' E.
3. British and U.S. destroyers attacked U-Boat
contact at 1800Z/29 in lat. 38° 48' N. long. 14° 10'
E.
Ref. A.M. 291103A para. A. 1 reported U-Boat now thought to have
been a whale.
(D.D.I.C. 301128A.)

U/B dis-
positions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 301352A, 301358A.)

527

31.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
F.Y.

1(a) At 2301A to-day Convoy J.W.58 was reported by C.S.10 to be about 180 miles E. by N. of Jan Mayen Island steering N.N.E. at 8 knots. C.S. 10 adds that he estimates six U-Boats and one Enemy A/C to be in company with the Convoy; that one U-Boat was sunk by STARLING at 292320; and that one J.88 and one F.W.200 A/C have been shot down by Carrier Fighters.
(b) The destroyer ONSLAUGHT with four destroyers left Skaalefiord (Faroes) at 1246A.

Enemy
convoy
attacked.
M.T.B.241
sunk.

2. A heavily-escorted enemy convoy proceeding from the Hook to the Texel was attacked at 2337 last night off Ymuiden and again at 0410 to-day while entering the Texel by five M.T.Bs. of the 21st M.T.B. Flotilla without observed result. During the first attack M.T.B.241 was hit in the engine room by a 4-inch shell and at 0800 sank in tow about 53 miles E. by S. of Lowestoft.

Biscay A/S
operations.

3. At 0325 today a U-Boat on the surface about 80 miles west of the Gironde was attacked by an A/C and apparently disabled; another U-Boat reported at 1000 about 140 miles W. by S. of the Scillies was hunted by A/C during the day; and at 2310 ten trawler type vessels steering north about 160 miles west of La Rochelle were attacked by A/C without observed result.

4. Bomber Command last night laid 134 mines off the Dutch coast, Heligoland and the north of France.

Mediterranean.U.G.S.36:
U/B
attacked.

5. BLACK SWAN one of the escort of U.G.S.36 attacked a contact believed to be a submarine in position estimated to be 36.32 N. 00.34 E. (70 miles north-east of Oran) (C. in C. Med. 041915B gives the position as 36.36 N. 00.51 E.) at 2230A today. After the first attack an explosion was heard 90 seconds after the detonation of the last depth charge.

/Operation ...

528

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

Operation
"Shingle".

6(a) Mines were dropped near Anzio anchorage last night.
(b) Owing to alteration to the L.S.T. programme and to bad weather only 1919 tons were discharged at Anzio today. There was intermittent shelling on a reduced scale. U.S. destroyer EBERLE again carried out bombardment.

Aegean.

7. UNSWERVING reports sinking a 70 ton armed caique loaded with petrol in 35.57 N. 24.02 E. (north of Crete) on 20th March, and one torpedo hit on a convoy of 1 merchant ship, 2 destroyers and 2 R-Boats in 35.40 N. 24.20 E. (off Suda Bay) on 26th March.

8. 8 Bostons bombed harbours and shipping on the east coast of Italy last night.

9. Two Wellingtons successfully mined Rhodes harbour last night; 7 Wellingtons provided diversionary bombing.

East Indies.

Operation
"Diplomat".

10. The Eastern Fleet arrived at Trincomalee today with U.S. Aircraft Carrier SARATOGA, from their search for enemy raiders on the Fremantle - Colombo route. (See 21st March.)

Australia and New Zealand.

11. 77 heavy bombers with fighter escort attacked the barge centre and seaplane base on Muschu and Kairiru Islands (off Wewak, New Guinea) this morning.

12. Shortly after daybreak 8 R.A.A.F. Beau-fighters attacked with good effect small shipping off Kupang.

529

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

- STRATAGEM. STRATAGEM sailed (my 301730) 0615/31st to comply with Capt. S.5 281100.
(C. in C.Plymouth 310912A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- ROCKWOOD. Your 282327. Request ROCKWOOD be sailed to Hartlepool where she will reduce to reserve.
(F.O.C.R.F. 311155 to Admty.)
- Forthcoming operations. Leave. In view of forthcoming operations it is necessary that leave for all those taking part must be suspended as from 6th April, 1944, subject to the exceptions set out in paras. 2 and 4. In order that the enemy may gain as little information as possible from these leave restrictions and to reduce pressure on the railways the Government has decided that a similar ban must be imposed on leave on all Service personnel in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
2. On and after 6th April, 1944, leave will be suspended until further notice with the following exceptions. Details.
(2nd S.L. 311510A to A.I.G. 21.)
- L'INCOMPRISE, LA FLORE, LA MELPOMENE. French ships L'INCOMPRISE, LA FLORE and LA MELPOMENE are to be laid up at Hartlepool where French will provide maintenance personnel.
(D.O.D.H. 311934A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- EREBUS. Your 292028. EREBUS is placed under your orders.
(D.O.D.H. 311936A to C. in C.H.F.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

- Faroes. Radar cover. 1. The question of Radar cover for Faroes is under examination with a view to further economies.
2. Light warning set at Nolsoy would probably be removed in the event of Admiralty Oiler and L.A.A. guns being withdrawn from Skaalefjord.
3. Request brief outline of early warning arrangements now in existence for A.A. guns and your views on requirements under circumstances detailed in two.
(War Office 311930A to O.C.Troops, Faroes.)

Operations.

- Operation F.Y. Your 301419C. E.T.A. of U.S.S. MILWAUKEE is 4th April.
(D.O.D.H. 310009A to Ad. Fisher.)
Russian D/F report He. 111 position 068 degs. 17' N. 001 degs. 45' W. at 0437 transmitting on 367 k/cs.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 310717A to Admty.)

/Convoy...

530

31.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.Y. (Contd.) Convoy alter course from position D. to new position DD. 130 miles 024 degs. from D. thence to position E. Admiralty is requested to issue B.A.M.S. message. (V.A.D.H.F. 310738A to C.S.10.) B.A.M.S. requested by your 310738 has been made. (D.T.D. 310942A to V.A.D.H.F.)

Have given group 11 positions Mu. and H. for joining R.A.58 if arrival is too late to enter Kola Inlet. Will inform you of their progress as far as Northern ice edge. Russian Staff here will similarly inform Admiral Golovko. It may be necessary for first Archangel portion J.W.58 to remain in Kola until icebreakers have finished with Group 11 or to proceed to Iokanka. Presume you will direct final movements of Group 11 and possible holding in Kola or sending to Iokanka of ships for Archangel according to circumstances. Group 11 should cross Dvina Bar p.m. tide April 1st. (S.B.N.O.Archangel 311010A to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Faroes departure ONSLAUGHT with 4 destroyers. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 311246A to C. in C.H.F.)

My 302312. Liberator cancelled. (C. in C.Rosyth 311521A to J.W.58.)

P.C. and S. J.W.58 at 1100A/31st as reported by S.O. of convoy 069 degs. 44' N. 000 degs. 00' E. (C. in C.Rosyth 312031A to H.F.)

My 312031. Add no course and speed given. (C. in C.Rosyth 312115A to Admt.)

Convoy P.C. and S. 071 degs. 19' N. 001 degs. 44' E. 024 degs. 8. Estimate 6 U-Boats and 1 A/C in company. One U-Boat sunk by STARLING at 2320/29. One Ju.88 and 3 F.W.200 A/C shot down by carrier fighter. Weather. (C.S.10 312301A to H.F.)

E-Boats off Harwich. My 2359. Position (within $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of 0100) was 075 degs. Sunk Light Vessel 31 miles, course 110 degs. speed 25 knots. (C. in C.Nore 310123A to 394 and 395 Aux. M/S Groups.)

Biscay A/S Operations. 2 U-Boats attacked by A/C. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers 46 degs. 12' N. 02 degs. 26' W. (estimated), 030 degs. 20 knots. Type unknown, German. (A/C WVZ 52 310201 to 19 Group.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charges. U-Boat on surface, apparently disabled, position 45.37 N. 03.15 W. (A/C WVZ 52 310325A to 19 Group.)

Nr. 4. U-Boat has dived, position 045 degs. 41' N. 003 degs. 06' W. Dropped bomb. Returning to base. (A/C WVZ 52 310430 to 19 Group.)

Am over submerged enemy submarine contact. Dropped bomb position 49 degs. 21' N. 09 degs. 43' W. (A/C WKA 58 311000A to 19 Group.)

Hunt U-Boat reported position 49 degs. 21' N. 09 degs. 43' W. at 1000. (19 Group 311025 A to A/C KRN 45.)

/You...

531

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. 2 U-Boats attacked by A/C.(Contd.) You were probably reported by enemy aircraft at 0600/31st. (C. in C.Plymouth 311039A to PRINCE ROBERT.) Am over enemy submarine in 49 degs. 21' N. 09 degs. 43' W. Periscope only sighted. When first sighted was on northerly course. Present visibility towards the surface is 8 miles. (A/C WKA 58 T.O.R. 311051 to 19 Group.)

Aircraft reports submerged U-Boat in 49 degs. 21' N. 09 degs. 43' W. at 1000. Aircraft are hunting. (C. in C.Plymouth 311106A to PRINCE ROBERT.) Air attack, position 49 degs. 35' N. 09 degs. 57' W. (A/C KRN 44 T.O.R. 311450A to 19 Group.) Time 1435 position 49 degs. 38' N. 10 degs. 16' W. 1500 ft. sighted 5 unknown aircraft tacking*unknown target. Circled area. No traces of survivors. Continuing on course (corrupt group) over area. (A/C LVJ 25 311530 to 19 Group.)*Presume attacking intended. Am being attacked by one Ju.88 position (undecypherable). (A/C NAB 39 311633A to 19 Group.) My 311900Z position 47.55 N. 22.57 W. (C.T.F.68 311950A to Admty.) My P.C. and S. at 2000A/31 049 degs. 48' N. 014 degs. 52' W. 268 degs. 16½ knots. Expect to R/V at 0700A/1st. Your 310926 refers. WEAR and one merchant ship in company. Weather. (PRINCE ROBERT 312018A to E.G.4.) 10 small vessels bearing 360 degs. position 46 degs. 18' N. 05 degs. 05' W. (A/C RAG 26 312255A to 19 Group.) Type trawler position 46 degs. 17' N. 05 degs. 05' W. course 360 degs. speed 08 knots. Have attacked with bombs. (A/C RAG 26 312310 to 19 Group.)

S.C. Operations. My 251617A. HITRA sailed at 0500A today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 310515 to Admty.) My 271527A. Returned at 1715A today (HESSA). 2. Operation successful. (A.C.O.S. 311823A to Admty.)

Operations C.X. & C.W. Ships are to withdraw from operations C.W. and C.X. as follows. A. 6th E.G. to arrive Londonderry a.m. 1st April. B. CAMROSE and LUNENBERG to arrive Londonderry a.m. 1st April. CARISBROOKE CASTLE to arrive Greenock p.m. 1st April. (C. in C.W.A. 311303A to E.G.6, E.G.25.)

On 1st April bring into force organisation given in my 281916. 2. My 281916 para. 3 add as ordered by C. in C.W.A. 3. Orders for operation C.X. are contained in my memo WA 0770/106 of 30th March. (C. in C.W.A. 311457 A to Cdre. D.W.A.)

/21st...

532

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operations 21st, 22nd and 25th E.Gs. are disbanded as from
C.X. & C.W. 0001A/2nd April.
(Contd.) (C. in C.W.A. 311906A to Admty.)
E.T.A. Merville 0800A/1. LUNENBERG in company.
(CAMROSE 311936A to C. in C.W.A.)

Coastal (C. in C.Portsmouth 311333A.)
Force (C. in C.Plymouth 311405, 311901A.)
Patrols.

Attack on My 301850A. M.T.Bs. 256 (S.O.) 254, 257 and 248
enemy convoy. carried out patrol as ordered. At 0313A a convoy
was sighted in position 013 degs. Le Treport
Light 14.5 miles. This was seen to consist of
two small vessels type unknown, one corvette-
type escort, two M class minesweepers, and about 6 R-Boats, course
210 degs. The two units closed to about 800 yards from either
bow before being challenged and fired torpedoes individually and
simultaneously at M class and the two small vessels. Heavy fire
was opened by the convoy in the light of many starshell and the
two units disengaged under cover of smoke. No results were ob-
served and it is not considered that any hits were obtained.
One R-Boat was seen to be on fire as a result of hits obtained
by the remainder of the enemy convoy. M.T.Bs. suffered neither
damage nor casualties.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 311412A to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Submarine positions at 0802/1st April and move-
ments for following 24 hours.
A. SYRTIS approaching Lerwick from northeastward.
B. TERRAPIN, VIKING as in my 281726.
C. STURDY off Muckle Flugga, due Lerwick about 1500.
D. ULA vicinity 69 degs. 30' N. 16 degs. 50' E.
(F.O.S. 311801A to Admty.)

TERRAPIN is to leave patrol forthwith for Lerwick through
A. 059 degs. 05' N. 003 degs. 59' E. B. 060 degs. 52' N. 002
degs. 55' E. C. 061 degs. 02' N. 000 degs. 22' E. D. 090 degs.
Muckle Flugga 20, diving by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian
coast.
2. You are to keep position crashed A/C in F.O.S. 302301, as
German surface force may be in vicinity, and report situation
and number of torpedo expenditure when north of 060 degs.
(Capt. S.9 311911A to TERRAPIN.)

E-Boats off E-Boat activity night 30th/31st.
Yarmouth. 1. At 2224 A.S.V. Wellington detected 7 E-Boats
in 52 degs. 58' N. 3 degs. 25' E. steering 270
degs. at high speed. These were followed and re-
ported. At about 2307 E-Boats stopped in approx.
53 degs. 00' N. 2 degs. 50' E. At 2320 they fired on aircraft.
At 2340 E-Boats were reported to be steering 225 degs. at slow
speed. E-Boats were next reported at 0030 in 52 degs. 58' N.
2 degs. 53' E. steering E. at high speed. It appears therefore
that they must have turned for home about 0010 possibly on
sighting C/Fs on Z line who had moon behind them. E-Boats
continued E. aircraft losing touch about 0100.

/2...

533

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats
off
Yarmouth
(Contd.)

2. At 2239 M.T.B. unit at Z14, while moving W. to investigate a light, obtained Radar contact giving 3 responses bearing 300 degs. moving E.S.E. Unit chased at 39 knots until contact was lost at 0016 in position 52 degs 28' N. 3 degs. 30' E. It is thought that if this contact was in fact E-boats it was three returning possibly to the Hook.
(C. in C. Nore, 311845A to Admty.)

Attack
on Enemy
Convoy.
M.T.B.241
sunk.

Report of M.T.B. operations night 30th/31st.
1. 21st M.T.B. Flotilla, 1st Div., 241, 224, 244, 2nd Div. 223, 350 were ordered to be off Egmond by 2300A to sweep South for North-bound convoy. Bright moon and good visibility added to difficulty of attacking heavily-escorted convoy.
2. On receipt of C. in C.'s signal giving time of convoy leaving Hook as reported by air S.O. decided to intercept South of Ijmuiden. At 2337 convoy was located 240 Ijmuiden 5. S.O. decided to attack by Divisions from either Bow 1st Division inshore. Attack frustrated by heavy gunfire from escort. 1st Div. disengaged to N.W. across Bow of convoy at which time 241 sustained underwater hit by 4" shell in engine room.
3. Attempt then made to attack from seaward owing to large amount of starshell from escorts who were firing in all directions. Escort was now backed up by Ijmuiden trawler patrols and gunfire was intense. As Flotilla closed M.V. target away. At this time main engine gear boxes of 241 were awash and boat was taken in tow by 224 and 244. S.O. transferred to 224 and 244 took 241 in tow stern first.
4. Flotilla then swept North and at 0340 found convoy entering Texel. Attack had, therefore, to be made from seaward. At 0410 zone of 6 torpedoes fired from 3000 yards as range could not be further closed owing to presence of all escorts between Flotilla and Target. Result not observed.
5. M.T.B.244 towed 241 until 0655 when tow parted. 241 had then heavy list to starboard and stern awash. Tow was repressed by 0720, but parted twice after that. At 0800 crew, charts, and valuable apparatus taken on board 244. Shortly after 241 rolled over and sank in 52 degs 22' N. 3 degs. 12' E.
6. Casualties - 1 rating slightly wounded.
7. Damage - 241 sunk, 224 and 244 sustained superficial damage from 20 mm.
(C. in C. Nore, 312340A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Glider
bomb A/C.

There are indications that a few A/C fitted to carry H.S.293 glider bombs may have recently moved to North Norway. These A/C are probably Do. 217 or He. 177 but F.W. 200 are also able to operate these bombs.
(D.D.I.C., 311550A to A.I.G.47.)

534

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy off
Stavanger.

Cancel instructions in my 302301. A/C report
at 0010A/31st one large vessel, 4 M/S, 058 degs.
55' N. 005 degs. 15' E. course 180 degs. 8 knots.
(F.O.S. 310311A to TERRAPIN.)

Casualties and Defects.

OBERON.

Your 281634A. Sailing of OBERON delayed due
to faulty main motor switch gear starboard.
Investigation in hand.
(P.S.O. Barrow, 311340A to N.O.I.C. Barrow.)

535

War Diary.31.3.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- LE TRIOMPHANT. C.R. No.2002. Cancel my 300324. Ref 300324 - Direct LE TRIOMPHANT proceed to arrive Horta forenoon 31st March. Fuel. Rejoin at R/V designated by you, etc.
(C. in C. Lant, 310136 to C.T.F. 62.)
- C.R. No.1090. In view bad weather getting worse am sending LE TRIOMPHANT to Horta for fuel. E.T.A. 0800Z/1st. G.U.S.34 position 311600Z 36.49 N. 24.42 W., course 263, speed 7.6.
(C.T.F.62, 311621Z.)
- ROSA N. ILLUECA. Expected to sail from Candia p.m./1st with oranges for Germany.
(F.O.G.M.A., 312205A to 10th S/M.F., LE CURIE, Capt. (S) 10, S.O.(I) Med.)
- U/B report. Navy plane reports periscope sighted in 33.58 N. 08.59 W. at 1649Z/30th, course 315. Periscope seen by three officers including pilot but disappeared before attack could develop. Evaluation probable.
(C.M.S.F., 311106.)
- BAILUNDO. Your 131747 M.E.W. hopes steamship BAILUNDO may be possible instead. Ship left Loanda 25th March for Lisbon direct.
(D.E.W.D., 311430A to F.O.G.M.A.)
- U.S. shells in Tangier. Commorseafiron's 301112A is being passed to you.
(F.O.G.M.A., 311700A to Admty.)
Following repeats 301112A from C.M.S.F. Your 281551A*T.F.62 departed Casablanca afternoon 26th to relieve British Task Force escorting G.U.S. convoy through Straits. As star shells found in Tangier area evidently bore U.S. markings it seems probable vessels of this force may have attempted illuminate enemy submarine and through fuse failures and necessity illuminating close to shore line some malfunctioning shells fell ashore in the International zone. Although necessity for this firing was most probably caused by entry enemy submarines into waters under Spanish control it is deeply regretted shells fell ashore. Necessity utmost care in firing consistent with attack and destruction of enemy will be impressed upon responsible officers. Ends.
(F.O.G.M.A., 312200A.) * N.T. in W.R.
- SS. MANU. Your 282053 Spanish MANU intercepted and sent in.
(2) Your para. two Master states called at Las Palmas for bunkers also loaded 260 tons navicerted fresh fruit on deck reported to British Consul. All documents in order.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 311715A to Admty.)

/M.V. TAGUS ...

536

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

M.V. TAGUS. Not to be molested. Portuguese TAGUS, 1077 gross tonnage speed (?9) knots left Gibraltar 1700/31 for Marseilles by standard route to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise. Carries usual international red cross marking. (F.O.G.M.A., 311832A to 10th S/M.F., LE CURIE, LA SULTANE, (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

KINGSTON AGATE, collision damage. Following damage received as result collision H.M.T. KINGSTON AGATE, my 290858A not to Admty. Estimate 10 more days in dock completion of permanent repairs end of April. Ship will be seaworthy on undocking. (U.S.S. JOHN D. FORD, 311934A.)

Straits Blimp fence. Understand your further investigation indicates Blimp scheme is impracticable. 2. Following discussions with you it would appear Blimp could not be operated from Gibraltar. Your 221708* refers. (F.O.G.M.A., 312320A to C.M.S.F.) * Not identified by War Reg.

Daily Azores Summaries. I am not in agreement with re-introduction of daily Azores summaries. Lieut. Robertson will express my views when he reports to Admty. A.M. 301758 refers. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 312346Z.)

South Atlantic.

E.G. 57. My 300(?259 or 955) affirmative. FAL rejoined at dawn with A/S and Radar defective. Have repaired A/S and expect to repair Radar by dark. (S.O. E.G.57, 310951Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

NANCY MOLLER (sunk 18th March.) NANCY MOLLER sunk by Japanese S/M in 02° 14' N. 78° 25' E. at 0332Z/18 when sailing independently and zigzagging. (2) Two torpedoes fired in quick succession and ship sank within two minutes. (3) Submarine was R.060-68 class Mitsubishi type painted dark grey. (4) Submarine fired repeatedly on survivors after attack.

537

War Diary.31.3.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.NANCY
MOLLER
(Sunk 18th
March.)
(Contd.)

(5) Ship did not open fire.
 (6) No SSSS made. Both radio operators missing presumed killed.
 (7) 32 survivors including four D.E.M.S. ratings rescued from four rafts by EMERALD on 22nd March and landed at Durban to-day. 33 of crew including one D.E.M.S. rating, who was taken prisoner by S/M, missing.
 (Cdre. Durban, 311410Z.)

Operation
"Tabarin".

H.M.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY reports:-
 Have been hove to in thick weather South-west Signy Island. Am abandoning visit to Laurie owing to shortage of oil fuel. Am proceeding south Georgia. Request 50 tons O.F. My position is 20 miles west of Deacon Peak Coronation Island. T.O.O. 301730.
 (N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 311534A.)

R.A.T.E.

Repetition of 301303. Flag of Rear Admiral Training Establishments will be hauled down at sunset 3rd April 1944. ASSEGAI and GOOD HOPE will thereafter be under administration of C. in C. S.A. until paid off.
 (C. in C. S.A., 311701B.)

A/S
operations.

My 311102 to Comar Dakar only.
 Continuous parallel track patrol by four aircraft will be maintained between longitudes 18° W. to 21° 30' W. and latitudes 15° N. to 17° N. commencing 1800/3rd April. GAZELLE, CHEVREUIL and ANNAMITE to patrol on 15° N. between 18.30 W. and 19.30 W. in accordance with 872 N. Request Senior Officer Escorts be instructed to report by signal time he will arrive on patrol and endurance in days remaining. Combined Operations to be conducted in accordance with A.C.I. Article 107 which is to be followed as closely as possible. 295 Wing are being instructed accordingly. Comar Dakar pass to GAZELLE, CHEVREUIL, ANNAMITE.
 (F.O.C.W.Af., 311857Z to Comar Dakar.)

538

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

U-Boat reports. Have A.S.V. contact in 35° 50' N. 05° 02' W. probably a U-Boat. (A/C UWDC, 310130A.)
Have A.S.V. contact position 36° 00' N. 04° 50' W. probably a U-Boat. Lost. (A/C UWPC, 310235A.)

U-Boat report. By D/F at 0256/31 U-Boat in 040° 30' N. 007° 00' E. probably bound Toulon. (C. in C. Med., 310800A to Capt. (S) 10.)

Cositintrep No. 266. (Extract). 30 plus enemy aircraft raided Vis 1945/28. One large and two small Partisan schooners were hit. Allied casualties - one officer, three O.Rs. killed; four O.Rs. wounded. (U.S.) O.S.S. R/C parties are on Lagosta Korcula and Brac. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 311145A.)

Ship sunk in Turkish Waters. My 311130 (N.T. in W.D.) Vessel loaded with general cargo for Istanbul reported torpedoed 0800 G.M.T./30th south-west boundary Marmaris in Turkish territorial waters. No loss of life. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 311146C.)

ULTIMATUM, ULTOR, SPORTSMAN. P.34 (ULTIMATUM) remain east of longitude 24° from dawn 2nd to dawn 3rd.
(2) P.53 (ULTOR) after passing through Anti-Kithera Channel proceed to patrol area through 036° 05' 023° 19'.
(3) P.229 (SPORTSMAN) leave patrol p.m./2nd pass through 036° 11' 023° 43', 035° 50' 023° 46' to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 30' at 2130/2nd. Thence dived at 200 feet to position 035° 41' 023° 15'.
(Capt. (S) 1, 311210A to ULTIMATUM, ULTOR, SPORTSMAN.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep 70. L.S.T., L.S.I.(L) responsible for 1620, 215 tons respectively out of total 6361 discharged on 30th March. No interference from enemy action but rising swell curtailed unloading. (F.O.W.It., 311246A.)

UPROAR, LE CURIE. UPROAR is to leave patrol to pass 042° 27' 006° 01' at 0001/2nd through 042° 02' 007° 57' at 2300/2nd to arrive Maddalena at 1030/3rd.
(2) LE CURIE is to leave patrol for Maddalena passing 042° 45' 006° 59' at 0330/3rd to arrive 1045/4th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 311613 to UPROAR, LE CURIE.)
Amended 021423B.

/AREZZO ...

War Diary.

31.3.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

AREZZO, SUZANNE, CENTAUR. Departure from Salamis of AREZZO and SUZANNE probably for Crete appears imminent p.m./31st. CENTAUR may possibly sail for Leros. (Capt. (S) 1, 311750 to SPORTSMAN, ULTIMATUM.)

Montevideo Dock. Anticipate Montevideo dock will be ready to sail in tow of ORIANA and WEAZEL about April 10th. My 051641B not to all.
(2) Propose retaining GODAVARI and GORLESTON as escorts.
(3) Is it your intention that dock should proceed to Ceylon now or be towed to Massawa to await onward passage after the monsoon.
(F.O.L.E.M., 311827B to C. in C. E.F.)

Landing craft. Owing to state of repairs it will be necessary in order to implement Cosmed* 73 to send thirty U.S. and ten British craft to make up the forty L.C.I.(L) required.
2. This with the 21 British craft already scheduled to return to U.K. will make a total of 31 British and 30 U.S. craft withdrawn from the Meditn. and will leave approximately equal numbers of British and U.S. remaining.
(C. in C. Med., 311829A to Admty.)
* T.O.O. 281847. N.T. in W.R.

Nikolaev. Following from Slavin.
6. Port installations at Nikolaev thoroughly demolished by Germans before retreat.
(30 Mil. Mission, 311835.)

UNIVERSAL. Intend (? P.67 UNIVERSAL) to sail at 1430/2nd (route) to patrol in zone SU.
(Capt. (S) 10, 311859 to C. in C. Med., (R) 10th S/M.F., LE CURIE, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.G.M.A.)
Cancelled 021423B.

Joint Naval Army R.A.F. Intell. Appreciation. Photographic R/C Monemvasia 30th March showed Danube tanker VIENNA ex M.T.3 not located 29th March to be sunk in shallow water.
(C. in C. M.E., 311915B.)

Force V. Local military request we leave by tomorrow night April 1st. Request R/V.
(S.O. Force V, 311942B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Situation Report No. 326. (LAFoKey):
1. My 302046* para. 2 survivors now reported as 4 Naval officers, 1 Army officer and 58 ratings.
2. Operation "Shingle". Swell increased on 30th March, 6361 tons discharged no shelling or air activity during daylight, mines dropped near

/anchorage ...

540

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation anchorage night 30th/31st March. U.S.S. EBERLE
Report bombarding shore targets in Anzio area on 30th.
No. 326. 3. Weather prevented destroyers and coastal
(Contd.) forces operating in Adriatic nights of 27th/28th
and 28th/29th. Nights 29th/30th destroyer
patrolled off Vis and coastal forces off Ploca
Point but sighted nothing.

4. UNSWERVING reports sinking 70 tons armed caique loaded with
petrol in 035° 57' N. 024° 02' E. by gunfire on 20th March and
to have obtained 1 torpedo hit on convoy of 1 merchant ship,
2 destroyers and 2 R-Boats in 035° 40' N. 024° 20' E. on 26th
March.

(C. in C. Med., 312151A.)

* Re Situation Report No. 325.

U.G.S. 36
U/B
attacked.

Attacked contact believed to be S/M in estimated
position 36° 32' N. 00° 34' E. at 2230A today
31st. After first attack explosion was heard
90 seconds after detonation of last depth charge.
Weather report.
(BLACK SWAN, 312300A.)

Lend-Lease
stores.

1. Request further clarification stoppage lend-
lease stores.
(Mil. Attache, Ankara, No T.O.O./31st Recd. 2350.)

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly U/Boat dispositions, No. 38. Areas A, B, C and D believed clear of U/Boats scale of air escort W. Area E. Japanese U/Boat plotted by D/F to southwards of Karachi on 28th believed homeward bound through Area E. scale of air escort X. Area F. no indication of U/Boats in this area but scale of air escort X. Area G. German U/Boat plotted by D/F on 29th to be within 200 miles of 003 degs. N. 078 degs. E. may be in area. Japanese U/boat which sank TJISALAK in 002 degs. 30' S. 078 degs. 40' E. on 26th believed homeward bound scale of air escort X. Indian Ocean SS SS by CITY OF ADELAIDE in 012 degs. 01' S. 080 degs. 27' E. on 30th and German U/Boat plotted by D/F at 1721Z/30th to be within 250 miles of 005 degs. S. 081 degs. E. indicates presence of 1 or more U/Boats. (C. in C.E.F. 310347Z.)

Operation "Diplomat." Arrival RENOWN, VALIANT, QUEEN ELIZABETH, ILLUSTRIOUS, U.S. SARATOGA, LONDON, CUMBERLAND, GAMBIA, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUIBERON, QUALITY, NORMAN, NEPAL, PATHFINDER, VAN GALEN, U.S.D. DUNLAP, CUMMINGS, FANNING. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 310440Z.)

FORT LA MAUNE. (sunk 25 Jan.) SAMBRIDGE. A.M. 250334. Para. 1. Confirmed that lifeboat signals were not (R) not heard by Socotra until 31st January. My 310629 January refers. Para. 2. SSSS signal made by TARANTIA received Aden 0926Z/19 Nov. was made after picking up survivors of SAMBRIDGE that is 18 hours after sinking. My 191017 (?Feb.) not to Admty. was made before full facts were known and on assumption that SSSS. message was intercepted TARANTIA no evidence that distress signal from SAMBRIDGE was intercepted by TARANTIA Socotra or other stations. Survivors stated that incomplete message was made on emergency set which caught fire during transmissions. Position of sinking was 160 miles, from Aden not 100 as stated by Admiralty. (Com. Aden, 310837Z to C. in C.E.F.)

C. in C.E.F. C. in C.E.F. has returned to Colombo. (C. in C.E.F., 310846Z.)

WAYLAND A.F.D.'s 26, 23. To provide some dockyard repair facilities to service floating dock consider it very desirable that WAYLAND should proceed to Trincomalee on joining Eastern Fleet. A.M. 151333 Feb. para. 3 to C. in C.E.F. only refers. 2. A.F.D.26 although incomplete is now in operation. Anticipate A.F.D.23 will be in operation end of June. (C. in C.E.F. 310956Z.)

/Protection...

542

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Protection
of U.S.
Tankers
between
India and
Persian
Gulf.

B.A.D. Washington's 292141. U.S. Tankers,
request your remarks..
(D.O.D.(F) 311306A to C. in C.E.F.)

Enemy
S/M
sighting
reports.

A.X.382. Ref. G.O.C.in C. E.Af. 84721+, 25th
March request information as to how you make use
of these reports and whether you find them of
sufficient value to justify the watching
organisation described.
(Air Min. 311845Z to A.H.Q.E.Af., A.H.Q. Aden.)
+251430/3 (re enemy submarine sighting reports
graded most reliable.)

U/B
report.

By D/F at 1743Z/31 on 89 40 kcs. Indication
X Japanese U/Boat in general area 600 miles S.E.
of Diego Garcia. Poor fix.
(C. in C. E.F. 311921Z.)

L.C.T. for
the East.

Ref. A.M. 251706 Sept. owing to operational
requirements and lack of repair facilities no
craft have yet been stiffened for ocean passage
and none will be available for towage before
breaking of S.W. monsoons.

Delay is regretted but conditions will not now be suitable for
their towage until October.

F.O.C.R.I.N's 191252 not to Admiralty refers.
(C. in C. Med., 311724A to Admty.)

543

31.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. Nil report since my 270909Z.
S/M attack B. MATAPEDIA attacks U/B 41.55 N. 63.47 W.
and sighting 1510Z/30th.
summary. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 310630Z.)

C.U.18. Off Oversay 1730Z/29th. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 311147A.)

S.C.156. Westomp established 044° 39' N. 051° 54' W. at
1500Z/1st April when you will be relieved by
Group B.7 VIDETTE (S.O.), SWALE, CHELMER,
PORCHESTER CASTLE, KENILWORTH CASTLE all H/F
D/F. Upon relief W.2 proceed St. Johns N.F.
(2) W.S.C. section 1 (one) 137 escort H.M.C.S. RED DEER junction
in Westomp. H.M.C.S. RED DEER return St. Johns Newfoundland
independently upon effecting junction?
(3) "Chop" 1500Z/2nd April.
(F.O.N.F., 311158Z to S.E. S.C.156.)

CYNTHIA, My 292124* and your 291852 neither to all.
ELFREDA. Destination in U.K. for CYNTHIA and ELFREDA is
Granton.
2. Request ELFREDA may be sailed as soon as she
is capable of making the passage.
(D.M.S., 311206 to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
* Requesting CYNTHIA and ELFREDA be sailed 1st April for
repairs.

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q., 311453Z; Cominch, 311704Z.)

T.A. 98. Diversion orders.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet, 311618Z to SS. ILE DE FRANCE.)

Allocation Your 252109 (Allocation of Italian S/Ms.)
of Italian Agree:- (a) that MAMELI be transferred to U.S.;
and French (b) that next three S/Ms ready go to Eastern
S/Ms. Fleet.
2. We do not agree with Cominch's proposals for
transfer of 7 further S/Ms. to the U.S. His
proposals are not in accordance with original
agreement.
3. Mediterranean A/S training commitments are now being
inadequately met by 6 S/Ms. of which SQUALO is in very poor
condition. Further S/Ms. which may become available for
Meditn. use only are not in any way of assistance to our general
shortage, and are in any event likely to be in a very poor
state. The only satisfactory arrangement, and one in complete
harmony with original agreement is that -
(a) Meditn. requirements up to a maximum of 7 should be met
where possible by S/Ms. unfit for service outside Meditn.;

/(b) ...

544

31.3.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Allocation
of Italian
and French
S/Ms.
(Contd.)

(b) that surplus S/Ms. fit to leave Meditn. should be shared on a fifty-fifty basis once requirement of three for Eastern Fleet is satisfied.

We must point out that the Americans also have allocated to them four French S/Ms., not including the Casablanca commitment while we have only three.

(V.C.N.S., 311907A to B.A.D.)

Your 252109 (not to S.B.N.O.W.At.) Request S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic will arrange transfer of MAMELI to U.S. control.

(V.C.N.S., 312331A to B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Re allocation of Italian submarines to U.S. and Britain.

OCTAVIA.

Request repairs to OCTAVIA be completed before sailing. Your 302145 refers.

(D.M.S., 311933A to C. in C. C.N.A.)

H.X. 285.

Westomp 044° 38' N. 049° 32' W. at 1600Z/2nd April when group C.5 OTTAWA H/F D/F (S.O.), KOOTENAY H/F D/F, L.N.739 (DUNVER) H/F D/F, ROSTHERN, SUMMERSIDE, DAUPHIN, NEW WESTMINSTER

will relieve you.

2. W.H.X. section one ship escort SUMMERSIDE joins Westomp.

3. Upon relief W.9 proceed St. Johns N.F. TRAIL comply para.

2 C. in C. C.N.A. 300220 not to all addressees.

4. "Chop" 1600Z/3rd April.

(F.O.N.F., 311952Z as amended 011309Z.)

H.X., O.N.
Convoys.

1. Re cycle.

(N.S.H.Q., 312100Z to Admty.)

Cancelled 032330Z.

U/B
incidents.

(C) Plane had Sono Buoy contact sighted enlarging oil slick 21.30 N. 62.50 W. 1710Z/30th.

(D) R.A.F. Ferry Command plane sighted sub. diving vicinity 37.50 N. 75 W. about 301830Z.

2 P.B.Ms. sighted moving oil slick 35.08 N.

63.22 W. 1540Z/30th. Navy patrol A/C sighted sub. 18.20 N.

84.58 W. 1425Z/31st, course 260.

(Cominch, 312101Z.)

Confidential.

MESSAGE.

544A. IN

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

RESTRICTED

311411Z/March.

From. B.A.D.

Date. 31. 3. 44.

Reed. 1556.

O.T.P. BY T/K

To. Admiralty.

*US Transport aircraft
accidentally shot down.*

IMMEDIATE.

Following is agreed joint announcement which is being released today. My 292011 refers.

(Begins.)

A transport airplane operated by the Air Transport Command of the Army Air Forces was shot down accidentally by British Carrier-operated Fighters protecting an Allied Convoy in the Atlantic this week, the War Department and the British Admiralty announced with regret today. The plane, a four-engine C-54, was flown by a civilian contract aircrew of six, all of whom were lost. There were no passengers on the aircraft which was loaded with cargo. Fighters protecting the convoy attacked the C-54 in the vicinity of the convoy route when, according to reports, identification was not established. Evidently the Fighters mistook the C-54 for a German four-motored Bomber, the FW200.

Casualties are: Captain Charles S. Garber 1164 South Thomas Str., Arlington VA; First Officer George Edward Shelton, 5 East Monroe Avenue, Alexandria VA; Navigator, Orville Scholtz, Oklahoma Building, Beverly Park Gardens, Alexandria VA; Engineer, Royce Theodore Welliver, 1728 Abingdon Drive Alexandria, VA; Radio Man, Beauford Hermann Mann, Potomac Hotel, 18th and H Streets, Washington D.C. and Purser, Avery Bruce Merritt, P.O. Box 145, McLean VA. Next of kin have been notified. (Ends).

311411Z.

/Circulation Over

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)
P.A.S. (F)
U.W.R.
Ops. (2)
C.I.C. (3)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (5)
M. (4)
Ad. Blake. (4)
N.L.
D.P.D.
C.N.I.
D.T.S.D.
D.A./H.F.
D.S.D. (2)
W.D.

(A.15)
E.C.

545

31.3.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
No. 801.

March 30th. Paras. 13 - 17 cover South Pacific Forces.

3. Allied party landed Pityilu Island morning after preliminary aircraft destroyer and motor torpedo boat bombardment. Enemy sniper fire

encountered and 18 dead Japs. counted consequent to landing operation. Our casualties negligible.

15. Afternoon 28th and following night U.S. destroyers, gunboats shelled fuel dumps and reported concentrations along Empress Augusta Bay coastline.

16. 26 Dauntless, 19 Avengers, 25 Mitchells struck Vunapopo supply centre and gun positions forenoon 29th while 11 Warhawks hit Talili Bay stores base. Several guns silenced, fires started. Same day 10 Dauntless plus fighters attacked small ships and barges around Rabaul causing explosion on destroyer type vessel Keravia Bay by strafing. One fighter lost. Talili Bay apparently surrounded by N.E.F. minefield.

17. Single small enemy ship forced ashore Simberi Island (60 miles east Kavieng) by rocket hits from aircraft morning 29th. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 311044Z.)

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

Para. A. A/C S/224 sighted and attacked U-Boat 0147/31st 45° 37' N. 03° 16' W.

TUMULT, BLENCATHRA and HAMBLEDON attacked U-Boat 0010/30th March in 38° 54' N. 14° 18' E.

H.M. Ship torpedoed 0010/30th in 38° 54' N. 14° 18' E.

H.M. Trawler presumed torpedoed 27th March in 05° 25' N. 77° 32' E.

Para. B. A/C sighted periscope 1648/30th in 33° 58' N. 08° 59' W., course 315°.

A/C obtained A.S.V. contact 0035/31st in 35° 50' N. 05° 02' W.

Br. CITY OF ADELAIDE made SSSS 1505/30th in 12° 01' S. 80° 37' E. (D.D.I.C., 311220A.)

U/B

Estimates.

dispositions. (D.D.I.C., 311439A, 311445A.)