

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Tungsten".

1. At 1958A today Force 2 reported to A/C that it was about 300 miles S.E. of Jan Mayen steering 005° at 12 knots.

Operation
F.Y.

2. At 1900A today C.S.10 in DIADEM reported convoy J.W.58 to be about 200 miles W.S.W. of Bear Island steering 050° at 9 knots, and added that the convoy was then being shadowed by A/C.

Enemy M/V
torpedoed.

3. The S/M TERRAPIN reports today that on 24th March she obtained two hits on a 5000 ton M/V off Lister (south of Stavanger.)

Enemy convoy
attacked.
M.T.B. 245
damaged.

4. At 0413 today M.T.B. 245, on patrol with three other M.T.Bs. off Vlieland, made an independent attack on an enemy convoy without result and sustained extensive damage. One of her ratings was killed and two were slightly wounded.

South Atlantic.

Ship sunk
60 miles S.
of Simonstown.

5.(a). SS. DAHOMIAN (Trinidad for Table Bay) was sunk at 1120B today, it is thought by torpedo or mine in 34.25 S. 18.19 E. (60 miles south of Simons town). Two S.A.N.F. minesweepers and H.M.S. TEST were in sight at the time of sinking and aircraft were over the position about an hour later; no torpedo tracks were seen and the U-Boat did not surface. Search was carried out for a U-Boat but the possibility of a minefield exists: explosions were heard to seaward of Cape Point two nights previously, but investigation revealed nothing and no mines were found in the swept channel.
(b). Subsequently, 67 air sorties comprising 438 flying hours, and a 50% searching sweep for mines were carried out in the area; without result.

A/S
situation.

5(B) F.O.C. West Africa today again asked for immediate reinforcement of his escorts. The suspected approach of some five submarines coinciding with coming big troop movements on the coast indicates an intended offensive by the enemy: the recent reduction of air strength renders the situation more acute. No reply has been seen, no doubt because this message crossed that referred to on 30th March, para. 4(c).

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle."

6. 4559 tons were discharged at Anzio today. Shelling increased but there was no bombing.

U.G.S. 36
attacked.

7. About 15 torpedo and bomber aircraft attacked convoy U.G.S. 36 at 0357 today in 36.46 N. 01.44 E. (63 miles west of Algiers). SS. JARED INGERSOLL was hit and set on fire and was towed to Algiers by tug MINDFUL and the fire extinguished. One of the enemy was shot down by A.A. fire.

8.(a). The Tactical Air Force last night continued the attacks on shipping and ports on the Italian - Adriatic coast and the coast of Dalmatia.

(b). Today, 24 U.S. Mitchells attacked Leghorn where damage was done to shipping. 12 U.S. Marauders attacked Trimosia shipyards.

East Indies.

Opening of
ports at
night.

9. In order to avoid the necessity of warships or convoys spending an extra night at sea in a submarine area on account of their port of arrival being closed at night C. in C. Eastern Fleet intends the principal ports on the station to be opened at night for the entry of warships and important ships and convoys.

America & West Indies.

St. Lucia.

10. Port Castries and Gros Islet, which were reported closed on account of mining on 24th March, were reopened today. Vieux Fort remained closed until 3rd April.

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

- 11.(a). This morning 32 Allied aircraft bombed the wharf area in the N.E. part of Simpsons Harbour. Heavy smoke columns resulted.
- (b). U.S. destroyers bombarded a barge hideout in S.W. Bougainville last night, supported by Catalinas.
- (c). Docks at Matchin Bay near Buka Passage were effectively attacked by 14 Dauntless aircraft today.
- (d). A searchplane attacked a Japanese submarine this afternoon 15 miles south of Dyaul Island in the Kavieng area.

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

MAN O' WAR. On conclusion of working up ships are to be sailed as follows: (A) MAN O' WAR about 3rd April to Londonderry for onward passage to Gibraltar in next convenient convoy.
(C. in C. W.A. 011221A to MENTOR)

U.S.S. PROCYON. Your 271924. Request PROCYON be sailed in K.M.S.48.
(Com. 12th Fleet 011613 to Admty.)

S/M's for Eastern Fleet. I have had under review the possibility of further reinforcing the submarine strength in the Far East. In previous appreciations the three "T" class submarines fitted with SULZER engines were ruled out. It is now possible to review the situation. A new design of cylinder block has been completed and fitted in TAKU. Similar blocks are being fitted in THRASHER and TRIDENT. I consider that the reliability of the modified engine in these three vessels has now been established.

(2) Only two of the three S/M's can be spared from Home Waters and it is proposed that these should be THRASHER and TRIDENT both of whom are now completing refits. These two S/Ms will have modern FREON air conditioning and will be operational in all respects. They will not, however, be fitted to carry the additional fuel in external tanks.

(3) It is suggested that these two modern S/Ms should join the Eastern Fleet S/M Force out of which C. in C. Eastern Fleet can allocate any S/Ms he may wish from time to time for A/S training.

(4) Apart from the above C. in C. Eastern Fleet should have permanently available for A/S training three Italian submarines, ROVER and Dutch Submarine K.11.
(F.O.S.011647A to Admty.)

Flag of A.N.C.X.F. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. Portsmouth, I propose that my flag should be hoisted in such ship at Portsmouth as the C. in C. directs at 0800 on 27th April, being subsequently transferred to and be normally flown ashore at my Headquarters at Southwick Park.
(A.N.C.X.F. 012135A to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland A/A defences. Protection of Akureyri and Seydisfjordur, reference your O.R.1925 of 14 March, retain 749 A/A Gun Battalion on sites in North and East until end of May. Proceed with plan to transfer subject Battalion to U.K. in late June.

In readjustment of A/A units, desire you give coverage to anti-submarine boom in Hvalfjordur. Contemplate that need for protection in North and East after end of May will cease.
(Lee, 011200Z to I.B.C.)

1.4.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 44 degs. 59' N.
(?longitude).
(A/C TRE.50, 010043 to 19 Group)

Operation
F.Y.

J.W. 58. Request WILLIAM S. THAYER (?ELOY ALFARO intended) be sailed to Clyde for examination at earliest opportunity. Your 302240 refers.
(D.T.D. 010103A to A.C.I.C.)
Convoy J.W. 58. P.C.S. 072 degs. 54' N. 008 degs. 43' E. 050 degs. 9. Altering course to (023 degs. 063 degs. 090 degs. 197 degs. or 329 degs.) at 0400A/2nd. No attack last night. Being shadowed by aircraft now. Attack expected tonight.
Weather 7577 1003.
(C.S.10. 011900A to H.F.)

Operation
C.X.

Arrived CAMROSE and LUNENBURG.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 010913A to C. in C. W.A.)
Arrived CARISBROOKE CASTLE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 011544A to Cdre. D. W.A.)

Operation
C.W.

Arrived WASKESIU, GROU, OUTREMONT.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 011059A to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011336A, 011620A, 011731A)
(V.A. Dover 011623A)
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 011948A)

S.C.
Operation.

My 310515A March. Returned at 1345 to-day,
(MITRA).
(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 011415 to Admty.)

S/M
Patrols.

Positions of submarines at 0800/2nd and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) TERRAPIN 60 degs. 50' N. 02 degs. 55' E. probably on surface through 61 degs. 02' N. 00 degs. 22' to Lerwick, E.T.A. 2300/2nd.
(B) ULA vicinity 69 degs. 30' N. 16 degs. 50' E.
(F.O.S.011724A to Admty.)

Attack on
Enemy
Convoy off
Vlieland.
M.T.B.245
damaged.

Preliminary report of M.T.B.Operations night 31st/1st.
(1) 22nd M.T.B. Flotilla, M.T.B.'s 245, 83, 347, and 93 were ordered to position off Vlieland to sweep S.W. for northbound convoy expected to leave Den Helder about 1900. Air R/C reported convoy sailing at 1600. This information was

signalled /...

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Attack on
Enemy
Convoy off
Vlieland.
M.T.B. 245
damaged.
(Contd.)

signalled to M.T.B's who therefore started sweep from position 25 miles further east. Information proved incorrect and resulted in convoy being located very late in the night.
(2) Weather. By 0400 wind was N.N.W. force 5, sea 3 to 4 with short heavy swell.
(3) Unit swept west at 12 knots from 5 degs. 40' E. and located convoy by Radar off Vlieland at 0252. M.T.B. 83 then ordered to R/V position owing to engine breakdown. Unit steered 260 to clear

convoy while plotting course and speed but on turning east 347 and 93 lost touch with S.O.

(4) At 0330 S.O. ordered unit to attack independently. This was received as act independently on T.C.S. and 347 and 93 proceeded to R/V position and took no part in action.

(5) At 0413 M.T.B. 245 sighted convoy of 8 ships and proceeded to attack third ship. Just before attack starboard tube was accidentally fired by rating losing his balance in heavy sea. At 0424 at range of 600 yards exactor gear failed twice to fire port tube which was eventually fired by S.T. by emergency drill. By this time range was 200 to 300 yards and boat was swinging to avoid being rammed by trawler 50 yards distant. Torpedo missed and 245 disengaged at high speed.

(6) Casualties. One rating killed and two slightly wounded in 245.

(7) M.T.B. 245 suffered extensive damage to tank space and engine room.

(C. in C. Nore, 011935A to Admt.)

Enemy Ship
(probably
SCHWABENLAND)
torpedoed by
TERRAPIN on
24th March.

Two hits 5000 ton merchant ship off Lister 24th March. Waited MONTE ROSA off Lister. Proceeded to airmen your 302301, consequently ship in your 310311 slipped past. 6 torpedoes expended. (TERRAPIN, 012354A to F.O.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa
Flow.

Enemy aircraft approached Flow 2015A/31. Nearest position plotted 090 A Buoy 18 miles. Height 1000 ft. or less. Usual R/C of Flow possible. Photograph unlikely. Interception unsuccessful. (A.C.O.S. 011048A to C. in C. H.F.)

Prep. X made 2015A/31 when A/C later identified as hostile was plotted 120 degs. A Buoy 20 miles at less than 1000 feet. A/C made landfall Sinclair Bay 2022. Next plotted 2031 090 degs. A Buoy 18 miles but probably flew out to sea just south of Duncansby Head. Last plotted 2046 078 degs. A Buoy 61 miles. A/C appears to have flown at less than 1000 feet all the time. A/C must have seen codeword "Keeper". Attempted intercepted unsuccessful.

(A.C.O.S. 011049A to Admt.)

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boat
attacked.
(Convoy
F.N.13) Have attacked A/S contact position 005 degs.
20 Buoy 1 point 2 miles. Contact lost after
attack.
(LUDLOW, 011811 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Technical.

Anti "Gnat"
procedure. Your 251753A. Admiralty agrees that, in the
particular cases envisaged, danger from "Gnat"
torpedoes exists in spite of compliance with
A.C.I.138, but considers that the proposed
amendments are too rigid in that they will in
certain circumstances still further reduce offensive power.
It is preferred, therefore, to point out the dangers and leave
C.Os. to decide whether circumstances justify their avoidance.
The following wording is suggested.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 011645A to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

BRISSENDEN. My 301944. Density is much increased. Consider
more than another 24 hours steaming may lead to
permanent damage to boiler tubes.
(BRISSENDEN, 010847A to C. in C. Plymouth)

MOURNE. Your 291151A. Arrived.
(F.O.I.C.Tyne, 011005A to F.O.I.C.Liverpool)

L.C.T.(R)460 L.C.T.(R) 460 broke down in 298 degs. Eddystone
and 10½. FIR standing by and will escort to
L.C.T.(R)438. Plymouth.
(2) L.C.T.(R) 438 has one engine broken down and
will leave convoy at Plymouth.
(MELBREAK, 011130A to C. in C. Plymouth)

LONG BRANCH. My 270930A. Condenser trouble in LONG BRANCH
developing. Repeated attempts to make good
have failed. Propose sailing LONG BRANCH for
repairs as soon as possible. Request instructions
(MENTOR 011405A to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. MANU
and 3
Spanish
vessels
detained.

Add para. 3 to my 311715A. Three vessels
detained request immediate reply in view of
fruit cargo.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 010918A to Admty.)
Your 010918. Release MANU.
(D.E.W.D., 012203A to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

MAURITIUS.

Intend to sail MAURITIUS at 0400A/2nd for U.K.
(2) Route.
(F.O.G.M.A., 011116A.)

U/B
attacked.

French aircraft reports sighting surfaced S/M
in 36.15 N. 07.20 W. at 011120Z. S/M dived
before attack could be made.
(C.M.S.F., 011248Z.)

? U/B has dived position 036° 16' N. 007° 20' W.
Spanish ship SEMTJAIN near (? Hammick) south of Cristina 1
depth charge dropped at 1205.

(A/C KMTE, 011255A, A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar 011259Z.)
Gib/Pink 2 3-1 April. (A) 1 April. (B) Not known.
(C) Transit A/C. (D) U-Boat on course of 20 200° was seen to
submerge at 1532Z position 33° 45' N. 8° 35' W.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar, 011710Z.)

PREMIER.

A.M. 192248, 241851 and S.B.N.O.W.At.'s 302145
all March.
On completion of flying off PREMIER is to proceed
independently to Bermuda (route).

2. Onward escort from Bermuda to Norfolk will be provided by
INMAN and RIOU.
3. It is desirable that PREMIER should arrive Norfolk as early
as possible and in any event not later than a.m. April 12th.
B.A.D.'s 152005 March not to all refers.
4. On completion of escort duty NADDER and WEAR are to proceed
to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.G.M.A.
(D.O.D.(H), 011332A.)

10 L.C.I.(L)s. 10 L.C.I.(L)s. arrive Horta ex G.U.S.47 about
p.m./4th en route for Falmouth.
Request you will arrange for one of WITHERINGTON
or VISCOUNT to provide necessary escort from
Horta to U.K. Your 301727 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 012111A to F.O.G.M.A.)

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

SS. ITTERSUM (attacked 17th March) SS. ITTERSUM reports being attacked by gunfire while sailing independently and zigzagging at 2030Z on March 17th in 06° 12' N. 71° 18' E.
2. Two shots fired from starboard beam in first attack and two from astern in second attack 15 minutes later. No hit obtained.
3. An object believed to be submarine sighted an hour before attack but only gun flashes seen during attack.
4. Ship did not open fire.
5. SSSS was made T.O.O. 172030Z.
6. C. in C. E.F.'s 172121* March refers. (Cdre. Durban, 011018Z.)
* SS. ITTERSUM being shelled by a submarine.

E.G. 57, FAL. FAL returning Takoradi with defective Radar and A/S. Request R.A.F. and base assistance be ready on arrival.
(S.O. E.G. 57, 011415Z.)
Sailed 2330A, speed 17 knots.
(FAL, 012230Z to S.O. E.G. 57.)

SS. DAHOMIAN. British ship DAHOMIAN sunk by torpedo or mine in 034° 25' S. 018° 19' E. at 1120B/1st. 48 survivors are being landed.
(C. in C. S.A., 011459.)

A/S Situation. Your 301307. An A/S escort carrier can only be provided at the expense of Western Approaches, where they are at present fully employed. It is not considered that this is justified by the seriousness of the present threat. In any case escorts for the group would have to be found by you.
2. Matter will be further considered in the even of a major threat developing.
(D.O.D.(F), 011619A to F.O.C.W.Af.)

The suspected approach of some five S/Ms. co-inciding with coming big troop movements on this coast indicates intended offensive by enemy. Submit consideration to given to immediate reinforcement of my escorts. Recent reduction of air strength renders situation more acute.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 011751Z to Admty.)

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SS. ANITA, Departure of SS. ANITA for Crete and CENTAURUS for
CENTAURUS. Rhodes from Salamis imminent. 3 caiques ready to
leave Suda.
(Capt. S.1 010041 to 1st S/M F.)

Operation M.Ls. sailed at 0330A coastwise to join Operation
"Swamp". "Swamp" near Tenez. One destroyer sails 0500A and
2 at 0530 to position. Remain close inshore dur-
ing dark hours.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 010420 to CASABIANCA.)

Air attack Intercept 0320 G.M.T. 500 k/cs type A.2 begins
on U.G.S.36 AAAA bombed. Ends.
J.INGERSOLL (Ship of convoy U.G.S.36 No T.O.O/1.)
hit. JARED INGERSOLL arrived in tow damaged.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 011810Z.)

RICHELIEU. Departure.
(N.O.I.C. Suez 010731B.)

Daily Opsum 30/31st March. 2 Beaufighters dusk offensive R/C
No. 339. off N. Coast Crete. No suitable targets. 2 Wel-
lingtons successfully mined Rhodes harbour. 7 Wel-
lingtons provided diversionary bombing. Bursts
seen in harbour and on (?word omitted) and to South.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 010834Z.)

Reports of All A/C not showing I.F.F. (unless these are N. of
Aircraft. 41° N. or with 100 miles of enemy occupied territory
are to be reported immediately by V.H/F R/T to the
nearest fighter sector by fighter direction ship.
If no fighter direction ship is present S.O.escort
is to take over or delegate this duty.
2. Message should take following form:- "Hullo (sector callsign)
this is (convoy callsign) bogey (mafog position) course S.E.over".
If mafog grid is not held report is to state position as bearing
and distance from convoy, thus:- "Hullo Oxtor this is Trafford
bogey two nine zero 12 miles course S.E.over".
3. Above will enable sector A to arrange fighter protection if
Bogey is unaccounted for by air movements B to inform fighter
charge ship or S.O.of escort if Bogey is friendly and take neces-
sary immediate action when aircraft lands.
4. It is to be expected that most Bogey will turn out to be friend-
ly but drill should always be carried out in order to tighten up
I.F.F.discipline and to give sector early warning of hostile R/C
(C. in C.Med. 011001B.)

U/B report. Am over enemy S/M in 36° 16' B. 6° 40' W.
(KMTE 011120Z, 011143.)

/SPORTSMAN...

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

SPORTSMAN.

From a position 035° 41' 023° 15' about 0401B/3rd proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 0702B/5th thence to Malta.

2. You are* to exceed by day on 3rd April your surface speed estimated 10 knots.

(Capt. S.1 011129A to SPORTSMAN.)

* As recd. "are not" possible intended.

Cable ships.

Your 291701. Orders for MIRROR and M.L.MACKAY.

3. JOHN.W.MACKAY should proceed Halifax as soon as possible.

(D.S.D. 011210A to C. in C.Med.)

Operation "Shingle".

Owing to alteration to L.S.T. programme and bad weather 1919 tons only discharged on 31st March.

Of this L.C.I.(L) from Naples contributed 131 tons.

2. Minelaying suspected during the night and intermittent shelling on a reduced scale.

3. U.S.S. EBERLE bombarded firing 98 rounds.

4. This is "Shingle" sitrep 71.

(F.O.W.It. 011306.)

Safe conduct vessels - route.

Proposed "Yellow" route given in your 291916 March is acceptable.

2. Mine free anchorage quoted in para. 3 not understood.

3. Consider following area vide chart 2850 would be (corrupt group), "Water enclosed by lines drawn from the Pyrgo Point to Mikronisi Rock thence Oxo Kavo thence Mayro Kavo".

(F.O.L.E.M. 011455C to Admty.)

GAZELLE.

In view of F.O.C.W.Af. 301127 it is considered that GAZELLE should remain at Dakar for the time being.

2. Request you will inform Naval France accordingly (V.C.N.S. 011620A to C. in C.Med.)

In view of N.O.I.C. W.Af. 301127 cancel my 291216.

(C. in C.Med. 011752.)

Situation report No. 327.

1. Operation "Shingle". Heavy swell reduced unloading on 31st March to 1919 tons. Shelling on reduced scale. Minelaying by aircraft suspected night 31/1st April.

2. U.G.S.36 attacked by approx. 15 torpedo and bomber aircraft at 0357 1st April in 036° 46' N.

001° 44' E. SS. JONATHAN (should be JARED) INGERSOLL hit and set on fire but reached Algiers in tow of MINDFUL. Fire extinguished 1 enemy aircraft shot down by A.A. fire and 1 claimed damaged by fighters.

(C. in C.Med. 012131, as amended 020942B.)

/Landing...

From War Diary, F.O.L.E.M., 1st April, 1944.

(T.S.D., 4654/44)

The Levant Schooner Flotilla (L.S.F.) was
renamed the

Anglo-Hellenic Schooner Flotilla
(short title A.H.S.F.)

to avoid confusing with the short title for
the Landing Ship Fighter Direction, and to
emphasise that this Flotilla is an Allied
venture, the 1st Flotilla being British and
the 2nd Flotilla Greek.

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Landing Craft. Landing craft state for Levant and Eastern Med.
at 31st March.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 012223C.)
See amendment 051831C.

BULOLO.

A.M. 281723* and your 291116. Request you will
ensure that BULOLO has full complement of Communi-
cation ratings embarked on sailing for U.K.
(V.C.N.S. 012335A to C. in C.Med.)
* re BULOLO required for "Overlord".

13

1.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Bi-Weekly
U-Boat
disposition
No. 39.No fresh information, no changes in scales of air escort. Indian Ocean: Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F at 1743Z/31st March to be approx. 600 miles S.E. of Diego Garcia believed outward bound.
(C. in C. E.F., 010349Z, 012349.)SS. GRENA
(torpedoed
21st March)SS. GRENA sailed from Aden before F.O.N.I.C. 362 of 17th March ? ordering ship to be held for convoy had been received by Commodore Aden.
(2) GRENA was 700 miles from Aden at the time convoy A.B.65 sailed. Your 291616* refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 010548Z to Admty.)
* Request state whether consideration was given to ordering GRENA to join A.P.65 at sea.DEVON CITY,
KIRRIEMOOR.DEVON CITY is about to sail from Ceylon to lay an A/T baffle at Addu Atoll.
(2) If the delay can be accepted propose sailing her for U.K. on completion of lay about first week in May.

(3) E.T.D. will be signalled when known. A.M. 261634* March refers.

(C. in C. E.F., 010633Z to Admty.)

* DEVON CITY with white crew required to return to U.K.

My 102139 February and 261634 March request either KIRRIEMOOR or DEVON CITY be sailed for U.K. as soon as possible. Required for operations. Sailing should not be delayed by embarkation of general cargo.

(D.B.D., 011748A to C. in C. E.F.)

FORT LA
MAUNE,
SAMBRIDGE.SS. FORT LA MAUNE. Admty. 250334 March para. 1 and your 281442 February refer. Request you will amplify details of dates and times at which signals on lifeboat sets were received at Socotra.
(2) SS. SAMBRIDGE. Form S.1533 reports that part of an SSSS message was made on ships emergency

set which then caught fire. Was this message received by Socotra or Aden or was it transmitted by SS. TARANTIA. No message was received at Eastern Fleet H.Q. or by any other stations as far as is known.

(C. in C. E.F., 011005Z to Com. i/c Aden.)

Re distress signal of SS. SAMBRIDGE sunk 18th November 1943.

Entry of
shipping
into ports
in India
and Ceylon
by night.

A number of cases have arisen of warships or convoys spending an extra night at sea in a submarine area due to their port of arrival being closed at night.

(2) It is considered that this principle now requires modification to permit entry by warship and important ships and convoys should occasion so demand.

/(3) ...

14

1.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Entry of shipping into ports in India and Ceylon by night. (Contd.)

(3) The principle of sailing crossing at selected times to enable them to reach their destination in daylight will be continued and the occasions when ports are required to operate in dark hours will be few.

(4) The only additional requirement will be -
(a) An organisation whereby navigational lights can be displayed on request, at reasonable notice.

(b) Availability of pilot and harbour facilities.

(5) Ports in India and Ceylon at which it is considered such facilities should be provided are - Karachi, Bombay, Cochin, Trincomalee, Madras, Vizagapatam and Colombo.

(6) Request your remarks.

(C. in C. E.F., 011117Z to C. in C. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon.)

It is intended that the principle outlined in my 011117/4 should apply at Kilindini, Aden, Diego Suarez and Port Victoria (Seychelles).

(C. in C. E.F., 011119Z to F.O.E.A., Com. i/c Aden.)

Fortnightly report for period 10th to 26th March.

Section 2. Eastern Fleet.

2. (a) On 14th March No.5 Commando successfully landed near Kanyindan. No enemy opposition encountered.

(b) M.Ls. bombarded Indin area on night 19th March.

(c) Owing to adverse weather conditions coastal forces ceased operating on 25th March and are being dispersed to Indian ports for refit and training.

(d) All Landing Craft except 6 L.C.P.(L) withdrawn 19th March to Chittagong area for same reason. The 6 L.C.P.(L) will remain in Naaf River during monsoon for use as dispatch boats.
(e) L.C.T. have been used to assist military maintenance on lines of comm.

(S.A.C.S.E.A., 011825.)

U/B report.

By D/F at 1744Z/1 on 78940 k/cs the position of a Japanese S/M was within an area of 250 miles of 033° S. 083° E. poor fix.

(C. in C. E.F., 012055Z.)

Aircraft Carriers.

Your 100924 and R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 141009. It is desired to emphasise para. 3 of A.M. 151936. 10 Wildcat pilots, trained for A/S operations, are on passage in ATHELING and BEGUM. Meeting the bill

for "Overlord" has taken all the available reserve fighter pilots and none can be made available for Eastern Theatre outside those allowed for to provide for replacement wastage for the planned I.E. of the Carriers. 2. Neither ATHELING nor BEGUM have operated aircraft and they have not been through F.O.C.T. organisation for working up. 3. The Avenger squadrons in ATHELING and BEGUM are fully trained in A/S operations but have not been Carrier-trained. If they are not used as suggested in para. 2 of your 180513* not to R.A.N.A.S.I.O. it would be preferable to use them for A/S work from shore bases rather than lay them up.
(V.C.N.S., 012136A to C. in C. E.F.) * Hush.

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

CHITRAL. Norfolk departed 31st March for Baltimore for conversion to Transport.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 010014Z.)

E.G.40 Your P.C.S. 1200Z/1st 046° 00' N. 047° 31' W.
SEANYMPH. 090° 8' altering to 352° in 046° 00' W. has been passed to SEANYMPH estimated P.C.S. 1200Z 1st 047° 46' N. 043° 39' W. 202° 10' altering to 265° in 044° 29' N. Plot indicating both in close proximity vicinity 046° W. about 0001Z 2nd.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 010026Z to S.E. E.G.40.)
(?acknowledge) receipt of my 301445 indicating present P.C.S.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 011530Z to SEANYMPH.)
Your 301445 not to F.O.N.F. not received. My P.C.S. at 2300Z/1st 049° 00' 12½ knots. E.T.A. St. Johns, N.F. 1100Z/2.
(SEANYMPH 012315Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 011534Z (See 020105Z) Cominch 011612Z)

Port Castries, Gros Islet. Ports in my 260930* re-opened.
(S.O.(1) Kingston, Jamaica 011600)
* Re. Port of Port Castries and Gros Islet closed until further notice.

S.C.155. Average speed 8.1 knots. Off Oversay at 0800/28th March. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 011737A.)

O.N. convoys. To expedite tanker turnaround and to implement para. 2 of N.S.H.Q. 302027 March para. 4 of A.M. 271701A is to be cancelled and the following substituted:-
O.N. convoys will sail as follows:-
O.N.M.231 7th April; O.N.F.232 13th April; O.N.S.233 20th April;
O.N.M.234 26th April; O.N.F.235 4th May; O.N.S.236 11th May;
O.N.M.237 19th May; O.N.F.238 26th May, and so on with final schedule 3 days ahead of present timetable.
(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 011813A.)

ELFREDA. B.A.M.R. Washington's 302156 and your 311206 neither to all and N.O.B. Bermuda's 011809.
ELFREDA sailed with CYNTHIA as it is considered that she should be accompanied by one of her Class with complete set of spares. ALFREDA is not completely worked up and cannot yet be considered fit for operations.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 012015Z to Admty.)

/VERVAIN...

16

1.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

VERVAIN. At 1700Z VERVAIN stopped with engine defects in 043° 43' N. 048° 10' W. At 1800Z VERVAIN proceeded in tow of KINGCUP and screened by BULLEN at 7 knots. VERVAIN expects to complete repairs tonight. B.6 group relieved by W.5 group at 1840Z in 043° 37' N. 048° 32' W. (X) convoy course 250° 9½ knots no stragglers. Weather report.
(S.O.E.G. B.6 012045Z.)

U/B incidents. B. San Juan plane attacked U/Boat 23.18 N. 59.07 W. before 011724. (Amended 022017 q.v.)
C. U/B sighted 10.59 N. 61.16 W. 011520 Croatan Group U/B contact 40.54 N. 55.58 W. before 311623. All times Z.
D. U.S.S. SWERCE Radar contact 35.03 N. 75.08 W. 300 900. P.B.M. Radar contact 35.53 N. 74.06 W. 311820. Surface craft attacked contact 26.09 N. 72.36 W. 311930. B.24 Radar contact 37.26 N. 75.36 W. 010153. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. (Cominch, 012149Z.) Para. B. amended see 022017B.

SEANYMPH, RED DEER. My 011433. S.O.37 detach RED DEER from S.C.156 on crossing 049° 00' W. about 0900Z/2 to R/V with SEANYMPH in 046° 10' N. 050° 02' W. at 1700Z 2nd.
2. Junction effected RED DEER assumes escort of SEANYMPH and proceeds to St. John N.F. as routed in C. in C. C.N.A. 301445 passed to RED DEER by other means.
3. RED DEER attention is called to C.A.F.O. 1064/42. (F.O.N.F. 012258Z.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest No.802. March 31st. Paras. 8 to 14 cover S.Pacific forces. Occupation Pityilu Island in Admty. Group completed midday after eliminating 51 Japanese. Our losses 7 killed 15 wounded.
Mopping up continues Los Negros Island and several Japs killed whilst attempting water crossing to Manus Island
8. During daylight 28th 5 U.S. Destroyers bombarded Kapingamarangi Atoll thoroughly covering Meteorological Station demolishing several buildings. Nil shore fire experienced nil shipping or floatplanes observed.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 011038Z.)

1.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. Dutch TJISALAK torpedoed and sunk
on 26th March in 02° 30'S. 78° 40' E.

Para. B. 1. A/C reported possible U/B at
2343Z/31 in 44° 59' N. 02° 30' W.

2. BLACK SWAN attacked contact at 2200Z/31 in
36° 32' N. 00° 34' E.

at 0900Z/31 in 49° 21' N. 09° 43' W.
(D.D.I.C. 011144A.)

Para. D. 1. U.S. A/C attacked possible U/B

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 011540A, 011541A.)

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Y.

1. At 0900A today C.S.10 in DIADEM reported convoy J.W.58 to be about 90 miles S.W. of Bear Island. He adds that during an attack by U-Boats on the convoy last night, which was driven off and caused no casualty, one U-Boat was sunk by KEPPEL (S.O. of the Support Group of destroyers); and that, in addition to this second U-Boat destroyed during the passage of the convoy, five enemy A/C have also been shot down.

SYRTIS
presumed
lost.

2. The S/M SYRTIS was reported at 0051A today to be 60 hours overdue from a patrol in the Bodo area (Norway) and F.O.3. considers that she must be presumed lost.

3. Bomber Command aircraft laid 125 miles off the Dutch and German coasts last night.

North Atlantic.

4. MAURITIUS (Mediterranean Fleet) sailed from Gibraltar today for the U.K.

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Shingle".

5. (a). 4573 tons were unloaded at Anzio today. Shelling continued, and a few bombs were dropped but caused no damage or casualties.
(b). 8 acoustic mines were swept today after mine-laying last night and more were laid tonight.

6. The ports of Piombino and San Stefano were effectively bombed last night.

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Situation
caused by
Japanese
atrocities.

7. (a). C. in C. Eastern Fleet sends today a message to the Admiralty dealing with the situation caused by the atrocities committed by the Japanese on survivors of ships torpedoed by U-Boats when sailing independently. He anticipates that when the news of these atrocities leaks out there may be a reluctance on the part of crews to sail in unescorted ships; and it is necessary to consider immediately the placing of all ships in convoy, in areas liable to attack.

(b). The escorts at present available on the East Indies Station are already insufficient to meet requirements and it can only be a matter of time when one of the large but very lightly escorted convoys is attacked with probably heavy losses. To put ships in the areas affected into convoy 36 additional long range escorts are required. No escort carriers are at present available, since BATTLEER is refitting in South Africa and the Squadron for SHAH is still under training. In any case, C. in C.E.F. does not consider that escort carriers acting independently will deal with attacks on unescorted ships; and consequently it is only by a combination of convoys and escort carriers that a reasonable degree of protection can be achieved.

(c). Had it not been for the Japanese atrocities C. in C.E.F. realises that it might have been necessary to accept what appears to be an undue proportion of shipping losses in that theatre; but he feels that under the circumstances this state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue.

(d). The Admiralty replied (8th April) that until after operation "Overlord" the general shortage of escorts absolutely precluded any substantial reinforcement of the Eastern station. Moreover, the general shipping situation does not permit of the institution of full convoy system in the Indian Ocean, as proposed by C. in C. Eastern Fleet. The Admiralty suggest that BEGUM and ATHELING should be used as A/S carriers and they have allocated the newly converted C.E.V. EMPRESS as replacement for BATTLEER (EMPRESS is on passage from U.S.A. to U.K.) They suggest that shipping on the Africa - Ceylon and Australia - Ceylon routes should proceed via Diego Garcia, in order to take advantage of air cover.

2.4.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

8. Allied M.T.Bs. were in contact with an enemy submarine off the S.W. coast of Los Negros Island early this morning.

9. In the Cape Hoskins area M.T.Bs. engaged and damaged three large enemy barges on the east coast of Commodore Bay in the early hours.

Air attack
on Truk.

10. 31 unescorted Liberators pattern bombed the warehouse and dock area on Dublon Island at midday today.

2.4.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CLYDE. Request you will sail CLYDE about 10th April for Gibraltar and onward passage to Eastern Fleet. (F.O.S. 021932B to Capt. S.3.)

Flag of A.N.C.X.F. A.N.C.X.F.'s 012135 concur. (C. in C.Portsmouth 022002B to Admty.)

Operations.

SYRTIS presumed lost. SYRTIS is now 60 hours overdue, has failed to answer signals, and must be considered lost.

2. SYRTIS left Lerwick on 16th March to patrol Kya area and on 20th March was ordered to proceed Bodo area. My 160246 and 202329 refer. There is indication from German Communique that she was operating in Bodo area on 22nd March.

3. An air search of return route and of coast in the vicinity SYRTIS Catalina aircraft today without positive result. Aircraft reports sighting a large oil patch 3 to 4 miles square at 1421/1 April in 062° 37' N. 001° 38' E. with number of floating planks and small red boards together with other wreckage. Position given is close to SYRTIS return route, but there is no evidence to connect this sighting with her loss.

4. Capt. S.3 is requested to take action re casualties and C.Bs. in accordance with S.G.M. 211 and I.S.O.H. 400. S.O.(S) Lerwick to report to Capt. S.3 any change which took place at Lerwick. (F.O.S. 020051A to Admty.)

Operation C.W. Possibly U-Boat Radar contact in 54° 26' N. 11° 36' W. (FROBISHER 020515Z to C. in C.W.A.) Inconclusive D/F of transmission at 0540Z indicates U-Boat in general area of convoy. (D.D.I.C. 020859B to Escorts H.X.284.)

Request you will sail 7th E.G. a.m. 5th April for operations in Atlantic. (C. in C.W.A. 021155B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operation F.Y. Fairly heavy D/F activity all on 3750 k/cs throughout the night and continuing indicates probability that J.W.58 has been reported and is being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 020640B to A.I.G. 47.) Scapa departures R.F.A. WAR PATHAN escorted by

MOLDE (S.O.) and NARVIK. (A.C.O.S. 020816 to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

My P.C. and S. 73° 40' N. 15° 02' E. 090° 10. Attack last night driven off by escort. No casualties. One U-Boat sunk by KEPPEL. Bag to date 2 U-Boats, 3 F.W.200, 1 Ju. 88, 1 B.V. 138. Weather.

(C.S.10 020900A to H.F.)

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.Y. (Contd.) Group 108, consisting of 9 ships FORT BRULE, FORT ROMAINE, OCEAN STRENGTH, FORT MCMURRAY, JEFFERSON DAVIS, JOHN W. POWELL, STEVENSON TAYLOR, CHARLES BULLFINCH, LOUIS D. BRANDEIS, sailed with icebreaker from Dvina Bar 1000A today. All ships except OCEAN STRENGTH hold S.P. 2272 (30).
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 021029A to S.B.N.O.N. Russia.)
A.M. 010103 and my 011219. WILLIAM S. THAYER joined J.W. 58. ELOY ALFARO arrived Reykjavik and sailed in convoy R.U. 114. (A.C.I.C. 022046B to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Only first 19 groups your 012359 received. Repeat message at next opportunity.
2. Proceed diving by day within 60 miles of Norwegian coast through UA. 065° N. 005° E. UB. 063° N. 004° E. thence attack shipping in Stadtlandet and Bredsond area between lat. 062° 40' and 062° 01'.
3. VACOALLV GABET (as received) is not to penetrate south of lat. 062° 13'.
(F.O.S. 020656B to ULA.)

Request you will sail UNSHAKEN as convenient after arrival on 3rd April through 090° Muckle Flugga 20 miles thence P. 061° 02' N. 000° 22' E. Q. 060° 57' N. 003° 05' E. R. 059° 17' N. 004° 33' E. to patrol in accordance with S.M. 04010/973 (as amended F.O.S. 281806) on the surface at C.O. discretion when 60 miles clear Norwegian coast.

(Capt. S.9 021153B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Position of submarines at 0800/3rd and movements for following 24 hours.

A. ULA arriving on patrol off Stadtlandet.
(F.O.S. 021732B to Admty.)

Operation "Tungsten". P.C. and S. of Force 2 at 1958A/1st as reported to A/C 067° 45' N. 000° 29' W. 005° 12 knots. 2 tankers and 3 destroyers had parted company sometime between 1509 and 2102.
(C. in C. Rosyth 020810B to H.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 021320B.)
(V.A. Dover 021514A.)
(C. in C. Plymouth 021831B.)

Enemy Air Activity.

N. Russia. German air force activity March 16/51st as reported by Russians. Details.
(S.B.N.O.N. Russia 021027B to C. in C.H.F.)

Shetlands. Following from N.O.I.C. Lerwick begins: Details of R/C carried out by an enemy aircraft today. Time 1655B. Type Ju. 88 track, flew up South Bressay Sound and N.N.E. to Yell and Unst. Not

/detected...

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Shetlands.
(Contd.)

detected before being sighted. Counter-action, engaged by light and heavy A.A. batteries. No hits observed. Enemy action, none observed. Photographic R/C of Lerwick Harbour may have been carried out. There were two submarines and two armed trawlers alongside at the time. Ends.
(A.C.O.S. 022045 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Troop transport to Norway.

Your 281137. Is this an indication that enemy is preparing to abandon his Baltic line of communication with troops in North Finland in favour of the Denmark - Norway route or as a supplement to the former.
(D.N.I. 021120B to N.A.Stockholm.)

Navigational.

Portsmouth.

Port of Portsmouth closed due to fog.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 020912B to Admty.)
My 020912B. Port of Portsmouth Needles Channel now open.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 021033B to Admty.)
Port of Portsmouth now open.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 021141B to Admty.)

Technical.

Anti "Gnat" procedure.

Concur in revised amendments to A.C.I. 138 as set out in Admiralty's 011645.
Request amendments be promulgated by signal.
(C. in C.W.A. 021129B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

ONORA.

My 251307. ONORA has broken down and will be towed to Larne. Admiralty 241150 March refers.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 021220 to Admty.)

LONG BRANCH.

Sailed LONG BRANCH. E.T.A. Londonderry 1000B/3rd.
(MENTOR 021401B to Cdre. D.W.A.)

L.C.A.(H.R.)
811 and L.C.A.
(H.R.) 672
sunk.

L.C.A.(H.R.) 811 and 672 of 592 Flotilla foundered during exercise "Leap Year". Certain stores and engine parts from 672 were salvaged.
(F.O.Force S 021635 to Admty.)

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

M/Vs between
Pentland &
North Minch.

Special instructions given in A.M. 142039 March are
now cancelled.
(D.T.D. 020058A to C. in C.W.A.)

NAGARA.
VASAHOLM.
SUORVA.
(Greek re-
lief ships.)

Swedish Government has chartered for Greek relief
the following three vessels now in Baltic:-
NAGARA, VASAHOLM, SUORVA. Details.

2. All three vessels will sail from Vinga at 0800
April 6th.

3. NAGARA and VASAHOLM will proceed by standard
Gothenburg traffic route to 36° 40' N. 35° 00' W.
thence to 34° 00' N. 39° 00' W. thence by "Black"

route to St. John N.B.

4. SUORVA will proceed by standard Gothenburg traffic route to
River Plate.

5. Vessels should not be molested while following above routes.
(Head of M.I. 021758B to A.I.G.23, A.I.G.39, N.O.I.C. Faroes,
Cominch.)

25

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

MAURITIUS

Departure 0140.
(F.O.G.M.A. 020302A).

ANTONIA
DIAZ.

Your 011036/ Spanish ANTONIA DIAZ seized
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 021030A to Admty.).
/ Repetition of 302310 re seizing of Auxiliary
Vessel ANTONIA DIAZ.

PREMIER,
NADDER,
WEAR.

On completion of flying off.
(A) PREMIER proceed independently as in A.M.
011332.
(B) NADDER and WEAR proceed to Gibraltar,
(arrangements).
(2) NADDER report P.C.S. on parting company with PREMIER.
(F.O.G.M.A., 021211A).

Straits
Blimp
Fence.

Cominch 291939/March.+ Request confirmation
there are no difficulties where Gibraltar is con-
cerned and that A.O.C. agrees. Also request
copy your 251140/March.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 021322B to F.O.G.M.A.).
+ Re proposal to raise day and night fence across
Straits with M.A.D. Blimps.

SS. MELCHUCA.

(1) R.O. Ceuta reports Carrenza or Germans offering
owners of Spanish MELCHUCA 51,000 Pesetas to
transport 125 tons of tinned tunny from Ceuta to
Cadiz or Seville.
(2) Owners of ship ask permission to accept cargo promising
give 24 hours notice of sailing so that ship can be intercepted
by arrangement.
(3) Owners stipulate ship be released after being retained Gib
about 15 days also that suitable remuneration be deposited
here for Master and owners.
(4) R.O. Ceuta recommends acceptance as Carrenza would other-
wise secure a ship less likely to co-operate with us.
(5) Request instructions.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 021530Z to Admty.).

South Atlantic

U/boat
reports.

Have obtained bearing Naval enigma 062° 2nd class
near groups 274 6795 kc/s my position 03° 00' N.
04° 00' W.
(LOWESTOFT, 020208Z).

/ D/F...

2.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

U/boat reports (Contd.). D/F Bearing of German U/boat at 0215Z, 266° sensed, near. My P.C.S. 004° 22' 002° 25' W. 265° 16. Am investigating. (F.A.L. 020220Z). Estimate U/boat position at 0620Z 004° 16' N. 003° 28' W. KILKENZIE KILDWICK ordered to sweep course 086° from position 004° 15' N. 003° 44' W. Join them. (LOWESTOFT, 020559Z to F.A.L.).

2nd Div. Intend to sail Second Division of 36th M.L.
36th M.L.F. Flotilla escorted by ST. LOMAN to comply with the following programme.

Arrive	Port	Depart
-	Durban	0900Z? 3rd April
1700Z/6th April	Tulear	1600Z/9th April
0400Z/12th April	Majunga	0600Z/15th April
1200Z/16th April	Diego Suarez	-

(2) C. in C.E.F. is requested to provide onward escort to Seychelles Addu Atoll and Colombo. (Com. i/c Durban, 020954).

SS. DAHOMAN Further to my 011459/. Hunt for U/boat by all
(sunk ^ available surface and air forces continues.

1st April). (2) Two S.A.N.F. minesweepers and TEST were in sight at time of sinking and aircraft were over position about one hour after the attack.

(3) No torpedo tracks were seen and U/boat did not surface.
(4) Possibility of minefield. Explosions heard to seaward of Cape Point two nights previously. Surface craft investigated but found nothing. Day before sinking area thoroughly searched by air. No mines found in swept channel. Sweep of area is in progress.

(5) No unaccountable plot has appeared at shore radar stations. (C. in C.S.A., 021227B).

✓ DAHOMIAN torpedoed.

SS DAHOMIAN sunk at 0920Z/1 in 34° 25' S. 18° 19' E. course 090°.

(2) One violent explosion felt on starboard side amidships but no flash or smoke seen. Ship sank in 20 minutes.

(3) No U/boat or torpedo track seen.

(4) S.A.N.F. trawlers were patrolling five to six miles on ships port side at time of explosion TEST also in sight.

(5) SSSS message transmitted but not received by shore stations.

(6) 49 survivors include Master landed at Capetown. Two members of crew missing.

(7) All C.Bs. and W/T books sank with ship and were stowed in weighted chests.

(S.O.(I) Capetown, 021229B).

War Diary.

2.4.1944.

Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

NEREUS. Your 280915. My P.C.S. 034 degs. 32' 023 degs. 20', 283 degs. 9 knots.
(2) Patrol report Nil.
(NEREUS, 020020B to Capt. (S) 1)

MYRLAND (Trawler) GUILLO. My 102138/ February. Very desirable that MYRLAND should return to U.K. if possible, unless the vessel is still considered economically unrepairable.

(2) Request circumstances in which GUILLO was taken up for naval service at Port Said in August 1940 may be reported.

(Admiralty 020039A to F.O.L.E.M.)

Re instruction will be sent regarding final disposal of GUILLO and MYRLAND.

A/S search. Your 011928A (N.T. in W.D.). Have had no contacts. Now sweeping to Algiers.
My P.C.S. at 0600 037 degs. 10' 001 degs. 25' E. 103 degs. 14 knots E.T.A. 1200B/2nd.
Cannot contact M.L.463 and 469 who have not joined me.
(ACONITE? 020600B to C. in C. Med.)

UNTIRING, UPSTART, UNIVERSAL, UPROAR, LE CURIE. Intend sailing P.59 (UNTIRING) at 1400/3rd routed QBB 312 thence direct 043 degs. 10' 007 degs. 36' at 2300/4th to patrol in zone SS.
(2) P.65 (UPSTART) is to patrol in zone ST from 0800/3rd.
(Capt.(S) 10, 020931 to UPSTART)
Cancel my 311859. Postpone my 020931 24 hours.
Postpone para 2 of my 311613 24 hours.

(2) Bombing restrictions from 2000 2nd until 0700/4th covering zones SS and ST only, with exception of (UPROAR) route. S/Ms are to keep strictly inside patrol zones.

(Capt. (S) 10, 021423B to LE CURIE, UPSTART)

I.F.F. N.A.F. 659 - 2nd April 1944. U.S.1603. Ref No. F.26435. Edited Literal Text. Interior Addressees: From Algiers Signed Wilson.

Action to: Agwar for Combined Chiefs of Staff Etousa for British Chiefs of Staff (R) Unity M.A.A.F.
Certain Italian aircraft which are engaged in convoy protection, A/S patrol, offensive operations in Yugoslavia and supply dropping in connection with Partisan forces are being fitted I.F.F. These operations are in close co-operation with Allied Air Forces and it is an operational requirement that these aircraft be identified in order to prevent the compromise of our air defense as well as wasting fighter effort to interrupt.
(Wilson, 021248B)

UNSPARING/...

28

2.4.1944.

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

UNSPARING. P.55 UNSPARING sailed from Malta at 1404/2nd to arrive in vicinity Scarpanto about 2002/6th to patrol area bound by lines joining the following positions. A. 036 degs. 07' 026 degs. 07'.
 B. 036 degs. 07' 027 degs. 49'. C. 035 degs. 22' 027 degs. 49'.
 D. 035 degs. 02' 027 degs. 28'. E. 035 degs. 02' 026 degs. 07'.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 021405 to 1st S/M. F. NEREUS, F.O.L.E.M.)

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep 72 L.S.Ts and L.C.I. L.S.L. from Naples respectively contributed 434 and 200 tons out of 4559 tons discharged on first April.
 (2) Shelling increased. No bombs.
 (3) Weather prevented D.U.K.W's operations.
 (F.O.W.I.T.021614A)

Black Sea. From Intelligence Report March 25th to March 31st inclusive.
 Air - No attacks reported on enemy shipping.
 Air reconnaissances of Crimean Ports and/or Aerodromes on four days. Widespread enemy Air R/C on four days.
 (2) Various. One tug damaged in Ochakov by shore battery March 24th. One F lighter and two 25 ton auxiliary craft captured in Ochakov March 30th.
 (4) Soviet Information Bureau communique for March 30th stated 5000 tons merchant vessel sunk by Soviet warships in Black Sea. (N.L.O.Black Sea 021927C)
 My 281748/ para. 1 from operation reports received: (a) March 17th 4 more craft damaged off Ochakov and four E-boats damaged and 2 Messerschmitts 109 shot down at Feodosia.
 (b) March 19 convoy consisting of 24 vessels, merchant vessels sunk was 2,000 tons and 7 Soviet aircraft were lost.
 (N.L.O. Black Sea 021930C)
 Intelligence reports March 19th to 24th.

U-Boat report. Negative. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 36 degs. 17' N. 2 degs. 58' W.
 (A/C W.C.L.C. 021957Z, 022209)

2.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Situation caused by Japanese atrocities.

Apart from the losses of ships and cargoes which are incurred by independent ships in Indian Ocean the atrocities committed by the Japanese on survivors make it necessary to consider immediately the placing of all ships in convoy in areas subject to attack.

(2) The atrocities referred to are as follows:-

- (A) SCOTIA. Sunk 27th November. Master taken on board S/M and tortured. Fire opened at point blank range on men in lifeboats all of whom killed except one.
- (B) DAISY MOLLER. Sunk 14th December. Boats rammed and fired on crew machine gunned in water.
- (C) ASCOT. Sunk 29th February. Master taken on board S/M. Maltreated and thrown into water. Lifeboat machine gunned, 44 out of 52 killed.
- (D) NANCY MOLLER. Sunk 18th March. S/M fired repeatedly on survivors. Half the crew of 70 killed.
- (E) TJISALAK. Sunk 26th March. All survivors taken on board S/M and boat cast off. Captain and 1 Red Cross Nurse taken below and not seen again. Survivors lined up and ordered not to look toward bridge. Lifebelts taken away from them, and Japanese began to tie in pairs. Some showed resistance and general massacre with machine guns, rifles, revolvers, swords, crowbars and hammers ensued. 4 Europeans and 1 Lascar escaped by jumping overboard and swimming 5 miles to lifeboat.
- (3) It must be anticipated that when the news of these atrocities leak out there may be a reluctance on the part of crews to sail in independent unescorted ships.
- (4) As you are aware the escorts at present available on this station are already insufficient to meet requirements and it can only be a matter of time when one of the large but very lightly escorted convoys is attacked with probably heavy losses.
- (5) To put ships in the area affected into convoy the following additional long range escorts are required -
- (A) Australia, India and Ceylon 18 escorts for 10 day cycle.
- (B) Colombo - Aden 10 escorts for 8 day cycle.
- (C) South Africa - India (between Colombo and Kilindini) 8 escorts for 14 day cycle.
- (6) No escort carriers are at present available to operate since BATTLEER is refitting in South Africa and will not be available for some time; the squadron for SHAH is still under training. I do not consider however, that operations by escort carriers acting independently in threatened areas will deal with attacks on independent ships and consequently it is only by combination of convoys and escort carriers that a reasonable degree of protection can be achieved.
- (7) I fully appreciate that the Admiralty alone are in a position to review requirements of all theatres and had it not been for these atrocities I realise it might have been necessary to accept what appears to be an undue proportion of shipping losses in this theatre. These atrocities however put an entirely different complexion on the matter and I feel we cannot allow this state of affairs to continue.
- (C. in C. E.F., 020349Z to Admty.)

Reply: 081827B.

/U-Boat ...

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U-Boat
dispositions.

My 010349Z no fresh information, no change in scales of air escort except E reduced to W. Indian Ocean: Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F at 1744/1 to be approx. 550 miles south of Ceylon.
(C. in C. E.F., 020354Z.)

E.G. 10,
SPEY,
defects.
(escorting
carriers).

SPEY has starboard main engine after (LP?) cylinder block broken and cover in several pieces, piston and rod distorted. Proceeding at best speed on port engine. NIZAM taken over S.O. escorts. My P.C.S. 008° 49' N. 072° 50' E. 114° 12 (corrupt group).
Additional essential defects. SPEY, LOSSIE.
In addition all ships of group require period in harbour to make good numerous important routine defects in (corrupt group) caused by continuous and hard steaming.
(E.G.10, 021603Z to C. in C. E.F.)

2.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 020105Z, 021420Z, Cominch, 021617Z)

U-Boat Inconclusive D/F of WW message at 0052 on 4190
Report. K/cs indicates U-Boats in area 047 degs. 00' N.
040 degs. 00' W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 020357Z)

SEANYMPH. Cancel my 301950 and amend my 272254. SEANYMPH
reports P.C.S. (amended 022012Z q.v.).
(2) Acknowledge.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 020401Z to A.O.C.E.A.C., A.C.I.C.
Cominch, H.Q.C.C.)

Your 012315 acknowledged. Heavy pack ice exists in area enclosed
by a line drawn from Cape Spear through 046 degs. 20' N. 046
degs. 55' W. thence in a 332 degs direction. Report immediately
any enforced deviation from route. My 020401 refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 020410Z to SEANYMPH)
Amend my 020401 SEANYMPH reported P.C.S. at 1500Z/2nd
048 degs. 00' N. 050 degs. 00' W. 130 degs. 3 knots altering
for St. Johns N.F. at S.E. limits of ice fields.
(2) SEANYMPH has been ordered to report P.C.S. every 6 hours
until clear of ice.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 022012Z)

St. Lucia. Vieux Fort remains closed my 011600 refers.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 021035)
Port Castries and Gros Islet re-opened.

MOCENIGO. C.R. No.1337.
Request identification U.S. Force responsible
sinking Italian S/M MOCENIGO reported in C.B.
04050 October 1943 issue.
(Cominch, 221301Z to Admty.)

H.X.283. Average speed 9.4 knots. Off Oversight at
0100Z/28th March. All arrived.
(D.T.D.021311B)

S.C.156. GOODALL sailed E.T.A. convoy during daylight
4th April. My 312004 / refers.
(F.O.N.F.021320Z).
/ GOODALL not sailed with B.7.

Stragglers Stragglers arrived week-ending 1st April: Nil.
report. (N.C.S.O.St. Johns, N.F. 021337Z)

MAURETANIA /...

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

MAURETANIA.

Diversion order.
(Connav, 021510Z)

Escorts for
INDOMITABLE.

Intend to retain INMAN and RIOU to cover INDOMIT-
ABLE during her work up. Your 011332 not to
all refers.
(2) These with HOLMES will give her 3 as from 12th.
(3) HOTHAM will arrive Norfolk (va.) about 16th
and thus INDOMITABLE will have 4 escorts for her passage to U.K.
(B.A.D. 021741Z)

L.S.T's
from
Med.

In conformity with the policy of the C.C.S.
regarding the movement of L.S.T's from the Med.
to the U.K. that all possible should be British.
Consider that of the 40 L.C.I's which may be
withdrawn the maximum number possible should be
British. Subject to such revision as to numbers
of U.S. and British craft as may be possible in light of above
policy C. in C. Med. 311829 is acceptable to Cominch.
(Cominch, 021834Z)

U-Boat
incidents.

My 012149. Correct Para B. to 23.59 N. 58.15 W.
011530 by P.B.M.S. Straddle claimed oil sighted.
Evaluation now A. Para. C. KIM Pilot sighted
periscope and wake 12.28 N. 69.21 W. 016050.
A/C sighted conning tower and wake 11.57 N. 69.
25 W. 011959. All times Z para. D. B.17 sighted U-Boat 29.07N.
88. 27 W. 012231 course 197. Key West plane Radar contact
20.20 N. 85.25 W. 012100. P.C.S.1425 attacked sound contact
25.48 N. 83.15 W. 012330. Blimp Radar contact 20.32 N. 85.43 W.
020223. PV Radar contact 26.00 N. 83.35 W. 020315.
Ref. 012149. San Juan plane attacked U-Boat 23.18 N. 59.07 W.
before 011724. U-Boat sighted 10.59 N. 61.16 W. 011520 Croatan
Group U-Boat contact 40.54 N. 55.58 W. etc.
(Cominch, 022017)

L.27.

Your 080011 March. In the circumstances concur
that refit of L.27 should continue, the vessel
being run for A/S training thereafter for as
long as practicable.
(3) The vessel is allocated to N.S.H.Q.
(Admty. 022057B to B.A.D.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No.803.

April 1. Para. 10 to 12 cover South Pacific
forces.

2.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No.803.
(Contd.)

(6) Following bombardment by destroyers motor torpedo boats ground forces occupied Narile and Koruniat Islands North Seeadler Harbour growing. Nil opposition encountered. Enemy casualties Admiralty's to date total (as received) more than 2,800 known killed, now estimated 1,100 killed and ineffective. Estimated Japanese remnants number about 400 in small scattered groups.
(12) Night 29th/30th U.S. destroyers shelled enemy positions Empress Augusta Bay.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 020700)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) H.M.S. FAL obtained D/F of U-Boat course 266 degs. at 0215Z/2nd April in 04 degs. 22' N. 02 degs. 25' W. and is investigating.
(2) French Catalina dropped one depth-charge on U-Boat which dived at 1248/1 in 36 degs. 30' N. 08 degs. 07' W.
(3) DAHOMIAN sunk by torpedo or mine at 0920Z/1 in 34 degs. 25' S. 18 degs. 19' E.
Para. B. (1) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat course 200 degs. at 1532Z/1 in 33 degs. 45' N. 08 degs. 34' W.
Para. C. 1. Turkish ship KROM sunk by torpedo off Marmarice on 30th March in approx. 35 degs. 45' N. 28 degs. 27' E.
(D.D.I.C. 021149B, amended 030959Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 021400B, 021401B.)

3.4.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Tungsten".
TIRPITZ
bombed.

1. (a). At 0826 today V.A.2 in ANSON reported that the attack upon TIRPITZ in Altenfjord by Bomber A/C of the Fleet Air Arm had been successfully completed: that TIRPITZ had been hit by at least one 1600 lb. bomb as well as by many others; and that three Barracuda and one fighter A/C had been lost. (b). A B.2 report at 1940Z today states that TIRPITZ was then still inside her defence net and had been hit forward, amidships, and aft. A later report from V.A.2 states that during the first strike at 0629B TIRPITZ was hit by three 1600 lb. bombs among others and that, after the second strike at 0736B, a large explosion was seen by her mainmast. She was left shrouded in smoke with two fires burning amidships and had then ceased firing. There was no fighter opposition; flak was variable and ineffective; and our surface-forces were apparently not seen by the enemy.

Operation
F.Y.
U/B sunk by
A/C from
TRACKER.

2. (a). At 0800 today convoy J.W.58 was estimated to be about 135 miles N. by E. of the North Cape. (b). At 1800B C. in C.H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with two destroyers was about 250 miles E.S.E. of Jan Mayen returning to Scapa at 20 knots; and at 1940Z enemy A/C were reported by Admiralty to be homing U-Boats on to convoy J.W.58. (c). At 0520 a U-Boat was sunk by A/C from the escort carrier TRACKER supporting the convoy about 130 miles north of the North Cape.

U. 288 sunk

Mediterranean.

U/B in
Straits.

3. Two aircraft and destroyers this morning attacked a U-Boat in 35.53 N. 05.44 W. 5 miles west of Europa Point. There is no further information.

UPROAR.

4. On return from patrol UPROAR reports that on the afternoon of 26th March she fired 28 rounds of 3 inch H.E. at a 5000 ton tanker in Oneglia harbour (near the French/Italian frontier) and estimates 16 hits.

Operation
"Shingle".

5. 4781 tons were discharged at Anzio today. About 9 aircraft attacked the harbour last night and dropped mines, but no damage was caused to shipping, though P.C.621 suffered some damage through the detonation of a mine today.

/Adriatic...

3.4.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Adriatic.

6.(a). Destroyer patrols have been carried out in the Adriatic each night since 30/31 March inclusive, except on the night 1/2 April when the weather was unsuitable. All patrols were blank.

(b). An M.T.B. had a gun action and damaged an I-Boat off Jelsa, Hvar Island last night; and coastal forces captured an enemy schooner in the Dalmatian islands.

7. Allied aircraft last night and today attacked shipping and harbours on both coasts of the Adriatic, at Corfu, and on the west coast of Italy.

Aegean.

8. Last night 3 Wellingtons successfully laid mines 2 in each harbour at Heraklion, Naxos and Syros.

China.

9. 3 U.S. Liberators today laid 15 mines in the river canal at Haiphong.

Australia & New Zealand.

10. Allied M.T.Bs. attacked a Japanese supply submarine last night 15 miles N.E. of Ubili and made a possible torpedo hit. They sank one barge and captured a second in the same vicinity.

11.(a). Two other M.T.Bs. off the coast of New Guinea last night sank 3 barges and damaged a fourth; these were heading empty into Madang where three light gun positions ashore were silenced and a probable fuel dump was fired. Both M.T.Bs. sustained slight damage and minor casualties.

(b). Bunabun Harbour between Hansa Bay and Madang was bombed and gunned this morning by Allied aircraft.

12. U.S. destroyers shelled enemy areas at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, this morning.

3.4.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

13. Rambutye Island, south east of Los Negros Island was occupied this afternoon without opposition. M.T.Bs. supported the landing party.

3.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of the United Kingdom

Withdrawal of A/A guns. In order to provide adequate air defences for areas concerned with offensive operations, the War Cabinet have approved the following withdrawals from your command:-

- (a) Heavy A/A guns - Humber area 18.
- (b) Light A/A guns - All Bofors from Grimsby, Immingham, Killingholm, Cleethorpes and Burnham-on-Crouch. (D.L.D., 031754B to C. in C. Nore.)

In order to provide adequate air defences for areas concerned with offensive operations, the War Cabinet have approved the following withdrawals of H.A.A. guns from your command:- Liverpool area 20, Barrow - 8, Clyde area - 10, Fort William - 4 and Belfast area - 6.

(D.L.D., 031759A to C. in C. W.A.)

In order to provide adequate air defences for areas concerned with offensive operations, the War Cabinet have approved the following withdrawals from your command:- (a) Heavy A/A guns - Forth area - 20, Dundee - 10, Tyne area - 12, Tees area - 4, Invergordon - 4. (b) Light A/A guns - All Bofors from Grangemouth, Tynemouth, Tyne Yards, Blyth, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Dundee, Aberdeen and Invergordon.

(D.L.D., 031802A to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Milford Haven. In view of A.M. 897 AZ T.O.O. 211936A March, it is requested if possible the baffle at the entrance to Milford Haven may be replaced at an early date or if this is not feasible that consideration be given to supplying not less than 48 A/T nets to enable the eastern section to be reinstated. This would afford protection to most sheltered part of convoy anchorage including about 50% of berths. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 031917B to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation F.Y. By D/F German U-Boat reported at 2023Z/2 bearing 327° from station 24. Reliable. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 030020B to Admty.) J.W.58. Following ten M/Vs. have been selected for White Sea ports, destination Molotovsk. Names.

2. (A) Remainder to Kola Inlet. Of these request following ten ships be kept in reserve to proceed White Sea as soon as icebreakers are available to bring them down. Names. (B) 10th Archangel ships carrying M.T.Bs. to discharge these at Kola if possible.

3. In the event of casualties to White Sea section request replacement by reserve ships in order named.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 030301A to H.F.)

One F.W.200 A/C shot down in flames at 311627 by Wildcats A/C JV.485 and JV.490. Details.

(TRACKER, 031630Z to Admty.)

C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 0830B/5th, MARNE, MATCHLESS in company. My P.C.S. 069° 50' N. 003° 29' E. 205°, 20 knots.

/Request ...

3.4.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Request A/S air escort from 0600 to 1800/4th.
F.Y. Do not intend to cover R.A.58. Request you
(Contd.) sail ULYSSES and one other destroyer if available
to proceed by route "Red" to R/V Force 9 in
position "Zebra" 067° 10' N. 002° 25' W. at
0800B/5th to reinforce escort. PIORUN amend

R/V if necessary.

(C. in C. H.F., 031800B to R.A.D.H.F.)

(1) Intend to sail for Loch Ewe R.A.58 1100B/6th April.

(2) Speed 9½ knots.

(3) Routed KX, (? and) thence route "Blue" H, J, F, K, LC, B,
A, C. in C. H.F. 190220A March, and AA, BB to Ewe buoy.(4) Reference positions same as ocean route. Additional
reference positions "Red", G, F, E, D, C. in C. H.F. 190220B
March.(5) British ships - BRITISH VALOUR (T), LUCERNA (T), DAPHNELLA
(T), EMPIRE CELIA, COPELAND.(6) American ships - CHARLES H. SCHWAB, JOHN A. DONALD, ROBERT
EDEN, JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER, JOHN A. QUITMAN, NATHANIEL ALEXANDER,
JOHN WOOLMAN, JOHN STEVENSON, MARIE M. MELONEY, THOMAS HARTLEY,
BYRON DARNTON, ALEXANDER WHITE, HENRY B. BROWN, JOHN RUTLEDGE,
JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS, JOHN LANGDON, EDWARD SPARROW, HENRY LOMB,
WILLIAM H. WEBB, RICHARD M. JOHNSON, LORD DELAWARE, PHILIP F.
THOMAS, ROBERT J. COLLIER, CAESAR RODNEY, NATHAN TOWSON.

(7) Tanker MIJDRECHT (Dutch).

(8) Rescue Vessel RATHLIN.

(9) Following from Archangel will (? join) - FORT ROMAINE, FORT
MCMURRAY, OCEAN STRENGTH, FORT BRULE (all British).JOHN W. MARCHWELL, STEVENSON TAYLOR, CHARLES BULLFINCH, LOUIS
D. BRANDEIS, JEFFERSON DAVIS (all American).

(10) 2 American vessels (names unknown) may be detained.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 032051B to Admty.)

At 1940Z/3/4 aircraft were carrying our homing procedure
for U-Boats on to convoy J.W.58.

(D.D.I.C., 032237B to A.I.G. 47.)

Your 031800 and F.O.C. or S.O. Destroyer Flotilla H.F.'s
032139. One Catalina will provide A/S air escort from 0951B
till 1801B tomorrow. Weather precludes earlier R/V.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 032339B to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation "Tungsten" completed. ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ hit
"Tungsten". by at least one 1600 bomb and many other bombs.
TIRPITZ 3 Barracudas, one fighter were lost. Fighter
bombed. pilot safe.

(V.A.2, 030826 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

"Tungsten" completed. Several hits on ADMIRAL
VON TIRPITZ. 3 Barracuda lost. Force 9

returning to Scapa.

(V.A.2, 031155A to H.F.)

Proceed passing Switha 0300B/4th to comply with C. in C.
H.F. 031800.(2) Estimate position Forces 7 and 8 at 2000B/4th 068° 30' N.
001° 30' W., returning by route "Red".

(R.A.D.H.F., 032158B to ULYSSES.)

Force 9 proceed to position RR 071° 30' N. 003° 00' E.
and await orders from V.A.2.

(2) Delay ULYSSES sailing. My 031800 refers.

(C. in C. H.F., 032308B to PIORUN, R.A.D.H.F.)

/Coastal ...

3.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (V.A. Dover, 031628B.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of submarines 0800/4th and movements for the following 24 hours.
(A) ULA on patrol off Stadtlandet.
(B) UNSHAKEN 60° 45' N. 03° 14' E. proceeding towards patrol position between Skudesnes and Lister probably dived by day.

(F.O.(S), 031737B to Admty.)

Request you will recall ULA to arrive Lerwick 9th April where she will remain until required for next patrol about 16th April.

(F.O.(S), 031748B to Capt. (S) 9.)

SCHWABENLAND damaged by TERRAPIN on 24th March. Photographs taken on 31st March, 1st and 2nd April show Catapult ship SCHWABENLAND at Abelnæs South of Flekkefjord with bows inshore. Possibly on sandy shelf. Vessel seen listing to starboard. A hole approx. 28 x 18 ft. is apparent on starboard beam abaft central superstructure. Aircraft tender 240 ft. seen alongside her on 31st March and 1st April with crane over her No. 2 hold but departed 2nd April.

(Medmenham, 031800B to Admty.)

O.I.C. Comment: SCHWABENLAND was probably the large vessel attacked in convoy by TERRAPIN at 1312/24 in 58° 08' N. 06° 25' E. S.O.(S) Lerwick 021635B refers.

S.C. operations. Intend to sail S.C. operation from Scalloway.
(1) p.m./5th April weather permitting.
(2) 62° 25' N. 05° 36' E.
(3) Ramose Haggie. (4) Two days. (5) 063° Muckle Flugga. (6) No.
(A.C.O.S., 031858B to Admty.)

Intend to sail Submarine Chaser Operation from Scalloway.
(1) a.m./6th April weather permitting. (2) 61° 01' N. 04° 44' E. (3) Ramose Bristle. (4) 2 days. (5) 087° Muckle Flugga. (6) No.
(A.C.O.S., 031903B to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C for North Russia. Air Ministry state 48 Catalinas are being ferried from U.S.A. to Kola Inlet via Iceland by Russian crews on latter portion of route. First departures ex U.S.A. expected 5th May. No details yet over what period operation is likely to extend.

(2) Request information whether movements and met. messages to and from Iceland via Admiralty can be handled.

(3) Would this affect proposed reduction in W/T staffs.

(Ad. Fisher, 031041C to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

3.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. Ju.88 sighted from Reykjaskoli 065° 15' N. 021° 08' W. at 1410, height 5000 feet, course S.S.W. Sighted again over Hvammsey in Hvalfiord at 1530 course S.S.W. cloud 8/10ths 2000 feet visibility 12 miles.
(A.C.I.C., 031724B to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat, in 62° 23' N. 16° 45' W. No further contact.
(A/C PHHN, 030315B to ND.3.)

Navigational.

Wick. Wick Harbour closed through weather.
(R.N.O. Wick, 030715B to Admty.)

Rosyth. Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 030904B to Admty.)
Cancel my 030904B.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 031403B to Admty.)

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth Needles Channel closed due to fog.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 032048A to Admty.)
Cancel my 032048B. Visibility improved.
Revert to normal night conditions.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 032336B to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

OLDHAM (Convoy S.C.156). B.7's 030555B is approved.
C. in C. C.N.A. is requested to sail Tug to OLDHAM if available.
(C. in C. W.A., 030820Z to B.7.)

LONG BRANCH. LONG BRANCH arrived.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 030820B to MENTOR.)

LARIAT. Unable to proceed owing to serious defects of starboard engine.
(LARIAT, 031335B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

M.F.V. 095. My 291330. Belgian M.F.V.095 was raised at 1640/3 and placed on the mud outside north-west end of new pier. Proposed to pump the vessel out at low water 14 and tow her into inner harbour for inspection.
(R.N.O. Brixham, 031755 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
My 031755. Pumping operation postponed 24 hours.
(R.N.O. Brixham, 032345 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

3.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

EMPIRE
CUTLASS.

Request you will sail EMPIRE CUTLASS to Dundee
for repairs at Calidon Works. 536 L.C.A.
Flotilla is embarked.
(F.O. Force "S", 032244B to N.C.I.C. Invergordon)

42

3.4.1944.
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

Straits blimp fence. Following is re-encypherment 251140A/March. Requested in your 021322B/ April begins - addressed (Comnavnav repeated Chief of Naval Ops. Cominch, C. in C. Med., C.M.S.F., Comfairwing 15 from F.O.G.M.A.) ACC 73 25th March reference your 241711 welcome proposal to raise day and night fence across Straits with M.A.D. Blimps. We are investigating possibility of base with two Masts at Gibraltar. Ends. (F.O.G.M.A., 030130 to Admty.)
 / Requesting confirmation there are no difficulties where Gib. is concerned as regards raising of day and night fence with M.A.D. Blimps.
 Blimp base is impracticable at Gibraltar.
 (2) Commorseafron has been asked to send expert to advise on possibility of emergency Masts.
 (3) A.M. 021322/ refers.
 (F.O.G.M.A. 031200 to Admty.)
 / Requesting confirmation there are no difficulties where Gibraltar is concerned in proposal to raise day and night fences across Straits.

U/B attacked. Have A.S.V. contact position 35° 53' N. 05° 44' W. probably U-Boat.
 (A/C C/SS TPM 030744A to A/C Base NHY.)
 Have attacked U-Boat with bombs explosion heard 035 degs. 53' N. request (corrupt group.)
 (A/C C/S STPM 030853A.)
 Contact remains now stationary.
 (A/C C/S STPM 030925A.)
 Proceed over M.A.D.Fence in Straits. Remain above 1000 feet stand by to attack sub. if it surfaces.
 (A/C Base NHY 030929A to A/C C/S PLBO.)
 Destroyers have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. No result seen.
 (A/C C/S STPM 031032A.)
 Last contact does not resemble first relief planes are (?taking) east fence.
 (A/C C/S STPM 031230A.)

SS. MONTE SOLUBE. Your 172011 March Spanish MONTE SOLUBE Las Palmas Huelva sent in and examined. 2. Found (insignificant contraband and letters). Vessel released.
 (C.C.S.O.Gibraltar 030945A to Admty.)

K.M.F.30. Diversion order.
 (F.O.G.M.A. 031014A.)

T.G.27.1. Request return route New York T.G.27.1 U.S.S. CARD and two escorts E.T.A. 041300A.
 (C.M.S.F. 031135A to Admty.)

/S.L.153...

43

3.4.1944.

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

S.L.153/
M.K.S.44
escort for
10 L.C.I.
(L)s.

On crossing 016° (?W.) detach VISCOUNT to proceed to Horta with all convenient dispatch. A.M. 012111 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 031204A to S.E. S.L.153/M.K.S.44.)
033° 41' N. 032° 17' W. L.C.I.(L) 413 to 418 inclusive 540, 551, 552, 553 with Commander Escort division 58 in PRICE as escort detached proceed direct Horta.
(C.T.F.65 031805.)

O.S.72/
K.M.S.46.

Two southbound U-Boats estimated near you today 3rd April.
(D.D.I.C. 031355B to Escorts.)

STRATAGEM,
SPIRIT.

Proceed to patrol within a radius of 10 miles of following position diving by day STRATAGEM 040° 30' N. 012° W. arriving at 0040/7th. SPIRIT 041° 30' N. 012° W. arriving at 1400/7th.
2. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged between lats. 039° 40' and 043° N. and between meridian 011° and 013° 10' W. from 0500 /5th until further notice. All times zone minus 1
(F.O.G.M.A. 031438A to STRATAGEM, SPIRIT.)

Mine off
Casablanca.

Minesweeper at 1253 today detonated magnetic mine in Casablanca swept channel, at 75 fathom curve.
(C.M.S.F.F. 031701A.)

South Atlantic.

2nd Div.
36th M.L.F.

Sailed 2nd Div. 36th M.L. F. consisting of M.Ls. 853 (S.O.) 852, 848, 849 escorted by ST. LOMAN direct to Tular thence coastwise to Majunga and Diego Suarez for refuelling to comply with my 020954.

2. Speed 10 knots.
(Com. i/c Durban 031114Z.)

All ships returned M.L.848 defective. My 031114 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 031721Z.)

SS. PELEUS
overdue.

Overdue shipping. BLKB PELEUS due Montevideo 28th March from S.T.L.14 not arrived.
(S.O.I.Recife 031832Z.)

?Escort
Carrier
group.

Your 011619 could not provide an escort. My 011751A refers.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 032014Z to Admty.)
N.T. of either. W.R. was asked to supply copies but had not complied up to time of typing the Diary.

War Diary.3.4.1944.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

U/B attacked 25th March. C.A.F.O.* 1342/43. A. GERALDTON. B. 1530Z/25.
C. A/S. D. 018° 39' N. 072° 36' E. E. GERALDTON
1700Z. NETRAVATI about 2400Z/25th March.
(GERALDTON 030217Z.)

* Attacks by surface craft on known or suspected U-Boats.

Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 73 of 4573 tons unloaded on 2nd April
L.S.Ts. and L.C.I.(L) from Naples provided 955 and
137 respectively.
2. 8 acoustic mines swept during the day more laid
during the night.

3. Shelling continued and a few bombs were dropped but no damage
or casualties.
(F.O.W.It. 031038B.)

LE CURIE. Do not leave Zone ST. until 0700/4th E.T.A.
Maddalena 1300/5th.
(Capt. S.10 031059 to LE CURIE.)

UNIVERSAL. Intend sailing P.57 (UNIVERSAL) at 1400/4th (route)
to patrol in zone SU.
(Capt. S.10 031215.)

DOLFIJN. DOLFIJN sailed from Malta at 1405/3rd and passes
Kaso Strait about 2202/7th. Thence to patrol in
south Aegean. Details of patrol area will be sig-
nalled later.
(Capt. S.1 031420B to 1st S.F. NEREUS, F.O.L.E.M.)

UPROAR, patrol report. UPROAR reports - 1. At 1445 26 March fired 28 rounds
of 3 inch H.E. at 5000 ton tanker in Oneglia Harbour
Estimate 16 hits at 2000 yards range.
2. At 0917 30th March fired four torpedoes at
Italian U-Boat entering Toulon. Range 5000 yards.
All torpedoes missed astern.
(S.10 031903B.)

Minelaying W. coast of Italy. (Extracts) Your 231736 March. 1 and 2. Re supply
of Mark 27 mines.
3. It will in any case be impracticable to meet
your requirements in full.
4. Mark 25 mines are however available.
5. Retention of TEVIOT BANK is concurred in for the
time being.
6. A further signal will be made.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 032125B to C. in C.Med.)

/Situation...

3.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation
report No.
328.

Operation "Shingle". 4559 tons and 4575 tons unloaded on 1st and 2nd April anti personnel bombs and mines dropped night 1st/2nd April no casualties 8 acoustic mines swept on 2nd April mining by aircraft also suspected night 2nd/3rd small number of casualties in L.C.I.(L) due to shelling on 1st April.

2. Coastal force in Aegean report capturing small caique at Strayseros (?Niseros intended).

3. Coastal force patrolled off Civitavecchia night 31st March/1st April and off Spezia night 1st/2nd but sighted nothing.
(C. in C.Med. 032300B.)

46

3.4.1944.

MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

U/boat My 020354Z. No fresh information. No changes
disposition. in scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F., 030337Z).

Montevideo Your 311827 refers.
Dock. It is considered that there is not sufficient
safety margin for the dock to arrive at Colombo
before the break of the southwest monsoon.
(2) Request therefore you will arrange for towage
to Massawa where dock should remain until after monsoon.
(3) Request tugs be onward routed to Aden for passage to Cey-
lon.
(C. in C.E.F., 030407Z to F.O.L.E.M.).
Re towing by ORIANA and WEAZEL of Montevideo Dock.

Piecrust Request signification of codeword "Piecrust".
Your 311121 March refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 030931Z to Admty.).

KIMBERLEY Your 311712. KIMBERLEY completes trials and
will be ready for sea exclusive of any working
up on 4th April.
(2) It is intended she should carry out short
working up practices at Bombay and leave for Med. about 17th
April forming part escort of a troop convoy as far as Aden.
(C. in C.E.F., 030931Z to C. in C. Med.).

WAKE Departure U.S.S. WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY
ISLAND, escorted by RELENTLESS and ROCKET. S. of A. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
MISSION knots.
BAY. (2) E.T.A. R/V position R 1400Z/9.
(3) E.T.A. 1200Z/13th April.
(4) Shifting from Bombay V to S.L. at 0900Z/12th
April.
(5) E.T.A. Diego Suarez RELENTLESS and ROCKET 0600Z/10. Your
281051 March not to Admiralty.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 030950Z to C. in C.E.F.).

47

3.4.1944.

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

SEANYMPH. Your 022205Z acknowledged. My position 0200Z/3rd April 047° 25' N. 048° 19' W. course and speed approx. 130° 8. Skirting patched pack ice. (SEANYMPH 030201Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

S.C.156: S.C.156. No. 101 OLDHAM disabled with broken propeller shaft in 044° 40' N. 047° 11' W. PORCHESTER CASTLE standing by. Unless otherwise instructed intend leaving ship abandoned at 031200B. Acknowledge. My P.C. and S. 044° 33' N. 046° 34' W. S. 093° 7½ knots. Weather report. (B.7 030555B to C. in C.W.A.)

M.V.OLDHAM abandoned. In view of B.7's 030555B intend to sail H.M.R.T. TENACITY at approx. 1100Z/3rd to assist CLDHAM. (F.O.N.F. 030711Z to C. in C.W.A. B.7.) Sailed TENACITY. My 030711 refers. (F.O.N.F. 031045Z.) OLDHAM abandoned in 044° 20' N. 047° 03' W. S.Ps. and C.Bs. removed. Estimated drifting one knot southward. Am proceeding to rejoin S.C.156 at 13.5 knots. Weather report. (PORCHESTER CASTLE 031415Z to F.O.N.F.) My 031045 not to TENACITY, RED DEER sailed St. Johns N.F. 1510Z/3rd to overtake and provide escort. (F.O.N.F. 031528Z to TENACITY.)

St. Lucia. Vieux Fort now open my 021035* refers. (S.O.I. Kingston Jamaica 030840R.) * re Vieux Fort remains closed.

N.S.H.Q. S/M No report since my 310630Z para. B. C.T.G. 21.15 attack & sighting summary. attacks sound contact 40° 20' N. 60° 33' W. 1800 to 2200Z. Second Para. C. 1. A/Cs intermittent A.S.V. contact 43° 35' N. 62° 25' W. 0728Z/2. 2. A/C disappearing A.S.V. contact 43° 35' N. 62° 30' W. 1908Z/2. (N.S.H.Q. 030900Z.)

U/B dis- Estimates. positions. (N.S.H.Q. 031523Z, Cominch 031555Z.)

8 Algerines. Request probable sailing dates of following Algerines. A. Expected to complete during April, SKIPJACK, TRUELOVE, WELFARE, MARY ROSE. B. Expected to complete during May, THISBE, MOON, PROVIDENCE, REGULUS. (D.M.S. 031803B to B.A.T.M. Ottawa.)

/U/B...

3.4.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B incidents. Para. B. U.S.S. CROATAN 4-4 attack on sound contact 40.20 N. 60.33 W. 022200 and hold down with intermittent attacks 40.00 N. 60.40 W. prior 031230.
Para. C. U.S.S. TRIPOLI aircraft sighted swirl 12.42 N. 37.43 W. 310808 March. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C.
Para. D. P.B.M. Radar contacts 11.39 N. 61.44 W. 030630. All times Z.
(Cominch 032045Z.)

H.X., O.N. Schedule in your 011813* obviates necessity of
Convoys. implementing my 312100 which is cancelled.
(N.S.H.Q. 032330Z to Admty.)
* Tanker turnaround.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial April 2nd, paras. 10 to 19 cover S. Pacific Forces.
No. 804. M.T.Bs. contacted enemy S/M off S.W. coast Los
Negros Island early morning.
4. M.T.Bs. engaged and damaged three large enemy
barges east coast Commodore Bay early hours.
10. Unsuccessful submarine attack reported on Allied M.T.Bs. near
Emirau Island afternoon 30th.
11. U.S. destroyers bombarded barge hideout S.W. Bougainville
night 31st March supported by Catalina.
15. Japanese S/M attacked by searchplane afternoon first 15 miles
S. Dyaul Island Kavieng area.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 030600.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack Para. B. 1. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 1957Z/2
& sighting in 36° 17' N. 02° 58' W.
summary. 2. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0115Z/3 in 62°
23' N. 16° 45' W.
3. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact 3rd April in 35° 53'
N. 05° 44' W.
Ref. A.M. 021149B para. A. 2 time and position of attack amended
to read 1248Z/1 in 36° 30' N. 08° 07' W.
(D.D.I.C. 050959Z.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 031445B, 031450B.)

4.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Tungsten".

1. At 0600A to-day V.A.2 in ANSON with Forces 7 and 8 was about 300 miles East of Jan Mayen returning to Scapa at 15 knots; and the Escort Carrier SEARCHER, whose maximum speed is reduced to 12 knots by engine defects, was following astern of the Forces escorted by JAMAICA and two destroyers.

Operation
F.Y.

2. At 0800 to-day Convoy J.W.58 was about 80 miles N.N.E. of Toros Island.

Mediterranean.

3. 4 Spitfires bombed Corfu today and made hits on the quayside and amongst shipping.

Mines off
Sardinia.

4. 18 German Y type mines were swept by the 13th M/S.F. during operations off Maddalena between 2 and 4 April.

Operation
"Shingle".

5(a) With improved weather the tonnage unloaded at Anzio rose to 5633 today. No bombs or mines were dropped, but shelling increased and some of the harbour cranes were damaged last night.
(b) The destroyer UNDINE carried out bombardment at Anzio today.

6. One Wellington successfully laid mines in Port Kalimno last night.

East Indies.

Sinkings
by U-Boats.

7(a) M.V. TULAGI, which left Sydney on 10th March is overdue at Colombo since 31st March.
(b) 25 survivors have reached Karachi from SS. RICHARD HOVEY, Bombay for Aden independently, which was torpedoed and shelled by a Japanese

/U-Boat ...

4.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Sinkings
by U-Boats.
(Contd.)

U-Boat at 1120 G.M.T. on 29th March in approx. 16.26 N. 64.30 E. (about 500 miles west by south of Bombay). The Japanese rammed one of the boats and turned the occupants out of the second. The third boat was shelled, but without causing any casualties.

Burma.

8. Beaufighters carrying out attacks in Burma last night and today damaged numbers of river craft and schooners, as well as dockside buildings at Moulmein.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. M.T.Bs. today found 6 enemy barges hove to in the southern part of Matchin Bay (Buka Passage), believed to be possibly awaiting a supply submarine, and sank them all with their crews.

4.4.1944.

Tuesday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

Proposed
French
Support
Group.

In order to make use of part of the available surplus of French Naval personnel it is proposed to allocate 2 River-class Frigates and 4 Flower-Class Corvettes to French Navy on loan.

- (2) So as not to interfere with your group organisation at the present time it is agreed that the transfer shall take place after mid-July.
- (3) Ships selected for transfer should be fitted complete with modern Radar, Asdic etc.
- (4) It is proposed that a group should be formed of vessels trained in Western Approaches for subsequent employment as the situation demands.
- (5) Request you will nominate ships for transfer, which will be subject to approval of Combined Chiefs of Staff.
(V.C.N.S. 040055B to C. in C.W.A.).

Operations

Operation
"Tungsten"

B.2 report at 1940Z. TIRPITZ still inside net and has been hit forward amidships and aft.
(D.D.I.C. 040005B to C. in C.H.F., V.A.2, V.A.D. H.F., C.S.10).

I congratulate you and your force on your brilliant achievement.
(C. in C.H.F., 040134B to V.A.2.).

Your 032308. In view of A.M. 040103 have sailed ULYSSES in accordance with your 031800.

(R.A.D. 040410B to C. in C.H.F.).

Force 9 returning to Scapa.

(V.A.2, 040633A to PIORUN, GAVELIN).

My P.C.S. at 0600A, 070° 42' N. 007° 30' E., 250° 15.

Returning by "Blue" route to Scapa.

(2) SEARCHER has engine defects, maximum speed 12 knots, approximately 40 miles astern escorted by JAMAICA, VIRAGO and SIOUX.

(3) Remainder of forces 7 and 8 in company with me.

(4) Force 9 not required for oiling and are to return to Scapa via route "Red".

(V.A.2, 040635 to A.I.G. 47).

Cancel my 032308.

(C. in C.H.F. 040937B to PIORUN, R.A.D.H.F.).

Preliminary examination completed and available photographs examined. Following claims are considered well founded.

(2) First strike at 0629B apparently caught TIRPITZ about to move from berth and was carried out before smoke screen became effective.

Hits (A) 4 S.A.P. (B) 2 M.C. (C) One A/S bomb. Large explosion by main mast and on forecandle. One hit by Y turret and 3 amidships.

(4) Flak variable but generally ineffective. No fighter opposition.

(5) TIRPITZ was left shrouded in smoke with 2 fires burning amidships and had ceased firing when last aircraft closed.

(6) Weather very favourable. Fleet apparently not seen.

(V.A.2, 041225 to C. in C.H.F., Admty.).

/ Personal...

4.4.1944.

TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Tungsten" (Contd.) Personal for Commander-in-Chief from Prime Minister begins: Pray congratulate the pilots and aircrews concerned on this most brilliant feat of arms so serviceable to the Royal Navy and to the whole world cause. Winston S. Churchill. Ends. (1st Lord, 041255B to C. in C.H.F.).

Following for Prime Minister. From C. in C.H.F. Your message will be highly appreciated. We feel very proud of our F.A.A. personnel who have trained hard under difficult conditions for this operation and who have been so active in the defence of our convoys. (C. in C.H.F., 041546B to Admty.).

Following received from 1st Sea Lord. Begins - Please congratulate all those concerned in the gallant and well executed attack on ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ. Only the most careful and thorough planning and preparation could have produced such a successful result. Ends.

Following reply has been made. Begins. Your inspiration came to a happy conclusion F.O. Escort Carriers and all ships concerned under the direction of V.A.2. spared no effort to attain this. Ends. (C. in C.H.F. 041809B to H.F.).

Have you any idea of height at which bombs were released. (C. in C.H.F. 042337B to V.A.2.).

Operation "C.W." (Convoy O.S.73/ K.M.S.47). Sailed NARCISSUS to R/V with E.G.B.3 in accordance with Capt.(D) Greenock 021706. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 040718B to Admty.).

Biscay A/S operations. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail 7th E.G. at 1730B to-day to overtake O.S.73. On meeting, BITER escorted by 7th E.G. is to leave convoy and carry out a search in area between the following points, 045° N. 020° W., 046½°, 019°, 048° 023°, 046½° 024°. It is desirable ships should arrive in the area p.m.7th April.

(2) O.S.73 estimated to be in 056° N. 010° W. at 0500B/15th, routed through (U.P.) 050° 10' N. 019° 35' W. speed 7 knots. S.O.B.3 in TOWEY. S.O.E.G. 7th in CYGNET. (C. in C.W.A., 041203B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Sailed 7th E.G. for gunnery exercises and on completion to comply with C. in C.W.A. 041203. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 041408B to BITER, B.3).

7th E.G.S.O. CYGNET sail Campbeltown 1700B/4 to join BITER in O.S.73.

(2) HOSTE is to be sailed from Belfast and GRINDALL from Londonderry to join 7th E.G. as early as possible. (C. in C.W.A. 041521B to F.O.I.C.N.I.).

Sailed HOSTE. (F.O.I.C.N.I. 051854B to C. in C.W.A.,E.G.7).

/Operation...

4.4.1944.
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation "F.Y." Group 11 were 110 cables 060° from Sosnevetz at 0800B/4th.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 040947B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
Group 11 was off Danilova at 1400B/4th still in heavy ice. Russian Naval Escort waiting at ice edge.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 041701B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
J.W.58. In addition to casualties to enemy already reported add:
U.188 1 U/boat sunk by carrier aircraft at 0520/3rd and 1 Ju.88 shot down 1830/2nd.
U/boats remain in contact until 0200/4th but no casualties were caused to convoy or escort.
Our loss 2 carrier aircraft crash in sea from natural causes, both pilots rescued and 1 (one) crashed in TRACKER on landing. Regret Pilot Sub. Lieut. (A) was killed. TRACKER caught fire as result of this, but fire was extinguished without impairing her efficiency.
(C.S.10, 041850B to Admty.).
J.W.58. ELOY ALFARO returned to Reykjavik owing to ice damage. S.B.N.O. Archangel's 030301A. para.2. refers.
(D.T.D. 041922B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
Russian Staff are hopeful that Group 11 will arrive ice edge by 0900B April 5th.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 042000B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
My 032051B para.(1). Sailing delayed 24 hours. (R.A.58).
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 042053B to Admty.).

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 041459B).
(V.A. Dover, 041634B).

S/M patrols. Submarine positions at 0800/5th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) UNSHAKEN 58° 57' N. 4° 25' E. southbound for patrol off Skudesnes, dived by day.
(B) ULA patrolling off Stadlandet.
(F.O.S. 041729B to Admty.).

Allied Air Activity

A/C from U.S.A. for North Russia. Your 031041 para. 2 and 3.
Traffic can be handled. Proposed reductions not affected.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 041021B to Ad. Fisher).

A/C. over Atlantic. Starting on April 3rd and continuing for several weeks B.29 aircraft will be on passage over N. Atlantic route from Gandarin in Newfoundland to Marrakesh S.Os. of escorts are to warn proceeding ships if these aircraft are likely to be met.
(C. in C.W.A., 041207B to Aux. A/C Carriers in W.A. Command).

4.4.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Lyme Bay
clearance
sweep.

At 0800B/6th take MILLTOWN KENORA under your orders, and sweep to Plymouth using "A" sweep at maximum depth practicable "F" formation from 090° Berry Head 2 miles thence Q.Z.S.416 425 and 443 to 50° 15' N. Recover sweep and enter Plymouth. MINAS to sail independently if not available.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 041545B to WASAGA).

Navigational

Rosyth

Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 040715B to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects

B.1.

(old arrangement) Towing clench on S/M casing has been partly (?torn) out and 4 inches towing wire stranded in S/M. bullring. New towing arrangements are being prepared. Intend to remain at anchor Thurso Bay (?until) weather is favourable for towing. B.I.N.S. is at anchor in company.
(WINCHELSEA, 041236B to C. in C.W.A.).

COURBET

Anticipate sailing F.F.S. COURBET in tow of GROWLER and THAMES at 1200B/6th April from Loch Striven to Devonport at estimated speed of 5 knots.
A.M. 011522 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 041508B to C. in C.W.A.).

DRAGON

Arrangements should be made to exchange all 6 inch guns in DRAGON while ship is in hand at Chatham.
(D.G.D. 042105B to A.S. Chatham).

M.L.116

Arrivals M.Ls. 116 and 207. M.L. 116 damaged in collision with vessel in C.W.259 and towed into Dover.
(V.A. Dover, 042518 to Admty.).

4.4.1944.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gib. G.R. ZE 13/63 0744 M.A.D. contact day 35° 53' N. 5° 44' Opsum 3 April. W. contact attacked with Retro bombs at 0822 1 explosion heard 25 secs. later P8/63 0753 M.A.D. contact day XDEL? 6414? contact attacked with Retro bombs at 0793 or 0853? no results. A/C lost contact at 0955 at 1033 D.Rs. attacked position with D.Cs. and at 1301 with 2 Hedgehogs no results D.Rs. did not obtain contacts position near known wreck in 35° 52' N. 5° 46' W. (A.C.H.Q.Gibraltar 040250A.)

Straits blimp fence. At the suggestion of Comnavnaw, Cominch is prepared to send six M.A.D. equipped Blimps to the Gibraltar area with the object of maintaining a day and night fence across the Straits. Comnavnaw has further suggested establishing base at Lyautey with two masts. One mast Agadir and two masts Gibraltar. Experts from Commorseafron is to advise on possibility of masts at Gibraltar. Proposal is that Blimps will be flown via the Azores where two 25 ft. demountable refuelling masts will be required, also 25 relief flight personnel for approx. one month. Admty. and F.O.G.M.A. welcome the idea. Would be grateful for your views before replying to Cominch. Meanwhile discussing political aspect of transit through Azores with F.O. (Air Min. 041031Z to A.O.C. in C.C.C. D.Air C. in C. M.A.A.F. S.B.O.Azores.)

ENRIQUE Sailed (?Alicante) 032200 A with fruit for Germany
ILLEUCA. reported proceeding direct to Port Vendres.
(F.O.G.M.A. 041135A to 10th S/M F. LE CURIE, Capt. S. 10th, S.O. (I) Med.)

S.L.153/
M.K.S.44
BELGIAN BELGIAN FISHERMAN with Nos. 3 and 4 holds partly
FISHERMAN. flooded detached for Lisbon escorted by LADY MADELEINE. S.O.A. 7 knots. My P.C. and S. 036° 30' N. 013° 46' W. S. 303° 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots. Weather report (ROCHESTER 040201B.)
When BELGIAN FISHERMAN has entered Lisbon proceed at best speed to rejoin M.K.S.44 reporting P.C. & S. (F.O.G.M.A. 041651A to LADY MADELEINE.)
My P.C. and S. 036° 46' 012° 38' (055° or 350) 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ BELGIAN FISHERMAN reports leak in after hold now under control. Under present weather conditions E.T.A. Tagus 2001A/5. Weather report. (LADY MADELEINE 041722A.)

M.K.S.42 C.O.B.3 Group reports oil issued by ESTURIA during
faulty fuel fuelling operations in M.K.S.42 contained high
oil from water content.
ESTURIA. 2. Request investigation and report.
(D.T.D. 041247B to F.O.G.M.A.)

/PREMIER...

4.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- PREMIER. Your 011332A. Flying off completed. S.O.A. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. E.T.A. Bermuda 0800P/9.
(PREMIER 041323Z to Admty.)
- WEAR,
NADDER,
defects. Your 021211A. 039° 00' N. 026° 51' W. course 104° speed 15 knots. NADDER in company E.T.A. Gibraltar 1700B/7.
Admty. 291733A/3rd. Discovered small split in centre of forward plate of No. 6 fuel tank. NADDER reports following defects. Transformer T to Type 271 burnt out. Type FH 4 defective, requires base assistance.
(WEAR 041645Z.)
- Lagens. My 060403 Feb. Pending decision on future of R.N. Air Section, Azores, which is now under review, no personnel, aircraft or stores will be sent to Lagens.
(Admty. 042142B to F.O.G.M.A. C. in C.W.A.)
- ANTIOPE. Intend sailing ANTIOPE to comply with your 291728 March at 1900Z/6.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 042246Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic.

- Ships to call at Saldanha Bay for N.D. servicing. Request confirmation that your 250448 is being cancelled as requested in my 261100 March.
(C. in C.S.A. 041644B to Admty.)
- ARCOLA. British Consul St. Vincent reports ARCOLA will not be ready for seven to ten days, owing to discovery of prepared sabotage. Have ordered trawlers and tug to return Dakar forthwith.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 041934Z to Comar Dakar.)

4.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U-Boat reports. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 33 degs. 09' N. 23 degs. 46' E. Probably a submarine. Have lost touch with enemy.
(A/C C/S GMPR 040102Z)
U-Boat by D/F approx. 35 degs. 00' N. 22 degs. 40' E. 0300C/4th.
(F.O.L.E.M.040530 to UNSPARING)

Intelligence, Aegean. R/C p.m. 3rd showed Canea 2 F lighted Milos 1 Caiques Santorin 2 Caiques Suda Bay and Candia nothing.
(Capt. (S) 1, 041104 to 1st S/M.F.)

K.M.F. 30. K.M.F.30 P.C.S. 1200A/4th 036 degs. 19' 015 degs. 16' (X) 094 degs. 13 knots 037 degs. 21' 017 degs. 58'. E.T.A. Europa Point 0100A/6th. Your 031810A not to all addresses.
(2) BYARD has very small margin of fuel for destination. Propose ISIS joining escort and GARIAND and BYARD escort MONARCH OF BERMUDA, BYARD fuelling Gib and rejoining.
Weather report 7782 1642.
(S.O. E.G.4, 041105Z)

Minelaying off Anzio. Anzio Minesweeping. A/C are known to have laid non-parachute mines on nights of 7th, 21st, 23rd, 26th and 30th March, in the Anzio Area.
(2) Ground mines have so far been detonated as follows:-

Date	Type of Sweeps.	Position of Ship and Course.	Position of mine from Ship.	Remarks.
8th	P.Pipes	36 degs. 28' 15". 12 degs. 34' 48" 146 degs.	030 degs. 7½ cables.	Acoustic 100 foot column no smoke.
14th	T. Box	41 degs. 26' 20", 12 degs. 33' 50" 325 degs.	1½ cables.	Acoustic.

(C. in C. Med. 041206B)

Forms of air attack. In view of importance of assessing all forms of air attack on beaches for "Overlord" have you any information on "Shingle" to add to that in your 091041A February.
(2) Any detailed orders for operating counter measures such as radio jamming or laying of smoke would be of value.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 041543B to C. in C. Med.)

U-Boat. One U-Boat sailed from Salamis 3rd April.
(Capt. (S) 1, 041716B to S.1)

4.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Assessments
of attacks
on U-Boats.

Summary of attacks on U-Boats assessed by Med. Joint Assessment Board. My 060820 (presumably 060830A intended) March refers. Following attacks previously reported have been assessed as follows.

Serial	Assessment.	Serial	Assessment.
57A	I	70	F
65A	I	71	F
67	G	46A	H
68A	H	47	H
68B	I	49	H
68C	I	51	H
38A	H	54	H
69	F		

(2) Serials 58 - 65 inclusive and serial 66 assessed collectively classification D. (No trace of any of these in W.D.).

(3) Following not previously reported has been assessed F serial 57 B 040038 Jan. H.M.S. INVER 33 degs 11' 21 degs 45' E.

(4) Following known sunk Serial 81 091930 March EXMOOR etc. 41 degs. 11' N. 12 degs. 27' E. (W.D. Note: C. in C. Med. 100946 March states that this U-Boat (U.450) was sunk at 100609 March. in 40.53 N. 12.28 E, which is assumed to be correct), serial 89 300110 Mar. LAFOREY etc. 38.54 14.18 E.

(5) Following not previously reported and not yet assessed serial 69A 011340 Feb. CLEVELAND 40.59 12.28 E serial 76A 212117 Feb. H.H.M.S. KANARIS 39.55 N. 14.18 serial 79.06 1958 Mar. U.S.S. LIVERMORE 40.58 12.56 E serial 80 072200 Mar. Wellington aircraft 40.38 12.09 E serial 82 102203 Mar H.M.S. MULL 38.07 9.41 E serial 83 16 1212 Mar AFFLECK etc. 220 degs. Europa Pt. 14 miles Serial 84 170954 Mar SLAZAK aircraft etc. 37.08 5 27 serial 181955 Mar F.S. CT. DOMINE 70 one? Port Said serial 86 211203 Mar Baltimore aircraft 36.29 04.06 W serial 87 211849 March. U.S.S. SPENCER 35.59 5.24 W serial 88 222020 Mar. SHARPSHOOTER 32.10 25.18 E. serial 90 312210 Mar. U.S.S. TOMINCH, BLACK SWAN 36.36 00.51 E.
(C. in C. Med. 041915B)

Air attack on enemy convoy. Do not attack South of (SZJR 0000) 44 degs. 00' N. 15 degs. 00' E.
(A/C Base 07R, 042055B to A/C HKGR)
Have attacked enemy bombs level have lost touch with enemy. Enemy's last observed position was 44 degs. 45' N. 13 degs. 53' E.
(A/C HKGR, 042100B)

P.C.S. of enemy 2 unknown vessels 44 degs. 33' N. 13 degs. 45' E. 100 degs. 20 knots.
(A/C HKGR 042110B)

Information for Russians. Following have now been released to the Russians
(a) Radar Types 271, 272 and 273. (b) Ships H/F D/F. (2) A.M. 242253 December (to C. in C. Med. only) should be amended accordingly.
(A.C.N.S.(W), 042312B amended 060042B to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.

4.4.1944.

Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Bi-weekly
U-Boat
disposition
No.39.

Area A, B, C, D and E believed clear of U-Boats. Scale of air escort W. Area F no indication of U-Boat in area but scale of air escort X. Area G no fresh information. No guarantee area clear of U-Boats. Scale of air escort X. (C. in C. E.F. 040333Z)

U-Boat
attacked by
LULWORTH
16th March.

(A) E.F.34. (B) 0315C/16th March 1944.
(C) LULWORTH. (D) -005 degs. 17' S. 041 degs. 59' E. (E) H. (F) N 1.
(C. in C. E.F. 040542Z)
Note: Presumably refers to LULWORTH's attack on U-Boat.

CITY OF
ADELAIDE
(sunk 30 Mar.)

CITY OF ADELAIDE sunk. My 310347 refers. Unknown number of survivors in lifeboats, heading for (?Chagossm) air and surface ship search being carried out. (C. in C. E.F. 040830Z) / as received.

M.V. TULAGI.

SS. (Sic) TULAGI due Colombo 31st March not arrived. (C. in C. E.F. 040835Z)

SS RICHARD
HOVEY
(torpedoed
29 Mar.)

(B) 016 degs. 26' N. 064 degs. 30' E. approx. 29th March 1120 G.M.T.
(C) S/M similar to I (Item) 123 in B.R. 642J(Jig).
(D) Torpedoed and gunned back broken bow and stern out of water on fire aft not seen to sink.
(E) 2 Torpedoes one hit. About 40 minutes later one more torpedo hit.
(F) 25 survivors landed here from No.4 boat No.3 boat destroyed by explosion. Nos 1 and 2 boats with survivors, one of which was rammed and sunk by submarine the other taken alongside and survivors forcibly transferred to a raft.
(G) Yes about 50 minutes after first torpedo hit. Boat which escaped also shelled but no casualties.
(H) Radio Operator reported SSSS sent twice but not acknowledged.
(J) (K) Thrown overboard.
(L) Weighted steel box and a weighted eyeleted bag 2000 fathoms.
(M) Steel box destroyed by Chief Officer bag by Radio Operator recording tables definitely in steel box but other papers may have been in Master SS. Cabin which was wrecked.
(N) R.H. Evans Chief Officer.
(O) B.R. 637 probably left in Chart Room.
(S.O.(I) Persian Gulf, 041131Z)

NEWCASTLE /...

60

4.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

NEWCASTLE.

My 301202. In view of C.S. Simonstown 291204 arrangements are being made for NEWCASTLE to arrive about 30 April.
(C. in C. E.F. 041147Z)

RICHELIEU.

Departure.
(Com. Aden, 041602Z)

61

4.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. S/M
attack &
sighting
summary.

Para. B. C.T.U. 27.6.4 attacks contact 40.00 N.
60.40 W. about 1230Z/3rd.
(N.S.H.Q. 040506Z.)

Troop convoy
& troop lift
schedules.

1. U.S.W.D. wish to make major changes in troop
convoy and troop lift schedules.
2. Present carriage of troops in E.C.2 type vessel
(500 tps. per cargo ship) considered very unsatis-
factory (reasons).

3. U.S.W.D. therefore wish to abolish complete
U.G.S. troop lift to N.Africa and Italy. This to be substituted
by U.G.F.convoy on 45 day cycle (13.5.13.14) going direct Naples
made up from following 7 U.T.ships. (Overberthing capacity 21800).
4. First U.G.F.convoy to leave Hr. 15 May U.G.S.39, 40 and 41
troop lift would remain Q.S. set up.
5. U.G.S. and U.N.O.Med. on carriage for India also to be abolished
In their place following direct sailings from Hr. via Cape pro-
posed.

6. Advantages of above scheme.

10. U.S.W.D. and U.S.N. also playing with idea of eliminating
U.T.convoys. Proposal is to include troopships in C.U.convoys
which would sail on 7 day interval and with say 5 troopships per
convoy. This proposal would release one escort group from present
North Atlantic service for U.G.F.commitment.
(B.A.S.Washington 041355Q.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 041513Z, Cominch 041627Z.)

T.F.60.

This constitutes T.F.60, BIBB, VANCE, Cortdiv 45,
THOMAS, COSSATOT. Escort convoy U.G.S.39 includ-
ing YUKON departing Hampton Roads 13 April to
Bizerta and return escorting G.U.S.39 when directed
by Comnavaw. Direct COSSATOT loaded with 4 P.T.Boats proceed to
Mediterranean Port as directed by Comnavaw and then return with
G.U.S.39. Local escort Casablanca sections both ways to be
arranged by C. in C.Mediterranean. Orders by separate despatch
for Transdiv 13 and Y.M.Ss. to be included in T.F.60. BREEMAN,
BRONSTEIN depart New York 12 April to overtake and join T.F.60 at
sea.
(Cinclant 041818.)

INNSBRUCK.

State Dept. has received notification of German
designation of former Italian SS. LIMBARA as
Military Hospital ship under new name INNSBRUCK
(description). Ship marked in accordance with
provisions of Geneva convention.
(Cominch 041840.)

/U/B...

War Diary.

4.4.1944.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B incidents. Para. A. P.B.M. sighted surfaced U-Boat 08.48 S. 22.49 W. 040410 course 000 all times Z.
Para. B. U.S.S. CROATAN group reports hold down operations on U-Boat contacts 40.30 N. 60.35 W. and 40.00 N. 60.37 W. prior 031901. Admiralty pass information Comnavu, H.Q.C.C. (Cominch 042056Z.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial April 3rd. Paras. 10 to end cover S.Pacific Forces No. 805.
8. Allied M.T.Bs. scored possible torpedo hit Jap supply submarine 15 miles N.E. Ubili night 2nd but results unobserved. Also sank one captured another barge same vicinity.
9. Same night other similar patrol craft off New Guinea coast sank three barges damaged fourth all empty heading south into Madang where three light gun positions ashore silenced and probable fuel dump fired. Both boats sustained slight damage only minor casualties. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 040730Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B incidents. Sub. attack and sighting summary for 24 hours to 0900Z/4 April.
Ref. A.M. 030959Z para. B.3, this contact developed into an attack on a U-Boat by two A/C and destroyers between 0644Z and 0917Z/3. (D.D.I.C. 041107B.)
1. U.223 was sunk by depth charges and gunfire from surface forces in 38° 48' N. 14° 10' E. at 0110A/30.
2. During passage of convoy J.W.58 it is claimed that one U-Boat was sunk by STARLING at 2320/29 March and another by KEPPEL night of 1/2 April. No details or positions yet received. (D.A.U.D. 042130Z.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 041425B.)

4.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B dis-
positions.
(Contd.)

No material change but fact of U-Boat transmitting 0439Z/4 by D/F within 100 miles of 36° 00' S. 22° 30' E. strengthens appreciation that SS. DAHOMIAN was torpedoed and that U-Boat may now be operating towards Mossel Bay and Port Elizabeth.
(D.D.I.C. 041435B.)

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Tungsten".

1. V.A. 2 reports to-day that the three 1600 lb bombs which hit TIRPITZ during the attack by F.A.A. on 3rd April were dropped from an average height of about 3000 feet, and the 500 lb bombs from about 2500 feet.

Operation
F.Y.

2(a) 39 M/V's and the Escort of Convoy J.W.58 arrived at the Kola Inlet at 0015B to-day, and the remaining 10 M/V's of this Convoy have been met by the Russian local escort and are proceeding towards Archangel.
(b) The whole of this Convoy and its Escorts have thus reached North Russia intact except the U.S. ELOY ALFARO which returned to Reykjavik with ice-damage. Three U-Boats and six enemy A/C were destroyed during its passage, and three of our Carrier A/C were lost.
(c) C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK with two Destroyers returned to Scapa at 0912B to-day.

South Atlantic.

French
Cruisers
at Dakar.

3. The three French cruisers at Dakar have performed no useful function since the cessation of anti-blockade runner patrols in the latter part of February. F.O.C.W.Af. proposes that they should temporarily be employed elsewhere.

Mediterranean.

Spanish
territorial
waters.

4(a) The German blockade runner KILISSI, which was sunk by Allied A/C on 12 March near the mouth of the Ebro, appears to have been sunk close inshore and a strong protest is expected.
(b) The Admiralty to-day issued instructions that in the Mediterranean no further attacks are to be made on merchant ships within Spanish territorial waters, unless otherwise ordered.

65

5.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation
"Shingle".

5. 5534 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. There was no shelling and no bombs were dropped.

6. A/C bombed shipping last night from Piombino to Civitavecchia. On the eastern coast of Italy Porto San Stefano was bombed.

Adriatic.

7(a) Coastal forces captured two small enemy schooners with cargoes of arms and ammunition off Murter Island (43.48 N. 15.35 E) last night and towed them to Vis.

(b) Destroyers patrolling off Vis sighted nothing.

Mutiny in
Greek Fleet.

7(c) It is reported that a mutiny without casualties occurred to-day in the Greek Ships GIORGIOS AVEROFF at Port Said (C. & M.) and PINDOS at Alexandria and is a Greek submarine at Port Said.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. A U.S. destroyer attacked a Japanese submarine 50 miles west of Mussau Island (New Hanover, Solomon Is.) this afternoon, without observed result. A damaged Japanese torpedo bomber found in the same area was sunk by gunfire.

Air attack
on Hollandia.

9(a) Last night, an Allied M.T.B. attacked 3 heavily laden northbound armed barges midway between Madang and Hansa Bay, and sank two of them.

(b) Allied aircraft made a heavy attack on Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, to-day. Heavy destruction is reported on buildings, docks, fuel and store dumps and small shipping.

(c) A/C operated from dawn to dusk to-day along the coast from Aitape to Alexishafen and set many barges on fire. At Wewak a tanker type ship was hit with 2 bombs and set fiercely on fire.

10. A U.S. destroyer last night bombarded the barge base in central Empress Augusta Bay.

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Leave restrictions from 6th April.

The following message is to be promulgated and explained to all Officers and Ratings in ships and establishments at home, but its contents are not to be communicated to the Press.
We are on the eve of important developments in the War, and the War Cabinet has decided that it is necessary that leave for all those taking part in forthcoming operations must be suspended as from 6th April, subject to the exceptions set out in para. 4 and 6 below.
(2) Were these restrictions to be applied only to certain units the enemy might gain vital information and, therefore, it has been decided that a similar ban must be applied generally to the leave of all Service personnel in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
(3) Apart from the considerations of para. 2 it is necessary to free road and rail transport for the movement of essential traffic, which it will be appreciated is going to be exceptionally heavy.
(4) On and after 6th April, 1944 leave will be suspended until further notice with the following exceptions. Details. (D.P.S.051031B and 051158B).

MAURITIUS.

A.M. 032123. On arrival in U.K. you will join First Cruiser Squadron.
(C. in C. H.F. 051239B to MAURITIUS)

S/M allocations.

Intend the following allocation of S/Ms
(A) RUBIS from 25th Sub. Flot to 3rd Sub.
(B) OTWAY to 7th Sub. A/S training.
(C) SERAPH to 5th Sub. for A/S training and working up at Plymouth for about 6 weeks.
(F.O.S.051813B to Cpts. (S))

Operations.

Operation F.Y.

Arrived Kola Inlet escort and 39 ships of J.W. 58 complete. White Sea section 10 ships met by Russian local escort and has proceeded.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 050015B to Admty.)
Scapa arrival C. in C. H.F. in DUKE OF YORK,

MATCHLESS, MARNE.

(A.C.O.S.050912B to H.F.)

C.A.F.O.171/44 part 1.

- (A) (1) TRACKER 848 Avenger L. (2) 0932A/1st April - to
(3) 71 degs. 34' N. 05 degs. 00' E. (4) Depth charges failed to drop. (5) No damage.
(B) (1) TRACKER 868 Avenger A. (2) 1427A/1st April - to
(3) 72 degs. 39' N. 09 degs. 25' E. (4) 4 March XI star depth charge. (5) No damage.
(C) (1) TRACKER, 846 Avenger H. (2) 1618A/1st April - to
(3) 73 degs. 07' N. 10 degs. 21' E. (4) 4 mark XI star depth charge. (5) Oil trail left as result of straddle by depth charge.

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.Y. (Contd.) (D) (1) ACTIVITY 819 Swordfish mark 2 A.S.V.X., 480 (2) 1236A/2nd April - to (3) 073 degs. 04' N. 019 degs. 41' E. (4) 2 mark XI depth charge. (5) small oil patch (my 051631 part 2 preceding part 051601).

April - day. (E) (1) TRACKER 846 Avenger C. (2) 1415A/2nd (3) 073 degs. 30' N. 022 degs. 51' E. (4) 4 mark XI star depth charge. (5) Depth charge close astern caused oil-trail.

April - day. (F) (1) TRACKER 846 Avenger H and Wildcat D. (2) 1520A/2nd (3) 073 degs. 28' N. 021 degs. 40' E. (4) Avenger 4 mark XI star depth charge. (5) Oil trail.

April - day. (G) (1) TRACKER 846 Avenger G and Wildcat B. (2) 1551A/2nd (3) 072 degs. 09' N. 007 degs. 47' E. (4) Avenger 4 mark XI star depth charge: Wildcat 1400 rounds. 5 ammunition. (5) no damage.

(H) (1) ACTIVITY 819 Swordfish mark 2 A.S.V.X.C. TRACKER 846 Avenger G Wildcat Y. (2) 0543A/3rd April - day. (3) 073 degs. 44' N. 027 degs. 12' E. (4) Swordfish 7 (?RP) 25 pound solid lead. Avenger 4 mark XI star depth charge (?type) Helldiver 1300 rounds ammunition. (5) Depth charges exploded close to conning-tower. U-Boat blew up and disappeared leaving large oil-patch and wreckage. (C.S.10, 051631B to Admty.)

No sortie possible to-day owing to local weather conditions. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 052039B to Admty.) My 182353 para. 9 and S.B.N.O. Archangel 042000 April. Delay in sailing of convoy for day or two can be accepted in order to include maximum number of ships. (C. in C. H.F. 052234B to S.B.N.O. North Russia, C.S.10)

Biscay A/S Operations. My 041732. Sailed (GRINDALL for E.G.7) (Cdre. D. W.A. 050107B to C. in C. W.A.) Naval Enigma U-Boat signal intercepted at 0400B bearing 000 degs. estimated 40 to 100 miles. My P.C.S. 045 degs. 50' N. 025 degs. 18' W. 216 degs. 9.5 knots. (C.2, 050436B to C. in C. W.A.) U.S.S. STURTEVANT attacked poor sound contact at 042310Z lat. 46.34 N. long 25.34 W. My 042350, position given was 1800Z. (C.T.G.21.8, 050756A to C. in C. W.A.) Your 050436B. Bearings received in U.K. place U-Boat at 0400B to least 600 miles to the northwards of you. (D.D.I.C. 050840B to C.2) Two U-Boats estimated near you to-day on route Bay of Biscay. (D.D.I.C. 050854B to Escorts C.U.19)

Operation, C.W. Sailed ROSELYS and ACONIT to overtake E.G.B.3 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 050334B to B.3) Sailed BRONTES for H.X. 284. (Cdre. D. W.A. 051156B to NEPANEE) Arrived DUCKWORTH, COOKE, ESSINGTON, BERRY, DOMMETT and EKINS. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 051840B to C. in C. W.A.)

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Tungsten". Your 042337B. 1600 pounds at about 3000 feet average. 500 pounds at about 2500 feet. (V.A. 050936B to C. in C. H.F.)
Following preliminary assessment of damage to German Battleship ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ and may be communicated to ships.
17 hits. 3 with 16-hundred pounds bombs, 8 with S.A.P. bombs, 5 with M.C. and 1 with A/S bombs.
(2) Known that 1 16-hundred pound bomb hit near superstructure. Other 16 hits were distributed throughout ship.
(3) TIRPITZ was left shrouded in smoke with two fires burning amidships.
(4) My 041544 and 041809 should be promulgated in ships. (C. in C. H.F. 051139B to H.F.)

Cable repairs (ARIEL) Intend to sail cable ship ARIEL at 1400B to-day to 2.5 miles 158 degs. New Island Light. E.T.A. 2300B/5th. Thence to operate between Tricastle and Howth. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 051304B to F.O.I.C. NI.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051428B)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051522B)
(V.A. Dover, 051711B)

Operation "Tunnel". Enemy 2 ELBINGS and 4 T.B.s seen in Havre on 25th March and at sea in Havre area on night 25th/26th have not since been sighted. Carry out operation "Tunnel" tonight, in accordance with memoranda O.P. T.U.
(2) Information. They may have moved to westward. M. Class M/S probably in Cherbourg - Brest area. E-Boat based on Cherbourg. R-Boat patrol in vicinity Triagoz Bank.
(3) Own. Coastal Force patrols as in my 051428.
(4) Executions. Force 26 consisting ASHANTI and HURON is passing Gate at 2130B to-day and proceeds to pass through position (SS) 000 degs. Ile de Banaro Light 10 at 0145.
(5) From SS Force 26 is to sweep to eastward as far as 003 degs. 25' W. and is then to return to Plymouth.
(6) Disregard QZX 1235 if in contact with enemy. Attention is drawn to QZX 1247, 1250 and 1256. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051701B to ASHANTI, HURON)

Enemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. T.O.O.050837Z. Ju.88 observed 0737 along North Coast, course S.W. (A.C.I.C. 052342B to Admty.)

69

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining

MAASBURG. A. Baltic. 3000 tons cargo vessel name unknown mined and sunk 16 miles N.E. of Labo.
B. North Sea. Dutch MAASBURG 6415 tons mined and beached on Haaksche grounded near Den Helder 13th March. Graded B.3.
(N.A.Stockholm 051531 to D.N.I.)
O.I.C's comment. Vessel believed to be MAASBURG was seen beached and abandoned off S.entrance to Texel Gate on 1st March.

Humber. Magnetic mine detonated at 051503 in 312° H.5 buoy 7 miles.
(F.O.Humber 051734 and 051856 to C. in C.Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Baltic Activity. Following from a reliable source (B.2).
A. Increased sea transport, which prevailed for some few weeks, has now abated, and in Baltic only about two transports a day are known to pass between Gotland and Oland routes (?routed) for Finnish and Estonian ports.
B. There is good reason to believe that, apart from leave troops, material and anti-aircraft guns, there has been no re-inforcing German strength in Finland. Recent increased transport activity was entirely in connection with Estonia.
C. Regarding Aland Islands, there are positively no German troops, though Finnish troops are now forming a Garrison. Information is lacking as to whether German supplies have been landed here.
D. Extensive air R/C of Baltic today showed no particular sea activity, and that a number of ships recently held up off Rugen, probably due to British mining, have dispersed.
E. In Baltic approaches German transport activity is still slightly abnormal, possibly due to replacement certain troops and equipment in Norway, where there is definitely no increase in numbers.

(N.A.Stockholm 051803 to D.N.I.)
N.I.D.Comment: There is evidence to show that:
A. Finland has increased her garrison of the Aland Islands. It is believed she would defend them against Russia or Germany.
B. Germany is facing the possibility of an armistice between Finland and Russia and the consequent cutting of the lines of communication to her troops in North Finland.
C. The German lines of communication through Norway to North Finland are being strengthened and that increased traffic by that route may be expected if Finland goes out of the war.

Casualties & Defects.

STOCKHAM. Intend to sail STOCKHAM at 1800B/8th April for Greenock. E.T.A. 0800B/9th.
(WESTERN ISLES 051131B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

5.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

COURBET.

Intend sailing COURBET in tow of GROWLER, THAMES
from Loch Striven at 1200B/6th for Devonport.
Estimated S.O.A. 5 knots. Route.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 051704B to Admty.)

L.C.T.442.

Landing craft T.442 of 15th L.C.T. Flot. still
aground in Leith Harbour.
Regret she will be unable to take part in Smash 2.
(S.O. S.G.G. 052027B to G.G.1)

5.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

LADY
MADELEINE Your 041539*
A. Failure of previous repairs made at Gibraltar after collision.
B. Master wishes to strand ship at Lisbon before contacting authorities.
C. Amended E.T.A. 1700A.
(LADY MADELEINE 050645A to F.O.G.M.A.)* Not received.

T.G.65.9
T.G.120.4 Upon arrival Horta T.G.65.9 redesignated T.G.120.4. S.B.N.O. Azores requested sail Group to Falmouth when ready escorted in accordance Admiralty 012111. Upon arrival Falmouth Task Group dissolved.
(Com. 12th Fleet, 051533.)

South Atlantic

U/B
report D/F on 6795 kcs. at 2123Z/4 indicates U/B within 120 miles of 27° 30' N. 30° 00' W. A.M.042350B* to F.O.C.W.Af., only refers.
(D.D.I.C. 050137B) *D/F bearing not circulated in Admty.

French
cruisers
at Dakar. The three French cruisers at Dakar have performed no useful function since cessation of anti-blockade runner patrols? in late February. Suggest for consideration their temporary employment elsewhere.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 051116Z to Admty.)

U/B
attacked
2nd April. Air France Three reports attacking firm contacts believed submarine in 17° 22' N. 22° 47' W. in 1400Z/2. Message delayed due to wireless fault.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 051212Z.)

War Diary.5.4.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Safe
conduct
vessels -
route.Your 011455*. Swedes are being informed that route is agreed and that anchorage must be confined to area in your para. 3.
(Admty., 050019B to F.O.L.E.M.)
* Re proposed "Yellow" route is acceptable.Intelligence
for S/Ms.Following has been read: enemy in 042° 50' N. 009° 50' E., is moving in general direction north. Do not engage unless conditions very suitable.
(C. in C. Med., 050029 to S/Ms. on patrol.)Spanish
territorial
waters.N.A. Madrid's 221817 and 251421. KILISSI appears to have been sunk close inshore and strong protest is expected. In the Mediterranean no further attacks should be made within Spanish territorial waters on merchant ships unless otherwise ordered.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 050135B to C. in C. Med., Info. N.A. Madrid, F.O.G.M.A.)

UPSTART.

Pass through 042° 48' 006° 59' at 0400/6th to arrive Maddalena at 1100/7th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 050855 to UPSTART.)Situation
Report 329.

1. Operation "Shingle" 4781 tons discharged 3rd April.
2. Destroyer had blank patrol off Vis night 30th/31st, 31st/1st April and 2nd/3rd April weather prevented operation night 1st/2nd April.
3. M.T.B. had gun action and damaged 1 boat off Jelsa Hvar night 2nd/3rd April, one officer killed. During same night, coastal force captured enemy schooner in Dalmatia Island.
(C. in C. Med., 051051B.)

Passage of
49th E.G.
with M.K.S.
44.

Report in accordance with 617 B for passage of 49th E.G. with convoy M.K.S.44 21st March - 1st April 1944.

(E) "Gnat" fired at SHARPSHOOTER.
(F) SHARPSHOOTER gained contact at 1000 yards with ? Units running. Difficulty was experienced in holding contact due to noise of "Foxers" and contact was not regained through stern though recorder trace shows echo.

5. SHARPSHOOTER. Port P.X. badly damaged by explosion of "Gnat".
(H) Considerable strain is caused to A/S operators by noise of P.N.M. unit and efficiency is soon impaired.
(S.O. E.G.49, 051123A.)

German
mining in
Aegean.

It is reported that the Germans are mining north of Monemvasia. P.229 (SPORTSMAN) reports vessels approaching Monemvasia on a course of 210° from

/east ...

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German mining in Aegean. (Contd.)	east of Cape Kremid and then 270° to Cape Monemvasia. She confirms that a 3 length boom has been laid north of the centre. (Capt. (S) 1, 051147 to P.53 (ULTOR), (R) 1st S/M.F.)
Route for Swedish safe conduct vessels proceeding to Previsa.	A.M. 311941 March, and F.O.L.E.M's 021848 being passed to you. (2) Proposed "Green" route passes through Q.B. 111. If these mines are considered safe F.O.T. A.L.I. has no objection. If mines are not safe suggest route is inshore of the field. (V.A. Malta, 051201 to C. in C. Med.)
Operation "Shingle".	Sitrep 75. 873, 478, 164 tons unloaded by L.S.T., L.C.T., L.C.I.(L) from Naples out of total of 5633 tons. (2) No bombs or mines but increasing shelling. (F.O.W.It., 051338B.)
Enemy night air attacks.	Stereotyped form of dusk air attack on Med. convoy has proved costly to enemy and it appears that he has had to resort to night attacks using flame float occulting light buoy, etc. to assist approach, and flare illumination of convoy. 2. To determine these new methods and evolve best form of protection, it is imperative that early and accurate information (?be) made available. 3. A/A Cruiser if present otherwise S.O's Escorts are to collect information from Escort and convoy as quickly as possible and report by signal to C. in C. as follows: (1 - 9: see standard form of Report). (C. in C. Med., 051520.)
WISHART.	A.M. 241631 March and 071236 February. WISHART condition rapidly deteriorating. Intend therefore to sail ship for U.K. in M.K.F.30. (F.O.G.M.A., 051746A to C. in C. Med.)
2nd French Armoured Division.	To return from Meditn. to U.K. 2. L.S.Ts. leaving in M.K.S.45 to bring as much of Division's equipment as possible without delaying their departure from Meditn. (C.O.S., 051800Z.)
Landing Craft.	Amend my 012215* as follows. (S.N.O.R.S.C.A., 051831C.) * 012223 intended.

/Joint ...

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

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

5. G.A.F. activity.
Night 3rd/4th April. One aircraft on high level photorecce crossed coast 12 miles south-east Benghazi shortly before midnight. Mines dropped north and north-east of Berka. Probable that westbound convoy off Benghazi also sighted.
(C. in C. M.E., 051935C.)

Operation
"Shingle".

With improved weather unloading figures reached 5633 tons on 4th April. Mines dropped by aircraft night 2nd/3rd one detonated close to P.C.621 causing slight damage. Cranes damaged during increased shelling of harbour night 3rd/4th April. Cositintrep 265.
(C. in C. Med., 052136B.)

Situation
Report
No. 330.

(1) Operation "Shingle" unloading in area rose to 5633 tons on 4th April with improved weather. Increased shelling resulted in some damage to cranes night 3rd/4th April. Approx. 9 planes attacked harbour and dropped mines night 2nd/3rd April, no damage to shipping. P.C.621 detonated mines close to ships on 3rd April suffering some damage.
(2) 18 German Y type mines swept by M/S.F.13th during operations off Maddalena between 2nd and 4th April.
(3) Aircraft mined Rhodes on 30th March, Syra, Naxos and Candia on 2nd and Kalimno on 3rd April.
(C. in C. Med., 052143B.)

Intelligence
for S/Ms.

Two routes* to be followed - 2 F lighters lying close north-west of Monemvasia a.m. today. SALVATOR has been ready to sail from Salamis for several days. Destination Crete or Salonika.
(Capt. (S) 1, 052151 to ULTOR, ULTIMATUM.)
* as received.

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EMERALD,
DANAE.

EMERALD and DANAE are required to carry out bombardment practices on arrival in U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 050032A to C. in C.E.F.)

BANN.

New route to Colombo after making R/V with SNOWFLAKE.
(C. in C.E.F. 050034Z to BANN.)

Japanese atrocities.

For reasons given in para. 3 of my 020349 I should be grateful if stores of Japanese atrocities on crews of torpedoed ships are not published until unescorted ships can be given reasonable security.
(C. in C.E.F. 050250Z to Admty.)

Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition.

Area (?N) no fresh information. No change in scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 050347Z.)

SS. RICHARD HOVEY
(sunk 29 March.)

SS. RICHARD HOVEY torpedoed and sunk in 016° 40' N. 064° 30' E. at 291120Z March. 25 survivors have arrived Karachi and reported attack was by Jap. U-Boat.
(C. in C.E.F. 050625Z.)

TRESPASSER.

Intend to sail (P.312) TRESPASSER p.m. 7 for Aden for onward routing to the U.K. for refit.
(S.O. S/Ms. Colombo 050647Z.) Amended 070601.

Assault ships & craft.
Shipping.

As from 12th April routine matters concerning Eastern Fleet Assault ships and craft will be dealt with by S.R.N.O. Bombay who will only refer matters of policy to the C. in C. Eastern Fleet for decision.
2. Routine matters concerning passage and convoy arrangements for shipment shipping and craft on the

East Indies Station will continue to be dealt with by C. in C.E.F. but such signals should also be repeated to S.R.N.O. Bombay.
(C. in C.E.F. 050708Z.)

SS. NANCY MOLLER
(sunk 18 March.)

NANCY MOLLER your 241907 March refers. Ship was incorrectly plotted in 04° S. 068° E. at 0800Z/17 through plotter positioning ship at T.O.O. of Admty. 081715 March instead of at time given in text of signal.

2. At 0916?Z/17 ship as re-routed to conform with temporary policy in force for ships approaching Colombo and not on account of known position of a U-Boat.
3. Ship received diversion signal in 02° 10' N. 78° 00' E. at 2000Z/17 and altered course to 090° at this time to join new route.
(C. in C.E.F. 050834Z to Admty.)

/Serving...

5.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Serving of
minor Persian
Gulf ports.

The following signal from P.A.I.C. to Troopers has been passed to me for information. Begins: N.T.M.P/05970. As you are aware we are largely dependent on assistance from M.W.T. and W.S.A. ships for serving minor Persian Gulf ports such as Bahrein, Sharjyh, Jask, Masiwkh. Both M.W.T. and W.S.A. reports Basra have received peremptory orders to return all ships without delay. In recent case of W.S.A. ship for Bahrein very important cargo nearly over-carried owing bad weather delaying discharge.

Apparently S.N.O.P.G. has no authority to detain ships against orders of H.Q.M.W.T. and W.S.A. Use of ships for this purpose frequently means missing convoys resulting delay about eight days. Consider some local control necessary in urgent case to be exercised by S.N.O.P.G. at request G.H.Q.

Main Persian Gulf ports now give excellent turn-round ships therefore occasional delay to provide urgent service should be considered as no other alternative available. If you agree please arrange with H.Qs. M.W.T. and W.S.A. T.O.O. 021145C April. Ends. I was not consulted before the above was made. (S.N.O.P.G. 051006Z.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 051331B.)

War Diary.

5.4.1944.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. S/M
attack &
sighting
summary.

Para. C. A/C disappearing A.S.V. contact 42° 56'
N. 62° 10' W. 0752Z/4th.
(N.S.H.Q. 050740.)

SEANYMPH
(P.223)

Arrived Argentia 0900Z/5. Anticipate sailing
SEANYMPH Argentia to New London 1430Z/6 B.A.D.
221645 March refers.
(F.O.N.F. 051316Z.)

Request you will sail SEANYMPH and escort as con-
venient to arrive Halifax about 1800Z/8th (route).
(C. in C.C.N.A. 051606Z to F.O.N.F.)

Sailing orders (escort MATAPEDIA) from Argentia 1430Z/6 for
Halifax. 3. Communications. 4. Bombing restrictions.
(F.O.N.F. 052305Z, as amended 061408Z.)

M.V.OLDHAM
(abandoned
3 April.)

Following received from TENACITY to F.O.N.F. re-
peated C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. begins:-
Contacted OLDHAM 051220Z. Ends.
(F.O.N.F. 051322Z to C.C.W.A. B.7.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 051520Z, Cominch 051530Z.)

U/B in-
cidents.

Para. C. A/C Radar contact 42.56 N. 62.10 W.
040752Z. U.S.S. STURTEVANT attacked sound contact
46.34 N. 25.34 W. 042310Z. K.32 attacked one of
several M.A.D.contacts 20.10 N. 72.42 W. 051422Z.
(Cominch 052120Z.)

A/S Operations
by T.G.21.
16

Proceed to area and get the patrollers reported
vicinity 45 N. 43 W. Cominch 051130. Keep those
interested advised.
(C. in C.Lant 052243 to C.T.G.21.16.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial
No. 806.

Paras. 9 to 11 cover S.Pacific Forces. April 4th.
8. Afternoon 3rd Rambutye Island S.E. Los Negros
Island occupied without opposition. M.T.Bs.
supported.
10. U.S.destroyers shelled enemy Bivouac areas
Empress Augusta Bay morning 3rd.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 050738Z.)

5.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. B. 1. A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0102Z/4
April in 33° 09' N. 23° 46' E.
(D.D.I.C. 051109B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 051407B, 051420B.)

6.4.1944.

Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Tungsten"

1a. V.A.2 in ANSON with the Fleet Carriers VICTORIOUS and FURIOUS, the Escort Carriers EMPEROR, PURSUER, and FENCER, the cruisers BELFAST, ROYALIST, and SHEFFIELD, and ten destroyers returned to Scapa at 1602B to-day; and the Escort Carrier SEARCHER escorted by JAMAICA and two destroyers is following at reduced speed.

b. A meeting in VICTORIOUS has established that out of the 98 bombs dropped at TIRPITZ by A/C of the F.A.A. on 3rd March, sixteen (including three 1600 lb) hit her for certain, and probably at least eight more as well. There is no photograph of the result from the last A/C that attacked in either of the two strikes made.

Biscay A/S
operations.
Convoy
S.C.156
attacked by
U/Boat.
RUTH I sunk.
SOUTH
AMERICA
torpedoed.
One U/Boat
sunk by U.302
SWALE.

2a. At 0630B today the 7½ knot Convoy S.C.156 of 57 M/Vs escorted by Escort Group B.7 was attacked from the port bow by one U/Boat about 360 miles N.W. by N. of Flores (Azores). The Norwegian RUTH I, 3531 tons, was sunk, 36 of her crew of 39 being rescued; and the Norwegian tanker SOUTH AMERICA, 6246 tons, was torpedoed and at 1255B was reported to be rapidly breaking up, her entire crew of 43 having been saved. The U/Boat was later sighted by the Frigate SWALE of B.7 Group who attacked the U/Boat twice with Hedgehog and is believed to have destroyed it.

b. The Escort Carrier BITER with the four sloops and two frigates of E.G.7 are proceeding to-day from the northward to search about 500 miles N.E. of the Azores.

c. Two west-bound U/Boats were sighted at 2330 today by A/C about 110 miles W.S.W. of Bordeaux.

Guncoaster
damaged
off Helder.

3. At 0510 to-day M.T.Bs. 445, 440, and 438 on patrol attacked an Enemy Guncoaster escorting a Convoy about 4½ miles S.W. of Den Helder and scored many hits at close range.

Mining

4. Bomber Command laid 86 mines last night in Biscay ports.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"

5. 5305 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. There was no bombing, but the port was shelled intermittently, and 2 L.C.T. were near missed and damaged.

6.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

6. M.T.Bs. and P.Ts. operating from Bastia last night sank an E/Boat and damaged a flak ship by gunfire, themselves suffering only superficial damage and no casualties.

7. M.T.Bs. last night captured a 300 ton schooner carrying grain off Murter Island and towed it to Vis.

8. 24 U.S. Thunderbolts to-day attacked 6 or 8 merchant vessels near Genoa and scored hits; a floating crane and a freighter were destroyed.

Aegean.

9. Two Wellingtons successfully mined Khalkis harbour last night.

Australia and New Zealand

10. U.S. destroyers bombarded the barge base in the central part of Empress Augusta Bay to-day.

11. Allied M.T.Bs. operating off Jacquinot Bay, New Britain, were bombed by single Japanese floatplanes before dawn today, but no report of damage has been received.

12. 34 Allied A/C attacked the warehouse area in the east part of Simpson Harbour with incendiaries this forenoon, causing many fires, whilst 54 A/C bombed Talili Bay supply base.

13. Hanssi, off Kupang, Timor, was attacked at midday to-day by 8 R.A.A.F. Beaufighters; a large laden barge or small tanker was destroyed and 3 barges were set on fire.

6.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

STURDY,
PORPOISE,
TELEMACHUS,
VOX.

Request you will sail S/Ms as follows for Gibraltar and onward passage. A. STURDY about 14th April, PORPOISE and TELEMACHUS about 17th April, all to 4th or 8th Flotilla as ordered by C. in C.E.F. B. VOX about 14th April to 1st or 10th Flotilla as ordered by C. in C.Med. (F.O.S. 061516B to Capt. S.3.)

Assault
Escort
Carriers.

The following Assault Escort Carriers are under the orders of R.A.E.C. or will come under his Command when worked up: ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER, SEARCHER, PURSUER, EMPEROR, KHEDIVE.

2. This force is to be temporarily part of the Home Fleet, but will be detached as and when required to C. in C.Med. Plymouth, and Western Approaches for operations in their commands. (V.C.N.S. 061525B to C. in C.H.F.)

RANPURA.

Arrangements have been made for RANPURA to be taken in hand at Portsmouth on 15th April for conversion to repair ship and to be used for temporary accommodation of personnel of Force S. A.M. 232157 Jan. and A.M. 041626 April refer. (D.O.D.H. 061541B to N.C.I.C. Invergordon.)

MAURITIUS.

A.M. 032123. On arrival in U.K. MAURITIUS is to come under the orders of C. in C.H.F. 2. Long leave may be given and ship is to be ready to sail on 7th May. (D.O.D.H. 061945B to C. in C.Nore.)

Embargo on
New Works
in U.K.

On account of the serious transport situation, still greater reduction in the works programme in the U.K. is essential. Consequently, an embargo has been placed on the starting of all new works in the U.K. estimated to cost over £5,000 as from the 8th April. The embargo will not affect works already in hand at that date, or ordinary repairs and maintenance. 3. The embargo applies at present to the month of April only, but it is possible that it may be extended for a further period. (Civil Lord 062324B to A.I.G.21.)

Operations.

Operation
"Tungsten".

My P.C. and S. 061° 24' N. 004° 20' W. 175° 16 kts. Force 7 and 8 in company less SEARCHER, JAMAICA, VIRAGO and SIOUX. 2. SEARCHER had effected repairs and was in 065° 48' N. 000° (04'?) W. at 0900B/5th with her escort when she was again reduced to 11 knots. 3. Intend to carry out flying exercises and A.L.T. with own resources a.m. in area E. 4. E.T.A. 1400B/6th April. (V.A.2 060301B to A.C.C.S. C. in C.H.F.)

6.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Tungsten". (Contd.)

As result of meeting on board VICTORIOUS, when reports and photographs from both ships were available, VICTORIOUS reports as follows.

2. 16 hits identified for certain as 3-16 hundred pound, 8 S.A.P., 3 M.C., and 2 A/S.

3. In addition there are judged to be 8 other visible hits which cannot be classified for certain.

4. Apart from direct evidence of above 24 hits out of 98 dropped, the small number of ghosts of misses in water suggests even more hits. There is no photograph of result from last aircraft of each strike.

5. I consider that our strong fighter force swamped defences and contributed largely to the successful result above. They also can claim a burning tanker.

(V.A.2 060821B to C. in C.H.F.)

Situation at 062000. PIORUN, JAVELIN, ULYSSES, BROWN RANGER, BLUE RANGER, 059° 25' N. 004° 00' W. to Scapa, 12½.

(A.C.C.S. 061211B to Admty.)

Scapa arrival V.A.2 in ANSON, VICTORIOUS, BELFAST, ROYALIST, FURIOUS, SHEFFIELD, EMPEROR, PURSUER, FENCER, SWIFT, VERULAM, WAKEFUL, VIGILANT, ONSLAUGHT, ALGONQUIN, MILNE, METEOR, URSA, UNDAUNTED.

(A.C.O.S. 061602B to H.F.)

Biscay A/S Operations. Convoy S.C. 156 attacked. RUTH I sunk. SOUTH AMERICA torpedoed. One U-Boat sunk by U.302 SWALE.

S.C.156. Convoy attacked in 045° 05' N. 035° 11' W. (B.7 060717B to C. in C.W.A.)

My 041203B. Carry out search in new area bounded by following points: 045° 019° 047° 018° 048° 022° 046° 023°.

(C. in C.W.A. 061001Z to BITER, E.G.7.)

S.C.156. My 060717B. Convoy attacked at 0630B. RUTH sunk, 36 survivors out of crew of 39. AMERICA torpedoed. Still afloat but rapidly breaking up. Entire crew of 43 saved. C.Bs. removed by KENILWORTH CASTLE. Consider attack from port bow by only one U-Boat probably submerged, later detected on surface by SWALE 3 miles on port quarter of convoy.

U-Boat dived, was attacked with Hedgehog by SWALE, 3 explosions being heard after 2nd attack. U-Boat considered destroyed. Only H/F D/F activity prior to attack tuning signals at 2249Z and 2301Z on 4185 k/cs followed by Radar on 5100 k/cs at 2351Z which fixed U-Boat 213 ZZ 15. Convoy discipline good. No evidence of "Gnat". No. 122 straggling 20 miles astern, boiler trouble, speed 5 knots. KENILWORTH CASTLE screening. Do not consider escort can be spared indefinitely. Request instructions. My P.C. and S. at 1200B 045° 29' N. 034° 24' W. 054° 7½ knots. Weather.

(B.7 061255B to C. in C.W.A.)

Your 061001Z. Intentions. Concentrated air search on first and last three hours of darkness taking two nights. Sweeping down sea for best A/S result. Attempt surprise by silence on all commonly-used frequencies and by avoiding area in daylight. My 1400B P.C. and S. 051° 12' N. 016° 11' W. 205° 9 knots. Weather. Would appreciate any advance information on our future employment to assist plans of air effort.

(BITER 061414B to C. in C.W.A.)

/Order...

6.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. Convoy S.C. 156 attacked. RUTH I sunk. SOUTH AMERICA torpedoed. 1 U-Boat sunk by SWALE. (Cbntd.)

Order straggler to proceed forthwith independently to Ponta Delgada. KENILWORTH CASTLE rejoin convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 061806B to KENILWORTH CASTLE.) Am over 2 enemy S/Ms in 44° 20' N. 02° 50' W. (?S/Ms) were on surface when first sighted were on course 260° speed 15 knots. (A/C LLS60 062330 to 19 Group.)

U.302

Operation F.Y. Kola Inlet arrived Group II. (S.B.N.C.N.Russia 060830B.)

S/M Patrols. ULA is to leave patrol so as to pass through 062° 01' N. 002° 09' E. at approx. 1400B/8th, thence through 090° Muckle Flugga 15 to Lerwick on surface at C.Os. discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast. (Capt. S.9 060943B to S/Ms.)

Own submarine positions at 0749/7th April and movements for following 24 hours.

A. ULA leaves patrol off Stadtlandet to pass through 62° 01' N. 02° 09' E. 1 at 1400/8th, probably on surface when 60 miles clear of Norwegian Coast.

B. UNSHAKEN on patrol Lister to Skudesnes area. (F.O.S. 061749B to Admty.)

Negative patrol. Torpedoes expended. Request total bombing restriction and route. My position 62° 05' N. 03° 37' E. 270. (ULA 062300B to F.O.S.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 061220.) (C. in C.Plymouth 061527B, 062333.)

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out operation "Tunnel" tonight in accordance with Memorandum O.P.T.U. Information (2) enemy as in my 051701. 3 small ships with numerous escort sighted at 1440 today in Morlaix may move westward tonight.

3. Narvik coastal force patrol as in my 061527 and 061712.

4. Force 26 consisting ASHANTI (S.O.) HURON and ATHABASKAN is to pass the Gate at 2030B today and proceed to pass through position VV. (?at) Ile Vierge Light 10 at 0045.

5. From VV. Force 26 is to sweep eastwards as far as 004° 00' W. and then return Plymouth.

6. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X. 1247, 1250 and 1256.

(C. in C.Plymouth 061734B to ASHANTI, HURON, ATHABASKAN.)

/Guncoaster...

6.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Guncoaster
damaged off
Helder.

Report of M.T.B. Operations last night 5/6th April.
1. Unit X, M.T.B. 458 (S.O.), 455 and 457 with
torpedoes and Unit B, M.T.B. 445, 440, 438 without
torpedoes were ordered to be off Egmond by 0001 and
sweep south and attack any enemy shipping found.
A northbound convoy was considered possible.

2. Weather at 0500 off Texel wind N.N.W. force 4, sea 4 with long
heavy swell. Visibility $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

3. M.T.B. 438 broke down and took no part in operation. In view
of limited visibility units decided not to remain concentrated,
Unit X remaining to seaward using Unit B as searching force. Off
Ijmuiden at 0137 Unit B made Radar contact with several vessels
and at 0215 with probable convoy. This was shadowed as it moved
north. At 0510 when $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles 230° from Kijkduin Light Unit B
attacked a Guncoaster at rear of convoy scoring many hits having
got to a range of 150 yards unobserved.

4. Unit X reached position 8 miles west of Ijmuiden at 0030.. At
0253 acting on Unit B's shadowing reports Unit set course to over-
take convoy. At 0510 made contact with M-Class sweepers and 2
Guncoasters about 5 miles south of Unit B. Weather by then pre-
cluded firing torpedoes with shallow setting so Unit withdrew.

5. Consider convoy went into Den Helder ahead of Guncoaster en-
gaged by Unit B.

6. No casualties. Negligible damage to 445.

(C. in C.Nore 061906B to Admty.)

Convoy R.A.
59.

Propose to sail convoy R.A.59 from Kola 25th April
under command of S.C.I. in DIADEM.

2. In view of destroyer requirements for Combined
exercises and other operations planned have only 8
fleet destroyers available as escort.

3. Request following additional escorts may be provided to arrive
Scapa 18th April.

A. 2 escort carriers preferably ACTIVITY and TRACKER.

B. 8 destroyers, frigate, or corvettes.

C. 1 support group.

(C. in C.H.F. 062204B to Admty.)

Mining.

Humber.

Magnetic mine detonated at 1154 in $149^\circ 12'$ buoy 2.1
miles.

(F.O.Humber 061305B and 061945B to C. in C.Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Convoy off
Christiansand.

Air craft report convoy of one tanker, five merchant
ships, four escort vessels $057^\circ 58'$ N. $007^\circ 20'$ E.
course 270° at 1816B/6th. Air strike is being laid
on tonight.

(F.O.S. 062114B to UNSHAKEN.)

War Diary.

6.4.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- B.1. On arrival proceed with B.1 to Methil for night.
(C. in C.Rosyth 061128B to WINCHELSEA.)
E.T.A. May Island 2230B/6.
(WINCHELSEA 061757 to C. in C.Rosyth.)
- COURBET. Sailed COURBET in tow of GROWLER and THAMES in
accordance with my 051704B April.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 061304B to Admty.)
- M.F.V.095. My 291330 March and 051245B April. Request in-
structions as to whether this vessel should now be
handed over to the Belgian State Engineering Works
on behalf of the Admiralty to dismantle and re-
instate engines and remedy other defects caused by sinking.
2. Engines require immediate attention.
3. Inspection reveals small hole midships just below water line
starboard side.
(R.N.O.Brixham 061310 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
- SEARCHER. On arrival Scapa you are to disembark maintenance
personnel necessary for A/C now ashore.
2. Leave Scapa passing Hoxa Gate 1800B tomorrow 7th
and proceed by normal route to Rosyth passing May
Island 1100B and Oxcars Gate 1300B/8th.
4. V.A.D.H.F. is requested to provide one destroyer as escort.
5. On arrival clean boiler.
(C. in C.H.F. 061644B to SEARCHER.)
- L.C.P.(S) 9. Request replacement for L.C.P.(S) 9 driven ashore
at Durdle Door and considered C.T.L. Engine has been
salved.
(Com. Force G 061839 to Admty.)
- Orford
village.
(QUORN). Regret to report damage to 3 houses in Orford
village during bombardment practice at 1845 today
Thursday. Request I may be informed if there were
any casualties.
(QUORN 061925B to Capt. D.16.)

6.4.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ANTIOPE. Your 291728A March. Total bombing restrictions for ANTIOPE have been imposed as follows. (Details). (S.B.N.O. Azores, 060110Z)

T.G. 65.9. U.S. T.G. 65.9 Horta 0900Z/5th. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 060112Z)

M.A. series messages. It is intended to institute a Genral Message Series for Gibraltar and Med. Approaches Command to be called M.A. series. This series is to be kept by all Gibraltar escort force and other authorities included in the address are requested to keep them for issue to ships proceeding to this Command. This Message is M.A.1. (F.O.G.M.A.061151A)

L.L. A/C at Gibraltar. Forthcoming operations entail transfer of 179 Leigh Light Squadron to U.K. It is hoped that the gap in night escort caused by departure of 179 Squadron can be filled by L.L. Liberators at Lyautey operating both East and West of Straits. (H.Q.C.C. 061250B)

Personal for Douglas from Slessor. Your 061250B. Quite useless hoping that Commorseafront can possibly fill this gap. Comnavnaw is producing day effort to compensate for withdrawal of 52 Squadron but he has not the L.L. resources to replace 179 and I cannot ask him to do the whole of what is our job i.e. to put a stop on Straits. Will discuss with Elliot on Saturday but no amount of discussion will produce four sorties a night to stop U-Boats coming in to the Mediterranean. (H.Q.M.A.A.F. Algiers, 062131B to H.Q. C.C.)

ANTIOPE. My 042246/ ANTIOPE sailed 1950Z/6th. (S.B.N.O. Azores, 062256Z).
/ Sailing S/M ANTIOPE.

South Atlantic.

Search 60 miles S. of Simonstown.

Subsequent to sinking of DAHOMIAN on 1st April theatre was continuously covered by air until 1400B/3rd, 44 sorties comprising 280 flying hours were flown.

(2) Further search was laid on as a result of D/F fix at 0439Z/4 comprising 23 sorties and 158 flying

hours/...

6.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Search 60
miles S. of
Simonstown
(Contd.)

hours.
(3) 50% searching sweep for mines has been
carried out round area without result similar
sweep has been arranged for Agulhas Banks.
(C. in C. S.A. 061025B)

GAZELLE.

Although no former indication of this when
Navale France ordered Dakar to transfer GAZELLE
to Med. (C. in C. Med. 291216 March refers), Nav-
ale France have now directed that GAZELLE is to
commence two or three months refit at Casablanca on May 1st.
Request refit may be deferred to end of July or relief provided.
My 301127 March refers. The maximum number of ships in Dakar
Group including GAZELLE is four.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 061115Z to Admty.)

Information
for Com.
4th Fleet.

South Atlantic Anti-Blockade Runner Patrol
conducted by 4th Fleet Ranges from East Coast
South America to the Gulf of Guinea. For this
reason it is considered necessary that Com. 4th
Fleet receive route signals and Vesca departures
on all vessels moving in Atlantic South of 10
degs. N. with exception of vessels routed close inshore along
African Coast. If you concur request N.C.S.O's be instructed
include Com. 4th Fleet as addressee on messages covering these
movements.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 061648Z)

TEVIOT.

If present U-Boat threat continues as seems
likely I would very much appreciate the loan of
TEVIOT the only ship on S.A. Station capable of
over 12 knots is LEWES and her low endurance is
a great handicap.
(C. in C. S.A. 062055B to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C).)

6.4.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- SS. Swedes intimate safe conduct vessel BARDALAND will sail from Istanbul for Mytilene 1200/9 and from Chanakkale at dawn 10th. Route from Istanbul will be through Turkish territorial waters to latitude 39° 00' N. thence as in sub-para. 3(A) of A.M. 141519 March.
2. Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned.
(Admty., 060112B to F.O.L.E.M.)
- U/B Nr. 1. Am over enemy S/M in 33° 34' N. 21° 02' E. report. course 472° speed 3 knots.
(A/C GOXO 060538Z.)
Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen position 33° 34' N. 21° 02' E.
(A/C GOXO 060541Z.)
- Operation Sitrep. 76.5534 tons unloaded April 5th of which "Shingle" 735, 316, 144 respectively from L.S.T., L.C.T., L.C.I. from Naples, no shells or bombs.
(F.O.W.It., 061010B.)
- Minefield Details of QB Mess. 243 issued as result of off Rhodes. detailed information provided by Italians after armistice. Chart 872. All positions N. and E. Area within 1 mile of following positions dangerous due to enemy mines set to 12 feet.
A. 036° 26' 028° 13'; B. 036° 31.1' 028° 14';
C. 036° 33.1' 028° 15.2'; D. 036° 33.1' 028° 18.1'; E. 036° 32.4' 028° 19.3'; F. 036° 31.3' 028° 16.5'; G. 036° 30.3' 028° 20.4'; H. 036° 29.2' 028° 22.2'; I. 036° 27.6' 028° 22.2'; J. 036° 27.3' 028° 18.8', mines in area J. are set to 33 feet.
2. Suggest possibility KROM being some miles S. of her alleged position and that story of torpedo track is to excuse this.
(F.O.L.E.M. 061108C to B.N.A. Ankara.)
- UNTIRING, 1. P.59 (UNTIRING) has freedom of action in UNIVERSAL. zone SS and ST.
2. P.57 (UNIVERSAL) to leave patrol passing 042° 29' 006° 04' at 0100/9th 041° 58' 008° 06' at 0030/10th to arrive Maddalena 1032/10th.
(Capt. S.10, 061125B.)
- 37 Beach (Extract) Am anxious proceed earliest with Group. disbandment.
(C. in C. M.E. 061250C.)
- UPROAR. Intend routeing P.31 (UPROAR) at 0730/9th routed QBB 312 041° 10' 008° 08' at 1600/9th to R/V at 1100/11th in 036° 58' 003° 03'. Surfacing passage at 8 knots. P.31 (UPROAR) for onward routeing in convoy for Gibraltar and U.K. for refit.
(Capt. S.10, 061311B.)

/ULTOR...

6.4.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

ULTOR

Leave patrol A.M. 8th to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 30' at 1600/8th thence diving at 200 feet to 035° 41' 023° 16'.

(Capt. S.1. 061427B to ULTOR.)

From position 035° 41' 023° 16' about 2104/8th, proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 0702/11th thence Malta.

2. You are to dive by day on 9th April. Your surface speed is estimated as 8½ knots.

(Capt. S.1, 061430 to ULTOR.)

TEVIOTBANK.

Admty 032125* Para. 1. It is intended to use TEVIOTBANK as a M/L minelaying depot ship. (C. in C. Med., 062032B.)

* Supply Mk.27 mines.

LL A/C
at

Gibraltar.

H.Q.M.A.A.F. Algiers 062131B. See North Atlantic

Situation
report
No.331.

2. Destroyers sighted nothing while patrolling off Vis, night 4th/5th April. Coastal forces on same night captured 2 small schooners off Murter Island (043° 48' N. 015° 35' E.) with cargo of arms and ammunition and towed them to Vis. 2 German and 7 Italian prisoners taken. (C. in C. Med., 062248.)

6.4.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat My 050347Z. No fresh information. No change
disposition. in scale of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F., 060319Z.)

Entry of Fully concur with your 011117*. Anticipate
shipping no difficulty in arranging additional requirement
into ports in your para. 4.
in India (F.O.C.R.I.N., 061110Z to C. in C. E.F.)
and Ceylon * Top Secret.
by night.

TRESPASSER. P.312 (TRESPASSER) carries no reloaded torpedoes,
has a partially defective periscope and singing
propellor and her fore hydro-plane operating
gear is strained.
(2) She should not be used for operations except in emergency
nor for exercises.
(C. in C. E.F., 061223Z.)

Convoy (2) Convoy R.K.1 consisting of troopship MANELA
R.K.1. escorted by 2 ships of A.B.C. Escort Force and
FREEZIA expected to leave Colombo on 18th April
for Kilindini.
(4) Route.
(5) F.O.E.A. and N.O.I.C. Seychelles are requested to sail convoy
K.R.9B so as to arrive in position (E) 002° 50' N. 065° 38' E.
at 0800Z/22nd where convoys will R/V and exchange escorts, ships
of A.B.C. Escort Force including MARYBOROUGH proceeding with
main K.R.9B to * and ships of Kilindini Escort Force including
FREEZIA proceeding with convoy R.K.1 to Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F., 061246.)
* Presumably word missed.

U.S. G.M. K.R. and I. Art. 900.
PULLMAN. U.S. Ship GEORGE M. PULLMAN grounded 12° 38' N.
43° 23' E. on 31st March. ROCKROSE with salvage
tug CONFEDERATE and later THYME sent to her
assistance. Ship eventually refloated by
CONFEDERATE and THYME at 1500Z/4th April and proceeded direct to
Port Sudan.
(2) Ship in ballast. Groinday considered a marine casualty.
(Com. Aden, 061832Z.)

6.4.1944.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- SS. OLDHAM (abandoned). TENACITY now with OLDHAM in vicinity 44° N. 47° W. No other change. (Admty., 060011B.)
- UGANDA. Will be transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy on completion. (Admty., 060134B.)
- SEANYMPH. SEANYMPH with MATAPEDIA escorting on surface throughout departs Argentinia 061430Z (route and arrangements). (Cominch, 061022Z.) Departured. (Capt. (D) Argentinia, 061850Z.)
- KITCHENER. At 1245Z/6 sailed independently to Londonderry (route). 4. N.S.H.Q.'s 082217* refers. (F.O.N.F., 061315Z.) * Hush M/S.
- U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 061538Z, Cominch, 061620Z.)
- U.C. 19. Presenters for U.C.19 are now 20 U.S. tankers, 1 British tanker, 7 U.S. dry cargo, 1 non-operational C.V.E., 1 British reefer. Request you will ascertain what excess if any over 24 may be accepted. Cominch's 311855 January refers. It is noted C.U.19 comprised 28 ships. (D.T.D., 062051B to B.A.D.)
- U/B incidents. My 032045 and 042056 CROATAN reports contact 022200 probably non-sub and contact 031230 probable submarine with at least 1 torpedo being fired at DD same area. All times Z. Para. C. U.S.S. SEA CLOUD Radar contact 39.30 N. 62.30 W. prior to 060122. Para. D. A/C Radar contact 24.36 N. 63.19 W. 060245. Ref. 032045, part B. U.S.S. CROATAN 4 hour attack on sound contact 40.20 N. 60.33 W. 022200. Ref. 042056 Para. A. P.B.M. sighted surfaced U-Boat 08.48 S. 22.49 W. 040410. (Cominch, 062120.)
- Stragglers Report No.46. Two arrived Halifax from O.N.228 - PAUL HAMILTON HAYNE (U.S.) and W.R. KEEVER (U.S.) both March 30th. Insufficient bunkers. One arrived Halifax from S.C.156 - COLIN (Pan.) April 2nd. Engine defects. One arrived St. Johns N.F. from S.C.156 - WILSCOX (U.S.) April 4th. Engine trouble. (N.S.H.Q., 062144Z.)

6.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

T.F. 60. C.T.F.29 direct Y.M.S's 199, 200, 248, 251, 303,
6 Y.M.S's. 355 and C.T.F.20 direct Transdiv 12 report C.T.F.
• 60 for inclusion that Task Force. To depart
Hampton Roads 13th April for Mediterranean.
(Cinclant, 062251.)

SKEENA. Fully anticipate sailing SKEENA 17th April after
short shake down to U.K. via St. Johns N.F.
2. Although less than 10% of ships company have
been drafted during refit a large proportion of
her officers are new to the ship. It is assumed however from
your 291807* para. 3 that you prefer to have ship exercise
with her group as quickly as possible rather than complete
shake down here.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 062251Z to C. in C. W.A.)
* Ships from U.K. to join C Groups.

Australia and New Zealand

Digest April 5th. Paras. 9 to 13 cover South Pacific
No. 807. Forces.
(12) M.T.Bs. located 6 enemy barges hove to
southern Matchin Bay (Buka Passage) possibly
awaiting supply S/M and sank them all sides
(sic) eliminating all personnel.
(13) United States destroyer contacted Jap. S/M 50 miles west
Mussau Island afternoon 5th and attacked after which contact
LBST (? lost). Damaged Japanese torpedo bomber located same
vicinity sunk by gunfire.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 060958Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M attack and sighting
summary. Para. A. (1) A/C attacked U-Boat at 0320Z/3 in
approx. 73° 17' N. 28° 30' E.
(2) UPROAR attacked Italian U-Boat with torpedoes
at 0717Z/30th March in Toulon Harbour.
(3) A/C sighted U-Boat at 0538Z/6th April in 33°
34' N. 21° 02' E.
(4) Am. RICHARD HOVEY torpedoed and sunk at
1120Z/29th March in 16° 40' N. 64° 30' E.

6.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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

(5) Convoy attacked by U-Boat at 0517Z/6th April
in 45° 05' N. 35° 11' W.

Para. B. (1) French A/C attacked firm contact
at 1400Z/2nd April in 17° 22' N. 22° 47' W.

(2) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0316Z/6th
April in 37° 08' N. 01° 56' E.

(D.D.I.C., 061102B, amended 081121B.)

U/B
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C., 061500B, 061501B.)

7.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"Tungsten".

1. The Escort Carrier SEARCHER with JAMAICA and two Destroyers returned to Scapa at 0126 to-day; and at 0458B the two Tankers BLUE RANGER and BROWN RANGER also arrived at Scapa escorted by three Destroyers.

Operation
F.Y.

2. The returning North Russia Convoy R.A. 58, consisting of 38 M/V's with a convoy-speed of $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots, sailed from the Kola Inlet at 1103B to-day.

apparently
One M/V
sunk on
4th April
and one
probably
sunk on
6th April
by ULA.

3. The S/M ULA reports to-day that on 4th April she torpedoed and sank one 15,000 ton M/V in convoy off Stadlandet; and that on 6th April she torpedoed another 2-3000 ton M/V in convoy off Stadlandet which was last seen listing low in the water and from which shortly afterwards breaking-up noises were heard. ULA was heavily depth-charged after both attacks but sustained only minor damage.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"

4. 5017 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day in perfect weather. There was occasional shelling but no bombing.

5. Last night, TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS shelled the town and harbour of Bar, and the radar stations on Menders Point and Ulcinj (60 miles southeast of Dubrovnik) whilst patrolling on the Dalmatian coast.

6. Spitfires bombed Corfu harbour to-day.

Unrest in
Greek Navy.

7. For some days there has been no Greek Government for the Greek Fleet to follow. There is a possibility of trouble in the Greek Fleet which might interfere with its carrying out its normal duties.

7.4.1944.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Protection
of U.S.
Tankers.

8. C. in C. Eastern Fleet sends to-day a reply to Admiral King's representations regarding the routeing and scale of protection of U.S. tankers running between India and the Persian Gulf. These tankers, if under 13 knots, sail in convoy whenever the threat of attack by U-Boat demands, but the maximum scale of escort is only two Bathurst or Bangor minesweepers. Two ships, both tankers and one of them U.S. have been torpedoed this year on this route, and 4 ships, including 2 tankers, neither of which was American, were torpedoed on the Persian Gulf - Aden route.

TRESPASSER.

9. TRESPASSER, whose defects preclude her employment on operations except in emergency was due to have sailed from Colombo to-day for the U.K. to refit, but was twice delayed.

China.

10. 2 U.S. Liberators on a sweep from Hong Kong to Formosa to-day sank two medium merchant ships and probably also two smaller motor vessels. In the Catbai Island area 4 U.S. Kittybombers made 4 direct hits amongst a group of 100 small vessels. Seven U.S. Kittyhawks on a coastal sweep in the St. John's Island area set on fire 3 barges and several junks.

America and West Indies

U-Boat
sunk.

(U.856)

11. It is reported by Cominch (12th April) that C.T.G.21.15 (U.S. Escort Carrier CROATAN and 5 destroyers) sank a U-Boat to-day in 40.18 N. 62.06 W. (about 240 miles south of Halifax.)

7.4.1944
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand.

12.(a) In the early hours of to-day M.T.B's destroyed 5 enemy barges beached along the coast between Alexishafen and Hansa Bay. The M.T.B's were shelled and subjected to rifle fire from the shore but suffered only minor damage.
(b) 57 Allied A/C conducted sweeps along the coast from Alexishafen to But this forenoon. Several barges were set on fire.

13. 6 Mitchells bombed a supply area in outer Rabaul harbour last night, starting fires, and also attacked stores in Talili Bay, causing numerous explosions.

14. Shortly after daybreak to-day 11 Allied M.T.B's with air co-operation shelled and mortared buildings and gun positions on the southern shores of Karkar Island (30 miles north of Madang).

7.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

EMPRESS
to relieve
BATTLEER
in Eastern
Fleet.

It is intended that EMPRESS shall relieve BATTLEER in the Eastern Fleet. She will take over 834 Squadron from BATTLEER and operate it until her own Avenger squadron can be released from other operations.

3. Request you will say the earliest date by which EMPRESS will be ready to leave U.K. (V.C.N.S. 070237B to F.O.C.T.)

Tugs for
Rescue
Duty.

Lack of tugs for rescue duties only must now be accepted. RESOLVE should be made fully available for "Mulberry" towing. (D.O.D.H. 071754B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

OURAGON,
ARRAS,
EPINAL.

The French ships OURAGON, ARRAS and EPINAL are to be towed from Portsmouth to Hartlepool where they will be placed in Care and Maintenance with French C. & M. parties. (D.O.D.H., 071854B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operations

S.C.
Operations.

My 031858B. S.C. HITRA sailed at 0010B today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 070015B to Admty.)
My 031903B. S.C. HESSA sailed at 0550B today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 070630B to Admty.)

Biscay
A/S
operations.

U/Boat previously reported course 260°, speed 15 knots, when first sighted in 44° 35' N. 03° 27' W. (A/C LLS 60, 070045 to 19 Group.)
Carried out attack on doubtful contact at 1900Z/6 in 48° 53' N. 34° 43' W. Negative result. (ELFREDA, 070215 to Admty.)

2 minelayers position 46° 05' N. 02° 20' W. course 090° speed 5 knots. (A/C NFG 92 070215 to 19 Group.)
One or two homeward bound U/Boats may be in your vicinity today or tonight. (D.D.I.C. 070905B to Escorts H.X.285.)

Situation at 072000. BITER, E.G.7th, CYGNET, PELICAN, CRANE, WOODCOCK, GRINDALL, HOSTE vicinity 046° 59' N. 019° 31' W. (C. in C. W.A. 071405B to Admty.)
Your 071130. My 1700B. P.C.S. 047° 56' N. 018° 17' W. 216° 11 knots. (BITER 071717B to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation
"Tungsten"

Scapa arrival JAMAICA, SEARCHER, VIRAGO, SIOUX. (A.C.O.S. 070126 to H.F.)
Scapa arrival BLUE RANGER, BROWN RANGER, PIORUN, JAVELIN, ULYSSES. (A.C.O.S. 070458B to H.F.)

7.4.1944

FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

S/M
Patrols Your 062300. Return forthwith through position
 as in Capt. (S) 9th S.F. 060943.
 (F.O.S. 070309B to ULA.)
 Position of S/Ms at 0800/8th and movements for
 following 24 hours.

A. UNSHAKEN patrol in Skudesnes - Lister area.
(F.O.S. 071737B to Admty.)
 Arrived ULA.
 S.O.S/M Lerwick, 072225B to Admty.)

TERRAPIN My 021635 and Admty. 051943.
patrol. C.O. of TERRAPIN states that after consulting
 TALBOT BOOTH he considers ship mentioned in
 Admty. signal was second ship in line. First
 ship attacked was leading.
 (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 070950B to F.O.S.)

Convoy My 062204 para. 1. I am assuming sufficient
R.A.59. number of merchant ships will be ready to sail
 by this date. Pass this message and my 062204
 to Admiral Fisher.
 (C. in C.H.F. 071201B. to Admty.)

Operation My 071229B. It is not considered practicable
"Overlord". to shift S.G.B. Base from Southampton to
 Portsmouth on D. Day as at present planned.
 Propose that the first S.G.B. Flotilla should
 continue to be based on Portland during
 "Overlord".
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 071230, to ANCXF, Admty.)

Cable Your 051304B. Cable ship ARIEL sailed from
repairs Donaghadee.
(ARIEL) (F.O.I.C. N.I., 071355B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
 Have anchored Donaghadee for the night.
 (ARIEL, 072110A to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 071449B.)
Force
Patrols.

Operation First group from J.W.58 arrived Molotovsk 0600B
F.Y. to-day. Request second group be ready to
 sail from p.m. April 8th. Ice breakers may
 be at ice edge from a.m. on 9th. Request
 Russian Naval escort may be arranged accordingly.

Destination of FORT VERCHERES and FORT HALL is now Molotovsk.
My 061605B refers.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 071530B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
 Kola Inlet sailed at 1103B R.A.58, 38 ships, speed 9½ kts.
Russian local escort as far as position JIG.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 071805B to Admty.)

7.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperationsOperation
EY.
(Contd.)1. R.A.58. Names of M/Vs.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 072045B to Admty.)Operation
"Apparatus".
One 15,000
ton M/V
sunk and
one 2 -
3000 ton
M/V
probably
sunk by
ULA.ULA reports in accordance with ISOH (i) 30th March
carried out operation "Apparatus" without
incident.2.(a) 4th April 0305 sighted Northbound convoy
of two merchant ships and two escorts off
Stadlandet. Challenge from Kvitnes before
attack could be developed and forced to dive.(b) 0611 P.C.S. of convoy of 6 - 8 large merchant
ships with at least 8 escorts 353° Kjaerringa
1.5 miles, 238°, 9 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes at
15000ton ship from 4000 yards. First torpedo
was seen to hit amidships and ship was seen to
roll over and sink. Remainder of torpedoes
heard to explode on shore. Asdic was out ofaction. Counter attack developed at once with 65 depth charges
spread over one hour. During forenoon 2 A/S vessels heard
and seen hunting. Between 1315 and 1440 a further 49 depth
charges were dropped. No charge was close. No damage.c. Midnight. Received F.O.(S) confidential warning of
increased A/S activity.3. 5th April, 1430. Northbound convoy sighted passing out
of range in approx. 062° 05' N. 005° 05' E. having come up
Ulvesund.4. 6th April 0923 P.C.S. of 3 2 - 3000 tons merchant ships
with 2 escorts 270° Buholmene 1½ cables, 345°, 8 knots coming
from Ulvesund. Fired 3 torpedoes at 3000 yards. 3 explosions
heard. Last torpedo seen to hit land. Second torpedo
thought to have hit target which was last seen very low in water
with a list. Breaking up noises were heard shortly afterwards.
Counter attack and hunt for 7 hours with 68 depth charges of
which many were close. Minor damage only. Before this
attack 2 A/S vessels were watching patrol on parallel course
to ULA 7000 yards away in approx. 062° 13' N. 005° 01' E.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 072337B and 081129 to F.O.S.)Mining

Q.Z.X.31.

Request you will arrange clearance of Northern
part of Q.Z.X.31 between latitudes 55° 20' N.
and 55° 09½' N.2. 1st M.S.F. can be made available for this
operation before proceeding to Harwich.
(D.M.S. 071836B to C. in C. Rosyth.)Casualties and Defects.

LANCE

Admty. Bath's 152158A/Feb. LANCE is now ready
for towing to British Iron and Steel Corporation
London. Request tugs.
(C. in C. Nore, 071053B and 071808B to D.S.T.)

100

7.4.1944.

Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

LAWFORD. Periodical examination of big end bearing shells of general motors main engines has revealed flaking of the Whitemetal of the top half bearing shells in four bearings and signs of advanced deterioration in the remainder so far examined. Request immediate action to supply complete set of top and bottom shells 64 in number by manufacture in this country. (Com. Force "J" 071208B to Admt.)

ROCKWOOD. Your 060734B. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 071312 to Cdr. Southend.)

ALAUNIA. A.M. 070327. Arrangements have been made for ALAUNIA to be taken in hand at Devonport for conversion to repair ship.
(D.O.D.H, 071444B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

B.1. Your 302248A March. WINCHELSEA arrived Hartlepool.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 071918 to Cdre. D.W.A.)

7.4.1944.
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- M.K.S.42: faulty oil fuel from ESTURIA. It has not been possible to discover any means by which this water could have been passed by ESTURIA. Request confirmation that TOWY and LA DECOUVERTE which are understood to be vessels concerned sounded their own tanks for water before operation commenced. Your 041247/ refers. (F.O.G.M.A. 071120).
/ Re oil issued by ESTURIA during fuelling operations in M.K.S.42 contained high water content.
- SIBYL Intend to sail P.217 SIBYL at 0600/9th escorted by CYCLAMEN for U.K. (route). where CYCLAMEN parts company in 43.01 N. 13.22 W. and SIBYL proceeds as ordered by F.O.S. (F.O.G.M.A. 071602A).
Following was passed to STRATAGEM and SPIRIT for information under T.O.O. 071602A (as last). (F.O.G.M.A. 071702A).
- ROMAIN German ROMAIN left Barcelona 0300/7th northbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 071608A to S.O.(I) Med. Capt. (S) 10, P.59 (UNTIRING), P.57 (UNIVERSAL).
- KEMPENFELT Intend to sail KEMPENFELT at 1800A/8 for U.K. (route). (F.O.G.M.A. 071746A).
- STRATAGEM, SPIRIT. Leave patrol not before daylight 12th April and R/V with CYCLAMEN in (T) 041° N. 012° 52' W. at 1110/12.
(2) Total bombing restrictions arranged between latitude 039 degs. 40' and 043° N. and between meridian 011° and 013° 050° W. from 2000/11 until CYCLAMEN is met.
(3) CYCLAMEN is to escort you S. of A. 11 knots by reverse route given my 071602A at following times: (P) at 1630/13. (Q) At 1410/14 Gib. 1800/14 all zone minus 1 (one). (F.O.G.M.A. 071754A to STRATAGEM, SPIRIT 071808 to info. address).

SECRET

102A

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.)

*Duala - Congo,
standard route.*

071948S/April.

Date 25.4.44

From FCCVAF

Time 1105

POSTAGRAM

To NCSO Takoradi, NCSO Matadi, NCSO Lagos,
BNLO Pointe Noire.
Info Admiralty.

Routeing between Duala and Congo River and intermediate ports.

Establish standard route -

AB	03	28	North	09	12	East
AC	00	48		08	40	
AD	00	18	South	08	17	East
AE	00	56		08	05	
AF	01	50		08	30	
AG	01	50		09	05	thence to

Pointe Noire and Congo River keeping within 10 miles of the coast.

2. Traffic between Lagos and Libreville is to proceed by a tree route to position K or corresponding thence direct to AC.

3. This system will be brought into force by signal.

4. Acknowledge receipt by signal.

My 060001 refers.

071948Z

- U.W.R.
- Capt. Pim
- D. Map Room
- Ops (2)
- Plot
- C.D. (5)
- O.I.C. (2)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (C)
- I.P. (3)
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. (Cit)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.A/U.D.
- M. (2)
- U.S.N. (3)
- W.D.

*(Received by W.D.
on 26 April 1944)*

JEC
108

7.4.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greek Naval
Situation.

The situation has considerably deteriorated in the last 12 hours and there is a possibility we may have trouble in the Greek Fleet which might interfere with its carrying out its normal duties.

2. The whole position is very confused but so far incidents in one or two ships which have ended in throwing officers overboard and then picking them up again may I think be described as Hellenic exuberance and have been followed by apologies from all concerned.

3. There has been an increase of respect to British Naval uniform and the solution may lie in a temporary British control possibly under the White Ensign.

4. The fundamental factor is that for some days there has been no Greek Government for the Greek Fleet to follow.

5. Janiaris the active and proven subversive Secretary of the Greek Mercantile Union has been arrested by British Authorities his release is being demanded by malcontents though I cannot say exactly by which faction as a condition under which the Greek lower deck will continue to serve loyally under the Greek Ensign. It should be borne in mind that a small though local proportion of Greek Naval ratings are ex mercantile marine.

6. The Greek C. in C. realises that in the event of mutiny I will use force to take over and man Greek ships. He fully appreciates the necessity for this.

8. The general background is as follows. There is no Greek Government nor one immediately in sight which is calculated to produce Naval unity. It appears that some twenty per cent of the Navy lower deck are pronounced leftists, twenty per cent easily swayed, and the remainder supine generally speaking the officers will obey their C. in C.

9. The officers at present have little control and the lower deck by manifesto to Greek C. in C. have expressed their willingness to serve with and under the British Navy subject to certain conditions.

10. The situation alternates with bewildering frequency, but broadly speaking we appear likely to be faced with the two unconstitutional alternatives of either -

A. The Greek Navy serving directly under me while acknowledging no Greek Government, although strongly desiring an all party Government to be formed at the earliest opportunity, or

B. Acknowledging small party Government in the process of formation under the leadership of Rousos which may not have the approval of the King of Greece. In the case of necessity I shall accept the former, but naturally I shall work for the latter with the hope of obtaining something which will develop into a constitutional government without which the unity and entity of the Greek Navy will vanish.

(F.O.L.E.M. 070237C.)

Daily Opsum
No. 345.

2 Wellingtons successfully mined Khalkis Harbour
5/6 April.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 071033Z.)

FOWEY.

Your 071034 not to Admty. FOWEY should be sailing to U.K. in M.K.S.45 to refit at a port nominated by Admty.
(C. in C.Med. 081052B to F.O.G.M.A.)

7.4.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Operation "Shingle". L.C.I.(L), L.C.T., L.S.T. from Naples contributed 122, 283, 755 tons respectively to total of 5305 tons unloaded on 6th April. No bombs but intermittent shelling of port. UNDINE bombarded at Anzio on 4th April.
(F.O.W.It. 071130B.)
- Withdrawal of 179 Air Sqn. from Gibraltar. Personal for Slessor from Douglas. Requirements of future operations in U.K. must be overriding. On this account withdrawal of 179 Squadron from Gibraltar appears most necessary.
2. It is surely wrong to regard stop on Straits as our job only. We and Americans must accept joint responsibility using all available resources.
4. If you feel unable to accept transfer of 179 Squadron to U.K. I will ask Air Min. and Admty. to referee.
(H.Q.C.C. 071200B to H.Q.M.A.A.F.)
- Nice Harbour. REGULUS reports sighting one 1500 ton ship camouflaged in Nice Harbour on 3rd April. One tall funnel, high bridge forward of funnel, 2 masts. Appears to be ferry steamer.
(Capt. S.10 071305 to UNTIRING.)
- Minefield off Rhodes. Endeavour to keep the exact limits of the minefield quoted in my 061108* from Turks as Germans may not appreciate details we possess.
(F.O.L.E.M. 071321 to B.N.A.Ankara, S.1.)
* Details of Q.B.Mess. 243 issued as a result of detailed information provided by Italians after Armistice.
- Black Sea. From Intelligence Report April 1st to April 5th incl. Air attacks on enemy shipping. April 1st one F-Lighter sunk, April 3rd one unidentified vessel, one F-Lighter and 3 M.L. sunk and 2 F-Lighters and 2 M.L. damaged. All in Feodosia area.
(N.L.O.Black Sea 071327.)
Note. Part 2 not yet received.
- K.M.F.31, 32, 33. In view of the impending withdrawal of Fleet and Hunt destroyers and intended operations in the central Med. request information regarding the anticipated numbers of ships in K.M.F.31, K.M.F.32 and K.M.F.33 A.M. 081917 and my 102132 both Jan. refer.
(C. in C.Med. 071547 to Admty.)

War Diary.

7.4.1944.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Ships fitted with anti glider bomb jammers. Request information when ships not belonging to Mediterranean Station who are fitted with anti glider bomb jammers enter this area. BENTINCK is a case in point.
(C. in C.Med. 071721 to Admty.)
- ULTIMATUM. Leave patrol ordered in my 071802 at dusk 9th and proceed (route and arrangements) to Malta.
(Capt. S.1 071809, 071820B to ULTIMATUM.)
- Enemy air attacks. Reply to A.M. 041543. (Technical.)
(C. in C.Med. 071810B.)
- UNSPARING. Proceed forthwith to patrol in vicinity of Cape Daphni (Kos) to intercept Rhodes - Leros traffic, but do not proceed E. of line drawn through centre of Nisero to Portolago (Leros).
2. Appreciate ANITA should shortly sail from Rhodes to Leros passing W. West Kos.
(Capt. S.1 071849 to UNSPARING.)
- U.223. Congratulations on sinking on 30th March.
(1st S.L. 071857B.)
- Situation report No. 332. Operation "Shingle". 2 L.C.T. near missed during shelling of harbour on 6th April and suffered some damage and casualties, 5305 tons discharged during the day.
(amended 162052B)
2. During night 5/6th April M.T.Bs. captured a schooner carrying grain off Murter and towed it to
Vis. 1 German killed 1 German and 4 Italians taken prisoner.
3. M.T.Bs. and P.Ts. operating from Bastia same night sank an E-Boat and damaged a flak ship by gunfire our force suffered superficial damage but no casualties.
(C. in C.Med. 072132.)
- PIPINOS. P.71 (PIPINOS) sailing from Malta at 1901/7th to pass through Antikithera channel during daylight 10th patrol in S.W. Aegean south of lat. 036° 05' and W. of long. 025°.
(Capt. S.1 072204B.)
- Testing of jamming transmitters. British ships fitted with jamming transmitters should take this opportunity when in company with U.S.J. Ships to test transmission when circumstances permit. The latter ships carry measuring equipment on board.
(C. in C.Med. 072235.)

War Diary.

7.4.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

FENRIS.

The Swedish Government intimate safe conduct vessel FENRIS will sail from Piraeus for Nikolaos at 0900/12th by "Yellow" route. Request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned. (Admty. 072333B to F.O.L.E.M.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

1. 1st Greek Brigade 25% reported behind dissidents remainder passive. Entire brigade has so far refused British request to lay down arms. An ultimatum will be circulated in pamphlet form tomorrow (group corrupt) Greek Navy.
2. Ministry Marine taken over by British Troops midnight 6/7th April at the request of Greek C. in C. but later returned to loyal Greeks. April 5th mutiny without casualties on GIORGIOS AVEROFF, PINDOS and on Greek submarine in Port Said. Greek Naval Recruiting Office Alexandria held by 280 dissidents armed with machine guns and rifles. Also (name corrupt ZIZINIA?) Greek Naval Cadet unit held by 150. An ultimatum will be given both H.Qs. before force is used.
3. Karayannis was arrested at 1500 hours without armed resistance. He will be brought to Cairo under escort. 21 Greek seamen who were in the building with Karayannis have been arrested and are being detained at Kom el Dik pending instructions from the Naval Authorities. Strike on 5 Greek merchantmen at Suez and 3 at Port Said.
4. No further arrests have been carried out though 3 leading members of the Dissident Movement still being sought for.
5. Necessary Military measures appear to have been taken to restore and maintain order but situation will remain tense until
 - A. Composition of new Government is announced and
 - B. Attitude toward provisional Committee in Greece is defined.(Middle East No T.O.C.)

War Diary.

7.4.1944
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Bi-weekly
U-Boat
disposition
No.40.

Situation given in Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition
No.39 is unchanged.
(C. in C. E.F. 070337)

Protection of
U.S. Tankers
between
India and
Persian
Gulf.

B.A.D. 292141/March refers. U.S. Tankers of
under 13 knots plying between Indian Ports and
the Persian Gulf run in routine convoy on East
and West coast of India and onwards in Convoy
between Bombay and the Persian Gulf whenever the
threat of attack from the presence of one or
more U-Boats in the area demands.

(2) Tankers for Karachi on this route are detached
from a position 35 miles off Karachi and proceed
direct to Port those sailing from Karachi join the Convoy 55
miles from the Port Local A/S Escort being provided in both
cases.

(3) Between Bombay and the Persian Gulf during the year ending
31st March 1944, two ships (both Tankers) were torpedoed, one
of these being American.

(4) Tankers run under similar Convoy conditions between the
Persian Gulf and Aden. On this route during the year ending
31st March, 1944 four ships (including two Tankers) were tor-
pedoed of which one Tanker sank. Neither of these Tankers
was American.

(5) Compared with the quantity of shipping flowing to and from
the Persian Gulf these losses must be considered small. There
is little doubt, however, that if U-Boats show more initiative in
attacking convoys the present maximum scale of escort which is
no more than two Bathursts or Bangors will provide little or no
detrant.

(C. in C. E.F. 070531Z)

TRESPASSER.

TRESPASSER delayed 24 hours. All times in my
050647, 051045 and 061845 not to all addressees
should be amended accordingly.
(2) F.O.E.A. pass to Air H.Q. E.A. and 246 Wing.
(S.O.S/Ms Colombo 070601) (N.T. in W.D. of two
latter sigs.)

SS. CITY OF
ADELAIDE,
(torpedoed
30 March).

(B) 012 degs. 04' S. 080 degs. 30' E. at 301411Z
March.
(C) U-Boat with gun fore and aft of conning tower.
(D) Torpedoed, ship sank. (E) 2.
(F) 90 survivors comprising total complement.
(G) Yes, about 150 rounds fired.
(H) SS Message made and received.
(J) (K) and (L) thrown overboard in sinking chest.
(N) Master.
(C. in C. E.F. 071135Z)

U-Boat /...

7.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

U-Boat
sighting
reports by
Military
coast watch-
ing organisa-
tion.

G.O.C. in C. East Africa's 84721 cipher 25th Mar. to War Office repeated F.O. East Africa begins: "Following enemy S/M sighting reports graded most reliable respectively have been received since 1st Jan. from military coast watching organisation on Somalia coastline.

(1) Most reliable. 2 Jan. area EIL. 9 and 23 March area Alula.

(2) Reliable. Area Alula sightings made on following dates 4, 22, 27, 30 Jan. 25th Feb. 4th

March on 20 Mr. 2 sightings made EIL area 22 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 S/M 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. Ends."

(2) Request your comments stating whether you consider value of reports sufficient to justify continuation of watching organisation.

(Admty, 072239B to C. in C. E.F.)

7.4.1944.

Friday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Suspicious vessel. SSSS - Suspicious vessel 22.18 N. 89.39 W. Clear. (KXAQ (GRAND MISA) 070130).

HESPELLER On completion of working up request H.M.C.S. HESPELLER join Mid Ocean Escort Force for duty with Group C-5 and date of joining be promulgated A.M. 101641 March. (C. in C.C.N.A. 071420Z).

TRAMONTANA, (Spanish fishing vessels). Re route. MISTRAL. (N.S.H.Q. 071522Z).
Re. Conditions to govern Spanish vessels fishing in Newfoundland waters.

U/boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 071534Z, Cominch 071621Z).

T.G.21.5 Task Group 21.5 POOLE Cortdiv 22 plus GANDY will escort C.U.21 departing New York 15th April for U.K. Return escorting U.C.21 when directed. (C. in C. Lant, 071622).

O.N.229 45 ships arrived New York April 7th. (P.D. New York, 071830Z).

U.C.19 Navy Dept. will accept the upper limit of 30 ships. Your 062051 refers. (B.A.D., 072001Z to Admty.).

U/boat incidents. All times Z.
A. CROATAN aircraft fired on by U/boat 40.33 N. 62.22 W. 0700/07. Contact held 2 hours by Sonobuoy. Surface escorts had sound contact prior to 1500/07.
B. Aircraft Radar contact 07.34 S. 23.46 W. 0055/06 estimated course 358. P.B.M. Radar Contact 07.00 S. 22.47 W. 0558/06.
C. B.24 Radar contact 35.08 N. 73.48 W. 0150/07. (Cominch, 072149Z).

K.12 Transfer of Dutch S/M. K.12 to U.S. Navy and relief of Dutch crew would be inopportune at the present time. (J.S.M. Washington, 072331Z).

Aircraft in amphibious operations. C.C.S. to-day instructed Combined Planners to produce an agreed paper on the subject of restrictions on flying, recognition of aircraft and

/ control...

7.4.1944.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Aircraft in amphibious operations. (Contd.).

control of A/A fire in amphibious operations. (J.S.M. Washington, 072335Z).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest No.808.

April 6th. Paras. 13 to 17 cover South Pacific Forces.

(9) Night 4th April M.T.B. attacked three heavily laden northbound barges midway between Madang and Hansa Bay sinking two possibly damaging third.

Accurate counter fire experienced from barges.

(12) Single Japanese floatplanes effectually (sic) bombed M.T.Bs. operating off Jacquinot Bay before dawn 6th.

(14) Previous night (4/5 April) barge base central Empress Augusta Bay shores bombarded by one U.S. Destroyer.

(16) M.T.Bs. contacted possible enemy submarine off South-Western Bougainville early hours 6th.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 071024Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M.attack and sighting summary.

Para.A.(1) Nor. RUTH I torpedoed and sunk. Nor. tanker SOUTH AMERKA torpedoed. SWALE attacked U/boat at 0430Z/6 in latitude 45° 05' N. Long. 35° 11' W.

(2) A/C sighted two U/boats at 2130Z/6 in latitude 44° 35' N. longitude 03° 27' W.

Para.C. (1) H.M.S. ELFREDA attacked doubtful contact at 1900Z/6 in latitude 48° 53' N. longitude 34° 43' W.

Para.E.(1) A/C sighted U/boat at 0940Z/6 in latitude 52° 18' N. longitude 05° 20' W.

(D.D.I.C. 071116B).

U/boat dispositions.

Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 071432B, 071443B).

War Diary.

8.4.1944.

Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

W-Boats.

1. Details are given in an A Message today of a new submersible craft believed to be about 90 feet long and capable of high speed which the Germans are reliably reported to have developed, perhaps for anti-invasion use. They carry two torpedoes and no guns, and will be called W-Boats. There is no evidence that any has yet reached an operational stage.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
U-Boat
attacked.

2. The four sloops of E.G.7 (CYGNET, S.O.) attacked a U-Boat at 0950B today about 500 miles W. by N. of Cape Ortegal but lost contact at 1307B after four attacks had been made.

U.962 sunk.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

3. (a). A widespread subversive movement has brought about in the Greek Navy mutinies in certain ships: the mutineers are in control and are prepared to resist with gun armament and small arms any attempts to secure control of their ships; and Greek officers are being held as hostages. Anti-British sentiment is confined to the extreme elements, and accordingly F.O.L.E.M. is issuing a personal invitation to Greek ships to serve under direct British control. AJAX and a destroyer have been ordered to Alexandria, army guns are in position, M.T.Bs. ready, and all other steps have been taken to resist any offensive move by the Greeks. All supplies from Naval sources to mutinous ships and establishments were stopped from noon today. (b). There are no reports up to date of any ships refusing duty, though certain vessels are reported to have "joined the dissidents".

Operation
"Shingle".

4. 5011 tons were unloaded at Anzio today without interference from the weather or the enemy. Ju. 88s were active over the anchorage about 2200 today; one was shot down by U.S.S. SWAY and the few bombs dropped caused no damage.

S/M Operations in
Aegean.

5. (a). ULTOR, returning from patrol in the southern Aegean reports that she sank by gunfire 7 caiques between Kithera Channel and Port Kyparisi. Yesterday she sank by torpedo a 200 ton A/S caique off Monemvasia.

(b)...

8.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S/M Operations in Aegean.
(Contd.)

5. (b). SPORTSMAN reports sinking a caique by gunfire on 28th March during patrol in the Aegean and a 200 ton motor lighter on 31st March N.E. of Kithera Island and capturing 8 German prisoners.

6. Effective air attacks were made last night and today on shipping and harbours in the Aegean.

Australia & New Zealand.

Hollandia area.

7. 40 escorted Liberators bombed Hollandia shortly before midday today. Two small ships in harbour were damaged, and damage was caused ashore in the port.

8. 55 fighter bombers attacked Rabaul harbour today, causing great flames and two heavy explosions near the oil and coal wharf.

War Diary.

8.4.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

General.

W-Boats.

There is reliable evidence that the Germans have developed a special submersible which will be called the W-Boat.

2. It may be either a submersible E-Boat with high surface speed or a small U-Boat with high submerged speed. It is possible though unlikely that both characteristics are embodied in one design.

3. Length believed to be about 90 feet. Speed may be as high as 40 knots surfaced and/or 30 knots submerged. Unhandy at slow speed surfaced but can proceed at slow speed submerged. Maximum diving depth reported 100 feet. Armament two torpedoes. No guns. Very small silhouette.

4. The W-Boat may be designed for anti-invasion use to attack convoys or ships in undefended anchorages.

5. Likely tactics estimated to be either

A. If of E-Boat type to attack with E-Boats, the latter drawing off escort to allow the W-Boat to attack unobserved, or

B. To lie submerged in the estimated path of the convoy and if of E-Boat type surface at night and attack on the surface, or if of U-Boat type attack in normal way making tactical use of high submerged speed to gain bearing, etc.

6. There is no evidence of how many W-Boats have been built or of any having reached an operational stage. Details are still uncertain and the above appreciation of the W-Boat and its likely use is subject to alteration in the light of further evidence.
(D.N.I. 081938B: A.M. 827A, B.2.)

Policy

SOUTHERN
PRINCE.

It is desired to use SOUTHERN PRINCE as flagship for F.O. British Assault Area until established ashore. For this purpose following W/T facilities are required.

2. SOUTHERN PRINCE is required at Portsmouth assembly area by Y - 10 but it is understood that she is available to proceed as necessary for work to be done.

3. Decision is requested as to whether fitting can be undertaken and completed by this time.

(A.N.C.X.F. 080858B to Admty.)

AORANGI.

AORANGI is now required to act in following capacities at Spithead:

A. A medical clearing station.

B. A tug depot ship. C. A supply water to B

above in small quantities. D. Supply stores generally. E. Auxiliary bakery.

2. For this purpose AORANGI is required to arrive at Southampton by the end of April.

(D.S.T. 082138B to P.S.T.O.N.W.Ports.)

War Diary.8.4.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S H/F D/F bearing of U-Boat obtained transmitting a
Operations. Naval Enigma at 0505B bearing 115° estimate over
30 miles but in ground wave. Inconclusive fix
places U-Boat nearer. My P.C. and S. 042° 10' N.
035° 07' W. 270° 5. Weather.
(C.1 080537B to Admty.)

By D/F at 0302Z/8 U-Boat estimated within 40 miles of 46° 00' N.
21° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 080626B to E.G.7, BITER.)

Your 080537B. Enigma message intercepted in U.K. at 0508Z
from a good D/F position in about 44° 00' N. 22° 00' W.
Suggest this may have been signal you heard.

(D.D.I.C. 080851B to C.1.)

Have attacked enemy S/M position 045° 43' N. 019° 57' W.

Searching. CRANE in company.

(E.G.7 080950B to Admty.)

Your 080808B HOSTE and GRINDALL will leave you about a.m.
11th April to return to base.

2. 9th E.G. will probably join you p.m. 12th.

(C. in C.W.A. 081232B to BITER.)

My 080950B. Contact lost after 4 attacks. Continuing patrol
of area. C. in C.W.A. 061001Z refers. WOODCOCK, CRANE, PELICAN
in company. My P.C. and S. 045° 36' N. 020° 03' W. 290°, 10.
(E.G.7 081307B to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy
R.A.59.

C. in C.H.F. 062204B para. 3A. TRACKER has defects
and is overdue for boiler cleaning. TRACKER 070845E
refers. It is understood that boiler cleaning can-
not be undertaken at Scapa and the time interval is
too short for it to be done elsewhere.

2. STRIKER (S.O.) and ACTIVITY are therefore detailed for R.A.59.
STRIKER is equipped with 9 Swordfish A.S.V. Mark II and 6 Hurri-
canes.

3. F.O.C.T. is requested A. To sail STRIKER to arrive Scapa 18th
April. B. To inform C. in C.H.F. whether (i) STRIKER's complement
of A/C can be strengthened by the replacement of her Hurricanes
with Wildcats. (ii) ACTIVITY can be equipped with 3 Swordfish
and 7 Wildcats.

C. To equip STRIKER as in my 140015A March para. 2 C. D. E.
(C. in C.W.A. 081246B to C. in C.H.F.)

6th E.G. are to be sailed so as to arrive Scapa a.m. April
18th. They are to place themselves under orders of C. in C.H.F.
to act as support group for R.A.59. C. in C.H.F. 062204B refers.

2. Cdre. D.W.A. is requested to fit them out for Arctic conditions
as far as possible in time available.

(C. in C.W.A. 081856B to Cdre. D.W.A.)

R.A.59. Request your estimate of number of ships. C. in C.
H.F. 071201B refers.

(D.T.D. 081915B to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

S/M Patrols.

Request you will sail submarines as follows
A. TAKU at 0800B/10th April. B. VENTURER at 2000B/
10th April by following route P. 090° Muckle
Flugga 20 miles Q. 061° 01' N. 000° 22' E.

R. 060° 50' N. 002° 53' E. S. 058° 17' N. 004° 37' E. T. 057°
38' N. 006° 46' E. thence to patrol in accordance with S.M. 04010/
595 on the surface at C.O.discretion when N. of 060° N.

8.4.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. 2. Return routes to be C. VENTURER by reverse of
(Contd.) outward route.
D. TAKU 5 miles to starboard of reverse of outward
route.
(Capt. S.9 081437B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
0800/9th Submarine positions and movements in next
24 hours. A. As my 071737.
(F.O.S. 081721B to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth 081444B.)
Force
Patrols.

Operation "Tungsten". Following for information about attack on TIRPITZ
on 3rd April.
2. Full interpretation of photographs is not yet
complete. Preliminary assessment shows 16 hits
identified certain as 3 with 1600 lb. S.A.P. bombs,
8 with 500 lb. S.A.P. and 5 with 500 lb. M.C. and 600 lb. A/S
bombs instantaneous fuzed. In addition there are judged to be 8
other visible hits which cannot be classified for certain.
3. Apart from direct evidence of 24 hits in para. 2 the small
number of "Ghosts" of misses in water suggests more hits.
4. 98 bombs were dropped.
5. Photographs show waves created by whipping of TIRPITZ's stern.
Two of the explosions observed were particularly large.
6. Carriers taking part were A. VICTORIOUS with Barracuda and
Corsair. B. FURIOUS with Barracuda and Seafire. C. EMPEROR with
Hellcat. D. SEARCHER and PURSUER with Wildcat. E. FENCER with
Swordfish and Wildcat as A/U Carrier and to assist in fighter
direction of force.
7. Striking force was organised in 2 waves of 24 and 18 Barracudas.
Of these 40 attacked, one was U/S and not flown off and one forced-
landed in sea after take-off.
8. 21 Corsairs, 20 Hellcats, and 40 Wildcats provided escort and
cover for strikes. Air opposition was expected but none was en-
countered and Hellcats and Wildcats concentrated most effectively
on ship and shore flak.
9. Seafires and some Corsairs provided fighter protection for
ships.
10. Bomb loads used were 10 aircraft with one 1600 lb. S.A.P. each
for carriage of which special fittings had been extemporised. Ten
aircraft with three 500 lb. M.C. or two 600 lb. A/S each latter
fuzed hydrostatically for 30 feet and to burst on impact for dry
hit. Twenty with three 500 lb. S.A.P. each.
11. Diving attacks were made and height of release was about
3000 feet for 1600 lb. bombs and 2500 feet for others. Unlikely
that 1600 lb. bombs would penetrate vitals from this height.
12. Flak was well kept down by fighters and by M.C. and A/S bomb
hits. Only two Barracudas shot down in the attacks. One Wildcat
forced-landed in sea on return to carrier force.
13. Weather conditions were excellent.
(V.C.N.S. 081713B to B.A.D.)

/S.C....

War Diary.

8.4.1944.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

S.C. Operations My 070630B. Returned at 1715B today (HESSA).
2. Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 081830B and 091026B to Admty.)
Intend to sail S.C.operation from Scalloway
1. p.m. April 10th. 2. 062° 16' N. 005° 24' E.
3. RAMOSE, IRRIGATE, 4. 2 days. 5. 063° Muckle Flugga. 6. No.
(A.C.O.S. 081901B to Admty.)
Intend to sail S.C.Operation from Scalloway 1. a.m. April
16th. 2. 059° 44' N. 005° 07' E. 3. RAMOSE, ANALOGOUS II. 4. 2
days. 5. 092° Sumburgh Head. 6. No.
(A.C.O.S. 081902 and 151641B to Admty.)
My 070015B. Returned at 2245B today (HITRA). 2. Operation
successful.
(A.C.O.S. 082320 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Hamburg bombed. On night 6/7 April 31 - 35 A/C attacked Hamburg.
Bombing was reported as well within the built-up
area. Weather was cloudless but with some haze.
Defences were moderate to intense H/F with many
S.Ls. coming over the city. One Mosquito is mis-
sing.
(H.Q.B.C. 081245B.)

Thorshavn meteorological station. Lack of meteorological reports consequent in clos-
ing Vaagar already keenly felt particularly by
Orkney Stations. These reports were of great value
and most reliable. Strongly recommend that staff
at Thorshavn be increased if necessary by provision
of Naval personnel to permit hourly transmissions.
Recommend improved facilities for transmission.
(R.A.N.A.S.N. 081725 to Admty.)

Mining.

Harwich. One mine detonated by sweeper at 081344B in 51°
39.9' N. 01° 46.7' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 081851B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

COURAGEOUS II. Your 062330. COURAGEOUS II has broken propellor
shaft and will not be available for one month.
(C. in C.Rosyth 081144B to Admty.)

LOTUS. Arrival Polyarnoe 0512B/8th LOTUS who has developed
serious tube end and stay nut leak in both boilers.
2. Repairs are being taken in hand by the Northern
Fleet who anticipate they will take at least 1 week.
(S.B.N.O.Polyarnoe 081534 to Admty.)

/SHEFFIELD...

8.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

SHEFFIELD.

A.M. 030015 and your 261140. Arrangements have been made for SHEFFIELD to be taken in hand on 18th April at the Tail of the Bank, Clyde for fitting type 149.

(D.O.D.H. 081755B to C. in C.H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

North Russia. Your 071530. Intend sailing Second Group consisting of following ships with Russian naval escort from Kola Inlet at 1700B today.

(S.B.N.O.North Russia 080931B to S.B.N.O.Murmansk.)

Icebreakers 5 ? left Archangel 0400B today.

Estimated they will arrive Northern Ice Ridge tomorrow forenoon in vicinity of Terske - Orlovski. Request second White Sea Group may sail accordingly. As it is important that second group should not wait at Ice edge for Icebreakers suggest Admiral Goloko can give you information as to their position more quickly than I can.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 081047 to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

My 080931B. Sailed at 2030B/8th the 10 only named ships in para. 2.

2. W.R.GRACE has returned to Kola Inlet with engine trouble.

(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 082125B to S.B.N.O.Archangel.)

War Diary.

8.4.1944.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

PRINCE ROBERT. Request you will sail PRINCE ROBERT, to operate under the orders of C. in C.W.A. as A/A escort for M.K.F.30 passing Gibraltar 15th April.
2. F.O.G.M.A. pass to PRINCE ROBERT.
(D.O.D.H. 081139B to F.O.G.M.A.)

KEMPENFELT
(for U.K.)

Departure.
(F.O.G.M.A. 081735A.)

South Atlantic.

GAZELLE.

GAZELLE was last refitted in July 1943 and docked Dec. 1943. My 061115 refers.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 081238Z to Admty.)

Information
for Com.
4th Fleet.

With the exception of vessels routed close inshore along the African coast all route signals and departure Vescas reporting movements within, proceeding into or passing through the Atlantic Ocean South of 10° N. are to be repeated to Commander 4th Fleet, Recife.
(D.T.D. 081440B.)

Daily G.R.
Opsum 239.

2. Located SS. BAILUNDO.
(A.H.Q.W.Af. 081745.)

SS. BAILUNDO
(Portuguese.)

SS. BAILUNDO intercepted by CHASSEUR 61 was taken into Port Etienne at 1345Z/8. Armed guard of one officer 9 men embarked. BAILUNDO will be sailed Gibraltar as soon as possible. Route.
(Comar Dakar 081848Z.)
(c.f. D.E.W.D. 311430A March to F.O.G.M.A.)

8.4.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

U/boat report. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 33° 31' N. 20° 21' E. 3121 probably a submarine. (A/C C/S 939B, 080140Z).

Test jamming transmissions. Add to 072235.+ The greatest care must be taken to make test transmissions as short as possible to avoid disclosing the use of their frequencies to enemy. (C. in C. Med. 081024B).
+ Re: British ships fitted with jamming transmitters T.O.O. 072235.

MANARA, JALEA. MANARA now defective and only suitable local training Taranto. Your 252109/ para. two. (2) JALEA expected to complete ex trials 7th May. (C. in C. Med. 081124B to B.A.D.).
/ Re Italian S/M. for A/S training in the Med.

C. in C. Med. I am remaining in Cairo for the present. (R.N.G.H.Q., C. in C. Med. in Cairo, 081136C).

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep 78. 5017 tons unloaded on April 7th 370 118 93 respectively from L.S.T. L.C.I.(L) L.C.T. from Naples. Occasional shells no bombs. (F.O.W.It. 081248B).

U/boat attacked 16th March by AFFLECK. Your 041915 para.5 serial 83. This hunt should be assessed by Admiralty. 2. Para. 8 of your Memo No. Med/00225 dated 19th August 1943 refers. (D.A.U.D., 081322B to C. in C. Med.).

Mutiny in Greek Navy. Situation in Alexandria is tense with Greek destroyer CRETE at present the worst ship. British Naval Forces are at present rather thin but one six inch cruiser and one Fleet Destroyer have been ordered to Alexandria though the former cannot arrive for two days. The subversive movement appears widespread and well organised and mutineers are prepared to resist with gun armament and small arms any attempts to secure control of their ships in some of which Greek Officers are being held as hostages. There are some indications of existence of anti-British sentiment amongst more extreme elements. A new Government is the only thing which would provide a rallying point for the would-be loyal elements and so enable bloodshed and probably damage to ships in Alexandria Harour to be avoided. It is possible that Venezelos might still be accepted as Leader and so be able to restore order. Army guns are in positions, M.T.Bs. ready and all other steps have been taken to resist any offensive move by Greeks. F.O.L.E.M. is issuing a personal invitation to Greek ships to serve under direct British Control in the terms of my following message. Port Said is quiet but Committees in control of ships. (C. in C. Med., 081407C).

/ A.....

War Diary8.4.1944.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMutiny in
Greek Navy
(Contd.).

A report that the outbreak is of Communist origin. (F.O.L.E.M., 081632C).
Following is the text of message referred to in my 081407 begins: The situation in certain ships of the Greek Navy now at Alexandria has reached the point where discipline and efficiency no longer exist. In order that the valuable vessels of the Greek Fleet shall continue to fight the Germans it is essential that order must be restored. To obtain this it will be necessary to take these Greek ships under direct British Control and if necessary to replace the Greek crews by British. I do not wish to remove the Greek crews since this will inevitably mean that the ships concerned will be lost to the Greek Nation. It has been represented to me that you would welcome the opportunity to continue the war against Germany under British Control and protection. I therefore invite you to serve and fight under my direct command as many of you did in Greek waters in 1940 - 1941 and under British Naval discipline. It must be clearly understood that British Naval discipline means the dispersal of committees or any form of directing body other than your officers coupled with complete obedience to the latter. This means that for the time being you will continue to serve under your commander in chief who will act directly under my control. Your intention to continue to fight directly under me should be communicated to your Commander in Chief by signal from the Senior Officer or rating now on board. I will then send my Liaison Officer to you. Ends.
(C. in C. Med. in Cairo, 081746C).

Situation at Alexandria remains virtually unchanged. Four Greek B.Y.M.S. who were previously carrying out their duties joined dissidents this morning. Four more who were sweeping this forenoon are thought to have joined on return to harbour. Out ports remain quiet. The personal invitation referred to C. in C. Med's in Cairo 081407 was delivered by loud speaker to APOSTOLIS. This was received quietly and with interest but it is too early yet to expect results. About 200 Greek ratings with a few officers who have been contained by an Army Guard in the Greek detention quarters for the past two days are reported to be losing interest but prevented from giving themselves up from fear of Central Committees threat to treat them as deserters. The water supply has been stopped and may give them excuse to surrender this evening the Army Guard was relieved by Navy, all supplies from Naval sources to mutinous ships and establishments were stopped from noon to-day.

(F.O.L.E.M. 082020C).

Keep me informed twice daily of Greek situation repeating above address. You should regard telephones to me as suspect.

(F.O.L.E.M. 081846C to S.N.O.R.S.C.A., S.N.O. Levant Area).

TOURVILLE.
Ammunition
for GLOIRE
and E.

BERTIN.

Admiral Lemonnier has heard that more men are required for manning COURBET. A.M. 171938
February to C. in C. Med.
(2) Lemonnier proposes that TOURVILLE whose defects prevent further service before refitting should proceed U.K. and her crew be available as required. He also proposes that TOURVILLE should embark ammunition at Dakar my 071718.

120

8.4.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- TOURVILLE. (3) TOURVILLE to be used as a French Depot ship
Ammunition in U.K. for as long as necessary.
for GLOIRE (4) Request early reply to proposals in para.2
and E. and 3.
and E. (5) In view of retention of GLOIRE and EMILE
BERTIN in Med. propose that the 500 rounds my
(Contd.). 061219 be shipped Oran instead of U.K. This
would provide a reserve of 140 A.P. now at
Bizerta and 500 H.E. for these 2 ships.
(C. in C. Med. 081710).
- BARNDALE, Your 071238 BARNDALE and BARCOCK sailed for U.K.
BARCOCK, from Gib. in X.K.15 on 2nd April in first convoy
BAROVA. routed to suit their limited endurance.
(2).Sailing of BAROVA at present at Bizerta with
defats is being expedited. Date will be
reported.
(C. in C. Med. 081732 to Admty.). See further
message 091250.
- K.M.F.31, Your 071547. Including ships ex West Africa
32, 33. for India and 3 fast cargo vessels in each convoy
estimate K.M.F.31 will consist of 17 ships as
far as North Africa, thence 3 to Naples and 15
to Middle East.
(2) Corresponding figures both for K.M.F.32 and for K.M.F.33 are
16, 2 and 14.
(D.O.D.(F), 081810B to C. in C. Med.).
- MYOSOTIS Proceeding to Malta with damaged H.P. Piston and
bent piston rod. My P.C.S. at 2000B 033° 42'
N. 019° 08' E. 300° 5 knots.
(MYOSOTIS, 082000B to C. in C. Med.).
- Report (1) 5017 tons were discharged Anzio on 7th April
No.333. in perfect weather conditions. Occasional
shelling no damage no air activity.
(2) During night 6th/7th TERMAGANT and TENACIOUS
shelled Bar town and Harbour the Radar Stations on
Mendene (?Menders intended) Point and Ulcinj. No shipping
sighted by destroyer patrol off Rozza Island. M.G.B. captured
300 tons schooner off Murter Island which they towed to Vis.
(3) British manned Caique captured 120 ton Caique night 3rd/4th
and 160 ton Caique night 5th/6th South Mitylene Roads. P.227
(SPORTSMAN) report sinking 40 ton Caique by gunfire on 28th
March during Aegean patrol and 200 ton motor lighter on 31st
March North East Kithera Island 8 German prisoners taken.
(C. in C. Med., 082134B).
- ULTOR Your 071528B to P.47. 7 caiques sunk by gunfire
patrol between Kithera Channel Island and Port Kyparisi.
report. Sunk by torpedo 200 ton heavily armed A/S caiques
off Monemvasia 7th April.
Weather report 9070 2412.
(ULTOR, 082305B).

War Diary

8.4.1944.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Bi-weekly U/Boat disposition No. 40. No fresh information. No changes in scales of Air escort. (C. in C.E.F. 080321Z.)

TRESPASSER. TRESPASSER again delayed. Further signal will be made. My 07060P refers. (S/Ms Colombo 080516Z.) *TRESPASSER delayed 24 hrs.

DANAE Request you will expedite passage of DANAE who is due to arrive U.K. not later than 1st May. (C. in C.E.F. 081137Z to F.O.L.E.M.)

SPITEFUL Your 081916Z. I am delayed 15 hours. ((P.227) SPITEFUL, 081815Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Situation caused by Japanese atrocities. Your 020349. Admty. fully appreciate and share your anxiety in regard to effect of Japanese atrocities but until after "Overlord" general shortage of escorts absolutely precludes any substantial reinforcement of your station. Moreover general shipping situation does not permit of institution of full convoy system in the Indian Ocean as you propose.

2. Plans are being worked out for providing you with the maximum reinforcement as soon as the "Overlord" situation permits.
3. Presume you will consider desirability of operating BEGUM and ATHELING as A/S Carriers.
4. EMPRESS has been allocated as replacement for BATTLE (A.M.070237B refers).
5. It is appreciated that Japanese U/Boats may be operating float planes. Under these conditions bolder diversionary routeing might well be advisable.
6. Presume you have considered maximum use of Diego Garcia to provide air cover for the Africa-Ceylon and Australia-Ceylon routes, the increased length of voyage necessitated by routeing traffic to take advantage of it being accepted. (V.C.N.S. 081827B to C. in C.E.F.)

Passage of U.S. transports to Bombay. "1. Your para. 5. As Generals are proceeding unescorted with maximum trooplift from Hr. to Casablanca U.S.W.D. request Admiralty consult C. in C.S.A. and C. in C.E.F. for these vessels to proceed from Cape to Bombay unescorted as U.S.W.D. consider risk acceptable. If all U.S. troopships removed from Fremantle Bombay route, could not escort now employed be made available for Cape Bombay? U.S.W.D. consider vessels can do normal minimum of 20 knots in any case but this point is subject confirmation. 2. U.S.W.D. would now prefer whole Piecrust movement routed from W.coast via Australia as it facilitates loading and control but your para.6 appears emphatically against this method U.S.W.D. request your view desirability unescorted sailings Fremantle Bombay route. 3. U.S.W.D. are not favourable to K.M.F/M.K.F. move for Generals owing to danger risk and loss of trooping time waiting for convoys. They might, however, accept one ship where departure from H.R. would hit off with K.M.F. at Gibraltar. 4. Agreed B.A.D., B.M.S.M., U.S.W.D. (B.A.S.Washington, 102000Q to War Office.)

8.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

N.S.H.Q.S/M
Attack and
sighting
summary. No report since my 050740Z.
A. C.T.G. 21.5 (21.15?intended) sinks S/M 40.33 N.
62.22 W. before 2117Z/7th. My 030900Z CROATEN
reports contact probably non-sub.
(N.S.H.Q. 080808Z)

T.G.21.16. Surface search area air Radar contacts my
072040 to Cominch negative. Proceeding comply
your 072219 08100Z position 41.42 N. 50.16 W.
course 058 speed 13 5782 1764.
(C.T.G. 21.16 081033 to C. in C. Lant)
/ As received.

SKEENA. Consider sailing of SKEENA as proposed in your
062251 will be the most advantageous course.
(C. in C. W.A. 081205B to C. in C. C.N.A.)

Information for Com.
4th Fleet. South Atlantic Shipping Information.
Concur. Your 061648 and A.M.'s 081440B and
081448B refer.
(D.T.D. 081333Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

U.C.18. Recommend diversion immediately to (details)
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 081359Z)

NENE. H.M.C.S. NENE is allocated to C. in C. C.N.A.
C. in C. S.A's 062039 refers.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 081409Z)

U-Boat report. 2 bearings on B barred message on 10935 K/cs at
1259Z indicate U-Boat possibly within 60 miles of
044 degs. 15' N. 059 degs. 00' W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 081413Z to S.E. H.X. 286, S.E.H.
J. 93, S.E. H.J.F.12, S.E. J.H. 103.)

Transfer of Italian S/Ms
to U.S. and R.N. for
A/S training. Counter proposals to A.M. 311907 March.
(5) It is most desirable to settle this question
at an early date because this comparatively minor
matter is liable to become a "cause celebre" in
our dealings with the Navy Dept. An early
reply is therefore requested.
(B.A.D. 081517)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimate.
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 081519Z)

Tanker /...

123

8.4.1944
Saturday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

- Tanker sailings. Cancel my Dis. 29/2146 February. Resume sailing independently all Tankers 10 the 14.5 knots.
(1) between the Caribbean and Eastern Seaboard via route specified my Dis. 03/1812 February.
(2) In and between the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 081525Z)
- K.12. Admiral Stoeve has received information that 18 of the crew of K.12 left Australia for the U.K. on 18th March and remainder on 1st April.
This action had been taken while the question of K.12 was still under consideration and Stoeve is communicating with Dutch Naval Authorities in London asking for guidance.
Observing A.M.271917 March and J.S.M. 1622 / you may also consider it desirable to approach the Dutch in London as this unauthorised move is in direct opposition to the C.C.S. decision.
(B.A.D. Washington, 081917 to Admty.) / Expansion of Netherlands Naval Forces for War against Japan.
- A.T. 105. Diversion order.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet, 081955Z to ILE DE FRANCE)
- U-Boat incidents. A. U-Boat sunk by CROATEN and A/S support groups 40.21 N. 22.36 W. 2100Z/7. 28 survivors.
B. U.S.S. TRUMPETER 3 sound contacts 03.03 S. 23.06 W. 1600Z/7.
(Cominch, 082132Z) Amended 122153Z.
- T.G.21.12. My 302011 / modified. Southern limit 4 area 25 N. Fuel at Horta when necessary. Plan to arrive Hampton Roads 26th April.
(C. in C. Lant, 082135 to G.T.G. 21.12)
/ (N.T. in W.R. or U.S.N.)
- SS. OLDHAM. Observed position 1830Z/8th 046 degs. 09' N. 050 degs. 46' W. Unable to resume contact yet.
Ice report 0091 weather report 6581 1464.
(RED DEER 082207Z to F.O.N.F. SHERBROOKE, (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)

Australia and New Zealand

- Digest Serial No.809. April 7th. Paras. 10 to 16 cover South Pacific Forces.
(3) M.T.B's destroyed five enemy barges beached along Coast Alexishafen - Hansa Bay early hours.

Shore /...

124

8.4.1944
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
Serial
No.809.
(Contd.)

Shore Batteries and rifle fire experienced but only minor damage suffered.
(4) Shortly after daybreak 11 Allied M.T.B's shelled and mortared buildings gun positions Southern Shores Karkar Island (30 miles North Madang) demolishing many structures. 11 Mitchells co-operated bombing straffing similar targets South and Southwest Coast Karkar Island.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 080715Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. B. (1) Unknown ship (possibly H.M.S. SWEETBRIAR) or A/C attacked U-Boat prior to 0020Z/8 in 35 degs. 33' N. 06 degs. 17' W.
Para. C. (1) Liberator A/C G/311 observed oil patches subsequently obtaining Radar contact at 0139Z/7 in 44 degs. 56' N. 04 degs. 05' W.
(D.D.I.C.081121B)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Assessments.
(D.D.I.C. 081428B, 081439B)

9.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
"F.Y."

1. At 0800 to-day Convoy R.A.58 was about 160 miles N.N.E. of the North Cape; and C. in C. H.F. intends that from Position "C" the Convoy should be escorted to its destination by the five Sloops of E.G.2, four Fleet Destroyers, and three Corvettes only - the remainder of the present Escort being detached for Scapa, except TRACKER who will return to the Clyde.

Biscay A/S
operations.

2. The four ships of E.G.9 (S.O. in MATANE) left Lough Foyle at 1819B to-day to join BITER and E.G.7 operating in the Biscay area.

North Atlantic

U/boat
sunk north
of Madeira.
(U.515)

3. Co-ordinated attacks commenced at 2130 yesterday by surface vessels and aircraft of GUADALCANAL's Group and resulted in the sinking of the U/boat at 1500 to-day in 35 N. 19 W. (95 miles north of Madeira); 41 prisoners were taken.

South Atlantic

4. A lifeboat with survivors was sighted in 11.50 S. 20.20 W. (mid-south Atlantic) at some time previous to 2208Z to-day.

Evidently from NEBRASKA, P262 tons, sunk by U/B. (See page 299)

Mediterranean

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

5(a) F.O.L.E.M. reported tonight that the situation in the Greek Fleet is generally quiet with very slight improvement. The centre of trouble at Alexandria is the Central Committee in the Greek

/ depot...

9.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Mutiny in
Greek Navy
(Contd.)

depot ship HIFAISTOS; arrangements to isolate ships from them should become effective p.m. tomorrow when sufficient troops become available. Plans have been prepared to take over the Greek ships by force if necessary, as parallel action with the army against the Greek Division; but no action will be taken until overwhelming force is available.

(b) There is no trouble in the out-ports, and very little in the Greek Mercantile Marine.

Operation
"Shingle"

/ 6. A total of 2111 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. There was intermittent shelling. The U.S. destroyer HILARY P. JONES fired 262 rounds at enemy coastal positions to-day.

Mining of
Danube.

/ 7. 14 Wellingtons and 3 Liberators of the Strategic Air Force successfully laid 40 mines in the Danube below Belgrade last night.

East Indies

Sinkings by
U/boats
Indian
Ocean.

' 8(a) N.O.I.C. Durban reports that SS. DELANE on 29th March picked up 38 survivors of the tanker BRITISH CHIVALRY which was sunk by a Japanese S/M. on 22nd Feb. in 00.56 S. 68.00 E. (360 miles West of Addu Atoll) whilst proceeding independently from Melbourne to Abadan. The survivors were machine gunned in the boats by the submarine and many of them were killed, and one boat was sunk. (b) SOLVRA has picked up 6 survivors of SS. SUTLEJ (Kosseir to Fremantle) who report that their ship was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese S/M. in about 08 S. 70 E. (120 miles South-west of Chagos-Archipelago) on 26th February. The U/boat fired on the survivors.

Convoy
Mauritius/
Kilindini
one.

/ 9. The first Mauritius/Kilindini convoy arrived to-day.

Minelaying

10. 9 U.S. Liberators laid 29 mines last night at Mergui (Burma) and 3 I.S. Liberators laid 9 mines at Bangkok.

9.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

China

11. 4 mines were laid last night in Samah Bay (Hainan Island) by a U.S. Liberator. To-day 2 U.S. Mitchells destroyed a tanker in the Hainan Island area.

(Note: The weekly summary of events in China - C. in C. India No T.O.O. 17 April - states that the 2 Mitchells sank the tanker on 8 April and that 13 Liberators laid 16 mines in Samah Bay that day). No operations are reported on 9th.

Australia and New Zealand

12. 41 escorted Liberators dropped 130 tons of bombs on shore batteries in Hansa Bay to-day silencing and probably demolishing 13 heavy guns and causing a great explosion and fuel fire.

13. 7 Mitchells harassed Rabaul last night and caused explosions and a large fire in the wharf area.

War Diary9.4.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

- ALAUNIA. My 070327. AIAUNIA is to be paid off as soon as possible.
(Head of M.II, 090317B to C. in C. Plymouth)
- NABOB. When ready for service NABOB is placed under the orders of C. in C. W.A.
(D.O.D.(H), 091307B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations

UNSHAKEN patrol. One M/V. believed sunk. Negative patrol. Torpedoes expended. Returning by outward route. E.T.A. 1800/10th. One medium-sized merchant ship believed sunk.
(UNSHAKEN 090059B to F.O.S.)

Cable repairs (ARIEL). Resumed cable operation to-day at 0930 in 2.2 miles 152 degs. from Mew Island.
(ARIEL, 090925B to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

Convoy R.A. 59. It intended R.A. 59 leave Kola Inlet on April 25th it is very improbable any ships from White Sea except tanker DOLABELIA can catch it. This would leave 4 British and 16 American ships in White Sea. All these ships could be probably at Kola by May 4th. A group of ships including 4 British could be probably at Kola by April 26th. American ships in this group would be in water ballast.
M.W.T. 080141B refers.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 090954B to S.B.N.O. North Russia)
The 6th E.G. consists of WASKESIU S.O., OUTREMONT, CAPE BRETON and GROU. Their endurance is 18 days at 12 knots, 12 days at 15 knots, 7 days at 18 knots. These figures are result of sea experience. My 081856B refers.

(C. in C. W.A. 091102B to C. in C. H.F.)
C. in C. W.As. 081246 not to R.A.E.C. or FENCER.
After consultation with R.A.E.C. and F.O.C.T. intend to detail FENCER for R.A. 59 provided STRIKER can be lent to R.A.E.C. to replace FENCER in Home Fleet Operations.

(2) STRIKER's present A/C would be suitable for latter task.
(3) If you agree, request STRIKER may arrive Scapa a.m. 18th April.

(C. in C. H.F. 091908B to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 081856B. Work of fitting out 6th Escort Group for Arctic conditions cannot be undertaken at Londonderry at present owing to other heavy commitments. All ships are fitted with steam-heating between decks. 40 suits of Arctic clothing per ship are being supplied, and it is hoped to increase this allowance.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 091921 to C. in C. W.A.)

9.4.1944

SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd

Operation "Pitchbowl" / Request you will prepare an operation in co-operation with A.O.C. 18 Group. Object to provide fighter cover for a Beaufighter attack on enemy shipping or other targets on the Norwegian Coast as arranged by A.O.C. 18 Group.

(2) The following forces will be available in addition to your flagship, PURSUER, EMPEROR, FENCER, 1 cruiser as arranged by C.S.1. Six destroyers as detailed by V.A.D. to be available for any period between 11th April to 17th April.

(3) Attention is invited to Q.Z.X. 475, 395 and 916.

(4) It should be impressed on all taking part that Norway is a friendly country and that only enemy targets may be attacked.

(C. in C. H.F. 091036B and 091658B to R.A.E.C.)

My 091036B. Code name "Pitchbowl".

(C. in C. H.F. 091043B to R.A.E.C.)

Biscay A/S Operations. BITER with 7th Escort Group are operating in an area bounded by the following points, 45 degs. N. 19 degs. W. 47 N. 18 W. 48 N. 22 W. 46 N. 23 W.

(2) 9th Escort Group are joining as in my 091250B.

(C. in C. W.A. 091054Z to C.T.G. 21.16)

9th E.G. consisting of MATANE (S.O) STORMONT, SWANSEA, OWEN, SOUND is to be sailed p.m. to-day at best economical speed to R/V with BITER and 7th E.G.

(C. in C. W.A. 091250B to Cdre. D. W.A.)

MATANE (S.O), STORMONT, OWEN SOUND and SWANSEA sailed to comply with your 091250B.

(Cdre D. W.A. 091819B to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091230B)

S/M Patrols. My 231844 March add -
 (H) P.54 15th April 26th April Statlandet.
 (2) P.54 is to remain at Lerwick until required for (H).
 (F.O.S.091241B to Capts. (S) 3, S.9)

Operation F.Y. Request you arrange following movement. My 261200 refers.
 (1) R.A. 58 is to be escorted from position C to destination by 2nd Escort Group, 4 fleet destroyers, and all corvettes with convoy.
 (2) All W.A. destroyers now with convoy and ACTIVITY will be required to sail for Kola after turn-round of about 5 days at Scapa to bring back R.A. 59. Request you detach these ships as soon as situation permits after passing 070 degs. N. to proceed Scapa.

War Diary9.4.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation F.Y. (Contd.) (3) Other fleet destroyers except those in para. (1) should be detached when practicable to proceed Scapa. ONSLOW, OFFA, OPPORTUNE and VENUS having priority.
(4) TRACKER to return Clyde. DIADEM to Scapa required for R.A. 59.
(C. in C. H.F. 091710B to C.S.10 in DIADEM).

Operation "Overlord" R.M.L. allocations. Rescue motor launches (R.M.Ls) will be disposed for operation "Overlord" as follows:
60th R.M.L. Flotilla at Great Yarmouth.
69th R.M.L. Flotilla at Dartmouth.
62nd R.M.L. Flotilla at Dartmouth.
61st R.M.L. Flotilla at Newhaven.
63rd R.M.L. Flotilla at Falmouth.
65th R.M.L. Flotilla at Clyde operating under F.O.C.T. R.M.Ls 544 and 546 of the 66th Flotilla at the Faeroes.
(2) The following R.M.Ls will be withdrawn from their present Flotillas and will temporarily constitute the 68th R.M.L. Flotilla to be based at Plymouth.
R.M.Ls 545 and 551 of the 64th Flotilla hitherto based at Milford Haven.
R.M.Ls 538, 540, 552 of the 66th Flotilla hitherto based at Larne.
R.M.L. 537 of 66th Flotilla hitherto based at Appledore.
R.M.Ls 548 and 549 of the 67th Flotilla hitherto based on the Clyde operating under F.O.C.T.
(A.C.N.S. (H). 091905B to C's in C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen. T.O.O. 090750Z.
Two-engined aircraft observed 0725 South of Island, Course South East.
(A.C.I.C. 091540B to Admty.)

Technical

Anti A/C measures on Beaches. A.M. 041543B to C. in C. Med's reply 071810B are forwarded for your information.
(A.C.N.S. H. 091842B to A.N.C.X.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

PARTRIDGE. Following from V.A. Dover begins.
My 081755. Damage to U.S. Tug PARTRIDGE hole 18 inches in area starboard side. Local repairs being undertaken, in order to render seaworthy.
Will sail for Southend about April 12th.
PARTRIDGE will require dry docking in order to effect complete repairs. 090908B Ends.
(C. in C. Nore, 091132B to Admty.)

131

9.4.1944.
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticSIBYL
(for U.K.).Departure. Local escort CYCLAMEN.
(F.O.G.M.A. 090632A).

BAROVA

Should BAROVA be sailed with M.K.S.45 as there appears no other opportunity likely to occur for some time.
(2) C.O. Reports 1900 miles endurance or 7½ knots with usual weather limitations.
(F.O.G.M.A. 091052A to Admty.).A/S
sweep.My 090214X. Area searched without result. If no contact obtained by 1300 intend to sweep to westward.
(ANTELOPE, 091055A to F.O.G.M.A.).
* N.T. in W.R.Desdiv IV:
U/boat
contact.BUTLER dropped embarrassing barrage on sound contact possible submarine 1259/9 position 35.58 N. 17.43 W. unable regain contact JORDAN obtained contact shortly thereafter in same area and made two hedgehog attacks results negative. BUTLER and JORDAN searched area from 1315/9 to 1800/9 results negative. Search discontinued to rejoin task force. Weather cloudy intermittent showers visibility five miles easterly wind force two moderate swells barometer 3001 temp 63.
(Comdesdiv, 34 in BUTLER, 091905Z).M.L.MACKAY:
Horta - San
Miguel
cable.MARIE LOUISE MACKAY states Horta - San Miguel cable defect unlocalizeable and intends out at various points for tests possibility of work taking one month.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 091930Z).SS. CASTILLO
VERA.Sails Valencia 8th CASTILLO VERA for Port Vendres with oranges for Germany.
(F.O.G.M.A., 092224A).South AtlanticBRITISH
CHIVALRY
(sunk 22 Feb.
in E.I. Sta-
tion).BRITISH CHIVALRY sunk by Japanese S/M on 22nd Feb. in 000° 56' S. 068° 00' E. while sailing independently.
(2) S/M. fired 2 torpedoes at 0530Z one hit ship in engine room. Ship then abandoned after which S/M. surfaced and fired 20 rounds 4 inch about 14 scored hits. At about 0730Z/3rd torpedo

/ fired...

132

9.4.1944.
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

- BRITISH CHIVALRY
(sunk 22 Feb. in E.I. Station) Contd.).
- fired into ship which finally sunk half an hour later.
- (3) S/M was ocean going type camouflaged dark grey and brown 250 to 300 feet long 1500 tons one 4 inch aft light A/A armament on conning tower no gun forward.
- (4) Ship did not open fire.
- (5), SSSS not made as radio wrecked by explosion.
- (6) Survivors in 2 boats and 4 rafts subjected to deliberate machine gun fire by S/M and many killed and one boat sunk. Master taken prisoner and made to watch machine gunning of survivors from conning tower.
- (7) 38 survivors including 6 D.E.M.S. Ratings and 3 Maritime Gunners picked up from one boat by Merchant Ship DELANE on 29th March in 004° 55' S. 065° 00' E. 4 empty rafts having been cast adrift.
- (8) 21 members of crew including Master 3 D.E.M.S. and 2 Maritime gunners missing.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 090944Z).

ARCOLA Consul St. Vincent reports difficulty raised by Portugal Diplomatic may delay sailing of ARCOLA. Further delay not accepted due to escort requirements elsewhere. Request necessary concurrence may be pressed.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 091322Z to Admty.).

Operation "Tabarin" / WILLIAM SCORESBY arrived Stanley 0200 G.M.T.9th.
(N.O.i/c Falkland Is. 092359Z).

133

9.4.1944

SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

BRITTANY A.M. 071238* not to F.O.T.A.L.I. BRITTANY now defective at Taranto and cannot leave there before 13th April.
 2. This will necessitate ship proceeding unescorted from Gibraltar to U.K. if return date of 26th is to be maintained.
 3. Request this be accepted.
 (C. in C. Med. 090724B.)* B.A.R. vessels urgently required and passage to U.K. also BRITTANY required.

BAROVA Cancel para. 2 of my 081732*BAROVA arrived Gibraltar 6th April. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail her to U.K. at earliest suitable opportunity A.M. 071238+ refers.
 (C. in C. Med. 091250)* B.A.R. vessels urgently required and passage to U.K. to be expedited. BRITTANY also required in U.K.
 * BARNDALE and BARCOCK sailed for U.K. Sailing of BAROVA at Bizerta with defects.

Mutiny in Greek Navy. Your 081846C* all quiet. R.N.G.H.Q. please pass to C. in C. Med. in Cairo. (S.N.O.L.A. 091006C to F.O.L.E.M.)* Circulated in Admty. under T.O.O. 081632.
 My 082020 and 081836 N.O.I.C. Port Said reported at 1815 8th April GEORGIOS AVEROFF nominally in command of a Lieut. Commander, but controlled by Committee of Officers and ratings in sympathy with Bazirkis Committee in Cairo, work on board proceeding normally. Normal shore leave resumed after 48 hours stoppage by Committee. B.N.L.O. has complete freedom of action. KONDOURIOTIS and ASIS proceed sea for trials. Work on other vessels proceeding normally.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 091315C.)

Your 070257 para. 3. You should, if possible, avoid the question of flag. At the most both flags should fly during the period of temporary control.
 2. Presume para. 10(b) of message under reference does not mean that you are taking any part in Greek politics. You should confine your action to what is necessary to re-establishing order in Greek Navy, being guided by H.M. Ambassador on any political issue which may arise.

(1st Lord, 092212B to F.O.L.E.M.)
 Nothing to report. Your 081846C*

(S.N.O.L.A. 0918010 to F.O.L.E.M.)* Report on Greek situation.

3. C. in C. visited Royal Navy (p.m. 9th) and co-ordinated with them arrangements for action to be taken with regard to mutinous Greek ships in Alexandria Harbour.
 (C. in C.M.E., 092015B.)

/C. in C. ...

War Diary9.4.1944
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMutiny
in Greek
Navy.
(Contd.)

C. in C. Med. 091847 later intelligence has qualified earlier appreciation. Message from APOSTOLIS expressing wish to serve under my direct Command was speakered to C. in C. Greek Fleet via HIFAISTOS and was impounded then by Central Committee. Feeling in APOSTOLIS has since modified to reluctance to be first to declare loyal. Ships company has been addressed again. Meeting with Greek C. in C. this forenoon produces nothing new. During late afternoon all Greek ships in harbour, detention (?barrack) quarters and Cadet school were given repetition of my proposals made to APOSTOLIS yesterday.

Reception was made difficult due to organised interruption by political ringleaders but indication that message is having a disturbing and desirable effect. Exception to this was detention quarters when message was well received with possibility of some settlement tomorrow. No trouble from out ports. Greek Mercantile Marine has proved surprisingly quiet with comparatively few stoppages.

Summary of situation is general quiet with very slight improvement. Centre of local trouble is definitely central Committee in HIFAISTOS. Arrangements to isolate ships from them have been progressed and should become effective p.m. tomorrow when sufficient troops become available. Arrangements to take over Greek ships by force, if necessary, have been examined as parallel action with Army against Greek Division and plans prepared at meeting this evening attended by General Paget and A.O.C.E.M. the basis of test plans, as of further sealing of establishments and ships, is that no action shall be taken until overwhelming force is available.

(P.O.L.E.M. 092333C.)

Dated 6th April 44. Further to 414/S of 3.4.44 and 424/S of 5.4.44.

1. 1st Greek Brigade is now in the hands of men's committees.
2. Arrests effected now total 4 officers and 2 civilians, Anghelinos a retired officer (Group Corrupt) Zerbinini of Alexandria.
3. Karayannis is now in a house in Alexandria with at least 200 other Merchant Seamen - some are armed. His arrest is being arranged April 6th by the British authorities (by?) permission of the Egyptian authorities.
4. No news of any further demonstrations, military or otherwise, in Cairo, though the effect of the resignation of M. Venizelos and other Ministers not yet clear. Still much feeling against Venizelos who has, however, backing of the Moderates.
5. There is no evidence of disturbances in the Greek Navy though there are indications of support for Venizelos and Bakirdziz Government in Greece, and the situation is very tense.
7. Greek base units in the canal zone. A report was received that officer trainees at G.R.O.T.C. had been issued with sub-machine guns for training purposes and were expected to plan a pro-royalist demonstration under Colonel Ghikas. (Security?) officer recommended to area commander the removal of the guns and the restriction of all movement from the unit.
8. At the Naval Cadet T.U. at Kabrit the officers were overpowered and a Men's Committee set up. Disturbances occurred and some casualties resulted. The numbers are unknown. British

/troops...

9.4.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Mutiny
in Greek
Navy.
(Contd.)

troops are restoring order. (Violent?)
disturbances also occurred on H.M.S. ELLEN
Naval prison.

11. The considered opinion is that although the
situation is now (at last?) quiet in Cairo and
will probably be (so?) in Alexandria after the
arrest of Karayannis, extreme tension remains and
will remain until some form of political stability can be reached.
If and when the arrests proposed at present are completed, it is
considered no further repressive measures can be taken with good
effect.

12. The action which has been taken, while primarily designated
to serve the needs of Military Security, has obviously had a
secondary result from the Political point of view, appearing to
support the King and the Right Wing.
(Middle East No T.O.O.)

ULTOR

From a position 035° 44' 020° 01' about 0402/10th
proceed through (route) to arrive Malta at
0945/12.

2. You are to dive by day when east longitude
019°. Your surface speed estimated as 8½.
3. Cancel routing instructions in my 061430 after 0401/10th.
(Capt.(S) 1, 091025B to ULTOR.)

CASABIANCA

Intend to sail F.S. CASABIANCA at 1200/11 on
surface through (route) to Maddalena. E.T.A.
boom 1200/13.

2. All times zone minus 2.
(Cdre, Algeria 091058B.) W.D. Note cancelled, see
101128B.

PIPINOS,
DOLFIJN.

1. G.S. PIPINOS proceed with all despatch to
patrol Approaches to Suda Bay.
2. DOLFIJN proceed with all despatch to patrol
between Phaloonera and Anti Milos.
3. My 081910*refers. Vessels in para. 2 are
SALVATORE and SUSANNE.
(Capt. S.1, 091114 to PIPINOS, DOLFIJN (R) S/M
1st F.O.L.E.M.)* N.T. in W.D.)

TOURVILLE,
DUQUESNE,
SUFFREN.

For proposal for employment of TOURVILLE see my
081710 F.O.C.W.Af. 051116, DUQUESNE and SUFFREN
are not required in the Med. in view of their poor
mechanical condition and lack of A.A. armament.
If they were allowed east of Gibraltar the French
would inevitably try to put them into dockyard
hands which would be quite unacceptable with our present commit-
ments.

(C. in C. Med. 091120 to Admty.)

UPSTART.

Intend sailing P.65 (UPSTART) at 0730 to Algiers
my 241655 March not to all addressees refers
(routed and arrangements) is to be returned to
arrive Maddalena 22nd April.
(Capt. S.10, 091131.)

/R.A. ...

136

9.4.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

R.A. Force P. Flag of R.A. Force P was transferred to H.M.S. ROYAL SCOTSMAN, 0800/7. (C. in C. Med. 091141B.)

Operation "Shingle" Sitrep. 79. 5011 tons unloaded at Anzio on 8th April of which L.S.T. and L.C.I.(L) from Naples provided 695 and 12 tons respectively. No interference from weather or enemy action. Three Liberty ships present. (F.O.W.It., 091150B.)

Withdrawal of 179 Sqn. from Gibraltar. Personal for Douglas from Slessor. 2. The Americans confirm that the resources of Commorseafron are inadequate to provide the necessary night effort in the Gibraltar area if 179 Sqn. were withdrawn. In that event the night effort would be confined to purely defensive patrol east of the Straits. There would be no resources to provide for any offensive operations W. of the Straits, and Commorseafron's representative particularly stressed the need for some night effort W. of the Straits to supplement the work of the M.A.D. Catalinas by day. 3. The U.S. Navy Liberator Sqn. at Lyautey is only temporarily assigned to the Moroccan sea frontier and Adml. King would certainly not agree to anything which tied the Sqn. down to its present location. 4. If you still feel that 179 Sqn. is essential to operations in connection with "Overlord", request you will take up the matter with the Air Min. with a view to obtaining a ruling from the C.C.S. The U/B situation in the Med. is such that the withdrawal of 179 Sqn. could only be accepted as a result of a combined chiefs of staff ruling based on the over-riding importance of "Overlord". 5. The question of the day effort was also discussed. The withdrawal of 52 and 69 Sqns. already has the result of making us extremely short of A/S A/C inside the Med. (YYY 091359B to H.Q.C.C.)

UNRULY P.49 (UNRULY) sailed from Malta at 1602/9th to pass through Kaso Straits during daylight 14th to patrol in an area bounded by: 1. Latitude 035° 44'. 2. Longitude 024° 49' and 026° 59'. 3. N. Coast of Crete. 4. Line drawn 071° from Cape Plaka to Kaso. (S.1, 091629 to 1st S/M F. PIPINOS, FOLEM.)

Transfer of Italian S/Ms to U.S. and R.N, for A/S training. B.A.D.'s 081517. 3. Past experience shows that forecasts of condition and dates of completion are liable to drastic revision. Furthermore NICHELIO and PLATINO now operating may require the reliefs in due course. They are doing important work. Consider, therefore, that to detail submarines by name at this juncture would merely pave the way for more revisions later. (C. in C. Med. 091332B.) Note: Part I of this signal was originally circulated separately under T.O.O. 091819. Message is now complete.

/MYRLAND...

9.4.1944

Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

MYRLAND,
GIULIO.

Repairs to MYRLAND are in hand and will be completed shortly. After which consider she can proceed to U.K.

2. GIULIO was taken up for service as gate vessel on charter T.98. From Sequestre Des

Biens Italiens, by Sea Transport Officer Port Said. Your
020039A.

(F.O.L.E.M. 092131C to Admty.)

War Diary

9.4.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/boat
disposition.

My 080321. No fresh information. No changes
in scales of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F., 090349Z).

SS. SUTLEJ
(sunk 26th
Feb.).

Two European and four Indian survivors picked
up by H.M.S. SOLVRA report SS. SUTLEJ torpedoed
in approx. 08° S. 70° E. on February 26th.
(C. in C.E.F. 090415Z).

Convoy
Mauritius/
Kilindini
one.

Arrived 8th Mauritius/Kilindini one escorted by
SORSRA.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 090601Z).

9.4.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

RULER Norfolk arrived 8th April RULER for minor repairs and to load aircraft and stores.
(N.S.H.Q. 090506Z)

AQUITANIA. To pass ahead of westbound convoy on crossing long. 046 degs. 30' W. steer for new position H 042 degs. 20' N. 045 degs. 01' W. rejoin route at D 044 degs 20' N. 040 degs. 55' W.
(Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R. 091038Z to SS. AQUITANIA, H.M.S TATTOO, SALADIN, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., Cinclant, C.T.G. 21.16, S.O.C.2.)
On crossing longitude 45 degs. W. steer for new positions H 51 degs. N. 44 degs. W. J. 56.35 N. 32.01 W.
K. 57.45 N. 21.59 W. then to position G.
(2) Estimated P.C.S. of convoy O.N.230 at 2000B/9th 41.53 N. 43.12 W. 270 degs. 6 knots.
(D.O.D.(H) 091630B to SS. AQUITANIA, (R) Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., A.C.I.C., C. in C. W.A. S.B.N.O. Azores, H.Q.C.C.)

Stragglers report. Stragglers arrived week ending 8th April. 4th WILSCOX (U.S.) SC-156 engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O.St. Johns N.F. 091217Z)

U-Boat dispositions Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 091426Z, Cominch, 091625Z)

DRUMHELLER. My 062150 and C. in C. W.A. 090802.
Request on arrival St. Johns N.F. DRUMHELLER be made ready and sailed to U.K. with C.2.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 091543Z)
DRUMHELLER to be sailed independently for U.K.

U.T.11. This avoids reported bergs alter immediately for ER 41.20 52.20 ES 41.20 48.01 ET 41.45 45.02 thence EN 48.01 39.20 omitting EQ no amendments stragglers route or "Chop". O.N.230 reports P.C.S. 090800Z 41.53 41.55 270 6 probably 4 stragglers.
(Com. 10th Fleet, 091606 to C.T.F. 69)

Troop convoy and Troop lift schedules. 85544 cipher Q(M) 2 9 April '44.
Your QM/425 (041355Q). Following are first reactions.
(1) Reasons for wishing E.C.2 ships revert to original purpose of cargo lift fully appreciated.

140

War Diary9.4.1944
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesTroop
convoy
and Troop
lift
schedules.
(Contd.)

(2) Abolition of troop lift in U.G.S. and substitution of U.G.F. convoy on 45 day cycle direct to Naples seems reasonable based on 45 day cycle (13/5/13/14) but must emphasize Admiralty view is that U.S. escorts would have to proceed through to Naples and back which is intention we read into your signal.

3. If first Naples U.G.F. left Hampton Roads 15th May and next one on 29th June consider that there would be no clash with K.M.F./M.K.F. till 10/11 Oct. by when the latter might have dwindled to very little but acceptance this is a matter for A.F.H.Q. and timings of Naples U.G.F. convoys would have to be agreed with C. in C. Med.

5. A. Noted that "Piecrust" via Med. would cease if plan adopted but Admiralty view is while the Generals would presumably proceed under your plan direct to Cape unescorted there is no possibility of providing British escorts for them either individually or grouped from Cape onwards.

B. Admiralty prepared to consult C. in C.S.A. and C. in C.E.F. as to whether they would accept the Generals unescorted through to Bombay if U.S. authorities agreeable although their speed is understood to be below the normal minimum of 20 knots for unescorted troopers loaded to capacity.

(6) "Piecrust via Australia is even worse from an escort aspect and is out of the question. Have you considered including the Generals in K.M.F./M.K.F. cycle between Gibraltar and Bombay.

(8) Preliminary reactions to abolition to U.T. convoys and 7 day cycle of C.U. convoys are favourable but this while it has undoubted advantages will still need to be worked out in detail berthing and rail arrangements for so many arrivals will present difficulties.

(12) Agreed M.W.T. and Admiralty.
(War Office, 091630B to B.A.S. Washington.)

U-Boat
incidents.

Para. D.K.11 M.A.D. contacts area 42.30 N.
69.10 W. 091348 and 091515 all times Z. K.38
sighted periscope 42.19 N. 69.02 W. 091700.
P.B.M. Radar contact 32.45 N. 71.05 W. 081925.
U.S.S. SOLOMONS A/S Radar contact 05.09 S. 23.14 W
080505.
(Cominch, 091921Z)

9.4.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No. 810.

April 8th. Paras 6 to 11 cover South Pacific Forces.

6. United States Destroyers bombarded Barge Base Central Empress Augusta Bay on 6th April.

9. Destroyers twice attacked sound contact early daylight 7th 45 miles South West Mussau Island resulting in large oil slick.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 090730Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M
attack
and
sighting
summary

Para. A. E.G.7 attacked U/Boat 45° 43' N.
19° 57' W. at 0750Z/8. Contact lost by 1107Z/8.
(D.D.I.C. 090755Z.)

U/B
Dispositions

Estimates.
(Admty., 091400B.)

10.4.1944.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

General

Anti
U/boat
policy.

1. In preparation for Operation "Overlord" the Admiralty have agreed with Cominch on the need to intensify concerted offensive action against U/boats beginning about 1st May. On the assumption that the convoy routes continue to be only lightly threatened a trial will be made of the following measures:-

(a) The available C.V.E. groups will be employed offensively against U/boat concentrations in the general area north of the Azores to latitude 55° N. and west of 20° W.

(b) British Forces will work similarly south and west of the U.K. and Iceland normally furnishing all support required for north-Atlantic convoys both east and west of 20° W. which will simplify command relations. The necessarily co-ordination will be accomplished by agreement between C. in C.W.A. and C. in C. Lant.

Routeing of
neutral
vessels in
north
Atlantic.

2. Com. 10th Fleet feels that further routeing control over neutral shipping in the Atlantic east of the Azores is desirable. By standardisation of routes the present numerous cross overs of convoy routes could be largely eliminated, thus minimizing collision dangers and lack of security: identification procedure would be simplified and blockade runners more readily observed. Cominch makes certain proposals to effect this re-organisation.

Home Commands

Operation
"F.Y."

3. At 0800 to-day Convoy R.A.58 was about 120 miles S.W. of Bear Island; and Admiralty consider that at 0416Z it may have been reported by a U/boat.

Enemy M/V
torpedoed
by UNSHAKEN
on 7th April.

4. The S/M. UNSHAKEN reports to-day that on 7th April while on patrol off Lister she attacked two Enemy Convoys and that after the first attack at 0746B upon the two leading 4-6000 ton M/Vs. of the Convoy a very heavy explosion followed by deep rumbling noises was heard.

Biscay A/S
operations.

5. An east-bound U/boat was sighted by A/C at about 0300 to-day 330 miles West of La Rochelle.

10.4.1944.
Monday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands - Contd.

GIRONDE
damaged.

6. The Belgian GIRONDE, 1770 tons, in Convoy F.N.23, returned to Southend at 1245B to-day having been damaged at 1150 off B.8 Buoy by one of three shells which fell over the rear of the Convoy and are believed to have been fired by a military practice-group at Walton.

Minelaying /

7.
91 Lancasters of Bomber Command laid 449 mines in the Gulf of Danzig last night.

North Atlantic

Second
U/boat sunk
North of
Madeira.

(U. 68)

8. GUADALCANAL reports that a series of attacks on a U/boat which commenced at 0750 yesterday resulted in the destruction of the U/boat at 0625 to-day in 33.31 N. 18.43 W. (about 95 miles North of Madeira) a mass of wreckage and oil was seen. One prisoner was picked up. A U/boat was sunk by this group yesterday in the same area.

South Atlantic

U/boat sunk
S.S.W. of
Ascension.

9. A U.S. Naval Liberator attacked a surfaced U/boat at 1042 to-day in 15.37 S. 17.00 W. (about 470 miles S.S.W. of Ascension Island) and reported having damaged the enemy. B.N.L.O. Ascension subsequently reported that the U/boat sank.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Shingle"

10(a). 2997 tons were discharged at Anzio to-day without enemy interference. There was a slight swell.

/ (b) Between...

144

10.4.1944.
MondayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTMediterraneanOperation
"Shingle"
(Contd.).

(b) Between 2130 and 2330 to-day 22 enemy aircraft in 3 waves attacked the anchorage with torpedoes and mines and dropped bombs inland. U.S.S. DAVIS and H.M.R.T. PATROCLUS shot down two, and A/A gunners a further two. No shipping was damaged.

Mines off
Bonifacio.

11. The 13th M/S Flotilla swept 69 German mines in the Straits of Bonifacio between 4th and 10th April.

*Coastal forces
Action (W. Italy)*

12. Coastal forces on patrol off San Vincenzo (west coast of Italy) last night had an inconclusive engagement with 3 enemy vessels, probably L.C.G. but suffered no damage or casualties.

*Sibenik
bombed.*

13. 12 Kittyhawks to-day dropped 12 X 1000 bombs on warehouses, wharves and shipping at Sibenik and destroyed 4 barges.

Greek
Navy.

14. There is little change in the situation and the British Authorities appear to expect there will be little until the formation of a new Government. AJAX arrived at Alexandria to-day.

Aegean

15. Enemy shipping and fuel dumps in the Aegean area were attacked by Middle East aircraft during the past week. Beaufighters which raided shipping at Mios and Paros left two vessels sinking. One ship was blown up in the Gulf of Laconia, (RM) Southern Greece, and an explosion occurred on a vessel at Karlovassi Harbour, Samos. Beaufighters also set alight a fuel dump at Naxos Harbour, and Marauders attacking Rhodes Harbour scored direct hits on another fuel store, causing a large explosion.

Black Sea

16(a) It is reported from Russia that on 8 and 9th April 2 medium and 4 small merchant vessels and 22 F lighters and barges, and to-day some 120 vessels were sighted proceeding southward from the Odessa district.
(b) 12 small merchant vessels and 47 F lighters and barges were seen unloading in Sulina Bay.

10.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

TRUCULENT,
patrol
report.

17(a) On return from her second Far East patrol TRUCULENT reports that on 28th March she attacked an escorted convoy of 3 ships in the Malacca Straits in 03.43 N. 100.42 E. and sank a 3000 ton merchant ship with deck cargo of M.T. and made a possible torpedo hit on a second ship.

(b) On 1st April TRUCULENT sank by gunfire a 200 ton steamer in the Straits of Malacca.

RICHELIEU

18. The French battleship RICHELIEU arrived at Trincomalee to-day from the U.K. to join the 1st Battle Squadron.

M.V. BEHAR

19. M.V. BEHAR who made a raider report on 9th March is now presumed sunk or captured by a raider on 9th March in about 20.32 S. 87.10 E. (on the Fremantle/Colombo route).

China

20. The report of U.S. air operations from 30th March to 3rd April includes the damaging of a 300 ft. freighter in the Gulf of Tongking on 30th March, sinking a small freighter on 2nd April on a sweep from Hong Kong to Formosa, and the laying of 15 mines in the Songibach River on 3rd April.

Australia and New Zealand

Bombardment
of Hansa
Bay.

21. Three U.S. destroyers with fighter cover bombarded Hansa Bay this morning, co-ordinating the attack with that of 61 Liberators who dropped 227 tons of bombs. As the destroyers retired they shelled Uligan Harbour and Madang. No enemy ships or aircraft were seen.

22. A U.S. destroyer last night bombarded gun emplacements on the south-west coast of Bougainville.

10.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

23. Two Catalinas bombed Halong Seaplane Base early today: results were not seen.

24. A Naval Catalina attacked a 9000 ton merchantman in Woleai Lagoon, Caroline Is. early today and made one hit with a half ton bomb and two near misses, and also damaged a large sea truck.

147

War Diary10.4.1944.
MondayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

CLYDE CLYDE leaves Scilly Isles at 2200B/12th diving by day 160 miles daily by route "Green" to 043° N. E.T.A. 2130/16th, thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A. (Capt.(S) 3, 101159B to F.O.G.M.A.).

BULOLO BULOLO is hereby placed under your command and allocated to Force G as from date of arrival in Home waters. (D.C.O.D. 102158B to A.C.N.X.F.).

AUSONIA A.M. 082307B.
(A) 16th June 1944. (B) 14.2 knots.
(C) 4,500 miles.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 102256B and 111424B to Admty.).

Flag of A.N.C.X.F. Your 012135A. Approved.
(1st Lord, 102357B to A.N.C.X.F.).

Defence of U.K.

Iceland To assist the reduction of personnel in the Iceland Command I would agree to -
(A) closing down the base at Seidisfiord
(B) closing down the H.D.A. Station at Graf provided strong A/S patrols can be maintained when important units are in Hvalfiord.
(C. in C.H.F. 101231 to A.C.I.C.).

Operations.

Biscay A/S operations. Am over enemy S/M. in 46 degs. 15' N. 09° 20' W. (A/C 53 Sqdn. to 19 Group No T.O.O. Recd. 100325). U/boat previously reported course 080°, speed 12 knots.
(A/C 53 Sqdn. 100407B to 19 Group).
One or possibly two eastbound U/boats may be encountered to-day.
(D.D.I.C. 110911B to KEMPENFELT).
T.G. 21.16 in U.S.S. CORE with 5 destroyers 045° 38' N. 034° 57' W. to vicinity 045° 59' N. 026° 01' W., 12 knots. Vide my 101244B.
(C. in C.W.A. 101340B to Ships).
BITER operating vicinity 046° 25' N. 020° 49' W. with Escort Group 7. CYGNET, PELICAN, CRANE, WOODCOCK, HOSTE, GRINDALL. My 101235 refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 101349B to ships).
Weather remains unsuitable night flying. E.G.7 disposed round O.S.73 to obtain H/F D/F fix to renew hunt. No indication of weather settling and 9th E.G. should R/V with me in O.S.73. My P.C.S. 046° 09' N. 019° 07' W. 190° 5 knots.
(BITER, 102002B to C. in C.W.A.).

/Operation...

10.4.1944.
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation "F.Y." Short signal at 0416Z indicates convoy may have been reported by U/boat. (D.D.I.C. 100914B to A.I.G.47). Second Archangel portion of J.W.58 off Danilov at 0815B to-day. Progress through ice satisfactory. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 100950B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Operation "Pitchbowl" My 091036 passed to SHEFFIELD who is detailed for this operation in addition to forces mentioned in para.2. (C. in C.H.F. 101141B to F.O.E.C.). Your 091908. Concur. F.O.C.T. is requested to arrange for STRIKER to sail to comply with para.3. (C. in C.W.A. 101308B to C. in C.H.F.).

Operation "C.X." O.N.M.231. DESEADO not met. Your 091137B refers. P.C.S. 056° 49' N. 019° 28' W, 267° 9. (C.4, 101200Z to C. in C.W.A.). Estimated situation at 2359B/10th. H.X.285 055° 03' N. 009° 35' W. to 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W., 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots. H.X.U. 285 escorted by DAUPHIN 055° 08' N. 009° 45' W. to Minches, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots. A.T.104B 055° 35' N. 011° 45' W. to North Channel, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (2) Both sections of H.X.285 burn dim navigation lights on crossing 010° W. (C. in C.W.A. 102051B to H.X.285, DAUPHIN).

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 101306B). (V.A. Dover, 101634B). (C. in C. Plymouth, 102331B).

UNSHAKEN patrol. Enemy M/V torpedoed on 7th April. (1) 6th April 1100B convoy of 2 medium merchant ships and 4 escorts passed out of range into Lister Fiord. (2) 7th April (a) 0640B, south westbound 3000 ton passenger ship came out of Lister Fiord and passed out of range. (b) 0746B P.C.S. of 6 merchant ships 4000 to 6000 tons escorted by 3 minesweepers and 5 whalers 058° 08' N. 006° 20' E., 353° 11 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes at the 2 leading ships overlapping from 2500 yards. After 2 minutes 10 seconds one tremendous explosion followed by a deep rumbling noise. Search carried out by 4 escorts but no counter-attack developed. Result of attack not observed. (c) 1537B P.C.S. of 3000 ton passenger cargo vessel unescorted 058° 19' N. 006° 07' E. 135° 16 knots. Fired 4 torpedoes at 2500 yards. No hits. Confirmed 3 torpedoes seen to burst on shore. Believe that third and fourth torpedoes ran incorrectly. (S.O.S/M Lerwick, 101520B to F.O.S.). I.S.O.H. Section VI appendix 1. Amend mid points temporarily as follows. (1) H.H. 065° 15' N. 000° 04' E. (2) F.F. 063° 31' N. 000° 55' E. (F.O.S. 101929B to Cpts. S.).

/ S/M...

10.4.1944.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

S/M.
patrols

Add to my 231844 March para.one (I) ULA 16th April, 30th April Skudesnes - Lister.
(J) STATESMAN 20th April, 4th May LL.
(K) TUDOR 20th April, 4th May FF.
(F.O.S. 101825B to Capt.S.3, S.9).

GIRONDE
(Convoy
F.N.23)
damaged.

Following from WALLACE begins. GIRONDE returning Southend with damage from shell fire sustained at 1150, 231° B.8 buoy 2 miles. No casualties. Shell was one of three which landed at rear of convoy. Foremast capstan gear and forecastle damaged. She cannot anchor. Shells appeared to come from shore.

101245B Ends.

WALLACE's 101245B. Understood shells fired from 1 S.T. A/A practice group Walton
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 101725B).

{2} Request relevant military authorities may be informed.
{C. in C. Nore, 102217B to Admt.}.

Mining

Milford
Haven.

G.C. Mine in Angle Bay successfully recovered and removed.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 101431B to Admt.).

Navigational

Caledonian
Canal.

Caledonian Canal will be out of action for passage of craft for at least a week - owing to damage to lock gate.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 102205 to Admt.).

Casualties and Defects

CORMORANT

U.S.N. Fleet tug CORMORANT requires general steam refit beyond capacity this base. Request you allocate.

(Cousnaamb, Nore, 101101 to Corep, Nore).

150

10.4.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

16 L.S.Ts. Special convoy 16 L.S.Ts. escorted by USK, AILSA CRAIG, PROTEA arrived.
(C.M.S.F., 101021A).

ARICALE and VIEIRA
MANZANARES, overdue. Request reply my 291806 March. I am receiving anxious enquiries from Spanish authorities and family of crew.
(A.B.N.A. Madrid, 101802A to Admty.).

A/S sweep. During the night of the 10/11 A/S striking Force 1st will sweep through 035 degs. 30' N. 008° 00' W. thence Cape St. Vincent.
(ANTELOPE, 101948A).

South Atlantic

ARCOLA My 091322. /
H.M. Tug FLARES with 3 escort vessels will arrive St. Vincent a.m./14 to tow ARCOLA to Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 101059Z).
/ Re Consul St. Vincent's report.

Operation "Tabarin" At the request of Governor I am sailing WILLIAM SCORESBY for A.C.B. 12th April with mail. On her return propose sailing her Montevideo for docking and refit arrive approx. 1st May.
(N.O.i/c Falkland Is., 101553Z).

Weekly G.R. Opsum No. 31 6. Wreckage and empty collapsible lifeboat sighted 34.42 S. 18.18 E. 13.17B 2/3 April by Catalina on A/S patrol.
(Dechief, 101841B).

151

10.4.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanAir
cositintrep
No.274.

Operations ending 1800/9th. Strategic air force for night 8/9 April. 14 Wellingtons and 3 Liberators successfully mined Danube Belgrade. One Wellington lost to flak.
(Air C. in C. Med., T.O.O. Nil. Recd. 0700/11.)

Mutiny in
Greek
Navy.

Greek situation. No change except that attitude in APOSTOLIS appears to have worsened.
(F.O.L.E.M. 100932C.)
Still peaceful. Your 081846.
(S.N.O.L.A. (Haifa.) 101007C to F.O.L.E.M.)
Your 092212. Para. 1. I have avoided the

subject of flags. I believe that to offer both flags would probably an irritant as things are at present.
2. I have kept clear of politics. The words - "I shall work" in last para. were badly chosen. They were meant to express that I preferred that solution and that (?at) that time I should advise the Ambassador accordingly. Actually the situation in para. 10(b) never materialised.
(F.O.L.E.M., 101240C to Admty.)

Ref. Your 081846. No change in situation.
(S.N.O.L.A., 101822C.)

My 100932. This morning following the reading of my memorandum the inmates of Detention Quarters and Cadet school were invited to come out on understanding that they would be housed together with their officers until the situation made it desirable for them to resume their normal duties. Fifty of total of some 200 came out without any interference from remainder. Those still inside are friendly but adamant that they remain until new Government is formed. They spent afternoon flying kites for recreation. No other developments. Outport quiet.
(F.O.L.E.M. 102020C.)

Situation Report 1900C/10th. General situation remains unchanged. Port Said AVEROFF completed ranging today now requires two days for deperming on completion of which she is to proceed to sea for adjustment of compasses. Crew of one more Merchant ship SS.ORION have gone ashore. N.O.I.C. considers return on board of PAPANICOLIS Officers can be arranged. Ismailia no change. Suez KATERINA COUMANIROU sailing a.m. 11th with scratch crew MARGARITA and AIS GEORGIS both ready but have no officers or crew.

(S.N.O.R.S.C.A., 102020.)

Following for information. From Greek C. in C. to Capt. (S) CORINTHIA S.O. Greek L.S.Ts. G.S.KANARIS, G.S.THEMISTOCLES NAVARIN on T.O.O. 071050. It is essential that all ships continue to carry out their operational duties at all costs. Political crisis will be solved in the immediate future. Officers and crew of our Navy inspired from the necessity of keeping up Greek Naval war effort remain totally united. R.A.Alexandria. From NAVARIN to Greek C. in C. Info. previous addressees T.O.O. 071930. Request cancellation your 071050. We all know our duty towards Greece and our Allies.

(C. in C. Med. in Cairo, 102107C.)

/Situation...

152

10.4.1944
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMutiny
in Greek
Navy
(Contd.)

Situation report No.1. 10th April.
Port Said GEORGIOS AVEROFF situation on boat
unchanged Committee still in charge ship under
weigh today on D.G. range.
PAPANICOLIS expected date of completion a.m.
12th. Officers have not yet returned on board
Capt. (S) CORINTHIA not yet arrived.

Programme of remaining ships proceeding normally Ismailia the
C.O. Greek Camp H.H.M.S. HELLI who is at present at Ismailia
informs me that in his opinion it would be possible to restore
discipline in the Camp with the assistance of 50 Greek Naval
Police whom he has at his disposal he awaits instructions.
Suez General Situation unchanged it is hoped to provide
KATERINA COUMANTAROU with an Egyptian crew tonight and to
sail her tomorrow steam having been raised by R.N. Stokers
MARGARITA completes loading today efforts being made to provide
her with a crew on completion no crew available yet for
AIS GEORGIS ends.

(S.N.O.R.S.C.A., 101450.)

U/B
report.

Nr. 1. Am over enemy S/M in 33° 12 minutes N.
34° 42' E.
(A/C ZPAV, 101102C.)

UNIVERSAL.

Patrol report blank.
(Capt.S.10, 101115.)

Operation
"Shingle".

Sitrep 80. L.S.T., L.C.I. from Naples provided
470, 18 tons respectively of total 2111 tons
unloaded on April 9th. Three Liberty ships
present two of which were cleared out during day.
2. Intermittent shelling. Junkers 88s active
over anchorage about 082200. One dropped two bombs near U.S.S.
HUGHES which did no damage and another was shot down by U.S.S.
SWAY.

3. U.S.S. HILARY P. JONES fired 262 rounds at enemy Coastal
position on 9th April.
(F.O.W.It. 101122B.)

40 L.C.I.

Request decision if the 40 L.C.I. mentioned in
Cosmed 73 to be sailed to U.K. to arrive by 30th
April. To meet this date they must be sailed
on 12th.
(C. in C. Med. 101122 to Admty.)

CASABIANCA

Cancel my 091058 intend to sail CASABIANCA at
2000/11 on surface. (Route)
2. All time zones minus 2.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 101128B.)

ASCANIA.

ASCANIA will be taken in hand for machinery and
boiler defects at Taranto on arrival about 20th
April. Your 091715.
(C. in C. Med. 101158B to P.S.T.O. Med.)

/M.A.A.F. ...

War Diary10.4.1944
MondayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

M.A.A.F. Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Force. 8/9th
Opsum 414. April. 3 Liberators, 19 Wellingtons searched
Danube downstream from Belgrade. 4 Wellingtons
returned early. 3 Liberators laid 12 x 1000
mines. 12 Wellingtons laid 24 x 1600 mines in
briefed area. 2 Wellingtons laid 4 x 1600 mines in Danube
but outside briefed area. Straffed river shipping and settle-
ments. 1 Wellington destroyed flak, ditched river.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 101655B.)

L.C.T. Your 311724 March. This trial is of great
for the importance in connection with the transfer of
East. LC.T. to India for the war against Japan. Delay
till October cannot be accepted.
2. L.C.T.(4) 557 now in Levant and one L.C.T.3
should be towed from the Med., if possible as
far as Bombay before the Monsoon. L.C.T.4 557 need not be
tropicalised (your 161140 March not to all addressees refers).
If the Monsoon will not permit the voyage from Aden the craft
should be towed back again, though some risk must be accepted.
3. In addition one L.C.T.4 specially improved for service in
the Far East will be towed from U.K. to the Med. in May.
Further signal will be made.
4. Request you will report:
a. The L.C.T.3 selected and its expected date of departure
and name of ship which will tow it.
b. Whether L.C.T.4 557 can sail and similar details as for (a).
5. Brief reports by signal on the trial are also required
from ports on the route.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 101725B to C. in C. Med.)

M.L.360, Intend M.L.360 and 584 to Alymmia tonight.
584. (S.O. Force 51, 101819C to Capt. S.1, (R)
UNSPARING, F.O.L.E.M., C.F.E.)

Situation 2. 2 Italian M.A.S. with British Officers
Report 334. embarked patrolled off Grosseto Rock night 7th/8th
April but sighted nothing. Coastal forces on
patrol off San Vincenzo night 9th/10th April
has inconclusive engagement with 3 enemy
probably L.C.G. No damage or casualties to our forces.
(C. in C. Med., 102133.)

10.4.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat My 090349Z. No fresh information. No change
dispositions. in scale of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F. 100313)

AUSONIA. With A.F.D. 23 and 26 operating there will be
enough work for AUSONIA as well as WAYLAND.
A.M. 151333/Z to C. in C. E.F. only and my
310956/3 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 100329Z)

Aircraft
carriers.

It is now intended that BEGUM shall revert to the
role of a trade protection escort carrier.
(2) Revised allocation of squadrons to escort
carriers is to be as follows. BEGUM 832 Squad-
ron 12 Avenger, 4 Wildcat ATHELING 890 Squadron
10 Wildcat 889 Squadron, 10 Seafires SHAH 851 Squadron 12 Avenger
4 Wildcat EMPRESS 834 Squadron 12 Swordfish 6 Wildcat. No.845
Squadron of 12 Avenger to be retained as alternative armament
Squadron for fleet or escort carriers.

(3) My 100924 March and Admiralty 151936 March not to all
addressees refer.

(C. in C. E.F. 101016Z)

It is presumed that 40 aircraft AB para. one (B) of
Commasea 061120 are additional to those in R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 311145
March.

(2) Intend BEGUM and ATHENE to arrive Kilindini about 1st May to
ferry aircraft in R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 311145 together with three
Harvards referred to in R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 031152 to India/Ceylon.

(3) Further signal will be made regarding lift of remaining
40 aircraft for India/Ceylon ready 27 May (Commasea 061120
para. 1 (B) and para. 3 refer) when movements of EMPRESS are
known (Admiralty 070237 refers).

(4) Signal quoted not to all addressees.

(C. in C. E.F. 101225Z to Commasea, Admiralty)

TRUCULENT,
patrol
report.

Summary of TRUCULENT 2nd far East patrol.

(2) 28th March 1036 FG attacked escorted convoy
of 3 ships in 003 degs. 43' N. 100 degs. 42' E.
sinking with two torpedo hits 3000 tons merchant
ship with deck cargo of military transport and
scored one possible hit on another ship.

Escort countered attack with 11 depth charges first 5 being fair-
ly close.

(3) First April 1914 FG sank 200 tons steamer by gunfire in
position 003 degs. 36' N. 100 degs. 11' E.

(C. in C. E.F. 101032Z)

RICHELIEU.

Arrival RICHELIEU, ROTHERHAM, RACEHORSE, QUAD-
RANT, PENN.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 101225Z)

Weekly /...

10.4.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Contd.

Weekly
summary of
escorts
in China.

3rd April. 3 Liberators laid 15 miles in Songi-
bach River.
(C. in C. India, T.O.O. Nil.)

A/T baffle
at Addu.

Your 010633Z/April and A.M. 011748A.
(2) Delay to DEVON CITY is not acceptable.
(3) One vessel is required U.K. by mid May and
the other by end of May.
(4) Details of proposed A/T Baffle should be
reported.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 101737B to C. in C. E.F.)
Re: DEVON CITY about to sail from Ceylon to lay
an A/T Baffle at Addu Atoll.

?Lifeboat.

Unidentified (?small) craft may possibly be
lifeboat. Attempted communication by flash-light
latitude 004 degs. 40' S. longitude 077 degs.
44' E. 1900 G.M.T.
((G.K.W.S.) QUEDA, 102100Z to Colombo W/T.)

10.4.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U/B report. D/F of transmission at 0312Z on 4185 k/cs of 94 Group Enigma indicates U-Boat within 60 miles of 042° 00' N. 055° 00' W. Request bearings and your position.
(N.S.H.Q. 100427Z to S.E.H.X. 286.)
- U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 101445Z, Cominch 101639Z.)
- M.A.C.ships. Request you will sail M.A.C.ships as follows:-
A. H.X.S.288 EMPIRE MACALPINE.
B. H.X.M.289 EMPIRE MACCOLL.
C. H.X.F.290 AMASTRA, EMPIRE MACKAY.
D. H.X.S.291 ACAVUS, RAPANA.
(D.T.D. 101511B to C. in C.C.N.A.)
- T.G.27.8 Effective 15 April upon Rear Admiral Deye assuming
NEVADA, Command of Temporary Crudiv 7, T.G.27.8 is consti-
TUSCALOOSA. tuted Rear Admiral Deye in TUSCALOOSA, NEVADA
Desron 18 when in all respects ready on 18 April
depart Casco Bay for U.K. to Port designated by
Com. 12th Fleet. Upon arrival C.T.G.27.8 report
with his T.G. to Com. 12th Fleet for temporary duty at which time
T.G.dissolved. Com. 12th Fleet inform Admty.
(Cinclant 101519.) See amendment 111404.
- DUMONT Initial employment French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE
D'URVILLE. in Eastern Fleet following ?current N.Y.D. over-
haul authorized.
(Cominch & C.N.O. 101520Z.)
- T.G.27.9 Effective 19th April T.G.27.9 is constituted
FORREST Desdiv. 20 NITRO. When NITRO loaded and
ships in all respects ready about 20 April depart
Hampton Roads for U.K. destination to be desig-
nated by Com. 12th Fleet. Upon arrival C.T.G.27.9 report with
his T.G. to Com. 12th Fleet for temporary duty at which time T.G.
dissolved.
(Cinclant 101619.)
- ?U/B. 3 depth charge attacks made on doubtful echo.
Position 043° 13' N. 060° 38' W. Lost contact.
Searching area. PICTOU* in company.
(H.M.C.S. TIMMINS 101640Z.)
*Alternative SOREL.
- K.12. Cominch now says that state of K.12 is such that
she will not serve any useful Purpose much longer.
He has ordered a U.S.submarine to take over her
duties. He therefore proposes that the action
already taken by the Dutch reported in my 081917 should stand.
I have not yet informed Admiral Stoeve of this.
(B.A.D. 101659Z.)

/Anti...

10.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Anti U/B
policy.

The Admiralty has agreed with Cominch in the need to intensify concerted offensive action against U-Boats beginning about 1st May in preparation for "Overlord" and has agreed to trial of the following measures which Cominch proposed on the assumption

that convoy routes continue to be only lightly threatened:

A. to employ offensively our available C.V.E Groups against U-Boat concentrations in general area North of Azores to lat. 55° N. and west of 20 W.

B. That British Forces work similarly south and west from U.K. and Iceland normally furnishing all support required for North Atlantic convoys both east and west of 20 W. which will simplify command relations.

C. As to A. and B. it is understood that necessary co-ordination will be accomplished by agreement between C. in C.W.A. and C. in C.Lant.

1. If situation at anytime points to profitable employment of forces of one nation in the others area or

2. should the proximity of U.S. and British forces require co-ordination of operations.

Implement paras. A. and C. I consider the current use of C.V.E. Groups in Western and South Atlantic in operations against KTBWN (group corrupt) U-Boat concentrations not inconsistent with para. A. the key idea being that C.V.Es. shall work in areas of greatest U-Boat concentration.

(Cominch & C.N.O. 101808Z.)

M.V.OLDHAM
(abandoned
3 April.)

1. S.C.156. 2. OLDHAM (U.S.) 3. 10th April.
4. Broken shaft.
(NC.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 101927Z.)

A.T.105.

Diversion order.
(D.O.D.H. 101953B to ILE DE FRANCE.)

Routeing of
Neutral ship-
ping east of
Azores.

It is felt by this H.Q. that further routeing control over Neutral shipping in Atlantic east of Azores is desirable. By standardisation of routes present numerous crossovers of convoy routes could be largely eliminated thus minimizing collision dangers and lack of security. Identification procedure would be simplified and blockade

runners more readily observed. It is therefore proposed that two points be established, point X at 37 N. 10 W. and point Y at 33° N. 13° W. All neutral traffic entering or leaving area will pass through these points as follows:-

A. Vessels proceeding westbound from Portugal or Spain to
1. East Coast U.S. and Canada shall pass through X thence Great Circle to Point A as defined in Mari Section 1 para. 13. Vessels for Azores shall break off en route between Points A and X at New Point P at 36.27 N. and 24 W.

10.4.1944.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Routeing of
neutral ship-
ping east of
Azores.
(Contd.)

2. To Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico through points XY and G thence direct to appropriate entry lane.
3. For Madeira, Canary, Cape Verde and South Atlantic Ports shall pass through points X and Y thence direct to destination.
3. For eastbound routeings the reverse of the above shall be followed.

- B. Vessels from Straits of Gibraltar to
1. East Coast United States and Canada as in A.1 above.
 2. Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico through Points Y and G thence direct to Neutral Entry Lane.
 3. To Madeira, Canary, Cape Verde Islands and South Atlantic Ports through Point Y thence direct to destination.
- C. Vessels plying between N.W.African Atlantic ports and Spain and Portugal proceed coastwise to destination.
D. In addition to routeing prescribed it is desired that neutrals be required to report when passing through points X and Y giving P.C. and S.

The above proposals regarding routing and reporting of position by Neutral vessels are forwarded for your comment. If you concur and in as much as this proposed routeing lies within the British Strategic Area it is believed appropriate that British Authorities should make necessary arrangements with Neutral Nations concerned. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 102030Z.)

TEXAS,
ARKANSAS,
QUINCY,
AUGUSTA.

Further modify forthcoming Lantflt. redeployment Mydis 281455 as follows:

- A. TEXAS is to remain U.K. upon arrival with U.T. 11 reporting Com. 12th Fleet for temporary duty.
- B. ARKANSAS is to be sailed with contingent of BB* C^A+ DD⁴ due U.K. 3rd May.
- C. 9 destroyers (those previously scheduled to arrive Mediterranean by 10th June) are now to be sailed to U.K. to arrive as early as present Escort Task permits and not later than 15th May.
- D. A.M.S. 220 foot class now escorting convoys N.Y.78, U.G.S.38 and C.K.2 are to remain U.K. upon arrival reporting Com. 12th Fleet for temporary duty.
- E. QUINCY is deleted from 12th Fleet support forces. C. in C. Lant retain QUINCY in Lantflt. until further orders. Circumstances may later permit reinstatement of QUINCY in support forces but this is not to be counted on.
- F. Assignment of AUGUSTA as Flagship C.T.F.122 requires her being utilized also for bombardment purposes.
- G. Further orders will be issued for movements of Forces from U.K. to Med. upon completion of assault phase.
(Cominch & C.N.O. 102104.)

* Battleships. + Heavy cruiser. / Destroyers.

INDOMITABLE. C. in C.Lant sail INDOMITABLE escorted by RIOU, HOTHAM, HOLMES and INMAN accordance following schedule if satisfactory depart Norfolk 20th April. Arrive Bermuda 22nd.

INDOMITABLE may not enter harbour but remain outside while escorts refuel in pairs. Depart same day via Great Circle route to Ponta Delgada Azores arriving off Port 27th. Escorts will again refuel

/in...

War Diary.

• 10.4.1944.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

INDOMITABLE.
(Contd.)

in pairs. Leave same day. Request Admiralty furnish onward route. Carrier will operate one Squadron of 12 Avenger aircraft during passage. (Cominch 102106Z.)

U/B incidents.

U.515
Sink

All times Z. Para. A. Liberator attacked surfaced U-Boat course 130 speed 8 at 15.37 S. 17.00 W. 101042 reported damage. Co-ordinated attacks commencing 082130 by surface and A/C GUADALCANAL Group resulted in U-Boat sinking 35 N. 19 W. at 091500 41 P/Ws. (Cominch 102118Z.)

Use of
Bermuda
dockyard by
R.C.N.ships.

S.B.N.O.W.At.'s 202205 March and your 021414. Current survey indicates that due to temporarily increased commitments, scheduled refits of some R.C.N.ships must be postponed and Canadian Yards are therefore not occupied to capacity. Regret that in immediate future it will not be possible to take advantage of kind invitation to employ Bermuda Dockyard. Anticipate that on return to normal duty of R.C.N.vessels loaned to Admiralty, requirement for refits will be abnormal until the accumulated backlog is accommodated and use of Bermuda may then be advantageous. (N.S.H.Q. 102146Z to Admty.)

Assessments
of attacks
on U/Bs.

A recent check of assessments reveals that O.N.176 not assessed as both copies action report were sent Admiralty. This also applies attack by MONKSHOOD in O.N.178 and MONTGOMERY in O.N.166. 2. Intend that we assess although above took place prior to 15th May 1943. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 102149B to Cominch.)

PREMIER.

Upon completion loading planes sail PREMIER Norfolk to New York for inclusion in C.U.21 to U.K. No operating planes on board. (Cominch 102155Z to Comeastseafon.)

QUEEN.

C.O.P.C. 312321Z*March not to all sail QUEEN onward to Norfolk independently if satisfactory to Sea Frontier Commander concerned. Advise routing instructions. No aircraft on board. (Cominch 102157Z to Compaseafon.)
*N.T. of number 3.

10.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

M.V. BEHAR Request information whether BEHAR is to be regarded
presumed lost. as lost (C. in C.E.F. 230831 March refers) also
request classification for casualty purposes.
(N.Z.N.B. 100015Z.)
Your 100015. BEHAR now accepted as overdue,
missing and presumed sunk or captured by raider on
9th March in approx. 20° 32' S. 87° 10' E.
(D.T.D. 101435B to N.Z.N.B.)

Digest serial April 9th. Paras. 20 to 22 cover S. Pacific Forces.
No. 811. 16. Navy search Liberator strafed enemy submarine
30 miles North Aitape course 250° afternoon. Oil
trail resulted. Also unsuccessfully bombed medium
merchantman westbound near Wake Island.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 100730Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack Para. A. 1. Aircraft sighted and may have attacked
& sighting U-Boat course 080° in 46° 20' N. 09° 42' W. approx.
summary. 0100Z/10.
2. Lifeboat with survivors sighted 11° 50' S. 20°
20' W. before 2208Z/9.
3. U.S.S. BUTLER attacked sound contact 35° 58' N.
17° 43' W. 1259Z/9. U.S.S. JORDAN attacked contact with hedgehog
without result. Search abandoned 1800Z/9.
4. BRITISH CHIVALRY torpedoed and sunk 00° 56' S. 68° 00' E. 22nd
February.
5. SUTLEJ torpedoed and sunk approx. 08° 00' S. 70° 00' E. 26th
February.
(D.D.I.C. 10124B.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 101415B, 101432B.)

11.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Y.

1. At 1100B today Convoy R.A.58 was about 220 miles E.S.E. of Jan Mayen, steering 206° at 10½ knots, and at 0035B the Admiralty informed the Escort that the convoy had probably been reported by a U-Boat and was being shadowed.

Attack on
enemy con-
voy off Texel.
Two E/R Boats
damaged.

2. Three attacks upon an enemy convoy off the Texel were made last night by four M.T.Bs. of the 54th Flotilla. During the first attack at 102345 one E/R Boat was set on fire and left burning fiercely; and during the second attack at 110020 another E/R Boat was damaged by the German escorts. Our Forces suffered no casualties and only superficial damage.

Mediterranean.

Greek Navy.

3. The situation in the Greek Fleet is unchanged. The day passed quietly both in Alexandria and the outports.

Operation
"Shingle".

4. 3306 tons were discharged at Anzio today.

Minefield
off Capraia.

5. The Italian minelayer SIRIO covered by coastal forces successfully laid a minefield off the S.W. coast of Capraia (N.E. of Corsica) last night.

Adriatic.

6. 24 Kittyhawks attacked shipping at Ancona today and at some time previous to 1800 25 Wellingtons bombed Porto San Stefano. Shipping on the Dalmatian coast was also attacked.

11.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

SS. YAMHILL.

7. SS. YAMHILL reported a torpedo fired at her by a U-Boat at 0101Z today in 03.22 N. 67.07 E. (about 420 miles W.N.W. of Addu Atoll.) The torpedo missed and the submarine chased YAMHILL on the surface, who defended herself with her gun.

8. 4 U.S. Liberators laid 13 mines in the mouth of the Tavoy River (Lower Burma) between 0010 and 0023 today.

Australia & New Zealand.

Admiralty
Islands.

9. It is reported that enemy organised resistance in the Admiralty Islands has ceased. Hulungau Island, adjoining Pak Island, was occupied today without opposition.

Hollandia
area.

10. The enemy is rapidly building up his resources in the Hollandia area. There is an increase of barge traffic along the coast from Vanimo to Tanahmerah Bay and large quantities of bulk supplies on the shores of Humboldt Bay. Allied air attacks are seriously interrupting this activity. Up to date over 860 aircraft have been employed on attacks; shipping and barges have been destroyed, A.A. positions (of which aerial R/C shows 73 in the Hollandia area) have been silenced, stores demolished, and practically all the 288 aircraft present on the ground on 30th March have been destroyed or permanently damaged.

11. 53 Liberators dropped 210 tons of 1000 lb. bombs on A.A. positions, stores and jetties at Hansa Bay this morning. 11 other Liberators bombed Uligan harbour.

12. 137 aircraft attacked enemy supply bases in Talili Bay and Rabaul town this forenoon.

11.4.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Russian Personnel for U.K.

A., 17-1723 Feb. Nothing has yet been said to me by Soviet Naval Staff about means of despatching crews to U.K. and at instigation of Ambassador I yesterday made enquiry as to what they proposed to do and numbers they wished to send. (The figure 5,000 has been mentioned

to Ambassador).

2. While in N. Russia I never saw any Russian vessels which could possibly be used as Transports for the large number of men involved and I am fairly certain that Soviet Naval Staff will have to ask for our assistance in getting crews? to U.K.

3. Time does not permit of British and American cargo vessels now in N. Russia being fitted with temporary accommodation for sailing with R.A.59 even if the small number of ships going home then could be adapted to take this large number.

4. Moreover there are 300-400 men ex MILWAUKEE and about 80 ex Shore Staffs in N. Russia for passage in R.A.59.

5. It appears therefore that the only way we could assist if asked would be by sending transports to N. Russia with escorts for R.A.59.

6. If we do not assist there would presumably be political consequences (e.g. Soviet would consider we had tricked them with a valueless offer to loan H.M. ships) I understand they are already considerably incensed at lateness in receiving British decision not to steam ships out with British crews.

7. It may, therefore, be desirable to make preliminary plans as in para. 4.

(Ad. Fisher, 111132C to Admty.)

Your 111132C. I approached Chief of Staff here this morning on same subject and he estimated number as 3,000 subject to confirmation by tomorrow evening.

2. It is clear that they have made no arrangements for transport of personnel and expect this to be done for them by escorts and/or returning Merchant ships.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 111443B to Ad. Fisher.)

My 111132 para. 1. Casual reference at Otdel meeting this afternoon to 3,000 which appears more probable figure, also to fact that Peoples Commissar would be discussing matter with me shortly.

(Ad. Fisher, 111543C to Admty.)

Operations

Operation RY.

D/F of transmissions at 1825Z/10, 1924Z/10, 2045Z/10 and 2052Z/10 indicate convoy R.A.58 has probably been reported by a U/Boat and is being shadowed.

(D.D.I.C. 110035B to A.I.G.47.)

Second White Sea Group J.W.58 arrived p.m. today, 9 ships.

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 082125B refers.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 111742B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

S.C. operation

My 081901B. S.C. HESSA sailed at 0210B today.

2. No.

(A.C.O.S. 110212B to Admty.)

Cable repair. (ARIEL)

ARIEL sailed for cable work in Irish Sea. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 110730B, to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

/Operation...

164

11.4.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Operation C.W. By D/F at 0537Z/11th U/B estimated probably within 45 miles of 51° 00' N. 17° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 110846B to E.G.9, Escorts T.U.10.)
From Admty's 110846Z and D/F bearing by STORMONT estimate U/Boat was in approx. 050° 50' N. 017° 00' W. at 0537. Have altered course in that direction. My P.C.S. 1023Z, 050° 40' N. 015° 55' W. 300° 13. On reaching 051° N. 017° W. at 1400Z if nothing sighted intend to alter course to 192° to join BITER with O.S.73.
(E.G.9, 111140Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Biscay A/S operations. Under these weather conditions my presence is only an embarrassment to hunting group. No indication of improvement in next few days can be foreseen. Do you wish me to proceed with O.S.73 in accordance with your 011438 or return to U.K. with Frigates?

Your 081232 refers.

(BITER, 110909B to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 110909B. Unless in contact with enemy proceed forthwith escorted by 7th E.G. to join E.G.9th whose estimated P.C.S. at 0800B to-day was 050° 30' N. 014° 30' W. 200° 12 knots. On joining return and search with E.G.7th and E.G.9th in area given in my 061001Z and 091054Z. HOSTE and GRINDALL are to be detached to Belfast and Londonderry respectively when E.G.9th join.

(C. in C. W.A. 111144B to BITER)

T.G.21.16 U.S.S. CORE, 5 destroyers 046 degs. 01' N. 028 degs. 06' W. to vicinity 046 degs. N. 026 degs. W. 12 knots. My 111239 refers. BITER with 7th E.G. CYGNET, PELICAN, CRANE, WOODCOCK, GRINDALL, HOSTE 045° 17' N. 018° 18' W. to R/V 9th E.G. at approx. 0400B/12th, thence to vicinity 046° 21' N. 020° 15' W. 12 knots. GRINDALL, HOSTE detach to Belfast after R/V.

(C. in C. W.A. 111356B to Ships)

Have A.S.V. contact 43° 37' N. 11° 02' W. probably U-Boat. Have dropped (group omitted). Returning base.

(A/C K.B.A.52, 111504B to 19 Group.)

C. in C.W.A. 111144B. My P.C.S. at 1500B, 044° 12' N. 019° 32' W. 020° 8 knots.
(BITER, 111530B to E.G.9.)

Enemy convoy attacked. Report of M.T.B. operations night 10/11th April. Four M.T.Bs. of the 54th Flotilla were ordered to carry out a sweep Egmond to Texel. Object damaged. intercept possible Southbound Convoy.
2. Unit arrived at initial position at 2240 and swept N. along Convoy route. At 2345 Radar contact ahead at 4000 yds., and a Convoy was sighted at the same time, Unit turned to Port and started plot. Convoy immediately fired red Very light, followed by numerous starshell in all directions which completely obscured the target. A running engagement took place with E/R boats which appeared to be part of an extended screen. One E/R boat was set on fire and left burning fiercely. Unit disengaged.
3. At 0010 a plot was started at 7000 yds. At 0020 Convoy was closed from Starboard beam to a range of 4000 yds. The convoy put up Green flares and more starshell, again obliterating the main target. Another running engagement took place with the Escorts and another R/Boat was seen to be stopped and damaged. She had apparently been hit by her own forces and was subsequently

/engaged...

11.4.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Enemy Convoy attacked. Two E/R Boats damaged. (Contd.) engaged by Unit. Enemy fire continued to be concentrated on the R/Boat who was hit several times with heavy calibre guns. Unit disengaged to seaward and the Escorts appeared to be having a battle among themselves.

4. At 0030 Convoy was again plotted at 8000 yds. and finally closed from the beam, once more starshell obliterated the target when the range had been closed to 4000 yds., and this time was met with heavier and more accurate fire. Unit then disengaged to seaward, and set course for base.

5. Casualties - Nil. Damage. Superficial damage M.T.Bs. 715, 618, 653. (C. in C. Nore, 111630B to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (V.A. Dover, 111633B to Admty.)

S/M patrols. Position of S/Ms 0800/12th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. TAKU 58° 01' N. 5° 22' E. through 57° 38' N. 6° 46' E., thence to patrol. Dived by day. Speed on surface, 10 knots.

B. VENTURER 58° 45' N. 4° 12' E., through 58° 17' N. 4° 37' E. to 57° 39' N. 6° 47' E. thence to patrol. Dived by day. Speed on surface 9 knots.

C. SCEPTRE and X.24 60° 58' N. 1° 46' E. through 61° 01' N. 1° 59' E. towards Utvaer, diving by day. Speed on surface 6 knots. (F.O.S. 111744 to Admty.)

Operation "Pitchbowl". Operation "Pitchbowl" in 2 parts P.B.1 and P.B.2. C. in C. H.F.'s 091036 and 101141 refer. All times "B".

2. Force will leave Scapa 0900/13th proceeding West of Orkneys and Shetlands to position AA. 062° N. 002° 30' E. at 0745/14th.

3. Beaufighters from Wick and escort wing from carriers will R/V over Utvaer at 0830/14th and then sweep North as far as Svino.

4. Force will withdraw to westward of Shetlands as if making for Scapa, subsequently arriving in position BB. 058° 40' N. 001° 30' E. at 1800/15th.

5. Beaufighters from Wick and escort wing from carriers will R/V over Hvidingso Island off Stavanger at 1900/15th and then sweep South as far as Egero.

6. Force will return direct to Scapa from East of Orkneys arriving a.m. 16th.

7. In the event of bad weather operation may be postponed 24 hours by either R.A.E.C. or A.O.C. 18 Group. No operation will take place after 16th. (F.O.E.C. 111753 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, 18 Group)

/Convoy...

166

11.4.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

Convoy R.A.59. Your 081915. Estimated number of ships ready to sail in R.A.59 from Kola on 25th April.

2. Ships discharging at Murmansk; 15 with possibility of an additional 5 ships dependent on rate of unloading.

3. Ships discharging at White Sea ports: DOLABELLA only, but probability that 10 ships could reach Kola by 26th April. S.B.N.O. Archangel 090945B and 101100C, refer. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 112212B to Admt.)

Enemy Air Activity

Norway and North Sea Areas covered by enemy meteorological activity from 11th March - 10th April 1944 inclusive. Details. (D.D.I.C. 111724B to H.F.)

Mining

Minelaying by Bomber Command A/C. Personal for C.A.S. from First Sea Lord. The extensive and deep penetration into enemy waters made on the night of 9th/10th April is typical of the skill and determination shown by the A/C that take part in minelaying operations.

2. The work of the minelaying A/C of the Bomber Command during the past four years has paid a rich dividend. Shipping losses have been inflicted on the enemy, and the sea traffic has been impeded and delayed to an extent which has seriously dislocated their general communications. Results such as these will be of increasing importance in the next few critical months, and in this respect it is encouraging to see that minelaying operations have reached a new high level in the first quarter of this year.

3. I should be grateful if you would convey to those concerned the Navy's appreciation of their fine work. (1st S.L., 111517B to Air Ministry.)

Shipping and Convoys

Escort Group to disband. B six, B seven, 23rd, 24th and 39th Groups, are to be disbanded on next return to harbour. (C. in C.W.A. 111218B to Cdre. D.W.A.)

O.N.F., O.N.M., and O.N.S. Convoys. In future the Assembly Port for East Coast ships and those from Iceland (C) for O.N.F., O.N.M., O.N.S. Convoys will be Loch Ewe. (D.T.D. 111754B to C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Rosyth, A.C.O.S., A.C.I.C.)

167

11.4.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

S.O.S. S.O.S. 36.28 N. 09.45 W.
(Ship using callsign TYPN (indecypherable) via
Whitechurch Interception Station).
BRILLIANT proceeding to position given in aircraft,
0308. E.T.A. 0545.
(ANTELOPE, 110315A to F.O.G.M.A.).

U/boat sighted. British Overseas Airways aircraft reports sighting
submarine in 038° 43' N. 010° 20' W. at 1419
G.M.T. to-day.
When first sighted was steering north at periscope
depth but was observed to dive uner helm.
(N.A. Lisbon, 111732A to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, R.A.F.
Gib. 112109Z to H.Q.C.C., Admiralty, F.O.G.M.A.
112138 to STRATAGEM, SPIRIT).

A/S sweep. During the night 11th/12th intend to sweep
westward on parallel (?of) 035° 30' N. to (?008°
or 032°) 00' W. thence Cape St. Marys.
(ANTELOPE, 111803A).

South Atlantic

Lifeboat sighted 10th April. Request details of report of lifeboat in 012° 10'
S. 021° 40' W. referred to in A.M. 101432/ and if
steps taken for rescue of survivors.
(C. in C.S.A. 111139B to Admty.).
W.D. Note: B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 111404Z para.
(B) refers.
/ U/boat situation report addressed A.I.G.332.

Publishing Japanese atrocities. At the request of C. in C. Eastern Fleet Editors
here have been asked not to publish stories of
Japanese atrocities on survivors of Allied
Merchant ships sunk in the Indian Ocean.
C. in C.E.F. has been asked by Admiralty to prevent
the sending of such stories and as some of them
are now being received from ports in the Union it is requested
you will take appropriate steps to prevent their despatch.
(D.P.D. 111145B to C. in C.S.A.).

U/boat sunk Lifeboats reported. B.N.L.O. Ascension Island report
(A) U.S.A. Naval aircraft sank S/M. in 015° 37'
S. 017° 00' W. 1040 G.M.T./10.

/ (B) U.S.A....

11.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U/B sunk.
Lifeboats
reported.
(Contd.)

B. U.S.A. Authorities have reported 2 lifeboats in 011° 50' S. 020° 20' W. at 1400 G.M.T/9 U.S.A. destroyer CHRISTOPHER proceeding to pick up present position survivors.
C. Freetown informed.
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 111404Z.)

ARCOLA, My 091322 not to St. Vincent. Delay in sailing tug & escorts. ARCOLA apparently due to Italian Authorities stirring up the very Anti-British Portuguese Chief of Civil Administration. Further delay appears inevitable unless prompt action is taken by Foreign Office to ensure sailing of ARCOLA on April 14th request this be done observing that escorts and tugs FLARE sail from Dakar a.m. tomorrow Wednesday and all required for other duties as soon as possible.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 111407Z to Admt.)

Your 111407Z. Capt. of Port interviewed p.m. today. Still awaiting reply to his telegrams but he hinted that if no reply by 12th he may act on his own believe he will do all possible assist and hope to have definite answer by p.m. 12th.

(N.C.S.O.St. Vincent 112255 to F.O.C.W.Af.)

My 101306Z. Intend to sail AIR FRANCE 3 S.O. AIR FRANCE 1 and CHASSEUR 62 at 1100Z/12 for Porto Grande escorting tug FLARE (route)

2. FLARE will enter under Red Ensign escort waiting outside 3 mile limit.
3. FLARE has been ordered to contact British Consul on arrival.
4. Request FLARE be sailed towing ARCOLA.
5. Intend escort and convoy to return by reverse route at best speed.
6. French escorts hold French code and Anglo-French.
(Comar Dakar 111931Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

U/B sighted. U.S. aircraft reports sighting surface U-Boat at 1050Z/11th which crash dived. Position 14° N. 18° W. Course 210°. French sent Wellington to investigate.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 112303C.)

169

11.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- 40 L.C.I. Your 101122. Request arrangements may be prepared for these L.C.I.(L) to be sailed so as to arrive U.K. by 4th May.
2. It is anticipated Chiefs of Staff will approve a signal ordering this movement at next meeting. (D. of P.(Q) 110034B to C. in C.Med.)
- 18th D.F. Following destroyers constitute 18th D.F. FARNDALE Capt. D.18, CATTERICK, CLEVELAND, ATHERSTONE, HAYDON, CALPE.
(C. in C.Med. 110752B.)
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. Your 081846. Situation (quiet?) (S.N.O.L.A. (Haifa) 110945C to F.O.L.E.M.)
No developments. Your 081846C. (S.N.O.L.A. 111752C.)
Situation report 1030/11 April. Your 081846 general situation unchanged. (S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 111121C.)
- SIRDAR. Request you will sail SIRDAR for Eastern Fleet as convenient. S.1 092105.
(F.O.L.E.M. 110951C to S.N.O.R.S.C.A.)
- M.V.AKKA. Following received begins:--
Swedish Govt. intimate safe conduct vessel AKKA will sail from Piraeus to St. John N.B. 0900/13 by "Black" route request you will inform all air and other authorities concerned. Ends.
2. Request C. in C.Med. and V.A.M. will take necessary action as this route does not pass through Taranto area.
3. It is suggested that future signals be addressed to C. in C.Med. repeated V.A.Malta, Taranto.
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 111225 to Admty.)
- Operation "Shingle". Sitrep No. 81. 2797 tons discharged 10th April of which L.S.T. provided 661. Remainder from three Liberties one of which completed discharge. No enemy interference, slight swell.
(F.O.W.It. 111238B.)
- Black Sea. From intelligence reports April 6th to April 10th.
1. Air attacks on enemy shipping. April 8th 2 E-Boats damaged in Kiik Atlama. April 9th 1 merchant ship, one F-Lighter, 2 400 ton barges and 1 R-Boat sunk and 1 merchant vessel damaged off Sulina. 2. Air.
3. Naval. Soviet E-Boats damaged 1 R-Boat off Odessa night April 5/6th and sank one F-Lighter off Akmechet April 9th. April 8th and April 9th 2 medium and 4 small merchant vessels and 22 F-Lighters and barges and on April 10th some 120 vessels sighted proceeding southward from Odessa district. April 10th 12 small merchant vessels and 47 F-Lighters and barges sighted unloading in Sulina. 70 vessels including 7 merchant vessels and 1 floating crane reported left Odessa last day.

11.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Black Sea. (Contd.) 6. From Operation reports: my 021927 para. 1 add air raid (apparently unsuccessful) on Stirmechet (harbour?) para. 4 merchant ship was sunk by submarine on its way from Sevastopol to Constantza. (N.L.O. Black Sea 111645.)

U/B reports. Nr. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 40° 42' N. 18° 52' E. (A/C XCWF 111857Z.)
Nr. 2. My 111854 (?111857 intended) contact 10 for 50 lost. (A/C XCWF 111905B.)
Nr. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 40° 53' N. 18° 53' E. (XKWZ 111903.)
Nr. 2. Cancel my 111903B resuming patrol. (A/C XCWZ 111932B.)

M.E. Balkan Sitrep No.147 4. Sea Ops. Brit. L.O. in Agrinion area Greece reports. Russian reported to him capture of Allied Mission Caique en route from South Roumeli to Italy. Caique had reached within 60 miles of Italy when petrol gave out and was driven back by storm to Greece and captured 25 Mar. (?off) Cephalonia. All aboard captured except Russian who jumped overboard and swam to coast. 1 Brit. Offr. 1 U.S.A.A.F. Offr. 15 Russians, 4 Poles and crew of 3 Greeks captured. (C. in C.M.E. 111940C.)

New type Antenna mine. Being used by Germans in River Gagliano. (F.O.W.It. 112006B.)

Mutiny in Greek Navy. My 102020 day has passed quietly both in Alexandria and outports. No more surrendered from detention quarters and those already out have been placed in quarantine with Chickenpox. PKPYM was surrounded and cut off from outside world this forenoon without incident. One Greek break out from HIFAISTOS reported morale among dissidents afloat is poor. Nothing to confirm this. Kites referred to in yesterday's Sitrep had E.A.M. written on them but largest and most ambitious effort failed to take the air. (F.O.L.E.M. 112025.)
One. Night 9/10 April all quiet. 2. Situation 1 Greek Bde. Intense picquetting by mutineers has prevented any possibility of loyal tps. coming out. (C. in C.M.E. 112135C.)
Situation report 2130/11th April.
Port Said. AVEROFF - Lieut. Cdr. Vassialides who has been nominal in command has left the ship together with other reliable officers, their positions having become untenable. B.N.L.Os remain on board at present. No other change. Suez all quiet. EKATERINI COUMANTAROU and MARGARITA sailed with scratch crews though latter has original Greek Officers. N.C.O. of H.H.M.S. HEMLI has again expressed desire to restore situation by use of 50 naval police he has available. The adjoining military camp has however broken

/through...

171

11.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.
(Contd.)

through dividing wire and the personnel have merged.
It would, therefore, be necessary to co-ordinate
any action with the military.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 112245C.)

Unidentified
merchant ship

One funnel merchant ship reported by M.L. in the
vicinity Symi at 1735 course North. Identity un-
certain.
(Capt. S.1 112355B to UNSPARING.)

War Diary

11.4.1944
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Japanese atrocities. Your 050250Z. Censorship have requested Editors here not to publish such stories. A boats' crew atrocity story was cabled at 1520/8 from Aden to the Times, and Censorship request that steps may be taken to prevent the sending of these stories. (V.C.N.S. 110003B to C. in C. E.F.)

SS. YAMHILL attacked by U-Boat. SSSS. Torpedoed this positin 03 R 22 N. 67 R 07 E. ((KVBV)YAMHILL, 110101Z) SSSS Torpedo fired at us but missed AAA position 03 R 22 N. 67 R 07 E. (YAMHILL, 110120Z)

SSSS S/M. pusuing on surface send air protection. (YAMHILL, No.T.O.O./11) SSSS S/M. pursuing us we are firing at it position 03 R 18 N. 67 R 09 E. (YAMHILL No T.O.O) SS. YAMHILL reports being chased by U-Boat in 003 degs. 18' N. 067 degs. 09' E. at 0201Z/11. N.Q.I.C.Aden pass to A.H.Q. Aden. (C. in C. E.F. 110244Z to S. and A. E.I. Station, Admty. C. in C. S.A., A.H.Q.E.A., A.H.Q. Aden, 222 Group, 225 Group.) YAMHILL U.S.0315 G.C.T. latitude 03 degs. N. longitude 67 degs. E pursuing S/Mgaining cannot hold our speed. (YAMHILL, 110330Z) Still being pursued S/M just out of range need air support position at 0520 G.M.T. 002 degs. 28' N. 066 degs. 30' E. I am heading west. (YAMHILL, 110530Z)

Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No.41. Situation given in Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition No.40 is unchanged. Indian Ocean. SS. YAMHILL reported torpedoes fired at her in 003 degs. 22' N. 067 degs. 07' E. at 0101Z/11th. This may indicate an outward bound U-Boat moving towards Areas A.B. or C. (C. in C. E.F. 110332Z)

Montevideo floating dock. Master of Tug HESPERIA reports that contract was to tow dock to Trincomalee and return to U.K. Considerable trouble is being experienced with crew who are unwilling to sail for Vizagapatam. (2) Request early confirmation that arrangements made for tug to remain on station included either retention of present crew or provision of new crew. Para. 3 of your 111257 Jan. and my 140204 Jan. neither to all addressees, refer. (3) Admiralty pass to D. of S.T. (C. in C. E.F. 110554Z) (Anglo-Iranian Oil Company pressing for immediate return Tug ZERANG, she is being sent to Persian Gulf on relief by Tug HESPERIA.)

173

11.4.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies - Contd.A/T baffle
at Addu.Baffle was to be $\frac{3}{4}$ mile A/T one mile inside Gan.
channel north of Gan to protect south east
anchorage.(2) In accordance with A.M. 101737/ DEVON CITY
will now abandon lay and proceed from Addu Atoll
to Aden for onward sailing to U.K.forthwith.

(C. in C. E.F. 110951Z)

/ Re: Delay of DEVON CITY not acceptable. Also details of
proposed A/T Baffle to be reported.Dock at
Diego
Suarez.A.M. 041205/February and your 171044/February.
M.W.T. has represented that they attach consider-
able importance to the use of docking facilities
at Diego Suarez. They feel that they will not
get full value out of the dock after transfer to
French control.(2) The future importance of these facilities will depend upon
the major decision upon strategy which has yet to be taken.
It is, therefore, not intended to transfer control to the the
French at present.(3) The situation will be reviewed in May.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 111033B to C. in C. E.F.)Reports of
S/M's by
coast
watching
organisation.From review of information from other most reliable
sources at disposal Navy and R.A.F. it seems
clear that recent army coast watchers reports
of S/M sightings round Somaliland coast can be
almost completely discounted. It also seems
evident that even if the necessary personnel and
W/T comms could be found to build up comprehen-
sive and efficient coast watching organizationthere anticipated results would be unlikely to justify cost
and difficulties of maintenance. This now appears to apply al-
so in principle to coast watching stations throughout this
Command. Subject your agreement intend therefore abolish
complete coast watching organization as such retaining reduced
establishment sufficient only to provide for purely security
control duties along coast lines as for example dhow control.
(G.O.C. in C. E.Af. 111630C to F.O.E.A., A.H.Q.Aden.)

174

11.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- U/B report. Inconclusive D/F of W.W. message at 0008 on 4190 k /cs indicates U-Boat within (?120) miles of 049° 00' N. 036° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q. 110134Z.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M attack & sighting summary. No report since my 080808Z. Para. D. H.M.C.S. TIMMINS? reports three depth charge attacks on doubtful contact 43.13 N. 60.38 W. 1640Z/10th. (N.S.H.Q. 110658Z.)
- M.V.OLDHAM (abandoned 3 April.) OLDHAM (U.S.) Ex S.C.156 manned by Naval Boarding Party arrived St. Johns N.F. 1500Z/10 in tow of TENACITY. All officers and crew presumably taken off by Escort Vessel PORCHESTER CASTLE on April 3rd Convoy Papers C.Bs. and S.Ps. removed from vessel at time of abandoning.. Vessel searched on arrival.
- U.S.PUBLICATION, C.S.P.1189 registered number 4702 only. Confidential document found on board. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 111402Z.)
W.D.Note. See B.7. 121125B.
- T.G.27.8 Modify my 101519. Add ARKANSAS to T.G.27.8. (Cinclant 111404.)
- QUEEN. Your 102157 this frontier affirmative. (Comgulfseafon 111434 to Compacseafon.) This is Cominch 102157 satisfactory this command. (Comeastseafon 111547.) Sail QUEEN onward to Norfolk independently if satisfactory to sea Frontier Command concerned.
- U/B dis- positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 111439Z, Cominch 111607Z.)
- QUEEN MARY. (A.T.107). Diversion order. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 111508Z.)
- Two MONTCALM class cruisers. As Executive agent of C.C.S. upon request from B.A.D. and with concurrence of French Naval H.Qs. change in employment two French cruisers of MONTCALM class from Med. to U.K. waters under direction of Admty. is authorized. (Cominch 111641Z.)
- Tanker SS. SKULL BAR. Intercept DE WWUO KVLA (SKULL BAR) addressed Cape Race Radio begins: We are derelict unread we are drifting OXXX northward about three knots per hour ends. (Valentia Radio 111726Z.)

/Sailed...

175

11.4.1944.

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

Tanker SS. Sailed at 2225Z/11 CAILIFF escorting TENACITY to
SKULL BAR. assistance of U.S.SKULL BAR.
(Contd.) (F.O.N.F. 112319Z.)

H.X.284. Average speed 8.1 knots. Off Oversay at 1200Z/5.
All arrived.
(D.T.D. 111911B.)

U/B incidents. My 102118 U-Boat attacked 15.37 S. 17.00 W. 101042
now reported sunk.
U. 68
sunk
Para. A. GUADALCANAL reports series of attacks
commenced at 2090750 which resulted in U-Boat kill
33.31 N. 18.43 W. 100625. Mass of wreckage, oil, one P.W. Heavy
U-Boat A/A fire encountered during A/C attacks. All times Z.
(Cominch 112100Z.)

Direct troop Need exists for a direct troop convoy from U.S. to
convoy from Naples. Request early comment as applicable from
U.S.to Naples. action addressees on the following proposal desig-
ned to fill this need with existing escorts:
A. discontinuing U.T.-T.U. troop convoys to U.K.
B. Inclusion of troop ships for U.K. in two C.U.
convoys of approx. 45 ships each to be designated as T.C.U.-U.C.T.
convoys reinforced by a portion of the escorts released by A above.
Under this plan, C.U.23 sailing 3rd May would become T.C.U.23 and
include troopers Nov. scheduled to sail in U.T.12, C.U.24 sailing
12th May becomes T.C.U. 24 and includes troopers scheduled for
U.T.13. Troopers and reinforced escort of T.C.U.23 will sail
again in T.C.U.28, T.C.U.33 etc. Troopers and escort reinforce-
ments of T.C.U.24 will lay over in U.K. and return with U.C.25,
as U.C.T.25, and will leave U.S. again as T.C.U.30, T.C.U.35, etc.
2. Sail U.G.F.convoys of about 10, 15 knot ships from Hampton
Roads to Naples at 45 day intervals, beginning with U.G.F.11
sailing 15th May with the understanding that a turn-around time of
more than six days in Naples will result in a corresponding delay
in next sailing from U.S. Escorts for this convoy to come in whole
or in part from remainder released by A.
(Cominch & C.N.O. 112125Z to Admty. C. in C.Lant, Comnavnaw.)

TEXAS. Cr. No. 1303. On arrival U.K. Combatdiv. 5 in
TEXAS detached from T.F.69. Comdesdiv. 30 in
COWIE assume command T.F. My 291649 modified
accordingly.
(C. in C.Lant 112134.)

Algerines. Your 031803* SKNUJACK 1st June. MARY ROSE 20th
May. Anticipated dates of sailing. A. TRUTPOVE
and WELFARE 6th May. B. THISBE 3rd July. MOON
30th June. PROVIDENCE 15th June. REGULUS 23rd
June.
(B.A.T.M.Ottawa 112143 to Admty.)
*Requesting probable sailing dates of Algerines.

/T.F.69...

11.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

T.F.69.

When relieved as C.T.F.69 accordance my 112134* report in TEXAS to Com. 12th Fleet for temporary duty.
(Cinclant 112258 to Combatdiv. 5.)
* Not identified in W.R.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No.
812.

4. Three U.S. destroyers with fighter cover bombed Hansa Bay mid morning co-ordinated with 61 Liberators dropping 227 tons bombs. One Liberator lost to A.A. Awar and Nubia plantations raked by shells and bombs Commu Laing Island in centre of bay devastated. Uligan Harbour and Madang also shelled by retiring destroyers. Nil Jap. ships nor aircraft seen.
9. Allied patrol landed Nuguria Island (60 miles N.E. St. Nissan Island) 8th April. Friendly natives reported nil Japs. there for several months.
10. R/C party Mussautanland night 8/9th found nil signs Japanese activity.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 110620.)

S.W.Pacific
situation
report.

Admiralty Islands. Enemy organised resistance ceased. Only 200 effectives remain located area Metawawri. Pityilu Island occupied 30th March 58 Japanese killed. Subsequently Ndrilo Koruniat Rambutyo Islands occupied without opposition.
Solomons. Following complete failure enemy's counter attacks against allied perimeter Torokina our troops pursuing remnants of enemy force eastwards. Japanese fighting rearguard actions covering withdrawal main forces.
General. Most important development during week is rapid building enemy resources Hollandia area. Aerial R/C shows 73 A/A positions of which 57 occupied. Increased shipping barge traffic along coast Vanimo to Tanahmerah Bay. Large quantities bulk supplies on shores Humboldt Bay. Large numbers trucks working between coast and airfields. This activity seriously interrupted by Allied air attacks comprising over 860 aircraft. Shipping barges destroyed A/A positions silenced stores demolished practically all 288 aircraft present on ground 30th March destroyed or permanently damaged.
(L.H.Q.Melbourne 111910K.)

11.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B inci-
dents.

S/M attack and sighting summary.

Para. A. 1. SS. YAMHILL reported missed by torpedo being pursued at 0101Z/11 in 03° 22' N. 67° 07' E.

2. Aircraft over U-Boat at 0802Z/10 33° 12' N. 34° 42' E.

Para. B. 1. H.M.C.S. TIMMINS made 3 depth charge attacks on doubtful echo at 1640Z/10 in 43° 13' N. 60° 38' W. (D.D.I.C. 111040B.)

U.288 1. Aircraft from ACTIVITY and TRACKER attacked U-Boat with Rocket Projectiles and depth charges at 0543A/3. in 73° 44' N. 27° 12' E. U-Boat blew up and disappeared leaving large oil patch and wreckage.

U.302 2. SWALE attacked U-Boat which had torpedoed two ships in S.C. 156 at 0630B/6 in 45° 05' N. 35° 11' W. Three explosions heard after second Hedgehog attack and U-Boat considered probably destroyed.

(D.A.U.D. 111917B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 111427B, 111431B.)

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Y.

1.(a). At 0800 today convoy R.A.58 was about 330 miles S.E. of Jan Mayen.
(b). VENUS of the Fleet Destroyer Escort returned to Scapa at 1945; and KEPPEL with the three other destroyers of the convoy support group expect to arrive there at 1100B tomorrow.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

2. A southbound U-Boat was sighted by A/C at 1223B today about 520 miles W.S.W. of Cape Clear.

M.T.Bs. 699
and 705
damaged.

3. While investigating an unidentified vessel off Dungeness at 2246 tonight M.T.Bs. 699 and 705 lost contact with one another, mistook one another for E-Boats, and engaged in a 20 minute action in which both were damaged. There were three slight casualties in M.T.B. 705.

Mediterranean.

Greek Navy.

4. There is no change in the general situation in the Greek Fleet.

UNTIRING

5. UNTIRING reports that whilst on patrol off the south coast of France yesterday she made two hits on a 5000 ton merchant ship in 43.22 N. 07.00 E. and two on a 1500 ton merchantman today 5 miles S. of Cap Dramont: the latter vessel was last seen with decks awash.

U.G.S.37
attacked:
U.S.Dr.
HOLDER
torpedoed.

6. About 10 to 15 enemy bomb and torpedo carrying aircraft using flares attacked convoy U.G.S.37 last night in 37.01 N. 03.50 E. (about 40 miles E. N.E. of Algiers). No merchant ships were damaged, but U.S. destroyer HOLDER was torpedoed and was towed to Algiers by MINDFUL. Fighters destroyed 4 of the enemy aircraft.

Operation
"Shingle".

7.(a). 4842 tons were discharged at Anzio today. There was little shelling. An attack by 30 to 50 enemy aircraft at 1830 was turned away by heavy A.A. fire without damage to the port area. At least 2 enemy aircraft were destroyed.
(b). UNDINE carried out successful bombardment with air observation.

/Adriatic...

12.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Adriatic.

8. (a). M.G.Bs. sank ^{3 units of} a convoy of 6 small craft (3~~2~~ small schooners, one I-Boat, and 2 small M/B) off Murter Island last night, towing back to Vis one M/B and 2 schooners. The destroyers LAUDERDALE and ZETLAND shelled Port Gruz (N.W. of Dubrovnik) and searchlight positions on Lokrum Island (in the approaches to Dubrovnik) on the same night.
- (b). 10 Wellingtons dropped 10 x 4000 H.C.N.I. on Monfalcone shipyards (Golfo di Trieste) last night; 9 hits were made in the target area.
- (c). Ancona was bombed last night and shipping at Ancona was attacked today.
- (d). Four Spitfires attacked Tivat harbour (Gulf of Kotor) today and started an oil fire.

East Indies.

Air protection of shipping in Indian Ocean.

9. (a). C. in C. Eastern Fleet sends today a message dealing with the air protection of shipping in the Indian Ocean, which necessitates the provision of additional L.R. and V.L.R. squadrons and other amelioration.
- (b). The volume of important shipping requiring air escort is now such that not only is it impossible to make detachments of aircraft to outlying stations when a threat develops in a particular area, but what is even more important it is normally impossible to provide long range striking forces with which to attack the U-Boat when it is contacted.
- (c). Until such time as we can provide aircraft to attack and hunt to exhaustion U-Boats whenever they are detected within our air range no decisive results can be expected and the air effort can only continue to be a deterrent.

EMERALD.

10. EMERALD sailed from Kilindini today for the U.K.

12.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Air attack
on Hollandia.

11. A heavy air attack by 51 Liberators and 49 Mitchells covered by Lightnings was made at mid-day today on the Hollandia area. Shortly afterwards 40 Bostons attacked shipping in Humboldt Bay, sinking one small cargo vessel and damaging two others and several luggers and barges and setting stores on fire.

12. M.T.Bs. last night destroyed 4 beached enemy barges at Ulamona (near Ubili.)

War Diary.

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Oil fuel
supplied
to Russia.

Request figure for total oil fuel supplied to Russian ships and storage on Admiralty account by tankers with convoys J.W.54A to J.W.56B inclusive. (S.B.N.O.N.Russia 120919B to Admty.)

Flag of
F.O.C.O.S.

The Flag of Vice Admiral Sir Henry H. Harwood K.C.B., O.B.E., will be hoisted in PROSERPINE as Flag Officer Commanding Orkney and Shetland at 0800 on 15th April.

D.S.O. in
(A.C.O.S. 121431B to Orkney Command.)

The Flag of Admiral Sir Lionel V. Wells K.C.B., D.S.O. in IRON DUKE will be struck at sunset on that day.

Russian
Personnel
for U.K.

A.M. 120151 and my 111132 not to Archangel and Murmansk.

At meeting this afternoon with Vice Admiral (?Levchenko), who is proceeding to U.K. in charge of the whole party, he asked for passage to U.K. in R.A.59 for 1396 officers and men from Archangel and 1194 from Kola Inlet. Total 2590.

2. He stated that no Russian transports would be available and proposed that whole party should be divided between British and American merchant ships of R.A.59 and that Soviet workmen should proceed with work of fitting up temporary accommodation directly each (2 groups missing) discharging. He emphasised that the roughest conditions would be acceptable.

3. I replied that in addition to the short time available, other factors such as lack of life-saving appliances, sanitation, fresh water and cooking facilities etc. might make this proposal unacceptable and that approval would be required from London after consultation with U.S. authorities, as most of the ships concerned are American. I stated that British ships could be inspected now but that work could not be begun until London approval had been received.

4. Number of ships from White Sea and Kola Inlet likely to be available is given in S.B.N.O. North Russia's 112212.

5. Since sending my 111132 I have heard from S.B.N.O. North Russia who has received information from the M.W.T. representative at Murmansk that there is the possibility of a further homeward convoy after R.A.59. If this is so paras. 5 and 6 of my 111132 do not apply with such force. Levchenko is of course most anxious not to have to wait another month or more.

6. Russians request decision as soon as possible and not later than 15th.

7. I did not mention any possibility of any British transports being sent.
(Ad. Fisher 121843 to Admty.)

THRASHER
& TRIDENT
for Eastern
Fleet.

Your 011647 April. Proposals in paras. 2 and 3 are approved.

(V.C.N.S. 121906B to F.O.S.)

On completion of refits THRASHER and TRIDENT are to carry out full operational work up and will then proceed to Eastern Fleet.

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

THRASHER
& TRIDENT
for Eastern
Fleet.
(Contd.)

2. TAKU is to be transferred to 6th S/M Flotilla for submarine training in place of TRIDENT either after present or next patrol.
(F.O.S. 122309B to Capt. S.3.)

SPEAKER.

Your 111314. Concur. SPEAKER is to be sailed without boiler cleaning.
(A.C.N.S.H. 122123B to F.O.C.T.)

Operations.

Convoy
R.A.59.

Your 062204. Concur in para. 1 and in the arrangements made with W.A. for escort carriers. Your 091908 and C. in C.W.A. 101308 refer.
2. ACTIVITY must disembark 819 Squadron in accordance with A.M. 021647.
3. 6th and 8th E.G. are available.
(A.C.N.S.H. 120332B to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 091237. ?Complement of A/C and air crews on arrival at Scapa as follows. Details. Unless orders are received to contrary intend to disembark 819 Squadron Swordfish flight and maintenance personnel to R.N.A.S. Hatston for onward routing, and to embark 836 Squadron F flight as soon as A/C compasses have been swung. It is assumed that 836 F Flight will have 4 crews. No reduction in present number of maintenance ratings carried can be accepted. If any rubber cold-resisting suits for air crew exist in country urgently request they may be supplied to ACTIVITY.
(ACTIVITY 121004B to F.O.C.T.)

Operation
C.W.

Have obtained H/F D/F bearing at 0650B/12th 249° or 067° distance 11 miles, naval Enigma. My position 053° 46' N. 005° (709') W.
(DUNVER 120703B to Admty.)

Your 120703B. D/F bearings fix this transmission in Kiel Bay.

(D.D.I.C. 120843B to DUNVER.)

At 2250B position 051° 54' N. 015° 30' W. 142, 2, flashing light on sea. May be A/C crew in distress.
(MAURETANIA 122304B to Admty.)

Biscay A/S
Operations.

My P.C. and S. at 0930B 046° 05' N. 020° 28' W. 030 degs. 9 knots. Report E.T.A.
(BITER 120751B to E.G.9.)

Every endeavour should be made for max. effort in the Eastern half of your area during the next 24 hours.

2. Unless you are able to fuel the 7th E.G. they are to be detached for Greenock at P.L.E. You are then to continue search in area with 9th E.G.

3. Amend my 111144B. HOSTE and GRINDALL are to be detached at 0800B tomorrow if not in contact with the enemy.

4. Signal full weather report forthwith.
(C. in C.W.A. 12124B to BITER.)

/Am...

War Diary.12.4.1944.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. (Contd.) Am over enemy submarine in 49° 28' N. 18° 44' W. (A/C WFQ 33 121223B to 19 Group.) Enemy previously reported was on surface on course 180° estimated speed 5 knots. (A/C WFQ 33 121225B to 19 Group.) BITER, E.G.7th CYGNET, CRANE, PELICAN, WOODCOCK, HOSTE, GRINDALL with E.G.9th MATANE, SWANSEA, OWEN SOUND, STORMONT operating vicinity 046° 35' N. 020° 19' W. U.S.T.G.21.16 U.S.S. CORE operating with 5 destroyers within 100 miles of 046° N. 026° W. (C. in C.W.A. 121318B to Ships.) Your 121214B. Weather as follows. Course and speed 030° 11'. (BITER 121330B to C. in C.W.A.) Your 121214. My P.C. and S. 047° 07' N. 019° 27' W. 180° 9 knots. 9th E.G. on extended screen to give H/F D/F fixes. Intend to return through eastern end of area daylight tomorrow. Weather. (BITER 122121B to C. in C.W.A.) Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 46° 53' N. 08° 42' W. (A/C USM 73 to 19 Group. No T.O.O. Recd. 122231.) No enemy sighted in area. (A/C USM 73 122220B to 19 Group.)

S.C. Operations My 081902B. S.C. HITRA sailed at 0800B today. 2. No. (A.C.O.S. 120815B to Admty.) My 110212B. Returned at 2030B today (HESSA) 2. Operation successful. (A.C.O.S. 122045 to Admty.)

Operation F.Y. R.A.58, P.C. and S. at 1100B/11th, 070° 01' N. 003° 45' E. 206° 10½ knots. (VENUS 120830B to H.F.) U/Bs on passage to and from Atlantic and Norwegian ports probably keep near or to north of lat. 65° 00' N. between meridian of Greenwich and long. 06° 30' W. At 1200Z/12th one estimated eastbound within 100 miles of 65° 00' N. 03° 00' W. and one westbound within 90 miles of 65° 15' N. 05° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 121414B to A.I.G.47.) E.T.A. 1100B tomorrow BEAGLE, BOADICEA, WALKER in company. (KEPPEL 121830B to R.A.D.H.F. A.C.O.S.) Scapa arrival VENUS. (A.C.O.S. 121945 to C.S.10 in DIADEM.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 121246B, 121259B, 121359B.) (C. in C.Portsmouth 121338B, 121444B.) (V.A.Dover 121713B.)

S/M Patrols. Zone B. times submarines at 0759/13th and movements for following 24 hours. A. VENTURER, TAKU on patrol between 57° and 59° N. and east of 5° E. B. SCEPTRE and X.24 in general vicinity of Utvaer diving by day. (F.O.S. 121727B to Admty.)

War Diary.

12.4.1944.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Operation
"Hostile 23".

A. XXIII. B. Convoy route N. of Les Heaux dark period commencing 15th/16th April. C. 8 M.Ls. covered by two or more M.T.Bs. M.Ls. 181 (S.O.) Cancel my 242328 March. Particulars and orders. (C, in C.Plymouth 121808B to DEFIANCE.)

Search by
M/S 15.

My 101121B. Area B searched 60% and eastern half of area C 48%, both to depth of 7 fathoms with negative result.
2. Intend to sail at 0630B tomorrow Thursday completing search of area C and returning to Humber if result negative arriving before dark.
(M/S 15 121830 to N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Destroyer reported sunk on 5th March. OLIVA, ROTENFELS, HUFÉ, BONN.

Following casualties are reported.

1. Norway. A. German destroyer reported sunk off Lista by aerial torpedo on March 5th.
- B. 10,000 and 11,000 ton German vessels carrying ore collided in fog in Sogne Fjord on March 1st or March 2nd. Both vessels sank.
2. Denmark. Late March. A. 10,000 ton dead weight German steamship mined south of Assens Little Belt.
- B. German steamer about 9,000 tons dead weight mined and sunk in Fehmern Belt.
- C. German OLIVA 1038 ton gross mined but brought in Kiel.
- D. ROTENFELS 7854 ton gross beached and slightly damaged near Agerso.
- E. HUFÉ reported Norwegian but may be German (corrupt group) of 2867 tons gross beached and slightly damaged near Gulstav.
- F. Norwegian BONN of 1365 tons gross previously beached near Gulstav has now been salvaged and brought into Nakskov.
3. Gdynia. It is rumoured in Gdynia that 4 German transports were mined in area N.W. of Gdynia in early April. Average grading C.2.
(N.A. Stockholm 121952 to Adnty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported off Mevagissey.

Report from Mevagissey states that at 0215B/12 a fishing craft sighted a submarine in approx. 150° Mevagissey 2 miles. About half the conning-tower and periscope were seen about 200 yards away down moon, shortly afterwards disappearing. Fishermen state a wake was seen. Consider report doubtful.
(C. in C.Plymouth 121301B to Adnty.)

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

SCYLLA. Your 061722 and 211128, N.C.E.T.F. 161144, and A.N.C.X.F. 181145 all of March. SCYLLA has damaged one blade of port outer propeller and requires docking to change propeller. Understand this can be done at Portsmouth 28th April. Request approval. (C. in C.H.F. 121102B to Admty.)

PETER NELL. Your 112141B. PETER NELL cannot proceed to Portsmouth owing to defective gear box and low mechanical efficiency. She is proceeding Wick for refit now. Estimated completion date 15th May. Request reconsideration of ultimate disposal. My 281616A March and Admiralty's 090648, refer. (A.C.O.S. 121734B to Admty.)

SHEFFIELD. Request I may be informed as to how long SHEFFIELD can be retained to carry out work referred to in C. in C.H.F. 091056 and 091718. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 121801B to C. in C.H.F.)

HYDRA. HYDRA undocked p.m. today. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 122305B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Friendly A/C fired on. Aircraft exercising in Cardigan Bay and Bristol Channel area have twice been fired on by merchant ships in the past two days. 2. Request you will warn shipping routed through these areas that they may encounter friendly aircraft by day or by night. (C. in C.Plymouth 121615B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

186

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MONTCALM,
GEORGES
LEYGUES.

Route to U.K.
(F.O.G.M.A. 121501A.)

ARICOLE &
VIERRA
MANZANARES.

Your 101802 and your 291806. No information in Admty. Enquiries are being made through Air Min. and any information available will be passed to you. (Admty. 121636B to A.B.N.A.Madrid.)

H.M.C.S.
EDMUNDSTON.

Left Horta 1059Z/12 for St. Johns N.F. (route)
(S.B.N.O.Azores 121710Z.)

Straits
Blimp Fence.

Cominch 111642. An informal board is designated to investigate practicability. British representation is welcomed.
(Comnavnav 121746B.)

Mines off
Casablanca.

Following is repetition of C.M.S.F's 111432A begins: Mine exploded 2146A/10 in 33.53.12 N. 07.55.00 W. Second mine exploded 2003A/10 in 33.54.45 N. 07.54.00 W. Patrol vessel 4000 yards from first explosion 600 yards from second explosion. Each flash persisted for ten seconds. First mine approx. one mile from Casa Swept Channel second 1000 yards from Channel. Both mines believed to be prematures. T.O.O. 111432.
(F.O.G.M.A. 121919A.)

T.G.66.9,
120.5

T.G.66.9 dissolved upon arrival Horta and redesignated T.G.120.5. L.C.I.420 T.G. Comdr. S.B.N.O. Azores is requested to pass this to C.T.G.66.9 and to sail group to Falmouth when ready escorted by U.S.S. RAVEN and OSPREY. Upon arrival Falmouth

T.G.dissolved.
(Com. 12th Fleet 122116.)

South Atlantic.

Lifeboat
sighted 10th
April.

Your 111139. B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 111404 refers.
(D.O.D.F. 121231B to C. in C.S.A.)

ARCOLA.

Your 111407 and your 091322. Foreign Office are sending instructions to Lisbon to take all possible action to ensure that ARCOLA will be free to sail on 14th.
(Admty. 121501B to F.O.I.C. W.Af.)

/"Diminish...

War Diary.

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

"Diminish
to one".

On occasions when it is known that only one enemy S/M is operating along the route of a convoy the following policy will come into force.

2. When it is known for certain the U-Boat is in the vicinity of the convoy either by attack or sighting the S.O. may leave a single escort to continue with the convoy and organize the remaining escorts to hunt the enemy to exhaustion.

3. Normally the S.O. escort will be given this instruction before sailing. On other occasions a signal will be made in the following form. Diminish to one. On receipt of this signal the S.O. may exercise his discretion as in para. 2.

(C. in C.S.A. 121657B.)

War Diary12.4.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- U.G.F. convoys. A.M. 101551 (N.T. in W.D.) and War Office 85544 Q (M) 2 of 9th April (091630B). It is agreed that the reinstatement of U.G.F. convoys would be advantageous but it is essential that
- (A) U.S. Escorts proceed through to Naples and back (B) the period spent at Naples does not clash with the K.M.F./M.K.F. or N.S.F./S.N.F. convoys.
- (2) With reference to para.1B above it is not known how many ships there would be in each U.G.F. convoy but it is undesirable that these ships should spend five days at Naples as indicated in second para. of War Office telegram.
- (3) Under present schedule N.S.F./S.N.F. convoys will be at Naples between following dates 27th to 29th May and 10th to 12th June. Then every 37 days after those dates.
- (4) It is confirmed that ships of over 700 feet cannot be accepted at Naples.
- (5) With reference to para.6 no further increase in numbers for the K.M.F. convoys can be accepted until the move of the 82 West Africa Division is completed. My 071547 refers.
- (7) A.F.H. agree.
- (C. in C. Med. 120012B).

U.G.F.11 should arrive Naples 30th May. This will permit a maximum of 10 suitable berths of period of 6 days. U.G.F. convoy of 10 ships will preclude presence of other troop convoys in Naples. Assuming requirements for N.S.F./S.N.F.+ convoys will diminish after inauguration of U.G.F. convoys period in Naples will clash only with K.M.F. convoys which operate on 37 days cycle. N.S.F.23 now scheduled in Naples 27/29 May. K.M.F.32 scheduled in Naples 22/24 June. Can augment escorts with 2 Jammers but prefer that Jammers be included in your escort assignment. 1 British A/A Cruiser will be assigned if available. Cominch 112157Z communication requirements for escort same as for U.G.S. escorts accordance my 131528 March and 111601 April not to C.N.O. Advise if any additional copies publications are required. Assuming (1) transports will require neither fuel nor provisions and (2) escorts will require only fuel and moderate provisions see no serious logistic problem for C. in C. Med. at Naples, Cominch C.N.O.112121 refers. (Comnavu, 121517 to Cominch, C.N.O., Cinclant, Info. C. in C. Med.).

Mutiny in Greek Navy. Ref. your 081846. No trouble. (S.N.S.O.L.A.(Haifa) 120953C to F.O.L.E.M.). Situation report 1100/12 April. General situation unchanged Port Said Officer and Petty Officers are leaving AVEROFF in large numbers and accommodation is being provided for them ashore the programme is continuing and all is quiet at Suez all quiet Massawa no reactions in ANARIS (KANARIS intended). (S.B.O.R.S.C.A. 121131). Situation unchanged. (S.N.O.L.A. 121810C). Situation report 1800/12th April. No change in general situation Port Said. In a signal to N.O.I.C. Port Said the S.B.N.O. who is presumably the Senior

/Member...

189

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMutiny in
Greek Navy
(Contd.).

Member of the Committee in AVEROFF guarantees that trouble and use of firearms will be avoided and states that ships are refusing to sail in protest to the delay in forming a government which must include members of the government actually estab-

lished in Greece.

Suez. A/S GEORGIS has no officers or crew and is only ship now in port. All quiet.

Kabret. All quiet. G.O.C. 18 area has applied to G.H.Q.M.E.F. for permission to execute joint naval and military plan for the restoration of control in the adjoining Greek Army and Navy camps. (SN.O.R.S.C.A. 121829C).

R.H.S. CORINTHIA and SPETSAI. Your 111815. Greek Captain (S) Tsirimokus left for Alexandria on 8th April to deal with disaffection in submarine PAPANICOLIS at Port Said leaving Commander Iatrides R.H.N. in Command.

(2) On 12th April destroyer PINDOS arrived Malta from Alexandria ostensibly to land a case of appendicitis and one Greek Officer and several ratings comprising the Pan Hellenic Committee boarded CORINTHIA and incited the crew to form similar committee in that ship. A demonstration followed and demand was made to all officers including Deputy Commanding Officer to sign a resolution supporting Pan Hellenic movement and disagreeing with Souderos Government. Iatrides agreed in order to preserve order. Substance of resolution was sent to Tsirimokus by Capt.(S) CORINTHIA's 112030.

(3) New formed committee demanded partial control of ship but Iatrides rejected demand and upheld his own absolute authority which is not now questioned although committee remains in being. Situation therefore unstable.

(4) All concerned ready to fight with Allies. Submarines NEREUS and MATROZOS will shortly be ready for patrol. PIPINOS on patrol returns 24th April.

(5) No developments in NAVARINO who is working up or F.T.11. These ships are not berthed near CORINTHIA and SPETSAI.

(V.A. Malta, 121914).

My 112025. Officer sent last night to read my memorandum to dissidents in P.K.P. was admitted and taken to small room of Ministry; only the committee were present for the reading. In consequence no results have been obtained. Everything quiet both here and in outports. Case of Chickenpox reported is possibly Smallpox. This awaits confirmation. Propaganda by committees appears in some cases to have taken anti-British tone.

(F.O.L.E.M. 122114C).

UNIVERSAL

Intend P.57 (UNIVERSAL) to sail at 1430/14th (route) to patrol in zone SU and SW. (Capt.(S) 10, 120957).

CALEDON,
COLOMBO,
DELHI,
HEEMSKERCK

Subject to your concurrence intend to transfer administration of CALEDON, COLOMBO, DELHI, HEEMSKERCK to you. (C. in C. Med., 121022B to F.O.G.M.A.).

GEORGES
LEYGUES,
MONTCALM

Com. N.O.B. Oran is requested to sail GEORGES LEYGUES and MONTCALM a.m./13 to pass through Straits

/of...

War Diary12.4.1944.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanGEORGES
LEYGUES,
MONTCALM
(Contd.).of Gibraltar during dark hours and for onward
routeing to U.K. by F.O.G.M.A.
(C. in C. Med., 121123B).
Postpone sailing ships 1200B/14. My 121123.
(2) S. of A. 22 knots.
(C. in C. Med. 121924B).Operation
"Shingle"Sitrep 82. Total discharged on 11th April was
3306 tons of which L.S.T. L.C.T. L.C.I. from Naples
contributed 325, 365, 42 tons respectively.
(2) 4 M/V present one of whom completed discharge.
(3) 22 aircraft in 3 waves attacked anchorage with torpedoes and
mines and dropped bombs inland between 102130 and 102330. 2
identified as S.M.79 were shot down by U.S.S. DAVIS and
PATROCLUS. This is now confirmed. Further 2 shot down by A/A
gunners.
(F.O.W.It. 121252B).

SS. ANITA

ANITA off Kumburnu, Rhodes, at 1100C course west
3 destroyers escorting. M.T.B.309 patrol
approaching to Portolago from south. Keep north
of latitude 37 north.
(F.O.L.E.M. 121406C to S.O. Force 51, M.T.B.309,
315 (R) Capt.(S) One, UNSPARING).ANITA and 3 destroyers east Piscopi 1430C.
(2) Speed 8 knots. (3) Probably pass west Kos but possibility
eastabout.(F.O.L.E.M. 121658C to UNSPARING, M.T.B.315, 309 (R)
Capt.(S) One).

UNTIRING

One torpedo remaining. E.T.A. Maddalena 1600/
13th. Two hits 5,000 ton merchant ship 11th.
Two hits 1500 ton merchant ship 12th.
(UNTIRING, 121526).P.59 UNTIRING is returning from patrol. E.T.A. Maddalena
1600/13th. S/Ms. are not to be attacked.

(Capt.(S) 10, 122005B to CASABIANCA, (R) UNTIRING).

UPROAR

Intend to sail UPROAR (P.31) to rejoin G.U.S.36
destination Gibraltar for U.K.(2) Authorities concerned are requested to warn
joiners? accordingly.

(3) Pass to Commodore for Merchant Vessels.

(Com. Algeria, 121548B to C.T.F.64).

M.A.A.F.
Opsum 416.11/12 April. Preliminary report. 10-15 E/A
using flares attacked convoy North Algiers.
Beaufighters report 3 Ju.88 1 Do. 217 destroyed
for no loss. 1 M/V in convoy damaged by torpedo.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F., 121903B).

GAZELLE

Naval France has arranged through Comar Dakar for
early refit of F.S. GAZELLE without reference to
F.O.C.W.Af. ship cannot be spared without relief

/ until...

191

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

GAZELLE
(Contd.).

until end July.
(2) Request you will so inform Naval France and request them to consult appropriate operational authority before such decisions are made.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 121951B to C. in C. Med.).

Situation
report
No. 335.

(1) Operation "Shingle" 2797 tons were discharged on 10th and 3306 tons on 11th April. 22 aircraft attacked anchorage night 10th/11th but caused no damage. PROSPEROUS/ and U.S. Destroyer DAVIS each claim one aircraft shot down. Shore A/A claim 2 destroyed.
(2) U.G.S. 37 attacked by bomber and torpedo carrying aircraft night 11th/12th April in 037° 01' N. 003° 50' E. no merchant ships damaged but U.S. Destroyer HOLDER torpedoed and towed into Algiers by MINDFUL. 4 aircraft destroyed by fighters 3 German Airmen picked up.
(3) 69 German mines swept by M/S 13th Flotilla between 4th and 10th April in Straits of Bonifacio.
(4) Italian minelayer SIRIO covered by coastal forces successfully laid mine-field off south west coast of Capraia night 10th/11th April.
(C. in C. Med., 122212).
/ F.O.W.It. 121252B says PATROLLUS.

UPSTART
B.H. trans-
mission.

Your 120928B/ position 038° 12' N. 004° 13' E. on D/F 480 kc/s receiving B.H. transmission of F long-bearing 246° or reciprocal. Am remaining vicinity.
(UPSTART, 122231B to C. in C. Med.).
/ Not received.

War Diary.

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

Japanese U-Boat plotted by D/F from vicinity of YAMHILL's position (my 110332 refers) at 0402Z/11. No change in scale of air escort in any area. (C. in C.E.F. 120339Z.)

Indian Ocean.

No German U/B now thought to be operating in North Indian Ocean. One Japanese U/B which attacked SS. YAMHILL 11th April may either be patrolling a large central area of Indian Ocean or possibly now be proceeding to Gulf of Aden or Oman. Probably no other Japanese U/B now operating. (D.D.I.C. 121838B.)

H.Q. of
S.A.C.S.E.A.

S.A.C. 1589/11 April. H.Qs. of Supreme Commander South East Asia will move from Delhi to Kandy (Ceylon) as from 0001/15 April.
2. A small rear H.Q. will remain in Delhi.
3. Necessary arrangements for routeing of signals have already been made. (S.A.C.S.E.A. 120410.)

Convoy
orders.

Negative release class D ships from A.B/B.A. convoy. 2. Release class A ships from the above convoy. (C. in C.E.F. 120554Z.)

Two escorts
available.

Two escort vessels shortly to refit in Australia will be ready to leave Trincomalee about April 30th.
2. Request information whether any tanker is likely to be ordered to load at Trinco for Australia about this time in order that escorts may be profitably employed.
3. Escorts would require to fuel from tanker whilst on passage. (C. in C.E.F. 120759 to Admty.)

Unaccountable
signals.

Reference my 112100 (N.T. in W.D.) faint indistinguishable signals by flash light were seen from unidentified small craft. At 0547 G.M.T. today morse signals from automatic transmitter were heard in close vicinity position 002° (908') S. 078° 04' E. ((GKWS) QUEDA 120800Z to C. in C.E.F.)

Daily Opsum
No. 759.

WX. 34198. AC. 36 12 April. Strategic. 10/11 April. 4 U.S. Liberators B.24 laid 20 x 1200 Mk. 13 mines mouth ?Catavoy River at 0010 - 0023 hrs. (A.C.S.E.A. 120900Z.)

DANAE.

It is anticipated that DANAE will arrive U.K. about 28th April with two boilers due for cleaning. Owing to large changes in complement it is desirable that ship has at least a weeks general work up before active employment. A.M. 050032 refers. (C. in C.E.F. 120931.)

193

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

- Air protec- A.M. 081827 to C. in C.E.F. only refers.
tion of ship- The most careful consideration has always been
ping in given to the best dispositions for G.R. aircraft
Indian in meeting the ever changing U-Boat threat.
Ocean. 2. The advisability of keeping detachments of G.R.
aircraft at such places at Diego Garcia, Addu Atoll,
Kelai and other outlying stations is fully apprec-
iated but with the present strength of long range G.R. aircraft
this is not possible. When a threat develops in a particular area
detachments have and will be made to these outlying stations to
meet it.
3. The main concentration of G.R. aircraft must remain in the main
shipping areas which are a. the approaches to Ceylon b. the Gulf
of Aden and c. the approaches to Bombay and the Persian Gulf.
Furthermore with continual troop movements the East Coast of
India cannot be denuded of its proportion of aircraft.
4. Detachments for the outlying stations mentioned in para. 2
above must come from Ceylon if they are to be available for opera-
tion from the outlying station within reasonable time. The re-
sult is that a great burden has now fallen on the Ceylon Group
and the following factors are relevant - G.R. aircraft from Cey-
lon have flown the following hours since the beginning of 1944,
Jan. 834, Feb. 1620, March 3220, first five days of April 682.
Even with these high figures it has not been possible to meet the
commitments which should be met if a reasonable percentage of
security is to be provided.
5. There is no likelihood of a reduction in the U-Boat effort and
the volume of shipping is likely to increase yet at the same time
the air effort available must fall unless replacements are made
and arrangements for aircraft overhaul are improved. In this
connection the period of major maintenance appears to be unneces-
sarily long.
6. The volume of important shipping requiring air escort is now
such that not only is it impossible to make the detachments refer-
red to in para. 2 but what is even more important it is normally
impossible to provide long range striking forces with which to
attack the U-Boat when it is contacted.
7. Until such time as we can provide aircraft to attack and hunt
to exhaustion U-Boats whenever they are detected within our air
range no decisive results can be expected and the air effort can
only continue to be a deterrent.
8. Recommendations. It is therefore recommended that the follow-
ing action should be taken as early as possible to strengthen the
G.R. forces in the Indian Ocean.
- A. The provision of additional L.R. and V.L.R. Squadrons.
B. A reduction in the time taken for major maintenance of flying
boats.
C. The proper provision of replacement aircraft.
9. The above signal has been made after consultation with A.O.C.
222 Group who agrees.
(C. in C.E.F. 121205.)

/M/V...

12.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

M/V SUTLEJ
(sunk 26
Feb.)

My 091131B. C. in C.E.F. 090416Z refers, M/V SUTLEJ 008° 00' S. 070° 00' E. 26th February under own steam at 1835 torpedoed by big Japanese U-Boat fired one torpedo ship sank immediately SSSS message commenced but unknown if completed U-Boat approached from north fired on wreckage and survivors with small arms and departed south books went down with ship chance of compromise unlikely.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 121515Z.)

EMERALD
(for U.K.)

Departure, EMERALD, ROEBUCK, RELENTLESS.
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini 121521Z.)

Protection
of U.S. tan-
kers on India/
Persian Gulf
route.

While in many respects present Indian Ocean situation due primarily to the shortage of escorts is far from satisfactory only one U.S. tanker was lost on Indian/Persian Gulf route in twelve months ended 31st March. Average monthly traffic is 40 ships each way. Your 292141 March refers.
2. T.2 tankers normally sail independently on this run. A.M. 011211 December refers. Slower tankers sail in convoy between Persian Gulf, Bombay and other Indian ports whenever U-Boat situation requires this. Local escorts accompany joiners and leavers to and from Karachi. Scale of convoy protection averages two escorts and cannot be substantially increased until after "Overlord".
3. Situation, which is also governed by imperative need to expedite turn-round, is being carefully watched. General improvement is hoped for from re-organisation of escorts and aircraft now being made.
(V.C.N.S. 121816B to B.A.D.) (O.D. 1198/44.)

THRASHER,
TRIDENT.

The following two T Class submarines, previously earmarked for other service have been allocated for service in the Eastern Fleet on completion of their refits:-
A. THRASHER should arrive about 1st November.
B. TRIDENT should arrive about 1st December.
2. Both these boats will have modern Freon air conditioning and will be operational in all respects. They will not be fitted to carry additional fuel in external tanks.
3. TRHASHER had been earmarked to relieve P.552 for A/S training in the Eastern Fleet but rather than relegate such a well armed and comparatively modern submarine purely for A/S training, it would be preferable to detail one of your operational submarines from time to time as required for A/S training.
(V.C.N.S. 121953B to C. in C.E.F.)

/Transport...

195

12.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Transport of
U.S. troops
to India in
GENERAL
ANDERSON
class.

Proposals have been received from U.S.A. that ships of GENERAL ANDERSON class plus possibly MARIPOSA should carry U.S. troops from U.S.A. to India, thus avoiding necessity for oncarriage from Mediterranean. Original proposal was that ships should sail via Cape at about 10 days intervals, the first ship leaving Hampton Roads on 23rd April.

2. Admiralty have pointed out that no fast British escorts are available for these troopships either individually or grouped from Cape onwards.

3. In a later signal, U.S. authorities show a preference for routing from West Coast via Australia as it facilitates loading.

4. Request you will remark:

A. whether you prefer that ships be routed via Cape or Australia.

B. Whether you consider that these ships of 19 to 20 knots with 5300 troops can be accepted on an unescorted basis either via Cape or Australia. Ships concerned have been running unescorted between U.S.A. and Casablanca for last few months.

5. Also request advice on max. size of personnel ship that can be accepted at Bombay during monsoon period.

(D.O.D.F. 121956B to C. in C.E.F.)

196

War Diary12.4.1944
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

CARTHAGE. Arrived mobile April 11th for conversion.
(N.S.H.Q. 120353Z)

SS. SKULL
BAR
(Tanker) This is Navy St. John's 112124Z B.A.M.A.S.
Broadcast area 2A action SKULL BAR "If repairs
successful amend first position route instructions
from Admiral Halifax to read 355 degs. position
(E) 298 miles thence as previously ordered.
Report development. Tug and trawler sailed to
your assistance 2130 G.M.T. to-day S. of A. 10
knots". N.O.B. Argentinia pass to C.T.F.24.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 120750Z)

Survivors of S.C.156. 36 survivors in RUTH, 42 survivors
M.V. AMERICA, ex AMERICA and crew of 51 ex OLDHAM now all in
OLDHAM. GOODWIN. My 030555B and 061255B not to all
addressees refers.
(B.7, 121125B)

Oiling at SAMINVER transferred 950 tons fuel in varying
sea from weather conditions. Equipment was satisfactory
Liberty and worked well. General results compare
Ships. favourably with a normal efficient escort oiler.
(2) Experiment is considered successful. A
further trial is being arranged to clear up
outstanding points. It should then be possible
to lay down a satisfactory design for equipment of any Liberty
ship at need.
(D.T.D.121230B)

S.C.157. Your 120810 not to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa or F.O.N.F.
S.C.157 is being delayed report as soon as pos-
sible minimum time required in St. Johns N.F.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 1214101Z to RATTLESNAKE, S.O.
E.G.15.)
Note: Originally circulated as 121410.
Your 121410Z/ (=121401Z). Group can be worked 48 hours after
arrival. Am ordered to proceed to Argentinia. Commodore (D)
W.A.'s 051746B refers.
(S.O. E.G. 17, 121810 to Cdre. Halifax N.S.)
/ S.C.157 being delayed, report minimum time required in
St. Johns N.F.

U-Boat (?12)00Z/12th April. Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 121507Z Cominch, 121644Z)

QUEEN MARY Diversion order.
(A.T.107) (Connav, 121616Z)

Direct /...

197

12.4.1944 *
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd

Direct Troop convoy, U.S. to Naples. Can provide escorts your 112121/. In order provide manoeuverability T.C.U. convoys with troop ships consider desirable reduce number of cargo ships and oilers as practicable provided by so doing number of ships in C.U. convoys will not exceed 30.
(C. in C. Lant, 121953 to C.N.O. Cominch)
/ Ref. 112121 (1st part of 112125) Need exists for direct troop convoy for U.S. to Naples. Request early comment as applicable from action addressees on the following proposal designed to fill this need with existing escorts:
(A) Discontinuing U.T.-T.U. troop convoys to U.K.
(B) Inclusion of troop ships for U.K. in 2 C.U. convoys of approx. 45 ships etc.

RULER. Sail H.M.S. RULER Norfolk to New York when ready about 19th April for inclusion in C.U.22. Ship is ferrying planes. No operating aircraft on board.
(Cominch, 122022Z)

L.26. Sail L.26 Philadelphia to Halifax when ready about 17 April upon completion of trials. GANANOQUE available for escort. C. in C. C.N.A. 111607Z not to all refers.
(Cominch, 122024Z)

U-Boat sunk 7th April by CROATAN. ^{U.856} My 082132/ para. A. Correct position and time of U-Boat sinking to 40.18 N. 62.06 W. 2055Z/7.
(Cominch, 122153Z).
/ U-Boat sunk by CROATAN.

Australia and New Zealand.

M.V. BEHAR. 2 R.N.Z.N.V.R. officer casualties (names).
((49 N.Z.N.B.120451Z))
BEHAR accepted as overdue missing and presumed sunk.

Digest No.813. April 11th Para.9 to 12 cover South Pacific Forces.
(5) Noon enemy submarine heading Northwest attacked by patrol aircraft 160 miles North of Wake Island.
(7) Night 7th - 8th Motor torpedo boats encountered four barges off Uligan Harbour probably sinking one damaging three.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 121010Z)

12.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C I/248 attacked U-Boat, course
60 degs. at 0742Z/11 in 47 degs. 00' N. 02 degs.
30' W.

(2) U.S. A/C sighted U-Boat on surface, course
210 degs. at 1050Z/11 in 14 degs. 00' N. 18 degs.
00' W.

Para. B. (1) A/C attacked A.S.V. contact at 1304Z/11 in 43 degs.
37' N. 11 degs. 02' W.

Para. C. (1) A/C sighted periscope, course 360 degs. at 1419Z/11
in 38 degs. 43' N. 10 degs. 20' W.

(D.D.I.C. 120850Z as amended 131158B)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Estimates.

(D.D.I.C. 121420B, 121446B)

13.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
F.Y.

1(a) At 0800 to-day Convoy R.A.58 was about 60 miles N.E. of the Faeroes escorted by E.G.2 (S.O in STARLING) and four Fleet Destroyers.
(b) At 1220 ACTIVITY with four Destroyers returned to Scapa, where G.S.10 in DIADEM and 11 other Destroyers from the Escorts also arrived to-day.

Operation
"Pitchbowl".

2. At 0959B to-day F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with the Escort Carriers EMPEROR, PURSUER and FENCER, the Cruisers SHEFFIELD and BERWICK, and seven Destroyers left Scapa for the covering position off Stadlandet which the Force was to have reached at 0745 to-morrow; but at 2310B, in consequence of unsuitable weather at the air-base at Wick, the operation was postponed until 1500B to-morrow.

SOUTHDOWN
and
M.T.B.24
damaged.

3. At 0240 to-day M.T.B.24 S.O. of 3 M.T.B.'s patrolling at No.7 Buoy off the South Foreland, was attacked with 2 pounder shell by the Escorts of Convoy C.E.259 (S.O in SOUTHDOWN) and sustained hull damage from four hits and one serious casualty. SOUTHDOWN also sustained damage from gun-fire and 4 of her ratings were wounded.

TAKU
damaged.

4. The S/M. TAKU on patrol reports that she was damaged by a Mine at 0800B to-day about 35 miles S.E. of Lindesnes (Norway).

Mining.

5. Bomber Command last night laid 98 mines at Heligoland and smaller numbers off Schulpen Gat and in the Frisian-River Elbe area.

South Atlantic

6. The U.S. escort carriers WAKE ISLAND and MISSION BAY arrived at Durban this morning from Karachi.

Convoy
D.R.1.

7. The first convoy from Dakar to Gibraltar sailed to-day, via Port Etienne.

13.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic - Contd.

SS. NEBRASKA. 8. U.S.S. CHRISTOPHER reports that at 1430Z/11 she found an empty whale boat believed to be from SS. NEBRASKA in 11.49 S. 21.10 W. (510 miles S.W. of Ascension) and an empty raft 8 miles further east. NEBRASKA left convoy O.S.71 on 2 April and proceeded independently to Buenos Aires. A Liberator from Ascension had previously sighted a lifeboat with 21 persons aboard in this area at 1400Z/9.

Mediterranean

Mutiny in
Greek
Navy.

9. The situation remains quiet and unchanged.

10. 12 Kittyhawks attacked shipping at Ancona to-day and sank a 250ft. merchant ship.

I.R.C. ship
EMBLA
bombed.

11. H.Q. M.A.A.F. report that 4 R.P. Beaufighters escorted by 4 Beaufighters on 6 April accidentally attacked a 1200 ton ship near Port Vendres and probably hit it with one pair of R.P. It was subsequently reported that the vessel was the I.R.C. ship EMBLA. She was damaged and put into Port Vendres for repairs. No notification of sailing was received by C. in C. Med.

Bridgehead.

12. 3814 tons were discharged in good weather to-day. Air activity over the beach-head last night caused no naval damage. There was increased, but ineffective shelling, and no bombs in the port area to-day.

Mining of
Danube.

13. M.A.S.A.F. aircraft laid 107 mines in the Danube between Budapest and Belgrade last night and gunned river shipping, setting a probable tanker on fire.

13.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

14. Convoy Kilindini-Mauritius¹ arrived at Mauritius to-day.

Australia and New Zealand

15. Coastal craft last night shelled enemy positions on the south-east shores of Bougainville, exploding a possible ammunition dump.

13.4.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

- U.S.S. PROCYON. Sailed U.S.S. A.K.A. PROCYON in convoy K.M.S.48. Cdr. 12th Fleet's O11613 refers. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 130054B to Admty.).
- Tankers for North Russia. Request early information whether it is intended to send any further tankers with oil fuel for Admiralty account to North Russia this season. In the event of running R.A.60 there will be no tanker available in North Russia to return with this convoy. Your 241854 March refers. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 130848B to Admty.).
- SPEAKER Sailed SPEAKER in U.C.19 to comply with A.M. 032124B. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 130944B to Admty.). U.C.19. My 131439B. Destination of SPEAKER is New York. (C. in C.W.A. 131717B to Escorts U.C. 19).
- STURDY, VOX. STURDY and VOX leaving Scilly Isles at 1000B/16th April diving by day (A) STURDY 120 miles daily by route "Green" to 049° 30' N. 013° 00' W. thence by route "Brown" to 043° N. 013° 22' W., E.T.A. 0100/22nd.
(B) VOX 110 miles daily by route "Red" to 049° 10' N. 012° 52' W., thence by route "Green", to 043° N. 012° 52' W. E.T.A. 0448/22nd.
(Capt.(S) 3, 131327B to F.O.G.M.A.).
- Escort Group B.5 EXE (S.O.), MOYOLA, DOVEY, HADLEIGH CASTLE, CARISBROOKE CASTLE, DUNBARTON CASTLE, BERKELEY CASTLE sailed. (Cdre. D.W.A., 131525B to C. in C.W.A.). Sailed ANTIGUA for Troon to exchange electric distilling pump with ASCENSION thence to overtake Escort Group B.5. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 131844B to B.5.).
- A/S Trawlers for Portsmouth. A.M. 250145/Feb. The remaining 12 A/S Trawlers are allocated to the Portsmouth Command. When ready request they be sailed for Portsmouth. (2) Sailing dates are understood to be approximately 19th April QUADRILLE and NORTHERN REWARD. 27th April HUGH WALPOLE, GRENADIER, LANCER and VICTRIX. 6th May NORTHERN SPRAY, NORTHERN FOAM, LORD MIDDLETON, FUSILIER, LORD AUSTIN and VELETA. (D.O.D.(H), 131532B to C. in C.W.A.).
Your 101503. These 12 A/S M/S Trawlers are allocated to the Portsmouth Command. When ready request they be sailed as follows:-
(a) BERN, DAMSAY, FIARAY and GAIRSAY about 17th April for Harwich for temporary duty with C. in C. Nore.
(b) BRESSAY, COLL and SKY about 25th April for Portsmouth.
(c) FLINT, TEXADA and FOULNESS about 1st May for Portsmouth.
(d) SWITHA and ANNET on completion of working up.
(D.O.D.(H), 131539B to A.C.O.S.).

/Russian....

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. - Contd.

Russian Personnel for U.K.

My 121843. (?Soviet) Naval Staff request information A. At what port in U.K. officers and men will be landed, B. whether party will go straight on board ship they are taking over or if they will first be accommodated in barracks. C. Where will ship be when party reaches U.K. (Ad. Fisher 131648C to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation "Tungsten".

Following from V.A.2, H.F. begins:- Request Air Ministry may be asked to convey my appreciation to Squadron Leader Furniss and his P.R.U. for the successful part they played in Operation "Tungsten". All the information I asked

for in the first place was supplied and my subsequent needs were invariably anticipated. Ends.

2. Admiralty wish to confirm the great value of the P.R. and to express satisfaction at the results achieved. (A.C.N.S.H. 130037B to Air Ministry.)

Biscay A/S Operations.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 45° 52' N. 02° 20' W.

(A/C KNW 86 130322 to 19 Group.)

T.G.21.16, U.S.S. CORE, 5 destroyers, operating within 100 miles of 046° 01' N. 025° 59' W. My 131221 refers.

BITER, Escort Group 7 CYGNET, PELICAN, CRANE, WOODCOCK and escort group 9 MATANE, STORMONT, OWEN SOUND, SWANSEA vicinity of 046° 36' N. 021° 05' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 131416B to Ships.)

Cancel my 061001Z and my 091054 to C.T.G. 21.16. Area of operations is now bounded by lines joining 045° N. 019° W. 046° N. 023° W. 049° N. 021° W. 048° N. 017° W.

(C. in C.W.A. 131556Z to BITER.)

CLYDE is on patrol in 0469° 31' N. 012° 25' W.

(C. in C.Plymouth 131850B to VISCOUNT.)

Actions between own forces off Dungeness & South Foreland. SOUTHDOWN, M.T.Bs. 699, 705 & 24 damaged.

Have following casualties and damage. 3 ratings moderate flesh wounds, 1 rating with 20 m.m. shell lodged in hip, No. 5 fuel tank holed below water line and flooded. Several moderate holes in ship's side above the water line. Deck plating above No. 2 boiler room badly holed. 2½ inch auxiliary steam-pipe holed in No. 2 boiler. Type 291 Radar transmitter wrecked. Fresh and feed water urgently required.

(SOUTHDOWN.130742B to C. in C.Nore.)

At 2154/12th, when leading ships of C.E.259 were in 227° Dungeness 14.5 miles, unidentified plot was reported in 217° Dungeness 17.5 miles. M.T.B. 699

(S.O.) and 705, patrolling at West Bullock Buoy, were vectored at 2219 N.W. for 5 miles, thence at 2240 to S.W. to close and at 2245, when plot was in 209° Dungeness 12.7 miles, they were ordered to investigate. The amplification "Probably friendly" to this

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Actions between own Forces off Dungeness and South Foreland. SOUTHDOWN, M.T.Bs. 699, 705 and 24 damaged. (Contd.)

last signal was not received by H.M.T.Bs. who in any case had already intercepted. At 2246 M.T.B. 699 sighted what was thought to be one E/R-Boat on an easterly course range 500 to 700 yards, challenged her twice and received no reply. Starshell fired by M.T.B. 705 failed to illuminate. M.T.B. 699 passed astern of the unidentified vessel, losing contact with M.T.B. 705 and when between the convoy and the target, opened fire. M.T.B. 705 immediately followed suit.

Action continued for 20 minutes and at 2259 SOUTHDOWN reported 3 E-Boats, now thought to be our M.T.Bs. and the unidentified vessel, in 210° Dungeness 10 miles. M.T.B. 705 reports engaging 2 R-Boats at 2300. These were probably M.T.B. 699 and the unidentified vessel.

M.T.B. 699 sustained damage to starboard bow from one shell, fragments of which appear from their markings to be of British 2 pounder. M.T.B. 705 suffered damage to superstructure and 3 slight casualties. There were no casualties in M.T.B. 699.

2. At 0223, SOUTHDOWN reported 3 E-Boats bearing 195° South Foreland 6.5 miles and at 0240 M.T.B. 24, S.O. of 3 M.T.Bs.

patrolling at number 7 buoy reported being attacked by what was possibly the convoy escort. This was corroborated by SOUTHDOWN's 0235 to V.A.Dover only.

M.T.B. 24 sustained one serious casualty and hull damage from four hits with 2 pounders.

(V.A.Dover 131342B to Admty.)

Operation "Pitchbowl". In view of recent early morning conditions it appears likely Beaufighter take-off may be delayed. If any postponement is necessary by R.A.F. amended time of R/V is to be 1500/14th instead of 0830 (see P.B. appendix one para. 2.)

2. For information of A.C.O.S. if postponement is necessary force will retire eastward of Shetlands.

(F.O.E.C. 130907B to 19 Group; R.A.F.Wick.)

Scapa departure F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with EMPEROR, PURSUER, FENCER, SHEFFIELD, BERWICK, SIOUX, PIORUN, ONSLAUGHT, MARNE, MATCHLESS, METEOR and MUSKETEER.

(A.C.O.S. 130959B to C. in C.H.F. C. in C.Rosyth, 18 Group.)

This is repetition of No. 18 Group Coastal Command 121917 addressed R.A.F. Wick (R) H.Q.C.C. C. in C.H.F. F.O.E.C.

My A 76 11th April. At request of F.O.E.C. date of operation "Pitchbowl" now altered to 14th and 15th April.

(C. in C.H.F. 131100B to F.O.E.C.)

Weather unsuitable. Postponed as in your 130907B.

(C. in C.Rosyth 132256B to F.O.E.C.)

Operation "Pitchbowl" postponed till 1500B/14. Weather at base.

(18 Group 132310B to Wick.)

/Operation...

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation F.Z. is to be carried out as follows.

1. Object. Safe passage of convoy R.A.59 from North Russia to U.K.

2. D day is day R.A.59 sails from Kola and will be April 25th unless otherwise ordered.

3. Route as laid down in my immediately following signal.

4. Force taking part - A. DIADEM wearing flag of C.S.1 who will conduct operation.

B. Escort carriers ACTIVITY, FENCER.

C. Fleet destroyers escorts, MILNE (Capt. D.3), MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS, MARNE, METEOR, ULYSSES, VERULAM, VIRAGO.

D. Through escort convoy KEPPEL (S.O.), BEAGLE, WALKER, BOADICEA, WESTCOTT, INCONSTANT, WHITEHALL, WRESTLER.

E. 6th E.G. WASKESIU (S.O.), OUTREMONT, CAPE BRETON, GROU.

F. Transport NEA HELLAS.

G. Local escort from Kola as arranged 18th.

H. Covering force may be provided by H.F. according to circumstances.

5. Preliminary movement. Force in para. 4 A. B. C. D. E. and F. are to sail in company from Scapa a.m. 19th April as ordered by F.O. 1st C.S. and proceed by route "Brown" to arrive Kola by p.m. 23rd April.

6. Convoy and escort are to sail from Kola on D day and proceed by route "Green" to Loch Ewe. Date of sailing may be postponed up to 3 days by S.B.N.O. North Russia and C.S.1 if number of ships in convoy will be thereby increased appreciably.

7. 18 Group is requested to provide A/S air escort for R.A.59 from as far north as possible.

8. If necessary alter route by signal new positions are to be ordered with reference to lettered positions on routes "Green" and "Brown".

9. Movements on completion -

A. All W.A. destroyers and 6th E.G. return to base.

B. DIADEM, escort carriers, and fleet destroyers to Scapa as ordered by F.O. 1st C.S.

(C. in C.H.F. 131004B to H.F.)

The following codewords have been allotted - Operation F.Z. "Tango". R.A.59 "Boxer".

(D.T.D. 132228B to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation F.Y. U/B attacked by BOADICEA on 10th April.

Scapa arrivals at 1054 BEAGLE, BOADICEA, WALKER and KEPPEL.
(A.C.O.S. 131121B to C. in C.W.A.)
Position at 132000. R.A.58 STARLING, 4 fleet destroyers 061° 00' N. 005° 10' W. to southward, 10 SAUMAREZ, SERAPIS, STORD, ORWELL approaching Scapa from N.W., 18.
(A.C.O.S. 131153 to Admt.)
Scapa arrival ACTIVITY, WESTCOTT, WRESTLER, WHITEHALL, INCONSTANT.
(A.C.O.S. 131220 to C. in C.W.A.)

/Reference...

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation F.Y. U/B attacked by BOADICEA on 10th April. (Contd.) Reference A.G.M. 749A para. 2 suspected "Gnat". A. 73° 15' N. 20° 44' E. B. 0026B/10th April. "Green" 35°. C. Radar. 245° 10,400 yards, sighted at 8000 yards. D. Closing convoy. Estimated course 180° at 10 knots. Turned away, diving at 4,400 yards. E. Dived 0037B. F. Altered to 245° at 0026B 242° 24 knots at 0030B 25 knots, opened fire at 0033. 237° dropped single shallow charge at 0037B and 0038B.

G. 252. H. None observed. I. 0039B. Estimated at 1,700 yards ahead. J. Yes. Flicker. K. No. L. No. M. Visibility good: sea smooth: slight swell: light north west wind: snow squalls. N. Escort attacking. O. No. P. Yes, but not within 10 miles.

Q. Explosion estimated 1,000 yards from diving position. (BOADICEA 131225B to C. in C.H.F.)

Air combats by Wildcats of 819B from ACTIVITY.

A. Aircraft P. and Q. B. 1728A/30th March. C. 067° 09' N. 003° 09' W. D. Ju.88. E. Enemy aircraft shot down, both engines on fire.

A. Aircraft R. and Z. B. 0918A/31st March. C. 069° 29' N. 000° 27' W. D. F.W.200. E. Enemy aircraft shot down with 3 engines on fire.

A. Aircraft R. and S. B. 1818A/31st March. C. 070° 20' N. 001° 30' E. D. F.W.200. E. Enemy A/C shot down with 2 engines on fire.

A. Aircraft Q. B. 1932A/1st April. C. 072° 37' N. 009° 50' E. D. B.V. 138. E. Aircraft Q. joined by Wildcat from TRACKER shot down enemy A/C starboard engine on fire.

A. A/C T. and Z. B. 1707A/2nd April. C. 073° 10' N. 021° 15' E. D. Ju.88. E. Enemy A/C last seen diving for clouds with port engine damaged. Signal from C.S.10 confirmed that enemy A/C had forced-landed in sea.

(ACTIVITY 131301B to Admty.)

Scapa arrivals Capt. D.17 in ONSLOW with OPPORTUNE and OFFA.

(A.C.O.S. 131327B to C.S.10 in DIADEM.)

R.A.58. Following destinations have been broadcast to ships.

(C. in C.W.A. 131420B to Escorts R.A.58.)

C.S.10 in DIADEM at 1730 (Scapa arrivals). S.O.D. 23 in

SAUMAREZ with SERAPIS, ORWELL and STORD at 1819.

(A.C.O.S. 131831B to C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Portsmouth 131421B, 131615B.)
(C. in C.Plymouth 131729B.)

S/M Patrols. TAKU & CLYDE damaged. Damaged by mine at 220 feet in position 057° 34' N. 007° 42' E. at 0800Z. Further report will be made. My position 057° 29' N. 007° 15' E.

(TAKU 131430B to F.O.S.)

CLYDE is to proceed via route "Green" as ordered

Capt. S.3rd 101159 para. 1 and carry out wait-patrol in position CA. 049° 30' N. 012° 26' W. E.T.A. in CA. 0200B/14th.

2. SIBYL estimate at 0800B/14th April 048° 16' N. northbound, route "Brown".

War Diary.

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Patrols. 3. Submarines are not to be attacked unless
TAKU & CLYDE definitely identified as hostile.
damaged. (F.O.S. 131439B to S/Ms.)
(Contd.) VENTURER is to remain in zone K.2 east of 006° E.
TAKU 131430 refers.
(F.O.S. 131543B to S/Ms.)
TAKU reported damaged by mine at 0800B/13th in
057° 34' N. 007° 42' E.
2. Position at 1430B/13th 057° 29' N. 007° 15' E. TAKU is making
further reports. Return route given TAKU is 5 miles to N. and E.
line joining positions T. 057° 38' N. 006° 46' E. S. 058° 17'
N. 004° 37' E. R. 060° 50' N. 002° 53' E. Q. 061° 01' N. 000°
22' E. P. 090° Muckle Flugga 20.
(F.O.S. 131619B to C. in C.H.F. F.O.E.C.)
A. TAKU very approx. positions 58° 10' N. 05° E. possibly
damaged, returning to Lerwick through 60° 50' N. 02° 53' E.
Speed unknown.
B. VENTURER patrolling vicinity 57° 50' N. 06° 20' E.
D. CLYDE patrolling in 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W.
(F.O.S. 131754B to Admty.)
Forward hydroplane housing gear fractured. Serious oil-lack
external to hull. P.C. and S. 049° 30' N. 009° 01' W. 11 knots.
Request total bombing restrictions to and escort from position A
000° Round Island 10 miles to Falmouth where spares may be fitted.
E.T.A. position A 1000B/14th.
(CLYDE 132215B to F.O.S.)

Combined My No. 740/X/0886/13 dated 3rd April 1944 should be
operation. amended as follows:-
Western Task Force: Delete RAMILLIES, QUINCY,
DIDO, FAULKNER, FURY, ISIS, GARLAND, JAVELIN. Add
U.S.S. TEXAS, ARKANSAS, nine U.S. destroyers. F.S.
MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES.
Eastern Task Force: Add RAMILLIES, FAULKNER, FURY, ISIS, GARLAND,
JAVELIN.
(A.N.C.X.F. 131715B to Admty.)

S.C. My 120815B returned at 1600B today (HITRA).
Operation. 2. Operation unsuccessful. 3. Operation will be
repeated.
(A.C.O.S. 131747B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 130805. Aircraft
heard 0755 North of Island.
(A.C.I.C. 131454B to Admty.)

Mining.

Harwich. One ground mine detonated by B.Y.M.S. at 0400 today
in approx. 52° 4.5' N. 1° 28.1' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 130527B to Admty.)

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Search
by M.S.15.

My 121830B. Search of area C completed 48% with negative result.
2. E.T.A. Yarmouth Roads 1600B.
(M.S. 15 131401B to C. in C.Nore.)

Casualties & Defects.

KENMAR.
SAN ANTONIO.
(Convoy U.C.
19.)

KENMAR in collision SAN ANTONIO off Mew Island. Damaged bow, making water forepeak, can proceed towards destination. Suggest immediate discharge port where repairs possible.
(KENMAR 130600Z to Ad. Liverpool.)
Following received at 0714Z begins. From Cdre. U.C.19. Flagship in collision with SS. KENMAR. Sustained damage port aft bunker tank. No damage affecting seaworthiness. Degaussing system (corrupt group). Am proceeding. T.O.O. 130705Z.
(Port Patrick Radio 130914B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
U.C.19 SAN ANTONIO reports damage sustained in collision in port aft bunker tank. D.G. defective. No damage affecting seaworthiness. 2. Will require dry dock on arrival.
(C. in C.W.A. 131746B to Connav.)

SHEFFIELD.

Your 121801. Until completion of fitting of A/S type 149 which Admt. state should take about 7 days to instal. A.M. 030015 refers.
(C. in C.H.F. 131122B to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

COURBET.

On completion of dockyard work on COURBET it is requested that she may be towed to Portland and berthed in Weymouth Bay, whence she will be towed to her final destination.
(A.N.C.X.F. 131545B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

WYRE.

Your 081542. Approved for WYRE to be taken in hand for docking and repairs at Port Glasgow at end of April 1944.
(D.B.D. 131816B to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

M.L.442.

M.L.442 undergoing engine trials struck underwater obstruction and seriously damaged both propellers. She cannot be slipped at Inverness until 23rd April and then only if she takes the place of B.P.T. If arrangements are made for her to be slipped elsewhere she will need to be towed.
(R.N.O.Inverness 131840B to C. in C.Rosyth.)

SOUTH AMERICA. Your 131222B. SS. SOUTH AMERICA last sighted by GOODALL who reported only bows remained afloat. She had left same in a sinking condition.
(B.7 131955B to C. in C.W.A.)

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

STRATHELLA. Your 112154. Comgrepat reluctant to lay up STRATHELLA in Greenland for indefinite period because of very crowded berthing space, limited storage facilities, and personnel for maintenance. Comgrepat recommends vessel be removed during coming summer and will furnish escort to towing vessel if requested. If not practicable to remove vessel then Comgrepat recommends all valuable salvageable equipment be removed and shipped elsewhere. In view of foregoing am taking no further action to store equipment ashore until further instructed.
(STRATHELLA 132354 to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary

13.4.1944
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS.
TARRAGONA.

Spanish SS. TARRAGONA now loading fruit at Alicante for Germany.
(S.O.(1) Gibraltar, 130113A to Capt. S.10th, 10th S.F.)

ANCHUSA
M.K.S.46

A.M.121944. ANCHUSA will join M.K.S. (?46) passing Gibraltar 20th April.
(? F.O.G.M.A. 131158A to Admty.)

CALEDON
etc.

Concur in your 121022.
(F.O.G.M.A. 131204A to C. in C. Med.)

SS.
MELCHUCA
(Spanish)

Your 021530*. As ship is warrant holder and owners paid heavy deposit for future good behaviour stipulation in your para. three regarding release of ship would be impossible therefore offer cannot be accepted. Letter follows.
(D.E.W.D., 131540B to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)
* Spanish MELCHUCA.

T.G.21.12,
A/S sweep.

Starting 140800 will sweep Southwest from 39 N. 14 W. speed 14 arriving Horta for fuel about 170800 4 escorts, 2 carriers. Position 36 N. 17 W. Weather.
(C.T.G.21.12, 131725.)

S/M
reported
at Canary
Is.

A secondhand report as yet unconfirmed has been received that at 2100/6 Canary Islands time a S/M was seen by observer who is known to be reliable to put into Puerto De Abona Tenerife and to leave again almost immediately. The locality is isolated and there is difficulty in establishing contact there but if confirmation can be obtained it will be telegraphed.
(Tenerife, 131825Z.)

South Atlantic

GAZELLE.

The following is a repetition of my 122052Z* begins Addressed as above. Cancel my 061115+ Comar Dakar reports GAZELLE urgently in need of refit with which I have concurred.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 130759Z to Admty.)
* Originally received undecypherable.
+ Transfer GAZELLE to Mediterranean.

/Arrival..

13.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

U.S.S. WAKE ISLAND, MISSION BAY.
Arrival U.S.S. WAKE ISLAND, MISSION BAY with ROCKET, PATHFINDER.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 130915Z.)

ARCOLA. My 112255* Italian masters are endeavouring to prevent sailing. Little doubt that Italians aided by high Portuguese officials both here and St. Jago. Consul informs me sailing almost certain to be held up unless strong action passes between London and Lisbon to defeat efforts of Italians.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 130948.)

* Sailing of ARCOLA delayed by Portuguese.

My 130948*. Both ships today transferred by Captain of Port to Italian Consul and by letter to British Consul. Captain of Port informed Italians and German Consul that legal proceedings will not be allowed to interfere with sailing but there is possibility that judgment can override him if not it is hoped situation will so develop that vessel will be able to sail without much delay.

(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 131950.)

* Prevention of sailing of ARCOLA.

Convoy D.R.1. Comar Dakar's 101301Z. Sailed at 1145Z/13 convoy D.R.1,
(N.C.S.O. Dakar, 131556Z.)

212

13.4.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

DOLFIJN, SALVATORE, SUZANNE. Proceed forthwith to patrol in vicinity of 305 degs. DD 79 miles.
(Capt. (S) 1, 130024B to DOLFIJN)
Proceed with all despatch to be in position 322 degs. DD 64 by 1701/13th.
(Capt. (S) 1, 130926B to DOLFIJN)
P.R.U.1101/12th showed SALVATORE and SUZANNE in mid harbour at Suda Bay all hatches closed. My 130926.
(Capt. (S) 1, 130947B to DOLFIJN)
SALVATORE had sailed by 0930 to-day.
(Capt. (S) 1, 131412B to DOLFIJN)
P. and C. of 5 small vessels type unknown is 36.48 N. 24.08 E. 160 degs. speed unknown.
(A/C ZZZP, 131120Z to D.M.7)
Position and course of enemy 6 unidentified vessels 36 degs. 55' N. 23 degs. 48' E. 160 degs. speed unknown.
(A/C ZZZO, 131122Z)
My 131120. Enemy previously reported 1 medium vessel 2500 tons 2 small vessels 1000 tons 2 escort vessels 1 aeroplane unidentified. Course and speed of enemy is 160 degs. 6 knots.
(A/C ZZZP, 131140Z)
Aircraft P 131120Z aircraft O 131422Z/ considered may be SALVATORE and SUZANNE putting in to Melos.
(F.O.L.E.M. 131741C to Capt. (S) 1, (R) DOLFIJN).
/ 131122 intended.
Proceed to patrol in vicinity of 329 degs DD 60 miles.
(2) F.O.L.E.M.'s 131741 refers.
(Capt. (S) 1, 131920 to DOLFIJN)

UPSTART: My 122231. P.C.S. 038 degs. 03' N. 004 degs. B.H. 13' E. 218 degs. 8½ knots. Unable locate transmission. dinghy transmission ceased.
(Capt. (S), 10, 091131 will be 6 hours late at R/V.
(UPSTART, 130751B to C. in C. Med.)

UNRULY. 10 hours ahead of estimated position will pass Kaso tonight.
Weather report 0090 1875.
(UNRULY, 130755B to Capt. (S) 1, (R) 1st S/M.F.)

Levant Schooner 24. Levant schooner 24 missing in Aegean. May have been captured. Following S.P.'s held considered compromised.
(A) S.P. 2537 (7). (B) S.P. 02421 (28? and (29). Eastern Mediterranean special Basic code first edition (AG OX (1))/.
Local action being taken to remedy situation resulting from (B).
(F.O.L.E.M. 130929C). / as received.
S.P. 2537 - Small ships operational code overseas.
S.P. 2421 - C. in C. Levant code out.

Mutiny /...

213

13.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Mutiny in Reference your 081846C situation unchanged.
Greek (S.N.O.L.A.130935C)
Navy. Situation report 1100C/13th. First reaction to
King's speech has been a slight improvement in
general situation. The programme at Port Said
is proceeding but controlling committee refuses
to change their attitude until fully reinforced Government is
actually established.

(S.B.N.O. Red Sea, 131213)

Your 112030 formation of a Govt. of Panhellenic character
is under way. Our duty is to continue our War effort without
interruption. Discipline and operations should not be disturbed
even for a moment. Am returning as soon as possible.

(Capt. Tsaimokos, 131743 to CORINTHIA and Greek S/M's)
Situation still quiet.

(S.N.O.L.A. 131804C)

Situation report 1800/13. General situation unchanged.
AVEROFF will probably run D/G range at Port Said p.m. tomorrow.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A.131903C)

My 122014. A quiet day generally repetition of Greek
King's broadcast message was repeated to ships and establishments
by loud speakers during the forenoon and was quietly received,
leaflets of broadcast are in process of distribution.

(2) From 1300 to-day entry and exit of all Greek personnel from
135 area has been stopped.

(3) Doubtful if there will be much change until new government
is announced.

(F.O.L.E.M.131931C)

UNSPARING. Proceed through Kinaros channel to patrol on a
line joining Livada Point (Tinos) and Cape Papas
(Nikaria).

(2) (corrupt Group) CLAUDIA present in port
Lakie sail shortly. ANITA may be in Port Laki awaiting onward
routeing.

(Capt.(S) 1, 131109B to UNSPARING. (R) 1st S/M.F. F.O.L.E.M.)

Endeavour to be in 270 degs. Cape Papas 5 miles by 0001/14th

(Capt.(S) 1, 131201 to P.55, UNSPARING, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

A/C R/C to-day ANITA in Port Laki 3 destroyers outside
harbour. May pass you tonight. Estimated speed 8 knots.

(2) Cancel my 131201. Endeavour to assume patrol ordered in
my 131109 by 0001/14th.

(3) M.T.B. are to cover Furni pass.

(Capt. (S) 1, 131437B to UNSPARING, (R) F.O.L.E.M.)

P.R.U.PORTOL (corrupt group) A.M. 13th ANITA present CLAUDIA
sailed.

(2) Tanker probably CLAUDIA sighted off Kusadas course North
0830/13th.

(F.O.L.E.M.131745 to Capt.(S) 2, (R) P.55 UNSPARING)

Following is a repetition of my 132035 begins:

Capt.(S) 1, M.T.B. 309, 315, S.O. Force 51, UNSPARING. From
F.O.L.E.M.

Wellington striking force will be operating in areas Nikaria and
Furni passing alternative target Porto Lago between 0130C and
0300/14th. They have been (?detailed) to attack large surface
craft. Ends.

(F.O.L.E.M.132037C to UNSPARING, Capt. (S) 1)

13.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd

C. in C. Black Sea Fleet. Admiral Oktyabrsky (promoted April 10th) has just resumed his duties as C. in C. Black Sea Fleet and Vice Admiral Vladimirovsky will return to command Cruiser squadron.
 (2) Presumably Rear Admiral Eliseev will return to duty of Chief of Staff in due course.
 (N.L.O.Black Sea, 131125)

MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES. Arrangements for sailing to U.K. on 15 April. (Comnob, Oran, 131138B, 131715B, 132132, C. in C. Med. 131800B)

Montevideo dock. GORLES- you sail Montevideo dock in tow of these vessels escorted by GORLESTON for Massawa.
 TON, ORIANA, WEAZEL. (2) GODAVARI is to be sailed so as to arrive Aden A.M. 19th April. Cancel my 091247 not to all addressees.
 (3) GORLESTON is to land stores at Massawa.
 N.O.I.C. Massawa is requested to sail GORLESTON, ORIANA and WEAZEL as convenient for Eastern Fleet.
 (F.O.L.E.M.131147C)

TOURVILLE. It is probable that French would now prefer DUQUESNE ~~or~~ SUFFREN in place of TOURVILLE in view of extremely poor condition of latter and her low speed. My 081710. Principle of using crew of man COURBET remains unaltered.
 (2) A very early reply to proposals in para.2 and 3 of my 081710 would be appreciated as French are anxious to proceed with arrangements for providing men for COURBET by other means if they are not approved.
 (C. in C. Med. 131204B to Admt.)

UNTIRING, Patrol report. UNTIRING reports. (A) At 0130/11th in 43 degs. 22' N. 07 degs. 00' E. fired four torpedoes at 5,000 ton merchant vessel escorted by two destroyers, two UJ boats (sic) and one aircraft. Range 5,000 yards. Two torpedoes seen to explode. UNTIRING withdrew on surface undetected.
 (B) At 1420/12th in 5 miles S. of Cap Dramont fired two torpedoes at 1500 ton merchant vessel which had left Oneglia during air raid. One torpedo seen to hit amidships. A third torpedo was then fired which struck abreast foremast and vessel last seen with decks awash.
 (S.10,131257B)

Operation "Shingle" 4842 tons discharged on 12th April 220 265 16 from L.S.T. L.C.I. L.C.T. respectively.
 (2) Attack by thirty to fifty aircraft at 1830 turned away by heavy A/A fire. No damage to Port Area at least two enemy aircraft confirmed

destroyed /...

215

13.4.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Operation "Shingle" (Contd.) destroyed further claims being investigated.
 (3) Little shelling.
 (4) 12th M/S.F. completed (skim of?) QB 14 Sl.L
 (E) (1) cutting 5 mines ACUQE'D, 112157 refers.
 (5) This is "Shingle" Sitrep 83.
 (6) UNDINE carried out successful bombardment with observation by air observation post.
 (F.O.W.It. 131320B)

Black Sea. Analysis for March. Intelligence reports British Minister total of 13 enemy convoys located, presumably by air R/C in north west part of Black Sea comprising total of 18 merchant vessels of 27 F lighters and 18 barges. Operation and Intelligence reports reported only 4 of these convoys attacked. S/M's sinking two merchant vessels and A/C sinking one merchant vessel of six F lighters and five barges and damaging two F lighters.
 (N.L.O.Black Sea, 131535)

M.A.A.F. Med. Allied Coastal Airforce.
 Opsum 6th April. Add. 4 RP Beaufighters escorted by 4 Beaufighters shipping strike attacked 1200 ton ship near Port Vendres with RP on seeing red crosses inflected to miss. 1 pair RP probable hit ship. 1 A/C attacked small boat north west of ship. Beaufighter struck water during attack was destroyed. (W.D. Note: the ship was I.R.C. ship EMBLA, see C. in C. Med. 171032)
 (H.Q. M.A.A.F. 131736B)

Situation (2) Convoy of 6 small craft destroyed by motor Report No.336. Gunboats off Murter Island night 11th/12th April. On same night H.M.S. LAUDERDALE and H.M.S. ZETLAND shelled Port Gruz and searchlight position on Lokrum Island.
 (3) Motor Launch Flotilla 3rd swept channel between Marcula and (corrupt grou) (Corrupt group) Island nights 10th/11th and 11th/12th April. 7 mines cut channel considered only safe for coastal and landing craft.
 (C. in C. Med. 132210)

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat dis-
position.

My 120511Z. No fresh information, no change in
scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 130325Z.)

Convoy
Kilindini/
Mauritius 1.

Arrived 13th escorted by SOBKRA.
(N.C.S.O.Mauritius 130415Z.)

BURMA.

BURMA refloated? and is being repaired here.
E.T.A. South African port mid-May. Agreed. M.W.T.R.
(D.S.T.O.E.A. 130908Z.)

Replacement
of lost
cargoes.

Reply to 292230 March. (Extracts) From Chiefs of
Staff for Mountbatten. As soon as loss at sea is
notified, replacement action is taken.
2. Items in short supply are subject to priorities.
3. We suggest a review of locations of reserves
held for you in India as loss of stores during sea
passage might be mitigated to some extent by reducing transit time
between reserve depots in India and fighting troops.
(Air Min. 131435Z to S.A.C.S.E.A.)

Japanese
atrocities.

F.O.N.I.C. stories of Japanese atrocities on
survivors of sunk Allied merchant ships in Indian
Ocean are not to be published nor forwarded for
publication.
(C. in C.E.F. 130823Z to All Authorities on
Station).

217

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ESSO SSSS position 31.43 N. 66.11 W. shelled.
SPRINGFIELD. (ESSO SPRINGFIELD 130250Z.)
Note: Message received via Gibraltar W/T and
passed by W.R. to Cominch.
Merchant ship SSSS 130110Z incorrectly received.
Possibly starshell fired by me at 130300Z in 40° 35' N. 63° 58'
W. was reported
(NEW GLASGOW 130325Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

SS. QUEEN Diversion order. to avoid ice.
ELIZABETH (D.O.D.H. 131129B.)
(T.A.104.)

Algerines. Your 031803. A. TRUELOVE and WELFARE should leave
Halifax about May 6. SKIPJACK about May 17 and
MARY ROSE about May 20.
B. THISBE and MOON about June 30. PROVIDENCE
about June 15 and REGULUS about June 23.
(B.A.T.M. Ottawa 131339Z to Admty.)

Tankers, On account U-Boat situation amend my 081325* sail
convoy orders. all tankers 10 to 14.5 knots in convoy in Eastern
Sea Frontier.
2. My dispatch 081525 remains in effect such
tankers bound Eastern Sea Frontier from GZL
(meaning not known to W.D.) for Caribbean may be to Keywest or
Guantanamo for convoy.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 131403.)
* re Tankers sailing independently.

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 131437Z Cominch 131442Z.)

EDMUNDSTON. Refit of EDMUNDSTON delayed until 15th May after
arrival C one ex escorting N.M. 234, since C one
now proceeds empty handed from St. Johns N.F. for
O.N.M.234 request you divert EDMUNDSTON forthwith
to join B.6 with H.X.286 otherwise direct to Londonderry. Your
121710 and C. in C.W.A. 281741 March both not to all addressees
refers.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 131431Z to S.B.N.O.Azores.)

PORT COLBORNE. Will be delayed about two weeks owing to necessity
of retubing condensers. My 071920 and 171619
March.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 131542.)

/Frigates...

13.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Frigates.	This supersedes my 052135.	Estimated date of arrival in U.K.	Remarks.
	Captain Class Frigates. INMAN, HOLMES, HOTHAM, RIOU.	1st May.	Special escort (INDOMITABLE)
	Colonial Class Frigates. (B.A.D. 131603Z.)	All indefinite.	
Bombing restrictions.	For SEANYMPH and L.23. (Cominch 131624.)		
K.12.	Your 101659 concur. (Admty. 131811B to B.A.D.)		
WAKEFIELD (A.T.105A.)	Diversion order to avoid Icebergs. (Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 131954Z.)		
Canadian Mid-Ocean & Support Groups.	My 121640 March and subsequent messages, following is the organization. (C. in C.C.N.A. 132100Z.)		
Stragglers report No. 47.	One ship arrived St. Johns N.F. from S.C.156 OLDHAM (U.S.) April 10th broken shaft. (N.S.H.Q. 132130Z.)		
SS. NEBRASCA, Lifeboat.	U.S.S. CHRISTOPHER reports empty whale boat believed from SS. NEBRASKA 11.49 S. 21.10 W. 1430Z/11 and empty raft 8 miles farther East. Lifeboat with 21 aboard was previously sighted by Ascension-based Liberator this area, 1400Z/9. (Cominch 132143Z.)		
INDOMITABLE.	Request port of arrival in U.K. Cominch 102106 refers. (B.A.D. 132155Z.)		
U/B trans- mission.	At 2238Z U-Boat transmission of a W.W.message on 6655 k/cs bearing 020° 2nd class possibly ground wave. Intend sweeping 30 miles up bearing before before proceeding St. Johns N.F. My position (2 groups missed) 00' N. 050° 21' W. ST. LAURENT in company. Nil ice weather report. (S.O.E.G. C.1 132301Z to N.S.H.Q.)		

219

13.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial April 12th. Paras. 11 to 16 cover S. Pacific Forces No. 814. 6. Hujungau Island adjoining Pak Island in Admiralty Group occupied 11th unopposed. Odd stray Japs still being encountered Pak and Rambutye Islands. Estimate about 300 Jap effectives remain.

7. M.T.Bs. destroyed 4 beached enemy barges Ulamona (near Ubili) where Sawmill also strafed night 11th/12th.

13. U.S. Destroyer bombarded gun emplacements S.W. Coast Bougainville night 9/10th. Same targets struck 11th April by 12 Avengers, 6 Dauntless, 21 Warhawks, Airacobras. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 131048Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C sighted U-Boat on course 180° and attacked with gunfire at 1023Z/12 in 49° 28' N. 18° 44' W.

Para. B. 1. A/C attacked U-Boat contact at 0030Z/13 in 45° 52' N. 02° 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 131158B.)

U/B dispositions.

Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 131436B, 131438B.)

14.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Y.

1. At 0800 today convoy R.A.58 had arrived intact off Cape Wrath; and at 1400B S.O.E.G.2 in STARLING reported that he had turned the convoy over to the escort of BLUEBELL and HONEYSUCKLE. The last four destroyers of the escort arrived at Scapa at 1807B, and the escort carrier TRACKER is proceeding to the Clyde.

Operation
"Pitchbowl".

2. The first half of Operation "Pitchbowl" (P.B.1) which was to have been carried out today was cancelled at 0851B today by F.O.E.C. in consequence of unsuitable weather. F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with the surface force concerned retired to the west of the Shetlands and at 1048B, when about 80 miles N. E. of the Shetlands, was reported by enemy A/C.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
U.448 sunk
by SWANSEA
& PELICAN.

3. At 1424B today the frigate SWANSEA of E.G.9 gained contact about 720 miles west of La Rochelle with U.448 which, after a creeping attack by SWANSEA and the sloop PELICAN of E.G.7, was forced to surface at 1829B and was sunk by gunfire from both ships at 1834. The C.O., 4 officers and 37 ratings were rescued.

Operation
"Guidance".

4. At 0903Z and 0910Z today the S/M X.24, which had been slipped by SCEPTRE off the Norwegian coast at 2050Z last night, laid depth charges with a 4 hour setting under Laksevaag floating dock (Bergen) and rejoined SCEPTRE undetected at 2303Z. Explosions were heard later when the S/Ms were nine miles clear.

BAREN FELS mark. (See page 414).

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

5. There is no change in the general situation. S.N.O.R.S.C.A. reported this evening that Capt. S. CORINTHIA was unsuccessful today in arranging for the sailing of the S/M PAPANICOLIS from Port Said.

6. The French cruisers MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES left Oran for the U.K. today.

Bridgehead.

7. 3202 tons were unloaded at Anzio today.

221

14.4.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Explosion
in Bombay
Docks.

homage m.v.

8.(a). SS. FORT STIKINE, loaded with cotton and T.N.T., caught fire this afternoon in Victoria Docks, Bombay. Efforts to bring the fire under control failed and about 1610 F.G. the ship blew up with the result that several other ships in the vicinity, some of which were loaded with ammunition also caught fire. At about 5 o'clock one of the ammunition ships also blew up. This second explosion appears to have killed many of the fire fighting personnel and destroyed pumps.

(b). The fire devastated Victoria and Princes Docks area. H.M.I.S. PADMAVATI (M.T. ship) is reported to have been burnt out and BRAGANZA (base ship) and L.S.I. (L) EL HIND probable total losses. FORT STIKINE was blown to atoms, M.T. ship JALAPADMA was lifted 20 ft. on to the quayside, a dredger and a small ship were sunk in Victoria Dock and 9 other ships were burnt out but are afloat. Princes Dock will probably not be in full operation for two months.

(c). The fire in the dock area was under control by 0620Z on 15th, but fire spread to the city area $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away; this was reported to be under control at 171054Z.

(d). The casualties were officially reported to be 336 killed and 1040 injured. Half of the grain stocks held in Bombay are estimated to be lost.

(e). Salvage personnel and gear in India is totally inadequate to cope with the situation, and for some time the port capabilities will be limited to Alexandra Dock and stream; but it is thought that with judicious use of Karachi the operations in Assam should not at present be affected, nor should any operation visualised for late autumn be jeopardised. But the landing craft base at Bombay can neither form nor maintain a force until stores and spare parts lost have been replaced.

Australia & New Zealand.

Truk bombed.

9. 18 Liberators bombed Truk shortly before dawn today. Results generally were not observed.

222

14.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

TRACKER Request you will inform me as soon as possible whether TRACKER can be made ready for service by 28th April.
(C. in C.W.A. 141226B. to F.O.C.T.)

STURDY Sailed STURDY and VOX escorted by SARDONYX in
VOX. accordance with S.3's 122251B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 141806B to A.I.G.220.)

Russian My 121843. Numbers to U.K. from North Russia
Personnel now estimated as follows.
for U.K. A. Ex MILWAUKEE 400.
B. Ex U.S. Merchant Ship 80.
C. Ex R.N. and R.A.F. Shore Staff but depending
on R.A.60, 80.
D. Soviet Naval Party for U.K. 2,590.
E. Soviet Party for U.S.A.100. Total 3250.
2. This is minimum. Soviet are sure to ask for more at
last minute especially if R.A.59 is in fact last opportunity.
3. Understand that a transport was asked for some time ago
by U.S.A. Representative Murmansk for A, B, and C, above.
(Ad. Fisher, 141810C to Admty.)

VIVID, Request you will sail S/Ms for Gibraltar and
TERRAPIN. onward passage as follows:-
A. VIVID about 24th April to 1st or 10th
Flotilla as ordered by C. in C. Med.
B. TERRAPIN about 30th April to 4th or 8th
Flotilla as ordered C. in C.E.F.
(F.O.S. 141908B to Capt. S.3.)

H.Q. of My 260123 January and Admty.'s 061610A March.
Naval It is intended to move H.Q. of N.C.E.T.F. to
Commander Fort Southwick, Portsmouth on 18th April.
Eastern (N.C.E.T.F., 141945B to A.N.C.X.F.)
Talk
Force.

Operations

Biscay A/S Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 47° 15' N.
operations. 9° 24' W.
U/Boat (A/C U.G.P.70 to 19 Group, T.O.R. 140124, Recd.
sunk by 140124.)
SWANSEA No enemy sighted in area of previous 3 firm
and contacts. Visibility zero. Raining.
PELICAN. (A/C U.G.P.70 to 19 Group, T.O.R. 140152.)
(U.448) Several U/Boats bound for Bay of Biscay estimated
in your general vicinity today.
(D.D.I.C. 140903B to Escorts M.X.F.29B.)

/BITER...

223

14.4.1944

FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

- Biscay A/S operations. U/Boat sunk by SWANSEA and PELICAN. (Contd.)
- BITER E.G.7th CYGNET, WOODCOCK, CRANE, PELICAN with E.G.9th MATANE, SWANSEA, OWEN SOUND, STORMONT vicinity 047° 02' N. 019° 55' W. My 141241B refers.
T.G.21.16, U.S.S. CORE, 5 destroyers operating within 100 miles of 045° 59' N. 026° 01' W. (C. in C.W.A. 141405B to ships.)
Contact gained by SWANSEA 1424B in 046° 32' N. 019° 37' W. S/M forced to surface and destroyed after creeping attack by PELICAN and SWANSEA at 1823B. Survivors now being picked up. (BITER, 141855B to C. in C.W.A.)
- TAKU on patrol damaged by mine.
- My 131430. Mine exploded overhead causing considerable superficial damage and flooded gun-tower. Consider damage unrepairable making return advisable but am fit for patrol in emergency. My P.C.S. 057° (corrupt group) N. 006° 05' E. (? 109 or 300°), 10. Weather. (TAKU, 140202B to F.O.S.)
- My 131619. TAKU reports mine exploded overhead causing considerable superficial damage and flooding gun-towers.
2. TAKU in 057° 50' N. 006° 05' E. at 0200B/14 is returning Lerwick diving by day while within 60 miles coast, daily advance 100 miles in 24 hours. (F.O.S. 140603B to C. in C.H.F., F.O.E.C.)
- Operation C.W.
- Your 132301Z. D/F bearings place this transmission in approximately 53° 00' N. 29° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 140435 to C.1.)
- S/M Patrols.
- VENTURER is to await further developments anti-shiping patrol forthwith in area bound as follows:
A. 058° 30' N. B. 006° 35' E. C. 058° 00' N.
D. 004° 00' E.
2. Area enclosed by following position is not to be entered:
A. 058° 28' 005° 45' 30". B. 058° 20' 006° 04'
C. 058° 17' 006° 00'. D. 058° 25' 30" 005° 41'.
3. My S.M.04010/595 of 1st April is cancelled.
4. ULA at periscope depth reported scraping noise alongside ship's side in estimated 058° 05.14' N. 006° 21.3' E. on 22nd Feb. (F.O.S. 140502B. to S/Ms.)
My S.M. 04010 J.T.824 of 7th April para. 4 (c) amend latitude to read 058° 30' N. My 140502 refers. S.O.S/Ms Lerwick pass to ULA. (F.O.S. 140657B to S.O.S/M. Lerwick.)
Request you will sail S/Ms as follows:
A. UNSHAKEN at 1200B/15th through 060° Muckle Flugga 18 and 061° 43' N. 003° 18' E. to patrol in accordance with S/M 04010/891.
B. ULA at 1200B/16th through
C. 080° Muckle Flugga 13.
D. 061° 12' N. 000° 49' E. E. 061° 12' N. 002° 52' E.
F. 059° 17' N. 004° 33' E. to patrol in accordance with S/M 04010/824 as amended F.O.S. 140657.

/S/Ms...

224

14.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

S/M patrols. (Contd) Submarines to proceed on the surface at C.O. discretion when 60 miles clear Norwegian Coast. (Capt. S.9, 141239B to S.O.S/M Lerwick.) Submarine positions at 0800/15th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. VENTURER patrolling off Lister.

B. TAKU 59° 12' N. 03° 58' E. through 60° 50' N. 02° 55' E. to Lerwick, diving by day until 60 miles from coast, then probably on surface 11 knots.

E. SCEPTRE X.20 operating vicinity 60° 44' N. 04° 37' E. (F.O.S. 141743B to Admt.)

Operation "Pitchbowl". Cancel P.B.1 today. Weather unsuitable. P.B.2 will be carried out tomorrow as previously arranged.

2. Force retiring to westward Shetlands.
3. C. in C. Rosyth pass to R.A.F. authorities. (F.O.E.C.140851B to 18 Group, R.A.F. Wick.)

A.C.217 14th April Operation "Pitchbowl one" cancelled by R.A.E.C. owing to weather. Operation "Pitchbowl Two" will be carried out tomorrow as previously arranged. (18 Group 141115B to Wick.)

2 Warwick with life boats are to take off in time to reach 058° 54' N. 003° (720') E. by 1900B/15 April. On arrival at position A/C are to return to base unless further orders are received.

(18 Group 141230B to Wick C.C.H.Q.)

Shipping was reported by enemy A/C in area 61° 45' 62° N. 01° - 01° 30' E. at 1048B/14.

(D.D.I.C. 141445B to R.A.E.C.)

Operation "Overlord". A.M. 291834 February. CAM, VANQUISHER, VERSATILE, PINK, SWEETBRIAR, WALLFLOWER are due to be taken in hand for special training "Overlord" as soon as they arrive back at their base in this command.

2. In order that a very full training programme may be finally settled I should greatly appreciate information regarding your intentions for sailing these ships.

(C. in C. W.A. 141052B to C. in C. Med.)

Your 111905. Information from War Office indicates piers at Selsey and Dungeness will be probably not completed until 27th April.

(A.N.C.X.F. 141401B to C. in C. Portsmouth, V.A. Dover)

S.C. Operation. 1. A.M. April 16th.
2. 061° 42' N. 004° 48' E. Intend to sail S.C. operation from Scalloway.
3. RAMOSE HARVEST.
4. Two days.
5. 062° Out Skerries. 6. No.
(A.C.O.S. 141109B to Admt.)

/Operation...

War Diary

14.4.1944
Friday

MOST SECRET

Operations - Contd.

Operation F.Y. Have turned over (ships escorting R.A.58) to BLUEBELL and HONEYSUCKLE off Cape Wrath. Have detached Fleet destroyers to Scapa, E.G.2 to Liverpool, and TRACKER to Clyde. (E.G.2, 141400B to C. in C.W.A.)
Scapa arrivals. ORIBI, SCORPION, IMPULSIVE and OBEDIENT. (A.C.O.S. 141807B to A.I.G.222.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 141505B.)
(V.A.Dover, 141655B.)

Mining

Q.U.29 Carry out operation Q.U.29 350°, night 16/17th April. Forces employed. 21st and 22nd M.T.B. Flotillas. Laying instructions. (C. in C. Nore, 140935B to BEEHIVE)

Humber. Magnetic mine detonated at 1615 in 288° H.4 buoy 3.2 miles. (F.O. Humber, 141803B to C. in C. Nore.)

U/Boats

U/Boat reported Upon interrogation ascertained H.86 had radar contact believed U/Boat in 62° 17' N. 14° 51' W. at 0538/14. Unable locate - cloud on sea. (R.A.F. Iceland, 141115B to H.Q.C.C.)

Navigational

Caledonian Canal. My 102205. Temporary repair has been effected and canal will be in operation today. (C. in C. Rosyth, 141016B to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

CLYDE CLYDE returning Falmouth with defects. Capt. S. 3's 101159 refers. (F.O.S. 140037B to F.O.G.M.A.)
Request you will report forthwith details of defect in fore hydroplane housing gear referred to in your 132215 and state what replacements of parts are required. (F.O.S. 141147B to CLYDE.)
Your 141147Z. Present weather precludes examination of defective gear. Flexible pipes are thought to be broken on housing side and whole unit appears since to have been strained by heavy seas. (CLYDE 141256B to F.O.S.)

/MULGRAVE...

War Diary14.4.1944
FridayHOME COMANDSCasualties and Defects

- MULGRAVE My 281735 March. MULGRAVE has been docked at Ardrossan and examined by P.R.O.(C). Details of defects. Subject to trial after undocking, ship should be capable of steaming to Plymouth. Captain D Greenock 231910 March refers. No reason is seen why after repairs at Ardrossan ship should not proceed on operational duties until due for refit. Ardrossan Dockyard Co. state that they will require one week and ship will leave for sea trials 20th April. If permanent repairs are to be carried out in this area it is proposed that MULGRAVE dock with PROTEUS but so far no firm has been found prepared to undertake the necessary work. It would be preferable that MULGRAVE proceed to Plymouth as originally arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 141031B to Admty.)
- HYDRA My 121732B. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 141318B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- COURBET A.N.C.X.F.'s 131545. In order that tug programme may be arranged request anticipated date of readiness for onward move.
(D.O.D.H, 141623B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- MAGICIAN. Have run aground on Scotstown Point. Require tug immediately.
(MAGICIAN, 141915Z to Admty.)
Still aground Craig Ewen Point. Making water in number 1 hold. Master.
(MAGICIAN, 142325Z to A.C.O.S.)
- NABOB F.O.C.T.'s 071634. NABOB can be taken in hand by Messrs. Harland & Wolf, Liverpool on 18th and 19th April for work indicated in the signal and for such defects as can be completed concurrently.
(V. Controller, 142114B to F.O.C.T.)

227

14.4.1944.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

HART In order to fulfil requirements for "Overlord" it is necessary to include H.M.S.HART.
(2) Request you will sail her to reach U.K. by 1st May.
(3) Destination is Greenock.
(D.O.D.(F), 141549B to F.O.G.M.A.).

South Atlantic

ABRUZZI Intend to sail ABRUZZI 1900Z/16th (route) to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 141459Z).

CHEVREUIL CHEVREUIL rejoin group at 1700Z/14th.
(ANNAMITE, 141719Z).

ARCOLA, My 131950+AIR FRANCE 3 sailed 1930 G.M:T. TAIGETE. escorting tug FLARE with ARCOLA in tow.
2. Master TAIGETE still discovering extensive sabotage preparations and unable give date of sailing. He states may be necessary to tow this ship also if he decides too risky to sail under own steam.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 141758).
+ Prevention of sailing of ARCOLA.

U/boat sunk Para.(B) of my 111404. B.N.S.O. Ascension reports 10th April. French Destroyer did not find any survivors.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 141917Z).

14.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CANTON. CANTON has reverted to Red Ensign as from 0001/14. Admty. 151808 March refers. (N.O.I.C. Suez 140003C.)

SALVATORE & SUZANNE. Cancel my 131741. Enemy's course was 340° not 160 degs. as reported. (F.O.L.E.M. 140023C to Capt. S.1, DOLFIJN.)

CASABIANCA. Intend sailing CASABIANCA at 1600/15 (route) to patrol in zone SS. (Capt. S.10 140835.)

MONTCALM, G.LEYGUES. Cancel my 131800. Request you sail MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES for U.K. at 1400B today 14th or as soon as Admiral Lemonnier is embarked. (C. in C.Med. 141052 to Comnob Oran.) Admiral Lemonnier is in MONTCALM and is flying his flag. (C. in C.Med. 141053 to Admty.)

Cancel my 131138B*. Amended by my 132132B. Intend to sail MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES at 1600B/14 to U.K. (arrangements) (Comnob Oran 141148B.)

*Ocean route for MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES.

Mutiny in Greek Navy. Situation still quiet. (S.N.O.L.A. 141053C.) Situation report. Noon 14th April no change. (S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 141215C.) Further to my 121914 after NAVARINO had proceeded for exercises on 13th it came to my notice that her 1st Lieutenant and Engineer Officer had been obliged to leave the ship because of their refusal to sign the Panhellenic Declaration. C.O. NAVARINO agreed to their removal.

2. NAVARINO was recalled to harbour and I arranged to meet the C.O. of all Greek ships with the object of clarifying the situation as follows -

A. officers should not be relieved of their duties without the authority of the Greek C. in C.

B. I was not prepared to sail Greek ships for operations or exercises unless their specialists were aboard.

C. In order that the security of cyphers and other operational letters should not be jeopardized, lower deck committee's could not be given access to secret and confidential matters.

3. Greek C.Os. met me again, and I was given requisite assurances with regard to A. and C. above. NAVARINO's ship's company have requested the return of their First Lieutenant and Engineer Officer who will re-assume their duties today. I have been informed that the Panhellenic Committees are not a permanent institution and are being dissolved. Greek ship's companies are being kept informed of political developments by their C.Os.

229

14.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.
(Contd.)

4. The situation improved on receipt of Captain Tsaimokos signal 131743. I anticipate no further troubles in the Greek ships at Malta provided the political developments foreshadowed in this signal materialise.
(V.A.Malta 141237.)

General situation unchanged. Situation report 1730/14. AVEROFF ranged p.m. and returned to moorings. Capt. S. CORINTHIA arrived Port Said a.m. and left after unsuccessfully endeavouring to arrange for sailing of PAPANICOLIS, H.H.M.S. HELLI CAMP KABRET. It is hoped that the 9 officers now under restraint also approx. 150 civilian refugees will leave the camp a.m. tomorrow Saturday as arranged vide last para. of my 121829.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 141837C.)

My 131931. Situation completely quiet. Only move of any kind was that this afternoon every Greek warship in Alexandria Harbour hoisted international flag signal indicating require fresh provisions and water immediately. Most unlikely ships have any (?lack) of dry provisions or water.
(F.O.L.E.M. 141936.)

Bridgehead.

Bridgehead sitrep 84 (late "Shingle" sitrep) 3814 tons discharged in good weather of which 320, 392, 18 tons respectively was from L.S.T., L.C.T. L.C.I.(L). Increased shelling but no bombs in Port area.
(F.O.W.It. 141108.)

CLAUDIA,
CELENO.

German ship CLAUDIA 2329 tons (probably nett register) entered Dardanelles 0600 G.M.T. 14th bound Black Sea. Can you identify.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 141120C, amended 150925C to S.O.I. Med.)

Ship presumed to be tanker CELENO ex Italian 2329 nett tons.
Your 141120.
(S.O.I.E.Med. 141542C to S.O.I. Istanbul.)

DANAE.

Transit and passage of DANAE to be expedited. S.N.O.R.S.C.A. is requested to sail her to 309, and R.A. Alex. to sail her onward to station limit for U.K. Route off Cyrenaica to be as close in-shore as safe navigation permits and at best speed. C. in C.E.F's 081136Z and Com. Aden's 120533Z. (N.T. in W.R.)
(F.O.L.E.M. 141208.)

BRIN.

C. in C.E.F's 281136 March. BRIN sails 15th April for Port Said for onward routing to Colombo. RIBOTY will escort as far as Port Said (my 141219 not to all refers.)
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 141221.)

/UNSPARING...

230

War Diary.14.4.1944:
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- UNSPARING, Leave patrol forthwith passing E. of Scarpanto to
UNRULY. arrive in 035° 03' 026° 43' about noon 16th.
2. Examine Pegadia Bay at your discretion.
(Capt. S.1 141258B to UNSPARING, (R) 1st S/F,
PIPINOS, F.O.L.E.M.)
- (P.55) UNSPARING proceed forthwith to patrol Eastern approach to Doro channel.
2. (P.49) UNRULY proceed with despatch west of Stampalia close east of Liadi and Stapodia to relieve (P.55) UNSPARING east of Doro channel.
3. Further signal will be made.
4. F.O.L.E.M. inform S.O. 51 and S.O. 52.
(Capt. S.1 141544B to UNSPARING, UNRULY, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M.)
- DUQUESNE, F.O.C.W.Af. 051116 and C. in C.Med. 081710.
SUFFREN, Transfer of DUQUESNE or SUFFREN to U.K. is approved
TOURVILLE. Cominch is being informed.
2. Shipping of 152 m.m. ammunition from Dakar to U.K. in ship selected and of U.S.A. ammunition to Oran instead of U.K. is approved. Action is being taken in regard to U.S. shipment.
3. Temporary employment elsewhere for TOURVILLE and SUFFREN or DUQUESNE cannot be found at present and they should remain at Dakar for the time being.
(V.C.N.S. 141730B to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af.)
- M.A.A.F. Med. Allied Strategic Air Force.
Opsum 418. 12/13 April. 11 Liberators, 22 Wellingtons mine-laying river Danube between Budapest and Belgrade laid 97 x 1000, 10 x 1600 from 80/500 feet.
Straffed river shipping set fire probable tanker near Mohacs, river covered burning oil.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 141809B.)
- UNIVERSAL. My 120957. Postpone 24 hours.
(Capt. S.10 141809B to C. in C.Med.)
- Situation 1. My 132210 para. (?2) convoy consisted of 3
Report No. small schooners one I-Boat and 2 small M/B. One
337. M/B and 2 schooners towing back to Vis. 35
German prisoners taken. One M.G.B. suffered superficial damage.
2. Operation "Shingle". 3814 tons discharged on 13th. Air activity over beachhead night 12/13th April caused no naval damage. Shelling on increased scale also ineffective. UNNDINE (?gave) firing support in Anzio area on 12th April.
3. (?P.53 ULTOR?) reports sinking one 280 ton, one 130 ton and one 60 ton caique by gunfire in St. Nikolo Bay (Kithera) on 3rd April and sinking a 40 ton caique by gunfire in 036° 49' N. 023° 17' E. on 4th April. On 6th April she sank a 50 ton caique in Port Kyparisi by gunfire and a 40 ton caique carrying petroleum by gunfire in 037° 01' N. 023° 09' E. on 7th April she sank a 200 ton armed petroleum caique by torpedo in 036° 40' N. 023° 02' E.
(C. in C.Med. 142215B.)

231

15.4.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

R.A. C.S.5. Intend that flag of Rear Admiral H.T.C.+ Walker as C.S.5 shall be hoisted in LONDON on his arrival on station about end of May. (C. in C.E.F. 140246Z).

DEVON CITY, Your 101737 earliest DEVON CITY can now arrive U.K. KIRRIEMOOR. is during first few days of June. KIRRIEMOOR cannot arrive until mid June in view of her slow speed. My 030924+ refers. (C. in C.E.F. 140317Z to Admty.). + KIRRIEMOOR ready to sail 16/4.

Bi - weekly U/boat disposition No.42. Reference attack on YAMHILL situation uncertain. 1 one U/boat possibly approaching Gulf of Aden. Area C scale of (?air escort) X. Other areas scale of air escort unchanged. (C. in C.E.F., 140349Z).

EMERALD Admiralty's 130105. To expedite passage boiler cleaning time is to be reduced in accordance with para.2. of your 110914+ not to all addressees. (2) Ship is not to be delayed by fitting of Heightfinder. (C. in C.E.F. 140647Z to EMERALD). + Request you expedite passage of EMERALD as much as practicable.

American L.C.Ts. B.A.Ds. 111405. (1) It will not be possible to operate these vessels during the S.W. monsoon. It is intended to place L.C.Ts. on the East Coast of India in state of C. and M. and British personnel is available for this. (2) Admiralty is requested to confirm that sufficient British personnel will be available in India to man these nine American L.C.Ts. by October 1944 when conditions will again be suitable for their operation. (C. in C.E.F. 140717).

Transport of U.S. troops to India in General Anderson class. The Australian route referred to in para.4. of your 121956 is preferred since there is reasonable immunity from S/M. attack between Australia and latitude approx. 10° South. Cruiser escort is considered necessary between Australia and 10° S. but not beyond this point. (2) With regard to destroyer escort it is noted that ships have been run to Casablanca unescorted, but it is presumed that the estimated positions of German S/Ms. in the Atlantic are known more accurately than those of Japanese submarines in this theatre. If this is incorrect, it is considered that destroyer escort consisting of two destroyers for single troopship or three for two troopships sailing in company will be necessary north of latitude 10° South "Q" and "R" class destroyers will be required in view of endurance.

232

15.4.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Transport of U.S. troops to India in General Anderson class (Contd.). (3) Additional commitments for long range escorts involved by passage of aircraft ferries such as PATROLLER, RANEE, etc., coupled with need to furnish escort carriers with appropriate screens makes it essential to economise A/S escorts to the greatest possible extent if movements and training of Battle Fleet are not to be seriously curtailed.

(4) In view of above it is necessary that U.S. troopships should be sailed in pairs and at not less than twenty days interval. Owing to the submarine situation in the Indian Ocean any assistance that can be rendered by the U.S. in the provision of escorts for these ships would be greatly appreciated.

(5) F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to reply to para.5 of Admiralty signal.

(C. in C.E.F. 141236Z.)

Explosion in ammunition ship at Bombay.

1. Serious explosion of ammunitionship in Victoria Docks Bombay at 1600 today causing damage to EL HIND, MASCOT and JALAPADMA, EL HIND believed sunk.

2. Fires in dock area and go-downs now raging not yet under control. L.C.M. S.O. and M.S.D.I. storing believed destroyed.

3. Disruption of docking and repair bays almost certain.

4. Further details will follow.

(S.R.N.O. Bombay 141600Z.)

Fire caused by explosion in ship completely gutted Victoria Dock Bombay and ships at berths.

(Cdre. R.I.N. 142050.)

233

14.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

U-Boat transmission. Transmission originated East of 035 degs. West. Your (?132)301Z refers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 140120Z to S.O. E.G.C.1)

Tanker SKULL BAR. Following for C.C.R.T. TENACITY arrived St. Johns in company with CAILIFF and U.S. SKULL BAR. (F.O.N.F.141315Z)

U-Boat dispositions. 1200Z/14th. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 141434Z, Cominch, 141613Z)

SS QUEEN ELIZABETH (T.A.104) Diversion order. (Cdr. 10th Fleet C. & R. 141718Z)

GENERAL W.A.MANN. Please advise if escort can be furnished from Gibraltar to Oran for A.P. GENERAL WILLIAM A. MANN sailing unescorted from Hampton Roads 23 April for North Africa. (Cominch, 141957Z to C. in C. Med.)

U.G.S. Convoys limit for ships. My 251641 of February modified in that limit for Eastbound U.G.S. convoys is raised to 90 ships through U.G.S.42. (Cominch, 141958)

Breaking of W/T silence and reports by Masters of certain ships. New York authorities have pointed out that wording of A.M.261705 February, 1943 amended by 112142 August, 1943 is ambiguous. (2) In order to facilitate arrangements in the arrival port it is desired that revised E.T.A. should be reported 48 hours before the time of the original signalled E.T.A. repetition not 48 hours before the later estimate. (3) If you agree to amend the wording it is also requested that instructions may be added to make a further report if more than one hour difference from revised E.T.A. (4) Comtenthfleet C. & R. agrees. (B.A.D. 142013Z to Adnty.)

T.G.21.16. Go get subs. reported within 300 miles 46 N. 30 W. My 072219 modified. (C. in C. Lant, 142046Z to C.T.G.21.16)

Convoy T.U.10. Diversion order, to avoid S/Ms. (Com.10th Fleet C. & R. 142049Z to C.T.F. 68)

Algerines/...

War Diary

14.4.1944
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies

Algerines. Cancel Canad 6877/ part A and my 131339/ part A. Owing to condensor defects revised dates are A. TRUELOVE and WELFARE about 20th May. SKIPJACK about 1st June.

MARYROSE uncertain? condensor now being examined.
(Ottawa, 142054Z)

/ Re sailing of TRUELOVE, WELFARE, THISBE, MOON, PROVIDENCE and REGULUS.

U-Boat incidents. Para. B. Transit aircraft sighted U-Boat 03.55 N. 26.57 W. 141040Z.

Para. D. P/V Radar contacts 32.17 N. 78.41 W. 132229Z)
(Cominch, 142120Z)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No.815

(8) Same night (12/13th) M.T.B's and Landing Craft Gunboats strafed shelled enemy positions South-Eastern shores Bougainville exploding possible ammunition dump.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A.140700Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M.attack and sighting summary.

Para. B. (1) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact before 2324Z/13 in 47 degs. 15' N. 09 degs. 24' W. (D.D.I.C.141110B)

U-Boat dispositions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C.141328B, 141348B)

235

15.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- A.C.O.S. 1. Vice Admiral Sir H. Harwood has today assumed command of the Orkney and Shetland Command. His Flag will be transferred to IRON DUKE at 0800 tomorrow.
- Operation "Pitchbowl". 2. At 0913B today F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST cancelled the second part of Operation "Pitchbowl", which was to have been carried out today, on account of the unsuitable weather; and at 1614B he returned to Scapa with the surface force concerned.
- E-Boats off Smiths Knoll. 3. A number of E-Boats approaching Smiths Knoll at about 0030B today were detected and chased by two of our coastal force patrols and withdrew without fighting.
- Biscay A/S Operations. 4.(a). A U-Boat contact passed under the Escort Carrier BITER at 1600 today about 750 miles west of La Rochelle. The contact was lost in rough weather at 1815, but at 2304B, PELICAN and WOODCOCK of E.G.7 were searching the area.
(b). A U-Boat was sighted by A/C at 1056 today 600 miles west of Bordeaux.
- A/S contact off Lands End. 5. At 0935B today the destroyer MIDDLETON, escorting RANPURA, attacked an A/S contact 7 miles S.16° E. of the Lands End and marked the position. WENSLEYDALE and SKATE, escorting convoy P.W.506, were searching the area at 1536B.

South Atlantic.

6. KENYA left Capetown this afternoon for Kilindini via Durban.

Mediterranean.

- Bridgehead. 7. 3513 tons were unloaded at Anzio today. At 0500 there was a raid by 10 aircraft combined with

/minelaying...

236

15.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

- Bridgehead.
(Contd.) 7. minelaying. Two enemy aircraft were shot down. 10 mines were subsequently swept and detonated in the approaches: there were no shipping casualties.
- Naples. 8. 20 to 30 enemy aircraft were over Naples last night. No bombs were dropped and minelaying is suspected.
- Adriatic. 9. Coastal forces operating near Murter Island last night captured a tug towing a 250 ton tanker and a dumb lighter: the latter they towed to Vis but the two former were damaged and had to be sunk. 7 Italian prisoners were taken.
- Danube. 10. 4 Liberators dropped 30 mines in the Danube last night.

America & West Indies.

- Shipping
situation
in Jamaica. 11. It is reported from Jamaica that the shipping situation is developing in a manner which necessitates drastic action before matters are completely out of hand. Strikes on the flimsiest of pretexts, and demands directed to slow down all work to the utmost have resulted in port conditions becoming chaotic. It is considered that the only course is to direct to other areas for a period of 6 months all ships other than those required for the movement of absolutely essential food stuffs, discharging etc. of the latter being undertaken by the military. This was agreed to by the Admiralty, and arrangements were made to put it into effect.

237

15.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Tankers for
N.Russia.

Your 130848. It is not intended to send any further tankers to North Russia this season. (D.O.D.H. 151137B to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Russian
Personnel
for U.K.

Alusna Moscow 112313. Head Soviet Military Mission London has approached Admiralty with request Naval personnel be permitted proceed U.K. in Merchant Vessels of R.A.59. Admiralty offered to send transport north with escorts. Offer of SUSAN B. ANTHONY your 142127Z has also been communicated to Soviets who were pleased.

However Admiral Kharlamov stated that Soviets would much prefer to spread men among a number of merchant ships because of high proportion skilled specialist officers and ratings involved. He also stated material and workmen necessary to make vessels acceptably habitable are available and that Soviets take full responsibility for discomfort and absence of adequate life saving appliances.

Admiralty wish to acquiesce. M.W.T. agree. Authorisation by W.S.A. is required..Mr. Kerr of London Office W.S.A. agrees plan is feasible but points also to responsibility involved regarding life saving appliances. It would appear that emergency rafts could be provided.

Request early advice. Separate arrangements have been made to return 380 ex MILWAUKEE crew in British escorts, leaving only small nucleus crew for temporary liaison. (Com. 12th Fleet 151157 to Cominch.)

A.M. 140644. Although I put choice to Russians as either the one or the other they have now replied that they are grateful for offer of NEA HELLAS and propose to put 1000 in her dividing remainder amongst cargo ships.

2. If American cargo ships are not to be used (decision regarding which still awaited) a far greater number will have to be put in NEA HELLAS.

3. Request therefore that NEA HELLAS may be sent but a smaller transport would be acceptable if American cargo ships are to be used.

(Ad. Fisher 151522C to Admty.)

If ordered, anticipate it will be possible to accommodate about 1400 Russian Naval ratings in 17 Archangel ships for R.A.59. Russians not informed. Further signal will indicate chances of all ships reaching Kola Inlet in time. Admty. 140644B refers.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 151540B to Ad. Fisher.)

My 151522. Am now informed that U.S.Authorities in Washington and London have agreed that U.S.cargo vessels may take Soviet personnel under certain conditions.

2. U.S. Mission Moscow has directed U.S.Naval Representatives North Russia to allow 1600 to be embarked in these ships.

3. Balance viz (1990?) for U.K. and 100 for U.S.A. to go in NEA HELLAS or other transport together with any British and American personnel who are not accommodated in escorts as arranged by S.B.N.O.N.Russia.

(Ad. Fisher 152014C to Admty.)

/UPROAR...

238

15.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. - Contd.

- UPROAR. Route for UPROAR is "Red". Destination Tilbury.
(F.O.S. 151234B to S.O. S/M Gibraltar.)
- AMIENS. AMIENS is to be laid up at Hartlepool where French will provide maintenance personnel.
It is hoped that AMIENS may prove able to make the passage under her own steam. Request your proposals.
(D.O.D.H. 151333B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- A.C.O.S. Vice Admiral Sir H. Harwood has assumed command of the Orkney and Shetland Command.
(A.C.O.S. 151629 to Admt.)
My 121431B. The Flag of A.C.O.S. will be transferred to IRON DUKE at 0800 /16th April.
(A.C.O.S. 151800B to Orkney Command.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

- Iceland. 2. Concur in proposal in C. in C.H.F. 101231 to close down R.N. Base at Seidisfjord and A/S F.D. Station at Grof.
3. Following economies in personnel and ships would thereby be effected. Details.
5. It is further proposed A. to repair Dalatangi M/F D/F Beacon.
B. To close down Seidisfjord W/T station and transfer it to Raufarhofn for benefit of ships on East Coast.
6. Two auxiliary vessels are normally maintained at Seidisfjord. In view of withdrawal of 19th Trawler Group from Iceland. Command it is not considered practicable to release two auxiliary vessels having regard to para. two of C. in C.H.F. 101231.
7. Strengthened A/S patrols would then be available as requested by C. in C.H.F.
8. The closing down of the Naval Base at Seidisfjord would also allow the U.S. Army to withdraw the shore defences and this would undoubtedly be welcomed by the Commanding General, Iceland Base Command.
9. My 112020 February refers.
(A.C.I.C. 152020B to Admt.)

Operations.

- Operation "Pitchbowl". E.T.A. Hoxa from East of Orkneys 1500B today.
(F.O.E.C. 150909B to A.C.O.S.)
Weather totally unsuitable. Cancel P.B.2. Am returning Scapa. My P.C. and S. 059° 30' N. 001° 02' W. 230° 14 knots.
(F.O.E.C. 150913B to 18 Group, R.A.F. Wick.)
- Operation "Pitchbowl two" cancelled by R.A.E.C. Weather totally unsuitable.
(18 Group 151225B to Wick.)

/Scapa...

War Diary.15.4.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Pitchbowl".
(Contd.)

Scapa arrival F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST with EMPEROR, PURSUER, FENCER, SHEFFIELD, BERWICK, SIOUX, PIORUN, ONSLAUGHT, MARNE, MATCHLESS, METEOR and MUSKETEER.
(A.C.O.S. 151614B to C. in C.H.F.)

Biscay A/S Operations.

Am over enemy submarine in 45° 00' N. 15° 05' W. (A/C RBKSI to 19 Group T.O.R. 151056.)
My 141855B. First contact was gained by SWANSEA about 2 miles on BITER's starboard beam. PELICAN who had just finished oiling was ordered join hunt at 1427. Contact was lost by both ships but regained at 1517 deep and held until 1815. Submarine surfaced at 1829 after one creeping attack conducted by PELICAN and was engaged by gunfire from both ships being sunk at 1834. C.O. 4 officers and 37 ratings survivors picked up. Submarine was U.448 of 500 tons type, homeward bound after 8 weeks patrol. My P.C. and S. 045° 46' N. 018° 52' W. 000° 5 knots. Weather.
(BITER 151100B to C. in C.W.A.)

T.G.21.16, U.S.S. CORE, 4 destroyers operating 300 miles radius 046° N. 029° 50' W. 1 destroyer joining from southward. BITER with 7th E.G. CYGNET, PELICAN, CRANE, WOODCOCK and E.G.9 MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT OWEN SOUND vicinity 047° 20' N. 020° 25' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 151312B to Ships.)

Your 150954B. Percentage fuel remaining at 1200B as follows. Details. By good seamanship CRANE fuelled 150 tons today, PELICAN and CYGNET 200 and 60 tons respectively yesterday. Do not intend further fuelling at present having been nearly caught yesterday. Intend detaching WOODCOCK to U.K. 0900 tomorrow, CYGNET and OWEN SOUND Wednesday. Request relief for latter as screen of 5 is minimum leaving nobody for investigating. Radar out of action in 3 ships of 9th E.G. Weather. Position 46.19.

(BITER 151315Z to C., in C.W.A.)

U.S.T.G.21.16, escort carrier U.S.S. CORE with 4 destroyers operating within 300 miles of 046° N. 030° W. One destroyer joining from southward.

(C. in C.W.A. 151540B to Ships.)

Your 151315. Risk of fuelling escorts is considered acceptable.

2. No relief for OWEN SOUND is available. Screen of 3 ships is considered sufficient under existing circumstances.

3. 7th E.G. will be ordered to return Greenock by 21st April.

(C. in C.W.A. 152137B to BITER.)

Confirmed S/M contact passing under BITER made by PELICAN 1600. Contact lost in rough weather at 1815 after hunt by PELICAN and OWEN SOUND. PELICAN and WOODCOCK carrying out search vicinity of 046° 00' N. 019° 20' W.

(BITER 152304B to C. in C.W.A.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 151101B, 151420B.)
(C. in C.Portsmouth 151522B.)
(V.A.Dover 151712B.)

/Operation...

War Diary.

15.4.1944.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

- Operation "Tungsten". Has D.N.C. yet made an estimate of damage done to TIRPITZ on V.A.2's report.
(C. in C.H.F. 151123 to Admty.)
- Operation "Knitting 5". Intend sailing M.T.B. 255 with M.T.Bs. 253 (S.O.) 252 in support at 2000/15 for patrol off enemy coast between longs. $01^{\circ} 22' E.$ and $00^{\circ} 23' E.$ Proceeding through passage one, returning through passage 2, and to be within 21 miles of English coast by daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 151137B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
- S/M Patrols. At 1203B/15th UNSHAKEN left Lerwick unescorted at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles Norwegian coast routed through 060° Muckle Flugga 10 and $061^{\circ} 43' N.$ $003^{\circ} 18' E.$ thence to patrol vicinity Stadtlandet.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 151218B to S/Ms.)
- Positions of submarines at 0800/16th and movements for following 24 hours.
- A. VENTURER on patrol off Lister.
- B. TAKU $60^{\circ} 40' N.$ $02^{\circ} 50' E.$ through $61^{\circ} 01' N.$ $00^{\circ} 50' E.$ and $60^{\circ} 42' N.$ $00^{\circ} 05' E.$ to Lerwick. On surface 11 knots when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast.
- C. JUNON $64^{\circ} 44' N.$ $02^{\circ} 10' E.$ to patrol vicinity of $65^{\circ} 15' N.$ $00^{\circ} 04' E.$
- D. SCEPTRE and X.24 operating vicinity of $60^{\circ} 44' N.$ $04^{\circ} 37' E.$
- E. UNSHAKEN $61^{\circ} 49' N.$ $03 21' E.$ to patrol off Stadtlandet.
- F. ULA leaves Lerwick 1200/16th through 080° Muckle Flugga 13 miles and $61^{\circ} 12' N.$ $00^{\circ} 49' E.$ and $61^{\circ} 12' 02^{\circ} 52' E.$ towards $59^{\circ} 17' N.$ $04^{\circ} 33' E.$
(F.O.S. 151734B to Admty.)
- E-Boats off Smiths Knoll. E-Boat activity night 14/15th.
1. Unknown number of E-Boats, possibly in two or more groups, apparently approached Z line N.E. of Smiths Knoll at about 0030B but on realising they were detected withdrew without fighting.
 2. At 0025 M.T.B. unit at Z.19 obtained H.E. and then Radar contact K.T.O. southward moving west. Enemy apparently heard M.T.Bs. and altered to N.E. and withdrew. At 0055 Unit again obtained H.E. and sighted a light N.E. At 0105 when 5 miles north of Z.19 sighted 3 green lights possibly a recognition signal and one shaded stern light bearing N.W. and a green Verrey light bearing 070° Unit chased N.W. but could make no further contact.
 3. M.L. Unit at Z.17 at 0040 obtained H.E. eastward moving north and heard sound of engines. Unit tried unsuccessfully to intercept. At 0050 distant green flare sighted bearing 015° . J.R.M. it is thought green flare may have been order to R/V preparatory to retiring.
(C. in C.Nore 151455B to Admty.)

/Operation...

241

15.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation
"Guidance".
(SCEPTRE
& X.24.)

Operation "Guidance" completed. Am returning Balta Sound with X type S/M 24 in tow. E.T.A. 1700B/16th.
(SCEPTRE 152132B to F.O.S.)
SCEPTRE and X.24 in 061° 00' N. 002° 00' E. at 2130B/15th, course 270° 6½ knots for Balta Sound.
(F.O.S. 152303B to S/Ms.)

Operation
F.Y. U/Bs
sunk by
STARLING,
KEPPEL and
A/C from
ACTIVITY &
TRACKER.

We congratulate STARLING on the destruction of a U-Boat on 29th March 1944.
(1st S.L. 152241B to STARLING.)
We congratulate KEPPEL on the destruction of a U-Boat on night of 1st/2nd April 1944.
(1st S.L. 152250B to KEPPEL.)
We congratulate the crews of the aircraft of 819 and 846 Squadron on the destruction of a U-Boat on 3rd April 1944.
(1st S.L. 152306B to ACTIVITY, TRACKER.)

Operation
F.Y.

BLUEBELL and HONEYSUCKLE arrived Clyde ex R.A.58.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 152244B to C. in C.H.F.)

Mining.

Explosion
South of
Iceland.

At 1600Z, 135 miles 310° from position D, underwater explosion near ship. Nothing sighted.
(QUEEN MARY 151615Z to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat at-
tacked off
Lands End.

At 0935B/15 MIDDLETON attacked A/S contact in 49° 57½' N. 05° 40' W. After two attacks position was marked by smoke-float and MIDDLETON rejoined RANPURA as escort.

2. WENSLEYDALE and SKATE are now carrying out A/S search in vicinity.

3. Position of contact is close to scene of E-Boat activity 5/6th Jan. when 3 ships were sunk.
(C. in C.Plymouth 151536B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

MAGICIAN.

Intercepted at 0205 G.M.T. from MAGICIAN. S.O.S. MAGICIAN aground at Craig Ewen Point, making water in all holds, require immediate assistance.
(Wick Radio 150406 to A.C.O.S.)

SS. MAGICIAN grounded on Craig Ewen Point Peterhead 2115B/14th. Visibility nil. H.M.T. WILLIAM BRADY, Peterhead Lifeboat, and L.S.A. standing by. No tug available Aberdeen Sub. Command.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 150456B to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Received at 0653 G.M.T. from Coast Guard Wick begins. Crew of vessel taken off by Peterhead Lifeboat. 150845B - D.O. Peterhead. Ends.

(Wick Radio 150855 to A.C.O.S.)

/Received...

15.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

MAGICIAN.
(Contd.)

Received at 0739 G.M.T. from C.G.Wick Peterhead lifeboat returned ready for service. Approx. 70 of crew taken in Peterhead Harbour by lifeboat. Coastguard Wick. 150915 Ends.
(Wick Radio 150940 to Ad. Lyness.)

CLYDE.

Your 141147B, further to my 141256B. Housing gear actually defective due to very severe telemotor oil-leaks through port gland. Damage sustained as follows. Details.

Reason for the above defects.

Repairs are in hand and are being carried out locally by Silley Cox and Co. Estimate defects will be completed by noon 17th April.

(CLYDE 150954B to F.O.S.)

GARLIES.

My 142248A. Specific defect in GARLIES is as follows. Details. In view of urgency intend that ship shall be taken in hand by Harland and Wolff today, work being beyond capacity of maintenance base.

(F.O.I.C. N.I. 151230B to Admty.)

9
Est. time
Tue
Convoy going
Tue
C.B. 01815(u)
Rp: 1944

~~Damage~~ A.T.R. 98 sunk.

~~Damage~~ A.T. 96 damaged.

(Convoy N.Y. 78).

At 122000Z A.T.R. 98 in collision with A.T. 96. A.T. 96 suffered 1 foot hole 3 feet below main deck in bow, lost port anchor, and minor damage along portside. A.T.R. 98 holed her engine room. About 2120Z/12th in lat. 44.04.8 N. and Long. 24.08.8 W. A.T.R. 98 rolled over on her starboard side and sank stern first. All personnel rescued by MOFFETT (C.T.F. 67 151411 to C. in C.Lant.)

HIRONDELLE.
THISTLEFORD.

SS. HIRONDELLE 893 tons reports having been in collision with unknown vessel 5 miles N.E. of No. 29 Buoy at 2222/14.

(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 151447B to A.C.O.S.)

(N.C.S.O. Methil 161205B to N.C.S.O. Kirkwall.)

FREDERICK
BARTHALDI.

Intend to sail U.S. Salvage Vessel BRANT passing Clyde Boom 1300B/16th for Fladdachuain 57° 44' 30" N. 06° 26' W. Salvage U.S. Naval Equipment from U.S.S. FREDERICK BARTHALDI.

2. Operation is expected to take approx. 3 weeks.

3. C.T.F. 122's 141721B April refers.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 151708B to C. in C.W.A.)

243

15.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Straits
Blimp
fence.

My 031200.
Representatives of F.O.G.M.A. and A.O.C. Gibraltar
F.O.G.M.A. and A.O.C. Gibraltar agree that project
is operationally desirable and feasible on the
following lines.
(F.O.G.M.A. 151210A amended 151950A).

Water in
ESTURIA's
fuel tanks.

LA DECOUVERTE took soundings which established
arrival of 15 tons water during period of fuelling
from ESTURIA. Reference your 071120.
2. Buoyant hose considered sound because no oil
appeared in water during pumping and no air bubbles
when hose was cleared. The hose cap was screwed

up.

(3) Request you will investigate further on arrival of TOWY.
(D.T.D. 151212B to F.O.G.M.A.).

Attacks on
U/boats.

No action report yet received from following:
1. WISHART, WITHERINGTON and U.S.N. Ventura S/127
for U-Boat action on 24th February 1944.
2. AFFLECK and other surface craft concerned in
U-Boat hunt on 16th March.
3. These are required for analysis and assessment.
(D.A.U.D. 151253B to F.O.G.M.A.)

MIRROR.

Intend to sail MIRROR escorted by ST. NECTAN at
1600B/17 to carry out operations A. B. C.
(Details.)
(F.O.G.M.A. 151650A.)

South Atlantic.

Unexplained
explosion.

Your 141836Z April*. Ref. A.M. 876 AZ+ 12/1453
March. A. 0032Z/13. B. VERITY. C. No. D. 08.48
N. 15.02 W. 070° 22 knots. E. Not known. F.
Explosion was not heard by VERITY. It apparently
occurred about the time of explosion of single
depth charge dropped by VERITY in above position.
(VERITY 150930Z to F.O.C.W.A.F.)
*Ships experiencing an unexplained underwater
explosion.
+ 876AZ - 121453 March.

/French...

244

15.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- French ships. Request you will repeat all signals affecting refits and major moves of French ships to C. in C. Med.
(D.O.D.F. 151139B to F.O.C.W.Af.)
- Convoy D.R.1. DORNCCH (British) straggler from S.L.155 returned 0800Z/15th April unable to maintain convoy speed. Vessel sailed again 1107Z/15th at 7 knots for Gib. to overtake convoy D.R. 1 p.m. 20th.
(N.C.S.O. (?Dakar) 151147Z.)
- SS. LANAHRONE. Have you any news of LANAHRONE (Eire) due Sao Thome 5th April from St. Vincent C.V.
(D.T.D. 151350B to S.O.I. Freetown.)
- KENYA. Capetown departure 1525B/15 for Durban and thence Kilindini (route, etc.)
(C. in C.S.A. 151533B.)
- DUQUESNE,
SUFFREN. Instructions have been received from Admty. to meet following requirements of Naval France concurred in by C. in C.Med. DUQUESNE or SUFFREN to proceed to U.K. Crew required for manning commitments after arrival and ship to act as French Depot Ship. Cruiser selected is to embark all 152 m.m. A.P.shells and full charges now at Dakar for shipment U.K. Request you select cruiser and report name and earliest date that she can be sailed. Request Admty. indicate destination in U.K.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 151910Z to Comar Dakar.)

15.4.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.Mutiny
in Greek
Navy.I fully approve the action reported in your
141237/ which should be repeated to Admiralty.
(C. in C. Cairo, 150847C to V.A. Malta)
/ Meeting with Commanding Officers of Greek
ships.Nothing to report in connection with my 081846C.
(S.N.O. Levant Area, 151002C)Your 081816. No change in general situation at 1100/15.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 151127C to F.O.L.E.M.)C. in C. Med's 150847 and para. 4 of my 141237. Captain
Tsaimokos's 131743 is being passed to you now.
(V.A.M. 151231A to Admty.)Your 081846. General situation unchanged.
(S.N.O.L.A., 151746C to F.O.L.E.M.)General situation unchanged. Situation Report 1800C/15
Port Said. PAPANICOLIS has berthed alongside AVEROFF at latter's
request but S.G.N.O. in AVEROFF has promised that S/M will sail
as soon as officers are available KABRET 150 Civilian refugees
removed to Greek Civilian Camp at Moses Wells p.m. to-day with-
out incident.

(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 151831C)

LE CURIE,
UNIVERSAL.Intend sailing P.67 (LE CURIE) at 1500/16th to
patrol in Zones S.U. and S.W. (route).
(2) P.57 (UNIVERSAL), my 120957 delayed 24 hours,
will now be (?routed) through 052 degs. 32'.
006 degs. 40' at 2330/16th to patrol in Zone S.T.
(Capt. (S) 10, 150857)Tankers
CLAUDIA,
BERTHA.My 141120C not to Capt. (S) one. Vessel is
SS. CLAUDIA (formerly CELENO). Entered Black Sea
0500 G.M.T. 15th bound Constanza.
(2) BERTHA passed Istanbul in transit Aegean
0400 G.M.T. 15th. Estimated time of entry
1700/2000 G.M.T. 15th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 150925C)My 150925C. Report B.3 BERTHA will enter Aegean dawn 16th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 152245C to F.O.L.E.M.)

JERVIS.

Cancel my 101112 not to all. Para. 2. Request
you sail JERVIS to U.K. as soon as practicable
to work up at a Port nominated by Admiralty.
(C. in C. Med. 151040B to F.O.G.M.A.)CAM,
VANQUISHER,
VERSATILE,
PINK,
SWEETBRIAR,
WALLFLOWER.Ships referred to in para. 1 your 141052 April,
will be sailed for U.K. in company with HART
leaving Gibraltar on 23rd April.
(C. in C. Med. 151042B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary15.4.1944
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean.Fast
Motor
Boats.

There is a growing need for fast motor boats for use on Adriatic coast for purposes of liaison with partisans and similar work. To avoid using M.T.Bs for these services, lightly armed boats of Air Sea Rescue type required. Neither Coastal Air Force nor U.S.N. can help since their resources are barely adequate to meet requirements.
(2) Can eight such craft be shipping to Mediterranean.
(C. in C. Med. 151250B to Admty.)

GENERAL W.A.
MANN.

Escort can be provided. Your 141957.
(C. in C. Med. 151252B to C. in C. U.S. Fleet)

UNSPARING,
UNRULY.

UNSPARING leaving patrol at dawn 16th and passing through 038 degs. 01' 025 degs. 30' thence through Kinaros Channel and 036 degs. 11' 025 degs. 16' and 035 degs. 49' 023 degs. 29'. Diving through Antikithera Channel at 200 feet to arrive in 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 16' about dawn 19th.
(2) UNRULY is not to cross latitude 037 degs. 53' before 1001/16. Then proceeding to patrol eastern approaches to Doro Channel.
(Capt.(S) 1, 151536B to UNSPARING, UNRULY, (R) 1st S/M.F. F.O.L.E.M.)

SS. ANITA,
3 destroyers.

(Corrupt group) (corrupt group) Air R/C 1430/15th.
ANITA in Porto Lago.
3 Destroyers North Lipso course (?north).
(2) No escort for ANITA seen in Porto Lago.
(3) She will not sail unescorted.
(F.O.L.E.M.151835C to Capt. (S) 1, S.O. Force 51.
(R) UNSPARING, UNRULY, (2 corrupt groups) RN.

DUQUESNE.

Admiralty state that transfer of DUQUESNE to U.K. and use of part of her crew to man COURBET is approved. F.O.C.W.Af. has been informed and intends ship should embark 152 mm and if possible 90 mm ammunition. My 071718 and my 150942 to F.O.C. W.Af. being passed to Naval France.
(2) It noted ship must call Casablanca on passage.
(3) Admiralty state that 500 rounds 152 mm now in U.S.A. will be shipped Oran instead of U.K.
(C. in C. Med. 151930 to Naval, France.)

PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE.

French propose she be demilitarised and employed for cod fishing on Newfoundland Banks.
(C. in C. Med. 151934).
Reply. Concur.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 171812Z.)

15.4.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Bi-weekly
U-Boat
disposition
No.41.

No fresh information. No change in scale of
air escort.
(C. in C. E.F. 150348Z)

Explosion
at Bombay
in SS. FORT
STIKINE.
Several
ships
destroyed.

My 142050 refers. Explosion in SS. FORT STIKINE
loaded with cotton and T.N.T. occurred 1610FG/14
causing fire which completely gutted Princes
and Victoria Docks Bombay. H.M.S. EL HIND and
eleven Merchant ships destroyed. H.M.I.S.
PADMAVATI and three merchant ships burnt out.
Dock gates and cranes out of action. Alexandra
dock undamaged. Fires in docks area now under
control.

(Com. R.I.N.150620Z)

(1) JALAPADMA entirely destroyed EL HIND probably total loss.
MASCOT undamaged.

(2) Fires under control in all areas. Heavy loss of D.G.S.R's
stores and landing craft spares.

(3) Hughes (?dry) dock undamaged. Mereweather dry dock pumping
installation out of action. Alexandria dock area untouched.
Princes and Victoria docks areas devastated.

(4) Naval casualties slight. Muster in progress. My 141600
refers.

(S.R.N.O. Bombay, 150628Z)

Messages from Governor of Bombay and Viceroy, No.T.O.O.,
See Lion copy.

DILWARA.

Destination DILWARA is changed. Convoy to proceed
Karachi.

(C. in C. E.F. 151049Z to THYME)

B.P.112.
U-Boat
contact.

My 151215Z/ not to all addresses. H.M.I.S.
OUDH in contact, not confirmed by H.M.S. VIOLET.
9 depth charge attacks carried out. Large oil
patch observed. Both ships remaining in vicinity
until daylight. Position 025 degs. 48' N.

057 degs. 02' E.

(VIOLET, 151600Z to C. in C. E.F. (S.E.A.C.))

✓ N.T. in W.R.

Convoy BP 112 dispersed at 1330Z less TOSARI straggled VIOLET
and OUDH hunting A/S contact.

(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 151924Z)

U-Boat
report.

By R.D.F. at 1612Z15 on 7880 K/cs the position
of a U-Boat was within 200 miles of 003 degs.
N. 090 degs. E. N.O.I.C. E.F. pass to Air H.Q.
E.F.

(C. in C. E.F.151820)

Coast
watching
organisation.

From A.O.C. At Aden conference in Indian Ocean
November '43, it was agreed that we did not
consider that Coast watching on South Arabian

and/...

15.4.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Coast
watching
organisation
(Contd.)

and Somaliland Coasts is of any value in our anti-Submarine operations. I agree with views expressed by air H.Q. East Africa agree your proposal abolish complete Coast watching organisation as such.
(Air H.Q. Aden, No.T.O.O.15 to G.O.C. in C. E.Af.)

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.)

*Explosion at Bombay Docks
14 April.*

TOP SECRET

No T.O.O./15th April

From Governor of Bombay

Date 16.4.44.
Recd. 0500

CODE TELEGRAM

Addressed Secretary of State for India
Repeated Secretary to Governor General (Public).

107/C 13409.

Addressed to Secretary of State for India repeated to Secretary to the Governor General (Public) A ship loaded with T.N.T. lying in Victoria Dock caught fire on afternoon of Friday April 14th at about 2.30(?). Efforts to bring fire under control failed and about 4.15 the ship blew up with result that several other ships in vicinity some of which were loaded with ammunition also caught fire. At about 5 o'clock one of the ammunition ships also blew up. Both explosions caused fires to break out in Victoria Dock and (?Princes) Dock and surrounding areas. Conflagration spread rapidly and burnt throughout the night of April 14th April 15th. All possible preventive measures were carried out including demolitions in area of Alexandra Dock to which it was at first feared the fire would spread. Situation on morning of April 15th was however more reassuring and it now seems reasonably certain that Alexandra Dock and oil installations can be fully protected. During night fire spread Westward and was still burning late this morning. (?Princes) and Victoria Docks out of action. Figures of casualties from hospitals are as follows (?7) 47 detained for further treatment. (?8) 84 treated and discharged, 67 died in hospital. (?Figures) of dead from morgue and area in immediate vicinity of two explosions not yet known. Estimated about 60,000 to 8,000 (sic) people rendered homeless. Relief measures have been arranged under direction of one (?of) the Advisers to the Governor. Extensive damage to grain godown has occurred, estimate loss of grain being 55,000 tons which is one half of stocks held in Bombay. Some wild rumours are current but not much panic. Mills and railway work shops are reported to be working today and dock hands in Mazagaon Docks went to work. Cause of fire on board ship carrying T.N.T. not yet known. Further report will follow.

No. T.O.O.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.
Plot.

Received in War Registry p.m./20th April.
Circulated by India Office to
M. of W.T. M. of Supply Admiralty War Office
W.C.O. Air Ministry India Office Ministry of
Food, India Office.

/Circulation

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Contr.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Parl. Sec.
Sec.
Fin. Sec.
Nav. Sec.
Civil Lord
U.W.R.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. Map Room
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Plot
D.C.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.G.D.
S.D.G.
Hd. of N.L.
D.A/S.W.
D.A.U.D.
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T. (6)
Mr. Broughton
C.W. (Cas.)
D. of Salvage.
D.N.C.
E. in C.
D.D.A.S.
Hd. of M. (6)
D.C.O.D. (4)
D.C.O.M. (4)
D.M.B.
D.M.R.
D. of S. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
COREP (2)
A.D.O.D. (C.O.)
C.N.I.
D.P.D.
Ad. Blake (4)
Cdr. Holbrook
A.S. (C)
D. of D.
N.I.D. 10 (2)

W.D.
I.P. (2)
Dep. Contr.
D.A.S.
P.
D.N.C.
E. in C.
S.D.G.
D. of D.
Hd. of S.W.R.

Bath
by
courier

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.)

TOP SECRET. No T.O.O/15th April.

From: Viceroy. Date 15.4.44.
Recd. 1045.

Cypher (O.T.P)

Addressed: Secretary of State for India.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

No. 769-S. 13288

My immediately preceding telegram following is Bombay Governor's message.

Begins. Latest information is that fire has not repeat not spread to Alexandra Docks. Preventive measures including demolitions been carried out in that area. Spread of fire northwards also appears likely to be checked. Princes and Victoria Docks out of action and unapproachable. Fire spreading westward of Frere Road towards (? Bhopal/? Irrawaddy) Road which is being treated as fire-lane but has not been reached. Demolitions not repeat not carried out in (? dockyard) area. Casualties believed to exceed 1,200 injured. Number of dead not known. Extensive damage to grain godowns occurred and preparations for immediate replenishment of grain stocks by Central Government should be made in anticipation of urgent demand from here. Believed that approximately 45,000 tons of grain are lost.

No T.O.O/15th April.

- 1st Lord,
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.J.
- 2nd S.L.
- 3rd S.L.
- Vice Controller.
- 4th S.L.
- V.O.E.E.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
- Parl. Sec.
- Sec.
- Naval Sec.
- D.W.R.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D. Map Room.
- S.D.G.
- Hydrog.

- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D. (H) (4)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- B.A/S.W.
- D.A.U.D.
- D.N.L. (4)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D. of S.T. (6)
- Pilot.
- D.D.A.S.
- Hd. of M. (2)
- D.C.O.D. (4)
- D.C.O.M. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.E.E.
- D.G.D.
- Deputy Controller.
- D. of D.
- D. of S.
- P.
- D.E.E.

- D. of P. (Q) (2)
- COREP
- A.D.O.D. (CO)
- D. of S. (2)
- C.N.I
- D.F.D.
- Ad. Blake. (4)
- Gen. Holbrook
- A.S. (C)
- D. of D.
- N.I.D. 10 (2)
- W.E.
- I.P. (2)
- Mr. Broughton.
- D. of Salvage.
- D.N.C. (2)
- E. in C.
- D.N.O
- Hd. of M.L.

Bath by courier.

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 :
TOP SECRET "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

No T.O.O./15th April.

From: Viceroy.

Date: 15.4.44.

Recd: 2345

CYPHER

Addressed: Secretary of State for India.

IMMEDIATE

No. 777 S 13353.

Telegram from Bombay No. 106 C of April 15th.
Begins: In continuation of my telegram No. 38 of this morning. Situation somewhat improved this morning. It appears reasonably certain that Alexandra dock and oil installations can be fully protected. Fire has spread to a line approximately 150 yards east of Mohamed Ali Road and is checked there for time being. Fire still burning freely east of that line. Figures of casualties from hospital as follows: 747 detained for further treatment: 884 treated and discharged: 67 died in hospital. Figures of dead from wreckage and on site of accident not known. Commissioner of Police estimate about 16,000 to 80,000 (sic) people rendered homeless. Relief measures are being arranged under Taunton, Adviser to Governor. Some wild rumours are current but not much panic. Mills and railway workshops reported to be working today and dock hands in Mazagaon dock also went to work. Secretary, Home Department and Commander 108 area are meeting press today to make publicity arrangements.
Ends.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Contr.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
Parl. Sec.
Nav. Sec.
U.W.R.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. Map Room
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D. (H) (4)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Plot.
D.C.

D.D.I.C. (2)
D.G.D.
S.D.G.
Hd. of N.L.
D.A./S.W.
D.A./U.D.
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T. (6)
Mr. Broughton
C.W. (Cas.)
D. of Salvage.
D.N.C.
E. in C.
Hydrog.
D.D.A.S.
Hd. of M. (6)
D.C.O.D. (4)
D.C.O.M. (4)

D. of S. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
C.O.R.E.P.
A.D.O.D. (CO)
C.N.I.
D.P.D.
Ad. Blake. (4)
Cdr. Holbrook
A.S. (C)
D. of D.
N.I.D. 10. (2)
W.D.
I.P. (2)
Dep. Contr.
D.A.S.
P.
D.N.C.
E. in C.
S.D.G.
Hd. of S.W.R.
D. of D.

} Bath

J.R.
(106)

War Diary15.4.1944
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

U-Boat report. Transmission of WW message at 2345Z on 3990 K/cs indicates U-Boat within 120 miles of 48.30 N. 37.00 W. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 150101Z)

T.F. 61
G.U.S. 40. CAMPBELL, Cortdiv 5, Desdiv 60 (less COLE, DUPONT) WILHOITE, COCKRILL, CHICOPEE. Escort convoy U.G.S. 40 departing Hampton Roads 23rd April to Bizerta and return escorting G.U.S. 40 when directed by Comnavnav. CHICOPEE with 4 P.T. Boats proceed to Med. port directed by Comnavnav then return with G.U.S. 40 when directed by Comnavnav. CHICOPEE with 4 P.T. Boats proceed to Med. port directed by Comnavnav then return with G.U.S. 40. C. in C. Med. will arrange local escort for Casablanca sections both ways. (C. in C. Lant, 150251) *amended 252357.*

Shipping situation in Jamaica. Following for B.M.W.T. from Harris, begins:- The shipping situation in Jamaica is developing in a manner which necessitates drastic action before matters are completely out of hand. Despite an agreement dated 23rd of March which was drawn up under their auspices of a tribunal appointed by Gov. and which was accepted as completely satisfactory by the shipping association and Union strikes are now of daily occurrence and all are on the flimsiest of pretexts. Labour now dictates how vessels are to be loaded and discharged and makes demands which are clearly a deliberate attempt to slow down all work to the utmost. Failure to meet such demands results in complete stoppage and port conditions are now chaotic. Normal turn round of vessels is no longer possible and ships are being delayed for periods up to one week, the EMPIRE SWALE and LOMBARDY being suitable examples. I am in constant and close touch with Gov. here but apparently there is no proper remedy. In my personal opinion and notwithstanding its drastic nature I consider that if under war conditions the economical disposition and utilization of tonnage is the determining factor, the only course is to divert and place at the disposal of other areas for about six months all tonnage normally trading here. Trading between America, Canada and Jamaica is covered by Canadian National and Pickford and Black and their Jamaican representatives concur in my views regarding the absolute necessity for immediate and drastic action. The Jamaica Gov. are Charterers of the locally owned Websters Vessels trading between here and Canada and America and in connection with those vessels the Gov. must decide what action should be taken. They could doubtless be utilized solely for essential food supplies for the Island with discharging etc. in the hands of the Military. Implications and serious complications are not overlooked by me but if shipping is vital in the war effort there is no justification for placing vessels at the disposal of Jamaica except for the movement of the absolutely essential food stuffs. Copy of this message will be handed to Governor Jamaica. (Capt. in Charge, Jamaica, 151253Z).

O.N.M. 231. Group W.6 WALLACEBURG S.O., KENOGAMI, DUNVEGAN

sailing /...

War Diary15.4.1944
FridayFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.O.N.M. 231
(Contd.)

sailing St. Johns N.F. 0100Z/16 to relieve you in Westomp 042° 39' N. 047° 26' W. at 1200Z/17th upon relief C.4 proceed St. Johns N.F. "Chop" 1200Z/16.

(F.O.N.F. 151340Z to S.E.O.N.M. 231)

U-Boat
dispositions.

Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 151500Z, Cominch, 151520Z)

Direct
troop
Convoy
from U.S.
to Naples.

Your 112125 paras. A. and B. Concur in these proposals.
2. It is assumed: (a) That all troopships and escort reinforcements except those of T.C.U. 24 will return in U.C.T. of corresponding number. (b) that, owing to tanker turn round, dates of U.K. arrival and departure cannot be adjusted should they clash with other disembarkations and embarkations in U.K.

3. In the event of troopships in T.C.U. not being disembarked in time to return in U.C.T. request your views as to their return: (a) in the next U.C; or (b) independently.

4. Your para. C. and Comnavnav's 121517 not to all. Concur in reinstatement of U.G.F. convoys to Naples, subject to the following: (a) that U.S. escorts will accompany convoys through to Naples and back. C. in C. Med. reports this essential. (b) Ships of over 700 feet cannot be accepted at Naples. (c) It is undesirable that convoy should remain at Naples longer than necessary. Port can probably clear 10 ships in maximum of 3 days.

(d) Dates on which main convoys will be at Naples are May 16th to 18th, May 27th to 29th, June 10th to 12th. Thereafter add 37 days to each of these dates.

(e) Arrangements should be made direct with C. in C. Med. Admty., being informed as regards timing and cycles.

5. The above has been agreed in principle with C. in C. Med. A.F.H.Q. Algiers and War Office.

6. B.A.D. pass to B.A.S. Washington.
(V.C.N.S. 151548Z to Cominch and C.N.O.)

?

Do not approve para. 24(?) 142049B ships must proceed New Orleans via neutral entry lanes B or D. (Com. 10th Fleet C. and R. 151943 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 132155 destination of INDOMITABLE is Clyde to disembark ferried A/C.
(D.O.D.(H), 151945B to B.A.D.)

U-Boat
incidents.

B. U.S.S. JEFFERS attacked sound contact 36.10 N. 42.34 W. 0507/15th. C. P.B.M. Radar contact 38.21 N. 72.14 W. 1753/14. All times Z.
D. R.A.F. Plane sighted conning tower 32.35 N. 65.20 W. 1857/14. P.V. sighted U/B 32.10 N. 79.34 W.

2217/14th. Mariner Radar contacts 30.54 N. 64.49 W. 1103/15th and 30.40 N. 65.20 W. 1525/15th. U.S.S. MACOMB attacked 43.26 N. 69.50 W. 1410/15th further contacts at 1550/15th. Admty. pass info to Comnav and H.Q.C.C.
(Cominch, 152100Z)

/Escorts..

251

15.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

Escort vessels. Anticipate ships named will be operational and ready to sail to join their groups on dates indicated.

SKEENA, PORT ARTHUR, ALBERNI 20th April. LINDSAY TRENTONIAN 22nd April. LOUISBURG, ESQUIMALT 24th April. ST. JOHN 25th April. PORT COLBORNE 27th April. SWIFT CURRENT, CALGARY, MOOSEJAW 1st May. AGGAS SIJKMEON 3rd May. WETASKIWIN, WENTWORTH, NEW WATER FORD 16th May. ETTRICK undetermined. (C. in C. C.N.A. 152106Z.)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest No.816. April 14th. Paras. 6 to 11 cover South Pacific Forces. (4) Two M.T.Bs engaged eight enemy barges inshore central Wide Bay night 13th/14th destroying four damaging two on beach. Remaining two escaped. Unidentified planes ineffectually bombed strafed our craft. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 150620)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) PELICAN and SWANSEA attacked U-Boat at 1623Z/14 in 46 degs. 32' N. 19 degs. 37' W. Para. B. (1) A/C H/86 had Radar contact at 0338Z/14 in 62 degs. 17' N. 14 degs. 51' W. (D.D.I.C. 150854Z)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C.151351B, 151413B)

252

16.4.1944.
SundayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTHome Commands

- Operation "Guidance". 1. At 1342Z to-day the S/M. SCEPTRE with the S/M. X.24 in tow arrived at Balta Sound.
- Biscay A/S operations. 2. A U-boat was sighted by A/C. at 0125B to-day 420 miles W. by S. of St. Nazaire; and at 2305A an eastbound U-boat 370 miles West of La Rochelle was attacked by A/C. and appeared to be disabled.
- Engagement with Gun-coasters off Triagoz. 3. At 0338 to-day, while on patrol 8 miles South of Triagoz Island, M.G.B.502 and M.T.B.718 were fired upon by three Gun-coasters and withdrew. One rating in M.G.B.502 was killed.

Mediterranean

- U.G.S. 37 attacked: 2 ships torpedoed. 4. Convoy U.G.S.37 was attacked by a U/boat this afternoon in 32.45 N. 23.08 E. (about 37 miles North of Derna): SS. MEYER LONDON was torpedoed and sunk, and SS. THOMAS G. MASARYK was torpedoed, set on fire and abandoned.
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. 5. There has been no appreciable change in the situation. A complete plan for British action to seize the mutinous ships, should this become necessary, has been made. But C. in C. Med. pointed out to Venizelos that action by the Greeks themselves was the only thing which could possibly restore their prestige and if they were unable to cope with the situation it would mean the virtual extinction of the Greek Fleet. As the result of the remarks of C. in C. Med. and encouraged by the offer of Captain Toumbas, who demonstrated his courage and determination when bringing the heavily damaged ADRIAS out of Turkey during the Leros operations, to lead a boarding party against one of the mutinous ships the Greek Minister of Marine and the Greek C. in C. have agreed, although without any undue enthusiasm, to organise parties to board and retake certain of the ships.
- Bridgehead. 6. 2838 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. Shelling was intermittent and enemy air activity slight.

/ Mining...

16.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

Mining 7. 23 mines were swept by the 10th M.S.F. in the Straits of Bonifacio between 11th and 16th April.

Aegean 8(a). Three Wellingtons successfully mined Milos Harbour last night. Leros and Maleine were bombed.
(b) The German controlled supply ship ANITA was attacked by aircraft last night at Cos and GERDA TOFT this morning at Candia: results are not known.
(c) To-day 12 escorted Marauders bombed shipping in Heraklion and Nios Harbours and Kapsali Bay, Kithera Island.

Black Sea. 9. The Russians report the sinking by their aircraft between 11 and 14 April of 2 enemy merchant ships, 10 F lighters and various coastal craft, and damage to several others, in the Black Sea.

East Indies

Operation "Cockpit" (Air attack on Sabang). 10. C. in C.E.F. in QUEEN ELIZABETH with RENOWN, VALIANT, French battleship RICHELIEU, ILLUSTRIOUS, U.S. Carrier SARATOGA, NEWCASTLE, LONDON, GAMBIA, CEYLON, NIGERIA, Dutch cruiser TROMP, 11 British, 1 Dutch and 3 U.S. destroyers sailed from Trincomalee this morning to carry out an air attack on Sabang.

America and West Indies

U.550 sunk

The U.S. tanker PAN-PENNSYLVANIA in C.U.21 was torpedoed about 1216 to-day in 40.07 N. 69.24 W. (75 miles S. by E. of Nantucket Is.) U.S.S. GANDY, JOYCE and PETERSON (three of the escorts) shelled, rammed and sank a U-boat[⊗] in the same area about 1400 to-day and took 8 prisoners.

⊗ captured later and was sunk by allied aircraft in 40 24N 69 27W

X U.550

16.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Australia and New Zealand.

12. Twelve Dutch Mitchells and 11 R.A.A.F. Beauforts raided Kupang in the early hours of to-day, scoring hits near the power house and in the warehouse area, causing large fires and explosions.

255

16.4.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSGeneral

"Appian"
"Oppidan". Codeword "Appian" will be used in all signals and correspondence dealing with arrangements for transfer of naval amphibious forces from U.K. to Eastern Theatre.

(2) Codeword "Oppidan" will be used in dealing specifically with transfer to S.W. Pacific area.

(3) Request further promulgation as necessary.

(Admty. 160315B to A.G.M. H & A. 865A)

Policy

CLYDE. CLYDE leaves Scilly Isles at 2200B/17th diving by day 120 miles per 24 hours by route "Green" to 043 degs. N. E.T.A. 001B/23rd.
(2) Para. 2, 3 and 4 of Capt.(S) 3rd 101159 remains unchanged.
(F.O.S.161304B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Russian Personnel for U.K. W.S.A. authorities transportation Soviet personnel in merchant ships of convoy R.A. 59 provided Soviets accept full responsibility for discomfort, lack of adequate cooking and sanitary facilities, and life-saving appliances. Also provided Soviets instal at their own expense temporary accommodations and sanitary facilities under plan to be approved by Frankel and ship masters, and furnish all mess gear and service from ships galley. The foregoing authorisation is based on the understanding that British are giving similar authorisation for transportation of Soviet personnel in British merchant ships so as to reduce number of personnel on each vessel to a minimum.
(Cominch 161803Z to Com. 12th Fleet).

Your 152014. Transport NEA HELLIAS will be sailed for North Russia 19th April with escorts of R.A.59. C. in C. H.F.131004 refers.

(2) Your 131648. Para. C. ROYAL SOVEREIGN and submarines at Rosyth and destroyers at Newcastle on Tyne.
Paras. A and B. Reply will be made later.

(A.C.N.S.H. 161831B to Ad. Fisher.)

Operations

Biscay A/S operations. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 45 degs. 50' N. (203 degs) 37' W.
U-Boat attacked by (A/C 224 Sqdn. 160050 to 19 Group)
A/C P.C.S. of enemy ship 46 degs. 40' N. 03 degs. 20' W. 000 degs. 5 knots, no name, no marks, NGR 4000.
(A/C 58 Sqdn. 160102B to 19 Group)
Your 152304. Do not miss opportunity of use of all your available force to hunt U-Boats. Your screen may be reduced to 3. Para.2 of my 152137 refers.
(C. in C. W.A.160107B to BITER)

Am over one enemy S/M in 46 degs. 50' N. 12 degs. 37' W. on surface, course 060 degs. speed 12 knots at 0050.

(A/C 224 Sqdn. 160125B to 19 Group)

(Hang...

256

16.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
U-Boat at-
tacked by
A/C.
(Contd.)

Hang up on attack. Lost touch with U-Boat last seen position 46° 30' N. (?long.)
(A/C TGN 74 160155 to 19 Group.)
Probable submarine 46.28 N. 24.35 W. At 0500Z Radar contact disappearing followed by sound contact by BLAIR and ROBERT E. PEARY.
(C.T.G.21.8 160758 to C. in C.W.A.)
Cancel my 131556. Area of operation now bound by parallel 045° N. 047° N. and meridian 015° W. and 017° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 161011B to BITER.)

BITER operating with 7th E.G. CYGNET, CRANE, PELICAN and 9th E.G. MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT, OWEN SOUND vicinity 046° 01' W. 016° 02' W. U.S.T.G.21.16, CORE, 5 destroyers within 300 miles of 045° 54' N. 030° 01' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 161309B to Ships.)

If not in contact with enemy BITER and E.G.7 are to leave area 1200B tomorrow for base. 9 E.G. is to operate in area bound by meridian 017° W. 020° W. parallel 048° N. and 045° N.

(C. in C.W.A. 161831B to BITER, E.G.7, E.G.9.)

My 152304B. Regret no luck. MATANE and OWEN SOUND hunting all today with air co-operation. SWANSEA and STORMONT hunting fresh contact in 045° 59' N. 019° W. Intend all night air search tonight. My P.C. and S. 045° 57' N. 019° W. 090° 10.

(BITER 162200B to C. in C.W.A.)

Am over enemy S/M in (?46°) 27' N. 10° 41' W. Enemy is on surface and is fighting back. When first sighted was 4 miles away.

(A/C MSC 50 162258B to 19 Group.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charges, estimate no hits. U-Boat on surface position 046° 26' N. 010° 41' W. apparently disabled.

(A/C MSC 50 162305A to 19 Group.)

U-Boat previously reported course 090° speed 7 knots when first sighted in 046° 27' N. 010° 41' W. U-Boat has dived position 046° 27' N. 010° 38' W.

(A/C MSC 50 162320B to 19 Group.)

Lost touch with U-Boat last seen in 46° 27' N. 10° 04' W. Returning to base.

(A/C MSC 50 162335 to 19 Group.)

Coastal Force (C. in C.Portsouth 160210B, 161330B, 161532.)
Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 161544B.)

S.C. My 141109B. S.C.HESSA sailed at 0415B today.
Operations. 2. No. .
(A.C.O.S. 160430 to Admty.)
My 081902B and my 151641B. Sailed S.C.HITRA at 0800B today. 2. No.
(A.C.O.S. 160812B to Admty.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.

16.4.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Knitting 5". Operation completed. Result satisfactory.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 160929B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Operation F.Z. E.G.6 are to be sailed by you from Lough Foyle at 1000 tomorrow to Scapa, speed 15 knots, to arrive Scapa 0700/18th.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 161106 to E.G.6.)

DOLABELLA and ROBERT EDEN leave Molotovsk p.m. tomorrow. DOLABELLA for Kola, EDEN for Iokanka with cargo of Russian coal thence Kola.

2. Request you will arrange Russian Naval escort from Northern ice edge. Northern Fleet have received preliminary notice from Kucherov.

3. Understand from Russians only that FORT VERCHERES and WILLIAM GRACE are coming to White Sea.

4. Every effort being made sail 2nd Group from White Sea Ports April 22nd consisting of 4 British and approx. 13 American ships. Americans have problem of water ballast and passage of Russian naval ratings not yet finally decided.

5. Consider delay in sailing R.A.59 will have to be allowed for. (S.B.N.O.Archangel 161435B to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

Situation of coal for icebreakers critical. No English coal available in Archangel except in EMPIRE PROWESS whose coal is urgently required in Murmansk. Will it be possible to refill up to 1000 tons in NEA HELLAS or other ship. If this can be arranged coal from EMPIRE PROWESS would meet icebreaker requirements. With Russian coal icebreakers are of little value and operations for R.A.59 will be seriously prejudiced.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 161650B to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail transport NEA HELLAS so as to arrive Scapa p.m. 18th April. C. in C.H.F. is requested to arrange escort as necessary.

(A.C.N.S.H. 161807B to C. in C.W.A.)

1. A.M. 161807. NEA HELLAS should arrive Scapa by 1800B/18th if possible. She will be required to sail for North Russia a.m. 19th April.

2. Request she be provided with Naval Officer as S.N.O.Transport and convoy Signalmen before sailing from Clyde.

3. Request information as to her max. continuous speed.

4. Intend to provide destroyer escort from lat. 58° 15' N.

(C. in C.H.F. 162347B to C. in C.W.A.)

Operation "Guidance." 1. Signal brief report on arrival Balta Sound.
2. After changing tow proceed with X type submarine 24 escorted by ALECTO at 2000B/16th through 061° 37' N. 002° 00' W. 270°. Brough of Birsay 4 miles, 270° Dunnet Head 7 miles, thence by standard route to Port H.H.Z. E.T.A. 1600B/18th.
(F.O.S. 161117B to SCEPTRE.)

At 2050Z/13th April slipped X.24. C.O. reported good attack carried out on Laksevaag dock. Dock flooded down and empty. Charges dropped at 0903 and 0910Z/14th with 4 hour setting. Number of explosions heard when 9 miles away. Unmolested entry and withdrawal. R/Vd. at 2303Z/14th, passed tow, and changed crew. Arrived Balta Sound 1348Z/16th.
(SCEPTRE 161718B to F.O.S.)

/Your...

258

16.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation Your 161718. Magnificent show. Welcome back.
"Guidance." SCEPTRE pass to X.24.
(Contd.) (F.O.S. 162011B to SCEPTRE.)

S/M Patrols. Proceeding unescorted and on the surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles Norwegian coast
ULA left Lerwick 1205B/16th. Routed through 080° Muckle Flugga 13, 061° 12' N. 000° 49' E. 061° 12' N. 002° 02' E. and 009° 17' N. 004° 33' E. thence to patrol Norwegian coast between 058° 30' N. and 059° 17' E.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 161216B to S/MS.)

Positions of submarines 0800/17th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. VENTURER patrol off Lister.
B. UNSHAKEN patrol off Stadtlandet.
C. ULA 60° 59' N. 03° 02' E. through 59° 17' N. 04° 33' E. to patrol off Skudesnes.
E. JUNON patrol vicinity 65° 15' N. 00° 03' E.
(F.O.S. 161739B to Admt.)

Negative patrol, torpedoes expended. One success. Position 2000 058° 35' N. 004° 25' E. course 340°.
(VENTURER 162035B to F.O.S.)

Engagement At 0338/16th M.G.B. 502 and M.T.B. 718 encountered with Gun 3 gun-coasters in 048° 45' N. 003° 41' W. Enemy Coasters. opened fire for 15 seconds only and our force took avoiding action in accordance with instructions and did not return fire. One rating in M.G.B. 502 killed. CICALA will signal details to Combrax and Admiralty. No other details casualties or damage.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 161855 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Operation Your 151123. The detailed examination by technical "Tungsten". departments referred to in A.M. 112321B not complete. Results will be sent shortly. N.I.D.L.C. Report No. 913 now in transit to you gives information so far available.
(A.C.N.S.H. 161901B to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation A.M. 161747. (See Special File.) The following "Overlord". are forces allocated to Nore Command with approx. joining dates. Details.
(D.O.D.H. 162248B to C. in C.Nore.)
(D.O.D.H. 171238B to C. in C.Nore.)

A.M. 161747B. Following are forces allocated to Portsmouth Command with approx. joining dates. Details.
(A.C.N.S.H. 162250B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
(D.O.D.H. 171224B and 171700B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

A.M. 161747B. The following are forces allocated to Plymouth Command with approx. joining date. Details.
(D.O.D.H. 162252B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

16.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Northern Waters. German Air Force activity April 1st/15th as reported by the Russians. Details.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 162006B to C. in C.H.F.)

Mining.

Operation N.L.114. My 151614B. Operation N.L.114 abandoned owing to extreme visibility.
(V.A.Dover 160313B to Admty.)

Operation Q.U.28. 1. Carry out operation Q.U.28 214° night 18th/19th or first suitable night.
2. Forces employed 51st M.L.Flottilla, 21st and 22nd M.T.B.Flottilla.
3. Laying instructions. Scattered lay along convoy route. Laying to commence at 0300B/19th April. If owing to enemy patrol activity unit is unable to reach initial position it is at the discretion of the S.O. to lay North or South of Q.U.29.
(C. in C.Nore 161118B to BEEHIVE.)

Operation "Hostile 24". B. N.E. of Ile de Bas dark period commencing 16th April. A. XXIV. C. 8 M.Ls. 2 M.T.Bs. M.T.B. 677 (S.O.) Details and orders.
(C. in C.Plymouth 161316 to DEFIANCE.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. By D/F at 1714Z U-Boat probably southbound estimated within 75 miles of 64° 00' N. 05° 00' E.
(D.D.I.C. 162040B to S/MS.)

Casualties & Defects.

MAGICIAN. Position precarious. No. 1 hold tidal. No. 2 hold and engine room slight leakage. Vessel broadside to sea. Immediate discharging necessary. Request two small coasters to lighten as soon as possible. Draft of coasters not to exceed 15 ft. when loaded.
(Chief Salvage Officer 160830B to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

LA MELPOMENE. Sailed SAUCY towing LA MELPOMENE in accordance with my 151246B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 160856B to N.O.I.C. Hartlepool.)

HIRONDELLE. Your 151447B. Ship concerned was THISTLEFORD.
THISTLEFORD. (N.C.S.O. Methil 161205B to N.C.S.O.Kirkwall.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.

16.4.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

Convoy F.S.
22. SONNET
& CITY OF
LONDON
damaged. .

At 0150 following collisions occurred while "Upward" was anchored. SONNET rammed by ST. ADRIAN, CITY OF LONDON by tank landing craft 959, both of convoy "Fox Hunt". Stern of SONNET and bow of CITY OF LONDON damaged. All ships are able to proceed under own steam.
(VIVIEN 161657B to C. in C.Nore.)

Shipping & Convoys.

ASTRID
(Straggler.)

ASTRID returned from O.S.074/K.M.S.48. Unable maintain speed, bad fireman.
(N.C.S.O.Clyde 16140 to C. in C.W.A.)

261

16.4.1944
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic.

M.K.F.30. Unable to fuel WISHART in present weather. Intend to detach her in (A) 036 degs. 20' (?055 degs.) 01' routed through (B) 045 degs. 01' 015 degs. 01' (C) 050 degs. 01' 010 degs. 59' thence as ordered C. in C. Plymouth. This is longest route she can safely undertake.
 (2) If early arrival U.K. not essential it would be safer from air attack to send her (?as convenient) to Horta but will act as in (1) above unless otherwise ordered.
 (3) Request codeword.
 (4) My P.C.S. 1000Z 035 degs. 51' 012 degs. 54' (X) 286 degs. 11½ 035 degs. 26' 010 degs. 21'.
 (5) Weather 5481 1676.
 (S.O.E.G.4. 161015Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

Routeing of neutral shipping East of Azores. Operationally there is no objection to proposals contained on Com. Tenth C. & R's 102030Z so far as Med. Approaches are concerned.
 (2) Proposals would provide better control of neutral shipping and therefore welcome.
 (3) Suggest southbound shipping from Spanish South Western Ports (Cadiz and Huelva), be routed direct to Point (sic, presumbaly Y omitted) for Yoke. For such ships to be routed through point X entails considerable extra distance in voyage and is not necessary. Same applies in case of similar northbound ships.
 (F.O.G.M.A.161037B)

Attacks on U-Boats. Your 151253B. (1) Was forwarded on 22nd March under date stamp minute number 259/491 of 5th March.
 (2) Was forwarded on 5th April my minute number 313/491 of 2nd April refers.
 (F.O.G.M.A.161127B to Admty.)

Destinations of Merchant Ships. Whenever merchant ships are ordered into Azores for H.X. O.N. and C.U. and U.C. convoys request you will inform me of ultimate destinations of such ships as this information is not held at Gibraltar.
 (F.O.G.M.A.161141 to C. in C. W.A.)

JERVIS. Intend to sail JERVIS at (?1325)B/17th to U.K. (route) - .
 (F.O.G.M.A.161155B)

U.S.S. ROCKAWAY. Unless otherwise directed intend sail U.S.S. ROCKAWAY at 1100Z/17 route etc to Cape Henry.
 (Commorseafron, 161715)

262

16.4.1944
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

T.G.21.14.

When relieved by C.T.G.21.15 patrol toward Azores to approx. 30 degs. N. against Southbound enemy S/M. reported 700 miles South of Flores. Thence if not in contact proceed direct to Hampton Roads. (C. in C. Lant, 162014 to C.T.G.21.14)

South Atlantic

DUQUESNE.

Your 151910Z. Intend sailing at 1200Z/17. DUQUESNE for U.K. (Route), via Casablanca. (Comar, Dakar, 161301)
Re: ammunition to be shipped.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 162310Z)

263

16.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALINES. Following received from M. of W.T.M.E. Begins:-
London request me advise urgently whether MALINES
is ready for towing to U.K. in view of possible
opportunity early May. Please advise earliest
vessel can be handed over for preparation. Ends.
Intend releasing ship from present duties and handing over to
M.W.T. My 021158* June and 271833 December.
(F.O.L.E.M. 160908C.)
* Intend to use MALINES for combined operations.

Mutiny in Greek Navy. No change general situation. English officers
guests of Greek ships for Easter. Your 081846.
(S.N.O.L.A. 161001C.)
No change at 1100/16. Your 081846.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 161215C.)
Situation still (?remains) unchanged. Your 081846.
(S.N.O.L.A. 161851C.)

Having arranged to interview Venizelos and Alexandrither I went
to Alexandria and first discussed the Greek situation with
F.O.L.E.M. and R.A.L.

2. There has been no appreciable change in shore establishments.
About half the ships company of IERAX and one or two men from
SAKTOURIS, both alongside PHOEBE, have now come over. A few men
from APOSTOLIS (alongside DELPHINIUM) have also come out. Prac-
tically none have come out of CRETE or HIFAISTOS, the committee
in which latter is, undoubtedly the headquarters of the mutinous
organisation. In each of the ships the passive majority is
being dominated by what appears to be a small minority rendered
desperate by fear of consequences. What is needed is some action
which will stimulate the passive majorities into action against
the dissentiers without some such action, which can be taken
either by the Greeks or by ourselves, the stalemate will undoubt-
edly continue, since, the mutinous committees are now casting
doubts upon probable composition of promised pan-Hellenic Govt.
to persuade their dupes to continue in a state of mutiny until
the new Govt. is actually formed to their satisfaction.

3. At this afternoon's meeting which was attended by F.O.L.E.M.
R.A.L. and staff officers, I pointed out to Venizelos the harm
which the present mutiny was doing to the war effort of the Allies
and how gravely the action of a few members of Greek Navy was de-
tracting from the high reputation which that Fleet had gained in
many actions against the enemy. I warned him that this state of
affairs could not much longer be tolerated, that early action
was necessary and that this action could be taken by the Greeks
themselves or by the British. I pointed out very forcibly to him
that action by the Greeks themselves was the only thing which
could possibly restore their prestige and that as they were unable
themselves to cope with the situation, and in consequence action
had to be taken by the British, it would mean the virtual extinc-
tion of the Greek Fleet and their possible exclusion from parti-
cipation in succouring their starving friends and relations in
Greece.

War Diary.

16.4.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.
(Contd.)

4. The Minister of Marine in reply appeared to agree with me, and in the course of his remarks asserted that the present ringleaders were anarchists, a circumstance which I said interested me less than the fact that they were mutineers and therefore to be eliminated at the earliest possible moment. Both the Minister of Marine and the Greek Commander in Chief agreed that action by the Greeks themselves was desirable, and further agreed, although without any undue enthusiasm, to organise parties to board and retake in the first instance IERAX, SAKTOURIS and APOSTOLIS. I think it probable that their new courage derives in great measure from the fact that Captain Toumbas, who demonstrated his courage and determination when bringing the heavily damaged ADRIAS out of Turkey during the Leros operations, has volunteered to organise and lead the boarding party against IERAX.
5. Present intentions are that either this afternoon or tomorrow morning the Greek Chaplain General to the forces will try to go on board HIFAISTOS to address the sailors in that ship and CRETE and it is thought that this may have considerable effect upon all except the most extreme elements. He will address the other ships afterwards. Should this approach produce no satisfactory results the boarding action will take place on the night 17/18 should this succeed the practicability will be examined of placing one of the recovered ships manned by loyal Greeks, alongside HIFAISTOS or CRETE, with a view to their capture.
6. The Greeks themselves suggested that it might be desirable to sink the HIFAISTOS by means of under water explosives placed there by Greeks. F.O.L.E.M. will examine this suggestion as a last resort.
7. A complete plan for British action to seize the ships, should this become necessary, has been made.
(C. in C.Med. at Cairo 161955.)

DOLFIJN,
PIPINOS.

DOLFIJN (P.47) leaving patrol through position •
036° 15' 023° 31' a.m. 18th to arrive 035° 49'
023° 29' about 1602/18th thence 035° 41' 023° 16'
at 2103/18th passing Antikithera Channel diving at
200 feet.

2. PIPINOS (P.71) remain South of lat. 035° 46' and E. long. 024°
10' from dawn 18th to 19th.
(Capt. S.1 161010B to DOLFIJN, PIPINOS.)

Tankers
CLAUDIA,
BERTHA.

My 152245. BERTHA entered Aegean 0045 G.M.T. 16th.
Course west. No escort observed.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 161030C to F.O.L.E.M. (R) Capt. S.
1, D.N.I.)

My 150925C. Submit passage of these vessels through
Straits suggest that German anxious to transfer
maximum quantity oil from Roumania and further traffic through
Straits may be expected very shortly. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 161045C to S.O.I.E.M. (R) Capt. S.1, D.N.I.)

BERTHA believed entered Aegean dawn today destination
possibly Piraeus via Doro Channel. Destroyers referred to in
F.O.L.E.M.'s 151835 may be her escort proceeding to R/V off Dar-
danelles.

265

16.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Tankers
CLAUDIA,
BERTHA.
(Contd.)

2. You are not to compromise your position by sinking caiques.
3. ANITA still present in Leros but not likely to sail yet.
(Capt. S.1 161101B to UNRULY, (R) UNSPARING, F.O.L.E.M.)

Obstruction by Lemonnier. There are 1207, 152 m.m. shells at Dakar. My 071718. French now state that Admiral Lemonnier has given orders that only 780 are to be shipped to (group missing). This is in direct contra-vention to clear orders given to him on this matter and it is requested you will arrange for full shipment.
2. Admiralty is requested to take any action considered necessary with Lemonnier over this matter observing he is now on his way to U.K. in MONTCALM.
(C. in C.Med. 161202B to N.O.I.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

Black Sea: From intelligence report April 11th to April 14th inclusive.
Russian operations. 1. Air attack on enemy shipping. April 10th one 5,000 ton merchant vessel sunk and one 2,000 ton merchant vessel and two barges damaged off Sulina: two F-Lighters sunk N.W.Black Sea.
April 11th four F-Lighters, one E-Boat and four M.Ls. sunk and two F-Lighters and one E-Boat damaged Feodosia.
April 13th one merchant vessel sunk N.W.Black Sea: two destroyers attacked off Sevastopol - direct hit secured on one: one F-Lighter sunk Feodosia.
April 14th 3 F-Lighters and one E-Boat sunk and 5 F-Lighters damaged off South Crimea coast.
2. Air. Considerable transport aircraft activity observed between Constanza and Crimea.
3. Naval. On night April 11th/12th result - less E-Boat action off Feodosia. Off Cape Tarkhan early hours of April 12th one F-Lighter and one M.L. sunk and one M.L. damaged by Soviet E-Boat. (N.L.O.Black Sea 161527.)

T.G.27.1. T.G.27.1 reconstituted effective 22 April RANGER, CARD, OTTER, STERN, O'NEIL, SOLAR, ROBERT I.PAINE. When loaded and ready about 24 April depart New York proceed Casablanca by route designated by Com. 10th Fleet (C. & R.) Upon arrival report Commorseafron for unloading. When directed by latter return Hampton Roads unless otherwise directed by me. CARD, SOLAR, STERN, O'NEIL report at New York to RANGER ready in all respects for extended duty by noon/23. OTTER and PAINE likewise by noon/24.
(C. in C.Lant 161628.)

/Bridgehead...

War Diary.16.4.1944.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bridgehead	Unloading	14th April	15th April
Sitrep 85.	Total tons	3,202	3,513
	L.S.T.tons	230	320
	L.C.T.tons	68	-
	L.C.I.tons	27	143
	Liberties	4	3
	present		

2. 1 Liberty completed discharge each day.
3. At 150500 raid by 10 aircraft combined with minelaying. Two E.A. shot down. Traffic diverted from Q.B.323. (F.O.W.It. 161712B.)

ARCHIMEDE. Intend to sail ARCHIMEDE at 1700/18 on surface through A 039° 01' 002° 48' at 0500/19th thence diving by day through B. 039° 38' 002° 04' at 2100/19th and C. 041° 19' 002° 29' at 06(?00)/20th to D. 041° 36' 002° 51' at 1530/20th for a special mission.

2. Return route omit A and C diving by day on 21st through D at 0001/21st B at 2300/21st to R/V Algiers escort in 036° 58' 002° 59' at 1400/22nd.
3. All times zone minus 2 all positions N. and E. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 161810B as amended 171132.)

M.A.A.F. 14/15 April. 20 - 30 E/A over Naples believed
Opsum 420. minelaying, no bombs dropped. No damage. 6 - 8
E/A minelaying Anzio Harbour. A/A report 1 des-
troyed, 1 probable.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 161824B.)

U.G.S.37 My 161532B (N.T. in W.R.) both torpedoed ships
attacked: afloat one burning badly.
2 ships tor- (BARLE 161907B to F.O.L.E.M.)
pedoed. My 161832B (N.T. in W.R.) and 161907. SS. MEYER
LONDON has sunk.
(BARLE 161940B.)
Your 162046. Am sweeping from position 10 miles
north Ras-et-Tin to west 5 miles north of convoy route for 20
miles then turning eastward.
2. Second ship THOMAS MASARYK burning badly abandoned.
(BARLE 162130B to F.O.L.E.M. (R) C. in C.Med. G.U.S.37, 212 Group,
V.A.M. R.A.Alex. S.N.O.C. Air Authorities.)

Situation Delete ref. to casualties in my 072132 para. one.
report No. 2. 10 mines detonated in the approach to Anzio
338. following air raid a.m. 15th. No casualties.
3. Coastal force operating near Murter Island dur-
ing night 14/15th April captured tug towing 250
ton tanker and dumb lighter. The lighter was towed
to Vis but the remainder were damaged and had to be sunk. 7
Italian prisoners taken slight damage to one (2 corrupt groups).
(C. in C.Med. 162052B.)

267

16.4.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-Boat dis- My 150348. Indian Ocean Japanese U-Boat by D/F
position. in vicinity of 001° S. 089° E. at 0003Z/16 probably
U-Boat which attacked YAMHILL 11th April west of
Maldives, is returning to base, U-Boat by D/F
1617Z/15 in vicinity of 001° N. 090° E. by later
appreciation, is almost certainly moving towards Penang. Other-
wise no fresh information, only change in scale of air escort is
area C, which is reduced to W.
(C. in C.E.F. 160419Z.)

Eastern Arrival CEYLON. Departure QUEEN ELIZABETH, RENOWN,
Fleet. VALIANT, RICHELIEU, ILLUSTRIOUS, SARATOGA, NEW
CASTLE, LONDON, GAMBIA, CEYLON, NIGERIA, TROMP,
NAPIER, ROTHERHAM, QUILLIAM, NEPAL, NIZAM,
QUIBERON, PETARD, PENN, QUEENBOROUGH, RACEHORSE,
QUADRANT, VAN GALEN, U.S. DUNLAP, U.S. dest. CUMMINGS, U.S. Dest.
FANNING.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 160600Z.)

ATHOS. Request tanker ATHOS due to leave Abadan for Aus-
tralia late April may be routed to Addu Atoll.
Request estimated date of sailing be advised.
2. Information is required as soon as possible
whether ship already has or can be supplied with outfit for fuel-
ling 2 escort vessels while on passage in convoy from Addu Atoll
to Australia.
3. Admty. 131813 to C. in C.E.F. only refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 160607Z to Abadan.)

Convoy Consisting of EMPIRE HARRY and EMPIRE SANDY es-
Trincomalee/ corted by DIPAVATI arrived.
Bombay. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 160951Z.)

EMERALD Arrivals EMERALD, ROEBUCK, RELENTLESS.
(for U.K.) Departures EMERALD.
(Cdre. Aden 161542Z.)

S.O.S. ?SS. S.O.S. Ship position 2200 G.M.T. lat. 26 R.O.S.
MADOERA. unread long. R 27 W. unread Seychelles Radio.
(Colombo W/T 162300Z.)
c.f. MADOERA 162309Z (in America & West Indies),
Lands End Radio 170353B and Sierra Leone Radio
No T.O.O/17th recd. 0522.

268

16.4.1944.
Sunday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies.

SS. SAG HARBOR (tanker). Had collision returning to port tonight. Master. (KWJN (SAG HARBOR No T.O.O./16 Recd.0151).

T.G.21.11 C.R. No.1914. This constitutes Task Group 21.11 effective 22nd April BLOCK ISLAND, AHRENS, BARR BUCKLEY, EUGENE E. ELMORE. When ready about 24th April Task Group depart Hampton Roads operate offensively against reported enemy submarines. Fuel from U.G.S.-G.U.S. Tankers as necessary or at Azores. Further orders later. (Cinclant, 160543).

T.F.69 U.S.S. COWIE assumes command T.F.69 in accordance Cinclant's 11, 21, 34. (Comdesdiv, 30, 161130Z).

U/boat report. Radar contact U.S.S. BLAIR and U.S.S. ROBERT E PEARY. Sound contact U.S.S. ROBERT PEARY 160517Z. Position 4637 N. 24.31 W. Lost contact at 1200 yards. Sub course by Radar 070 speed 18. C.T.G. 21.16 remains with contact. (U.S.S. ROBERT E. PEARY, 161142Z).

Stragglers report. Stragglers arrived week-ending 15th April. 10th OLDHAM (U.S.) S.C.156. Broken shaft. 14th SKULL BAR (U.S.) U.C.-18 engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns 161317Z).

ANTIOPE Arrived Bermuda 161315Z. (Com.N.O.B. Bermuda, 161454).

NEWFOUNDLAND Will now sail from U.S.A. p.m./26. (B.A.M.R. Washington 161456Z).

U/boat dispositions Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 161520Z, Cominch 161617Z).

TRILLIUM Request TRILLIUM may be allowed to call St. Johns N.F. on completion escort duty before proceeding Halifax. Your 161434Z refers. TRILLIUM has passengers and freight for St. Johns N.F. and important business with administrative authorities. (S.O.E.G. C.4, 162305Z to C. in C.C.N.A.).

? SS. MADDERA. S.O.S. On fire taking to boats in 26.35 R. 5 S. 102 R. 26 W. (BMVB (MADDERA) 162309Z). c.f. Colombo W/T 162300Z and Lands End Radio 170353B and Sierra Leone Radio No T.O.O. 17th Recd. 0522).

/ U-boat...

War Diary

16.4.1944.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/boat
incidents.

U.550
sunk

SS. ASCENSION A/C sighted life raft with five survivors 07.25 S. 20.00 W. 1400/15.

A. SS. PAN PENNSYLVANIA torpedoed 40.07 N. 69.24 W. 1216/16. U-boat shelled rammed and sunk same area about 1400/16 by U.S.S. GANDY JOYCE and

PETERSON 8 P/W.

B. U.S.S. ROBERT E. PEARY attacked sound and radar contacts 46.37 N. 24.31 W. 0517/16. All times Z.

D. U.S.S. RILEY FOWLER and E.V. JOHNSON attacked contacts vicinity 32.28 N. 14.28 W. after 1700/15 FNS. HOVA attacked sound contact 32.56 N. 65.00 W. 0940/15.
(Cominch, 161940Z).

16.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
817.

Paragraphs 8 to 13 cover South Pacific Forces.
(12) One possible submarine sighted off Empress
Augusta Bay evening 14th and another little later
10 miles southwest Buka passage.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 160815).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. (1) A/C sighted U/boat on course 060°
at 2250Z 15th April in 46° 50' N. 12° 37' W. Depth
charges failed to release.
(2) British merchant ship reported probable
torpedo explosion near her at 1600Z/15 in 59°
50' B. 22° 10' W.

Para.B. PELICAN obtained contact at 1400Z but lost it at 1615Z/
15 in approx. 46° 00' N. 19° 20' W.

Para.D. MIDDLETON attacked contact at 0735Z/15 in 49° 57' N.
05° 40' W.

(2) VIOLET and OUDH attacked contact at approx. 1215Z/15 in 25°
48' N. 57° 02' E.

(D.D.I.C. 161144B).

U/boat
dispositions

Estimates
(D.D.I.C. 161445B, 161450B).

17.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U. 342 sunk

U/boat
believed
sunk by
A/C. S/162.

1. At 1020B to-day A/C. S/162 sighted a north-bound U/boat about 250 miles S.W. of Reykjavik and straddled it with depth-charges just before the conning tower. The U/boat thereupon settled and nine minutes later a violent explosion occurred on board the U/boat which sank leaving much wood-wreckage, a metal cylinder, and an oil-patch reported by another A/C at 2120B to have spread to three miles square.

Biscay A/S
operations.

2. At 0217 to-day a U/boat was sighted by A/C. 360 miles W. by S. of the Gironde and another at 0412 about 440 miles W. by N. of the Gironde. At 1018B seven Enemy Destroyers were also sighted about 120 miles W. by S. of St. Nazaire steering 060°.

North Atlantic

L.L.
Squadron
at Gibraltar.

3. The Leigh Light Wellington Squadron at Gibraltar is being withdrawn to take part in "Overlord". The Admiralty consider that the enemy is unlikely to increase largely the U/boat force in the Mediterranean, and owing to cautious tactics now adopted by the U/boats there is less scope for Leigh Light aircraft in the Straits. A U.S.N. Searchlight Liberator Squadron at Lyautey is now helping to guard the Straits.

Mediterranean

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

4. C. in C. Med. reported this evening that the Greek C. in C. has been unable to screw his courage up to the point of taking action against the mutineers and resuming command of his own ships, and that he is being relieved of his command tonight. His successor is Admiral Voulgaris.

Bridgehead.

5. 1007 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. There was intermittent shelling but no air activity. The sea was rough. 5 mines were detonated.

272

War Diary.

17.4.1944.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

6. On the west coast of Italy the port of Piombino and Leghorn docks were bombed last night.

Mines in
Gulf of
Naples.

7. SS. ALEXANDER G. BELL and JAMES GUTHRIE were mined in the Gulf of Naples today, whilst leaving harbour in Convoy N.V.33. The former returned to harbour under her own steam, the other was beached.

Aegean.

8.(a) M.L.s operating near Kos last night attacked a 250 ton merchant vessel which blew up. M.T.B.s had an engagement with a patrol vessel, but it is not known what damage was caused. One M.T.B. suffered some damage.

(b) Aircraft continued their attacks on enemy shipping in the Aegean and Southern Greece during the past week. A ship was sunk and another was damaged or sunk in Koroni Harbour, southern Greece, and successful attacks were made on shipping in Nios and St. Nikolo harbours. Githion Harbour installations at Gonia and shipping at Candia were also attacked.

273

17.4.1944.
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

MONTCALM. GEORGES LEYGUES. 1. On arrival in U.K. MONTCALM and GEORGES LEYGUES are to come under the orders of C. in C. Home Fleet.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 170554B to C. in C.W.A.).

HUMBOLDT Request you sail HUMBOLDT to Casablanca when ready about 18th April.
(Com. 12th Fleet, 171001 to Admty.).

JERVIS F.O.G.M.As. 161155.
Destination of JERVIS is Scapa.
(D.O.D.(H), 171244B to C. in C.W.A.).

Operations

Biscay A/S operations. Have A.S.V. contact in 46° 20' N. 10° 40' W. probably U/boat. Remaining in position until 0220.
(A/C, RBG33, 170118B to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 08' N. 09; 35' W.
(A/C, MPC 49 to 19 Group T.O.R. 170217).
Am over enemy submarine in 46° 43' N. 10° 48' W.
(A/C, UAN 88, 170412B to 19 Group).
My 0412. Enemy submarine was on surface, sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Had submerged so long that no useful attack could be made position 46° 34' N. 010° 48' W. considered reasonably accurate.
(A/C UAN 88, 170423B to 19 Group).
My 0412. Correct position is 046° 32' N. 011° 37' W.
(A/C UAN 88, 170615B to 19 Group).
7 destroyers bearing 270° distant 3 miles course 030° position 46° 43' N. 05° 30' W.
(A/C MSW 23, 170922B to 19 Group).
Contact regained with 7 destroyers in 46° 50' N. 05° 15' W., course 060° 20 knots.
(A/C, MSW 23, 171018B to 19 Group).
Your 161831. CYGNET and CRANE now hunting S/M. in 46° 10' N. 16° 56' W. Am remaining in vicinity to give fighter protection. Regret no evidence gained after hunt last night. SWANSEA and STORMONT have rejoined. My 162200 refers. Transfer of stores and SWANSEA prisoners taking place to-day. OWEN SOUND fuelled.
(BITER, 171227B to C. in C.W.A.).
Your 171227B. Approved.
(C. in C.W.A. 171516B to BITER).
My 171227B. E.G.7 now consider non-submarine and has rejoined. Transfer of prisoners, cot case, and group Radar stores from E.G.9th to E.G.7th Completed. Intend to detach E.G. 9th 0400/18th in Northern part of their area. My P.C.S. 46° 19' N. 17° 15' W, 330° 12 knots. Weather 3865 1544.
(BITER, 171701B to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Patrols. Proceed to 060° 39' N., 002° 49' E. thence by route 2 to Lerwick diving by day within 60 miles Norwegian coast.
(F.O.S., 170134B to VENTURER).

274

17.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M Cancel my 140657. Southern limit of your area is
Patrols. now 058° 05' N.
(contd). (F.O.S., 171414B to ULA)

Add to my 231844 March para. 1 (L) VENTURER 23rd
April - 2nd May Skudesnes - Lister. (M) STRONGBOW
24th April - 8th May.

(F.O.S., 171610 to Capts. S.3, S.9)

Positions of submarines at 0800/18th and movements for
following 24 hours.

- (A) JUNON on patrol vicinity 65° 15' N., 00° 03' E.
 - (B) UNSHAKEN on patrol off Stadlandet.
 - (C) ULA 59° 20' N., 04° 30' E, dived by day to patrol off Skudesnes
 - (D) VENTURER approaching Lerwick from North East.
- (F.O.S., 171748 to Admiralty)

S.C. My 160430B. Returned at 0345B today owing to
operations. weather (HESSA).
2. Further attempt to carry out operation will be
made as soon as weather permits.
(A.C.O.S. 170437B to Admty).

My 160812B. Returned at 1145B today. (HITRA)

2. Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S., 171220B to Admty)

Operation 6th Escort Group sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 0700A/18th.
"F.Z." (Cdre. D.W.A. 171007B to C. in C.H.F.).
Intend to sail NEA HELLAS passing Clyde Boom
2200B/17th April by standard coastal route to
Scapa. Speed 15 knots which is maximum con-
tinuous speed. Estimate time of reaching 058° 15' N. 1700B/18th.
E.T.A. Scapa 2359B/18 A.M. 161807B and C. in C.H.F. 162347B April
refer.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 171518B to C. in C.H.F.).

Your 161650. This cannot be arranged as NEA HELLAS must
sail from Greenock at 2100 tonight and no other early opportunity
can be foreseen.

(2) It is unsatisfactory that this situation has arisen without
warning and it is of the greatest importance that R.A.59 is not
delayed.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 172130B to N.O.I.C. Archangel).

Operation Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.B.252 S.O., 256
"Knitting 6" in support at 2000B/17th for patrol off enemy
coast between longitudes 000° 23' E. and 000° 26'
W. proceeding through passage 2, return through
passage 4, and to be within 20 miles of English Coast by day-
light.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 171156B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Abandoned - see 18/4 p. 293

Coastal (C. in C. Plymouth 171200B).
Force (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171431B).
Patrols.

Operation On completion of escort duty at Breaksea, my 141015
"C.W. refers. First E.G. is to proceed south of
Ireland to hunt U-boat in approx. 052° 30' N.

17.4.1944.
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "C.W." (Contd.) 028° 30' W.
 (2) This U-boat is making routine shore signals of weather reporting type within 120 miles of this position.
 (3) U-boat transmits on series 7 once between 0800Z and 1000Z and once between 2200Z and 2400Z every 24 hours.
 (C. in C.W.A. 171311B to E.G.1.).
 Cancel para.2. of my 161831. E.G.9th is to operate in an area between latitudes 051° N. and 054° N. longitude 016° W. and 020° W.
 (2) Report Radar state of your group.
 (C. in C.W.A. 171312B to E.G.9.).
 My 141816.
 Third E.G. is to sweep through following positions:
 MA 055° 20' N. 028° 01' W. MB 050° 30' N. 020° 30' W. MC 050° 30' N. 012° 01' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth to arrive Plymouth a.m. 24th April.
 (C. in C.W.A. 171316B to E.G.3.).

Combined operation. Your 131552B. Destroyers allocated as follows:
 Force "G" SCORPION, SWIFT, IMPULSIVE. Force "J" Capt.(D) 23 in SAUMAREZ, STORD, SERAPIS, SCOURGE, SVENNER.
 (R.A.D.H.F., 171651B to N.C.E.T.F.).

Cable repairs. ARIEL. ARIEL completed work in this area proceeding Loch Maddy to work between North Uist and Harris.
 Speed 12 knots. E.T.A. Loch Maddy 1600B/18.
 (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 171735B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Operation "F.Y." A.M. 749A (Attack by "Gust").
 (A) 071° 38' N. 002° 49' E.
 (B) Intitial contact 0228/1st April, 1944 Green 80.
 (C) Radar yes. (D) Unknown. (E) On the surface until 0240. (F) Reduced to 7 knots and altered towards (?).
 (G) 120 R.P.M. (H) Unknown. (I) 0243 position unknown. (J) Not seen (K) No. (L) No. (M) 3 miles wind force 3 sea and swell 21.
 (N) Extending screen sector XV. (O) No other ships in company.
 (P) Yes. (Q) Nil.
 (STARLING, 171748B to C. in C.H.F.).
 A.M. 876AZ. (U-boat attacked).
 (a) 29th March 1944. (1) 2224. (2) 2248. (3) 2258. (4) 2301.
 (b) STARLING. (c) No. (d) 064° 31' N. 003° 19' W.
 (1) 292° reducing from 15 knots.
 (2) 174° reducing from 15 knots.
 (3) 332° 7 knots. (4) 318° 7 knots.
 (e) (1) to (3) unknown. (4) on bearing of U-boat (German).
 (f) (1) and (2) heavy explosions. (3) Accompanied by render noises and followed by 5 loud knocking noises.
 (4) Very heavy explosions followed by rumbling reverberations.
 (E.G.2, 171751B to Admty.).

M.T.B. patrol shelled off Cherbourg. My 161330B. Unit L consisting of M.T.Bs. 617 (S.O.,) 650, 671, 624 and 682 arrived on patrol at 2200B/16.
 / at 0157B/17...

276

17.4.1944.

MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

M.T.B. At 0157B/17 a plot was obtained by shore radar of shelled off two craft north of Alderney and Unit L was ordered Cherbourg. to intercept. At 0400 in 323° Cherbourg break-water five miles the Unit was ineffectually (Contd.). illuminated by starshell and simultaneously obtained radar contact 3000 yards to the south-eastward. Almost immediately severe radar interference was sustained and about five minutes later the Unit was challenged with the letter "William" on a white light. The visibility was only about 1000 yards, and with the bad radar conditions, it was impossible to maintain contact. During further search, shore batteries opened fire at 0425 in two gun salvos at 3000 yards range. Two further attempts to locate the enemy were interrupted by fire from shore-batteries in four gun salvos at ranges of 9000 and 18,000 yards. Aircraft were detected and are believed to have dropped window. At 0500 Unit L withdrew having failed to make contact with enemy. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 172219B to Admty.).

Enemy Air Activity

Jan Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 160735Z. Aircraft Mayen. observed 0655 south of island, course southerly. (A.C.I.C. 170120B to Admty.).
Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 170740. Ju.88 crossing defence area 0658 (North?) westerly course. Opened fire. Returning South. (A.C.I.C. 171310B to Admty.).

Mining

Operation PLOVER carrying out operation N.L.126 (Part One) N.L.126 tonight from 51° 16' 10" N. 2° 03' 56" E. in a 103° direction for 6.67 miles. (V.A. Dover, 171305B, to A.N.C.X.F.).

U/boats

U/boat Am over enemy S/M in 60° 17' N. 28° 49' W. apparently sunk by Enemy was on surface, when first sighted was on A/C. S/162. course 360°, speed 10 knots. (A/C, 171020B to Artunshofdi).
U. 342
Sunk U/boat sighted by S/162 in 60° 17' N. 28° 49' W. at 1021B/17 on surface, course 360, speed 10 knots. (R.A.F. Iceland, 171119B to H.Q.C.C.).

My 171119B. 162 signals have attacked U/boat with depth charges. Result of attack hits observed oil bubbles seen, air bubbles seen, wreckage seen in water. At the time of attack U/boat was visible.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 17226B to H.Q.C.C.).

S/162 gives new position 60° 23' N. 29° 20' W. New oil-patch forming 1500 yards upwind from wreckage, enlarging.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 171446B to H.Q.C.C.).

Further signals from S/162 indicate U/boat straddled on surface and started to submerge in 60.23 N. 29.20 W. Violent

/ explosion...

War Diary17.4.1944.
MondayHOME COMMANDS

U.342 sunk

U/boatsU/boat
apparently
sunk by
A/C. S/162.

explosion, bubbles, oil, and wreckage seen. U/boat sank after 90 minutes. About two hours later new oil patch formed 1500 yards upwind from wreckage and after about another two hours oil patch left N.E. - S.W. 3000 yards by 600 yards. Two and half hours later H/86 reported oil patch 5000 yards by 100 yards, oil rising

North East end.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 171745B to H.Q.C.C.).

My 171745B. After attack U/boat gradually settled. Violent explosion occurred 15 feet forward of conning tower 9 mins. after attack when only conning tower visible and then U/boat sank leaving large quantity of wood wreckage and metal cylinder. Good straddle just forward of conning tower confirmed by photograph. H/86 reported at 2120B/17th oil covering 3 miles square. Suggest safe to assume U/boat killed. Request your instructions as to advisability of discontinuing hunt.

(R.A.F. Iceland, 172312B to H.Q.C.C.).

Casualties and Defects

SHEFFIELD

Scapa departure SHEFFIELD.
(A.C.O.S. 170844B to N.O.I.C. Greenock).H.D.M.L.
1010

My 141605. H.D.M.L. 1010 has now sustained damage to hull as a result of collision. Estimated date of completion 27th April. (N.O.I.C. Appledore, 171430B to F.O.I.C. Portland).

M.T.B. 352
sunk.

Regret to report the sinking of M.T.B.352 by collision night 25/26th March. (C. in C. Nore, 171705B to Admty.).

STRATHELLA

Intend to sail WINDERMERE with GAUGER on 22nd April to point off Skavfjord (Greenland). C.T.F. 24 111943 refers. Thence GAUGER for onward escort to Argentia and WINDERMERE to Narsarsauk.

(2) Comgrepat is requested to sail WINDERMERE for Reykjavik with, (a) crew of STRATHELLA and their personal effects (b) as much of the portable and valuable equipment and stores as can be carried by WINDERMERE.

My 112154 refers. STRATHELLA's 132354 refers.

(3) STRATHELLA is to make best practicable arrangements with Comgrepat for laying up of vessel.

(4) It is considered most undesirable that crew of STRATHELLA should continue to stand by their broken down and worn out vessel.

(5) Should the laying up of the vessel result in further deterioration or even total loss, consider this must be accepted as there is no practical alternative.

(A.C.I.C. 172220B to STRATHELLA).

278

17.4.1944
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Straits
Blimp
fence.

Regret delay in replying to your 291939 March.
2. Your welcome proposals are being actively investigated with Mediterranean Authorities. Meanwhile H.M. Ambassador has advised that passage of Blimps through Azores should be regarded as covered by existing facilities and that Portuguese should merely be notified locally of intended passage by S.B.O. Azores.
3. C. in C. Med., and F.O.G.M.A. pass to Air Authorities concerned.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 170059B to Cominch, amended 210656B)

VERVAIN Arrival Horta at 0705Z with defect. VERVAIN
161020 not to F.O.G.M.A. refers.
(S.B.N.O.Azores 170914Z)

CENTURION Stiffening of foremost patch has buckled. Patch
shored.
2. More than 10 knots in calm weather inadvisable.
F.O.G.M.A. 151726 refers.
3. Request dockyard assistance at Gibraltar to increase stiffening.
(CENTURION 171158 to C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A.)

JERVIS Departure.
(for U.K.) (F.O.G.M.A. 171314B)

Fuelling
carriers at
Horta.

Experience with GUADALCANAL today has shown that owing to lack of any pontoons it is not possible to fuel carriers from EMPIRE GARDEN in Horta carrier on this occasion has been fuelled in outer anchorage from VERVAIN whose presence was quite fortuitous.

(3) Am investigating possibilities of obtaining pontoons locally.
(4) Request authorities concerned be informed that until further notice carriers can only be refuelled in outer anchorage weather conditions permitting using one of their own escorts burning same type of fuel.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 171746Z)

EMULOUS Reference my 162101/ tug requires minor engine and deck repairs. Has been allowed until noon 21st to complete. Sailing orders are requested.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 171806 to B.S.N.O. Azores)
/ H.M. Tug EMULOUS will commence repairs 17th. Report follows.

SS ROMAIN Sailed Barcelona 1400 16th for Port Vendres.
(F.O.G.M.A. 171829B to 10th M.S.F. Casablanca, LE CURIE, Capt. (S) 10th, S.O.1 Med.)

/SS ALBULA ...

279

17.4.1944.
Monday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

SS ALBULA Swiss ALBULA 1220 gross tonnage speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots, left Gibraltar 1825/17 for Marseilles. M.S.G.O. 77 section (C) refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 171840B to 10th S.F., LE CURIE, Casablanca F.S. (R) Capt. S. 10th.)

L.L. Squadron The following has been made to Cominch, repeated at Gibraltar. B.A.D., RAFDEL, Air Ministry.
2. Begins. Examination of our anti-U/Boat measures for "Overlord" has shown necessity for withdrawing to U.K. the Leigh Light Squadron now at Gibraltar, and steps are now being taken to do so.
2. Owing to cautious tactics of U/Boats, and since enemy is unlikely to increase largely U/Boat force in Mediterranean, there is now less scope for L.L. aircraft in Straits. Even so, we are reluctant to denude Gibraltar of L.L. aircraft and only do so because of overriding importance of "Overlord".
3. It is understood that U.S.N. Searchlight Liberator squadron at Lyautey, which is now helping to guard Straits, is destined for Azores, and we should be grateful for confirmation that pending conclusion of Azores negotiations it is your intention that this Squadron will remain at Lyautey.
(1st S.L. 171921B) who to ?

UPROAR Intend sailing P.31 UPROAR for U.K. at 190700 (routed etc.)
(2) UPROAR will be escorted as far as lat. $041^{\circ} 55'$ N.
(F.O.G.M.A. 172004B, 172008B)

South Atlantic

S.O.S. S.O.S. ship position 2200 G.M.T. Lat. 2 ?? unread
? SS Long. 27 ?? W. unread Seychelles BBB ??? 23
MADDERA unread 16.
(Sierra Leone Radio No T.O.O./17th. Recd. 0522)
(c.f. Colombo W/T 162300Z)

Fire at Town Hall burned out tonight, following offices completely gutted.
Port Naval Officer in Charge Cypher Office (etc) Stanley. Will telegraph in detail when position clearer.
No casualties. Practically nothing saved.
(Falkland Is. No. T.O.O. Rcd. in W.R. 1112/18)
All civilian and naval cyphers intact.
(Falkland Is. No T.O.O. 0/17)

/DUQUESNE...

17.4.44.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

DUQUESNE,
SUFFREN

Comar Dakar reports:-

(1) Intend sailing DUQUESNE for U.K. 1200Z/17
(route) via Casablanca; T.O.O.161301Z. Ends.
(2) Intends sailing SUFFREN a.m. 22nd from Port
Etienne to Casablanca E.T.A. p.m./24th returning
Dakar after four or five days.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 171054Z)

Convoy
D.R.1.

Sailed from Port Etienne for Gibraltar at 1430Z/
17.
My 131746Z and 151147Z refer.
(N.T.S.O. Dakar 171844Z)

U/B
attacked.

Have attacked enemy S/M with Chasseur 62 from
1830 to 21 G.M.T. position 016° 14' N. 021° 47' W.
Have lost touch with submarine after last attack.
Chasseur proceeding towards Dakar at midnight.
I am remaining on the spot pending your further
orders have only 5 depth charges all attacks
seemed good.
(AIR FRANCE III 172200Z to Comar Dakar)

17.4.1944
Monday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Delays to
Shipping
at Malta.

(1) Serious delay to Merchant Shipping has recently occurred in Malta.

(a) Import programme comfortably within present capacity to receive and clear.

(b) Cause of congestion largely due to bunching of arrivals from overseas.

Following arrangements requested.

(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, No T.O.O. to War Office)

Montevideo
Dock.

Departure GORLESTON with ORIANA, WEAZEL, towing Montevideo Dock.

(N.O.I.C.Suez, 170801C)

I.R.C. ship
EMBLA
bombed.

S.O. (Int.) Gibraltar reports that I.R.C. Ship EMBLA was bombed and damaged about April 6th after leaving Marseilles bound Gibraltar, and that ship put in to Port Vendres for repairs. Lisbon states I.R.C. have held up all R.C. sailings from Lisbon as result. Ends. No notification of sailing

of EMBLA was received by C. in C. Med. British A/C on sweep sighted ship in 42 degs. 35' N. 030 degs. 04' E. at 061314 course 180 degs. 5 knots.

Two Beaufighters fired sighting pairs and one fired salvo of R.P. but deflected to miss on seeing Red Cross Markings. 10 R.P. fired in all one pair probably hitting ship. No cannon attack made and ship last seen heading for shore. During March and early April the majority of movements of Red Cross Ships sighted Southbound from Marseilles were not received by C. in C. Med. Unless definite information regarding sailing times and dates with route can be promulgated and ships broadcast their positions regularly such regrettable incidents must recur.

(C. in C. Med. 171032) See H.Q.M.A.A.F. 131736.

DOLFIJN.

From a position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 15' at 2101B/18th proceed to R/V with escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 0630/21st thence Malta.

(2) You are to dive by day east of longitude 20 degs. Your surface speed is estimated as 8½ knots.

(Capt.(S) 1, 171101B to DOLFIJN)

UNSPARING.

From position 035 degs. 41' 023 degs. 16' about dawn 19th proceed to R/V with escort in 035 degs. 49' 015 degs. 18' at 0530/22nd.

(2) Dive by day East of longitude 020 degs. surface speed 8 knots.

(Capt.(S) 1, 171125 to UNSPARING)

New German
mine.

F.O.W.It's 112006 and 091604 (not to Admiralty) Comnav Det. Naples' 112006B and 151340 being passed for information.

(C. in C. Med. 171210)

282

17.4.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

H.D.M.L. Re-allocation.
(2) Authorities are requested to sail boats to new areas on receipt of this signal.
(C. in C. Med. 171528B).

BERTHE, ANITA. BERTHE arrived Salamis this morning, ANITA still present Porta Lagos.
(Capt.(S) 1, 171610 to UNRULY).

CANTON Arrived from south 31st March as white ensign vessel and reverted to S.T. service 0001/14th April.
(S.S.T.O. Suez, 171655C).

Mutiny in Greek Navy. No change in situation at 1730C/17.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 171742C).
Situation the same. Your 081846C..
(S.N.O.L.A. 171801C).
The address by the Greek Chaplain to the forces, the Bishop of Kariastias was not delivered as the HIFAISTOS and CRETE refused to allow him on board my 161955 refers. It does not appear that any great determination was exerted to get him on board, but the failure left him a very angry old man who refused thereafter to broadcast to any ship.
(2) The address which he had intended to give was afterwards broadcast by a Greek Officer to all ships, together with a message from the Bishop, either threatening, or actually excommunicating some or all of the men concerned.
(3) The Bishop and Alexandris then immediately flew to Cairo to consult Venizelos. I sent the Greek C. in C. a message to come and see me, which he did.
(4) The Admiral was in a state of extreme nervousness and thought the moment was not ripe for action against IERAX etc., but that it would be better deferred until the Pan Hellenic Gov. now in contemplation had actually been settled when in their opinion any action which was taken would have the support of all Greek Nationals, except the actual dissidents. He said that there was not now time to organise the operation for tonight, but "he thought" that it might be laid on tomorrow night. My impression is that although Captain Toumbas is reported to be still anxious to carry out this operation, the Greek C. in C. himself, and probably a good many others are afraid of the consequences, even of success.
(5) When I pointed out to him that Allied Merchant ships were being sunk and allied men being killed as a result of the reduction of my escorts, and that I could not accept a position which compelled me to immobilise British ships in order to look after mutinous Greeks, merely because loyal Greeks were reluctant to resume control of their own ships, the Greek C. in C. made the statement that if the British ships were compelled to fire on Greek ships it would impair the relations between the two countries for many years. I took this opportunity to point

/out...

283

17.4.1944.
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMutiny in
Greek Navy
(Contd.).

out to the Admiral and directed him to inform his officers that there was no question of either Greek or British sailors attacking Greek ships, but rather that certain ships of the Greek Fleet were now illegally flying the Greek flag since they were in mutiny against the Greek Govt. and

that all I desired the loyal Greeks to do was to resume control on behalf of constitutional Greek authority, of these mutinous ships. This was a new point of view to the Admiral but seemed to make some impression.

(6) The Admiral left me to return to Alexandria confirming his intentions to try to organise boarding operations for tomorrow night, but I have no faith whatever that he will do so.

(7) He returned to the suggestion that he had made of using Greek personnel to sink the HIFAISTOS by under water explosion but I regard this suggestion merely as an attempt to do something against the mutineers which will probably never come to light, or could be laughed off as the action of one or two individuals rather than that of the Greek C. in C.

(8) My impression is that with the present Greek C. in C. no determined action can be expected against the mutineers. I have however just learnt that he is being relieved of his command tonight, but the name of successor is not yet known.

(C. in C. Med. at Cairo, 172053C).

My 172053 para. 8.+

Successor is Voulgaris.

(C. in C. Med. 172303C). + Greek mutiny. Relief of Commander in Chief.

Bridgehead

Sitrep 86.

2838 tons unloaded on 16th April of which L.S.T. L.C.I. from Naples provided 420 and 93 tons respectively. 2 Liberties present. 10 mines

swept and detonated. Intermittent shelling.

(F.O.W.It. 171754B-).

PIPINOS.

Proceed forthwith to patrol approaches to Iraklion (?Heraklion intended).

(2) Appreciation GERTRUD in mid harbour. All

hatches closed but no escort yet present.

(Capt.(S) 1, 171808B to PIPINOS, (R) 1st S/M. F. F.O.L.E.M.).

3 Bar
vessels.

An urgent requirement has arisen for 3 additional Bar vessels for use for port clearance in "Overlord". Request information whether these vessels can be spared without detriment to your

own operations accepting some decrease in maintenance work at the bases. Vessels would be required to reach Portsmouth as soon as practicable.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 171841B to C. in C. Med.).

Dalmatian
Islands.

Following liquidation of this garrison at Solta and successful Commando raid on Hvar enemy has made redistribution of garrisons, now believed one battalion Hvar reinforced battalion Korcula one

/to...

17.4.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Dalmatian
Islands
(Contd.).

to two Coys. Solta and Mljet. Lacosta not occupied by enemy and Vis remains firmly in Allied hands. In north Adriatic Rab and Pag contain each one Coy. plus Quisling troops. Germans also hold most other islands but some outer islands held by partisans.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, 171845B).

Search

Propose search be continued to seaward during night closing the coast by daylight. DELPHINIUM will assume duty of S.O. at 0700C/18th.
(?DELPHINIUM 172010C to Address missed).

Cositintrep
283.

U-boat attacked convoy U.G.S.37 off Cyronat p.m. 16. SS. MEYER LONDON sunk and SS THOMAS G. MASARYK set on fire. Hunt for U-boat in progress. (2) Minesweeping operation continued at Anzio 16th April 2838 tons discharged slight enemy air activity no casualties.
(C. in C. Med. 172116B).

Situation
Report No.339

(3) Progress 23 mines swept by 10th M.S.F. in Straits of Bonifacio between 11th and 16th April.
(C. in C. Med. 172139B).

17.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

My 160419Z. No fresh information, no change in scale of air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 170336Z.)

S.O.S.
?MADOERA.

Intercept 0153 G.M.T 500 k/cs 190° approx. Gonio A.de VPU S.O.S. ship position 2200 G.M.T. lat. 25 unread long. 27 W. unread Seychelles Radio. 2301/16 de VPU.
(Lands End Radio 170353B.)

Loading state.
(personnel.)

F.O.N.I.C. 383 amendment to F.O.N.I.C. 356 para. 2 loading state. No limit by service category. Overall limit 75% capacity of boats including buoyant apparatus as approved for passenger certificate under defence regulations 47 B.B. but excluding life buoy and life jackets.
(C. in C.E.F. 170612Z.)

Bombay ex-
plosion,
general
situation.

Princes Dock. Sheds and appliances destroyed. Dock entrance being surveyed. Dock may be operating in two months though some berths should be workable much earlier. Alexandra Dock not damaged. Merewether drydock and Hughes drydock not damaged. Victoria Dock - TINOMBO and one dredger sunk in dock. JALAPADMA 4000 tons lifted 20 feet on to quayside. FORT STIKINE blown to atoms not visible above water. Nine ships burnt out but afloat. Two explosions 2nd explosion killed majority of fire fighting personnel and destroyed pumps. All sea transport fire-fighting equipment most cargo gear and naval salvage stores in sheds destroyed. Damage to dock structure not yet known. For some time port capabilities limited to Alexandra dock and stream. Fire spread to city area $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away. All fires under complete control excellent co-operation between three services and civil authorities. Military undertaking clearance of docks. Salvage personnel and gear in India totally inadequate to cope with situation. As far as we can see, with judicious use of Karachi, Bombay explosion should not at present affect Assam operations.
(F.O.C.R.I.N: at Bombay 171054Z.) [See also 285A]

MOST SECRET

285A

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.)

Explosion in Bombay

TOP SECRET.

171940/April. Docks 14 April.

From: Government of India,
War Department.

Date 17.4.44.
Recd. 1815.

Cypher.

Addressed: Secretary of State for India
Repeated S.E.A.C. for S.A.C.

13541. 2805 17/4. IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Secretary of State for India
repeated S.E.A.C. for S.A.C.

1. Following information about Bombay is based on preliminary reports and will be amended and amplified as necessary later.

2. Some fire still burning but all now definitely under control.

3. Alexandra Dock substantially unaffected and some discharge has already been resumed.

4. Princes and Victoria Docks are generally speaking intact as regards quay walls railway lines and foundations but completely destroyed as regards buildings of all kinds in and near the docks. Most of cranes in Victoria and some those in Princes destroyed. Both of docks at present tidal but uncertain to what extent if any dock gates are damaged. These were (? closed) at time of accident. Victoria Dock entrance blocked by sunken ship and other wrecks including dredger would in any case probably render dock unusable until cleared. Believe no such underwater obstruction at or near entrance to Princes Dock.

5. Preliminary estimate based on Fourth above is that Princes usable shortly and will be working to something like capacity in two or three months. Date when Victoria Dock can be put into commission depends on salvage facilities which can be made available for clearing certain wrecks. At a rough guess overall capacity of port might be reduced by fifteen or twenty per cent so long as Victoria Dock is out and by forty to fifty per cent so long as both Victoria and Princes are out.

6. About sixteen ships badly damaged or total loss.
Of these more than half are afloat and should be removable from the docks.

7.....

7. Oil fuelling interrupted but lines will soon be repaired. No oil installations have been damaged.

8. Railways have not suffered any important damage.

9. About 55,00 tons of food grains have been destroyed.

10. We shall keep you fully informed. You will realise that the main ways in which you will be able to help are firstly and most importantly by provision of salvage equipment and secondly by replacement of cranes etc. which will have to be diverted temporarily from other uses. Replacement of food grains destroyed may also be very important.

171940.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D. (F)
D.D.I.C. Plot.

Received in War Reg. at 1615/20.

Circulated to India Office M. of W.T. M. of Supply War Office,
W.C.O Air Ministry M. of Food and Admiralty.

1st Lord.	Hd. of N.L	Deputy Contr.	} Bath by courier.
1st S.L. (2)	D.A/S W.	D.A.S.	
D.F.S.L	D.A.U.D.	P.	
2nd S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	D.N.C.	
3rd S.L.	D.T.D. (4)	E. in C.	
Vice Controller.	D.T.D. (C)	S.D.G.	
4th S.L.	D. of S.T. (6)	D. of D.	
V.C.N.S.	D. of Salvage.	Hd. S.W.R.	
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.N.C.		
A.C.N.S. (W)	E. in C.		
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	D.D.A.S.		
Parl. Sec.	Hd. of M. (6)		
Fin. Sec.	D.C.O.D. (4)		
Naval Sec.	D.C.O.M. (4)		
Civil Lord.	D. of S. (2)		
U.W.R.	D. of P. (2)		
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of P. (Q) (2)		
D. Map Room	COREP (2)		
Capt. Pim	A.D.O.D. (C.O)		
D.O.D. (H) (4)	D.P.D.		
B.O.D. (F) (2)	C.N.I		
Plot.	Adl. Blake. (4)		
D.C.	A.S. (C)		
D.D.I.C. (2)	D. of D.		
S.D.G.	N.I.D. 10(2)		
D.G.D.	V.D.		
D.M.B.	I.P. (2)		
D.M.R.			

17.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- SS. MADOERA on fire. Position K 465 J 23 12 Z 16th April intercepted distress message from BMVB (MADOERA) on fire taking to boats at 26° 35' S. 103° 26' W. 2255Z/16th April.
Received message from SS. PORT SYDNEY begins we are 17 hours off BMVB (MADOERA) going to his assistance 0001Z/17th April. Ends.
(SS. PORT ST. JOHN 170030Z.)
S.O.S. Ship on fire position 26.35.5 S. 102.26 W. Taking to boats. BMVB.
(MADOERA 170159Z.)
On receipt of information given in your 162309 Chilean C. in C. diverted Naval tanker MAIPU southbound from Caicos toward position indicated but tanker has now resumed course for Valparaiso as it is understood British M. Ship ROOKLEY is proceeding to rescue.
U.S. Naval Attache has been informed but is not yet aware what action is being taken by American patrolling destroyers. Request I may be kept informed of situation in case Chilean Naval aid is further required. MAIPU's position at midnight 16th April was approx. 1200 miles from scene.
(Santiago 171230R to Admty.)
- U.S.S. MIANTONOMAH and one A.V.P. Cinclant transfer MIANTONOMAH (C.M.10) to Naval Forces Europe for duty and arrange to have one ROCKAWAY Class A.V.P. in U.K. waters for temporary duty from about 20 May to about 20 June. These ships are provided to enable Comnaveu to meet unexpected supply emergencies and are to remain under his direct control. They are not available for allocation to other Allied Forces.
(Cominch & C.N.O. 171331.)
- U.C.19. Recommend immediate diversion southward to 35 N. 34 W. thence west to 45 W. rejoining route at WN. Suggest change "Chop".
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 171345Z to Admty.)
- U.C.19. Your 171345. Southward diversion made in C. in C.W.A's 171021. Request you assume control forthwith.
(D.T.D. 171337B to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)
- T.G.21.6. Cr. No. 1152. T.G.21.6 CHARLES LAWRENCE Cortdiv 6 will escort convoy C.U.22 departing New York 24th April for U.K. and return escorting U.C.22 when directed.
(Cinclant 171423.)
- U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. 171504Z, Cominch 171552Z.)

287

17.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- O.N.230. 46 ships arrived New York 16th April.
(P.D.New York 171616Z.)
- L.L. Sqdn. Re withdrawal.
for Gib. (1st S.L. 171701Z to Cominch.)
See 1st S.L. 171921B in North Atlantic.
- C.K.2. Sailing delayed 24 hours account of weather.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 172011Z.)
- T.G.27.8 T.G.27.8 will depart 2300/18th (all times Z.)
from lat. 42.42 long. 68.32 for U.K. via (route
etc.)
(C.T.G.27.8 172122.)
- SPEAKER. At appropriate point detach SPEAKER from convoy
U.C.19 to proceed independently to Hampton Roads.
(Cominch 172152Z to Cinclant.)
- OCEANWAY. Sail OCEANWAY (L.S.D.12) Norfolk to New York when
ready about 21st April to load cargo and inclusion
in T.C.U.23. Ultimate destination Milford Haven.
(Cominch 172154Z to C.E.S.F.)
- Capt. D. The following are my remarks on C. in C.C.N.A's
Argentia. 111726*, para. 1 is answered by A.M. 855A+ in which
I fully concur.
2. Regarding C. in C.C.N.A's para. 2 I agree that,
until the return of the B groups to the North
Atlantic run, the retention of Capt. D. and his base staff at
Argentia is unnecessary. Whether or not they will ever return
will probably depend on the events of the next few months. I
consider however that if the present flow of trade is to continue
beyond the summer months, a reversion to the old convoy cycle will
be necessary before the winter and with it the return of the B
groups to mid ocean escort.
(C. in C.W.A. 172220B to Admty.)
* N.T. in W.D. + Not identified.

17.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 9. Single Japanese floatplane ineffectually
No. 818. bombed M.T.Bs. operating off Jacquinet Bay night
15/16th.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 170725Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & Para. A. 1. A/C MSC 50 attacked surfaced U-Boat
sighting with depth charges at 2058Z/16th March (sic) in
summary. 46° 27' N. 10° 41' W.
2..A/C NPC 49 over U-Boat at 0017Z/17 in 45° 08'
N. 09° 35' W.
3. A/C UAN 88 sighted surfaced U-Boat at 0212Z/17th March (sic)
in 46° 32' N. 11° 37' W.
4. SS. MEYER LONDON torpedoed and sunk and SS. THOMAS MASARYK
torpedoed, burning and abandoned at approx. 1332Z/16 in 32° 45' N.
23° 08' E.
Para. B. 1. SWANSEA and STORMONT hunting fresh contact at 2006Z/
16 in 45° 59' N. 19° 00' W.
2. A/C RBG 33 reported A.S.V. contact at 2218Z/17 in 46° 20' N.
10° 40' W.
(D.D.I.C. 171140B.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 171442B, 171454B.)

289

18.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

TIRPITZ.

1. The Admiralty estimates today that the damage done to TIRPITZ by the eight certain bomb-hits inflicted on her during Operation "Tungsten" on 3rd April might possibly be sufficiently repaired for an emergency operation in a minimum of three months; but that, if all the further five hits assessed as probable were also in fact scored, TIRPITZ is unlikely to be available for any offensive operation within the next five months.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

2. A U-Boat on the surface, stationary and apparently abandoned, was attacked by an A/C of 172 Squadron at 0548B about 180 miles west of St. Nazaire and at 0618B was seen to have sunk.

North Atlantic.

Irish ships.

3. N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports that members of the crews of Irish ships have been in touch with the German Legation there and he considers it very urgent that these ships should not be allowed to sail during the period of special security. An easy way to prevent them from sailing is to force them to go so far west that their bunkers would not be sufficient to make the voyage.

South Atlantic.

SS. NEBRASKA
(torpedoed
8th April.)

4. 21 survivors of SS. NEBRASKA, Gibraltar for Buenos Aires, have arrived at Freetown. They report that the ship was sunk by torpedoes at 0355 G.M.T. on 8th April in 11.55 S. 19.52 W. (430 miles S.W. of Ascension Island.) The U-Boat was not seen. Two other lifeboats each containing 21 survivors are still adrift. One boat landed at Recife on 22nd April, and the other was sighted on 21st near land.

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

5. There is no change in the situation. The present policy of C. in C. Med. is to persuade the Greek authorities to put their own house in order, the use of British force to overcome the mutineers being reserved as a last resort. The Minister of Marine has given orders to the new Greek C. in C. to carry out operations against the mutinous ships.

12 destroyers
to return to
U.K.

6. Twelve destroyers are to return to the U.K. from the Mediterranean, sailing between 5 and 8 May.

Bridgehead.

7. Only 303 tons were discharged at Anzio today. 18 shells fell in the port area but no damage was caused. Four mines were detonated today.

8. SS. MARIGOT was unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft at 1100 today in 37.26 N. 15.29 E. (southern approaches to Straits of Messina.)

East Indies.

Bombay docks.

9. C. in C. India reports that the situation at Bombay docks has materially improved. Alexandra Dock is working normally and civil labour is returning to work. Clearance of Princes and Victoria Docks is proceeding well. The shipping programme for the next two months can be accepted.

America & West Indies.

U.S. reinforce-
ments for
British Home
Fleet.

10. (a). Task Group 27.8 comprising the U.S. battle-ships NEVADA and ARKANSAS and the cruiser TUSCALOOSA (Rear Admiral Deye) sailed from Casco-Bay today for the U.K. for temporary duty. The ammunition ship NITRO will follow.

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

- U.S.reinforce- 10.(b). On arrival in the U.K. with convoy U.T.11
ments for the battleship TEXAS is to report to Com. 12th
British Home Fleet for temporary duty.
Fleet. (c). These ships will form part of the Western
(Contd.) Task Force in the forthcoming operation.
(d). The cruiser AUGUSTA is assigned as Flagship
of C.T.F.122, and QUINCY is deleted from 12th
Fleet support forces.
- T.C.U./ 11. The remainder of the U.T.troop convoy schedule
U.C.T. to the U.K. is cancelled. Troopships formerly
Convoys. sailed in odd and even numbered U.T.convoys from
New York/Boston will be included in two groups
of reinforced C.U. com-convoys of about 45 ships
each designated T.C.U.convoys.
- U.G.F/ 12. The fast eastbound troop convoys from U.S.A.
G.U.F. to North Africa and the Mediterranean, which were
Convoys. initiated for the North African operations in
November, 1942 and discontinued in July 1943, are
to be resumed from Hampton Roads to Naples with
U.G.R.11 sailing on 17th May.

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

HUMBOLDT. Intend sailing U.S.S. HUMBOLDT at 1430Z/18th by Q.Zs. and thence in accordance with Admty. 172133B April. E.T.A. Casablanca 0730Z/23rd. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 181020B to Commorseafon.) My 181020B. Sailed at 1524Z/18. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 181749B to Commorseafon.)

Flag of C.S.1. Flag of C.S.1 will be transferred temporarily from KENT to DIADEM at 0800B/19th. His office will remain in KENT where routine signals and correspondence are to be addressed. (C. in C.H.F. 181042B to H.F.)

GEORGES LEYGUES, MONTCALM. Admty. 170554B. 2. On arrival in U.K. you will join the first Cruiser Squadron. (C. in C.H.F. 181542B to GEORGES LEYGUES, MONTCALM)

Operations.

Operation F.Z. Your 131648. A. Transport NEA HELLAS will accompany R.A.59 to Loch Ewe where she will transfer Russian personnel from merchant ships and take them to Rosyth.

B. NEA HELLAS will remain at Rosyth for 3 or 4 days while personnel are being transferred to their respective ships.

C. A.M. 161831 refers.

(A.C.N.S.H. 180112B to Ad. Fisher.)

NEA HELLAS sailed at 0157/18.

(D.S.T.O.Greenock 180215B to P.S.T.O.Clyde.)

Sailed NEA HELLAS 4 hours late on my 171518B.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 180306B to C. in C.H.F.)

Scapa arrivals CAPE BRETON, GROU, OUTREMONT, WASKESIU.

(A.C.O.S. 180749 to Cdre. D.W.A.)

My 161435 para. 1. DOLABELLA and ROBERT EDEN sailed at 0030 for their respective destinations led by icebreaker. S.O.A. in clear water $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 181110B to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

R.A.59. To ensure safe ice passage for approx. 15 ships from White Sea it is essential icebreakers have British coal.

2. Propose authorising 400 tons from EMPIRE PROWESS now at Economie

3. This will leave PROWESS more than 1000 tons for BARD and ELGAR on arrival Kola and would entail her remaining there almost empty pending further supply from U.K.

4. This seems a minor factor compared to others.

5. Arrangements in hand for embarkation of 1400 Russian Naval personnel here in American ship.

6. Local information suggest deadlock as to unloading at Murmansk of FORT VERCHERES.

7. Request very early approval for my para. 2.

(S.B.N.O.Archangel 181504B to S.B.N.O.N.Russia.)

/Approved...

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.Z. (Contd.) Approved. Your 181504 para. 2 refers. (S.B.N.O.N. Russia 181834B to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Biscay A/S Operations. P.C. and S. 1 surface vessel 120° 46° 33' N. 09° 48' W. 12 knots. (A/C 6 of R Sqdn. 180455B to 19 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 47° 08' N. 06° 50' W. (uncertain). S/M was stationary on the surface. (A/C PDJ 33 180530B to 19 Group.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat was on surface stationary, appeared abandoned. Marked with flashing buoy. (A/C 172 Sqdn. 180548B to 19 Group.)

U-Boat previously reported was on the surface. Now foundered R/B fuel. (A/C 172 Sqdn. 180618B to 19 Group.)

T.G. 21.16, U.S.S. CORE, 3 destroyers, vicinity 045° 20' N. 031° 01' W. 2 more destroyers join from south east at 2030B/18th. (C. in C.W.A. 181318B to Ships.)

Your 171312B. E.G.9 detached. My P.C. and S. 049° 59' N. 016° 04' W. 039° 12 knots. (BITER 181400B to C. in C.W.A.)

Aircrewman reported seeing periscope-wake 1725/17th, lat. 45.38 N. long. 26.38 W. SONAR search negative. HILL reports sound contact lat. 41.15 N. long. 29.06 W. 1130/18th, searching with HOWARD until zero hours 19th when ordered proceed R/V with C.T.G. 21.16, 10.30 lat. 44.30 long. 297. (C.T.G. 21.16 181926 to C. in C.Lant.)

S.C. Operation. My 141109B. Sailed HESSA at 0625B today. (A.C.O.S. 180640 to Admty.)

Operation "Knitting 6". My 171156B. Operation abandoned owing to defect in M.T.B. 255. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 180304B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Operation C.W. Propose topping up at Milford Haven en route to comply with your 171311B. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1830B. (E.G.1 180930B to C. in C.W.A.)

MOFFETT, STAFF, SWIFT, P.C. 619 attacked sound contact lat. 50.05 long. 12.51 from 1620/17 until 2028Z/17th. Excellent possibility that enemy submarine was sunk. Searched area until 0128/18th with no trace. P.C. and S. NY. 78.18, 2000Z, 65 miles bearing 286 from S.L.106. 7. (C.T.F.67 181255Z to Admty.)

9th E.G. MATANE, OWEN SOUND, STORMONT, SWANSEA vicinity 051° 29' N. 017° 55' W. (C. in C.W.A. 181323B to Ships.)

Sailed DUCKWORTH (S.O.) ESSINGTON, BLACKWOOD and BERRY of 3rd E.G. for exercises off Colonsay, and on completion in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 171316B DOMMET delayed defective, estimated

/delay...

War Diary.

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

- Operation C.W. (Contd.) delay 14 hours and will be sailed to overtake. (F.O.I.C.N.I. 181716B to C. in C.W.A.) C. in C.W.A. 141815 para. 2 and E.G.1's 180930. 1st E.G. arrived, fuelled and sailed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 182153B to C. in C.W.A.)
- Coastal Force Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 181129B.) (F.O.I.C. Portland 181407B.) (C. in C.portsmouth 181530B.) (C. in C.Plymouth 181538B.) (V.A.Dover 181727B.)
- Operation "Tungsten". Damage to TIRPITZ. C. in C.H.F. 081937. The following summary of probable damage to TIRPITZ is based on the evidence contained in VICTORIOUS' report (2nd B.S.126/026 of 6th April, 1944), the interpretation report of the photographs forwarded therewith, and later P.R.U. reports, after careful examination by Admty. technical departments. Details.
2. It is regarded as certain that TIRPITZ was hit by at least 8 bombs, consisting of 3 1,600 lb. A.P., 2 500 lb. S.A.P., 2 500 lb. M.C., and 1 600 lb. A.S.
6. On the basis of these eight certain bomb hits only, it is estimated that, although temporary repairs sufficient to enable the ship to proceed to sea for an emergency operation could possibly be effected in a minimum of 3 months, completely effective repair would take much longer.
7. It is regarded as probable that a further 5 hits were scored, namely two 1,600 lb. A.P. and three 500 lb. S.A.P. If all the hits assessed as probable were in fact scored it is unlikely that TIRPITZ could be available for any offensive operation within 5 months.
- (Controller 181413 to C. in C.H.F.)
- S/M Patrols. Request you will sail submarines as convenient after arrival 20th April by following route.
- A. STATESMAN through 045° Muckle Flugga 24 direct to patrol line LL.
- B. VIGOROUS through 090° Muckle Flugga 8 miles and route "Pink" to patrol line FF. Submarines to proceed on surface at C.Os. discretion south of 062°.
- (Capt. S.9 181551B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
- Operation F.Y. Two U-Boats attacked by WESTCOTT & INCONSTANT. A.G.M. 749A. A. 72.07 N. 17.49' N.E. B. U-Boat sighted at 0625B about 8 miles on port bow. C. U/B sighted on surface. D. U-Boat dived at 0637B, no further contact. E. None. F. From 0625 to 0651B course 205°. From 0651 to 0708B course 135°. 250 to 255 revolutions throughout. G. 255 revolutions. H. No. I. 0656B. 3 cables on starboard quarter. J. No flame, explosion similar to that of a 50 foot depth charge. K. No. L. No. M. Visibility 7 to 8. Weather conditions, overcast, intermittent snow.

/N...

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation
F.Y. Two
U-Boats
attacked by
WESTCOTT &
INCONSTANT.
(Contd.)

N. WESTCOTT and INCONSTANT were attacking U-Boat on the surface. When first U-Boat dived course was altered to attack the second U-Boat which was still on the surface.
O. No. P. Total of two U-Boats were in the vicinity.
Q. Explosion took place about five to ten seconds after INCONSTANT had dropped one depth charge. Explosion estimated to be 6000 yards from the firing position of the first U-Boat. INCONSTANT was about 2500 yards on starboard bow.
(WESTCOTT 181600 to C. in C.W.A.)

VENTURER
patrol.
One M/V sunk
off Lister
on 15th April.

VENTURER reports.
1. 14th April 1328, P.C. and S. of 1500 ton merchant vessel escorted by 4 aircraft 58° 14' N. 06° 19' E. 300° 10 knots. Fired three torpedoes from 1200 yards, missed. One explosion after five minutes. A/S sweep carried out by two trawlers one hour later, no counter attack.
2. 15th 0931, P.C. and S. of 3000 ton merchant vessel escorted by one trawler 58° 05' N. 06° 34' E. 305° 8 knots. Fired three torpedoes from 1500 yards, missed, probably ahead. Three explosions after nine minutes, no counter attack or hunt.
3. 15th 2008, P.C. and S. of two merchant ships 3000 and 5000 tons with four A/S trawlers 58° 16' N. 06° 10' E. 313° 9 knots. Fired 2 torpedoes from 2200 yards at larger ship. One explosion one minute 14 seconds after firing followed by breaking-up noises. Result not observed. Hunt and counter attack by two trawlers. 32 depth charges of which first 21 were close, only minor damage to glass fittings.
4. Regular A/S patrol appears to be being carried out both surface and air.
5. Many small coasters and fishing vessels sighted.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 182124B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa.

Prep X made 2150/17 when aircraft later identified as hostile was plotted 090° Able Buoy 22 miles course S.W. at less than 1000 feet. Aircraft came in to about 090° Duncansby Head 3 miles, then turned South. E/A turned East off Noss Head and withdrew. Last plotted 100° Able Buoy 45 miles at 2209. Nearest approach to Able Buoy 11 miles 25 mins. after sunset and well below cloud level. Ships in the F.A. might have been distinguished. Attempted interception unsuccessful.
(A.C.O.S. 180915B to Admty.)

Jan Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O. 180715Z. Aircraft observed 0645 along North Coast, S.W. course. Returning S.E. course.
(A.C.I.C. 181318B to Admty.)

War Diary.

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation N.L.127. My 171313. Carry out operation N.L.127 tonight. Amend limiting time to 0100 - 0300. Amend timetable to leave Dover 1950. V Buoy 2140. R/V one 0001. Day 0100 - 0110. V Buoy 0445. E.T.R. Dover 0600.
(V.A.Dover 181329B to M.LF.52, M.LF.50, M.T.B.F.13)
My 181727. Operation N.L.127 abandoned owing to weather.
(V.A.Dover 182232B to Admty.)

Operation "Hostile 24". Support force will now consist of TANATSIDE (S.O.) MELBREAK and WENSLEYDALE forming first division, HAIDA and ASHANTI second division. Support force is to R/V with TANATSIDE in 090° Eddystone 2 at 2100 today. (My 181014 being passed to HAIDA, ASHANTI and MELBREAK.)
2. My 161316 being passed to Support force. Amend as follows. Para. N to leave AA at 2100B/18th thence position XX 049° 15' N. 003° 44' W. to arrive 0001B/19th. Para. P to patrol in vicinity XX from 0001B/19th to 0330B/19th. Then to patrol to Eastward of XX. Para. Q keep north of 049° 15' N. and west of 003° 20' W. Para. R withdraw towards Plymouth at 0500B/19th at 20 knots.
3. Area radius 3 miles from 048° 58' N. 003° 04' W. is dangerous. Attention Q.Z.X. 1247.
(C. in C.Plymouth 181518B to TANATSIDE, ASHANTI, MELBREAK, HAIDA)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported on 17th April. Soviet Naval Staff report one U-Boat off Ingoy Island course north at 1850B/17.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 181158B to Admty.)

U-Boat sunk by A/C S/162 on 17th April. At 171555 A/C H/86 in 60° 17' N. 29° 15' W. sighted pear-shaped oil patch 2 miles long by 200/300 yards with masses of oil bubbles at thin end. Many gulls circling near north end. At 1805 dropped marker Marine MK 1, wind 230, (T)/12 kts. oil thinning to S.W. and (it?) was about 2 1/2 miles long. Crew consider movement of oil due current, this being established in relation to Marine marker and suggest source of oil was stationary with oil still rising. No wreckage or other signs seen.
(R.A.F.Iceland 181455B to H.Q.C.C.)

Navigational.

Tyne S/M Exercise area. A S/M exercise has been established in an area enclosed by lines joining the following positions
A 055° 31' N. 001° 22' 24" W. B. 055° 31' N. 001° 13' 12" W. C. 055° 16' N. 001° 05' 48" W. D. 055° 16' N. 001° 15' 00" W.
2. Submarines proceeding by the searched channels to and from this area and while exercising in this area will be unescorted.
(Capt. D.Rosyth Escort Force 181750B to R.E.F. No. 775.)

War Diary.

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- NABOB. Arrived NABOB.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 180534B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- SHEFFIELD. Clyde arrival SHEFFIELD.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 180848B to C. in C.H.F.)
- PRINCESS MAUD. PRINCESS MAUD is expected to be out of action for at least three weeks for repairs to collision damage sustained in exercise "Trousers".
(Com. Force J 181227B to A.N.C.X.F.)
- PRUDENCE. My 171007. Crown of boiler collapsed. Sailing indefinitely postponed.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 181634B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- L'ESCARMOUCHE Arrived frigate F.S. L'ESCARMOUCHE with collision damaged.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 181859B to PHILANTE.)
- M.T.B. 707 M.T.B. 707 cut in half by L'ESCARMOUCHE who is damaged. slightly damaged and proceeding Belfast. Halves of M.T.B. being beached at Larne. Two members of crew are known to be dead.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 181950 to Admty.)
- FLINT. FLINT with damaged Tele-motor steering arrived escorted by TEXADA.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 182120B to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

298

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic

VERVAIN

My 170914. Sailed VERVAIN from Horta at
0730Z 18th.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 181030Z)

Use of
ships'
Code
letters.

Code letters for ship vide N.A. Madrid 261330
Feb. are not to be used in Vesca message.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 181240B to B.C. Barcelona)

T.G.21.14

1240Z 18th position lat. 20.52 long. 33.18
course 334 speed 16. C, in C. Lant 162014 /.
Will search for sub. estimated lat. 26 long. 33
April 17 departing area in (? time to arrive
Hampton Roads April 28th. WX 5388 2015.
(C.T.G. 21.14 181302)

CIERZO,
ABREGO.
(Spanish)

Your 291906 February and your 151242.
2. You should inform Spaniards that we are
unable to supply bunkers. If they still wish
to make passage they will require to carry
sufficient bunkers for the round trip.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 181311B to A.B.N.A. Madrid)

Irish
Ships.

Secret. Consider very urgent that Eire ships
should not be allowed to sail during period of
special security. Members of the Crews have
been in touch with German Legation here. An
easy way to prevent these sailings is to force
them to go so far west that their bunkers would
not be sufficient to make the voyage.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 181748A to Admty.)

SS ALBULA
(Swiss)

Ship in my 171840/ routed standard route to Cape
San Sebastian thence Coastwise. Swiss markings
and word Switzerland painted in white on black
hull. Not to be molested.
(F.O.G.M.A. 181755 to 10th S.F., LE CURIE,
CASABIANCA, Info. Capt (S) 10th S.F.)
/ Ref. Swiss ALBULA+left Gib. for Marseilles.

SS ZURICH
(Swiss)

Swiss ZURICH 1928 gross tonnage speed 8 knots
left Gibraltar 1905 18th following standard route
to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise to
Marseilles. Swiss markings and word
"Switzerland" in white on black hull. Not to be
molested.
(F.O.G.M.A. 181911B to 10th S.F., LE CURIE,
CASABIANCA, ARCHIMEDE, (R) Capt(S) 10.

18.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SS
NEBRASKA
(sunk
8 April)

21 survivors of British ship NEBRASKA arrived Freetown in SS KINDAT. NEBRASKA received 2 torpedoes port side at 0355 G.M.T. 8th in 011° 55' South 019° 52' West. U-Boat not seen. 2 other life boats still adrift containing all remaining survivors numbering 21 each boat.

These boats set course west true. Total crew 63 life-boat 2 British other ranks stowaways from Algiers. Two killed by torpedo. At approx. 0600 2 torpedoes struck starboard side and ship sank.
(N.O.I.C. W. Af. 181237Z)

Operation
"Tabarin"

WILLIAM SCORESBY arrived base B 16th. In view of good weather conditions vessel proceeded and arrived Base A 17th to land mail.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 181549Z)

777
Squadron

In view of the recent reduction in the R.A.F. strength on this station it has become necessary to use F.A.A. aircraft operationally on Anti U/B patrol from Robertsfield and Harper (Cape Palmas) bases which are 200 miles and 400 miles respectively from Hastings and it is anticipated that this requirement will continue. It is very desirable that 777 Squadron be re-equipped with long range R/C aircraft but if this is impracticable it is requested that supply be made of ASVX (C.A.F.O. 2501/43) or other centimetre type ASV and also modern R/T W/T equipment to existing Swordfish and Walrus aircraft in order that they may operate to better advantage.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 181830Z to Admty.)

300

War Diary18.4.1944.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

UNRULY Attacked BERTE unsuccessfully at 0030/17th in Doro Channel.
Patrol may not have been compromised. My position
036° 48' N. 020° 21' E. Returning to Doro.
(UNRULY, 180054B).

S/M. patrol Submarine patrol area in Western Mediterranean is
area in bounded on the south by lines drawn 270° to coast
W. Med. and 056° from position 42° 30' 06" ?10' on the east
by longitude 08° 10' and on the north and west by
the coastline.

(2) This area is subdivided into five zones lettered SX, SW, SU, ST and SS from west to east by longitudes 04° 40' 05° 33' 06° 10' and line drawn 143° from Cape Roux.

(3) All positions north and east.
(S.10, 180835).

Mutiny in Your 081846C. No developments.
Greek Navy. (S.N.O.L.A. 181016).
1100C/18.

Situation Report. No change. AVEROFF proceeded to sea for compass adjustment at 0600 to-day and returned to moorings without incident.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 181105C).

Further to my 081420 not to C.S.15 F.O. Tunisia and Admiralty. Greek ships in Egypt are still in a state of disaffection amounting to mutiny. The present policy is to persuade the Greek Authorities to put their own house in order the use of British Force to overcome the mutineers being reserved as a last resort.

(2) The following guiding principles are to be observed.

(A) Greek officers are not to be relieved of their duties by Greek action without the authority of the Greek Commander in Chief.

(B) There is to be no truck with committees or other mutinous bodies.

(C) No political questions are to be discussed with the Greeks.

(3) The line to be taken in event of Greek truculence is that their duty is to obey the orders of the Allied Commander in Chief under whose orders the Greek Naval Forces are placed and that it is not for groups of sailors on board Greek ships however to decide on the future Greek Govt.

(4) Any assurance given by the Greeks that the use of firearms will be avoided should not be reciprocated. It should be made clear that we shall fire on mutineers wherever it is necessary. Addresses pass to British repeat British ships and Authorities under their orders by Secret hand message.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo, 181151C to C. in C. Med., F.O.W.It., F.O.T.A.L.I., F.O.G.M.A., V.A. Malta, F.O. Tunisia, C.S.15, Info. Admiralty, F.O.L.E.M.).

Situation unchanged at 1800C/18. Message from Greek C. in C. has not yet had time to produce any effect.

(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 181801C).

Situation still normal in Levant area. Your 081846C refers.
(S.N.O.L.A. 181818C).

My 172053 and 172303 Admiral Voulgaris the new Greek C. in C. left Cairo for Alexandria by air at 0910 with orders from Minister of Marine to carry out operations against mutinous ships. On

/ arrival...

18.4.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy
(Contd.).

arrival in Alexandria he was seen by F.O.L.E.M. who stressed the need for early action. He then went to see his own officers, the dispositions of the ships etc., and it is now clear that the operation will not take place tonight. I do not consider this necessarily means reluctance upon the new C. in C's. part since the change of regime would probably necessitate some refurbishing of the plan, if indeed any plan previously existed. No appreciable change in any other directions.
(C. in C. Med. Cairo, 181826C).

My 081846. Situation reports are now only required for any change. These are to be addressed F.O.L.E.M. info C. in C. Med. in Cairo.

(F.O.L.E.M. 181912C to S.N.O.R.S.C.A., S.N.O.L.A.).

12 destroyers A.M. 021539 March not to F.O.G.M.A. It is intended to return that ships should return to U.K. as follows. to U.K. Group Ships Pass Europa Point night of

A	BLANKNEY, HAMBLEDON, BLENCATHRA, MENDIP,	5th/6th May
B	FAULKNER, FURY, ISIS, URANIA,	6th/7th May
C	GRENVILLE, URCHIN, UNDINE, ULSTER.	7th/8th May

(C. in C. Med. 181252B).

L.C.T.(3)
404.

To be towed to Bombay. Stiffening not considered necessary.

(F.O.L.E.M. 181332C).

Bridgehead

L.S.Ts. and L.C.Is. from Naples were responsible for (282 175) and 156 tons respectively of total 1007 tons unloaded at Anzio 17th April.

(2) Two Liberties only present, both of whom completed discharge during day.

(3) Intermittent shelling, sea rough.

This is Bridgehead Sitrep No. 87.

(F.O.W.It., 181356B).

LE CURIE,
UNIVERSAL.

P.67 LE CURIE is to move to zone ST crossing longitude 006° 10' at 2330/21st North of 042° 30' P.57 UNIVERSAL move to patrol in Zones SU, SW, and SX vacating ST by 2331/21st keeping south of 042° 30' until 0100/22nd.
(Capt.(S) 10, 181415).

CASABIANCA

If you should have to return Algiers unexpectedly the following route could be used through 042° 57' 007° 31' to 038° 44' 006° 07' to 036° 58' 206° 58'.

(?Capt.(S) 10, 181503 to CASABIANCA).

18.4.1944.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- LL. Squadron at Gibraltar. 2. Owing to the overriding importance of "Overlord" 179 Squadron must be withdrawn to U.K. and steps will now be taken to do so.
3. Meanwhile Admiralty have signalled Cominch (as 1st S.L. 171921B (in North Atlantic)).
(Air Ministry, 181655Z to H.Q.M.A.A.F. Algiers).
- Operation "Brassard" Force G. It is intended to refer to the elements of Force P which are earmarked for operation "Brassard" as Force G.
(C. in C. Med., 181700).
- CENTURION Following is paraphrase of 171158 from CENTURION.
2. It is likely that CENTURION will be delayed at least until M.K.S.47.
(C. in C.Med. 181736B to Admty.)
- SPORTSMAN. SPORTSMAN sailed from Malta at 1801/18th passing east of Pondiko Nisi about 2301/20th to patrol in west Aegean north of 036° 15' and west of long. 025° E.
(Capt. S.1 181820 to 1st S/F, PIPINOS, (R) F.O.L. E.M.)
- UNRULY. Proceed now to patrol in the Gulf of Izmir.
2. Object destruction of Khios - Mitylene - Lemnos traffic.
3. None of own surface forces are operating in that area.
4. ANITA still in Port Laki.
(Capt. S.1 181840 to UNRULY, (R) 1st S/M F. F.O.L.E.M. S.O.I. Izmir.)
- PIPINOS. You have freedom of action on north coast of Crete from Cape Stavros to Cape Sidero.
2. GERTRUDE is still in Candia but unlikely to sail yet.
3. Mirabello Gulf may be profitable.
(Capt. S.1 181842 to PIPINOS.)
- SS. ANITA. No change ANITA a.m. 18th.
(F.O.L.E.M. 181950C to Capt. S.1 (R) UNRULY.)
- Situation report 181340. SS. ALEXANDER G.BELL and JAMES GUTHRIE mined on 17th April in Gulf of Naples. Former returned to harbour under own steam, latter taken in tow and beached.

303

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
report
181340.
(Contd.)

2. 1007 tons discharged at Anzio 17th April only 2 Liberty ships present. No air activity, intermittent shelling, 5 mines detonated.
3. M.Ls. attacked 250 tons merchant ship north of Kos night 16/17th April. Ship blew up. Same night M.T.Bs. had engagement with patrol vessels off Kos. Damage to enemy unknown one M.T.B. suffered some damage.
4. ULTIMATUM (P.34) from Aegean patrol reports sinking 2 caiques 60th by gunfire off Crete.
5. Mined Milos night 15/16th April.
(C. in C.Med. 182220B.)

304

18.4.1944

TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies

Bi-weekly
U-Boat
disposition
Signal
No.1.

The present position whereby Bi-weekly U-Boat disposition signals are made on Tuesday and Fridays with amendments on intervening days will be continued, the only change being that all signals in this series will be numbered consecutively from 1 onwards.

Number 1. Areas A B C D and E. No evidence whatsoever that U-Boats are in these areas, or are likely to enter these areas in the near future. Scale of air escort W. Areas F and G. Position not entirely clear and U-Boats may be in these areas, although this considered unlikely. Scale of air escort W. Indian Ocean. No fresh indication since D/Fs at 1612Z/15th and 0003 has 16th from area 600 miles Southeast of Ceylon indicating German and Japanese U-Boats probably moving towards Penang. (C. in C. E.F. 180321Z)

Convoy
orders.

F.O.N.I.C. (384). Release Class B and C ship from MB, B.A, B.P. and P.A. convoy from April 19th.

(2) Release Class B and C ship from A.P. and A.B. convoy from April 20th.

(3) Release Class B and C ship from B.M. and P.B. convoy from April 21st.

(C. in C. E.F. 180518Z)

Explosion
in Bombay
Docks
14 April.

Preliminary forecast of effect of recent damage in dock area on combined operations this year is as follows.

(A) Landing craft base at Bombay can neither form nor maintain a force until stores and spare parts lost have been replaced.

(B) Briefly loss sustained is as follows ships

JALAPADMA and EL HIND and 6 L.C.A. stores naval and special engineering and hull spares all lost.

(C) Demands being signalled now to U.K. for replacement of stores lost and anticipate these could be expected by end of August.

L.C.M.S.O. (I) is being sent to U.K. to assist in arranging supply of engine and hull spares.

(D) Damage to buildings will not be a serious obstacle and alternative arrangements are well in hand.

(F) According to this preliminary forecast of receipt of stores and any operation visualised for late Autumn should not be jeopardized.

(S.R.N.O. Bombay, 181047Z)

Bombay docks situation materially improved. Alexandra dock working normally and civil labour returning to work while oils facilities in order. Bunker oil 6 inch pipe now working to all berths Alexandra also four on wall and one ballard pier. Ten and eight inch pipes shattered. Expect one ten and eight inch pipe repaired in one week. Princes and Victoria Docks clearance proceeding well. Victoria Dock two wrecks must be moved before floating ships can be removed. Princes all ships water borne and secured. Repairs to port railway in progress. Shipping programme for next two months can be accepted.

(C. in C. India, T.O.O.nil)

305

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- Life rafts and wreckage. U.S. Army transport plane reported sighting empty life rafts and considerable wreckage vicinity of 41.52 N. 31.20 W. at 1235Z/17. (F.O.N.F. 180328Z.)
- T.A.102. Diversion order. (Connav 181325Z.)
- T.C.U/
U.C.T.
Convoys. Remainder of U.T. Troop convoy schedule to U.K. cancelled. Troopships formerly sailed in odd and even numbered U.T. convoys from New York/Boston will be included in 2 groups of reinforced C.U. com-convoys of about 45 ships each to be designated as T.C.U. convoys as follows: Group A T.C.U.23, T.C.U.28, T.C.U. 33, T.C.U.38, etc., Group B T.C.U.24, T.C.U.30, T.C.U.35, T.C.U.40 etc., with exception of T.C.U.24, troopships and escort reinforcements will return with same numbered U.C.T. convoy from U.K. Troopships and escort reinforcements of T.C.U. 24 will return with U.C.25 as T.C.U.25. Present scheduled sailing dates C.U. convoys remain unchanged. C. in C.Lant provide necessary escort reinforcement for T.C.U/U.C.T. convoys and for Boston section to R/V. (Cominch 181530.)
- U.G.F./
G.U.F.
convoys. C.E.S.F. resume sailing U.G.F. convoys of about 10 troopships. 15 knots. From Hampton Roads to Naples at intervals of 45 days beginning with U.G.F. all sailing 17th May. C. in C.Lant provide escort through to Naples. Troopships and escorts to return to Hampton Roads as same numbered G.U.F. convoy when directed by C. in C.Med. upon completion discharge. Ships of over 700 feet in length will not be included for Naples discharge. (Cominch 181531Z.)
- H.X.285. Average speed 9.4. Off Oversay at 0800Z/11. All arrived. (D.T.D. 181531Z.)
- U/B dis-
positions. Estimates. (Cominch 181600Z, D.D.I.C. 181616Z.)
- Italian S/Ms. Admiral King has now agreed to proposals. A. In B.A.D's 081517 April, by embodying them in his reply dated 17th April. 2. The following therefore is the agreed state of allocations to date

/A...

306

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Italian S/MS. (Contd.)

- A. MAMELI to be transferred to U.S. control.
- B. GIADA, BRIN and CORRIDONI to British control.
- C. JALEA and ONICE or the next two available ocean goers to U.S. control.
- D. BANDIERA to British. If however BANDIERA is available for ocean passage, she should be one of C for U.S. control.
- E. The remainder on an equal basis, sister ships as far as practicable being mated. Request your early concurrence.

3. Cominch states that he would appreciate information as to -

- A. Nature of operations in which certain Italian S/MS are engaged. (He refers presumably to NICHELIO and PLATINO).
- B. Status of spare parts for boats already in Bermuda.
- C. The disabilities which restrict certain submarines to Med. use. (He refers to MENOTTI, SETTEMBRINI, OTARIO and SETTINO, and we shall be required to show reason why these submarines cannot be towed across to Bermuda.)

4. An important assumption in these negotiations has been that submarines capable of leaving the Med. after refit will be refitted before those foreseen to be unfit to leave even after repair and we would like confirmation on this point.
(B.A.D. 181627Z.)

Group C.1. At 1900Z/18th April sailed Group C.1 VALLEYFIELD (S.O.) FREDERICTON, HALIFAX, GRIFFARD, FRONTENAC empty handed to Londonderry your 281741A March* refers. (route).
(F.O.N.F. 181928Z.)
* re Order of sailing of Midocean groups.

Shipping situation in Jamaica. Following for M.W.T.R. Your 151253, we agree with your suggested action and have informed Colonial Office accordingly. We have arranged LAGUNA loads elsewhere and we are making enquiries as to whether stowage of cargo at present on board LOMBARDY will permit this vessel proceed other territory to complete loading.
(Admty. 182035B to Capt. i/c Jamaica.)

U/B incidents. BB. para. C U.S.S. THORNHILL attacked sound contact 28.46 N. 74.29 W. 1400/18. All times Z.
Para. D C.G.FAPAW sound contact 36.37 N. 74.19 W. 2035/17.
(Cominch 182134Z.)

18.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest No. April 17, paras. 12 to 19 cover S.Pacific Forces.
819. 8. Jap warship described as MOGAI (?MOGAMI intended).
Class cruisers seen morning 16th central Sulu Sea
heading S.W.
15. Catalina contacted possible submarine eight
miles South (?Buka) Passage night 15th. Following midday U.S.
destroyer attacked submarine contact 20 miles South Weampbuka
(?West Buka intended) Passage.
17. Same day U.S. destroyer shelled enemy positions Chatral Empress
Augusta Bay.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 180716.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U/B inci- S/M attack and sighting summary.
dents. Para. A. 1. A/C S/162 attacked surfaced U-Boat,
U. 342
sunk course 360° at 0831Z/17 in 60° 15' N. 29° 35' W.
Wreckage seen.
A. A/C V/172 attacked U-Boat at 0330Z/18 in 47°
08' N. 06° 50' W.
Para. B. French surface craft attacked U-Boat with depth charges
from 1830Z to 2100Z/17th April in 16° 14' N. 21° 47' W.
(D.D.I.C. 180906Z.)
1. SWANSEA obtained Asdic contact on U-Boat at 1424B/14 in
46° 32' N. 19° 37' W. U-Boat was forced to the surface by creep-
ing attack by SWANSEA and PELICAN at 1823B/14 and was destroyed.
Prisoners were taken.
2. At 1020B/17 Canso S/162 straddled surfaced U-Boat in 60° 23' N.
29° 20' W. Violent explosion occurred forward of conning tower 9
minutes after attack and U-Boat disappeared leaving wreckage and
large oil patch.
(D.A.U.D. 181947B.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (D.D.I.C. 181418B, 181446B.)

War Diary

19.4.1944
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation
 F.Z.
 (Convoy
 R.A.59)

1(a) C.S.1 in DIADEM with the Escort Carriers ACTIVITY and FENCER, the Transport NEA HELLAS, 13 destroyers and 4 Frigates of E.G.6 left Scapa at 1030 to-day for North Russia to escort the returning Convoy R.A.59, and a 14th Destroyer followed at 1145. The Destroyers BEAGLE and BOADICEA left Scapa at 0710 for Skaaleflord (Faeroes) whence they sailed again at 2232B to R/V with C.S.1 at 0330B tomorrow.

(b) At 1451B NEA HELLAS returned to Scapa with engine defects and will return to the Clyde tomorrow.

E-Boats
 engaged by
 MONTROSE.

2. At 0124 to-day, while on patrol about 25 miles N.N.E. of Great Yarmouth, the Destroyer MONTROSE detected and engaged a group of four or more E-Boats who retired at high speed to the N.E. until about 0200 when contact was lost.

A second group of E-Boats may also have been operating near the Hammond Knoll Buoy at the same time; and minelaying between 54D and 55B Buoys is suspected.

Engagements
 with
 E-Boats.

3(a) Two groups of E-Boats approaching the Convoy Route off Bournemouth last night and possibly minelaying were both intercepted and engaged by our Patrols; the first group at 0020 to-day South of Anvil Point by M.T.B's 721 and 702 who claim several hits, and the second at 0104 about 27 miles S.W. of St.Catherines by STEVENSTONE who claims hits in an engagement lasting for 40 minutes.

(b) A Patrol of 4 M.T.B's closed the entrance of Cherbourg in an attempt to intercept the returning E-Boats, but were accurately engaged by shore-batteries and forced to withdraw.

U-Boat
 torpedoed
 by ULA.

*U. 974
 sunk*

4. At 0701B to-day the S/M ULA while patrolling close off Stavanger torpedoed a 750 ton U-Boat and heard a second explosion and breaking-up noises immediately after. ULA was counter-attacked with depth-charges by Escort and Patrol Vessels, but sustained no damage.

South Atlantic.

D.K/K.D.
 Convoy.

5(a) C. in C. S.A. considers that convoys should be reinstated between Durban and Kilindini. U-Boats approaching from the Atlantic will continue for some time to constitute a threat to

South /...

309

19.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORT.South AtlanticD.K/K.D.
Convoys
(Contd.)

South African waters, necessitating the retention in that area of all available trawler escorts. C. in C. S.A. inquired to-day of C. in C. Eastern Fleet whether he considers D.K/K.D. convoys should be formed and whether he can provide the necessary escorts.

(b) C. in C. Eastern Fleet replied that whilst he was in agreement that a reduction in independent traffic in the South Mozambique Channel was desirable for the time being he was unable to transfer sufficient Kilindini escorts to cover full convoy between Durban and Kilindini. He proposed that ships capable of 12 knots should continue to sail unescorted, those of lower speeds being sailed in convoy as frequently as available escorts permitted.

Mediterranean

Bridgehead.

6. 937 tons were unloaded at Anzio to-day. Shelling was on an increased scale again to-day, but no damage is reported. Two mines were detonated to-day.

I.R.C. Ship
EMBLA
sunk.

7. Red Cross ship has been attacked by Allied A/C for the second time within a week. At 0825B to-day 6 R.P. Beaufighters attacked a 2000 ton ship marked as an International Red Cross vessel in 43.25 N. 04.12 E. (Gulf of Lions). Several hits were made and the ship was left down by the stern. C. in C. Med. states that he had received no notification of sailing. From information received it would appear that the vessel was the I.R.C. ship EMBLA which was attacked on 13 April. She was proceeding from Port Vendres to Marseilles and was sunk in this attack. There were no casualties.

Spanish
SS. JOSE
ILLUECA
sunk.

8. The Spanish SS. JOSE ILLUECA, apparently trading from Spain to South of France was attacked at 1732B to-day in 42.30 N. 03.09 E. (off Port Vendres) by 4 Beaufighters, and was badly damaged. She was reported by A.B.N.A. Madrid to have sunk, it is alleged in French territorial waters 15 miles North of La Selva, Gulf of Lions. The ship suffered some casualties in killed (including it is said the Master) and seriously injured. The British Shipping Attache last week warned owners of the risk of continuing this traffic.

310

19.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiarySITUATION REPORTEast Indies

Operation
"Cockpit"
(air raid
on Sabang.)

- 9(a) A raid was made on Sabang and North Sumatra at 0700 local time to-day by A/C from ILLUSTRIOUS and U.S. carrier SARATOGA.
- (b) Ships taking part were organised in two forces:
Force 70: RENOWN (Flag of F.O. 2nd I/c Eastern Fleet), ILLUSTRIOUS (Flag of R.A.(A) E.F.), SARATOGA, LONDON, CEYLON, GAMBIA, 3 British and 3 U.S. Destroyers.
Force 69: QUEEN ELIZABETH (Flag of C. in C. E.F.) VALIANT, RICHELIEU, NEWCASTLE(C.S.4), NIGERIA, TROMP, 8 British and 1 Dutch destroyers.
- (c) 47 bombers and 38 fighters carried out the strike.
- (d) The attack, which was launched at 0530 local time achieved complete surprise. Two 4000 to 5000 ton merchant ships were each hit with one or two 1000 pound bombs, two destroyer escort vessels were gunned and set on fire, a large number of bomb hits was made in the dockyard and power station, wharf and town areas, causing fires. The barracks area, Radio Station and Radar Station were well hit, the oil fuel tank was hit and set on fire with a 1000 pound bomb, several A/C were destroyed on the airfield and the hangar and work-shops area was hit. At Lho Nga airfield 3 of the 5 A/C seen on the airfield were destroyed. There was intense L.A.A. fire in both areas, but not until after the first bomb fell. H.A.A. fire was slight.
- (e) Our own damage was limited to one Hellcat which force landed in the sea; the pilot was picked up by TACTICIAN who surfaced and carried out the rescue under fire from shore batteries.
- (f) Three enemy torpedo bombers subsequently approached the Fleet, and all three were shot down by fighters.
- (g) Wind conditions were such that escort carriers would not have been able to operate.

19.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

- ARTIFEX. Request you will (a) sail ARTIFEX when ready for sea about May 17th to the Clyde for inclusion in K.M.F.32;
 (b) report maximum continuous speed of ARTIFEX. (D.O.D.(H), 191745B to C. in C. Plymouth)
- WAKEFIELD. On completion loading passengers and cargo by U.S. Army Port Commander Liverpool and when in all respects ready for sea on or about April 24 request U.S.S. WAKEFIELD be sailed independently to Boston.
 (Comnaveu, 191822 to Admty)
- COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES. When ready for sea COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES should be sailed for Tobermory to work up.
 (2) On conclusion of work up C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with convenient convoy to rejoin F.O.C. West Africa.
 (D.O.D.(H), 191855B to C. in C. Nore.)

Operations

- Biscay A/S Operations. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 46 degs. 30' N. 06 degs. 00' W. (position uncertain).
 (A/C UKQ 10, 190155 to 19 Group)
 Have A.S.V. contact, probably U-Boat.
 Bombs dropped.
 (A/C UKQ 10, 190158 to 19 Group)
- Nil seen but A.S.V. contact maintained. Unable to investigate, fog. No depth-charge.
 (A/C U.K.Q.10, 190215 to 19 Group)
 T.G.21.16, U.S.S. CORE operating with five destroyers within 301 miles 045 degs. 29 Miles N. 031 degs. 01' W.
 (C. in C. W.A. 191352B to Ships)
- Operation F.Z. (Convoy R.A. 59) Scapa arrivals Transport NEA HELLAS escorted by STORD.
 (A.C.O.S. 190447B to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
 Sailed BEAGLE, BOADICEA to Skaalefiord. E.T.A. 1800B/19th.
 (R.A.D. H.F. 190707B to N.O.I.C. Faeroes)
 Scapa Departure. At 1030 C.S.1 in DIADEM with ACTIVITY, FENCER, transport NEA HELLAS, INCONSTANT, MILNE, MUSKETEER, MATCHELSS, MARNE, WHITEHALL, WASKESIU, CAPE BRETON, WALKER, METEOR, ULYSSES, VERULAM, VIRAGO, KEPPEL, WRESTLER, GROU and OUTREMONT. At 0710 BEAGLE and BOADICEA. At 1145 WESTCOTT.
 (A.C.O.S. 191146B to H.F.)
 WESTCOTT sailed 1145B to overtake.
 (R.A.D. H.F. 191146B to C.S.1)

BEAGLE /...

312

19.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation F.Z. BEAGLE, BOUDICEA R/V with C.S.1 in position G at 0330B/20th.
(Convoy (R.A.D. H.F. 191150B to BEAGLE)
R.A.59) My 191232B. NEA HELLAS informs me repairs to
(Contd.) lubrication may possible be completed this evening but this is uncertain. I am therefore continuing without her unless you otherwise direct.
(C.S.1, 191320B to C. in H.F.)

Following is Russian estimate of disposition of German Air Force on Northern aerodrome as on 15th April.

- (1) Banak - 10 Ju.88, 7 He. 111.
 - (2) Hoybukten - 7 Ju.88, 4 Me. 110, 2 Me.109, 1 F.W. 200 .
 - (3) Kirkenes - 2 He.115, 2 B.V.138, 2 Do.24.
 - (4) Billefiord - 3 B.V. 138, 1 Do.24, 4 He.115.
 - (5) Luostari - 11 Me. 109, 5 F.W.190, 1 He.111 , 2,Me.110, .2 F.W. 189.
 - (6) Tromso - 10 B.V. 138, 5 He.115, 3 Do.24.
 - (7) Bardufoss - 5 Ju. 88, 5 NK type.
 - (8) Bodo - 5 He.115, 2 Do.24, 3 AR 196, 4 Me.109.
 - (9) Trondheim - 5 F.W.200, 5 Ju.88, 12 He.111, 2 He.115, 4 Me.109, 3 B.V. 138, 5 A.R. 196, 1 Do.24.
 - (10) Total - 149 aircraft.
- (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 191341B to Adnty. (R) C. in C. H.F. V.A.2, C.S.1)

Returned Scapa with engine defects transport NEA HELLAS.
(A.C.O.S.191451B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Following from MacGregor and Schurr. Narkomvneshtorg now promises discharge FORT VERCHERES here commencing 21st. This will enable us effect bunkering of EMPIRE ELGAR. Expect EMPIRE PROWESS will sail in R.A.59 after discharge of bunkers essential to EMPIRE BARD, but it may be necessary to request delay of up to three days in sailing of R.A.59 from present "D" day, depending on time of arrival of EMPIRE PROWESS in Kola Inlet.

(S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 191531B to Adnty)

Faeroes arrival BEAGLE, BOADICEA.

(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 191741B to V.A.D, C. in C. H.F.)

Transport NEA HELLAS has engine defects and is not proceeding as in my 162347. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail her to pass Hoxa Gate at 1100B/20th and return to Greenock. V.A.D. is requested to arrange for ONSLOW to escort NEA HELLAS as far as 58 degs. 15' N. V.A.D.191051 refers.

(C. in C. H.F. 191929B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Skaalefiord departure BEAGLE, BOADICEA.

(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 192232B to V.A.D., C. in C. H.F.)

Operation C.W. Request you will sail 5th E.G. as necessary to join and support O.N.S. 233 from 010 degs. W.
(C. in C. W.A.191123B to F.O.I.C. N.I.)
9th E.G. MATANE, STORMONT, SWANSEA, OWEN SOUND, vicinity 052 degs. 30' N. 017 degs. 30' W.
(C. in C. W.A.191347B to Ships)
My 181716B. Sailed DOMMETT.
(F.O.I.C.N.I.191430B to C. in C. W.A.)

313

19.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

S.C. My 180640B. Returned at 0605B to-day (HESSA).
Operation. (2) Operation unsuccessful owing to detection by enemy aircraft.
(3) Intend to sail again a.m. 26th April. Weather permitting.
(A.C.O.S. 191152B and 241844B to Admty.)

Coastal (C. in C. Portsmouth, 191546B)
Force
Patrols.

Operation A.M. 181445B. Owing to heavy berthing commitments
"Overlord". both now and in the future for Monsters escort carriers and visiting warships for bombardment practices berths for these ships cannot be considered in the naval anchorage.

(2) There are two first class naval moorings and two first class military moorings off Faslane Garloch which would accommodate these ships but War Office approval would have to be obtained to use their two moorings.

(3) It is considered that two destroyers could berth alongside each capital ship and cruiser.

(4) Above berths are the only ones available under present commitments.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 191624B to C. in C. W.A.)

Admiralty 181445. Anchor berths in Belfast Lough can be provided for these three U.S. Battleships.

(2) Owing to limited number of harbour craft now available, aggravated by the fact that hitherto these ships have carried no boats, it will only be possible to maintain essential services and to land small parties of Libertymen at Bangor. Fresh water requirements cannot be fully met.

(3) For these reasons and because berths alongside cannot be provided do not consider destroyers should be sent.

(F.O.I.C.N.I. 191805B to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 061921B. (A) While it is hoped that the minimum operational requirement of the equipment other than pierheads will be substantially ready on dates given in your cipher I am unable to accept these dates for final completion and consider we shall need a further 14 days to be added to both dates. As regards pierheads 10 (possibly 12) should be ready by May 14th but the minimum operation requirement of 15 is unlikely to be ready before end of May.

(B) Additional labour called for is now forthcoming and will as far as can be foreseen enable us to complete work as fast as material and other facilities allow. It is regretted that it was not possible to reply to this earlier owing to negotiations with the Ministry of Supply regarding additional labour etc., which has considerable bearing on completion date.

(Troopers, 192053B to A.N.C.X.F.)

E-Boats/...

War Diary19.4.1944
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations - ContdE-Boats
off
Yarmouth.

Report of E-Boat activity night 18th/19th April.
(1) At 0124 MONTROSE on patrol 4 when 2 miles east of 54D buoy detected group of E-Boats 4 or more in number stopped 2½ miles 120 degs. from 55B buoy. E-Boats retired N.E. at high speed under smoke on approach of MONTROSE who chased until contact lost at about 0200 engaging them at a range which was opening from 2000 yards. No damage to E-Boats could be confirmed. K.65 detected these E-Boats in channel at about same time as MONTROSE and followed them until 0154.

(2) C/F units on Z line did not make contact.

(3) Minelaying is suspected between 54D and 55B buoys, sweeping in progress.

(4) K.65 obtained two responses at 0136 close North of Hammond Knoll buoy. These moved approximately 080 degs. at about 15 knots increasing to high speed at 0153 and faded at 0200. This may have been another group of E-Boats with which our forces did not make contact.

(5) Situation was rendered somewhat difficult by presence of "Window" from enemy A/C and also by several R.M.Ls and H.S.Ls returning from A.S.R. It is possible E-Boats approached the channel astern of an H.S.L. which made 54D buoy about 0100.

(C. in C. Nore, 191652B to Admty.)

Y supplement to my 191652.

(1) Carrier and faint strokes heard by Winterton, Sheringham, Trimmingham and Gorleston on 44.7 M.C/s between 0123 and 0215. One bearing from Winterton at 0142.

(2) Montrose heard speech on "Headache".

(3) Ten smudge signals received between 2128 and 0245, some with bearings.

(C. in C. Nore, 191700B to Admty.)

S/M
Patrols.

S/Ms at 0759/20th and movements in following 24 hours.

(A) JUNON, UNSHAKEN, ULA as in my 181809.

(F.O.S.191752B to Admty.)

Engagements
with
E-Boats.

At 2311/18th E-Boats were plotted by Ventnor in 212 degs. St. Catherines Point 25 miles steering North West. The Portland Patrol, consisting of M.T.Bs 721 and 702 were vectored to intercept. MIDDLETON and SEYMOUR patrolling South of Portsmouth were ordered to steer West, and STEVENSTONE, at short notice in Yarmouth Roads, was ordered to sea and vectored to intercept. Meanwhile one Group of E-Boats closed the Convoy route 4 miles South of Anvil Point and began to steer East possibly minelaying. Eight minutes later at 0020 the enemy turned, South and was almost immediately intercepted by M.T.B's 721 and 702 who met 3 E-Boats on an opposite course, turned and engaged

on/...

19.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Engagements with E-Boats (Contd.) on a parallel course, claiming several hits. E-Boats scattered and retired to the Southward apparently in some disorder. A second group of E-Boats some 15 miles to the Southeastward was intercepted by STEVENSTONE at 0104 in 220 degs. St. Catherines Point 27 miles. The enemy was headed off and STEVENSTONE claims hits during an engagement which lasted intermittently for 40 minutes.

(2) Unit L M.T.B's 624, 671, 650, 682 patrolling in the Baie de la Seine had been ordered to proceed to a position off Cherbourg in the hope of intercepting E-Boats returning to harbour, but arrived too late. Unit closed the harbour entrance where lights were burning and signals being flashed, but was accurately engaged by shore batteries and forced to withdraw.

(3) M.T.B's 249, 250, 256 successfully carried out operation K.N. without incident.

(4) Throughout all these operations our ships suffered no casualties or damage.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 191821B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen T.O.O.190810Z. A/C observed 0720 South of Island westerly course. (A.C.I.C.191556B to Admty.)

SATURNUS attacked on 18th April. Swedish ship SATURNUS arrived Faeroes 1820B to-day. Reports attack 3 A/C bearing German markings near 062 degs. N. 003 degs. E. (Point D of safe conduct traffic route) at 1525 G.M.T. yesterday. No bombs dropped, machine gunfire only used. Superficial damage to superstructure. No casualties. About 18 British A/C had been sighted one hour previous to attack. (N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 192358B to Admty.)

Mining

Dover. Mines swept 16th April.
(1) Probably British M. Mark one. 51 degs. 13' 56" N. 02 degs. 11' 20" E.
(2) Probably German Z. 51 degs. 14' 20" N. 02 degs. 03' 50" E.
(V.A.Dover, 190944B to Admty.)

Portsmouth. One G.M. mine swept in 110 degs. 4 cables from E.A.1 buoy. One G.M. mine in 132 degs. 7 cables from Z buoy, drifting. Both mines sunk. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 191430B to Admty.)

Operation K.N.3. Prepare to carry out operation K.N.3 on next suitable night.
(A) 4 M.T.Bs of 14th M.T.B.Flottilla.
(C) E.A.3 Buoy at 2130 via 049 degs. 42' N. 000 degs. 02' W. thence position of lay.

(D) /...

316

19.4.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation D. (1) 049° 37.6' N. 000° 05.8' E.
K.N.3. (2) 049° 37.4' N. 000° 05.6' E. 03 30 114° 400 ft.
(Contd.) Further particulars.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 191842B to M.T.B.F.14.)

Western Channel Sweeps. Take KENORA and BAYFIELD under your orders and sail from Fowey a.m. 21st sweeping from F.6 Buoy to Lizard via Q.Z.S.418 - 347 thence Q.Z.S.452 on completion anchor in Mounts Bay 5.
2. Sat. 22nd sweep Q.Z.S.452 and 410 to seaward end of Q.Z.S.443 thence to Plymouth.
3. Sweeps to be carried out in double formation (H) with 15 fathom float wire.
(C. in C.Plymouth 191858B to CANSO.)

Portland controlled minefield lifted. Admiralty 281736A March. This work has been completed.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 192305 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Casualties & Defects.

LA BELLE POULE. Following from L'ETOILE begins. Leaving at 0700. LA BELLE POULE broken down. Have taken her in tow.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 190722B to Admty.)

DOUGLAS. My 172003. DOUGLAS cannot be considered fit for operational duties, until she has been refitted. Major items requiring refit are as follows. Details. Ship has also leaky O.F. tanks three in number, repair of which is essential.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 191419B to C. in C.W.A.)

Shipping & Convoys.

FENJA, BORELAND. (Greek relief.) The Swedish Govt. has chartered for Greek relief the following two vessels now in Baltic:-A. FENJA B. BORELAND. 2. BORELAND is intended to replace the safe conduct vessel BARDALAND which will shortly be withdrawn from relief service. 3. FENJA and BORELAND will sail from Vinga at 0800 April 25 in company with two Gothenburg traffic ships.
4. FENJA will proceed by standard Gothenburg route to 36° 40' N. 35° 00' W. thence to 34° 00' N. 39° 00' W. thence by "Black" route to St. John N.B. 5. BORELAND will proceed by standard Gothenburg traffic route to 34° 15' N. 34° 51' W. thence by "Black" route to Piraeus. BORELAND is expected to proceed to Salonika shortly after arrival at Piraeus. 6. Vessels should not be molested while following above routes.
(Head of M.I. 192044B to A.I.G.23, A.I.G.39.)

317

19.4.1944.
Wednesday.War DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth AtlanticUPROAR
(for U.K.).Departure. Local escort KILMELFORD.
(F.O.G.M.A. 190710B).T.G.120.5
(to U.K.).All times Z. Depart Horta Azores 190900. (Route).
(C.T.G. 120.5, 190926Z).
Departure OSPREY and L.C.I. 556 returned to Horta
191507 N. to effect repairs, estimated time of
completion 6 hours.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 191650Z).U/boat
reported.Am over enemy submarine in 37° 00' N. 9° 13' N.
Enemy previously reported sighted on surface and
observed to submerge on course 360° 5 knots.
(A/C, UKQ1-7, 191015).Nr.2. U/boat previously reported was on surface and seen
to submerge course 360° speed 5 knots when first sighted in 37°
00' N. 09° 12' W. was unable to attack distance mark 02 dropped.
Returning base to fuel.

(A/C, 311 Czech Squadron, 191045B).

SS. CHASSERAL

(Swiss) leaves Marseilles for Gibraltar about
22nd April.
(D.E.W.D. 191509B to F.O.G.M.A.).Gib. G.R.
Opsum April
18th.

A.I.557 19th April.

(A) G.A.311.

(B) Predannack 2335 (2327 or 2328?).

(C) Diverted Gib. 1215 - 1237.

(D) 0136 - 0245. (E) 0412 - 1100. (F) A/U.

(G) 30 miles either side of line bearing 270 from 45° 10' N. 04° 30' W to
PLE. ZAR GG 311-0142.Night MK V?-S.E. contact only 46° 00' N. 5° 22' W. attacked 3
torpex from 200 ft. spaced 100 ft. red flash seen on surface 0153
S.E. contact only 46° 00' N. 5° 22' W. attacked 4 torpex from
200 ft. nothing seen contact retained until 0210 when dis-
appeared. 3 flares dropped before first attack and 1 flare
before second but nothing seen.A 311 - 1015 visual S.E. not used 37° 10' N. 9° 13' W. 350 - 5
C.T. and part of deck seen from SIQ. A Miles small C.T. possible
gun forward A/C reached position too late for attack. Times B.
(A.C.H.Q. Gibraltar 191715B).Sailings of
I.R.C. ships.

C. in G. Med. 171027/

All sailings of Red Cross ships from Marseilles
to the Americas are notified by Geneva to London,
and the necessary promulgation is at all times
effected by Admiralty.(2) With regard to vessel proceeding only between Lisbon and
Marseilles, the ordinary procedure is that Geneva notifies
Embassy, Lisbon, at least four days in advance of sailing, in or-
der that you may promulgate to all authorities concerned, since
these are purely local sailings. Request immediate report
stating whether Geneva has given necessary notifications to Lis-
bon, and whether you have promulgated such notifications to
Naval Authorities concerned.

(A.C.N.S.(F), 191936B to N.A. Lisbon).

/ N.T. in W.D. ?171032 intended.

/ DUQUESNE...

318

19.4.1944.
WednesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

DUQUESNE Destination of DUQUESNE in U.K. in Clyde. Ship is due Casablanca p.m./20.
2. Commorseafroon is requested to sail her by (route) to proceed at best speed.
(D.O.D.(F), 192015B).

Destinations of merchant ships. Destinations. Your 161141. All ships in convoys mentioned normally know their port of destination therefore request that S.B.N.O. Azores or N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada include this information in Arrival Signals. If Master cannot supply reference should be made to Admiralty.

(2) Any change in destination after sailing will be communicated to ship and Commodore concerned after joining convoy.
(D.T.D. 192154B to F.O.G.M.A.).

(P.73) Following is a repetition of my 192216B.
VOX (for Addressed: P.248, P.73. (R) P.31, P.321, PORPOISE Mediterranean). KILMELFORD, CLYDE, F.O.S., S.5., S.3., C. in C.W.A.
(P.248) STURDY C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., S.10., Admty.,
(for Eastern C.M.S.F., Cominch from F.O.G.M.A.
Fleet). After crossing 43° N. proceed on surface at discretion to meet KILMELFORD and P.31 in position (V) 41° 55' N. 12° 22' W. at 1400/22.

(2) Submarines are not to be attacked unless hostile identity definitely established on 22nd until R/V is made.
(3) Bombing restrictions.
(4) KILMELFORD will escort you to Gibraltar (arrangements).
(F.O.G.M.A., 192228B to as 192216B).

South Atlantic

EDITH GERMAINE. F.S. EDITH GERMAINE (My 181745 refers) has maximum speed of 7½ knots. She is therefore unable to undertake escort work but will be utilized for local patrol only.
(B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, 191015A).

D.K./K.D. It would appear desirable to re-institute convoy convoys. between Durban and Kilindini.
(2) U/boats approaching from the Atlantic will continue for some time to constitute a threat to South African Waters necessitating the retention of all available trawler escorts in this area, especially since U/boat operating off Union Coast is unlocated.
(3) Request your remarks. (A) Whether you consider D.K./K.D. convoys should be formed. (B) Whether you can provide necessary escorts.
(C. in C.S.A. 191503B to C. in C.E.F.).

/ U-boat...

319

19.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/boat
report.

Transmission at 2207/19th registers U/boat within
90 miles of 021° 30' N. 034° 00' W.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 192358Z).

19.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PRIMULA,
DELPHINIUM.

Sailed Tobruk 0430C/19th at 13 knots for 033° 19' N. 021° 47' E. Tonight R/V.
(PRIMULA 190435C. to F.O.L.E.M. V.A.M. R.A.Alex. S.N.O.C. DELPHINIUM, Air authorities.)
Intend to search block 30 miles of 33° 20' N. 21° 43' E. until 2000C/19.
(DELPHINIUM 190455C to F.O.L.E.M. (R) V.A.M. R.A. Alex. S.N.O.C. Air Authorities.)

SS.
CONDESTABLE.

CONDESTABLE expected to sail from Valencia today 19th for Port Vendres.
(F.O.G.M.A. 190550B to 10th S/M F. LE CURIE, CASABIANCA, ARCHIMEDE, (R) Capt. S.10th, S.O.I.Med.)
CONDESTABLE left Valencia early morning today for Port Vendres.
(F.O.G.M.A. 191414B to 10th S/M F. LE CURIE, CASABIANCA, ARCHIMEDE, (R) Capt. S.10th, S O.I.Med.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

All quiet. Your 081846C.
(S.N.O.L.A. 191009.)
Situation report 1100C/19th. No change in general situation. Signal from Greek C. in C. appears to have no effect.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 191119C.)
Situation report 1800C/19. No change.
(S.N.O.R.S.C.A. 191831C.)

Black Sea.

Intelligence report.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 191015.)
See Lion Copy.

Flag of
C.S.15.

Intend transferring my Flag from ORION to DIDO a.m. 22. My office will transfer ashore to combined H.Q. Naples. Only operational matters will be dealt with in DIDO.
(C.S.15 191047B.)

Swedish
Red Cross
Ships.

Broadcast positions of Swedish Red Cross Ships are normally received at Alexandria from Athens radio. On a number of occasions name of ship included in message has not agreed with position given. Latest example is message giving 2000 G.M.T. position of HALLAREN on 18th March. Position given was in fact that of VIRGINIA and could not be HALLAREN.
2. In view of possible results of these erroneous signals suggest Swedish Authorities be informed.
(F.O.L.E.M. 191048C to Admty.)

/SS. MARIGOT...

SECRET

320A

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.)

*Black Sea -
Intelligence Report*

191015/April.

From N.L.O Black Sea.

Date. 21.4.44.
Recd. 0350

NAV.L O.T.P (I.D.C.) BY W/T RECIRCULATION
Requested by N.I.P.

Addressed. Admiralty. C. in C. Mediterranean. Admiral
Fisher. N.S.O(I) Istanbul.

IMPORTANT

From Intelligence Report.

1. Enemy shipping sight of Crimea routes.
April 15th westbound 5 Merchant Vessels, 10 F Lighters and 1 (one) barge: eastbound 11 Merchant Vessels.
April 16th westbound 9 merchant vessels eastbound 3 merchant merchant vessels
April 17th Westbound 4 merchant vessels, 11 F lighters, 2 barges: Eastbound two merchant vessels.

No increase in traffic reported before April 15th other than F Lighter along south coast.

2. Numbers of transport aircraft observed in flight between Crimea and Roumania:
April 12th 79
April 13th 77
April 14th 80
April 15th 97
April 16th 15
April 17th 39
Repeated 79 77 80 97 15 39.

191015.

Advance Copy. PDuty Capt.
Flot.

1st Lord.	J. I. C. (3)
1st S. L. (2)	D. N. I. (5)
D. F. S. L.	D. of P. (5)
4th S. L.	D. of P. (Q) (2)
5th S. L.	D. D. O. D. (M)
A. C. N. S. (H)	M. (27)
A. C. R. S. (F)	D. T. D.
A. C. N. S. (A) (2)	C. C. L. S. (2)
A. C. N. S. (W)	A. L. J.
U. W. R.	W. D.
D. Map Room	I. F. (3)
Capt. Tim.	Ad. Blake. (4)
Ops. (2)	C. W. R.
Flot.	O. D. (C. O) (4)
O. D. (5)	C. N. I.

321

19.4.1944.

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

- SS. MARIGOT. N.C.S.I. 141 MARIGOT attacked by aircraft in 37° 28' 00" N. 15° 29' 00" E. at 1100/18. Ship undamaged no casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Syracuse 191112.)
- GORLESTON Arrived Suez 2015Z/18 with collision damage.
damaged. (N.O.I.C. Suez 191115C.)
- UPSTART. Intend sailing (P.65) UPSTART at 0800/20th on the surface through 041° 10' 007° 55' at 0400/22nd and 240° Monachi Rocks 5 miles at 0900/22nd thence via Q.B.B. 312 and 308 to Marittimo E.T.A. 1330/22. 2. All times zone minus 2. All positions N. and W.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 191156B.)
- Bridgehead. 303 tons only discharged at Anzio on 18th April from one L.S.T. and 1 Liberty. 18 shells in Port area. No damage Bridgehead Sitrep 88. Is it desired that this Sitrep should be continued.
(F.O.W.It. 191216B.)
- UNRULY. Leave patrol at dark 21st April routed through Kinaros Channel thence south Santorin to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 29' at 1500/24th thence under Q.B. 240 to 035° 41' 023° 16' at 2100/24th.
(Capt. S.1 191515B to UNRULY.)
- H.D.M.L. H.D.M.L. Flotillas allocated to coastal force bases for maintenance and repair purposes as follows my 282012 Dec. is cancelled and my 171528 April refers 134 Flotilla C.F.B.Gib. 1st Division 111 Flot. C.F.B.Maddalena. 2nd Division 111 Flotilla C.F.B. Algiers. 141st Flotilla C.F.bases Malta and Augusta. 142nd Flotilla C.F.B.Miraglia. 139th and 140th Flotilla C.F.B.Tachia. 101st, 102nd, 113th and 114th Flotillas C.F. bases in Eastern Med. as arranged by C.F.E.
(C. in C.Med. 191552B.)
- French ammunition. French ammunition has been shipped to U.K. as follows.
8. Consider that very small reserve of 152 m.m. now in Med. Should be increased as soon as possible and before circumstances render emergency action unavoidable.
(C. in C.Med. 191602B to Admty.)
- SS. ANITA. a.m. 19th. No change ANITA.
(F.O.L.E.M. 191707C to Capt. S.1st, Info. S.O.51 Force, UNRULY.)

/Force N...

322

19.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Force N.

Your 181700 April. Force G already in use and should not be used. N allocated.
(D.O.D.F.) 191820B to C. in C.Med.)

323

19.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 2. No change in scale of air escort no fresh information.
(C. in C.E.F. 190311Z.)
No evidence of any German or Japanese U-Boats at sea in Indian Ocean with exception of one German unfixed between Capetown and Madagascar.
(D.D.I.C. 191558B.)

M.V.SUTLEJ
(sunk 26th
Feb.)

A. M.V.SUTLEJ. B. 009° S. 070° E. 26th Feb. 1820 approx. (?zero minus) time. C. One large Japanese S/M. D. Torpedoed ship sank within 3 to 5 minutes E one. F. 182 rafts. G. S/M machine gun(?ned) survivors and rafts after ship had sunk. H. Not known. I. About 500 miles north of position of sinking 2 Dhows presumed Arabian were sighted about 7 miles away on parallel course. J. K. L. All C.Bs. kept in weighted steel container survivors confident all books went down with ship. M. No risk of compromise. N. Chief Engineer (2) ordinary, Parcels and diplomatic mail were on board and went down with ship diplomatic - stowed in fitted chest aft. Mails embarked at Port Said Suez and Kosseir.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 190659Z.)

Bombay.

Monsoon period ships up to 670 ft. overall length can be accepted in Alexandria dock. Ship up to 700 feet overall length at Ballard Pier. Max. draught in both cases 29 ft. Para. 5 of your 121956 refers.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 191109Z to Admty.)

Operation
"Cockpit"
(air attack
on Sabang.)

Air strike on Sabang and North Sumatra 19th April.
Operation "Cockpit" successful.
1. Force 70. RENOWN (Flag of F.O.2nd i/c Eastern Fleet) ILLUSTRIOUS (Flag of R.A.A.E.F.) U.S.S. SARATOGA, LONDON, CEYLON, GAMBIA, QUILLIAM (Capt. D.4) QUEENBOROUGH, QUADRANT, U.S.Dests. DUNLAP, CUMMINGS, and FANNING.
2. Force 69 QUEEN ELIZABETH (Flag of C. in C.E.F.) VALIANT, RICHELIEU, NEWCASTLE (Flag of C.S.4) NIGERIA, D.S.TROMP. NAPIER (Cdre. D.) NIZAM, NEPAL, QUIBERON, ROTHERHAM, (Capt. D.11) RACEHORSE, PETARD, PENN and D.S. VAN GALEN.
3. Strike launched 0530 local time consisting of 47 bombers and 38 fighters achieved complete surprise. Actual attack 0700 when 30 tons of bombs dropped in Sabang area and on Lho Nga airfield.
4. Following observed damage.
A. Sabang. 1. One or 2 1000 pound bomb hits on each of 2 merchant ships of 4,000 to 5,000 tons.

19.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Operation
"Cockpit"
(air attack
on Sabang.)
(Contd.)

2. Two destroyer escort vessels strafed and set on fire.
3. 15 Zekes and Kates and 6 unidentified large transport aircraft destroyed on the ground on airfield.
4. Direct hit with 1000 pound bomb on oil fuel tank. Tank left burning, smoke rising to 7,000 ft.
5. Large number of bomb hits in dockyard and power station, wharf and town area large fires burning.
6. 5 heavy bomb hits in barracks area followed by strafing.
7. Four 500 pound bomb hits on radio station and 4 on Radar station.
8. Three 1000 pound bomb hits in dispersal area of airfield.
9. Three 1000 pound bomb hits in hangar and workshops area.
- B. Lho Nga airfield. 1. Two Bettys one Zeke destroyed on the ground on airfield of total of 5 seen.
5. Intense L.A.A. fire in both areas but not until after first bomb fell. Small H.A.A. fire.
6. Own damage. Limited to one Hellcat forced landing in sea but pilot picked up by TACTICIAN who surfaced and carried out rescue under fire from shore batteries. Eleven other aircraft damaged by A.A. fire but 10 repairable on board.
7. Three enemy torpedo bombers subsequently approached fleet, and all 3 shot down by fighters.
8. Unlikely enemy are aware of composition of Fleet but marking of American carrier aircraft no doubt observed.
(C. in C.E.F. 191227Z.)
Lieut. Dale (?Krahn) recovered unhurt in 095° YY. 13.7 at 0830; no other crashes observed. Dived for shore battery. Fires still well out of control.
(TACTICIAN 191239Z.)

N.A.S.
Squantum.

Re vacating.
(B.A.D. 191425Z.)
See Lion Copy.

RESTRICTED.

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.

N.A.S. Squantum.

CONFIDENTIAL

191425Z/April

Date, 20.4.44

From B.A.D.

Recd, 0600

O. T. P. By T/K

Addressed Admiralty.

We have been approached by Navy Dept. to vacate N.A.S. Squantum by 1st June next as the station is required for United States Carrier Squadrons.

2. We should then be confined to Brunswick and Lewiston subject to our being granted additional facilities at Brunswick, we should be able to undertake the whole Corsair programme there as approved by a.m. 251456 March.

3. We assume that no further Avenger Squadrons are to be formed in United States America but request confirmation of this because the facilities at Brunswick are not adequate for A/S and torpedo squadron training we should be able to continue to train spare Avenger pilots.

4. Leaving Squantum would not prevent formation of further Helldiver Squadrons, though these would have to be at the expense of the Corsair programme at Brunswick. This would however also apply if we did not leave Squantum in order to keep within permissible maximum numbers of aircraft and personnel.

5. We have requested the Navy Department to take no action until we have the opportunity to go more deeply into the implications of leaving Squantum and in any case not to move us before 1st of July.

6. If no more Avengers Squadrons are to be formed in U.S.A. and provided Brunswick could be expanded to accommodate five Squadrons at one time, we should gain by leaving Squantum and could save a certain number of personnel due to greater concentration.

7. Request your remarks.

- 1 S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- 2nd S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (A) (2)
- D.C.N.A.E.
- N.A. 2 S.L. (Air)
- Ops. (2)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.A.O. (2) for action
- D.A.E. (4)

- D.A.M.R.
- Air Br.
- M. (2)
- D. of S. (6)
- D.A.S. (L)
- D.A.U.D.
- D.A.S.W.
- C.W. (2)
- N.
- D.P.S. (3)
- D.A.W.T.
- D.A.C.R. (3)
- M.A.S. (4)
- D. of P. (3)

191425Z

- Ad. Blako
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D.A.S. (4)
- D.N.O. (4)
- C.I.N.O.
- S.W.R.

} Bath

War Diary.

19.4.1944.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SS. MADOERA. Fire extinguished crew and passengers returned on board. No casualties. Main engine working proceeding Balboa. (Details of damage.) (MADOERA 190340 to St. Johns N.F.)

PREMIER, RULER. It is intended that PREMIER and RULER shall return to U.S.A. to ferry aircraft to U.K.
2. Request your concurrence for PREMIER to be included in U.C.21 and RULER in U.C.22 notwithstanding that this may bring the number of ships in the convoy above 24.
3. Neither ship will carry any operational aircraft. (D.O.D.H. 191042B to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

Water in Fuel Oil. C.4 151545 (N.T. in W.D.) Para. E. Request investigation and report. (D.T.D. 191043B to B.R.L.O.New York.)
C.4 151545 para. E. Request confirmation whether escorts concerned checked their own tanks for water before operation commenced. (D.T.D. 191044B to F.O.N.F.)

U/B report. Transmission of weather report on 9830 k/cs at (?0944)Z indicates U-Boat in area 045° 00' to 047° 00' N. 036° 00' to 038° 00' W. Further weather report expected tonight probably between 2300Z and 0100Z. Apart from normal area frequencies may use 5600 k/cs (Norddeich). (N.S.H.Q. 191431Z to S.E.H.X.F.287.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 191458Z, Cominch 191556Z.)

D'ENTRECASTEAUX. Chief of French Naval Mission has asked approval of Cominch as executive agent to transfer the Sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX from Diego Suarez to Bizerta, informing him that this request has already been made to Admiralty. Please inform us if there are any objections to this. (B.A.D. 191511Z to Admty.)

DUQUESNE or SUFFREN employment. Change in employment one French cruiser either DUQUESNE or SUFFREN from Dakar to U.K. waters under direction of Admty. and ultimate use as a French Depot Ship authorized by Cominch as executive agent of C.C.S. with B.A.D. concurrence and in accordance with Navale France proposal to Admty. (Cominch & C.N.O. 191751.)

19.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Transport of U.S. troops to India in GENERAL ANDERSON class. C. in C. Eastern Fleet 141236, request you will enquire if it is practicable for U.S. authorities to comply with para. 4 and, if so, their proposed sailing programme. (V.C.N.S. 191906B to B.A.D.)

MORDEN. My 191236 not to all addressees. H.M.C.S. MORDEN sailed St. Johns N.F. 2115Z/19 independently to Londonderry (route etc.) (F.O.N.F. 192124Z.)

U/B incidents. My 161940*. PAN PENNSYLVANIA capsized later bombed and sunk by friendly aircraft 40.24 N. 69.37 W. on 18th. Para. C. U.S.S. HILL sound contact 41.15 N. 29.06 W. 181130. A/C from U.S.S. CORE sighted periscope wake 45.38 N. 26.38 W. 1725/17. All times Z. Aircraft Radar contact 32.06 N. 79.44 W. 1440/19. (Cominch 192147Z.)
* Submarine contacts report.

INDOMITABLE. Modify my 102106. Sailed INDOMITABLE and escorts Norfolk to Azores direct. (Cominch 192206Z.)

T.G. 21.16. When Logistic situation demands proceed Casablanca for 4 day visit. Further orders later. (Cinclant 192218Z to C.T.G. 21.16.)

T.G. 27.9 T.G. 27.9 with FITCH departing Cape Henry Light 1500Z/20 via following points: F. 37.30 63.08 G. 37.01 50.02 H. 44.40 39.25 J. 50.09 28.15 K. 53.34 17.31 L. 55.29 08.10. S.O.A. 12.5 E.T.A. Point L 1300Z/1 May. (C.T.G. 27.9 192255.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. A. 1. Escorts of R.A. 58 attacked U-Boat at 0425Z/10 in 72° 07' N. 17° 49' E.
2. SS. NEBRASKA torpedoed and sunk at 0355Z/8 in 11° 55' S. 19° 52' W.
Para. B. Soviet Naval Staff reported U-Boat course N. at 1650Z/17 in approx. 71° 10' N. 24° 00' E.
Para. C. 1. A/C attacked possible U-Boat at 2355Z/18 in approx. 46° 30' N. 06° 00' W.
2. A/C sighted periscope wake at 1725Z/17 in 45° 38' N. 26° 38' W. (D.D.I.C. 191126B.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 191409B, 191415B.)

327

20.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Z.

1. C.S.1 in DIADEM with the ships to form the Escort of convoy R.A.59 was 220 miles N.E. by N. of the Faroes at 1500B today, steering 032° at 16 knots.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

2. Four sightings of inward bound U-Boats were made today by A/C in the Bay of Biscay, and one of these was bombed without observed result at 2330B about 160 miles west of La Rochelle.

Coastal
Batteries
engagement.

3. From 2306 until 2350 our Dover shore-batteries fired 71 rounds of 9.2 inch at a north bound enemy convoy 16 miles S.E. of the South Foreland and claim four straddles, and between 2313 and 2356 the enemy coastal batteries replied with 7 rounds of which 4 fell in Dover Town and 1 in Folkestone causing damage to civilian property. The convoy entered Dunkirk at 0220, and M.T.Bs. 236 and 229, which closed to intercept off Calais, were engaged by the E/R-Boat screen and shore batteries and forced to withdraw.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

4. C. in C.Med. reports that there is no change in the situation, but refreshing signs almost of determination to do something are discernible in the new Greek C. in C.

Bridgehead.

5.(a). 973 tons were discharged at Anzio today. Shelling increased in volume and accuracy, but no damage to shipping is reported.
(b). An apparently abortive attack by "human torpedoes" was made, one of which, and also some of the torpedoes were recovered. Some prisoners (German) were taken. P.C. 558 claims to have sunk two torpedoes, though it is not clear whether this refers to the "mother ship" or the torpedo released therefrom.
(c). U.S. destroyer EBERLE on patrol 15 miles west of Anzio intercepted 3 out of 4 E-Boats at 0015 today and probably sank one of them. Another, believed damaged, entered the Tiber.

/Convoys..

20.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoys
U.G.S.38 &
C.A.F.31 at-
tacked. U.S.
destroyer &
4 ships
torpedoed.

6.(a). About 25 enemy aircraft attacked convoy U.G.S.38 off Cape Bengut (40 miles E. by N. of Algiers) at 2115 today. U.S. destroyer LANSDALE and SS. PAUL HAMILTON were sunk and SS. SAMITE, STEPHEN AUSTIN and ROYAL STAR were hit; the latter sank later, but the two former reached Algiers in tow. Fighters claim to have destroyed two of the enemy aircraft.

(b). About the same time convoy C.A.F.31 was attacked by 15 aircraft in 37.30 N. 05.30 E. (about 60 miles N.E. of Bougie,) and SS. EL BIAR was hit by torpedo and sank later. One aircraft was shot down by A.A. fire and one probably destroyed, and fighters claim 3.

Air
Operations.

7.(a). Air attacks were carried out last night on Porto San Stefano, Piombino port installations, Leghorn and shipping at Genoa. Results generally were not observed.

(b). 54 B.24s dropped 152 tons on Venice harbour today; the reported result is near misses on one merchant ship. 158 tons were dropped on Monfalcone shipyards (Gulf of Trieste) the docks were hit.

East Indies.

STORM,
patrol report.

8. On return from patrol off Port Blair, Andaman Is., STORM reports that at 0837/15 in 11.34 N. 92.57 E. she sank a destroyer which was one of the escorts of a merchant ship. On the previous day STORM considers she probably hit with 2 torpedoes and sank an escorted merchantship in 11.23 N. 92.49 E.

America & West Indies.

9. INDOMITABLE sailed from Norfolk Va. for the U.K. via the Azores today.

War Diary.

20.4.1944.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies - Contd.

10. SS. JOHN STRAUB was sunk by explosion of unknown origin at 0149 today in 54.22 N. 163.24 W. (120 miles east of Dutch Harbour, Aleutians.)

Australia & New Zealand.

11. U.S. troops occupied Mandrindr Island (Admiralty Group) today. No opposition was encountered.

War Diary20.4.1944.
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSPolicyOil Fuel
supplied to
Russians.Your 120919. Quantity of oil-fuel supplied to
Russian ships 17972 tons and to shore at Murmansk
4250 tons. Total 22,222 tons.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 202047B to Admty.).OperationsOperation
"F.Z."
(Convoy
R.A.59).

Intend to sail transport NEA HELLAS at 1100B to-day
by standard route to Greenock escorted by ONSLOW
to latitude 058° 15' N. C. in C.H.F. 191929
refers. E.T.A. Clyde boom 1530B/21st.
(A.C.O.S. 200152B to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
(1) All White Sea ships except W.R. GRACE, 17?
ships should cross Dvina Bar a.m. tide April
23rd if all goes well. Delay is however possible.
(2) American ships will have 1400 Russian naval personnel for
U.K. S.O. Admiral (?H Vanoyc).
(3) Request you will arrange Russian naval escort from northern
ice edge.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 201031B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
Scapa departure. Transport NEA HELLAS escorted by ONSLOW.
(A.C.O.S. 201102B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
C.S.1 in DIADEM informed escorting aircraft estimated
position at 1500B/20th was 065° 30' N. 000° 52' W. 16, 032°.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 202234B to H.F.).

Biscay A/S
operations.

Am over enemy submarine which is on the surface
and is fighting back (?speed 10 knots) (?course
120°) position 44° 35' N. 05° 42' W.
(A/C, MGL 89, 200243 to 19 Group).
U/boat previously reported was on surface and seen to sub-
merge. Marker (?dropped). Returning to base for fuel.
Position 44° 35' N. 05° 42' W.
(A/C, MGL 89, 200312B to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 49° 40' N. 08° 11' W.
(A/C, MGL 89, 200620B to 19 Group).
U/boat was on surface and seen to submerge. Negative attack
(A/C, MGL 89, 200633 to 19 Group).
U/boat previously reported course 080° speed 10 knots when
first sighted in 50° N. 08° 31' W.
(A/C, MGL 89, 200640 to 19 Group).
BITER and 7th E.G., PELICAN, CRANE, CYGNET and WOODCOCK
arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 200756B to Admty.).
From 1000Z position 20th lat. 45.30 long. 28.45 course 150,
speed 14 with intention to search north and south near meridian
27 W. between 42 N. and 46 N. until 23rd when logistics require
compliance your 192218.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 201317 to N.S.S.).
T.G. 21.16, U.S.S. CORE operating with 5 destroyers within
300 miles of 044° 31' N. 029° 05' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 201347B to ships).
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 42' N. 06° 55' W.
(A/C, MUJ 74, 202230 to 19 Group).
U/boat previously reported was on the surface. Have attac-
ked U/boat with depth charge. Estimate no hits. U/boat has
dived position 45° 42' N. 06° 56' W.
(A/C, MUJ 74, 202245B to 19 Group).

/ Am...

20.4.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Biscay A/S operations. (Contd.). Am over 1 enemy submarine in 46° 43' N. 06° 02' W. Enemy S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 135° 12 knots. (A/C, KBQ 31, 202330B to 19 Group). U/boat previously reported course 120° speed 12 knots, when first sighted in 06° 02' W. Have attacked U/boat with bombs. Result not seen, contact lost at once, flak ceased in range. (A/C, KBQ 31, 202353B to 19 Group).

Operation "Knitting 7" My 191127B. Operation partially completed satisfactorily, then abandoned owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 200941B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation "C.W." My P.C.S. 055° 32' N. 012° 30' W. 260°, 5 knots, heavy swell persisting. Intend to sweep southwards from daylight tomorrow. (E.G.3, 201001B to C. in C.W.A.).

E.G.1st position 1200/20th, 051° 40' N. 016° 50' W. speed 12 knots, is proceeding to hunt weather reporting U/boat (German) within 120 miles approximately of 052° 30' N. 028° 30' W.

(2) C.1. (Escort Group position 1200/20th) 046° 15' N. 042° 45' W. speed 12 knots, routed as follows; has also been warned of this U/boat.

(C. in C.W.A. 201052B to C.1. E.G.1, (%) E.G.3.).

E.G.9th, MATANE, OWEN SOUND, SWANSEA, STORMONT vicinity 052° 39' N. 017° 28' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 201344B to ships).

BALFOUR reports defects in evaporator necessitating her immediate return to base. She is proceeding northabout.

My P.C.S. 051° 37' N. 015° 53' W. 276° 9 knots

(E.G.1, 201631B to C. in C.W.A.).

Alter to pass 052° 01' N. 013° 30' W., thence 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles, thence Plymouth as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.

(C. in C.W.A. 201719B to E.G.3.).

M.T.B. Patrol shelled. Last night in anticipation of the westward movement of enemy units from Calais, group A, M.T.B. 361 (S.O.), 353, 359, 362 patrolled at number seven buoy.

At 2150 shore-based Radar detected 7 to 10 vessels estimated to be of trawler size leaving Calais for the south-westward at about 10 knots.

Our M.T.Bs. were ordered to intercept and at 2252, in approx. 238° Gris Nez Light 3.2 miles in good visibility and calm weather, made contact at range of about two miles. Hostile shore-batteries immediately opened fire with anti-personnel and starshell and our force turned to southward on shadowing course. Two further attempts by group A to carry out zone attack with torpedoes were frustrated by renewed enemy fire from shore-batteries and surface craft and the attack was abandoned at 2330 without damage or casualties to our force.

(2). Group A was again despatched at 0110 to intercept a further group of enemy units estimated to be 5 vessels of trawler size, which have been detected by shore-based Radar off Gravelines at

332

20.4.1944.
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

M.T.B. 2322 westbound at 9 knots. Although visibility was good and our force appeared to have gained Radar contact 0225 they were unable to sight the enemy. At 0300 when it became evident from my operations room that the enemy, now in plotted position approximately two miles west of Ambleste-use, had passed ahead of group A, our forces were ordered to withdraw.
(V.A. Dover, 201202B to Admt.).

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth 201431B).
(V.A. Dover, 201652B).

Operation "Overlord" Fourteen Eagle ships will be employed as anti-aircraft ships off the enemy coast from D + 3. Owing to their limited radius of action it will be necessary to assemble them in the central area. It is understood that berths can be made available in the Isle of Wight area outside the defended anchorage. Request confirmation that these ships can be accepted observing that their boiler water endurance is in some cases only 2 days. It is considered that once anchored these ships can die out fires.
(A.N.C.X.F. 201605B to C. in C. Portsmouth).
My 131715B. Delete GARLAND from Eastern Task Force and substitute JERVIS.
(A.N.C.X.F. 201617B to Admt.).

S/M. Positions of submarines at 0802/21st and movements for following 24 hours.
patrols. (A) JUNON patrolling vicinity 64° 41' N. 02° 45' E.
(B) UNSHAKEN, ULA as in my 181809.
(F.O.S. 201707B to Admt.).

E/boats from Cherbourg. (1) At 0215/20th four unidentified plots appeared about 2 miles south of the convoy route to the south-eastwards of Beachy Head. These plots which increased to five at 0220 moved about in a suspicious manner near the convoy-route and, since possible E/boat activity had been reported, they were treated as hostile and dispositions were made to intercept.
(2) M.T.Bs. 680 (S.O.), 608, 613 and 616 which were patrolling south of Newhaven were ordered to intercept the central of the five plots stationary near C.1 A buoy. At 0240 they obtained a Radar contact which was closed but faded at 1000 yards. No further contacts were obtained.
(3) REDMILL escorting 2 tugs and tows was in the centre of the unidentified plots when they appeared. She obtained Radar contact at 0215 and reported 0245 that E/boats had retired to southward
(4) C.W.263 which was about 1 hour late was 3 miles east of Dungeness at 0215. It was turned about to avoid the E/boats.
(5) LA COMBATTANTE and MIDDLETON were patrolling southeast of St. Catherines Point. When the E/boats started to retire these ships were ordered to the southward to intercept on the return route to Cherbourg. LA COMBATTANTE obtained Radar contact 30

/ miles...

333

20.4.1944.
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

E/boats from miles north-eastward of Pointe de Barfleur and
Cherbourg chased for 15 miles towards Cherbourg before being
(Contd.). ordered to disengage to the northward.
(6) The Radar range of initial pickup was most
unsatisfactory but in conditions of heavy rain
this is at present inevitable.
(7) E/boat R/T traffic was intercepted between 0215 and 0245 but
no definite inference of the enemy's object could be made.
(8) The convoy route is being swept in view of the possibility
of minelaying activity.
(9) Weather conditions were most unsuitable for normal E/boat
activity. Wind force 6. Sea moderate.
(10) The E/boats must have reached Cherbourg after daylight but
it was not possible to operate aircraft.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 202012B to Admty.).

Escort for Catalina will provide A/S air escort from 1230B
V.A.2 in until 2300B/21st.
ANSON. (C. in C. Rosyth, 202226B to V.A.2.).

Enemy Air Activity

Scapa At 1819 to-day hostile A/C. was plotted 120° "A"
Buoy 55 miles on northerly course height 2000 feet.
Track faded 1825 in 115° A Buoy 50 miles. One
section of Spitfires was airborne to investigate and patrol east
of Orkneys. Visibility was very poor and they report nothing
seen.
(A.C.O.S. 202215 to Admty.).

Mining

Yarmouth My 191652B.
area. The following mines were accounted for yesterday.
(A) One explosion seen by FARNE approx. 170° 55B
Buoy 3 cables, probably Acoustic, reported at 1720.
(B) One Acoustic mine (Type "C" operating) detonated by "Fancy 7"
cables on starboard beam position 270° 54D Buoy 1.7 miles
reported by M/S.7 at 1822B.
(C) 2 Acoustic mines detonated approx. 295° 54D buoy 2 miles,
reported at 191905B by M/S 7.
(D) COTTESMORE operating SA Gear detonated one Acoustic mine in
approx. 260° 55B 3/4 miles, reported at 2332B.
(2) Traffic is being temporarily diverted to 3/4 North of Centre
Line in Q.Z.S. 303 between 54D Buoy and 56 Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 201150B to Admty.).
1 or 2 Acoustic mines exploded 15 cables starboard beam,
LEINOX. Approximate position of explosion 170 55B Buoy, 8
cables.
(M/S 7, 201302B to C. in C. Nore).
LL/SA Sweepers detonated one or possible two Acoustic mines
in 035° Hammond Knoll Buoy 6 cables at 1304.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 201405B to Admty.).

334

20.4.1944.
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMining

Yarmouth area (Contd.). LL Sweepers detonated one magnetic mine at 1430 in 070° Hammond Knoll Buoy 5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 201545B to Admty.).

Sweep off St. Albans Head. Q.Z.Y.445
(1) Swept three mines type GM in 50° 32' N. 01° 55' 42" W. Two were sunk, one drifted into unswept water reported in my 201615.
(2) Have swept to latitude 50° 31' 54" N. Intend continuing clearance to southward tomorrow.
(3) Unexplained explosion occurred in 50° 31' 42" N. 01° 52' W. within 18 cables of ships sweeping. (M/S 9, 201801B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Portsmouth One G.M. mine swept in approx. 137° 9.1 miles from N.A.B. Tower. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 201844B to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence

KAUPANGER, ANDENES, OLDENBURG, EUROPA. Following casualties have been reported.
(1) Norwegian (A) KAUPANGER 1584 tons arrived Aalesund with upper works damaged in air attack on March 23rd.
(B) ANDENES 8 (718) tons coastal steamer attacked by aircraft off Lyngenfjord April 2nd. Received torpedo hit in stern and afterwards towed into port. C.2 repeat C.2.
(2) German. (A) 10,000 tons German vessel loaded with fish sunk early April south Bodo. This may possibly be German refrigerator vessel OLDENBURG 8537 tons.
(B) Steamer EUROPA 3767 tons sank after collision with German patrol vessel near Stavanger on March 15th. She was carrying coal and motor vehicles.
(C) On March 17th 2 German vessels collided in Hjeltefjord Bergen. One was sunk and other damaged. All graded C2 repeat C2.
(D) Norwegians informed from German source that 8 vessels were sunk off Jaeren on March 25th when 2 convoys were attacked. C3 repeat C3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 201527 to Admty.).

Casualties and Defects

COMBATANT COMBATANT has fractured one main exhaust pipe. Intend to leave her at Granton for repairs. (M/S 40, 201210B to C. in C. Rosyth).
My 201210B COMBATANT fractured a main exhaust pipe while lying at anchor in a slight swell. S.E.O. intends to experiment with sliding exhaust pipes now under construction, but it seems probable that this trouble will continue until engine bearers are modified as in remaining ships. It is for consideration that she should be relieved in 40th M/S Flotilla by next ship in which this modification has been completed. (M/S 40, 201425 to Admty.).

/ L'ESCARMOUCHE...

20.4.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

L'ESCARMOUCHE My 181859.
Damage repairs will be completed by p.m. 22nd
April L'ESCARMOUCHE sailed to Greenock to arrive
a.m. 23rd.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 201836 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Shipping and Convoys

FENJA, Swedish ships FENJA, BORELAND chartered for Greek
BORELAND. relief. One to leave Vinga 25th April by usual
approved route to Faeroes accompanied by 2
GOTHENBURG class ships.

(4) These ships are not to be molested.
(F.O.S. 200954B to S/Ms.).

Ships in Request information whether it is intended to
North Russia. run R.A.60 for ships remaining in North Russia and
if so whether EMPIRE BARD is to sail with this
convoy.
(S.B.N.O: North Russia, 201757B to Admty.).

Loch Ewe Commencing with O.S.76/K.M.S.50 East Coast ships
and Oban. for O.S./K.M.S. Convoys will assemble at Loch Ewe
and thereafter Oban will not for the present be
used for Trade Convoys.
(D.T.D. 202046B to C. in C.W.A.).

War Diary

20.4.1944
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Straits
blimp
fence. Conclusions as to U-Boat dispositions para. 2 of your 171701 appear reasonable, but are at variance with premises Comnavnaw 241711 March. F.O.G.M.A.251140 March. Your 170059 and Comnavnaw 141341. I am accordingly with-holding action as to provision of Blimps and/or additional M.A.D. equipped planes to Fairwing 15 pending further developments. With reference to para. 3, I cannot give unqualified assurance that this Squadron will remain at Lyautey, but you may be certain it will be deployed to our greatest mutual advantage. (Cominch, 201444Z to Admty.)

I.R.C.ship
EMBLA. Your 191936. Embassy did not receive any notification from Geneva reference sailing of EMBLA. (N.A. Lisbon, 201906A to Admty.)

South Atlantic

Zig-
zagging. All ships now in B.A.M.S. Area 3 C proceeding South or Westward at speeds 10 knots and over are to commence zig-zagging forthwith and continue to destination. (C. in C. S.A. 200851Z to B.A.M.S.3C)

T.G.21.15. C.T.G.21.15 at 0900 20.26 N. 35.31 W. 270 12. All times Z. beginning 0415 to-day patrolling area 80 miles radius along this track. Plan reverse at 1600 and launch night flights 1 hour before sunset and 4 hours prior sunrise if will not interfere your operations. (C.T.G..21.15 200935 to C.T.G.21.14)

Gibraltar
Straits
barrier. Cominch 131350 asked Comnavnaw to advise as to whether additional M.A.D.Planes would materially increase effectiveness of Gibraltar Straits Barrier as ultimately planned. (Cominch, 201710Z)

SS. CITY OF
DUBLIN. Have you any news of CITY OF DUBLIN (Eire) due Sao Thome 15th April from St. Vincent C.V. (D.T.D.201747B to S.O.(I) Freetown)

337

20.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Summary of
Glider Bomb
attacks.

Following is summary Med. Glider Bomb attacks as of this date. Since 6 Nov. total 17 attacks reported off North Africa Coast between Bone and Tenez remainder off Anzio. About 140 control signals logged in 48.50 m/cs band. About 75 gliders observed visually. Smoke darkness and possible deceptive signals account for discrepancy between visual and radio observations. 6 ships reported hit of which 3 warships all British. U.S. has 10 J.ships and 1 investigational ship. British have 8 J ships of which 5 have home-made jammers. Des. DAVIS and HERBERT C.JONES claim instances in which Gliders unquestionably jammed but visual observation normally very difficult U.S.J.ships have been using C.W.spot jamming of individual control signals. Experimenting now with 1500 cycle tone modulation. Indications are that J.ship with about 500 watt carrier cannot effectively render protection over much more than 5000 yard radius. Most attacks have been twilight but four have been night attacks including two most recent on convoys. Average time bomb flight remains about 1 minute with signal usually on air several seconds before release and up to 30 seconds following contact. On one occasion during low visibility mother plane released bomb and followed it in close to target without applying control until last 15 seconds.

(Comnavhaw 200732.)

Comnavhaw 200732 being passed to you for information with special ref. to sentence on effective power required.

(C. in C.Med. 202030 to Admty.)

BARNEHURST,
BARBERRY.

Your 171841 not to all. BARNEHURST and BARBERRY can be spared for U.K.

(C. in C.Med. 201101 to Admty.)

Com. Algeria is requested to sail BARNEHURST for Gibraltar at earliest convoy opportunity.

2. F.O.G.M.A. is requested to sail BARBERRY and BARNEHURST to U.K. by first suitable convoy. My 201101 refers.

(C. in C.Med. 201116B.)

PIPINOS.

Leave patrol at dusk 21st April to be in 035° 49' 023° 29' at 1000/22nd thence dived at 200 ft. under Q.B.240 to position 035° 41' 023° 16' about 1600/22nd.

(Capt. S.1 201304 to PIPINOS.)

From 035° 41' 023° 16' about 1600/22nd proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 0530/25th.

2. You are to dive by day east of long. 20° your surface speed is estimated as 8½ knots.

(Capt. S.1 201311 to PIPINOS.)

Bridgehead
Sitrep 89.

937 tons unloaded at which L.S.T.and L.C.T. from Naples contributed 185 and 416 respectively.

2. U.S. destroyer EBERLE on patrol 15 miles west of Anzio intercepted 3 of four E-Boats at 200015. 1 probably sunk, 1 believed damaged entered Tiber.

(F.O.W.It. 201334B.)

/I.R.C....

War Diary.20.4.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- I.R.C. At 190825B six R.P. Beaufighters attacked 2000 ton ship in 43° 25' N. 04° 12' E. Red Crosses on bow and stern and C international painted amidship. Several hits scored and ship left down by the stern. No notification of sailing received by C. in C. Med. (C. in C. Med. 201850.)
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. Following from C. in C. Med. Cairo. No change in Greek situation. Greek C. in C. confirms intention carry out operation tomorrow Friday night and refreshing signs of optimism and almost of determination are discernable. (R.N.G.H.Q. 201857C.) As amended 210402C.
- Spanish SS. JOSE ILLUECA: I (?A 1 intended) was attacked at JOSE ILLUECA, 191830 by 7 aircraft believed to be Beaufighters with machine guns cannon fire bombs and sank, it is alleged, in French territorial waters: 15 miles north of La Selva. 2 killed included Master and 5 seriously injured. Casualties landed in CERBERE. Under Secretary Mercantile Marine though concerned about casualties does not appear unduly perturbed about loss of ship. Shipping Attache again warned owners last week of risk their ships were running by continuing this traffic and also grave danger to lives of crew. (A.B.N.A. Madrid 202032B.)
- Search for U/B. Nr. 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 33° 42' N. 21° 05' E. probably a submarine. (A/C GGFC 202100C, 202145.)
Nr. 1. Maintain touch with contact reported carry out square search for S/M in area of 5 miles radius from 33° 42' N. 21° 05' E. report and attack. Continue sortie until P.L.E. (H5K 202147 to A/C GGFC, 202151C to GCFD.)
- My P.C. and S. 033° 17' 021° 22' 320° 14 knots. (DELPHINIUM 202145C to F.O.L.E.M.)
Have commenced search Datum 033° 56' N. 021° 05' E. (DELPHINIUM 202310C to F.O.L.E.M. (R) V.A.M. R.A. Alex. S.N.O.C. Air authorities.)
- Situation report No. 341. Coastal Force operating from Bastia night 18/19th April engaged southbound convoy north of Spezia. Torpedoes were fired and 1 possible hit obtained on a trawler.
2. Shelling of Anzio port area was on increased scale on 18th April, and 19th April, but caused no damage. Discharge figure 18th April 303 tons, 19th April 937 tons. Air activity slight, 4 mines detonated on 18th April and 2 on 19th April.

339

20.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report No.
341.
(Contd.)

3. EBERLE U.S. destroyer on patrol off Anzio encountered 3 or 4 E-Boats night 19/20th April, 1 probably sunk by gunfire and 1 probably damaged, but returned to Tiber.
(C. in C.Med. 202145.)

ARCHIMEDE.

Mission completed.
(ARCHIMEDE 202351 to N.C.I.C. Algiers.)

340

20.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Berth for
Montevideo
Dock.

Request confirmation that berth at Vizagapatam can be dredged in time to receive Montevideo Dock immediately after monsoon.
(Admty. 200019B to C. in C.E.F.)

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 3. No fresh information. It is now considered probable that (?no) operational enemy U-Boats are at sea in Indian Ocean. Scale air escort in all areas remains W.
(C. in C.E.F. 200323Z.)

STORM
Patrol report.

Summary of STORM Second Far East Patrol. All times F.G.
?(2). 0505/13 missed with 4 torpedoes small tanker escorted by submarine chaser approaching Port Blair in 11° 24' N. 92° 54' E. due to difficulty of estimating speed owing to tanker stopping.
3. 0852/14 fired 6 torpedoes at 5000 yards at 3500 ton merchant vessel with three escorts in 11° 23' 92° 49'.. After three mins. 20 secs. there were two sharp explosions and 5 secs. later H.E. ceased. Counter attack of goose depth charges none close. 0910 only escorts could be seen in a quick look through the periscope. Consider there were two probable hits and ship sank.
4. 0837/15 in 11° 34' 92° 57' fired two torpedoes at 4000 ton merchant vessel escorted by one destroyer one submarine chaser and A/S vessel. Two loud explosions 4 secs. apart occurred after three mins. 45 secs. 0952 destroyer sank having received at least one hit. The other torpedo may possibly have hit the merchant vessel as speed was reduced from nine to five knots but subsequently was increased to ten while being chased by STORM 1224 surfaced and shadowed merchant vessel 2202 forced to dive having been detected by Radar.
5. 1418/16 closed on surface to attack with gunfire a coaster which proved to be an A/S vessel and returned the fire forcing STORM to dive. In counter attack which followed six depth charges were very close.
(C. in C.E.F. 201101.)

Durban -
Kilindini
traffic.

Consider a reduction in independent traffic in South Mozambique Channel desirable for the time being. Your 191503 refers.
2. Escort requirements for troop transports already in progress prevent transfer of sufficient Kilindini escorts to cover full convoy between Durban and Kilindini.
3. Propose ships of 12 knots and over should continue unescorted but remainder capable of inclusion in convoy be held at Durban and Kilindini and sailed in convoy escorted by one Kilindini escort as frequently as available escorts permit. Convoys from Durban to be dispersed at 20° S. those from Kilindini being escorted throughout. Southbound ships would be diverted into Kilindini accordingly.

341

20.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Durban -
Kilindini
traffic.
(Contd.)

4. Consider refit of LANDGUARD should be postponed in order to make use of her for first convoy from Durban.
5. If you concur request you will co-ordinate ~~to the~~ programme with F.O.E.A.
(C. in C.E.F. 201117Z to C. in C.S.A.)

PROTECTOR.

Your 301204Z March. On completion of repairs PROTECTOR will be allocated to Eastern Fleet.
(A.C.N.S.F. 201510B to C. in C.E.F.)

Operation
"Cockpit."

Congratulations.
(1st S.L. 201543B.)

M.V.ROCHAMBEAU
ex MARECHAL
JOFFRE.

SSSS torpedoed.
(MARECHAL JOFFRE 201543Z.)

Convoy in
Indian Ocean.

Request your intentions regarding release of Class D ships in areas not now threatened. Your 180321 and A.M. 191558 refer.
(A.C.N.S.F. 202007B to C. in C.E.F.)
Subject of formers - no evidence of U-Boats in certain areas of Indian Ocean.

M.F.V.141.

Your 171245Z April. Report reason for non sailing of M.F.V. 141 with remainder of vessels.
(D.S.V.P. 202205B to N.O.I.C. Seychelles.)

War Diary.20.4.1944.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Operation "Cockpit". Request you will inform Cominch of following received from C. in C.E.F. (gives gist of C. in C. E.F. 191227Z.) (A.C.N.S.(F) 200033B to B.A.D. as amended 201046B.)

Oil storage for St. Lucia. There is no Admiralty requirement for oil storage and bunkering facilities at St. Lucia particularly in view of proximity of Trinidad. Your 231310 March refers. (Admty. 200156B to B.R.O. St. Lucia.)

C.U.20. Off Oversay at 1900Z/17. All arrived. (D.T.D. 201057B.)

OCTAVIA. Sailed St. Johns N.F. 1245Z/20 independently for Londonderry (route, etc.) (F.O.N.F. 201248Z.)

U/B dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. 201418Z, Cominch 201526Z.)

Gibraltar Straits Barrier. Cominch 201710Z. See North Atlantic.

INDOMITABLE. INDOMITABLE escorted by INMAN, HOTHAM, HOLMES and RIOU sailed Norfolk 2100Z/20 for U.K. via Azores. (Arrangements.) (P.D.Norfolk 201754, B.N.L.O.Norfolk 202342Z.)

Water in oil fuel. Your 191044 B/4/44 confirmed that oil fuel tanks of escorts concerned were free of water prior to oiling. (F.O.N.F. 201846Z to Admty.)

H.M.C.S. GATINEAU. Sailed at 2045Z/20 independently to Londonderry (route, etc.) (F.O.N.F. 202053Z.)

U/B incidents. A. Tripoli A/C attacked surfaced U-Boat and encountered heavy A/A fire 22.12 N. 35.34 W. 190740Z. C. Liberator Radar contact 09.00 S. 23.42 W. 191200Z. D. U.S.S. OSMUS attacked sound contact 39.55 N. 69.15 W. 200945Z. (Cominch 202102Z.)

/Stragglers...

343

20.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Stragglers
report No.
48.

One arrived St. Johns N.F. from U.C.18 SKULL BAR (U.S.) 14th engine trouble. One arrived Halifax from H.X.F.287 HEGIRA (U.S.) 16th engine defect. One arrived New York from H.X.F.287 ECLIPSE 15th engine trouble. Two arrived New York from C.U.21 AZTEC (Hond) and SAG HARBOR (U.S.) both on the 16th. No reasons given.
(N.S.H.Q. 202148Z.)

T.G.27.3

C.T.G.27.3 in PARKER with Desron 16 less MACKENZIE and KENDRICK departs Point Z New York 211800Z. Course 120 then through route points Cominch C. & R 13, 17, 17 not to all addressees.
(Cominch 202221.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. 1. A/C R/53 sighted U-Boat on surface and made 2 attacks at 0043Z/20 in 44° 35' N. 05° 42' W.
Para. B. 1. A/C A/311 sighted U-Boat course 360° at 0915Z/19 in 37° 00' N. 09° 13' W.
(D.D.I.C. 201147B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 201425B, 201427B.)

344

21.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Veritas".

1. At 0635 to-day V.A.2 in ANSON with the Fleet Carriers VICTORIOUS and FURIOUS and the Cruiser KENT sailed from Scapa with F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST, the Escort Carriers SEARCHER, STRIKER, EMPEROR and PURSUER, the Cruiser JAMAICA and fourteen destroyers.

Biscay A/S
operations.

2. Several sightings were made by A/C early this morning of four destroyers about 100 miles W. by S. of St. Nazaire, and at 0455B and 0504 three inward bound U-Boats were also sighted in the same position.

Humber area
bombed.

3. About 20 enemy aircraft were over the Humber area last night and dropped several phosphorus bombs at Hull, Immingham and Grimsby.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

4(a) The new Greek C. in C. has taken no action as yet to regain possession of his ships. C. in C. Med. intends to issue an ultimatum on Sunday and take action on Monday 24th April.
(b) The Greek Naval Barracks detention quarters and Cadet School surrendered at 0930 today. All personnel were detained.

Bridgehead.

5(a) 802 tons were discharged at Anzio today. Enemy air activity increased last night and today but caused no damage to shipping. U.S. destroyer DAVIS shot down one aircraft and six are claimed by A/A fire.
(b) SS. JOHN ARMSTRONG was damaged by an underwater explosion, probably a mine, at 1710 today, 12 miles north of Anzio, but reached Naples under her own steam.
(c) Two more human torpedoes are reported to have been sunk by patrol craft this morning.

One was captured intact on the beach. (P. 355, and M. 057135/44)

Black Sea.

6. The Russians report sinking of several enemy merchant vessels by air attack westward of the Crimea, between 13th and 18th April.

345

21.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Eastern
Fleet.

7. The Fleet returned to Trincomalee in the early hours of today from their air attack on Sabang.

Australia and New Zealand.

8. Five naval Liberators set a naval auxiliary on fire and seriously damaged a small merchant vessel today near Puluwat, Central Carolines.

346

War Diary21.4.1944
FridayHOME COMMANDSPolicy

VISCOUNT, WITHERINGTON, DOUGLAS. It is approved for VISCOUNT, WITHERINGTON and DOUGLAS to pay off into Reserve Fleet under category B.
(2) Request ships may be sailed to Hartlepool as soon as convenient.
(D.O.D.(H), 211647B to C. in C. W.A.)

SUMATRA. Admiralty letter M.055723/44 of 18th March 1944. Intend to take Dutch ship SUMATRA under British command on 29th April observing that ship is leaving harbour on following day for trails preparatory to leaving Portsmouth. The two ensigns will be hoisted side by side from that day onwards.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211846B to Admty.)

SUNFISH, UNISON, UNBROKEN, URSULA. Request you will sail SUNFISH, UNISON, UNBROKEN, URSULA to arrive Rosyth 4th May for transfer to the U.S.S.R.
(D.O.D.(H), 211852B to F.O.S.)

EMPIRE CARPENTER. Following from Ministry of War Transport for Watson.
EMPIRE NIGEL. Your signal 172. We have agreed with Russians to accept following form of receipt for EMPIRE CARPENTER and EMPIRE NIGEL. Please arrange accordingly.
(Admty. 212309B to S.B.N.O. Archangel)

Operations

Biscay A/S operations. P.C.S. of 4 unknown 46 degs. 44' N. 05 degs. 18' W. course 360 degs. speed 20 knots.
(A/C L.V.261, 210149B to 19 Group).
My 0149. Enemy has altered course to 090 degs. approx.
(A/C L.V.261, 210214B to 19 Group)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact 4 destroyers course 160 degs. speed 15, bearing 090 degs. in 46 degs. 44' N. 05 degs. 08' W. (PXUB, 4452 S.)
(A/C SHKA, 210259 to 19 Group)

Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. N. 04 degs. 30' W.
(A/C SHKH, 210345 to 19 Group)

My 0149. P.C.S. of 4 E-Boats 47 degs. 08' N. 05 degs. 04' W. (estimated), course 090 degs.
(A/C LVZ 61, 210400B to 19 Group)

Your 201324Z received at 0213Z/21st. Our position 0200Z/21 42.02 N. 36.50 W. 096, speed 14.
(C.T.G.21.5, 210412Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47 degs. 08' N. 04 degs. 35' W. (uncertain).
(A/C SHKG, 210415 to 19 Group)

Am over 3 enemy submarines in 46 degs. 40' N. 05 degs. 00' W.
(A/C SHKH, 210455B to 19 Group)

P.C.S. of Enemy Merchant Vessel 46 degs. 30' N. 05 degs. 00' W. uncertain, 090 degs. 6 knots. 1 unknown 600 tons.
(A/C SHKH, 210504 to Q.A.I)

Am /...

347

War Diary21.4.1944
FridayHOME COMMANDSOperationsBiscay A/S
Operations
(Contd.)

Am over 3 enemy S/Ms in 46 degs. 40' N. 05 degs. 00' W. (uncertain). Enemy S/Ms previously reported was (?) 090 degs. 12 knots.
(A/C SHKH, 210504 to 19 Group)
T.G.21.16 U.S.S. CORE, 5 destroyers, very approx. vicinity 045 degs. 40' N. 030 degs. 59' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 211356B to Admty.)

Operations.
R.A. and
"Veritas".

Scapa departures V.A.2 in ANSON with VICTORIOUS, FURIOUS, KENT, F.O.E.C. in ROYALIST, JAMAICA, SEARCHER, STRIKER, EMPEROR, PURSUER, URSA, UNDAUNTED, WAKEFUL, WIZARD, PIORUN, SERAPIS, JAVELIN, VENUS, VIGILANT, SIOUX, ALGONQUIN, KEMPENFELT, SWIFT, KELVIN.
(A.C.O.S.210635 to H.F.)

My 202226. Escort cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 211104B to V.A.2)

Operation
F.Z.
(Convoy
R.A.59)

ROBERT EDEN arrived Iokanka 0030/20 and DOLABELLA at Kola Inlet 1630/20. S.B.N.O.Archangel's 181110 refers.
(S.B.N.O.North Russia, 210845B to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Enemy
Convoy,
Dover and
Folkestone
shelled.
Engagement
with
E-Boats.

At 2200/20th shore-based radar reported one medium/large and 10 smaller vessels leaving Boulogne for the northeastwards. Plots were passed to our Forces at sea in the normal manner and Group A, M.T.B.236 (S.O) and M.T.B.229 stationed at Number 7 Buoy were ordered to Number 3 Buoy (102 degs. S/Foreland 9.2 miles) then to attack off Calais under cover of gunfire from our coast artillery. M.T.B. 204 of this group had returned to harbour with defects.

At 2306 when the enemy was in 142 degs. S/Foreland 16 miles our shore batteries engaged with 71 rounds of 9.2 inch until 2350 when main target passed out of range, Four straddles are claimed. Griz Nez and Blanc Nez batteries replied between 2313 and 2356 with 7 rounds of which 4 fell in Dover Town, one in Folkestone and two on Dover foreshore causing considerable damage to civilian property.

There were no casualties. Group A set course at 2320 from 115 degs. S/Foreland 7 miles to intercept near No.1 Buoy Ridens de Calais. An Orange flash was observed to the southeastward at 2322. Enemy shore defence opened with star shell at 2330 which continued incessantly until about 2355. Our force closing to attack was illuminated at 2346 and came under heavy and accurate fire from enemy batteries. M.T.B's then became hotly engaged by E/R boat screen with guns up to 40 mm. calibre at 1500-2000 yards and were forced to withdraw to northward without sighting the main target until shelling by hostile batteries ceased at 2354.

No damage or casualties to our force.

Enemy /...

348

21.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Enemy
Convoy
Dover,
and Folk-
estone
shelled.
Engagement
with
E-Boats
(Contd.)

Enemy was reported by shore-based radar to have entered Dunkerque at 0220. My 211150 refers. Medmenham P.R.U. T.O.O.201900 not received in Dover until 0814/21 indicates that target was probably T.25. P.R.U. of Dunkerque and Ostende has been required.
(V.A. Dover 211159 to Admty.)

Operation
C.W.

Request you will sail GARLIES p.m. 22nd on satisfactory completion of trials to join 1st E.G. (2) R/V to be arranged by S.O. 1st E.G. My 171311 refers.

(C. in C. W.A. 211242B to Capt. D Belfast.)

MATANE, STORMONT, OWEN SOUND, SWANSEA (9th E.G.) vicinity 052 degs. 45' N. 016 degs. 30' W.

(C. in C. W.A. 211351B to Ships)

Leave patrol as necessary to arrive Lough Foyle p.m. 24th April.

(2).Group (negative (OWEN SOUND) will be required to fuel in readiness to sail a.m. 26th April as an air support group under the orders of VINDEX.

(C. in C. W.A. 211416B to E.G.9)

Sailing to overtake E.G.5, 2230, speed 20 knots.

(BLIGH, 212231B to C. in C. W.A.)

C. in C. W.A.191123B. Sailed E.G.5 at 1730B to-day less BLIGH who is now proceeding to overtake.

(F.O.I.C. N.I.212255B to C. in C. W.A.)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

{ C. in C. Portsmouth 211340B, 211448B).
{ C. in C. Plymouth, 211611B)

Operation
"Overlord".

For "Overlord" fire support ships of Western Task Force assigned as follows:

To Force O; - TEXAS, ARKANSAS, GLASGOW, MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES, TANATSIDE, MELBREAK, TALYBONT, Desron 18.

To Force U; - NEVADA, EREBUS, TUSCALOOSA, HAWKINGS, BLACK PRINCE, ENTERPRISE, SOEMBA, Desdiv 20 plus one other U.S. Desdiv.

Reserve in Control Force AUGUSTA, BELLONA plus 5 U.S. DD.

(N.C. W.T.F. 211351 to Com. Force O, Com. Force U.)

Your 192053. Any further delay on dates given in my 061921 will prevent the servicing and preparation of tugs, and the forming up of units in the assembly areas in readiness for Y Day. Moreover no heavy tows can be accepted in Southampton water after Y minus seven.

It is therefore essential that all "Phoenix" and "Whale" units be completed in time to be assembled in their area by Y -7, if the build-up of "Overlord" is not going to suffer. Lastly it must be pointed out that, with few exceptions, forecasted dates of completion have not been kept.

(A.N.C.X.F. 211824B to Troopers)

In view /...

349

War Diary21.4.1944
FridayHOME COMMANDS.Operations

Operation "Overlord" (Contd.) In view of frequent dry dockings of L.S.Is for damage or suspected damage to bow rudders it is for consideration whether these should be removed before "Overlord". Request your remarks. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 212224B to Com. Force 'J' Com. Force "G").

S/M Patrols. S/M positions at 0759/22nd and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) UNSHAKEN, ULA as in my 181809.
(B) JUNON as in my 201707.
(C) VIGOROUS on patrol vicinity 63 degs. 31' N. 01 degs. 55' E.
(D) STATESMAN on patrol vicinity of 62 degs. 10' N. 02 degs. 35' E.
(F.O.S. 211729B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Humber Area. Night of 20th/21st March (?April intended).
(A) Approximately 20 hostile aircraft were plotted approaching Humber Area at 2315. Civil alert 2345. Flares dropped in large numbers over Humber between Spurn and Hull. 0003, 8 baskets fired at I.M.I. At 0015 one group of baskets fired at H.U.5. At 0020 one group baskets fired at G.R.I.
(B) Radlett consulted early and informed immediately afterwards.
(C) Results at I.M.I. Nil, at H.U.5 Nil, at G.R.I. at least one 50 K.G. phosphorous bomb, confirmed by fragments. Two containers A.B.1000/2 found. Many 2 K.G. B.2 E.1, Z. (I.B.S.E.N.) mixed with ordinary 1 K.G. L.Bs all on beach reports of others in river. No incidents in Immingham Hull or Grimsby.
(F.O.I.C.Humber, 212130B to Admty.)

Mining

Operation "Hostile 25". My 171840. Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 25" tonight. (2) Force XXV is to pass Gate at at 1930B/21st.
(3) Support Force TANATSIDE (S.O) MELBREAK is to pass Gate at 2200B/21st.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211128B to M.T.B.F. 52, M.L.F. 10).

Hammond Knoll area. My 201150B. The following mines were accounted for yesterday.
(A) COTTESMORE operating S.A. gear reported two more heavy underwater explosions at 0016/20 and at 0026/20 respectively in area 55 B buoy.

(B) /...

350

21.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSMiningHammond
Knoll area.
(Contd.)

(B) Two acoustic mines detonated by Yarmouth sweepers of 7th M.S.F. at 1304 in 035 degs. Hammond Knoll Buoy at 1304.
(C) One magnetic mine detonated by Yarmouth sweepers at 1430 in 070 degs. Hammond Knoll buoy 5 cables.
(C. in C. Nore, 211301B to Admty.)
(Capt.M/S. Gt. Yarmouth 211601B to C. in C. Nore)

Dover.

Mine swept 19th April.
(1) One unidentified in 51 degs. 13' 58" N.
02 degs. 04' 36" E.
(V.A. Dover, 212342 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects

LA MELPOMENE.

F.O.I.C.Greenock's 151246B. SAUCY towing LA MELPOMENE sailed at 1137B/21st for Hartlepool.
(F.O.I.C.Aberdeen 211205B to N.O.I.C.Hartlepool)

FORECAST.

Steam Drifter FORECAST sunk at Greenock April 10th.
(2) Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Company are of opinion that vessel is not worth salvaging for future service.

(3) Request permission to place FORECAST in hands of British Iron and Steel Corporation Blythswood Square Glasgow to lift out engines boilers and metal work and remove hull for scrap.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 211621 to Admty.)

L.C.F.26,
L.C.F.36
(Sabotage)

Following defects in L.C.F.26 and 36 have occurred under suspicious circumstances which cannot be explained by engine room staff,
(A) Main and auxiliary engines in L.C.F.26 require renewal and extensive repair respectively due to neglect.

(B) Flooding of two main fuel tanks with fresh water in L.C.F.36 on 19th April. Request court of enquiry may be held into both incidents.
(F.O.332, 211645 to S.O.S.G.G.)

BALFOUR.

Arrived BALFOUR. E.G.1's 201631B refers.
(F.O.I.C. N.I.211705B to C. in C. W.A.)

L'ESCARMOUCHE.

L'ESCARMOUCHE has been delayed by damage repairs. Ship will arrive Plymouth 30th April a.m. 162252 refers.
(C. in C. W.A. 211752B to Admty.)

WOODCOCK /....

351

21.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

WOODCOCK.

WOODCOCK reports following motors of Bofors MkIV mountings are burnt out. Similar defects have been reported on previous occasions. Consider that further attempts at temporary repairs would not be successful.

If repairs to these mountings cannot be completed by p.m. 27th the only alternative will be for the vessel to proceed, using the mountings in hand operating with a very considerable loss of efficiency.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 211825 to Admty.)

21.4.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SS. MELCHUCA. C.C.S.O.Gibraltar's 021530 and Admty. message 131540. Carranza is considered likely to seek another vessel to carry this cargo and owners of MELCHUCA may be able to ascertain vessel's name and her owners. If they will impart the information to us with other useful details enabling us to intercept they will be suitably rewarded.

2. Authority has been obtained for reward of 50,000 pesetas of which 10,000 would be payable on receipt of information and balance after successful interception and seizure of cargo.

3. You should concert action with S.O.E. authorities on the above lines.

(Admty. 210113B to F.O.G.M.A.)

EMPIRE
CAVALIER
(Tanker.)

Straggled ex U.G.S. 38 arrived Gibraltar with engine defects work in hand by ships staff and expected to complete about 30th April, but efforts being made to expedite to complete in time to sail in U.G.S. 39.

(F.O.G.M.A. 211122B.)

DANAE.

Sailed at 1915/21 to U.K. (route)
(F.O.G.M.A. 211142B, 212006B.)

179 L.L.
Squadron.

Approval is given for withdrawal of 179 Leigh Light Squadron for "Overlord". Air Min. agrees. A.M. 171921 refers.

(V.C.N.S. 211330B to H.Q.C.C.)

ST. GOTTHARD
(Swiss.)

Gross tonnage 5461 - speed 7 knots left Gibraltar at 1430/21st by standard route to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise to Marseilles. Not to be molested. Carries Swiss markings and work "Switzerland" on black hull.

(F.O.G.M.A. 211447B to 10th S/M F. LE CURIE, CASABIANCA, ARCHIMEDE, (R) Capt. S.10.)

CLYDE,
PORPOISE,
TELEMACHUS.

Following is repetition of my 211804 begins:
Addressed CLYDE, PORPOISE, TELEMACHUS (R) STURDY, VOX, UPROAR, KILMELFORD, Admty. F.O.S. S.5, S.3, C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Med. S.10, C.M.S.F. Cominch from F.O.G.M.A. Proceed diving by day to patrol within a radius of ten miles of positions X CLYDE 40.30 N. 12.50 W. arriving at 0300/24th. Y. PORPOISE 41.30 N. 12.50 W. arriving at 1200/25th. Z. TELEMACHUS 42.30 N. 12.50 W. arriving at 0530/25th.

2. No submarines to be attacked unless definitely identified as hostile during night 24th/25th. All times B.

3. Total bombing restrictions area referred to in my 192216B para. 3 forthwith and until further notice.

(F.O.G.M.A. 211814B.)

/ESTURIA...

353

War Diary.

21.4.1944.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

ESTURIA,
water in
fuel oil.

ROSELYS and ACONIT also received water during oiling at sea from ESTURIA on 17th March. Order of fuelling was 17th March. ROSELYS, RENONCULE, ACONIT, COWSLIP 18th March, TOWY and LA DECOUVERTE. 3 earlier and 11 later fuellings carried out and no water reported received in these instances or by RENONCULE and COWSLIP.

2. No reason can be discovered to account for presence of water in oil but propose that in future ESTURIA carries oil for ballasting in lieu of water.

3. At 151212 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 212018B.)

South Atlantic.

SLEET.

Ref. A.M. 201854B*. SLEET unknown on this station. Request particulars.

(N.O.I.C.W.Af. 211047Z.)

* re SLEET required for another service.

U/B report.

Aircraft Radar contact disappeared at one mile 0705Z 21.18 N. 33.50 W. am conducting hold-down on spot. Weather.
(C.T.G. 21.15 211130.)

354

War Diary.21.4.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- R.G. receiver. Party in my 281620 March safe. Compromise of receiver now considered unlikely. (S.1 211021.) See 261915.
- D'ENTRE-CASTEAUX. No objection to B.A.D. 191511. (C. in C.Med. 211042B.) Transfer of sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX from Diego Suarez to Bizerta.
- SS. ASTREE (German). Arrivals 20th 1800 CARMEN FRIXAS 21st a.m. German ASTREE former french 1823 tons, departure 20th 2000 SANTA ANA 21st CARMEN FRIXAS 1045 hours. Will B.N.A.Madrid please allot letters to ASTREE? (C.G.Barcelona 211115.)
- SS. JOSE ILLUECA. 4 R.S.Beaufighters attacked JOSE ILLUECA at 191732 B in 042° 30' N. 003° 09' E. course north 7 knots. Cannon and machine guns also used. Vesel seen to be badly damaged and smoke seen pouring from base of funnel. Ship left circling and probably lower in water. A.B.N.A.Madrid 202032 refers. (C. in C.Med. 211140B.)
- Disposal of Italian S/Ms. Informing him of agreement between Cominch and Admiralty and asking for certain information. (C. in C.Med. 211150B to F.O.T.A.L.I.)
- BARBERRY. Despatch of BARBERRY to U.K. my 201101 and 201116 is regretted but Admiralty requirement is urgent. 2. Lack of maintenance of outer baffles will have to be accepted. (C. in C.Med. 211154B to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Employment of Italian S/Ms in Med. See my 211150B*. B.A.D. 181627+ refers. NICHELIO and PLATINO during the last two months have landed 60 agents (mainly O.S.S. and S.O.E.) and stores in Northern Adriatic. These activities are increasing. 2. B.A.D.181627+ para. 4. See my 091832/ (C. in C.Med. 211155B to Adnty.) *Operation allocation of S/Ms in Med. + N.T. in W.R. / Re refitting programme of S/Ms.
- U/B report. Doubtful S/M contact at 0740B. Depth charge dropped position 038° 14' N. 007° 27' E. Contact lost and search abandoned 0850B. (CDT. DETROYAT 211301B.)

/EL BIAR...

21.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

EL BIAR. C.A.F.31 MEDIE II and MARRAKECH arrived. Non arrival EL BIAR sunk by enemy action. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 211408B.)

TOURVILLE. 1. French state TOURVILLE can no longer operate with assistance of local resources at Dakar. They wish therefore to move her to Bizerta Lake and reduce her to reserve.
2. Concur in proposal. Your early approval is requested. (Algiers 211531 to Etousa.)

Bridgehead Sitrep 90. 973 tons discharged 20th April 275 from one Liberty ship 240 from L.S.T.458 from L.C.T.ferry. Shelling increased in volume and accuracy. Apparently abortive attack by Chariots (Maiale) one of which was found high and dry and a prisoner taken. P.C. 558 claims to have sunk two. Further details awaited. (F.O.W.It. 211534B.)

Black Sea. From Intelligence report April 15th to April 20th inclusive.
Enemy shipping sighted on Crimea Route (my 191015 refers). April 17th two more merchant vessels east bound making total of 4. April 18th west bound eight merchant vessels. Eleven F-Lighters and two barges. April 19th west bound. Two merchant vessels 3 F-Lighters and one convoy composition unspecified. April 20th nil. Rain and low visibility reported halfway across from Rumania.
2. Air attack (westward of Crimea unless otherwise stated). April 13th 1500 tons merchant vessel sunk. April 14th off South Coast one F-Lighter sunk and 2 damaged. April 15th one 3000 ton merchant vessel and one F-Lighter sunk. April 17th one 2000 ton merchant vessel and one 600 ton merchant vessel sunk and one 3000 ton merchant vessel sunk. April 18th 4 merchant vessels of 6000, 5000, 4000 and 2000 tons, one minesweeper and one F-Lighter sunk and one 3000 ton merchant vessel sunk. Shot down in above attacks: one F.W.190, 3 Me.109s, two Me.110s and 2 Hamburg 138s. Part two follows*
(N.L.O.Black Sea 211737.) (Amended 281835.)
*Not yet received.

Opsum 422. 19 April add 6 Beaufighters scored several hits
I.R.C.vessel R.P.2000 ton 3 Island merchant vessels south of L' Espinguette Point Gulf of Lions leaving vessel
and JOSE down by stern. 1 Beaufighter ditched and exploded
ILLUECA at- no survivors. 4 Beaufighters attacked ship JOSE
tacked. ILLUECA off Port Vendres with R.P.cannon and
machine gun vessel badly damaged black smoke from
base of funnel left circling and probably lower
in water.

356

War Diary.

21.4.1944.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Opsum 422 (Contd.)
U.G.S.38 and C.A.F.31 attacked.

Enemy Activity. 19th/20th April.
Approx. 20 Do.217 and He.177 preceded by 2 R/C aircraft made low level torpedo bomber attack on convoy North Cape Bengut. Beaufighters claim 1. Do.217 and 1 He.177 destroyed for loss 1 Beaufighter crew baled. 1 destroyer 1 M/V sunk 3 M/Vs damaged. 5 to 10 Do.217 made torpedo bomber attack on another convoy 65 miles North Cape Cavahlo. Beaufighters claim 1 enemy aircraft probable 3 enemy aircraft damaged. 1 merchant vessel sunk not known if this attack intended as diversion. Activities of above Beaufighters not reported.
(H.Q.M.A.A.F. 211911B.)

Mutiny in Greek Navy.

3. Greek Naval barracks and school surrendered 0930 hours today. All personnel have been detained
4. Situation otherwise unchanged.
(C. in C.M.E. 211955C.)

All Greek sailors in detention quarters and cadet school to a total of 130 came out, were disarmed and put in a safe place this forenoon after being addressed last evening by Captain Toumbas. This leaves only 200 in recruiting depot still holding out on shore in Alexandria. New Greek C. in C. has issued his message to the Fleet but now despite his assurance yesterday reports he still has insufficient men to carry ships by boarding tonight. He is collecting reinforcements from Port Said and has now undertaken to carry out operation on night Saturday. He is being warned that if he does not do so British action can no longer be deferred. In this case it is intended to issue an ultimatum on Sunday and for action by all British Services to be taken against ships and troops on Monday 24 April.
(C. in C.Med. at Cairo 212037C.)

Attack on ? U/B.

A.G.M. 876 A.Z.* A. 1120Z/12. B. BENTINCK.
C. No. D. 37° 22' N. 9° 27' E. 260° 12 knots.
E. Approx. 1100 yards green 155. Faint underwater explosion 2 minutes after firing shallow pattern.

Target was in vicinity of known non-sub contact but showed rapid movement during run in. Piece of wood almost certainly non-sub origin came to surface.
(E.G.4 212010B.)

* re Details requested if ships should experience underwater explosion.

UNSPARING.

Cancel R/V my 171125. 2. R/V with BERYL in 036° 10' 014° 48' at 0900/22. 3. Estimate your 2230B/21st position is 035° 47' 016° 20'. Bombing restriction arranged accordingly.
(Capt. 3.1 212022 to UNSPARING.)

/New...

357

War Diary.21.4.1944.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

New type human torpedoes. Human torpedoes of new type now known to have been employed of which 4 reported on shore north of Anzio. My 211250* not to Admty. refers.
2. Unknown number of prisoners will be sent Algiers in ORION.
4. Description of weapon. German manufacture and German manned.
5. Suggest this is the S.P.S. Admiralty 201932 August* refers. (F.O.W.It. 212034B to C. in C.Med.)
* N.T. in W.D.

SPORTSMAN. Amend your patrol area to read North of 036° 01' and West of 025° E.
(Capt. S.1 212155 to SPORTSMAN.)

Situation report No. 342. Convoy U.G.S.38 attacked by about 25 Do.217 and He.177 off Cape Bengut 2115/20th. U.S. destroyer LANSDALE and SS. PAUL HAMILTON sunk and SS. SAMITE STEPHEN AUSTIN and ROYAL STAR hit. SS. ROYAL STAR later sank, the other two ships have reached Algiers in tow. 2 aircraft claimed destroyed by fighter.
2. About same time convoy C.A.F.31 attacked by 15 aircraft in position 037° 30' N 005° 30' E. SS. EL BIAR hit by torpedo and subsequently sunk. One aircraft shot down by A.A. fire and one probably destroyed and 3 claimed damaged by fighters.
3. 973 tons discharged at Anzio on 20th March considerable shelling of S area with increased accuracy but no damage to shipping reported. P.C.558 reported having sunk two human torpedoes off Anzio during night 20/21 April but one later reported ashore and one adrift in vicinity.
(C. in C.Med. 212213B.)

UNIVERSAL. Patrol summary to date blank. Request may extend patrol in zone SX arriving Maddalena 28th or 29th. Night patrol of E-Boats and destroyers active 5 miles off the coast in zone ST.
(UNIVERSAL 212235B to Capt. S.10.)

21.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Operation
"Cockpit"

Fleet has returned to harbour.
(C. in C.E.F. 210231Z.)
At 1300 G.M.T. 19th P.R.U. carried out over
Sabang but unsuccessful owing to cloud. Orange
and red fires were seen burning.
(C. in C.E.F. 210333Z.)

U/B
dispositions.

No. 4. No fresh information. No operational
U/Bs. considered to be at sea in any area.
Scale of air escort all areas remain W.
(C. in C.E.F. 210347.)

359

21.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Transport of U.S. troops to India in GENERAL ANDERSON class.

In view of small number of sailings tentatively programmed in Q.M.437 of 20th April presume approach to U.S. Authorities requested in your 191906 is unnecessary.
(B.A.D. 210151Z to Admty.)

PREMIER, RULER.

Concur your 191042B. Admty. pass to F.O.C.T. R.A.N.A.S. (N) F.O.N.A.S.
(Cominch, 211455Z. To Admty.)

U/B dispositions.

Estimates.
(Cominch 211507Z, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 211518Z.)

T.G.27.10.

Effective 1st May Task Group 27.10 is constituted NELSON Desron 17 plus PLUNKETT, MOUNT BAKER, MIANTONOMAH. On 5th May depart New York for U.K. Upon arrival C.T.G.27.10 report with his task Group to Com. 12th Fleet for temporary duty at which time Task Group dissolved.
(C. in C. Lant, 211511.)

H.M.C.S. MAYFLOWER.

Sailed St. Johns 1445Z/21st independently to Londonderry (route)
(F.O.N.F. 211525Z.)

Squantum and other U.S. Naval Air Stations used by F.A.A.

Navy Dep. has recently requested F.A.A. to vacate N.A.S. Squantum due to U.S. Navy's present shortage of accommodation for its own Squadrons. B.A.D. 191425* refers. The next step may well be to request us to vacate Brunswick and Lewiston as well which would mean having to find accommodation outside U.S.A.
2. It is, therefore, suggested that when the future of Argentina is under consideration, following C. in C. C.N.A.'s 111726*, the Admty., retains a direct interest in the Naval Air Station as a possible alternative to the present U.S. Naval Air Stations at which F.A.A. Squadrons are trained.
(B.A.D., Washington, 211547Z.) * re vacation of N.A.S. Squantum.
+ re personnel at Argentina.

O.N.F.232 Groups W.1, and W.2.

Group W.1. CHICOUTIMI S.O. BUCTOUCHE, QUESNEL and W.2 TIMMINS, BRANTFORD (?BROCKVILLE) sailed St. John's 0930Z/22 to relieve you in Westomp established in 043° 40' N. 047° 18' W. at 1600Z/23. Upon relief C.C.R. proceed St. John's.
2. BROCKVILLE detaches with SS. CAXTON at Westomp and proceeds in accordance with my 211726 not to all addresses.
3. W.2 will act as support group to H.O.M.P. or until detached by C. in C. C.N.A.

360

21.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West IndiesO.N.F.232
Groups
W.1 & W.2
(Contd.)4. "Chop" 1600Z/22nd.
(F.O.N.F. 211728Z to S.E.O.N.F.232.)C.U.
Convoys
number
of ships.Beginning with C.U.22 sailing 24th April number
of ships per C.U. convoy will average about 35.
My 311855 Jan. modified accordingly.
(Cominch, C.N.O. 211745Z.)

NEWFOUNDLAND

About 26th April sail NEWFOUNDLAND Norfolk to
St. Johns N.F. F.O.N.F. requested to route onward
to U.K. when ready.
(Cominch, 212000Z to Cinclant.)

T.B.Y.

For U.G.S. - G.U.S. Convoys para. 11 Pt. 2 of
Sailing Telegram will be expanded to include
letters "T.B.Y." after names of vessels so
equipped.
(Com. 10th Fleet, C. and R. 212024Z.)C.U.
Convoys.Beginning with C.U.22 sailing 24 April number
of ships per C.U. convoy will average about 35.
My 311855 modified accordingly.
(Cominch and C.N.O. 212049Z.)U/B
incidents.Para. B. MARINER A/C Sono-Buoy contact 28.30 N.
64.50 W. 1308Z/21. Action to Admty. for O.I.C.
Para. C. CROATAN A/C Radar Contact 21.18 N. 33.50
W. 0705Z/21.
Para. D. A.T.C. Plane sighted long wake 15.40 N.
62.30 W. 1219Z/21.
(Cominch, 212115Z.)DUMONT
D'URVILLE.C. in C. Lant sailing French Sloop DUMONT
D'URVILLE when ready to Casablanca where French
desire ship make call. C. in C. Med. requested
furnish onward routeing to ultimate destination
MYDIS 101520 not to all refers. Ship is available
as additional escort en route.
(Cominch 212116Z.)Bunkers
at Halifax.Ref. 171922A Canadian Naval Service has no
objection to H.M. ships and U.S. Naval Vessels
being bunkered from Admty., fuel stocks at
Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 212245Z.)

361

21.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
822.

April 20th. ?American troops occupied Mandrin
Admiralty Group without encountering opposition.
Paras. 9 to 11 cover South Pacific Forces.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 211040Z.)

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M
attack
and
sighting
summary.

A. 1. A/C F/58 attacked surfaced U/Boat
course 360°, with depth charges at 2030Z/20
in 45° 42' N. 06° 55' W.
2. A/C K/502 attacked surfaced U/Boat, course
120° at 2130Z/20 in 46° 43' N. 06° 02' W.
B. 1. A/C had A.S.V. contact at 1800Z/20 in
33° 42' N. 21° 05' E.
2. A/C sighted U/B at 0145Z/21 in 46° 00' N.

04° 30' W.

C. A/C sighted 3 U/Boats, course 090° at 0255Z/21 in 46° 40' N.
05° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 210933Z.)

U/B Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 211450B, 211454B)

362

22.4.1944.

Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- U-Boat attacked. 1. At 2008Z today while on A/S patrol about 320 miles west of Valentia the 9th Escort Group (S.O. in MATANE) attacked a U-Boat whose periscope was sighted, but lost contact at 2050Z after a second attack had been made.
- Engagement with E-Boats M.T.B.416 damaged. 2. At about 0134 today M.T.Bs. 414 and 416 on patrol engaged two of a group of five E-Boats in the western part of Lyme Bay and drove the whole group off the convoy route. Our force sustained no casualties but some hull damage was inflicted upon M.T.B.416.
- N.A.S. Dundee bombed. 3. The Naval Air Station at Dundee was attacked at 2220 today by one enemy A/C which slightly damaged one Walrus A/C.
- Expected enemy minelaying in Channel. 4. There is strong evidence that heavy minelaying by E-Boats on the Channel convoy routes and ports may be expected during the present dark period, and our patrol vessels in the area have today been warned accordingly.
5. Bomber Command laid 183 mines off the Frisians, Brest and Lorient last night.

Mediterranean.

- Bridgehead. 6.(a). The Army claim to have shot down 6 aircraft in an abortive air raid last night. It is not clear whether the attacking aircraft carried torpedoes or mines.
(b). 3189 tons were discharged at Anzio today. There was intermittent shelling.
- Air Operations. 7.(a). 4 Wellingtons bombed Leghorn last night causing a fire on the south quay of the inner harbour and hits on the petroleum quay. Attacks on Genoa, Piombino and San Stefano were affected by the weather. 17 aircraft attacked San Stefano harbour today.

/ (b) ...

363

22.4.1944.
Saturday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.
(Contd.)

7.(b). Spitfires of the Coastal Air Force today intercepted north of Volturno two Italian schooners which were apparently trying to reach enemy territory, and escorted them to Ischia (Gulf of Naples.)

(c). A 2500 ton ship was attacked and damaged 5 miles south of Sete.

America & West Indies.

8. INDOMITABLE sailed from Norfolk Va. for the U.K. today.

Australia & New Zealand.

U.S. landings
in north New
Guinea.

9.(a). Early this morning (about 2100Z yesterday) strong forces of U.S. troops supported by Allied naval and air bombardment and under cover of powerful American carrier forces made successful unopposed landings at Tanamerah Bay, Humboldt Bay and near Aitape, along the northern coast of New Guinea. The troops advanced towards the airfields, encountering little opposition.

m/ (b). During the forenoon U.S. troops under cover of naval and air bombardment made unopposed landings on Turnleo and Seleo Islands, off the coast near Aitape. Opposition was later encountered on Turnleo but was quickly overcome.

m/ (c). Several enemy barges were destroyed by Allied surface units in the Tanamerah Bay area during the morning.

22.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S/Ms. for Eastern Fleet. Following S/Ms. are on passage to Eastern Fleet.

(a) TELEMACHUS, PORPOISE, CLYDE left U.K. 17th April.

(b) STURDY left U.K. 14th April.

(c) SPIRIT, STRATAGEM left Gibraltar 18th April.

(d) SIRDAR and TRADEWIND arrived Port Said 15th and 17th April respectively.

(e) SPITEFUL left Aden 14th April.

2. TERRAPIN leaves U.K. 30th April.

3. Intended sailings of these S/Ms. were notified in each case in advance to Captain (S) 4.

4. Movements of S/Ms. after leaving home station are ordered by Cs. in C. of various stations and are not usually known to F.O.S. until some time after they have taken place.

5. Your 210237 is not therefore understood. It is presumed that Capt. (S) 4 and S.O. S/Ms. Eastern Fleet are one and the same authority. Request difference, if any, may be explained.

6. Unless there are good reasons it is not intended to alter present procedure of advance notification of sailings from U.K. (F.O.(S), 221832B to S.O. S/M. E.F.)

Defence of the United Kingdom.

Scapa A/S defences. Frequency of false alarms due to non-sub contacts with typical S/M characteristics in disturbed area inside Hoxa Channel nullifies the value of the H.D.A's sited there.

(2) It is intended to substitute a new line of H.D.A's outside the southward of the line Stanger Head - Hoxa Head. This will require five units in following positions.

(3) Request urgent supply of two complete sets of Type 131 A.V. equipment with sea units. Also two 'Betts' small huts for erection at Stanger A/S F.D. Station.

(4) Request early information when these can be expected. (A.C.O.S., 221455B to Admty.)

Operations.

Operation "Veritas". Expect A/S escort by 2 sorties of one Sunderland and Catalina during daylight hours April 22nd. (C. in C. Rosyth, 220109B to V.A.2.) A Ventura aircraft may be sighted between 1259 and 1601. (C. in C. Rosyth, 221120B to V.A.2.)

C. in C. W.A. 181057 (see Special File). Request HDTSPUR may be sailed to arrive Skaalefiord p.m./24th April. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail one destroyer to arrive Skaalefiord p.m./24th. Both these destroyers are to fuel and stand by in case required for operations.

(C. in C. H.F., 221305B to C. in C. W.A., V.A.D.H.F.)

Request you will sail HDTSPUR to arrive Skaalefiord p.m./24th April.

2. On arrival HDTSPUR is to fuel and await further orders from C. in C. H.F.

3. This cancels order in para. 1 and para. 2 of my 181546. (C. in C. W.A., 222236B to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

/Coastal ...

365

22.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force Patrols. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 220404.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221430B.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221501B, 221507B, 221511B, 221519B.)
(V.A. Dover, 221739B, 221849B.)
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 222013B.)
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 222028B.)

Operation "Overlord". It would appear that the completion dates of "Phoenix" Units in Tilbury dock are well behind schedule.

(2) It is desired to emphasize that in order to implement the loading programme required by A.N.C.X.F. at Tilbury it will be necessary for these docks to be completely clear of all ships, craft and other works such as "Mulberry" and "Pluto" (except "Conundrums" in winding berths A and B) by D minus 7. This includes all vessels undergoing repairs at commercial firms.

(C. in C. Nore, 220935B. to Admty.)

Your 201552. GEORGES LEYGUES will not be available.

Intend to sail MONTCALM to arrive Plymouth as required by you.

(C. in C. H.F., 221817B to N.C.W.T.F.)

C. in C. W.A.'s 201831B and your 191311B.

3 berths in Belfast Lough and one berth in Clyde are available for U.S. capital ships and TUSCALOOSA. It will be necessary for U.S. destroyers sent to Clyde to Belfast either to berth on heavy ships or lie at anchor. Berths alongside are not available.

(A.N.C.X.F., 221825B to N.C.W.T.F.)

Your 201831. Berthing requirements in northern ports

will now be as follows:

British Task Force - RODNEY, RAMILLIES, 12 cruisers, 8 fleet destroyers, 8 fleet minesweepers, 3 frigates, 1 escort destroyer. U.S. Task Force - TEXAS, NEVADA, ARKANSAS, TUSCALOOSA, and 7 cruisers, 8 U.S. destroyers, 8 U.S. fleet minesweepers, 2 frigates.

Propose policy should be for U.S. to use Belfast and British the Clyde as far as berths permit but overlapping can be accepted.

If all cannot be accommodated in main anchorages it will be convenient to berth following cruisers elsewhere in the command MAURITIUS, ARETHUSA, FROBISHER, DANAE, DRAGON. A.N.C.X.F. does not require these ships to be in their final assembly positions until about Y-6. In the interim C. in C.H.F. has been asked to co-ordinate all bombarding practices.

Request your proposals for berthing these ships for the final assembly.

(A.N.C.X.F., 221845B to C. in C. W.A.)

Commander H.T.P. Grenfell, who has been given the title of S.O. Naval Party 1666, has been appointed as S.O. of a Force comprising the 150th and the 151st H.D.M.L. Flotillas based at Newhaven.

(2) This force will be carrying out operations referred to in P.O.N.3.

(A.N.C.X.F., 221910B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Your 212224B. Unless these become damaged it is not desired they should be removed. C.O's and Masters experienced in their use would be very unwilling to dispense with them.

(Com. Force J, 222205 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

/Biscay ...

366

War Diary.22.4.1944.
Saturday.HDME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Biscay A/S operations. GRINDALL is to carry out a special duty in an area 047° N. to 040° N. 017° W. to 025° W. She will not be included in situation reports and will be kept clear of other traffic.
(C. in C. W.A., 221015B to F.O.G.M.A., S.B.N.O. Azores.)

Have A.S.V. contact in 48° 25' N. 07° 04' W. at 2210.
(A/C KVJ.30, 222225B to 19 Group.)

Operation K.N.3. Carry out Operation K.N.3 tonight. My 191842B
(A) (1) M.T.Bs. 248 (S.O.), 246, 250 and 249.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221029B and 221701B to M.T.B.F.14.)

S/M Patrols. Request you will sail submarines as follows:-
(A) VENTURER at 2000B/23rd by route 2 in diversion S.M.Z. through (V) 059° 18' N. 003° 59' E. to patrol in accordance with S.M.04010/122 on the surface at C.O. discretion when 60 miles clear of Norwegian coast.
(B) STRONGBOW as convenient after arrival 24th April through 045° Muckle Flugga 24 miles and route "Orange" to 063° 45' N., thence to patrol within 10 miles of 064° 41' N. 002° 45' E. on the surface at C.O.'s discretion south of 062°.
JUNON will be recalled to leave patrol on 25th April by route "Grey".

(Capt. (S) 9, 221041B and 221851B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/23rd and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) UNSHAKEN, ULA as in my 181809.
- (B) JUNON as in my 201707.
- (C) VIGOROUS as in my 211729.
- (D) STATESMAN as in my 211729.
- (1) VENTURER leaves Lerwick 2000/23rd through 60° 42' N. 00° 05' W. to 61° 01' N. 00° 50' E. thence towards 60° 40' N. 02° 50' E., speed 9 knots, probably on the surface.

(F.O.(S), 221734B to Admty.)

I.S.O.H. section VI appendix 1. Amend mid point of FF temporarily as follows - 063° 31' N. 001° 55' E.

2. VIGOROUS proceed to comply forthwith diving by day.

3. Amendment to FF in my 101929 is cancelled.

(F.O.(S), 221742B to S/Ms.)

Operation C.W. 1st Escort Group, AFFLECK, GORE, BENTLEY vicinity 052° 35' N. 028° 01' W.
9th Escort Group, MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT, OWEN SOUND vicinity 052° 35' N. 018° 29' W. My 221235 refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 221301B to Admty.)

During dark hours tonight search in area 052° N. to 053° N. 018° 30' W. 019° 30' W.

2. Leigh Light Liberator aircraft will carry out patrol in area from 0030/23rd to 0720. In event of a definite sighting aircraft will carry out procedure "C" on 385 k/cs.

(C. in C. W.A., 221758B to E.G.9.)

/Sailed ...

367

22.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation C.W. (Contd.) Sailed GARLIES and BALFOUR to join E.G.1. (F.O.I.C.N.I., 221914B to C. in C. W.A.) In contact with U-Boat in 052° 09' N. 019° 07' W. Periscope sighted. Have carried out one attack. (E.G.9, 222008Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived BERRY, BLACKWOOD, DUCKWORTH, ESSINGTON, DOMMETT. (C. in C. Plymouth, 222049B to C. in C. W.A.) My 221758B. Aircraft cancelled on account of weather. (C. in C. W.A., 222156B to E.G.9.) My 202008Z. Contact lost at 2050Z. After 2 attacks U-Boat went deep. Conditions poor. Am sweeping in vicinity. Weather. (E.G.9, 222222Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Engagement with E-Boats. M.T.B. 416 damaged. At about 0105/22, 3 groups of E-Boats were plotted approaching the convoy route in the western half of Lyme Bay. Force 113 (M.T.Bs. 414, 416) on patrol 080 Start 15 was vectored by Kingswear Control and made contact with the centre group of 5 E-Boats at about 0134. Force 113 cut off the 2 rear boats and engaged them heavily at 200 yards range. The enemy disengaged under smoke and the other 3 enemy boats appeared to be engaging each other as they disappeared to the southward. The remaining groups of the enemy turned and returned to the southward at high speed at about 0150. Force 114 (on patrol off the Eddystone) and M.T.Bs. from the Portsmouth Command attempted to intercept the enemy returning but made no contact. Convoy W.P.510 at anchor in Torbay and 16 M/S.F. carrying out night sweeping exercise in N. of Lyme Bay were not in contact with the enemy. M.T.B.416 suffered hull damage. There were no casualties in our forces. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221312B to Admt.)

Enemy Air Activity.

R.N.A.S. Dundee bombed. R.N.A.S. Dundee attacked by unidentified aircraft believed to be Ju.88 at 2220. One Walrus aircraft slightly damaged, no casualties or other damages. (N.A.S. Dundee, 222317B to N.A.S. Arbroath.)

Mining.

GEORGE POPHAM damaged. (Convoy F.S.28) GEORGE POPHAM leader of port column near missed by acoustic ground mine in 337° 3 buoy 2 miles. Ship has developed very slight list but no other visible damage. She is proceeding on ahead escorted by COSBY. (VICEROY, 220610B to C. in C. Nore.)

/Operation ...

368

22.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Operation My 211128 and 211959. Intend to carry out
"Hostile 25". Operation "Hostile 25" tonight.
(2) Force 25 is to pass gate at 1900B/22nd.
(3) Support force TANATSIDE (S.O.), BRISSENDEN
is to pass gate at 2130B/22nd.
(5) My 171840 and 211311 being passed to
BRISSENDEN.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 221027B to M.T.B.F.52, M.L.F.
10, Capt. (D) 15.)

Expected enemy mine-laying offensive. There is strong evidence that a heavy enemy mine-laying operation by E-Boats may be expected during present dark period. Patrols will be maintained with object of preventing the approach channel to Spithead, Needles, Portland and Newhaven being blocked by mines. Ships and craft stationed on patrol are to be warned that every endeavour is to be made to beat off E-Boats approaching existing swept channel. Especial good look out is also to be kept for low-flying enemy aircraft.
(2) The valuable work being done by minesweeping forces is appreciated but heavy additional calls on their services may be necessary in near future which I am confident will be met.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221237B to N.O.I.C. Portland.)

Portsmouth. Minesweeping Report for 21st April.
6 G.M. mines accounted for as follows:-
No. 1 swept and sunk 135° 11.3 miles from N.A.B. Tower. No.2 swept and sunk 135° 11 miles from N.A.B. Tower: No.3 swept and sunk 135° 10.4' from N.A.B. Tower. No.4 exploded in sweep 130° 11.6 miles from N.A.B. Tower. No.5 foul of sweep, towed into 8 fathoms of water before sweep was out. No.6 watching at slack low water, towed into 9 fathoms, and recovery of sinker being attempted today. Recovery of No.5 will be attempted if no success with No.6.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221635B to Admty.)

Q.Z.X.31. Clearance of A.M. Q.Z.X.31 completed with negative result throughout.
(M/S.1, 222304B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Casualties and Defects.

STRATHELLA. Following is a repetition of my 211900B. Begins.
(2) GAUGER to R/V off Skovfjord (C.T.F.24's 111943 refers) for onward escort and routing to Argentia. U.S.S. GAUGER escorted by WINDERMERE departs 0500Z/22nd April (after R/V WINDERMERE proceeds to Narsarsauak) my 112154 refers. Pilot is requested at ice edge.
(3) Routed through (CC) 63° 00' N. 28° 40' W. (DD) 61° 00' 36° 40'. (EE) 58° 30' 44° 00'. (FF) 59° 28' 47° 25'.
(4) E.T.A. position (FF) 1500Z/25th April.
(A.C.I.C., 220406B to Comgopat.)

/EMPIRE ...

369

22.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

EMPIRE
· HOMESTEAD.

EMPIRE HOMESTEAD slightly damaged in collision.
Repairs expected to take 14 days.
(N.C.S.O. Inverness, 221535B to Admty.)

WISHART.

My 172003. WISHART has arrived and examination reveals that ship is not fit for operational work without extensive refit. Ship was last refitted in October 1941. Ship could be used for a period of one month for non operational duties after which time boiler life expires. Consider ship should be paid off into reserve.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 221740B to C. in C. W.A.)

370

22.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ABRUZZI. Arrival.
(F.O.G.M.A., 221139B.)

Straits blimp fence. Your 170059B. Air Ministry agree to acceptance of Cominch's offer to provide six blimps and operating facilities for use in Gibraltar area on the lines set out in F.O.G.M.A.'s 151210A. Establishment and operation of emergency base with one portable mast at Gibraltar is practicable within existing R.A.F. resources provided Americans supply expert nucleus of one officer and two ratings which understand they are prepared to do. Temporary facilities also required for refuelling of blimps at Lagens which S.B.O. Azores considers to be a practicable operation.

(Air Ministry, 221535Z.)

H.M. Ambassador Lisbon advises that it is sufficient for you to notify local Portuguese authorities as matter of routine that blimps will be using Lagens as a staging post and that this operation is fully covered by existing facilities. If local Portuguese authorities are not convinced and refer to Lisbon you should inform H.M. Ambassador Lisbon who will take the matter up there himself.

(Air Min., 221702B to S.B.O. Azores.)

6 escort vessels and A/A Sloop. Intend to sail HART (S.O.), VANQUISHER, VERSATILE, CAM, SWEETBRIAR, WALLFLOWER, PINK at 2000B/23 for U.K.
2, 3. (Route &c.)
4. Admiralty's 291834 February not to all refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 221545B.)

Diesel stocks at Horta. Request information when replenishment diesel stocks Horta may be expected. My 210958 para. 1 and your 211731.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 222314Z to C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

WELLINGTON. A.M. 220049B* WELLINGTON continues with S.L:156 to position (BE) thence proceed to Dakar. On arrival land stores, mails and passengers for U.K. and top up with fuel. Comar Dakar is requested to sail WELLINGTON for Bermuda. All reference to my 191606 to WELLINGTON and B.N.L.O. Dakar only.
(N.O.I.C.W.Af., 221143Z.) * N.T. in W.D.

/SS. CITY

371

22.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SS. CITY OF
DUBLIN, Sao
Thome re-
porting.

Your 201747. No information of arrival of ship received here. This is probably due to difficulties in communication with Reporting Officer Sao Thome all of whose recent signals have been undecypherable.

(S.O.I. Freetown 221207Z to Admt.)
Re Any news of CITY OF DUBLIN (Eire) due Sao Thome 15th April.

SS. NEBRASKA
(torpedoed
8th April)
(see 18th
April.)

20 (group missing ?survivors) ex British ship NEBRASKA landed Recife today 22nd. Names to Admiralty only in my 222140. Full report follows as soon as possible. Number 2 lifeboat sighted by plane yesterday 21st, 10 miles off Japaratuba river. Plane commented men all in good condition. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 222145Z.)

Diversion
signals.

Re coding. (Technical.)
(D.T.D. 222158B.)

372

22.4.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- D'ENTRECAST-
EAUX. B.A.D. Washington's 191511/April. /
Request has been made as no repair facilities can
at present be made available.
(2) Request your remarks.
(D.O.D.(F), 220041B to C. in C. Med.).
/ Re request to transfer Sloop D'ENTRECASTEAUX
from Diego Suarez to Bizerta.
- Bridgehead F.O.W.It. 191216. Propose to discontinue bridge-
head sitrep unless required by Admiralty.
(C. in C. Med. 220946B).
- Bridgehead 802 tons discharged on 21st April 165 from
Sitrep 91. L.S.Ts. 72 from L.C.Ts.
(2) First of Tarpons in my 212034 has been rec-
overed and should arrive Naples tomorrow.
(4) Army claim to have shot down 6 aircraft in
abortive air raid last night. Not clear whether attacking A/C.
carried torpedoes or mines.
(F.O.W.It. 221208B).
At 1900/21 two dispatches from War Correspondents of
American News Agencies A.P. and U.P. sent by beam wireless in
clear to New York giving full details at Anzio four German one
man torpedoes one complete with sailor who said he had "run out
of fuel" A.P. dispatch added "None reached harbour no damage
done" These dispatches received at A.F.H.Q. P.R.O. Naples
shortly before 1900 and immediately passed for transmission and
publication by U.S. Field Press Censor Lieut. Sumner Wilson this
due lack R.N. Press Censor Naples and dispatches were referred
to R.N. P.R.O. Naples for advice only at 100 (sic) Saturday 22nd
when too late prevent publication.
(F.O.W.It. 221520 to C. in C. Med.).
Situation report No.343. My 212213 para.3 human torpedo
is apparently of new type.
(2) Enemy air activity in Anzio area increased night 20th/21st
April. In 5 raids 6 aircraft claimed shot down by A/A fire and
one by U.S. Destroyer DAVIS. No damage to shipping. SS JOHN
ARMSTRONG damaged by underwater explosion probably mine at 1710/
21st 12 miles north of Anzio but has arrived Naples under own
steam. 2 more human torpedoes reported sunk by patrol craft
a.m. 21st March /
(C. in C. Med. 222125B).
/ As received ?April intended.
- IZMIR. Turkish passengers vessel IZMIR aground off the
Turkish coast 3 miles east of Bosphoras entrance.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 221012C).
My 221012C. SS. IZMIR refloated entered Istanbul
port.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 221620C).
- Mutiny in Long and highly embellished message from Greek
Greek Navy. C. in C. gist of which is in last 2 sentences:-
I am determined to spare no effort in imposing
discipline. I call on everyone to embrace his
lawful discipline and duty. Vice Admiral Voulgaris T.O.O.

/ 211810 ends ...

373

22.4.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

Mutiny in Greek Navy (Contd.). 211810 ends. Message has already been passed to Greeks ships and authorities in Alexandria. C. in C. Med. (Algiers) is requested to pass message to ships outside commands of addressees. (F.O.L.E.M. 221248).

Following is a repetition of my 221314C begins:-
Addressed C. in C. Med., F.O.G.M.A., F.O. Tunisia, F.O.W.It., F.O.T.A.L.I., V.A. Malta, F.O.L.E.M., S.N.O.L.A., S.N.O.R.S.C.A. (Info. Admty., From C. in C. Med., Cairo., If the Greek Navy fails tonight in its attempt to restore discipline in their ships at Alexandria I will issue an ultimatum to ships here to expire at 0700C/24th.

(2) Should the mutineers not comply with the requirements of the ultimatum action will be taken by British Forces to seize the Greek ships concerned. Action will be whole hearted and if necessary ships will be sunk. Parallel action will be taken by British army against the mutinous Greek troops.

(3) A special message will be sent to AVEROFF at Port Said informing her that the ultimatum is being passed to ships at Alexandria which have refused to obey orders but that AVEROFF is not included in this category. Action will not be taken against AVEROFF unless she initiates offensive action in which case R.A.F. bombers will be ready to deal with her.

(4) Flag Officers are to be prepared to deal with any Greek ship or bodies of men who may cause trouble when news reaches them of the happenings at Alexandria.

Ends T.O.O. 221314.

(Cairo, C.C.O. 221529C, 221629C).

Greek situation.

Assurances have been received that Greek C. in C. is confident of carrying out boarding of 3 ships with 120 men tonight Saturday/Sunday.

(2) One case Smallpox has been removed from recruiting depot. Egyptian medical authorities are investigating practicability of isolating remainder inmates but situation may become complicated since men cannot be allowed to leave building unless disarmed. One man endeavouring to come out today was shot by his comrades.

(C. in C. Med. (Cairo), 221824C).

Spanish ships in iron ore trade.

It is reported that steps in this trade will now only proceed to Barcelona. (R.O. Valencia, 221255 to S.O.(I) Gib.).

SPORTSMAN

Proceed with all despatch forthwith to cover Approaches to Candia.

(2) LUXEMBOURG expected to sail from Piraeus p.m. today for Candia.

(Capt.(S) 1, 221330 to SPORTSMAN, (R) UNRULY, F.O.L.E.M.).

Flag of C.S.15

Flag of C.S.15 is being transferred to DIDO today April 22nd. Office is being established ashore at Combined H.Q. Naples where all administrative signals are to be sent as well as to the flag-ship.

(C. in C. Med. 221749B).

/ U/boat...

374

22.4.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

U/boat
report.

Have obtained A.S.V. contact probably a S/M. in
38° 52' N. 17° 25' E.
(A/C, C/S FDXM, 222200B).

UNRULY

Cancel my 221312.
(2) Leave patrol at dawn/23 routed as in my 191515
to arrive in 035° 49' 023° 29' at 1500/25th thence
under Q.B. 240° to arrive at 035° 41' 023° 16'

about 2100/25.

(Capt.(S) 1, 222225 to UNRULY).

ZOEA

Proceeding on one engine my P.C.S. at 2300/22
032° 53' N. 034° 23' E. 258° 7 knots E.T.A. Alex.
boom 1800/24 request M.J.A.O. be amended.
(ZOEA, 222356C to A.H.Q.E.M.).

375

22.4.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat dispositions. No.5 no fresh information no change in scale of air escort in any area.
(C. in C. E.F.220337Z)

Durban-Kilindini Traffic. To implement para. 3 of my 201117. Request southbound ships from Aden concerned be routed to Kilindini for inclusion in KD convoy until further orders.
(C. in C. E.F. 220512Z to Com. i/c Aden.)

SURE^F. P.239 (SURE^F) second Far East patrol was blank.
(C. in C. E.F. 220621Z)

Operation "Cockpit". The (My intended) 191227.
(1) the wind conditions during the operation were such that escort carriers would not have been able to operate.
(2) The full story of TACTICIAN's rescue of the American pilot will not be available until her return to harbour but the Americans are very impressed with her action.
(C. in C. E.F. 221005Z)

Escort carriers. Cancel A.M. 070237 not to all.
As it has been found necessary for certain outstanding work to be completed in EMPRESS before she can become operational, she will not now join the Eastern Fleet.
(2) BATTLE is to remain with C. in C. E.F. for the present.
(3) AMEER is being sailed to join the Eastern Fleet and is to take over 845 squadron ex ATHELING to work up for trade protection
(D.O.D.(H), 221327B)

376

22.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ALBERNI,
PORT ARTHUR. Sailed (?H.M.C.S. ALBERNI) (S.O.) H.M.C.S. PORT ARTHUR at 0030Z/22 to (?St. Johns N.F.) (route) 2. On arrival request ships be refuelled and sailed direct to Londonderry my 042317* not to F.O.N.F. and Cmdre. D.W.A. also C. in C.W.A's 201915B refers. (C. in C.C.N.A. 220130Z.) *Hush top secret.

ILE DE
FRANCE. Diversion order. (D.O.D.H. 221308B to ILE DE FRANCE.)

SS. QUEEN
MARY. Diversion order. (D.O.D.H. 221322B to QUEEN MARY.)

AQUITANIA
(T.A.106.) Diversion order. (Connav 221424Z to AQUITANIA.)

U/B dis-
positions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q. 221452Z, Cominch 221524Z.)

Transport of
U.S. troops to
India in
GENERAL
ANDERSON
class. Your 210151. Agree. (D.O.D.F. 221557B to B.A.D.)

Stragglers
report. Stragglers arrived week ending 22nd April, nil. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 221707Z.)

INDOMITABLE. Sailed for U.K. INDOMITABLE 18 Corsair III Six Avenger II. See my P.L. 221903*. 2. 854 Squadron also embarked. (B.A.D. 221901Z.) * Not circulated to all - list of aircraft engine shipped.

NEWFOUNDLAND. Arrived Norfolk 20th April to work up. (N.S.H.Q. 222020Z.)

U/B incidents. JOHN STRAUB sunk from explosion origin unknown 54.22 N. 163.24 W. 200149. B. U.S.S. MOORE and J.R.WARD Radar contact 22.15 N. 36.00 W. 192352. Sound contact and torpedo noises same area 200113 and 200129. MARTEER A/L Radar contact 03.08 S. 23.04 W. 220430. All times Z. D. P.B.M. Radar contact 31.06 N. 79.04 W. 211820. (Cominch 222045Z.)

377

22.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest 823.

April 21st. Paras. 8 to 11 cover Soupac Forces. At sundown single Beaufort ineffectually bombed vessel described as surfaced submarine 50 miles S.E. Selaroe Island while vessel apparently east-bound.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 220606Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. C. 1. F.F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT attacked doubtful contact at 0540Z/21 in 38° 14' N. 07° 21' E.
Ref. my 210833 para. C. the 3 U-Boats reported at 0255Z/21st were attacked by H/224.
(D.D.I.C. 221154B.)

U/B dis-
positions.

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 221524B, 221525B.)

378

23.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
F.Z.

1. C.S.1 in DIADEM with the escorts of convoy R.A. 59 arrived intact at the Kola Inlet at 2244B today having apparently been unobserved by the enemy on passage.

E-Boats
attacked
by A/C.

2. A group of five E-Boats were identified by an A/C at 2257 on patrol last night approaching the coast off Great Yarmouth and, on being illuminated by a flare from the A/C at 2330, they at once turned back to the eastward. At 0114 today the A/C attacked them with bombs and claims two hits.

Mining.

3. Bomber Command laid 254 mines in Kiel Harbour and 65 in Fehmarn Channel last night.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

4. (a). Loyal Greeks boarded APOSTOLIS, IERAX and SAKTOURIS at Alexandria at 0245 today and these ships surrendered after some exchange of machine gun and S.A. fire. A few casualties were inflicted, including the killing of Captain Ronssen of the PAPANICOLIS, who led boarding parties against APOSTOLIS.

(b). At 2108 today C. in C. Med. at Cairo reported that all Greek ships at Alexandria had surrendered to the Greek C. in C.

Bridgehead.

5. About 15 enemy aircraft attacked the port of Anzio last night and there was considerable shelling of the port area. No damage to shipping is reported. Six mines were detonated and one cut. The minesweeper CIRCE was damaged by a mine today and proceeded to Naples.

Corsica.

6. Enemy surface forces assisted by aircraft flares bombarded Bastia last night but caused no damage to the harbour. Another enemy force is suspected of minelaying. Coastal forces proceeded and failed to intercept, but a scouting force returning from a sweep north of Leghorn chased the enemy until daylight.

/Destroyers...

379

23.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Destroyers
and escort
vessels for
U.K.

7.(a). VANQUISHER, VERSATILE, CAM, SWEETBRIAR,
WALLFLOWER and PINK who had been on loan from
Western Approaches to the Mediterranean, sailed
from Gibraltar today for the U.K. with the A.A.
sloop HART.

(b). Twelve destroyers are to follow.

Australia & New Zealand.

Caroline's.

8. 21 Liberators attacked installations at Sten
and Param at Truk, in the early hours of today.

*Hollandia
Occupied.*

Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, was occupied today (p. 425)

380

23.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

STORK.

Concur in F.O.I.C. Falmouth's 211708.
2. After completion of boiler cleaning about 22nd May C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail STORK to join C. in C.Med. with first convenient convoy. (D.C.D.H. 231854B to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

Operations.

S/M Patrols. Return Lerwick passing through $061^{\circ} 21' N. 002^{\circ} 52' E.$ thence $061^{\circ} 12' N. 000^{\circ} 49' E.$ to 080° Muckle Flugga 13, diving by day within 60 miles Norwegian coast.
(F.O.S. 230133B to ULA.)

S/Ms are to leave patrol as follows -

A. UNSHAKEN to pass $061^{\circ} 43' N. 003^{\circ} 18' E.$ at approx. 0600B/25th, thence through 060° Muckle Flugga 18 miles to Lerwick on the surface at C.Os. discretion when 60 miles clear Norwegian coast.
B. JUNON to pass through $064^{\circ} 13' N. 001^{\circ} 15' E.$ at approx. 2000B/25th, thence by route "Grey" and 090° Muckle Flugga 8 miles to Lerwick on the surface at C.Os. discretion south of 062° .
(Capt. S.9 231105B to S/Ms.)

VIKING escorted by trawler OLVINA is to pass the Gate at 0900B/24th and proceed by standard route through position VA. 270° Longships, 4 to VB. 000° Round Island 15.

3. From VB. VIKING is to proceed diving by day to area P. My 261032A March refers.

4. VIKING is to carry out A.S.V. trials in area P in accordance with F.O.S. No. S/M 04310/746 of 24th December as follows:
Patrol A to be carried out on even dates on lat. $50^{\circ} 50' N.$ between $09^{\circ} 20' W.$ and $10^{\circ} 50' W.$ Patrol B to be carried out on odd dates on lat. $50^{\circ} 37' N.$ between $09^{\circ} 20' W.$ and $10^{\circ} 50' W.$ Patrol A is to be commenced from western end of line. Patrol B from eastern end.

(C. in C.Plymouth 231353B to VIKING.)

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

A. UNSHAKEN leaves patrol off Stadtlandet to pass through $61^{\circ} 43' N. 03^{\circ} 18' E.$ at 0600/25th for Lerwick dived by day within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.

B. JUNON leaves patrol vicinity $64^{\circ} 41' N. 02^{\circ} 45' E.$ passing through $64^{\circ} 13' N. 01^{\circ} 15' E.$ at 2000/25th, thence course 210° probably on surface south of 62° for Lerwick.

C. VIGOROUS patrolling vicinity $63^{\circ} 30' 01^{\circ} 55' E.$

D. STATESMAN patrolling vicinity $62^{\circ} 10' 02^{\circ} 40' E.$

E. ULA $60^{\circ} 50' N. 03^{\circ} 10' E.$ through $61^{\circ} 12' N. 02^{\circ} 52' E. 61^{\circ} 12' N. 00^{\circ} 49' E.$ to Lerwick. Dived by day within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.

F. VENTURER $60^{\circ} 50' N. 02^{\circ} 01' E.$ through $60^{\circ} 40' N. 02^{\circ} 50' E.$ and $59^{\circ} 18' N. 03^{\circ} 59' E.$ to patrol off Skudesness.

M. STRONGBOW sails Lerwick p.m. 24th through $62^{\circ} N. 01^{\circ} E.$ thence course 030 probably on surface south of 62° then diving by day.

(F.O.S. 231917B to Admty.)

VENTURER sailed 1905B/23rd by route 2, then through $059^{\circ} 18' N. 003^{\circ} 59' E.$ to patrol Norwegian coast between $059^{\circ} 17' N.$ and $058^{\circ} 05' N.$ S.M.Z.71 refers. Proceeding on the surface at C.Os. discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 231927B to S/Ms.)

/Operation...

381

23.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation C.W. By D/F at 2307Z/22 U-Boat transmitting W.W. signal estimated within 75 miles of 53° 00' N. 30° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 230139B to E.G.1.)
Your 222222Z. If not in contact with enemy leave area at 1200Z/23rd for Lough Foyle.
(C. in C.W.A. 230153B to E.G.9.)

Your 230153B. No contact. Search abandoned SWANSEA proceeding ahead. My P.C. and S. 1200Z 052° 33' N. 018° 46' W. 065° 13½'.
(E.G.9 231225Z to C. in C.W.A.)
E.G.1, AFFLECK, BENTLEY, GORE vicinity 053° 30' N. 031° 00' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 231405 to Ships.)
A.M. 230139. U-Boat transmitted W.W. signal at 1130Z/23 from position estimated between 51° 30' N. and 52° 30' N. 28° 30' W. and 30° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 231512B to E.G.1.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland 230810B, 232025.)
(C. in C.Plymouth 231257B, 231831B.)
(C. in C.Portsouth 231414B, 231418B, 231542B.)
(V.A.Dover 231731B.)

Operation "Veritas". C. in C.W.A. 222236. Cancel my 220940. Sailed HOTSPUR to Skaalefjord, E.T.A. 1800B/24th, speed 20 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 230935B to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
On undocking a.m. tomorrow proceed to pass Switha to arrive Skaalefjord p.m. 24th April.
2. On arrival with complete fuel and with HOTSPUR act in accordance with C. in C.H.F. 221305.
(R.A.D.H.F. 231226B to IMPULSIVE.)

Operation "Overlord". Upon arrival NITRO about 1 May desire she R/V with TEXAS in Clyde or Belfast Lough to shift TEXAS ammunition prior proceeding Plymouth. Desdiv 20 may remain in company as escort.
(N.C.W.T.F. 231111 to Comnavu.)

Operation F.Z. (Convoy R.A.59.) Group 12 consisting of 17 ships sailed in company with icebreaker 0800B today. My 161435B refers.
2. Ships names. 3. EMPIRE PROWESS though ready was moved last and missed a.m. tide Dvina bar. Will cross p.m. tide today. Will overtake group with her escort.
5. S.O.A. in clear water 9 knots.
6. Endeavour will be made to join on to group 12 ROBERT EDEN when convoy is abreast of Iokanka.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 231225B to S.B.N.O.North Russia.)

/Arrived...

382

23.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation F.Z.
(Convoy R.A.59.)
(Contd.)

Arrived Kola Inlet apparently unsighted although aircraft were twice detected by Radar within 20 miles and H/F D/F bearings of a U-Boat were obtained on the starboard bow in lat. 068°. There was low cloud and bad visibility most of the way. (C.S.1 232244B to C. in C.H.F. V.A.2, F.O.E.C.)

Allied Air Activity.

E-Boats attacked off Great Yarmouth.

E-Boat activity night 22/23.

1. At 2257, 16 Group A.S.V. Wellington on anti E-Boat patrol identified 5 E-Boats in 52° 40' N. 3° 23' E. steering westward. Aircraft shadowed and at 2350 in long. 3° 00' E. dropped a flare, whereupon E-Boats altered course 16 points. Aircraft was then instructed to attack with bombs. At 0114 attack was made approx. 52° 32' N. 3° 50' E. Two hits with 100 lb. bombs being claimed.

2. The fact that E-Boats turned back on being illuminated again shows the deterrent effect of this type of patrol. (C. in C.Nore 231210B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy U.R.117.

Convoy being shadowed by a Ju.88 position 60° 38' N. 11° 08' W.
(LADY MADELEINE 230639Z to Admty.)

Orkneys.

At 222158 Prep X was made on report from 59 Brigade Headquarters of unidentified aircraft at 50 feet due south off shore flying east. The air-borne dusk patrol of Spitfires from Castletown was diverted and shot down a Ju.108 30 miles east of Duncansby. From visual reports it is considered A/C flew low over the sea from Torness on easterly course to South Ronaldsay thence to Pentland Skerries and to the eastwards. The initial plot was 19 miles east of Duncansby.
(A.C.O.S. 230815 to Admty.)

Dundee.

Following from N.O.I.C. Dundee begins:-
At approx. 2215B/22nd an aircraft flew down the River Tay at a low altitude and in an easterly direction. When passing King George V wharf the machine opened fire with her port midship gun and rear gun, both weapons being deliberately turned on the ship lying alongside. In appearance the machine resembled a Beaufighter except that she had a long fuselage and high tail fins. Failing light prevented accurate identification. After passing the wharf the machine continuing at low altitude flew down the river and out to sea in an easterly direction. No casualties or damage has been reported. CHESTERFIELD lying at King George V wharf reported appearance of machine and details of firing. Battery opened fire on machine as it passed. T.O.O. 222350B ends.
(C. in C.Rosyth 230950B to Admty.)

/Aberdeen...

383

War Diary.23.4.1944.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Aberdeen. Following from F.O.I.C. Aberdeen begins:-
At 2157B P.W.S.S. Aberdeen and coast defence battery at Torry reported that an enemy aircraft thought to be a Ju.88 approached from N.E. passed overhead at 200 feet, went to northward, returned over Aberdeen Bay, and then went to N.E. No warning given. At 2222B A.A. battery at Bridge of Don opened fire at an aircraft flying south at 500 ft. which then turned seaward. No warning given. No confirmation received at the time from any source that these were hostile. Both confirmed as hostile by 13 groups at 2340B. Only plot received was on second aircraft after turning to seaward when 20 miles away. 222359B ends.
(C. in C. Rosyth 230955B to Admty.)
My 222359B. No bombs were dropped. No indication of mine-laying. Latter is thought unlikely.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 231201B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Mining.

Operation Cancel my 221027B.
"Hostile 25". (C. in C. Plymouth 230427B to M.T.B.F.52, M.L.F.10.)

Operation My 221739B. Operation N.L.127 abandoned owing
N.L.127. to enemy activity.
(V.A. Dover 230918B to Admty.)

Portsmouth. Minesweeping report for April 22nd.
5 G.M. mines swept 4 sunk, 1 exploded in sweep positions No. 1 136° 10.8 miles from N.A.B. Tower.
No. 2 132° 11.3 miles from N.A.B. Tower. No. 3
131° 11.6 miles from N.A.B. Tower. No. 4 138° 10.3 miles from
N.A.B. Tower. No. 5 139° 10 miles from N.A.B. Tower.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 231306B to Admty.)

Harwich. 1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1348 in 52°
06.7' N. 01° 48' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 231432 and 232132B to Admty.)

Navigational.

Plymouth. Port of Plymouth closed due to fog.
(C. in C. Plymouth 231843B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

BALFOUR. Salinity of evaporated water averaging 1.5 grains
per gallon. Am returning to Belfast. GARLIES
proceeding. My E.T.A. ?1600B today.
(BALFOUR 230505Z to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

23.4.1944.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

EMPIRE
HOMESTEAD.

Tanker EMPIRE HOMESTEAD reports having sustained above-water damage when in collision with T.R.V.4 when on passage through Canal. T.R.V.4 proceeded to Corpach. Damage has been surveyed by A.E.R.O. who reports repairs can be done locally. Estimated time 7 days.
(R.N.I. Inverness 231105 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)

385

War Diary23.4.1944
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

- SS. CARMEN
FREIXAS,
TARRAGONA. CARMEN FREIXAS sailed Sagunto 1600/22nd destination probably Port Vendres.
(2) TARRAGONA sailed Alicante 2200/22nd for Port Vendres.
(F.O.G.M.A.230956B to 10th S/M.F. LE CURIE, CASABIANCA, Capt. (S) 10, S.O.(I) Med.)
- ORION. Intend to sail ORION at 0400B/25th for U.K., C. in C. Med. 221732 refers.
(2) Route.
(F.O.G.M.A.231154B as amended 251525)
- S.L.155/
M.K.S.46. ODZANI detach STONECROP to proceed with despatch to rejoin S.L.155 M.K.S.46. FORT COPPER escorted by STONECROP is then to be detached for Gibraltar.
(F.O.G.M.A.231504B)
Your 231504B and Admiralty 231127. Am escorting PORT MELBOURNE and ANNA HOWARD SHAW to Gibraltar speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots. STONECROP escorting EMPIRE KINGSLEY (A bad straggler from S.L. 155) speed $5\frac{1}{2}$ knots to Gibraltar. My position 34 degs. 50' N. 10 degs. 01' W. course 72 degs. STONECROP 3 miles astern.
(ODZANI, 231700B to F.O.G.M.A.)
- Swiss
S.S. Following 4 Swiss steamships leave Marseilles for Gibraltar in ballast:
ALBULA and GENEROSO about 26th April.
ZURICH about 27th April. CALANDA about 1st May.
(D.E.W.D. 231725B to F.O.G.M.A.)
- I.R.C. ship
EMBLA
sunk. I.R.C. ship EMBLA (Swedish) was attacked and sunk by 12 unidentified A/C on April 19th off Sete. Ship was proceeding Port Vendres to Marseilles for repairs. No casualties.
(2) above information from crew members of SS. MANGALORE.
(3) C. in C. Med. F. 201850 April not to B.N.A. Lisbon refers.
(F.O.I.C.Gib. 231752B) (c.f. 13 April)
- SS. NURIAR. NURIAR Spanish believed leaving Marseilles between 28th and 30th April for Gibraltar and is not to be molested. Description.
(F.O.G.M.A.231842B to 10th S/M.F. Casablanca, LE CURIE, UNIVERSAL.)
- CENTURION. Confirmed that necessary additional stiffening CENTURION will be completed in time for ship sail in M.K.S.47. Your 231133B/ refers.
(N.S.D. Gibraltar, 232020B to Admty.)
/ See Mediterranean.

U/B ...

War Diary

23.4.1944
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic - Contd.

U-Boat
Report.

Liberator G.114 flying at 1400 feet reports sighting swirl and wake heading 320 degs. at 0554B 23 in 42.18 N. 09.00 W. Sono Buoy dropped which gave definite high pitch whine for 5 - 10 minutes. (F.O.G.M.A. 232042B to Admty. C. in C. W.A. C. in C Plymouth)

Escort
vessels.

Sailed my 221545.
(F.O.G.M.A. 232131B)

Programme
of inter-
ceptions.

Programme of interceptions for Month ending 9th May, will be repetition of March programme less any Spanish Island traffic.
(2) First ship selected in SS. RITA GARCIA from Buenos Aires calling Las Palmas for orders about 1st May.
(D.E.W.D. 232251B to F.O.G.M.A.)

South Atlantic

SKUDD VI,
SLEET.

Your 211047 SKUDD VI has been renamed SLEET.
(D.M.S. 231203B to N.O.I.C. W.Af.)

T.G.21.15.

No results hold down my 211130 terminated 230100Z. Beginning tonight will operate area 18 N. 35 W. pending further indications. 5380 1814.
(C.T.G.21.15, 231740)

SS. NEBRASKA
(sunk
8th April.)

Reference my 223145/ herewith report in accordance with N.I.D.18's N.I.(one) 1427 of 14th Oct. 1943.
(A) (1) 20 including Master third officer chief and 2 fifth engineers and Chief Steward.
(2) 25 including Chief Officer First and Third Radio Officer Purser Refrigerating Engineer and 2 Cadets.
(B) ex NEBRASKA (G.B.Q.Z.). (C) (1) 22nd April. (2) 23rd April.
(D) Royal Mail Line. (E) Torpedoed. (F) Sunk. (G) 011 degs. 55' S. 019 degs. 53' W. 0355 April 8th. (H) No. (I) and (J) Thrown overboard in regulation metal box.
(K) yes 2600 fathoms. (M) Master and Chief Officer. (N) Secret log left on chart room table. (O) None, (P) No. M.F./D.F. only.
(Q) Sank. (R) No. (S) Enemy not seen. (T) A 1. (U) (1) 222140 to Admiralty only. (2) 231935. Last named is a stowaway.
(B.S.N.O. Rio de Janeiro, 231907Z)
/ 222145 intended. Survivors ex NEBRASKA landed.

387

23.4.1944.

SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

UNRULY

Cancel my 222225. Proceed forthwith to cover eastern approaches to Doro Channel. Be in position by 1201/24.
(Capt.(S) 1, 230210 to UNRULY).

Mutiny in Greek Navy.

Three Greek Warships at Alexandria have been recovered by Loyalists and pending operations against remaining ships probably on Monday night the ultimatum referred to in my 221314 will not be issued.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo., 230342C).

Loyal Greeks boarded APOSTOLIS, IERAX and SAKTOURIS at 0245 today and these ships have now surrendered after some exchange of machine gun and S.A. fire. A few casualties were inflicted including killing of Capt. Roussen of PAPANICOLIS who led boarding parties against APOSTOLIS. This has completed phase one of Greek plan. My 230342 also refers.

(C. in C. Med. (Cairo), 230343C).

The C. in C. Middle East Forces has issued an ultimatum expiring at 1800C today Sunday to the mutinous Greek Brigade. If terms are not complied with they will be enforced by British troops early tomorrow Monday.

(2) Although I would have preferred this action to be deferred until all three British services could act simultaneously or until the need for such action by one or more services had proved unnecessary, I have agreed to the Army going ahead in view of the special circumstances now obtaining in Egypt.

(3) I have the assurance of the Greek Naval C. in C. that he will not allow this Army clash to affect his plans for finishing off the operation begun last night.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo, 2311360).

Morale of Greek Loyalist is high and leaders determined to carry out phase two of plan which includes laying a merchant ship alongside HIFAISTOS and carrying by boarding.

(2) Many of boarding parties spent yesterday travelling, last night on the operation and today squaring off the recovered ships. In order to allow a night's rest and time for training to overcome some of mistakes made last night, Greek C. in C. wishes to carry out operation at first light Tuesday 25th. F.O.L.E.M. supports arguments put forward by Greek C. in C. and I have agreed

(3) Greek C. in C. has hoisted his flag in SAKTOURIS in full view of rebel ships.

(4) Reactions of Mutineers in HIFAISTOS and CRETE to last night's activities not yet known, but ship's companies being kept awake by periodic use of smoke and searchlights.

(5) Greek casualties in last night's operation were 7 killed 37 wounded of which it is thought that the Mutineers suffered more than the Loyals.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo, 231843C).

All Greek ships in Alexandria have surrendered to Greek C. in C. Disarmed ships' companies coming ashore from HIFAISTOS. Arrangements made for their reception ashore.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo, 232108).

All mutinied ships of fleet in Alexandria have unconditionally surrendered at 2000/23. Mutinous element has been handed over to justice. Greek warships have returned to the path of honour and duty to their country.

(C. in C. Greek Navy, 232109C).

/CASABIANCA...

388

23.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

CASABIANCA, (1) CASABIANCA is to leave patrol passing through
LE CURIE, 043° 00' 007° 34' at 042° 43' 007° 42' at 2200/26
UNIVERSAL. thence direct to QBB (312 or 421?) to arrive Madda-
lena 1030/27th. CASABIANCA will be sailed for
Algiers a.m. 28th.
(2) P.67 (LE CURIE) is to leave patrol to pass
042° 42' 007° 04' at 0530/27th thence direct to arrive Maddalena
1000/28th.
(3) P.57 (UNIVERSAL) is to leave patrol pass through 042° 21' 004°
35' at 0600/27th 042° 09' 007° 59' at 2300/28th through 041° 28'
008° 33' to arrive Maddalena 1000/29th.
(Capt.(S) 10, 231009).

UPSTART, (1) Intend to sail UPSTART at 1600/25th via
UNTIRING. (route).
(2) Intend sailing UNTIRING at 1600/25th via
(route) to patrol in Zone SU and SW.
(Capt.(S) 10, 231011).

CENTURION Your 181736B.
It is essential that CENTURION sails not later
than M.K.S.47.
(2) Request confirmation that stiffening can be
completed in time.
(D.O.D.(H), 231133B to C. in C. Med.) Reply see N.S.D. Gibraltar
232020B).

LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG reported outside boom and ready to
sail a.m. 23rd with escort of 3 destroyers. My
221331 refers.
(Capt.(S) 1, 231242 to SPORTSMAN).

Attack on Ref. F.O.W.It. 212034 and Memo 464 para.(A) (not
Anzio by to Admiralty) the fact that four human torpedoes
human were employed in attack considered by Italian
torpedoes. Authorities to indicate that S/M. MURENO was used
for this operation.
(F.O.T.A.L.I. 231307 to C. in C. Med.).

Minefields Following minefields plotted by M.D.U. in Kinaros
in Kinaros Channel.
Channel. (A) On a line 060° from a position 064° Cape
Prosino 5½ miles.
(B) On a line 230° for 5 miles from position 093°
Cape Prosino 8 miles. My position is 036° 50' N. 026° 10' E.
proceeding Doro weather report 9090 2174.
(UNRULY, 231321 to Capt.(S) 1).

ORION Endurance of ORION is now 1900 miles at S. of A.
24 knots.
(2) Admiralty is requested to signal intermediate
fuelling ports and F.O.G.M.A. is requested to
route ship accordingly.
My 221732 not to all addressees refers.
(C. in C. Med., 231546B).

/ U-boat...

389

23.4.1944.
SundayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd

U-boat report. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 34.57 N. 19.30 E.
(A/C, GGFH, 231815Z).
Nr.2. Lost A.S.V. contact continuing patrol.
(A/C, GGFH, 231845Z).

Montevideo Dock. Arrived 23rd WEAZEL and ORIANA towing Montevideo Dock.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 231912).

Porto Lago. P.R.U. Porto Lago a.m. 23rd.
(1) ANITA present.
(2) Arrived AGATHE and 3 U/boats.
(F.O.L.E.M. 231931C to Capt.(S) 1, (R) (P.49) UNRULY).

Enemy evacuation of Crimea. My 231250/ on April 22nd total of two medium and 13 small merchant vessels 33 F lighters 11 and four barges sighted proceeding eastward to Sevastopol and one medium and one small merchant vessel proceeding westward. 34 transport aircraft observed proceeding eastward and 46 westward.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 231945). / N.T. in W.D.

Situation Report 334. (1) 3189 tons discharged at Anzio on 22nd April. Intermittent shelling. About 15 aircraft attacked port during night 22nd/23rd April. No damage to shipping reported.
(3) DOLFIJN on return from Aegean Patrol reports sinking 30 ton Caique and a 60 ton Caique. Both off Melos on 17th April.
(C. in C. Med. 232130).

Bastia (Bombarded)
(Cositintrep 289.) (2) During night 22nd/23rd April enemy surface forces assisted by aircraft flares ~~bombarded~~ Bastia but caused no damage to harbour. Another force suspected minelaying in the vicinity. Coastal craft proceed to intercept details not yet received. *[See page 407]*
(C. in C. Med. 232132). *G.D. 505.*

SUZANNE SUZANNE reported at Milos 1530/23rd April. Possibly destined Crete.
(Capt.(S) 1, 232210 to SPORTSMAN).

Cositintrep 287. Coastal airforce Day 22nd April two Italian Schooners were intercepted by spitfires North of Volturno apparently trying to reach enemy territory both were escorted to Ischia.
(Air C. in C. Med. No T.O.O./24th).

12 destroyers to return to U.K. Destination of ships in U.K. is as follows:
Group A BLANKNEY Portsmouth HAMBLEDON, BLENCATHRA, MENDIP, Nore. Group B and C Scapa.
(2) It is most desirable that if possible these ships should clean boilers before departure for U.K.
(D.O.D.(H), 232349B to C. in C. Med.).

390

23.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 6. No change.
(C. in C.E.F. 230407.)

Accommodation
of Naval
Personnel.

(V.C.N.S. 231831B.)

S.O.G.

S.A.C.S.E.A. 211024 January*. Request your views
on formation of S.O.G.
(2nd S.L. 231847B to C. in C.E.F.)
*N.T. in W.D.

391

War Diary.

23.4.1944.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 231440Z, Cominch 231548Z.)

U.C. 21. Should be grateful if you would accept 30 ships in U.C. 21.
(D.T.D., 231534B to Connav.)

TOURVILLE. Re N.A.F.681. C.O.S. require French Authorities to complete repairs at Dakar as soon as possible.
(3) French request to reduce to reserve in Bizerte Lake is not approved.
(Cominch, 231758.)
N.A.F.681. TOURVILLE. Please inform Cominch that Admiralty has no objection.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 232342B to B.A.D.)

C.T.G. 27.10. Route.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 231835Z.)

TRETONIAN (S.O.), LINDSAY, LOUISBURG. Sailed Halifax 1800Z/23 to Londonderry (route).
(C. in C. C.N.A., 231847Z.)

U-Boat incidents. E.D. U.S. C.G. PAPA~~W~~ attacked sound contact 21.27 N. 74.35 W., 211719Z.
Para. B. U.S.S. STRAUB torpedo sound contact 04.45 S. 25.05 W., 222000Z.
GUADALCANAL A/C Radar contact 39.10 N. 49.02 W., 220911Z. B.24 sighted sub. diving 00.20 N. 29.15 W., 220844Z.
U.S.S. KIRM made 3 attacks on contacts 43.23 N. 70.18 W. about 230210Z.
(Cominch, 231940.)

U.S.S. NILUS. S.O. E.G.15 reports to C. in C. W.A., (R) Adnty., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A. U.S.S. WEST NILUS has broken main sea cock and is returning to St. Johns N.F. SS. WOLVERINE standing by her to tow or take off crew as necessary. T.O.O. 231002 G.M.T. Ends.
(MAYFLOWER, 232040Z.)
H.M.R.T. TENACITY at St. Johns is available if required.
S.O. E.G.15 231002 refers.
(F.O.N.F., 232226Z to C. in C. W.A.)

QU'APPELLE, SKEENA. Sailed at 2030Z/23 in company to Londonderry (route).
(F.O.N.F., 232045Z as amended 240016Z.)

23.4.1944.
Sunday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Digest Para. 13 to end cover South Pacific Forces.
824 U.S. Land- Late afternoon April 21st patrol Liberators repor-
ings in north ted single small coastal freighter and possible
New Guinea. minelayer off Coast Western Geelvink Bay South of
Manokwari.

(2) During early morning strong forces American Troops supported by Allied Naval and Air Bombardment and under cover of powerful American Carrier Forces made successful unopposed landings at Tanamerah Bay Humboldt Bay and near Aitape along North New Guinea Coast. Initial landings made in two places Tanamerah Bay at 0742 local time and forward elements had joined forces and advanced approximately three miles down valley towards airfields during day without encountering enemy opposition. Approximately the same time forces landed in four places Humboldt Bay and only very slight opposition encountered during day. All forces advanced towards airfields according to plan. Nil enemy air or surface interference encountered throughout day presumably due to weather front to westwards. In Aitape area initial wave landed at 0645 local time without encountering opposition and had secured Tadjai airstrip by 1400 local time. Some slight opposition encountered this area during day and several enemy killed and captured several enemy barges destroyed by our surface units vicinity Tanamerah Bay during morning.

(3) Only shipping apart from barges observed along coast during day included four small coastal freighters Wegar Harbour.

(4) During forenoon 17 Liberators unloaded 68 tons bombs on buildings and runways where visibility bad but good results indicated. Nil anti-aircraft fire encountered.

(5) In addition to naval air support to landing operations our shore based Fighters maintained coastal sweeps Tadjai area while 32 Bostons dropped 33 tons of 500 pounders on stressed Bivouac areas south and west of Wewak causing many fires. Meanwhile 34 other Bostons similarly attacked enemy wooded positions Wompoin+ areas.

(10) Possible enemy submarine reported vicinity of Kar Kar Island during night hours.

(13) Five Naval Liberators attacked one small merchantman and two Auxiliaries vicinity Puluwat (Central Carolines) early afternoon seriously damaging the Merchant Vessel and leaving one Auxiliary burning.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 230712, 230804).

+ As received.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary

Para.A. E.G.9 sighted periscope at 2008Z/22 in 52° 09' N. 19° 07' W. and made two attacks. Para.B. (i) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 2010Z/22 in 48° 28' N. 07° 04' W. (ii) A/C. obtained A.S.V. contact at 2000Z/22 38° 52' N. 17° 35' E. (D.D.I.C. 231148B).

U/boat
dispositions

Estimates
(D.D.I.C. 231355B, 231356B).

393

24.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Engagements
with E-Boats.
ROODE ZEE
sunk.

1. Several groups of E-Boats were engaged by our Coastal Forces and by the destroyer CAMPBELL escorting Convoy C.W.264 off Hastings during last night, and also by the Frigate HALSTED. Some of the E-Boats are believed to have been damaged; and at 0445 to-day the Dutch Rescue Tug ROODE ZEE, towing a "Maintop" Unit towards Portsmouth, was torpedoed and sunk with all hands 2.2 miles S.E. of Dungeness.

Operation
C.W.

2. An east-bound U-Boat, sighted by A/C at 0102 to-day about 360 miles W. by S. of Cape Clear, was depth charged and possibly damaged by another A/C at 1348; and at 1514Z C.T.G. 21.5 escorting Convoy C.U.21 detached two destroyers of the Convoy Escort to search for her.

Mining.

3. Bomber Command aircraft laid 319 mines in the Baltic and off Heligoland last night.

North Atlantic.

A/S
striking
forces.

4. The two A/S striking forces formed at Gibraltar on 27th March for the defence of the Straits have been disbanded. The ships composing one of the forces sailed for the U.K. yesterday.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

5(a) C. in C. Med. reported this evening that the organisation of loyal crews for the recovered ships at Alexandria is proceeding slowly.
(b) The situation in GEORGIOS AVEROFF deteriorated. The Greek C. in C. is sending 200 loyal Greeks to Port Said in H.M. ships, to deal with the situation. AJAX, FURY and URANIA are due at Port Said at daylight tomorrow to provide a show of force which C. in C. Med. considers will quickly overawe AVEROFF.

/Air ...

24.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT. .

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air operations.

6. 24 Wellingtons attacked San Stefano last night and 21 Leghorn docks, 25 Piombino, 9 Liberators the harbour installations at Genoa where two large fires were caused, and 10 Bostons shipping at Benedetto.

Air raid on Naples.

7. About 30 to 40 enemy aircraft attacked Naples from 2117 to 2225 today. Bombs fell in the town and the sea. There were no naval casualties: M.T. in the R.N. Transport Camp was hit by a bomb.

German non-contact A/C torpedo pistol.

8. Recent attacks on convoys by German torpedo aircraft give indications of the use of a non-contact torpedo pistol.

America and West Indies.

H.X.M.289.

9. It is estimated that Convoy H.X.M.289 will consist of 136 ships.

Australia and New Zealand.

New Guinea.

10. Australian troops entered Madang this afternoon, meeting only slight opposition from a small enemy rearguard.

395

24.4.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.General.

"H-hour" and "Z-hour". A.X.330, 24th April 1944.
As from 0100 hours 1st May 1944, term "H" hour will replace "Z" hour to denote time relative to which all timings in a given operation are fixed and will be so employed by all three services. Re-promulgate as necessary.
(Air Ministry, 241310Z to R.A.F.)

Policy.

WISHART. Cdre. (D) W.A's 221740. Concur ship should be paid off into reserve.
(C. in C. W.A., 240943B to Admty.)

BASUTO. My 241127, para. 2. Destination of BASUTO is Horta for onward routing.
(C. in C. W.A., 241808B to Escorts O.S.75/K.M.S. 40.)

PREMIER. Request you will sail PREMIER to U.S.A. in U.C. 21. A.M. 211439 and A.M. 191042 refer.
(D.O.D.(H), 242141B to C. in C. W.A.)

AMEER. A.M. 221251 and 221327. Request you will sail AMEER in K.M.F.31 for the Eastern Fleet.
2. Ship will be ferrying aircraft but no operational aircraft will be carried.
(D.O.D.(H), 242154B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Operation C.W. Following M/F transmission intercepted on series S (corrupt group) at 2304Z. U-Boat bearing 145° as 322°. Estimated range 10 to 65 miles. My position 052° 28' N. 020° 20' W.
(C.I., 240040Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Am over enemy submarine in 50° 45' N. 19° 15' W. When first sighted was on course 140°, speed 12 knots.
(A/C BCYW1, 240102 to 1.HD.)
My 231512. By D/F at 2350Z U/B transmitted WW signal from position within 75 miles N.E. or S.W. of 51° 40' N. 28° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 240315B to E.G.1.)
U/B transmitted WW message at 0810Z from within 60 miles E.N.E. or W.S.W. of 53° 30' N. 28° W.
(D.D.I.C., 241132B to E.G.1.)

Request you will consider detaching some destroyers to hunt U-Boat attacked by aircraft in 050° 44' N. 018° 40' W. at 1339B/24th. U-Boat has previously been attacked during the night.

2. Estimate minimum U-Boat threat to your convoy between present position and destination.

3. Request you will report names of ships if detached.
(C. in C. W.A., 241322Z to T.G. 21.5.)

/Am ...

396

24.4.1944.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation C.W. (Contd.) Am over enemy submarine position 50° 44' N. 18° 40' W.
(A/C LQQA, 241339 to 1.HO.)
Am over enemy submarine position 50.39 N. 18.40 W. Submarine was on surface. Have attacked submarine with depth charges.
(A/C LQQA, 241348 to 1.HO.)
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat has dived position 50° 40' N. 18° 40' W.
(A/C LQQA, 241352B to 1.HO.)
Your 241322Z. Detaching HARVESON (S.O.) and KIRKPATRICK leaving 4 escorts with convoy if this deemed safe procedure. Advise immediately. HARVESON advised duration of search 48 hours unless otherwise directed.
(C.T.G. 21.5, 241514Z to C. in C. W.A.)
If not in contact with enemy join, support, and fuel from S.C.157 a.m./27th April.
(C. in C. W.A., 241646B to E.G.1.)
Take every opportunity of topping up with fuel.
(2) Intention is for 5th Escort Group to part company with O.N.S.233 26th April to R/V with VINDEX and 9th E.G. in 53° 30' N. 15° 30' W. at 0800B/28th.
(C. in C. W.A., 241647B to E.G.5.)
Request you will sail 9th E.G. less OWEN SOUND to R/V off Lough Foyle as arranged by VINDEX at 2130B/26th. Thence VINDEX and 9th E.G. to proceed R/V with 5th E.G. as in my 241647.
(C. in C. W.A., 241652B to Cdre. (D) W.A.)
Your 241514. Consider safe.
(2) U-Boat probably making for Bay of Biscay port and is possibly damaged.
(3) Details of air co-operation follow to HARVESON and KIRKPATRICK.
(C. in C. W.A., 241658Z to C.T.G. 21.5.)
My 241514Z. Sent without originator indicated. HARVESON and KIRKPATRICK detached 49.09 N. 17.00 W., course 320, speed 19 at 1500Z/24th.
(C.T.G. 21.5, 241817Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Arrived MATANE, STORMONT and OWEN SOUND.
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 242248B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation F.Z. Kola Inlet arrived escorts of R.A.59 at 232045.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 240810B to Admty.)
Group 12 had reached Zimmergorski by 0700B today.
No news since owing to thick fog.
(2) My 231225 refers.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 241625B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Within reasonable limits what are most suitable dates for sailing R.A.59 with view to leaving minimum number of ships in North Russia?
(C. in C. H.F., 241709B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out operation "Tunnel" tonight in accordance with memorandum O.P.T.U.
2. 3 ELBINGS, 4 T.Bs., seen Cherbourg 20th.
ELBINGS not seen on 22nd. 20 E-Boats seen

/Cherbourg ...

397

24.4.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Tunnel".
(Contd.)

Cherbourg 22nd. M-Class M/S may be at Cherbourg or Brest. Patrol boats operating from Morlaix. Own Coastal Force patrolling as signalled.

3. Force 26 consisting of BLACK PRINCE S.O., HAIDA, ASHANTI, ATHABASKAN is passing gate at 1930B today. Arrangements are to be made to take departure from the Lizard and thence to reach position (SS) 048° 49' 30" N. 004° 27' W. at 0130B/25th.

4. From (SS) Force 26 is to sweep eastward as far as 003° 30' W. and thence to Plymouth.

5. Area radius 3 miles round 048° 43' N. 004° 39' W. is dangerous. Attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.1275, 1283, 1280, 1247 and 7.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241016B, 241032B and 241317B.)

S/M Patrols. Arrival ULA.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 241035B to Admty.)
From position (VB) proceed toward north-east corner of area (P) and remain east of longitude 009° 30' W. until further orders. My 231353 refers.

(2) A/C will be hunting U-Boat reported in 048° 30' N. 007° 52' W., course 310, at 1215/23rd.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241222B to VIKING.)
Submarines at 0801/25th and in succeeding 24 hours.

(A) STATESMAN, VIGOROUS as in my 231719B.
(B) UNSHAKEN 61° 40' N. 03° 09' E., probably on surface through 060 Muckle Flugga 18 to Lerwick 9 knots.
(C) JUNON 64° 31' N. 02° 10' E., diving by day through 64° 13' N. 01° 15' E. at 2000B/25th, then 210°.
(D) VENTURER on patrol Norwegian coast from 58° 05' N. to 59° 17' N.
(E) STRONGBOW 61° 19' N. 00° 05' W., probably on surface to 62° 01' N. 01° 00' E., then diving by day through 63° 45' N. 03° 17' E. to patrol near 64° 40' N. 02° 44' E.
(H) VIKING 50° 41' N. 08° 14' W., diving by day to exercise with aircraft in area within 20 miles south of the line joining 50° 51' N. 10° 52' W. and 50° 57' N. 09° 17' W.
(F.O.(S), 241718B to Admty.)
Proceeding unescorted and on the surface at C.O. discretion till north of 062° STRONGBOW left Lerwick 2008B/24th through 045° Muckle Flugga 24 thence by route "Orange" to 063° 45', thence to patrol within 10 miles of 064° 41' N. 002° 45' E.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 242012B to S/Ms.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241111, 241300B.)
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 241131B.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241525B.)
(V.A. Dover, 241657B.)

Operation "Overlord". Reference Admiralty letter M/OD.1239/44 of 20th April 1944 schedule A. Probable dates of readiness for towage of completed units are as follows. Details.

/No ...

24.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Overlord". (Contd.) No dates can be given for remaining B two units but they are unlikely to be finished before the end of May or the beginning of June. It should be noted that some B two units are being moved in an unfinished state from their launching positions.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 241146 to Admty.)
A.N.C.X.F. headquarters will be transferred from Norfolk House to Southwick House on 26th April.
(A.N.C.X.F., 241832B to Admty.)
As from 2000/25th April the headquarters of Flag Officer British Assault Area (short title F.O.B.A.A.) will be established at Norfolk House.
(A.N.C.X.F., 241836B to Admty.)

Operation "Veritas". My 221305. Arrival of IMPULSIVE at Skaalefiord may be postponed to 25th April in view of weather.
(C. in C. H.F., 241148B to R.A.D.H.F.)
F.W. aircraft are probably active from Trondheim.
(D.D.I.C., 241342B to A.I.G. 47.)
Sailed IMPULSIVE to Skaalefiord, E.T.A. 0900B/25th.
(R.A.D., 241711B to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)
HOTSPUR arrived Skaalefiord.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 241716B to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

ULA patrol. ULA reports.
U-Boat (1) 19th April 0701B, P.C.S. of 750 U-Boat torpedoed escorted by M-Class minesweeper 59° 08' N. 05° 23' E., 250°, 15 knots. Attacked with 4 on 19th April. torpedoes from 600 yards one torpedo seen to hit just abaft conning tower. 1½ seconds later a second explosion was heard followed by breaking up noises. Escort assisted by 2 One M/V torpedoed patrol vessels counter-attacked with 18 depth on 22nd April. charges and hunted for three hours. Some charges close but no damage sustained.
U. 974 sunk
(2) 21st/2318, sighted dim lights probably of southbound convoy out of range off Lister.
(3) 22nd/0257 P.C.S. of convoy, number of ships unknown, 58° 08' N. 06° 26' E., 030°, 9 knots. Three ships and four escorts were sighted. Attacked 2000 ton ship with four torpedoes range 800 yards. One torpedo seen to hit between fore mast and bridge. ULA then dived between two escorts each about 300 yards distant. Two torpedoes thought to have hit land, explosions six and seven minutes after firing. Fifteen minutes after firing three heavy bumps were heard followed by breaking up noises. Thirty-nine minutes after firing ULA surfaced. Two escorts were then searching with searchlights on water in vicinity of attack.
(4) For about twelve hours on 22nd heavy distant explosions were heard every few minutes.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 241215B to F.O.S.)

/M.T.B. ...

399

24.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

M.T.B. Patrol shelled in Baie de la Seine.

(1) My 211340B. Unit M arrived in patrol position at 2300/22 between 2240 and 2310. Much "Window" was dropped and aircraft were heard overhead. Engines were cut and Unit set hydrophone watch.

(2) At midnight, there being no sign of the Isigny Patrol, the Unit moved slowly along the convoy route towards Le Havre. Between 0100 and 0200 photo flashes were dropped every three or four minutes mainly to the southward but two directly overhead. At 0100 the Unit was ineffectually shelled by shore batteries in four gun salvos.

(3) At 0200 the Unit turned back towards Isigny and immediately received my signal ordering them to intercept returning E-Boat off Cherbourg. Course was set for Cherbourg at 24 knots. In very thick weather M.T.B.629 broke one engine and M.T.B.630 lost contact and were both ordered to return.

(4) At 0430 the Unit was in the position ordered and began to close Cherbourg and at 0500 the Unit was in 085° Cap de la Hague 7 miles. They were challenged with Letter K from a searchlight on Cherbourg breakwater and immediately afterwards a pyrotechnic signal thought to be a general alarm was fired. This was a white ball which turned red and burst into three red and three green balls. The Unit commenced to zig-zag.

(5) At 0530 another pyrotechnic signal consisting of a white ball which turned red and then green was fired. Unit then retired as dawn was breaking.

(6) Nothing was seen though various Radar echoes were obtained many of these were probably "Window" and all were spurious. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 241243B to Admty.)

Engagements with E-Boats. ROODE ZEE sunk.

ROODE ZEE sunk.

ROODE ZEE sunk by torpedo in 139° Dungeness 2.2 miles. (V.A. Dover, 241239B and 241410B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

At 2340/23rd plots were received from Portsmouth shore-based Radar indicating E-Boat activity approximately 35 miles S.S.W. of Beachy Head. These faded at 0045 on a south-westerly course.

At 0159 in 200° Dungeness 43 miles, shore-based Radar detected an unidentified plot steering northwards at about 35 knots.

At 0230, when in 210° Dungeness 26 miles this divided into three groups of probably 4 vessels in each which proceeded on parallel course towards C.1 buoy. At this time C.W. convoy, escorted by CAMPBELL and DAKINS, extended from Rye Buoy to Outer Lade. Tugs with tows escorted by HALSTED and group of landing craft escorted by LOCUST were waiting in Dungeness East Roads to follow astern of convoy when route became clear. Plots of the enemy positions were broadcast from 0225 and group, M.T.Bs. 359 (S.O.), 353, 354 on anti E/R-Boat patrol about 210 Dungeness 6½ were vectored on a south-westerly course to intercept, and at 0246, M.Ls. 143 (S.O.) and 139 were despatched from East Bullock Buoy to south-westward with the object of intercepting the enemy during his retirement.

At about 0255 Group Y sighted 4 E-Boats at 100 yards range on a north-easterly course in approx. 220° Dungeness 10 miles. Both forces altered course to starboard to avoid collision and a brief engagement ensued between M.T.B.359 and one E-Boat which is believed to have sustained Oerlikon hits.

/Enemy ...

400

24.4.1944.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Engagements with E-Boats. ROODE ZEE sunk. (Contd.)

Enemy group retired to southward and was not sighted again by Group Y who reformed at C.1 buoy at 0305. CAMPBELL reported contact 235° Dungeness 11 miles at 0312 when Group Y and M.Ls. 143, 139 were withdrawn to seaward to allow freedom of action to convoy escorts.

Thereafter it became difficult to differentiate between friendly and enemy plots until 0404 when shore-based Radar detected a hostile plot in 148° Dungeness 5 miles proceeding north-east. This would appear to be the E-Boats engaged by HALSTEAD at 0410.

A further group was sighted by M.Ls. 143 and 139 in 172° Dungeness 11 miles at 0432, but escaped to eastward before they could be brought to action fading off the plot at 0433.

HALSTEAD continued to engage various groups of E-Boats until 0505. Reports were received at 0445 of an explosion near D Buoy which subsequently proved to be a torpedo hit on the Tug ROODE ZEE on passage to Portsmouth with "Maintop" Unit in tow. She must be considered lost with all hands. Unit has been recovered. An unexploded German torpedo has since been located ashore near Dungeness.

Three Albacores of 415 Squadron, which, in agreement with C. in C. Portsmouth, had been flown off from Manston and were disposed between Boulogne and St. Valery en Caux to attack retiring E-Boats, were finally assembled off Boulogne, when two groups were detected withdrawing in that direction.

Two aircraft attacked group of 4 or 5 at about 0455 in approx. 5 miles west of Boulogne reporting two direct hits and two near misses with bombs. The third Albacore was withdrawn owing to approaching daylight. My 241112 refers.

Our forces sustained neither damage nor casualties. Weather has hitherto prevented aircraft search for E-Boats claimed to have been damaged by CAMPBELL.

(V.A. Dover, 241344B to Admty.)

My 241344. M.Ls. 143 and 139 report that when in approx. 170° Dungeness 12 miles at 0429 steering 050° they sighted and engaged with 3 pounder and Oerlikon QKE E-Boats retiring on easterly course at high speed. Action lasted only 3 minutes. Enemy replied with brisk but inaccurate fire. No certain hits are claimed on the enemy. Our force sustained neither damage nor casualties.

(V.A. Dover, 242037B to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation "Hostile 25". My 171840 and 211311. Intend carry out operation "Hostile 25" tonight.

(2) Force "Hostile 25" is to pass gate at 1900B/24.

(3) Support Force: TANATSIDE (S.O.), WENSLEYDALE is to pass gate at 2130B/24th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 241039B to M.T.B.F. 52, M.L.F. 10, D.15, TANATSIDE, WENSLEYDALE, 10 Group.)

Nore Command.

Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore Command for week ended 22nd April 1944. One German conical explosive float Type 11. This float was laid at least three years ago. (R.M.S.O., 241052B to C. in C. Nore.)

/Operation ...

401

24.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Operation N.L. 127. My 231731. Operation N.L.127 abandoned owing to enemy activity.
(V.A. Dover, 241556B to Admty., A.N.C.X.F.)
My 241556. At 0050/24th when in 51° 30'50" N. 3° 1'54" E. starshell fired at a range of 4,000 yards and estimated to be of four ?BB calibre burst overhead. In view of extreme visibility Unit retired at high speed. Just prior to this interception a powerful light flashing the letter N was observed in the direction of Blankenberge. On two previous occasions a light was observed flashing either the letter A or N from this direction just prior to the Unit being illuminated by starshell. An unidentified plot of three small vessels travelling north at 24 knots and fading in 51° 30'30" N. 3° 03'30" E. at 0055 was detected by shore-based Radar.
(V.A. Dover, 241744B to Admty.)

Minelaying by A/C in Baltic. 8/8 Lancasters of 1 Group, 26/30 Stirlings of 3 Group, 29/33 Halifaxes of 4 Group, 5/5 Lancasters of 5 Group, and 34/37 Halifaxes of 6 Group were successful in their primary or alternative areas. The operation provoked some enemy fighter activity over the Denmark area and off the N. German coast. Fighter flares were dropped. A Stirling returned after being attacked by 3 fighters. Halifaxes of 4 Group claim an M.110 destroyed and another probably destroyed. A Halifax of 6 Group claims a Ju.88 destroyed. 6 aircraft are missing. The Swedish Radio reports the rescue of most of the crew of one aircraft which ditched off the Swedish coast.
(H.Q.B.C., 241645B to Air Ministry.)

Navigational.

Plymouth. My 231843B. Port now open.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 240525B to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

CARINA. Admiralty's 192332B. In view of unseaworthy condition of CARINA it is submitted that an escort should be provided for passage from Aultbea to Thurso. Vessel not considered sufficiently seaworthy to be included in convoy. E.R.O.(C) Greenock 151241A refers.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 241313B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

L.C.T. 976. L.C.T.976 stranded today on Flat Owers, Dittisham. Suspected back broken. Intend to place on grid tomorrow for full examination and repair if possible.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 241845B to Admty.)

402

24.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

L.C.F. 26. F.O. 332's 211645. Preliminary investigations
L.C.F. 36. disclose no suspicious circumstances. Full
investigation is now in progress.
(Com. Force G, 241855B to Admty.)

BALFOUR. Sailed BALFOUR for trials off Oronsay. If
satisfactory proceeding thence to rejoin E.G.1.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 241924B to C. in C. W.A.)

MAGICIAN. Attempt refloat will be made Wednesday or
Thursday weather permitting. As no tug avail-
able Aberdeen I propose to sail Salvage Tug
STORETON from Leith tomorrow 1800 to assist in
operation.
(C. Salv. Officer, E. Coast, 242015 to C. in C.
Rosyth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

ESTURIA F.O.G.M.A. 212018 not to all addressees. In
(Water in view inconclusive evidence ESTURIA should make
Oil Fuel). one further voyage with water ballast and escorts
of M.K.S./S.L. convoy in which she sails be
instructed to check their tanks before fuelling.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to take similar action
as regards escorts of K.M.S./O.S. convoy to which ESTURIA will
transfer.
(2) On arrival of both Escort Groups immediate reports should
be sent to D.T.D. stating if water has been received by any
escort vessel.
(3) F.O.G.M.A. is requested to signal number of next convoy
in which ESTURIA is to sail.
(D.T.D., 241722B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.G.M.A.)

403

24.4.1944.
MondayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic

SUFFREN

Arrived.
(C.M.S.F. 241026B).A/S striking
forces.Cancel my 271632 March. / First and second A/S
striking forces now disbanded.
(F.O.G.M.A. 241207).
/ Re establishment of U/boat hunting places.CLYDE,
PORPOISE,
TELEMACHUS.Leave patrol not before 260100 and R/V with
KILMARNOCK in position (V) 041° 55' 012° 22' at
260900. Until R/V is made S/Ms. not to be
attacked on 26th unless definitely identified as
hostile and total bombing restrictions as in my
211804. KILMARNOCK escorting you by reverse route in my 172004
S. of A. 11 knots. All times B.
(F.O.G.M.A. 241211B to CLYDE, PORPOISE, TELEMACHUS 241217B to
Admty.)

ORION

C. in C. Med's 231546 and your 231154 ORION
should be sailed to Scapa for refuelling and on-
ward routing to Rosyth.
(2) Speed to be adjusted accordingly.
(3) Gibraltar pass to ORION on arrival.
(D.O.D.(F), 241540B to F.O.G.M.A.).
To increase endurance amend S. of A. in my 231154 to read
20 knots. C. in C. Med. 231546 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A. 241611B to Admty., C. in C.W.A.) Cancelled 251525.

SS. COLONIAL

The following are the estimated mid-day positions
proposed by Portuguese authorities for SS.
COLONIAL sailing on 26th (for Rio de Janeiro).
Request approval Embassy tel. 663 April 18th to
F.O. refers:-
(2) Portuguese propose painting the word "Diplomats"
on the ship's side.
(N.A. Lisbon, 241926B).SS. CONDE-
CORADO,
ROSA N.
ILLUECA.Departure 23rd from Valencia CONDE CORANO (?CONDE-
CORADO intended) for Barcelona. Expected
departure 24th from Gandia ROSA N. ILLUECA for
Barcelona.
(F.O.G.M.A. 242025B to 10th S/F., Capt.(S) 10, LE
CURIE, S.O.(I) Med., CASABIANCA).

ASTREE

German ASTREE expected to sail North from
Barcelona today.
(F.O.G.M.A. 242047B).

404

24.4.1944.
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Xc
Contraband
control.
SS. SAGUNTO.

My 302253 March. In view of certain proposals by Governor Nigeria results of any interceptions of canoes are awaited with interest.

delet
no
(2) M.E.W. would like steamship SAGUNTO intercepted next voyage from Calabar to Fernando Po to ascertain if any rubber has been shipped from canoes. To what Nigerian port would she be sent if necessary for investigation?
(D.E.W.D. 241514B to F.O.C.W.Af.).

P
S.L.156
SALTA.

Sailed destination Loch Ewe with degaussing inoperative.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 241734 to Admty.).

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.)

Mediterranean

*Staging ports for
Landing craft.*

TOP SECRET.

241401/April.

From. C. in C. Med.

Date. 25.4.44.

Reed. 0935.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty.
Repeated. C. in C. Eastern Fleet. F.O. Tunisia.
F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.G.M.A. V.A. Malta.
Com. Aden. F.O.L.E.M. S.N.O.R.S.C.A.
S.R.N.O. Bombay. C. in C. Mod. CAIRO.

(NT in WP)

A.M. 162236 para. 4 (A). Prefer use of following main staging ports between Gibraltar and Aden and/or Massawa.

1. Algiers.
2. Ferryville.
3. Malta.
4. Benghazi.
5. Alexandria.
6. Port Sudan.

(B) Oran Bougie Djedjelli Tripoli Tobruk to be used only as emergency sheltering ports for weather or temporary breakdown and no facilities can be expected.

(C) Port Said and Suez to be used as minor staging ports as necessary.

2. Repair facilities. Normal dockyard facilities for major landing craft are available at Algiers Ferryville Malta Alexandria Port Said and Suez but repair staffs for landing craft which will be fully occupied with station craft are only available at Malta and in the Canal area. Provided that complete flotilla maintenance party in every 12 craft and a generous supply of shipboard spares is embarked it is considered that a permanent shore based maintenance party of the following minimum numbers at each of the main staging ports in para one A above should be sufficient one Sub. Lieut (E) R.N.V.R. Two C.E.R.A., 8 E.R.A., none of these can be provided from station resources and must be sent from United Kingdom.

3. In addition at Benghazi where no facilities exist at present it is considered one L.S.E. will be required and this should arrive before the first flight. Further signal will be made regarding requirements there and at Port Sudan which will probably include provision of floating docks.

Cont. 4.

2.

4. Para. 6 noted and concurred in.

5. To allow for wastage in officers and crews due to sickness etc. on passage it is considered that pools of officers and men will have to be established at Gibraltar Alexandria and Massawa. Initially these should be on a generous scale being reduced if possible after experience with first few flights.

6. F.O.I.E.M. is requested to remark on requirements East of Malta particularly Benghazi and Port Sudan with reference to para. 8 C.

241401

1st Lord	N.A. 2nd S.L.
1st S.L. (2)	D.P.S.
D.F.S.L.	Hd. of N.
2nd S.L.	Hd. of C.W.
3rd S.L.	E.A.P.
Vice Contr.	D.T.D. (4)
4th S.L.	Hd. of M. (10) (M.056141/44)
V.C.N.S.	D. of S.T. (6)
A.C.N.S. (H)	C.C.R.T. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F)	D. of L.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	D. of V.
A.C.N.S. (W)	A.S. (C)
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P. (2)
Sec.	W.D.
Dep. Sec.	Ad. Blake (4)
Under Sec. (L)	Dep. Contr.
Civil Lord	D. of D.
D. of P. (2)	D.N.C.
D. of P. (O) (2)	E. in C.) Bath
P.A.S. (H)	D. of S.
P.A.S. (F)	C.E. in C.
D.C.	R.I.N.L.O.
D.O.D. (H) (4)	Hd. of S.W.R.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	
D.C.O.D. (4)	
D.C.O.M. (4)	
A.D.O.D. (C.O.)	
C.C.O. (2)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D.C.O.P. (2)	
D. of D.	
E. in C.	
D.N.C. (2)	
D. of S. (2)	
C.E. in C.	

405

24.4.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.NADA,
training of
Yugoslavs.Yugoslav NADA has arrived Malta from U.K. with
type 144 Asdic with Q attachment and Radar type
271.2. Would appreciate policy for Yugoslavs generally
in view of my 212347 February.
(C. in C.Med. 240951B to Admty.)Human tor-
pedo taken
at Anzio.Request Chariot and prisoner may be despatched to
U.K. for examination. F.O.W.It. 212034 refers.
(F.O.S. 241041B to Admty.)SS. ANITA,
UNRULY.ANITA departed Port Plagos. My 230210 refers.
(Capt. S.1 241232 to UNRULY.)From position 035° 41' 023° 15' about 1400/27th
proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at
0530/30th, thence to Malta.2. You are to dive by day east of long. 20°. Your surface speed
is estimated as 8½ knots.

(Capt. S.1 241256 to UNRULY.)

M.L. 1373 proceeding to Anedro. E.T.A. dawn 25th April.

(Capt. S.1 241259 to UNRULY.)

Cancel my 241254 and my 241256. Resume patrol off Doro
Channel. 3000 tons merchant ship expected to sail from Piraeus
for Salonika at 2000/24th unescorted.

(Capt. S.1 242020 to UNRULY.)

My 241254* cancelled.

Leave patrol at 0800/25th April through Kinaris Channel passing
through position A 036° 10' 025° 18' at 0200/27th. B. 036° 10'
024° 30' at 1201/27th. C. 035° 49' 023° 30' at 0300/28th. D.
035° 41' 023° 15' at about 0900/28th.

(Capt. S.1 242250 to UNRULY.)

*N.T. in W.D. ? 241256 intended.

My 241256 cancelled. From position 035° 41' 023° (?15')
about 0900/28 proceed to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18'
at 0600/1st May.2. You are to dive by day east of long. 20° E. your surface speed
is estimated as 8 knots.

(S.1 242301 to UNRULY.)

PIPINOS.

Cancel R/V in my 201301.

2. R/V with escort in 036° 10' 014° 48' at 0900/25.

3. Estimate your 2001/24 position as 035° 47' 016°
52'. Proceed from thence as in para. 2.4. Bombing restrictions have been arranged accord-
ingly.

(Capt. S.1 24250 to PIPINOS.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.Intend sailing AJAX and URANIA to Port Said, route
etc.

(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 241611C.)

406

24.4.1944.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Mutiny in
Greek Navy.
(Contd.)432389. O/94962. Further to my O/94774 23 April.
1. Late afternoon 23 April remainder Greek naval
ships in Alexandria harbour surrendered.2. Situation 1 Greek Bde. As no surrender by 1800
hours 23 April ops. to disarm Bde. by force were
planned to begin first light 24 April followingthe occupation of key positions overlooking camp area during
night 23/24 April. On receipt of information in para. 1 above
decided to postpone ops. 24 hours with a view to informing Bde. of
naval surrender and giving it last chance to avoid bloodshed.
Ops. to secure key posns. were however already in progress and
were successful against slight opposition resulting in 1 British
officer killed. No casualties among Greeks.3. At 0430 hours 24 April deputation from Greek Bde. approached
British forward posts asking for terms of surrender. Deputation
was ordered to go back to Bde. camp and to return to British lines
at 0930 hours followed by units of Greek Bde. without arms. These
orders have now been complied with.

(C. in C.M.E. 241615C.)

Situation in Greek Recruiting Depot unchanged but loyal
Greeks working upon inmates with some hope of early success. Or-
ganisation of loyal crews for recovered ships proceeding slowly.
Otherwise no change Alexandria.2. Royal Navy represented by Flag Lieut. to F.O.L.E.M. and wreath
sent by R.N. to funeral which passed off quietly this afternoon
of Greeks killed in Sunday morning fracas.3. Situation in GEORGIOS AVEROFF deteriorated with some of crew
in revolutionary Naval uniforms and officers removing crown from
cap badges. Mutinous minority appear frightened and in conse-
quence more liable to violence. Greek C. in C. sending about 200
loyals including limpeteers to Port Said in H.M. Ships to deal
with situation. AJAX, FURY, URANIA arrive Port Said daylight
tomorrow Tuesday to provide show of force which it is felt will
quickly overawe AVEROFF.

(C. in C.Med. Cairo 241851.)

Straits
Blimp Fence.Request amplification of U-Boat appreciation in
para. 2 A.M. 171921. Cominch 201444 also refers.
2. Consider even small reinforcement of U-Boats in
Mediterranean justifies employment of Blimps if
this can be done without embarrassment to
"Overlord".

(C. in C.Med. 241800 to Admty.)

Bridgehead.

Sitrep? 93. L.S.T. and L.C.T. from Naples provi-
ded 190, 246 tons respectively out of total 3936
tons unloaded on 23 April.2. CIRCE damaged by mine exploding while recover-
ing sweeps has arrived Naples.3. One sea craft (sic) destroyed in sharp air raid before dawn
23.

(F.O.W.It. 241854B.)

/Black...

407

24.4.1944.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea operations. From operations reports.
1. My 111645 para. (?3) add Soviet E-Boats bombed Odessa harbour nights April 5th April 6th and April 7th April 8th
2. My 161527 para. 1 add air raid on Sevastopol harbour night April 11/12, 2 destroyers attacked on April 13th REGELE FERDINAND class.
Para. 3 add one merchant vessel proceeding from Sevastopol to Varna sunk (?by) a S/M April 13th.
(N.L.O.Black Sea 241905.)

German non-contact A/C torpedo pistol. Recent attacks on convoys by German torpedo A/C give indications of the use of a non-contact torpedo pistol possibly the S.I.C.
2. Evidence supporting this A. a lug of torpedo which hit SS. SAMITE in U.G.S.38 has been recovered and is magnetised. B. Ships damaged all report a double explosion effect felt on board. C. Damage to U.S.S. HOLDER might easily have been caused by non-contact hit as keel has been lifted considerably.
3. Request information if there is other evidence supporting this theory and if any counter measures have been solved.
(C. in C.Med. 241929B.)

Situation Report No. 345. Considerable shelling, Anzio port area during night of 22nd/23rd caused no naval damage 3936 tons discharged 23rd. During whole operation on 23rd, 6 mines detonated and one cut. CIRCE was damaged aft by mines, 6 wounded, ship is proceeding Naples in tow.
2. Coastal force operating in Genoa area nights 19/20th and 20/21 but made no sighting.
3. Night 22/23rd L.C.G.covered by Coastal force carried out sweep north Leghorn but encountered nothing.
4. Coastal force in para. 2 my 232130, made no contact but scouting force returning from detailed operation in para. 3 above, chased enemy until daylight. Sweep of approach channel to Bastia on 23rd was negative (corrupt group) R.N.G.H.Q. Cairo is added to (A.I.G.387) Admiralty is requested to amend S.5.
(C. in C.Med. 242203.)

M.V.THALIA. TEALLIA (?THALIA intended) reported in Milos a.m. 24th. Possible bound for Crete. 2 small escorts.
(Capt. S.1 242215 to SPORTSMAN.)

Cositintrep No. 290. 2. Coastal forces from Bastia continued patrols off west coast of Italy during period 19th April to 23rd April but made no sightings except during night 22/23 whilst returning from sweep when enemy which had bombarded Bastia was encountered and chased until daylight. G.D. 505
(C. in C.Med. 242217.)

408

War Diary

24.4.1944
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat No.7 No change.
dispositions. (C. in C. E.F. 240316)

Aden/
Karachi Convoy Aden to Karachi escorted by SIGFRA arrived.
convoy. (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 240402Z)

Convoy in Intention is to release shipping in stages as
Indian threat recedes starting with the faster ships.
Ocean. This enables convoy routes to be cleared more
quickly in event of unexpected recurrence of
threat.

(2) In view of latest intelligence intend the
release of Class D ships from following convoys A.B/B.A. A.P/P.A.
P.B/B.P B.M/M.B. Your 202007 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 240427Z to Admt.)

F.O.N.I.C.(387), pass to N.C.S.O. Release class D ships from
A.B. B.A. A.P. P.A. B.P. P.B. M.B. and B.M. convoys forthwith.
(C. in C. E.F.240457Z)

Coast Your 072239 H.Q.E.A. have since reviewed whole
watching or- question of these coast watching reports in light
ganisation. of intelligence and other sources of information
available to Navy and R.A.F. and agree that reports
can be almost completely discounted.

(2) Apart from complete unreliability of reports
only one of which reached H.Q. Eastern Fleet the time lag in
their reception at the adjacent Naval H.Q. at Aden would have
rendered them of very little value.

(3) H.Q.E.A. propose to abolish complete organisation as such
throughout command retaining reduced establishment to provide
for purely security control duties along coastlines.

(4) Concur generally with this proposal subject to retention of
Fortress Mombasa coast watching organisation which is adequately
supervised, has good communications by telephone and has proved
its worth.

(C. in C. E.F. 240536Z to Admt.)

Troop Convoy. Convoy consisting of troopships GENERAL BUTNER and
MONARCH OF BERMUDA escorted by RELENTLESS, ROCKET
and TEVIOT is expected to leave Durban about 12
May. My 181100 and 230656 refer. /

(2) Arrangements.

(C. in C. E.F. 241046Z) / N.T. of references in
W.R.)

Montevideo It is confirmed that Vizagapatam berth can be
Dock. dredged to receive Montevideo Dock immediately
after Monsoon.

Your 200019B refers.

(C. in C. E.F. 241201Z to Admt.)

409

24.4.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

MAYFLOWER,
OCTAVIA. My P.C.S. at 0001Z/24 049 degs. 35' N. 038 degs.
27' West 058 degs. 14. Are you still in contact.
Weather report 9899 3846 1675.
(MAYFLOWER, 240045Z to OCTAVIA)

Tug and
Tow. Have been relieved by BRANTFORD. Am proceeding
Halifax in accordance with your 240245Z.
Weather 088 0962 2983.
(CAILIFF, 240345B to C. in C. C.N.A.)

SS. WEST
NILUS. Unable to steer on account of high seas and gales
drifting position unknown assistance not now
required.
((KUFJ) WEST NILUS, 241200 to C. in C. C.N.A.)

T.G.27.9 Request "Chop" may be signalled.
(D.O.D.(H), 241319Z to Com. 10th Fleet C. & R.)

U.C.21. Your 231534B* affirmative.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 241400 to Admty.)
* Re ships in U.C.21.

SPEAKER. Sail SPEAKER when ready about 27th April Norfolk
to New York for inclusion in T.C.U.23. Ship is
ferrying A/C. No operating planes on board.
(Cominch, 241438Z)

H.X.M.289 Ref. Admty. 271701 March para. (6) present estimate
103 ships from New York and 33 ships from Halifax.
(B.R.L.O.New York, 241440Z)

U-Boat
dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 241508Z, Cominch, 241524Z)

U.C.19. 22 ships arrived New York 24 April.
(P.D.New York, 241508Z)

C.U.22. 34 ships departed New York 24th April.
(P.D.New York, 241642Z)

Landings
in New
Guinea. B.A.S. Washington 241700B See Australia and
New Zealand.

RIOU. INDOMITABLE's 241001Q (N.T. in W.D.). Flooding
due to defective fire main has been repaired.

Am /...

410

War Diary

24.4.1944
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

RIOU. Am proceeding to join INDOMITABLE. My P.C.S.
(Contd.) 035 degs. 50' N. 051 degs. 16' W. 075 degs. 19.
Weather report 6388 2384.
(RIOU 241751)

MAURETANIA. Diversion order.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 241830Z to SS. MAURETANIA)

U-Boat in- B. Mariner A/C two radar contacts area 02.34 S.
cidents. 25.16 W. 240500 and 240600. All times Z.
D. S.B.D. A/C Radar contact 30.12 N. 79.45 W.
241255.
(Cominch, 242115Z)

Australia and New Zealand

Landings (6) Forenoon (22nd) American Troops under cover
in New of Naval and air bombardment, made unopposed
Guinea. landing on Tumleo and Seleo Island off shore from
Aitapessojj/ oppositions later encountered on
Tumleo but quickly overcome.
(7) No determined enemy resistance yet encountered
Humbolt Bay area where our Forces now occupy territory inland
from North West Jhoro Jautefa Bay. Many undefended and weapon-
less emplacements encountered and much equipment, including some
crated, captured in area. 25 Japanese killed 3 others taken pri-
soners in this area during April 22nd. Preliminary report indi-
cates our landing Beach Humbolt Bay bombed by enemy A/C during
early evening.
(8) In Tanamerah Bay area, our forward elements had advanced six
miles up Valley towards Airdrome Area by early morning. R/C A/C
report many Japanese in Ravines North of Hollandia.
(14) Prior midnight April 22nd, 21 Liberators attacked Truk area.
Results not yet reported.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 241020Z) / Aitape intended.
Sowespac reports 23 April. One Aitape.
A. Following preliminary naval air bombardment 163 C.T.41 U.S.
Div. landed Auil 2045Z/21 established perimeter.
B. 2 Bns. attacked and secured strips by 0400Z/21.
C. Casualties enemy 25 killed 8 captured. 35 killed 83 captured.
Own 3 killed 20 wounded 8 missing.
(2) Hollandia. Supported by naval air bombardments by elements
7th and 5th fleets and 5th air corps 19th and 21st C.T.24 Div.
landed unopposed Tanamerah Bay 2100Z/21. Midday advanced elements
reached Paipou (or Paieou) 3 miles south Depapre Bay against
slight opposition.

(3) /...

411

24.4.1944
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand

Landings
in New
Guinea.
(Contd.).

(3) Humboldt Bay. 162 and 168 C.T.41 Div.
landed unopposed at 4 points Jautefa Bay 2100Z/21
securing entrance. By mid afternoon had occupied
first phase line from Cape Jogoer to Leimok Hill
and beach 2 miles south Cape Tjeweri.
(6) In operations such as above do you now get
speedy information from other sources.
(B.A.S. Washington, 241700B to W.O.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C sighted periscope course 140
degs. and attacked with 6 depth charges at 2302Z/
23 in 50 degs. 50' N. 19 degs. 15' W.
(2) A/C made A.S.V. contact at 1815Z/23 in 34
degs. 57' N. 19 degs. 30' E.
Para. B. (1) Transit A/C sighted U-Boat on sur-
face which circled and dived at 1015Z/23 in 48 degs. 30' N. 07
degs. 52' W.
(D.D.I.C. 240930Z)

U-Boat
dispositions .

Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 241440B, 241445B)

412

25.4.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.M.S.
attacked
by A/C.

1. A group of three M.M.S. near 52 buoy off Harwich were attacked at 1310 to-day with bombs and M.G. fire by an A/C believed to be a Marauder. The M.M.S. opened fire on the A/C and report having hit it.

Enemy mines
off Portsmouth.

2. Five German Mines were swept and destroyed to-day in the Eastern approaches to Portsmouth.

North Atlantic

3(a) ORION sailed from Gibraltar to-day for the U.K.
(b) The S/M's STURDY (for Eastern Fleet) and VOX (for Mediterranean Fleet) arrived at Gibraltar to-day from the U.K.

Mediterranean

Mutiny
in Greek
Navy.

4(a) On receipt of the 0700 B.B.C. broadcast stating that the Greek Brigade in Cairo had been disarmed about half the men on board the Greek ships at Malta left their ships. The men were placed under guard in prisoner of war camp. The disembarkation was carried out in an orderly manner and no incidents occurred. Greek officers are in full control of their ships and V.A. Malta intends to continue this policy for the present.
(b) C. in C. Med. has laid down certain principles of policy regarding the Greek Fleet, and to these the Greek C. in C. has agreed. Ships will be kept away from the Levant and will refit and clean boilers in the Western or Central Mediterranean. PAPANICOLIS will be sent to Gibraltar for A/S training. Escort groups will no longer be under Greek command.

(c) The Greek Captain (S) at Malta has declined to serve further under Vice-Admiral Voulgaris. He has been arrested. Greek Rear-Admiral Hezlerisis is being appointed Senior Greek Naval Officer Malta and will be responsible, amongst other duties for purging ships at present at Malta and those which will subsequently be sent there for this purpose.

413

25.4.1944
Tuesday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd

Coastal
Force
Operation.^{*}
Enemy
Destroyer
Sunk.

* Operation "hawk"
CA. 04292 (14)
page 19.

5(a) Last night coastal forces operating off Port Baratti (43.00 N. 10.30 E.) report destroying 3 enemy L.C.G's and a convoy of 3 F lighters and a tug, one further L.C.G. was destroyed off Vada Rocks and 12 prisoners were taken. Our forces suffered no damage or casualties.

(b) In the same area (about 30 miles south of Leghorn) two enemy destroyers operating off Capria last night were apparently damaged on a recently laid Allied minefield. Coastal forces and A/C attacked the ships later, and one ship was seen to blow up and sink.

East Indies

6. C. in C. E.F. reports that TACTICIAN's 5th Far East Patrol was blank except for rescuing a U.S. airman during the attack on Sabang on 19 April, and the successful completion of a clandestine operation.

Australia and New Zealand

7. Early this afternoon patrol Liberators attacked and destroyed two small coastal vessels and 10 barges laden with troops near Sorong (western point of New Guinea).

8. Australian troops landed to-day on Sek Island, off Alexishafen. They had eliminated all opposition before dusk.

414

25.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

DANAE. On arrival in U.K. you will join the 1st Cruiser Squadron.
(C. in C.H.F. 251009B to DANAE.)

Operations.

Operation Group 12 off Pylonga at 0800B today.
F.Z. 2. My 241625 refers.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 250912B to S.B.N.C.N.Russia.)
Embarkation of U.S.S.R. personnel should be completed on 27th. White Sea section due Kola Inlet 26th. Intend R.A.59 sail 28th and this should include 45 ships.
2. Only ships remaining will then be A at Murmansk. EMPIRE PROWESS. FORT VERCHERES who will not be discharged until April 30
EMPIRE ELGAR is working FORT VERCHERES and awaiting lifeboat equipment from U.K. EMPIRE BARD awaiting dry docking.
B. At Archangel. W.R.GRACE not yet unloading. BARBARA FRITCHIE returned to Archangel due engine damage.
3.,C.S.1 concurs. Your 241709 refers.
(S.B.N.O.N.Russia 251517B and 290916B to C. in C.H.F.)
Add to my 241845B para. 10. American ship CHARLES GORDON CURTIS being taken over by U.S.S.R. and remains Kola Inlet.
(S.B.N.O.Murmansk 251935B to Admty.)

Operation F.W.200 aircraft remain active from Trondheim.
"Veritas". (D.D.I.C. 251003B to A.I.G.47.)
HOTSPUR and IMPULSIVE standing by at Skaalefjord are available as required by you.
(C. in C.H.F. 251108B to V.A.2.)

Operation SCEPTRE 161718. Available intelligence together
"Guidance" with photographic R/C now shows that attacks by X
BARENFELS type S/M 24 on 14th April carried out on German
sunk at ship BARENFELS lying parallel to Laksvaag Floating
berth on Dock at coaling arm at western end entrance to
14th April. Sondrevaag. Ship has sunk at berth and report
indicates that extensive damage has also been done
to quay and coal facilities.
2. S/MS are unable to present any claim to share
in explosion at Bergen on 20th April.
(F.O.S. 251034B to Admty.)

Operation Your 251101. My P.C. and S. at 1000Z 052° 41' N.
C.W. 025° 09' W. 288° 13 knots. E.T.A. 2230Z.
(GARLIES 251040Z to E.G.1.)
Cancel my 241100B. New R/V 053° 30' N. 029° 30' W.
Report E.T.A.
(E.G.1 251101B to GARLIES.)
C. in C.W.A. 241652. Intend to anchor Merville at 1400 tomorrow.
Request you and C.Os. attend conference on board VINDEX at 1500
or as convenient to you.
(VINDEX 251437B to E.G.9.)

/Following...

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation C.W. (Contd.) Following is a paraphrase of my 252150B begins. If not in contact with enemy cease search at dawn 26th April and proceed Londonderry. (C. in C.W.A. 252320Z to HARVESON, KIRKPATRICK.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 251101.)

A/S sweep by E.G.3. 3rd E.G. is to pass the Gate at 1700B/25th and proceed by standard route to position DAL 270° Longships 4 and thence to carry out A/S sweep in area Q between 50° 02' N. and 51° 20' N. and between 6° 01' W. and 8° 30' W. excluding mined area.

4. S/M VIKING will be carrying out exercises with 19 group aircraft in area P within 20 miles south of line joining positions 50° 57' N. 9° 17' W. and 50° 51' N. 10° 52' W. Search light and flare dropping aircraft may be seen in this area.

5. Exercises with 19 group aircraft, VIKING and coastal craft will be arranged during patrol. (C. in C.Plymouth 251135B to E.G.3.)

Operation "Knitting 8". Intend sailing M.T.B.255 with M.T.Bs. 257 (S.O.) 256 in support at 2100B today for patrol off enemy coast between longs. 00° 12' E. and 00° 37' W. Vessels to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 251144B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Operation "Tunnel". Carry out operation "Tunnel" tonight in accordance with memorandu OPTU.

2. Information. Enemy 3 Elbings seen Saint Malo on 23rd April and 4 T.Bs. seen Cherbourg 20th. 20 E or R-Boats seen Cherbourg 22nd. M-Class M/S may be at Cherbourg or Brest and patrol boat at Morlaix. Own coastal force patrol as signalled.

3. Force 26 consisting BLACK PRINCE (S.O.), HAIDA, HURON, ASHANTI and ATHABASKAN is passing Gate at 2115B today and proceeding to pass through position SS 048° 49½' N. 004° 27' W. at 0130B/26th.

4. From SS Force 26 is sweeping eastward as far as 003° 30' W. and thence to Plymouth.

5. Force 114 consisting of M.T.B.430 (S.O.), 414, 434 is leaving Dartmouth at 1815B/25th passing through position XX 205° Les Heaux 15 at 2200 to arrive position YY 180° E. Barnouk light 2 at 2300. Force is remaining in close vicinity of YY to detect and report enemy surface forces on passage. Force 114 is avoiding detection by enemy and no enemy is to be attacked until after 0330.

6. If no enemy information by 0330 Force 114 is return direct to Dartmouth.

416

25.4.1944.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Tunnel." (Contd.) 7. Halifax aircraft will carry out A.S.V. sweep on French coast between 003° W. and 004° W. from 2330/25th to 0010/26th to locate and shadow enemy force. No planes will be used after 0010.
8. Area 1½ miles each side line joining the following positions 048° 34½' N. 005° 14' W. and 048° 42½' N. 005° 22.' W. is dangerous.
(C. in C.Plymouth 251235B.)

Operation K.N.4. Carry out operation K.N.4 tonight. My 241104B.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 251653B to M.T.B.F.14.)

S/M Patrols. Position of submarines at 0800/26th and movements for following 24 hours.
A. STATESMAN and VIGOROUS as in my 231719.
B. JUNON 63° 14' N. 000° 05' E. dived by day north of 62° N. on course 210°. Advance 90 miles per day.
C. STRONGBOW 63° 02' N. 002° 14' E. through 63° 45' N. 003° 17' E. towards 64° 40' N. 002° 44' E.
D. VENTURER patrolling between Utsire and Lister.
(F.O.S. 251658B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

M.M.S. group attacked. Following F.O.I.C. Harwich begins:-
M.M.S. report that 1310 today in position 8 cables west of 52 Buoy sweeping south with leading destroyer of F.N. 5 cables beam, a twin-engine aircraft apparently Marauder approached from westward at 2,000 ft. and dropped a stick of 5 small bombs straddling the group of 3 M.M.S. M.G. fire from plane also seen on the surface. M.M.S. opened fire on plane and report hits. Aircraft turned to westward out of range and retired in direction of land, 212244 ends.
(C. in C.Nore 251231B to Admty.)

Iceland. Ju.88 sighted from Eskifjordur 065° 04' N. 014° 00' W. 064° 15' N. 015° 13' W. at 0550, course W. R/C of Hornafjordur carried out by Ju.88 at 0630. Aircraft departed course E.
(A.C.I.C. 251420B to Admty.)

Mining.

Operation N.L.124. My 241657. Operation N.L.124 abandoned.
(V.A.Dover 250706B to Admty.)

Portsmouth. Minesweeping report for April 24th. Five G.M. mines swept in following approx. positions No. 1 153° 8.8 miles from N.A.B.Tower. No. 2 155° 7.2 miles from N.A.B.Tower. No. 3 185° 5 miles from N.A.B.Tower.* No. 4 130° 13.5 miles from N.A.B.Tower. No. 5 150° 8.5 miles from N.A.B.Tower. 4 Sunk. No. 4 exploded in sweep of BAY after being dragged, but mooring remained jammed in cutter and sinker was recovered.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 251059B to Admty.) *dragged.

417

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy convoy. Southbound convoy 5 ships loaded leaving Stavanger 25th April.
(F.O.S. 251104B to VENTURER.)

Casualties & Defects.

BALFOUR. My 241924. BALFOUR returned defective.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 250723B to C. in C.W.A.)

ST. LAURENT, E.T.A. ST. LAURENT 1030B, ships side leaking at
ICARUS. waterline, docking not required. ICARUS about 1500
main steam joint to port H.P. turbine leaking.
Hull leaking from sea to forward magazine, docking
not required.
(C.2 250727B to Comdre. D.W.A.)

VISCOUNT, Collision reported between VISCOUNT and SS. FORTH
FORTH. at 0357 today off 22 Channel Buoy. FORTH now at
Leith. Extent of damage not yet known.
(N.O.I.C. Leith 251107 to Admty.)

AMEER. AMEER has developed main condenser defect. Essen-
tial that ship be berthed alongside. Quimby main
oil fuel pump also suspect and requires examination
Request arrangements be made for ship to berth
alongside airport Wharf Belfast for making good defects by con-
tractors.
Ship to be ready to sail 4th May. Admty. 222311B and 242154 refer
(F.O.C.T. 251216B to Admty.)

MASTADONTE. MASTADONTE has again been ordered to return to Til-
bury as she cannot steam with tows.
2. It is understood that this tug has just comple-
ted an extensive refit at Messrs. Harland and Wolff.
3. Request these failures may be investigated and defects rec-
tified.
(C. in C.Nore 251738B to F.O.I.C. London.)

MATHEW MAURY. Cancel my 241449. Request you sail W.S.A. tugs
TRINIDAD HEAD and BODIE ISLAND in K.M.S.50 for Gib.
where upon arrival will report F.O.G.M.A. for tow-
ing damaged liberty ship MATHEW MAURY in G.U.S.
convoy to Norfolk.
(Com. 12th Fleet 251759 to Admty.)

FIARAY, My 241809 and 251619B. Negative FIARAY & DAMSAY aground
DAMSAY. on Shingles Sands. ARISTOCRAT standing by to
assist refloating.
(Cdre. Southend 252302B to Admty.)

418

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

- SS. NURIA R. Now reported Spanish NURIA R 452 expected to leave Marseilles 27th for Gibraltar. My 231842 refers. Not to be molested.
(F.O.G.M.A., 250110B to 10th S/F., LE CURIE, CASABIANCA, (R) Capt. (S) 10.)
- ORION. Departure 0400.
(F.O.G.M.A., 250410B.)
Route. A.M. 241540 refers.
(2) Cancel my 241611. My 231154 for 23 knots read 24 knots.
(F.O.G.M.A., 251525.)
- ACTIVE. Foremast has broken off. Following means of communication &c. out of action.
(ACTIVE, 251037B.)
- S.L. 155/
M.K.S.46.
BRITTANY. In view of her fuel situation and inability to oil at sea have detached BRITTANY at 1700B today to proceed independently to U.K. by homeward inner stragglers route at economical speed of 12 knots.
(S.O. E.G. B.3., 251701B.)
- SS. MELCHUCA. Your 210113B. Steps will be taken to arrange substitute ship with co-operative owner.
(2) Before opening negotiation request definite assurance that ship will not be retained in prize but released within 14 days.
(F.O.G.M.A., 251734B to Admty.)
- STURDY (for
E.F.)
VOX (for Med) Arrivals escorted by KILMELFORD.
(F.O.G.M.A., 251908B.)
- M.V. SAENTIS. Not to be molested on this voyage Swiss SAENTIS 4349 tons gross, speed 10 knots sailed Gibraltar 1930/25th to Marseilles following standard route to Cape San Sebastian thence coastwise to destination. (Markings).
(F.O.G.M.A., 252057 to 10th S/M.F., CASABIANCA, LE CURIE, Capt. (S) 10.)
- SS. COLONIAL. Your 241926. Positions approved.
(Admty., 252105B to N.A. Lisbon.)

419

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

LEWES.

In view of U-Boat situation and shortage of escorts at the Cape. LEWES is to be retained by C. in C. S.A. for the present.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 251727B.)

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PIPINOS. After R/V ordered in para. 2 of my 241250 vessel will escort you to N.W.Sanctuary.
2. On arrival in Sanctuary escort will return to harbour and you are to remain there until ordered to enter harbour.
3. This may not be for 1 or 2 days.
(Capt. S.1 250215 to PIPINOS.)

Mutiny in Departures April 24th AJAX, URANIA, FURY.
Greek Navy. (R.A.Alexandria 250820C.)
Following is a repetition of all after para. 2 of my 241851.
(Cairo C.C.O. 250835C.)

1. At an early hour this morning situation in Greek ships was in hand but on receipt of 0700 B.B.C.broadcast stating Greek Brigade in Cairo had been disarmed, the men felt obliged to show their sympathy by leaving their ships.
2. Approx. 50% of lower deck personnel of ships in Malta are now under guard in .P.O.W.camp. Four officers were detailed by Greek S.N.O. to accompany the men. No incidents occurred and the disembarkation was carried out in an orderly manner.
3. I inspected the ships companies of S/Ms SPEZIA and CORINTHIA on board CORINTHIA yesterday 24th forenoon. I was much impressed by the crews, bearing, drill and discipline of officers and men.
4. NAVARINO sailed p.m. today with reduced crew to refit dynamo at Ferryville.
5. Greek officers are in full control of their ships. I intend to continue this policy for the present.
6. Commander Baker, S/M Liaison Officer, who has had eight years experience in the Greek Navy is available and can be spared should you wish to see him.

(V.A.Malta 251411B to C. in C.Med. Cairo, F.O.L.E.M.)

I interviewed Greek C. in C. with F.O.L.E.M. at Alexandria today. He has agreed to the principles of my policy regarding Greek Fleet which are briefly as follows.

- A. Ships to be kept away from Levant.
- B. Committees to be removed from ships in rotation at Malta.
- C. Ships to refit and boiler clean in Western or Central Med.
- D. Submarine PAPANICOLIS to be employed at Gibraltar for A/S training.
- E. Escort groups no longer to be under Greek Command.
- F. Shore based Greek personnel to be moved out of Alexandria and accommodated in camps.

(C. in C.Med. Cairo 251923C.)

2. Developments in situation.

Greek Captain S. at Malta has declined to serve further under Vice Admiral Voulgaris. He has been arrested and is being sent to Cairo by air. Greek Rear Admiral Hezeerisis is being appointed Senior Greek Naval Officer Malta and will be responsible amongst other duties for the removal of Committees and undesirables from ships at present at Malta and ships which will subsequently be sent there for this purpose.

421

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.
(Contd.)

3. Accompanied by Captain Campbell (B.N.L.O. to Greek Navy) a Greek Captain boarded AVEROFF this forenoon and addressed ship's company informing them of events in ships at Alexandria and in Greek Brigade and calling on them to follow this lead. An officer replied that 24 hours were required for decision. This statement was followed by shouting and officers were jostled towards gangway. Greek C. in C. considers that ship will give in within 48 hours. Meanwhile there is plenty of force to deal with AVEROFF if necessary.

4. Situation in recruiting depot unchanged but there also, the Greek C. in C. expects capitulation within 48 hours. Efforts being made to convince inmates of truth of statements that ships at Alexandria and the Brigade have capitulated.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo 251939C.)

Add to my Sitrep 251939 contents of V.A. Malta's 251411 which is being passed by V.A. Malta.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo 251951C.)

25th April Port Said arrivals AJAX, URANIA, HAYDON, CATTERICK, ATHERSTONE.

(N.O.I.C. Port Said 252354.)

ASTREE.

German ASTREE sailed Barcelona 2300/24th proceeding north.

(F.C.G.M.A. 251215B to 10th S.F. S.O.I. Med. Capt. S.10th, CASABIANCA, LE CURIE.)

Barcelona reports by signal T.O.O. 251720 German ASTREE which left Barcelona northbound 2330/24 reported aground a.m. on sand bar off Pineda.

(A.B.N.A. Madrid 251906B to C. in C. Med. F.O.G.M.A. Admty.)

UNSWERVING.

Proceed with despatch to patrol in vicinity of Milos, remaining north of 036° 05' to intercept Piraeus - Crete traffic.

2. (corrupt group) SUZANNOF and TEALIA now in Milos likely to sail for Crete.

(Capt. S.1 251215 to UNSWERVING, (R) F.O.L.E.M. 1st S/M F.)

LUXEMBOURG
(German.)

At 0900/25 LUXEMBOURG reported under way in Piraeus.

(Capt. S.1 251510B to UNRULY, SPORTSMAN.)

Bridgehead.

Sitrep No. 94. 2858 tons unloaded on 24th April, 157 from L.S.T. 298 from L.C.T. Ferry.

2. Air raid on Naples from 2117 to 2225. After dropping much windows 30 to 40 aircraft attacked at height between 5000 and 12000 feet. 30 bombs in the town more in the sea. 7000 rounds heavy A.A. 999 rockets and 18500 rounds light A.A. ammunition expended.

422

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Bridgehead.
(Contd.)

3. No naval casualties or damage except for damage to M.T. in R.N. Transport Camp which was hit by bomb. In port 2 petrol wagons were destroyed by fire.

4. No claims made of enemy aircraft destroyed. (F.O.W.It. 251800B.)

Disposal of
Italian S/MS.

Your 21115 (211150 intended), para. 2B. All have defects, estimated time required for repairs four months each from date of starting work. Even after refit do not consider they could undertake long voyage under own power or operate without continual dockyard assistance. Para. 2. Yes if it is accepted that many spare parts must be specially made. (F.O.T.A.L.I. 252049.)

SPORTSMAN.

Proceed with despatch to westward until 0201/26th and then return to patrol approaches to Candia. F.O.L.E.M's 251815 (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (Capt. S.1 252151B to SPORTSMAN, (R) F.O.L.E.M. LE TERRIBLE, LE MALIN.)

PRESIDENT
HOUDOUCÉ.

In view of F.O.C.W.Af. 171818 intend to reply in the affirmative to French proposal to demilitarise PRESIDENT HOUDOUCÉ and use her for fishing on Newfoundland Banks. (C. in C.Med. 252153B to Admty.)

423

25.4.1944.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 8. No change.
(C. in C.E.F. 250313Z.)

TACTICIAN.

5th Far East Patrol was blank.
2. During operation "Cockpit" rescued one U.S.
airman. 3. Clandestine operation completed
successfully.
(C. in C.E.F. 250627Z.)

Aircraft
recognition
instructions.

By agreement with Air Command S.E.A. Air H.Q.E.
Africa, and Air H.Q. Aden, the rules for engage-
ment of unseen parties at sea given in para. 27B
of S.P.02312(4) are in force in Eastern Fleet
Area.
(C. in C.E.F. 250908Z.)

Sabang.

P.R. over Sabang night 24/25th April was unsuccess-
ful due to weather. My 210333 to Admty. only
refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 250911Z.)

Advance H.Q.
Air S.E.A.

A.X. 494 25 April. Advance H.Q. Air C. S.E.A.
has formed and is located at Kandy Ceylon.
Para. 2. Consists only of planning and liaison
staffs to work in conjunction with staff of
Supreme Allied Commander which is also located
at Kandy.
(Air Min. 252106Z.)

424

25.4.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

Italian S/M's. Concur in proposals in your 181627 para.2. (A.C.N.S.(F), 250408B to B.A.D.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M attack and sighting summary. No report since my 110658Z para. D. B.17 A/C sights S/M 49.38 N. 64.45 W. 2300Z/23rd. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 250641Z)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Diversion order. (D.O.D.(H), 261110B to EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND)

U-Boat dispositions. Estimates. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, 251515Z, Cominch, 251527Z)

Central Pacific Force. Cominch 251550 See Australia and New Zealand.

B.G.8. Refer my 251426. B.G.8 delayed 24 hours. (P.D.Boston, 251754Z)

TRENTONIAN, LOUISBURG, LINDSAY. (1) Alter course forthwith to pass through H 050 degs. 20' N. 041 degs. 00' W. thence to (?D). (2) Enemy S/M estimated to be to westward of 044 degs. W. between 046 degs. N. and 048 degs. N. (C. in C. C.N.A. 251821Z to TRENTONIAN, LOUISBURG, LINDSAY.)

U-Boat incidents. C. P.B.M.Radar contact 28.11 N. 73.31 W. 1301/25th P.B.Y. sighting and Radar contact 32.13 N. 78.45 W. 1333/25th. D. P.B.Y. Radar contact 30.46 N. 79.08 W. 1840/24. (Cominch, 252000Z)

Hospital Ships Renamed. War Dept. has notified that the hospital ship POPPY will operate under the new name BLANCHE F. SIGMAN. H.S.YUCCA will operate under the new name JARRETT M. HUDDLESTON. H.S. ZINDIA will operate under the new name JOHN J. MEANY. This amends my 061520 of March. (Cominch, 252043)

MAMELI. Italian S/M MAMELI referred to in my 151545 transferred to U.S. Operational Control 24th April. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 252137Z)

RANEE. Request confirmation of destination and E.T.A. of RANEE. (2) There is no information in Washington of her having left Cochin. (B.A.D. 252221Z to Admty.)

American /...

425

25.4.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd

American
A/C shot
down by
fighters
from STRIKER.
25th March.

U.S. Army Air Force requests following information regarding incident referred to in your 291614/March in order to determine whether further implementation of the recognition system among personnel of air transport Command or other services, is required or whether the recognition committee should suggest any changes:- (A) Circumstances under which incident occurred.

(B) Recognition procedure, if any, accomplished by all A/C concerned.

(C) If no recognition signals were exchanged, any statement which can be made in explanation of such omission.

(D) Use of I.F.F.
(B.A.D.252223Z to Admty.)

T.F.62.

SPENCER, Comcortdiv 15 in AMICK, Cortdiv 15 in BULMER, Desdiv 58 NEUNZER CHEPACHET. Escort Convoy U.G.S.41 departing Hampton Roads 3rd May to Bizerta and return Escorting G.U.S.41.
(C. in C. Lant, 252331)

T.F.61.

My 150251 delete COCKRILL from T.F.61. Ref. 150251. T.F.61. CAMPBELL, Desdiv 60 (less COLE DUPONT), WILHOITE, COCKRILL, CHICOPEE etc.
(C. in C. Lant, 252354)

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No.826.

April 24th paras. 11 to end cover Soupac forces.
(2) Our troops entered Aitape forenoon and now control all territory between this point and Tadji airfield during April 23rd our forces occupied

Hollandia Town and reached western shore of Imbi Bay. Following morning other elements advancing westwards reached Sentani Lake. Preliminary report indicates 150 Sikhs captured this area. Reference air raid night April 23rd my Digest No.825 para. 7 later reports indicate single enemy bomber scored lucky hit on supplies at main landing beach causing large fires. Ground activity in Tanahmerah Bay area confined during day to patrols towards Hollandia airfields. Enemy reported to be in strength 15 miles west Nentani Lake.

(3) In support of our Hollandia and Aitape operations 49 Liberators escorted by Kittyhawks again attacked Wewak airfields with 2,000 pounders all strips were again left unserviceable and nil anti A/C encountered.

(4) /...

426

• 25.4.1944
TuesdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAustralia and New Zealand

Digest (4) Meanwhile 17 Liberators 45 Mitchells and 64
No.826 Bostons unloaded 122 tons of assorted bombs on
(Contd.) personnel and supply areas around Hansa Bay causing
several large fires among fuel dumps.
(5) During day New Guinea coast from Ulingan to
Alexishafen was also swept by Mitchells, Bostons,
Airacobras and Thunderbolts causing much destruction to enemy gun
positions installations and bridges in the area.
(6) Australia troops advancing towards Madang had reached a point
3 miles south of their objective shortly after noon.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 250638Z)

Central Discontinue use of term Central Pacific Force.
Pacific Effective immediately(?change)title Admiral
Force. Spruance from Commander Central Pacific Force to
Commander Fifth Flt. Your 221827/ not to all
refers.
(Cominch C.N.O. 251550 to C. in C. Pac.)
/ N/T No.3.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

U-Boat Sub. attack and sighting summary.
Incidents. Para. A. (1) (See 251752B).
(2) A/C A/423 attacked U-Boat with depth charges
at 1139Z/24 in lat. 50 deg. 44' N. long 18 deg.
40' W.
(Admty, 251054B)

U. 974
sunk (1) ULA attacked U-Boat at 0701B/19 in 59 degs. 08' N. 5 degs. 23'
E. One torpedo seen to hit and second explosion heard 1½ seconds
later. Consider U-Boat certainly sunk.
(D.A.U.D.251752B)

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (D.D.I.C.251502B, 251503B)

427

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Flag of
A.N.C.X.F.

1. The Flag of Admiral Sir Bertram H. Ramsay as A.N.C.X.F. is to be hoisted in BULOLO at Portsmouth at 0800 tomorrow.

Operation
"Tunnel".
One enemy
destroyer
sunk.

2. At 0214B to-day while carrying out Operation "Tunnel" off Ile de Bas on the North Brittany coast BLACK PRINCE (S.O.), HAIDA, ASHANTI, HURON and ATHABASKAN engaged a force of three or four west-bound enemy destroyers who at once retired to the N.E. under smoke. A chase ensued; and at 0325 an ELBING class destroyer was sighted by HAIDA, ATHABASKAN, ASHANTI and HURON and sunk by their gunfire at 0421 seven miles west of Les Heaux. While forming up to return to Plymouth ASHANTI and HURON collided; but the whole of our force returned safely having sustained only minor action damage. One rating was killed and two slightly wounded in HURON; one Officer and one rating in HAIDA were slightly wounded; and one rating was slightly wounded in ATHABASKAN.

Air-strike
on enemy
convoy
off Bodo.
(Operations
"R.A." and
"Veritas".)

3(a) Early this morning Forces 7 and 8 consisting of Escort Carriers and Fleet Carriers under the command of V.A.2 in ANSON launched an air-strike against a south-bound enemy convoy of four M/Vs. and five escort vessels off Bodo (Norway). All the M/Vs. and one escort vessel were hit, and the largest of the M/Vs. is reported beached and on fire. In Vaagsfiord a large tanker was attacked and set on fire.

(b) The original intention was a further attack on TIRPITZ but this had to be abandoned on account of unfavourable weather in Altenfiord.

(Operation "Planet" repetition of "Tungsten")

Biscay A/S
operations.

4. Two U-Boats were attacked by A/C in the Biscay area to-day.

SS. COLIN
torpedoed.

5. At 1850Z to-day the Panamanian COLIN, 6254 tons, a straggler from Convoy S.C.157, was reported torpedoed in 54.16 N. 31.58 W. (about 560 miles south-east of Cape Farewell); and E.G.1 with SKEENA and QU'APPELLE have been ordered to join and support the Convoy.

Isle of
Wight and
Southsea
bombed.

6. Two raids were made last night on the Isle of Wight and Southsea by about thirty A/C. Considerable damage was done to houses at Southsea but there were no naval casualties or damage.

/One ...

428

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

One E-Boat
sunk by LA
COMBATTANTE.

7. A force of E-Boats from Boulogne, apparently attempting an armed R/C of the eastern channel Assembly Ports, was engaged by the French destroyer LA COMBATTANTE and the Frigate ROWLEY at 0130B to-day about 30 miles N.E. by E. of Cap Barfleur where one E-Boat was sunk by LA COMBATTANTE, survivors being later picked up. The remaining E-Boats split into three groups and, approaching the Searched Channel, were engaged at 0305B by the Culver shore-battery and chased and engaged about 16 miles North of Cap Barfleur by SEYMOUR and STEVENSTONE at 0415B without observed result.

South Atlantic.

U/B sunk.

8. At 2145Z yesterday aircraft from CROATEN (T.G. 21.15) made Radar and moonlight visual contact with a surfaced U-Boat in 17.46 N. 37.45 W. (about 720 miles west by north of Cape Verde Is.) The U.S. destroyers HUSE and FROST, following up the contact attacked with hedgehog in 17.52 N. 38.04 W. Heavy explosions ensued and at 1940 today a large and increasing oil slick was found, and it is thought the U-Boat may have been sunk. A second U-Boat is believed to be in the neighbourhood, and the hunt is continuing.

East Indies.

Diego
Garcia,
(Chafos).

9. The naval and army garrison of Diego Garcia were removed and the defences closed down today.

10. Hurricanes and Beaufighters had a field-day amongst river craft on the Lower Karadan, Arakan and on the Chindwin today.

429

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

NEWFOUNDLAND. 11. The new cruiser sailed from Norfolk Va.
today for the U.K. via St. Johns N.F.

430

26.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

DANAE,
ORION. On arrival in U.K. DANAE and ORION are to come under the orders of C. in C. H.F. (D.O.D.(H), 260122B to C. in C. H.F.)

Flag of
A.N.C.X.F. The Flag of Admiral Sir Bertram H. Ramsay, K.C.B., M.V.O. as (A.N.C.X.F.) is to be hoisted in BULOLO at 0800 tomorrow. When ship carrying (A.N.C.X.F.) flag leaves Southern Railway jetty without the Admiral on board the flag is to be transferred without signal to another vessel at jetty. The ship on craft selected is to be determined by Port V/S officer and reported to C. in C. and A.N.C.X.F. at Southwick House. (C. in C. Portsmouth 260830 to A.N.C.X.F.)

Archangel
Hospital
Unit. In view of facts that (A) It is unlikely that any H.M. or Merchant ships will remain in North Russia during summer (A.M. 241706). (B) Work of installing hospital not yet started (my 1053/4) of 17 Mar. (C) Probable great need for Staff elsewhere apparent. (D) No difficulty anticipated over entry visas later, suggest personnel should be reduced by one medical officer and 10 S.B. Staff by R.A.60 as foreshadowed in your predecessor's No.72/2 21 Feb. enclosure No.3. (2) Under above circumstances my 141505 Mar. para. 3 will no longer apply. Also Russians are understood to be hard pressed for accommodation and our retention of one wing of 2524 Hospital would be difficult to justify during forthcoming summer. (Ad. Fisher, 261632C to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Defence of U.K.

Iceland
A/A
Defences. Reference para. 1 of A.L.M/L.D. 004546/44 dated 23rd February Commanding General has now received final instructions to proceed with withdrawal of defences as detailed in my 180032/January and this will commence early in June. (2) Reference para. 3(A) of my message quoted, Commanding General offers to leave examination battery consisting of one 4" L.A. gun and search lights at Hjalteyri, but as Royal Navy would have to provide crew of 12 ratings and as this battery appears to be of little real value intend to refuse his offer. (A.C.I.C. 261350B to Admt.)

Bembridge. My 142329A March. The provision of a type 41 Radar set sited at Bembridge is considered a matter of extreme urgency. (2) Mines swept in the vicinity of E.A. one buoy

on /...

431

War Diary26.4.1944
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

Bembridge. on April 19th are assumed to have been laid by surface craft which approached the area undetected.
(3) Request action be taken to expedite delivery of the equipment to site already selected.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261627B to Admty.)

Operations

Biscay Am over 2 enemy S/Ms in 46° 00' N. 21° 50' W.
A/S sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
operations. (A/C 53 Sqdn. 260200 to 19 Group)
Two U-Boats Enemy S/M was on surface and is fighting back.
attacked When first sighted was on course 230° estimated
by A/C. speed 18 knots.
(A/C 53 Sqdn. 260200B to 19 Group)
Two enemy surface vessels 045° 15' N. 003° 37' W.
Request instructions.
(A/C 311 Sqdn. 260220B to 19 Group)

Have attacked S/Ms 3 times. Were last seen on the surface,
course 230° speed 18 knots, markers dropped. No.3 engine
unserviceable, negative casualties.
(A/C 53 Squadron, 260300B to 19 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 47° 10' N. 02° 50' W. S/M was on
surface, course 225° speed 12 knots.
(A/C 502 Squadron, 260310B to 19 Group)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 45° 50' N. 06° 46' W.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. 260345 to 19 Group)
Am being attacked by 2 enemy A/C. My position 47° 30' N.
06° 25' W.
(A/C 53 Sqdn. 260353 to 19 Group)
U-Boat previously reported was on the surface accompanied by
auxiliary vessel. Have attacked U-Boat with bombs, estimate
one hit. U-Boat has dived in 033° N. (?016° W.).
(A/C 502 Sqdn. 260400B to 19 Group)
Auxiliary Vessel previously reported last seen (?stationary)
probably Lifeboat alongside.
(A/C 502 Squadron, 260505B to 19 Group)
Your 261240. 045° 46' N. 016° 50' W. 006 degs.13.
(HART, 262000B to C. in C. W.A.)

Operation At 2307Z/25, U-Boat transmitting WW signal estimated
C.W. by good D/F fix within 75 miles of 55° 00' N.
COLIN 30° 00' W.
torpedoed (D.D.I.C. 260212B to E.G.1)
by U-Boat. Your 252150. HARVESON and KIRKPATRICK discontinuing
search for S/M at 0600Z/26th at 51° 00' N. 16 degs.
21' W. and proceeding Londonderry. Results
negative. Speed 19 knots. E.T.A. Donnagree

Point 0600Z/27th.
(HARVESON, 260615 to C. in C. W.A.)
VINDEX arrived.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 261348B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)
5th E.G. BICKERTON, KEATS, BLIGH, AYLNER, GOODSON, KEMPTHORNE
vicinity 055 degs. 01' N. 013 degs. 02' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 261401B to Ships)
1st E.G. AFFLECK, GARLIES, BENTLEY, GORE vicinity 054° 59'
N. 030° 01' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 261412B to Ships)

COLIN /...

26.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation COLIN straggler from S.C.157 torpedoed in 054°
 C.W. 16' N. 031° 58 W.
 COLIN (E.G.15 261850Z to C. in C. W.A.)
 torpedoed Cancel my 241646. Proceed to hunt U-Boat reported
 by U-Boat. in S.O.15th E.G. 261850.
 (Contd.) (C. in C. W.A. 262151B to E.G.1)
 VINDEX, MATANE, STORMONT sailed. SWANSEA will
 sail to overtake.
 (Car. D. W.A. 262158B to C. in C. W.A.)
 E.G.15 261850Z. Am proceeding to join S.C.157. E.T.A.0230B.
 My P.C.S. 054° 44' N. 028° 52' W. 128° 17 knots.
 Weather 5481 3052.
 (E.G.1, 262200B to C. in C. W.A.)
 C. in C. W.A.'s 262151B. Cancel my 262200B.
 (E.G.1, 262225B to C. in C. W.A.)
 Join and support S.C.157 forthwith.
 (C. in C. W.A. 262256B to SKEENA, QU'APPELLE)
 Am complying with your 262151B sweeping through position
 054° 05' N. 030° 15 W. indicated by 3rd Class H/F D/F fix
 obtained from E.G.15 and AFFLECK at 1925Z. Intend to sweep
 thence towards wreck. E.T.A.270730B and then towards convoy.
 My P.C.S. 054 degs. 32' N. 028° 51' W. 235° 17 knots.
 Weather 5481 3052.
 (E.G.1, 262300B to C. in C. W.A.)
 Your 262251B. My P.C.S. 1925Z, 053° 52' N. 028° 52' W.
 080° 8½. From H/F D/F bearings at this time by 4 ships of group
 U-Boat was bearing 285° third class distant sense obtained.
 (E.G.15, 262305Z to Admty, C. in C. W.A.)

Operation Three unknown bearing 081° distance 7 miles course
 "Tunnel". 070° my position 220° 49' N. 04° W. 7 miles.
 One Enemy (Force 26, 260214B to Devonport)
 Destroyer My 0214. Am engaging enemy.
 sunk. (Force 26, 260225 to Devonport)
 Probably destroyers.
 (Force 26, 260240 to Devonport)
 Am disengaging to the northward.
 (Force 26, 260257 to Plymouth)

Two enemy destroyers bearing 095° distance (? 3 miles) course 070°
 My position 325 JJ 5.
 (HAIDA, 260302 to Devonport)
 My position at 0242 was 280 JJ (?15).
 (S.O. Force 26, 260304 to Devonport)
 Finish your bird and return to Plymouth at high speed.
 (S.O. Force 26, 260414 to Force 26)
 My 0403. Enemy has sunk. My position 080° JJ 8.
 (HAIDA, 260422 to Devonport)
 Position by Radar. One unit 158 Eddystone Rock 42.

Four Units 154 Eddystone Rock 49.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 260546B to Force 26)
 At 0200B/26th Force 26 consisting BLACK PRINCE (S.O), HAIDA,
 ASHANTI, HURON, ATHABASKAN whilst carrying out operation "Tunnel"
 in 312° Ile de Bas 10 made contact with a force of 3 or 4 des-
 troyers believed ELBING-class on a western course.
 (2) The enemy altered course away immediately and endeavoured to
 escape on approximate course 070° degs. under cover of smoke.

26.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation
 "Tunnel".
 One Enemy
 Destroyer
 sunk.
 (Contd.)

(3) BLACK PRINCE opened fire with star-shell at 0219 at a range of 13000 yards. All ships subsequently fired on destroyers as they became visible through the smoke. Several hits are claimed.

(4) Torpedoes were sighted by BLACK PRINCE at 0250 approaching from starboard. This caused her to alter course away and put the enemy outside star shell range. BLACK PRINCE was subsequently unable to overtake and rejoin the action. Destroyers continued to provide their own illumination.

(5) At 0325 one ELBING class destroyer was sighted by HAIDA at a range of 4000 yards trying to double back to the westward. This destroyer is thought to have been damaged earlier in the action. She was immediately engaged by HAIDA and ATHABASKAN and subsequently by ASHANTI and HURON also. She sank in 267 Les Heaux 7 at 0421. One ELBING class possibly escaped to the eastward and one to the westward.

(6) While forming up to return Plymouth ASHANTI came into collision with HURON. Further details will be signalled.

(7) Casualties HURON 1 rating killed, 2 slightly wounded. HAIDA 1 officer, 1 rating slightly wounded. ATHABASKAN 1 rating slightly wounded.

(8) All destroyers sustained minor action damage.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 261440 to Admty.)

Amend composition of force 27 and 28 in my 251941B as follows:
 Force 27 HAIDA and ATHABASKAN. Force 28 KRAKOWIAK and WENSLEY-DALE.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 261502B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Operation
 "Veritas".
 Four Enemy
 M/V's and
 one Escort
 Vessel
 damaged.

Proceed with JAVELIN so as to R/V with F.O.E.C. in 065 degs.00' N. 000° 40' W. at 0400B tomorrow. (V.A.2, 260550 to KELVIN)

2 F.W. 200 aircraft are probably active from Trondheim.

(D.D.I.C. 261150B to H.F.)

Faeroe Islands departure KELVIN, JAVELIN.

(N.O.I.C.Faeroes, 261432B to Admty, V.A.2)

F.W. 200 reported naval formation in position 66.37 N. 05.15 E. at 1318B/26th.

(Admty, 261520B to Force 7, Force 8, Info. C. in C. H.F., F.O.S. A.C.O.S.)

S/Ms are on patrol. (A) STATESMAN near 062° 10' N. 002° 40' E.

(B) STRONGBOW near 064° 40' N. 002 degs. 44' E.

(C) VIGOROUS near 063° 30' N. 001° 55' E.

(C. in C. H.F. 261604B to VICTORIOUS)

My 260830. Convoy of 4 merchant ships and 5 escort vessels was southbound. 1 Escort and all merchant ships hit, the largest reported beached and on fire. No G.A.F. but considerable light flak. Reports incomplete as VICTORIOUS was detached on completion.

(V.A.2, 261820B to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

My P.C.S. 065° 48' N. 00° 25' E. 220° 21 knots. FURIOUS and 4 destroyers in company.

(2) F.O.E.C. with Force 8 as in my 260550B.

(3) VICTORIOUS, KENT, VENUS, VILIGANT leave Veritas area p.m. today joining route Black in latitude 069° N. at best speed.

(4) A/S escort not required for any of above force.

(5) /...

434

26.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Veritas". (5) No requirements at present for IMPLUSIVE and HOTSPUR.
Four enemy M/V's and (6) Weather 3945 1034.
one Escort Vessel (V.A.2, 262101B to C. in C. H.F.)
damaged.
(Contd.)

Operation "Knitting 8". My 251144B. Operation "Knitting 8" abandoned.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 261011B to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Coastal Force Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 261027B)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261422B)
(F.O.I.C. Portland 261515B)
(V.A. Dover, 261625B)
(C. in C. Plymouth 261819B, 261836B)

Operation F.Z. Group 12 at 0800B off (Ters)ki Orlov proceeding in clear water with Russia Naval Escort. My 231225B refers.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 261057B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
In view of S.B.N.O. North Russia 251517, I am assuming that necessity for R.A.60 no longer exists. Should it be desired to recover the few remaining ships it seems that opportunity may occur in June possibly in conjunction with "Locomotive".
(C. in C. H.F. 261134B to Admty)

S/M Patrols. Estimated S/M positions at 0759/27th and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) STRONGBOW 64 degs. 14' N. 03 degs. 01' E. to patrol vicinity 64 degs. 40' N. 02 degs. 45' E.
(B) STATESMAN, VIGOROUS as in my 231719.
(C) JUNON 61 degs. 54' N. 01 degs. 20' W. through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 8 miles to Lerwick 9 knots.
(D) VENTURER on patrol Skudesnes-Lister area.
(F.O.S. 261733B to Admty.)

A/S sweep by E.G.3. Intend to sail BLACKWOOD at 2200 to rejoin 3rd E.G. plotted in 342 degs. Round Island 31½ miles at 2100.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 262123B to C. in C. Plymouth)
My 262123B. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 262218B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Combined Operation. Destinations as follows: TUSCALOOSA to Clyde. ARKANSAS and NEVADA to Belfast. 9 destroyers to Plymouth.
(D.O.D. (H), 262310B to C.T.G. 27.8.)

435

26.4.1944
WednesdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity

Isle of Wight and Southsea bombed.

Station report on enemy action. 0447 warning. 0455 raid developed bombs dropped in vicinity of Puckaster Cove approx. 300 yards from St Caths lookout, and in sea approx. 300 yds. S.S.E. from St. Caths lookout. Considerable minor damage blast to windows and doors of property. Personnel were not affected. It is presumed by fires observed striking sea that 3 A/C had crashed with heavy underwater explosions about 40" after striking water. Bearing and distances of presumed crashes 160 degs. 3 miles 160 degs. 4 miles and 110 degs. 2 miles from St. Caths lookout. (St. Catherines, 260745B to X.D.O. East)

Two air raids were made on Isle of Wight and Portsmouth during night 25th/26th April.

(2) In each case 25 to 30 enemy A/C took part.

(3) The first raid 12 H.E. dropped in Isle of Wight including 2 U.X.B's and 9 H.E. in Southsea. Considerable damage to houses in Southsea. Only one fatal casualty. Bombs dropped in Southsea estimated to be 500 or 1000 Kilos.

(4) In second raid 23 H.E.'s dropped in Isle of Wight including 5 U.X.B's near Ryde and some dropped in Spithead.

(5) Bombing was indiscriminate and there was no evidence of mining.

(6) No naval casualties and no important damage to naval property.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 262121B to Admty.)

My 262121B. It is believed that in the second enemy raid on Isle of Wight Area at 0500 on 26th April the enemy bombers followed in on returning Allied bombers. In view of importance of the assembly consider returning bombers should avoid this area it such is practicable.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 262326B to Admty.)

Scapa.

Prep.X was made at 2234/25th on report by C.G. Swarwick Head (Dunnet Bay) of unidentified A/C flying low across Dunnet Bay from S.W. to N.E. one mile from him. E/A also seen flying east low over Pentland First by C.T. Scarfskerry and C.G. Duncansby. The latter identified it as a Ju.88. E/A first plotted off Duncansby, then withdrew to the east, last plot being 098 degs. A buoy 45 miles at 2243. 4 Spitfires airborne from Castletown before appearance of E/A but no interception made. Though about 40 mins after sunset and nearly dark, ships in the F.A. might have been distinguished.

(A.C.O.S. 260915B to Admty.)

Shetlands.

At 2330B/25th one E/A type unknown, approached Shetland from S.W. at 500 feet. Plotted by Fair Isle. Crossed on E.N.E. 'ly Course 6' South of Lerwick. Not engaged by batteries or own

A/C. Withdrew in Easterly direction. In view darkness and no flares photographing unlikely.

(A.C.O.S. 261110B to Admty.)

436

26.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Allied Air Activity

Iceland. One enemy A/C plotted 10 miles South of Reykjaskoli 065 degs. 15' N. 021 degs. 08' W. at 1130, course S.E. At 1145 A/C was 20' South of Reykjaskoli, Course S.W. when plot faded.
(A.C.I.C. 261844B to Admty.)

Mining

Operation "Hostile 26". Force "Hostile 26" consisting of M.T.B. 677 S.O.705 and 9 Coastal Force craft leave Plymouth 1830B/26th to southward returning at approx. 0800B/27th.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 261132B to HAIDA, ATHABASKAN, WENSLEYDALE, KRAKOWIAK, C. in C. Portsmouth, Force 113, Force 114)

Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 26" tonight (My 211455) without support force.

(2) Force "Hostile 26" is to pass gate at 1830B/26th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261220B to M.T.B.F.52, M.L.F.10, D.15, No.10 Group)

My 261220B and 261132B. Postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261808B)

Q.Z.Y.445. One mine, G.M. type, swept and sunk in 50 degs. 25.5 N. 1 deg. 54' W. Have completed clearance in G formation to latitude 50 degs. 25' N. in accordance with C. in C's 261219B. Not to all addressees. Intend starting check clearance in K formation from the North tomorrow.
(BLACKPOOL, 261930 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Enemy Intelligence.

MONTE ROSA. Your 311946A. Hits claimed by Beaufighters on MONTE ROSA off Jaeren appear incorrect. 2 reliable reports from Denmark and three from Norway have (identified this) vessel running without apparent (?damage) on transport service between Oslo and Aarhus during April. Graded B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 261543 to Admty)
O.I.C. Comment: MONTE ROSA was seen at Aarhus by P.R.U. on 8th and 19th April.

Casualties and Defects.

CARINA. Your 241313B. CARINA is to remain at Campbeltown pending summer weather.
(D.S.V.P. 260158B to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown)
My 221104. Boilers of LEONIAN show a condition worse than was anticipated and it is doubtful if such temporary repairs as can be carried out by 10th May would have satisfactory results. Unquestionably the boilers should be retubed and it is considered that retubing should be carried out without delay. Estimated time 2 - 2½ months.
(S.B.D. Rosyth, 260954B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

TROMP /...

437

26.4.1944
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties and Defects

- TROMP. TROMP struck by L.C.G.L.53. Slight damage to stern. Estimated time repairs 3 days. (D.S.T.O. Poole, 261300 to D.O.S.T.)
- NELSON. NELSON may now be required from bombarding duties in "Overlord" if she can be prepared in time.
(2) Request an immediate report as to the earliest date the ship can be made ready to sail for Scapa to work up.
(3) Changing of guns in "B" and "X" turrets should be completed. It is acceptable for the old guns to remain in "A" turret. (1st S.L.261615B to C. in C. Rosyth)
- CAMPBELL. Your 261826B. CAMPBELL can be taken in hand for docking for repairs to rudder-plating by Green and Silley Weir, Tilbury. Request ship be sailed to Tilbury N.E. Dock tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore, 261830B to Capt. D.21)
- AMEER. Your 251216. AMEER can be taken in hand at Belfast on 29th April. (D.O.D.(H), 262147B to F.O.C.T.)

438

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- BRITTANY. Detach CAM to R/V BRITTANY as convenient after daylight today 26th and escort to U.K. C. in C. W.A's 252202 refers.
(2) Estimate BRITTANY in 040° 43' 017° 10' at 0800B/26th steering for 045° 30' 017° 00' then for 049° 58' 016° 50' thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A. S. of A. 12.
(3) CAM is to report if not met by 1100B/26th.
(F.O.G.M.A., 260129B to HART.)
- Patrol off Lisbon approaches. P.C.S. 039° 17' N. 009° 40' W., 056°, 15 knots. Percentage O.F. remaining at 0800B/26 ACTIVE - 54, ANTHONY - 41. Weather report.
(ACTIVE, 260837B to F.O.G.M.A.)
Your 261107B. Leave patrol 0830B/27 arriving Gibraltar 1900B/27.
(ACTIVE, 261524B to F.O.G.M.A.)
* Not received.
- RETRIEVER. Anticipate RETRIEVER will complete operation by 4th May. Request further instructions.
(F.O.G.M.A., 261135B to C. in C. Med.)
- T.G. 21.16. MONIGY*. My 231443 delayed investigating suspicious course changes by Spanish ship MONTE ALBERTIA when challenged by plane 0945Z/26th position 34.48 N. long. 17.20 W., contacting U.G.S.39 for escort fuel E.T.A. Casablanca indefinite WX 907 01574* refers.
(C.T.G. 21.16, 261527.)
* As received.
- EMERALD. Intend to sail at 0400B/27th U.K.
(2) (Route).
(F.O.G.M.A., 261711B.)
- CENTURION. F.O.G.M.A's 251158* not to all bit which has been passed to C. in C. Portsmouth. Destination of CENTURION is Portsmouth where she is urgently required.
(2) CENTURION is sailing from Gibraltar about 1st May in M.K.S. 47.
(3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to detach CENTURION as convenient for onward routing to Portsmouth by C. in C. Plymouth. Escort should be arranged between the Cs. in C. concerned.
(D.O.D.(H), 261945B.)
* Gibraltar pass to CENTURION.
- U. 761 (sunk 24th Feb. 1944) Reference sinking of U.761, request following information required for analysis may be signalled: Time interval between retro bombs hitting water and explosions heard by ANTHONY.
(D.A.U.D., 261956B.)

439

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSNorth Atlantic - Contd.

DUQUESNE. Departs Casablanca 262000Z for Clyde. Arrange-
ments.
(Commorseafron, 262220B.)

South Atlantic.

U/B Request details of any attacks by aircraft P and
attacked A of 262 Squadron on 11th March may be forwarded
11th March. with any photographs.
(2) Your 141356* March, para. 9 refers.
(D.A.U.D., 260130B to C. in C. S.A.)
* Former Top Secret. Re U-Boat report.

Details of attacks by aircraft P and D A.M.262130 (? 260130
intended) are contained in S.A. No. 340/032A of 31st March
forwarded by Air Mail bag No.26 3rd April.
(2) Aircraft A did not attack. My 141426 March refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 261709B.)

U/B At 2145Z/25 aircraft made Radar and moonlight
report. visual contact surface U-Boat course 285, 17.46
N. 37.45 W. Submerged before attack.
(C.T.G. 21.15, 260255.)

D.K.A./ Following are proposals for D.K.A. - A.K.D.
A.K.D. convoys.
convoys. (2) D.K.A.18 to leave Durban 28th April escorted
by four S.A.N.F. trawlers with LANDGUARD in
support.
(3) K.D.2 F.O.E.A. 221313 to disperse in 18° S.
(4) Subsequent D.K. - K.D. convoys to be sailed at ten and
eleven days intervals to fit in with dates of K.A. - A.K.
convoys at present planned. S.A.E.F. trawlers should be
available to carry out this programme.
(5) Request your intentions as regards ships of Kilindini
Escort Force particularly LANDGUARD and LULWORTH.
(6) F.O.E.A. is requested to signal dates on which he would
like D.K.A. convoys to leave Durban.
(C. in C. S.A., 261021B to C. in C. E.F.)

Operation My (? 181549) WILLIAM SCORESBY return to
"Tabarin". Falkland Islands 24th. Propose to sail her for
docking and refit Montevideo 29th April.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 261147Z to Admty.)

SS. SAGUNTO. Your 241514 Lagos.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 261208 to Admty.)

SS. VAN DE Have you any news of VAN DE VELDE due Capetown
VELDE. 18th April from Trinidad.
(D.T.D., 262107B to C. in C. S.A.)

440

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- ASTREE (German). Barcelona report that ASTREE which sailed Barcelona 2330/24th has gone aground on sand bar off Pineda position 041° 37' N. 002° 43' W. My 251215* refers (F.O.G.M.A. 260009B to 10th S/M F. (P.67) L.N. 729, LE CURIE, F.S.CASABIANCA. (R) Capt. S.10th.)
*Sailing of German ASTREE.
- LE MALIN. Have engine defect max. 24 knots position 035° 33' N. 026° 10' E. at 2345C/25 return to Alexandria E.T.A. 1500C/26 only only dangerous water books carried.
(LE MALIN 260237C to C. in C.Levant.)
- Bridgehead. Bridgehead Sitrep no longer required, your 191216 and A.M. 241747. Information will be included in C. in C.'s Sitrep.
(C. in C.Med. 261037 to F.O.W.It.)
- TRESPASSER. TRESPASSER leaving Port Said 2103/27th passing through (following points).
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 261049C to SPIRIT.)
- Composition of M.L.C.Sqdn. Staff. Reply to C. in C.Med. 191136.
(D.C.O.D. 261120B to C. in C.Med. Info. Hamilcar.)
- CASABIANCA. Intend to sail CASABIANCA (F.S.) at 1600/27th to Algiers route via Q.B.B. 312 thence through 041° 04' 007° 20' at 0300/28th to R/V with escort 036° 57' 003° 06' at 0900/29th surface passage 10 knots.
(Capt. S.10 261125.)
- STORK. A.M. 231854 April. Port gearing of STORK requires renewal. Replace gearing has been ordered and delivery U.K. is not expected before July.
2. To avoid delaying ship in U.K. new gearing will be sent to Med. for fitting at earliest opportunity. Meanwhile no limitation of power need be imposed.
(D.O.D.F. 261145B to C. in C.Med.)
- PALOMARES. Re possibility of towing to U.K. for refit.
4. Admiralty attach considerable importance to returning PALOMARES to service as early as possible.
5. Request your remarks.
(D.O.D.F. 261147B to C. in C.Med.)

441

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- T.G.80.6. As from 0001B/30th April Captain Clay U.S.Navy takes responsibility for all U.S. destroyers and destroyer escorts operating as part of Eighth Fleet with the title of C.T.G.80.6 and working directly under Com. Eighth Fleet.
2. Authorities are to include C.T.G.80.6 in the address of any signal referring to the movements etc. of any U.S. destroyers or destroyer escorts.
(C. in C.Med. 261242B.)
- DUQUESNE. Request you sail DUQUESNE as soon as she is ready to proceed today 26th April in accordance with Admty. 192015.
(C. in C.Med. 261558B to Commorseafron.)
- TARRAGONA. Sailed Barcelona 2107/25th destination probably Port Vendres.
(F.O.G.M.A. 261648B.)
- R.G. receiver. R.G.receiver in my 281620 March confirmed not compromised. 2. Cancel my 211021 April.
(S.1 261915 to Admty.)
- Cositintrep No. 292. During night 24/25th April coastal forces operating off Port Baratti 43° 00' N. 10° 30' E. report destroying three enemy L.C.G. and convoy of three F-Lighters and a tug. One enemy L.C.G. was also destroyed off Vada Rocks 12 prisoners taken no damage or casualties to our forces.
(C. in C.Med. 261930.)
- Situation Report No. 346. 1. 2858 tons discharged at Anzio on 24th April and 2700 on 25th April. No air activity some shelling on 25th April.
4. 2 enemy destroyers operating west of Capraia during night 24/25th April believed damaged on minefield laid by SIRIO. Force was later attacked by coastal force and A/C and one ship was seen to blow up and sink.
(C. in C.Med. 261935B.) G. D. 505
- Mutiny in Greek Navy. Greek situation. No change in recruiting depot yet. A Port Said ships have offered to surrender to British authorities but have been told they must submit themselves to Greek C. in C. their constituted authority. Admiral Voulgaris who I have just seen thinks probable they may not hold out against this for more than another 24 hours and I have agreed to defer action for that time. I see considerable objection to the British coming between the Greek authorities and Greek mutineers and consequently am inclined to strain my sorely tried patience yet a little more.
(C. in C.Med., Cairo 261941.)

/UNRULY...

442

26.4.1944.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- UNRULY. Amend time R/V in para. 1 my 242301 to read 1402/30th.
2. Cancel para. 2 and amend to read, proceed diving by day on 28th thence on surface at $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(Capt. S.1 261958 to UNRULY.)
- Bridgehead. Sitrep 95. 2700 tons discharged 25th April, 222, 272 from L.S.T., L.C.T. Ferry respectively. Some shelling. One aircraft now known to have been shot down in air raid on Naples April 24th.
(F.O.W.It. 262000B.)
- BIRMINGHAM. BIRMINGHAM is expected to be ready to sail after repairs sufficient for ocean voyage approx. 20th June. Request instructions.
(F.O.L.E.M. 262016C.)
- LUXEMBOURG. LUXEMBOURG had left Piraeus by 1102/26th. Destination not known.
(Capt. S.1 262228B to 1st S/M F.)

443

26.4.1944.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U/boat dispositions. No.9. While no positive information exists it is felt that absence of news of U/boat last indicated as operating Durban Lourenco Marques Area may mean she has moved Northwards via Mozambique Channel towards or into Area D. Scale of air escort Y.

Other Areas no fresh information no change in scale of air effort. (C. in C.E.F. 260318Z).

One German at 0005Z/25th April bore 175° from Aden and is estimated to be probably off the coast between Comoro Island and Mogadiscio.

No evidence of any other U/boat German or Japanese at present on operational patrol.

(D.D.I.C. 261558).

MV. BRAJARA 12° 16' N. 44° 12' E. suspicious.
(tanker) T.O.R. 0434Z.
S report. (B.M.C.S. (BRAJARA) No T.O.O./26th Recd. 0723).

Diego Naval and Army garrison removed and defences and
Garcia 500 kc/s receiving station closed down. Personnel
and stores sailed 26th April.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia, 261228Z).

444

26.4.1944.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies

U/B dispositions. Estimates.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 261514Z, Cominch 261540Z.)

U/B off C. Race. Owing to U-Boat threat off Cape Race SS. RODSLEY and SS. MARGARITA CHANDRIS have been diverted to Halifax for inclusion in H.X.M.289.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 261520Z.)

QUEEN, SPEAKER. Norfolk arrived 24th April QUEEN and SPEAKER to load aircraft and repairs QUEEN.
(N.S.H.Q., 261530Z.)

T.G. 27.1. C.N.O. 242148* my 161628/ modified. When directed by Commorseafro return New York.
(C. in C. Lant, 251611 to C.T.G. 27.1.)
* Ref. 242148 - not held.
/ Ref. 161628 (N.T. in W.D.) - T.G. 27.1
reconstituted effective 22nd April RANCER, CARD, OTTER, STERN, ONEIL, SOLAR, ROBERT I. PAINE. When loaded and ready about 24th April, depart New York proceed Casablanca. When directed return Hampton Roads.

H.M.C.S. ORANGEVILLE. Commissioned 24th April on completion of work up allocated to C. in C. C.N.A.
(N.S.H.Q., 261707Z.)

T.G. 21.7. Task Group 21.7 hereby reconstituted. CINCINNATI, SCOTT, Cortdiv 17 less ENRIGHT plus JOHN T. POWERS, FOGG, Cortdiv 12 WINOOSKI. Escort convoy T.C.U.23 scheduled depart New York and Boston 3rd-4th May for U.K. and return escorting U.C.T.23.
(Cinlant, 261912.)

U/B incidents. A. CROATAN A/C had Radar contact and sighted U-Boat 17.46 N. 37.45 W., 252145.
C. P.B.M. Radar C 32.24 N. 77.52 W., 260234.
U.S. C.G. ASTERION attacked sound contact 42.50 N. 43.45 W. 261400. All times Z.
D. A/C Radar contact 30.43 N. 79.10 W., 252103.
(Cominch, 262100Z.)

78th M.L.F. It is intended to retain PROVIDER and six M.Ls. at Bermuda.
(2) Request you will arrange to sail 78th Flotilla to Halifax early in May. Ships returning from W.U.Ps. providing escort.
(N.S.H.Q., 262146Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

FORT HOUDOUCHE. C.C.S. approval necessary. Propose C. in C. Med. defers the intention in his 252153 pending this action here.
? PRESIDENT HOUDOUCHE (B.A.D., 262207Z.)

445

26.4.1944.
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
No. 827

April 25th. Paras 11 to end cover South Pacific Forces.

(3) Same evening 12 enemy torpedo aircraft unsuccessfully attacked single American destroyer Quiatpol 20 miles north of Humboldt Bay.

(4) American troops occupied remaining two islands off shore from Aitape while Allied fighters now operating from Tadjji airfield. Our patrols pushing east and south of Tadjji sighted only small enemy groups. In Humboldt Bay area our troops reached Cyclops airfield by early afternoon encountering only medium resistance and 100 Japanese killed during advance. Other elements our troops moving along south shore of Humboldt Bay to eastward without encountering opposition. From Tanamerah Bay our forward elements have reached vicinity Hollandia airfield.

(5) Supporting these operations 17 Mitchells under adverse weather conditions dropped 48 500-pounders on possible enemy escape (?routes) west of Sentan Lake. Many buildings destroyed but no Japs. seen.

(10) Australian troops entered Madang afternoon April 24th. meeting only slight opposition from small enemy rearguard.

(12) Early evening April 24th single patrol aircraft sighted enemy northbound submarine 120 miles North by East of Tabar Islands. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 260824Z).

RANEE

The following has been received (repeats B.A.D. Washington 252221Z).
(D.O.D.(F), 261033B to A.C.N.B.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

S/M. attack
and sighting
summary.

Para.A. (1) A/C of 53 Squadron sighted 2 U/boats at 0001Z/26 in 46° 00' N. 01° 50' W. course 230°. (2) A/C of 502 Squadron attacked U/boat, course 225° at 0110Z/26 in 47° 10' N. 02° 50' W. (3) A/C obtained A.S.V. contact at 0145Z/26 in 45° 50' N. 06° 46' W.

Para.D. (1) BRAJARA made SSSS report at 0434Z/26 in 12° 16' N. 44° 12' E. (Cancelled 281148B).
(D.D.I.C. 261135B).

U/B.

dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 261400B, 261412).

446

27.4.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Biscay A/S
operations.

1. A group of seven Enemy Destroyers apparently south-bound were attacked at 0525 to-day by A/C. about 100 miles West of St. Nazaire and one of the Destroyers was reported on fire.

Isle of Wight
and Portsmouth
area bombed.

2(a) About six to ten Enemy A/C circled the Isle of Wight - Portsmouth area from 0134 until 0243 to-day and dropped bombs causing some civilian casualties and damage to houses and roads.
(b) C. in C. Portsmouth considers, from the evidence of E/boat prisoners, that the E/boat activity in his command on the night 25th/26th was probably the result of the enemy air R/C. of the Isle of Wight on 25th April, and thinks that the provision of strong air cover in that area is of extreme importance from now onwards.

South Atlantic

SS. PELEUS

3. A Portuguese merchant ship landed at Lobito to-day survivors of SS. PELEUS who was torpedoed on 13th March whilst on passage from Freetown to Buenos Aires.

Mediterranean

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

4(a) The men in the Recruiting Depot at Alexandria marched out without arms to-day as prisoners under British guard, and at 1956 to-day C. in C. Med. Cairo reported that the situation at Alexandria had been entirely cleared up.
(b) At Port Said the situation is hopeful, with the mutineers' actions now becoming farcical in vain endeavour to "save face". C. in C. Med. has suspended all action except that required to incarcerate the mutineers when they come ashore from AVEROFF, which they are expected to do shortly.

Bridgehead

5. There was no enemy activity at Anzio yesterday or today. 2979 tons were discharged yesterday and 2187 tons today.

447

27.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

S/MS., patrol reports.

6(a) On return from patrol SEA ROVER reports that on 20th April she bombarded Lho Somawe on the north coast of Sumatra, from a position within 25 yards of the breakwater, and almost entirely destroyed a goods train.
(b) TAURUS has laid 12 mines in the Malacca Straits. Her sinkings were a coaster and a steam launch.

Traffic in Mozambique Channel.

7. Owing to the probable presence of a U/boat in the area north-west of Madagascar traffic using the Mozambique Channel is being reduced. C. in C. E.F. issued instructions to-day for giving effect to this.

448

27.4.1944
ThursdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSPolicy

ORION A.M. 260112. On arrival in U.K. you will join 1st Cruiser Squadron.
(C. in C.H.F. 271037B to ORION.)

Examination at Reykjavik. Examination vessel at Reykjavik will be withdrawn as from 1st May. My 031730 March and 251902 April refer. In future vessels will be liable to interception by patrol vessel and should hoist their signal letters off Grotta Light.
(A.C.I.C. 272014 to Admty.)

Operations

Operation "Veritas". Proceed with IMPULSIVE forthwith at best speed to join VICTORIOUS and escort her to Scapa.
2. VICTORIOUS with KENT and 2 destroyers in company estimated P.C.S. 065° 25' N. 000° 05' E. 216° 20 knots, at 1200B/27th.
3. If not met by 1800B/27th return to Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F. 270142B to HOTSPUR.)
Your 270142B. Sailed.
(HOTSPUR, 270603B to C. in C.H.F.)
Faeroes departure at 0610 HOTSPUR, IMPULSIVE.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 270746B to C. in C.H.F., V.A.2.)
Expect arrival of escorts one Sunderland from 1400B to 2100B today. 2 Catalinas will patrol Route Black between 063° N. and 067° N. between 1400B and 2000B.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 271039B to VICTORIOUS.)
My 271039. Catalinas cancelled at Bases.
(C. in C.Rosyth, 271232B to VICTORIOUS.)
HOTSPUR and IMPULSIVE 062° 58' N. 004° 40' W. 180° 12 knots.
Ships were hove to for 6 hours.
(HOTSPUR, 272103B. to C. in C.H.F.)
E.T.A. in ROYALIST 1015B tomorrow.
2. JAMAICA, SEARCHER, PURSUER, STRIKER, EMPEROR, and 8 destroyers in company.
4. Weather.
(F.O.E.C. 272209B to A.C.O.S., C. in C.H.F.)

Biscay A/S operations. Have obtained A.S.V. contact, probably a S/M in 46° 30' N. 05° 00' W.
One Enemy Destroyer damaged by A/C. (A/C UTJ.21 270230B to 19 Group.)
Bombs dropped, probably 4 destroyers. Unable to (?investigate), fog. A/C damaged, returning to base.
(A/C UTJ.21, 270250B to 19 Group.)
P.C.S. of 7 destroyers 46° 33' N. 04° 26' W. 090, 15 knots.
(A/C ZTLR.27 270400B to 19 Group.)
Several surface vessels in position Z sub. 1550 escorted by fighters. Heavy flak. A/C safe. Continuing patrol. Main transmitter unserviceable.
(A/C JOZ.23 270400 to 19 Group.)

/Enemy...

27.4.1944

Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Biscay A/S operations. One Enemy Destroyer damaged by A/C. (Contd.) Enemy previously reported are 8 surface ships. (A/C TWO 51 270408B to 19 Group.) Enemy previously reported position (?46°) 47' N. 06° 17' W., 180° 10 knots. (A/C TWO 51 270412 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy S/M which is on surface and is fighting back. My position at 0352 46° 18' N. 04° 52' W. (A/C JOZ 48 270420 to 19 Group.) Enemy previously reported are surface vessels. Have been damaged in flight. Returning to base. (A/C JOZ 48, 270430B to 19 Group.) Still in touch with enemy previously reported. Flak. Remaining in 46° 50' N. 05° 18' W., 3 miles, E. until 0515. (A/C TLR.27 270450B to 19 Group.) P.C. S. of 5 destroyers 47° 16' N. 04° 58' W., 180°. (A/C TLR.71 270500B to 19 Group.) Enemy previously reported destroyer. Have attacked with bombs. No results seen due to evasive action. (A/C TLR.71, 270525 to 19 Group.) Nr. Have attacked destroyers with bombs estimate 1 hit. Enemy on fire, returning base. (A/C TLR.27 270530 to 19 Group.) Enemy previously reported 7 destroyers. Position 47° 09' N. 05° 07' W. Course 5, 12 knots. Returning base fuel. (A/C TLR.71, 270543B to 19 Group.) Position of enemy 44° 45' N. 12° 50' W, course 060° 6/7 knots. 7 trawlers, no name or marks, 300 tons. (A/C 311 272220B to 19 Group.) Unable to investigate. Dark (?sight). (A/C 311 272240B to 19 Group.)

Operation C.W. COLIN survivors rescued. My 262158. SWANSEA sailed. (Cdre. D.W.A. 270305 to C. in C.W.A.) P.C.S. at 1000B today 055° N. 11° W. 247° 12 knots. Request Lieut. (Hugginson or Higginson) in Swordfish (?Victor) be instructed to R/V. (VINDEK, 270640B to R.A.F. Ballykelly.) Your 271101B. Nothing further is known. SSSS on 500 kc/s from ship concerned reporting she had been torpedoed in position given was intercepted by Commodore and passed to me. No other signal heard. Nothing known of survivors. My P.C.S. at 0900 054° 13' N. 025° 24' W. (080°, 309° or 346°) 8½. Weather. (E.G.15 271006Z to C. in C. W.A.) Amplify your 261850Z. reporting any information you possess re survivors. (C. in C.W.A. 271101B to S.C.157) D/F bearings at 0820Z of short weather reporting type signal indicate U/Boat within 100 miles of 56° N. 30° W. (D.D.I.C. 271125B to O.N.S.233, E.G.1.) TRACKER and E.G.2nd will leave North Channel p.m 29th April for anti-U/Boat operation. (C. in C. W.A. 271247 to TRACKER, E.G.2.)

/In...

27.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation C.W. COLIN survivors rescued. (Contd.) In position 55 N. 28° 55' W. obtained high frequency direction-finding bearing of this transmission 078° second class sky wave, sense determined QQ. My course 260° 7.5 knots. Your 271125B refers. (C.5, 271325B to Admty.) Have picked up 24 survivors from Panamanian ship COLIN in 054° 30' N. 030° 56' W. Am proceeding to search for rest of ship's company of about 30 reported in 2 boats. (E.G.1, 271449B to C. in C.W.A.) Have picked up remainder of survivors from Panamanian ship COLIN total rescued 53. One Chinese rating reported as fatal casualty. Am proceeding to overtake S.C.157. My P.C.S. 054° 39' N. 030° 33' W. 087° 15 knots. (E.G.1, 271559B to C. in C.W.A.) Your 271559. Well done. Join and fuel from S.C.157 as early as possible tomorrow and transfer survivors. (C. in C.W.A. 271816B to E.G.1.) Leave S.C.197 0800B/28th and proceed Londonderry. (C. in C.W.A. 271821B to SKEENA, QU'APPELLE.) Your 271816B. E.T.A. 1430B/28th. Weather permitting, estimate fuelling can be completed by 2300B/28th. 29 survivors are carried in AFFLECK, 24 in BENTLEY. Request E.G. 15 will detail escorts with Medical Officers to receive them, as 7 are minor casualties. My P.C.S. 054° 39' N. 028° 51' W. 088° 18 kts (E.G.1, 272000B to C. in C.W.A.) FLINT CASTLE attacking probable submarine in 050° 55' N. 018° 30' W. HESPERUS joined and remained 2 hours, (now) rejoined. Intend FLINT CASTLE rejoin at dusk if not in contact. (HESPERUS, 272049B to C. in C.W.A.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 271439B, 271539B, 271603B.) (C. in C. Portsmouth, 271607B.)

S/M Patrols. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/28th and movements for following 24 hours.
A. STRONGBOW on patrol vicinity 64° 40' N. 2° 45' E.
B. STATESMAN, VIGOROUS as in my 231719.
C. VENTURER as in my 261733. (F.O.S. 271733B to Admty.)
Negative patrol. One officer complication following food poisoning. My position 058° 48' N. 003°? 20' E. (VENTURER 272315B to F.O.S.)

Operation FZ. Kola Inlet arrived group 12 less BARBARA FRIETCHIE 1505 today. S.B.N.O. Archangel's 231225 refers. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 271955B to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

E/Boat off Portland. One E/Boat bearing 010° distant 2 miles course 010° position 198° Portland Bill 15 miles. (ONSLow to Plymouth. No T.O.O. Recd. 280025B.) Have lost touch with enemy last seen steering south. (ONSLow, 280025B to Plymouth.)

/Isle...

451

War Diary27.4.1944
ThursdayHOME COMMANDSAllied Air ActivityIsle of
Wight area

Statements of prisoners ex E/Boat sunk on night 25/26th April shew that E/Boat activity was probably result of enemy air R/C of Isle of Wight area on 25th April. Air raid activity also probably due to same cause. Denial of R/C to

the enemy is of extreme importance for defence of the concentration in Isle of Wight area prior to "Overlord" and during the course of exercise "Fabius" for which loading has now commenced. Provision of strong air cover is thus of extreme importance from now onwards.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271949B to Admty.) Reply: Page 470.

Enemy Air ActivityIsle of
Wight and
Portsmouth
area bombed

Air raid on Isle of Wight, Portsmouth Area 0134 - 0234/27th April. Estimated about 6/10 hostile planes circled the Area. H.E. small number of L.B.S. and U.X.B.S. dropped in Portsmouth also H.Es. in Havant, Gosport, Fareham, and Isle of Wight. Red marker flares over Portsmouth. Bombing was indiscriminate over sea and land. There is no evidence of mining. Some civilian casualties and damage to houses and roads by fire and H.E. No Naval casualties. No damage to Naval property, except P. and R.T. School slight damage from blast. No damage to ships.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 271321B to Admty.)

Mining

Yarmouth.

Drifting mine sunk by CHARLES DORAN in 096° 40 Buoy point 75 miles at 1032/23rd. Now identified as type G.M.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 271645B to C. in C.Nore.)

Enemy IntelligenceS.147
(E/Boat)
sunk on
26th April.

Following information from interrogation 12 prisoners taken from German E/Boat S.147 sunk in the Channel at about 0400/26 April.

1. Sailed from Boulogne 2200/25 with units of 9th flotilla (her own) and 5th flotilla. Carried four torpedoes including two curlies, no mines. Purpose apparently R/C in force to establish

whether landing was intended by landing craft previously reported by aircraft. Orders were not to attack except in very favourable circumstances.

2. Prisoners complain that they have recently done more seetime than usual and impression given that recent sorties have been partly for reconnaissance. S.147 last laid mines in January 1944.

(D.N.I. 271941B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

452

27.4.1944
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

U/Boats

U/Boat reported U/Boat O545Z/27th April was within 20 miles of 59° 00' N. 05° 00' E.
(D.D.I.C. 271117B to S/Ms.)

Casualties and Defects

INDOMITABLE Cancel A.M. 151945/April.
INDOMITABLE is to proceed to Rosyth for:-
a. Docking to inspect rudder.
b. Inspection bomb lifts.
2. During this time, estimated at 7 - 10 days from 4th May, the following items shown in order to priority are to be undertaken.
(V.C.N.S. 270009B to C. in C.W.A.)

Unknown Ship. ABEILLE IV sailed Milford 1327/26 to investigate vessel reported on fire in 52° 33' N. 04° 43' W. and returned 0520/27, having nothing to report.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 270529B to Admty.)

DUCKWORTH. Main feed-pump on number 2 boiler seized.
DUCKWORTH returning to Devonport using both auxiliary feed-pumps. BERRY acting as escort. Request Dockyard Assistance S.O. has transferred to ESSINGTON.
(E.G.3, 271345B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

453

27.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Straits A/S
protection.

(2) It appears that Cominch is prepared to supply amphibian Catalinas instead of the Blimps originally requested by Comnavnav.
(3) Propose to reply that Catalinas are preferred. (A.C.N.S.(H), 270226B to H.Q.C.C.)

EMERALD
(for U.K.)

Sailed 0330.
(F.O.G.M.A., 270602B.)

Convoy
C.K. 2.

C.K.2 convoy due Horta about 2nd May. Request you make every effort to expedite onward movement to Falmouth in order meet operational requirements.
(Com. 12th Fleet, 271424 to S.B.N.O. Azores.)

South Atlantic

Capetown
approach
route.

Ref. para. 4 of my 211540 March. Capetown approach route 3 is now in force for shipping approaching from north and west.
(C. in C. S.A., 270951B.)

SS. PELEUS.

Portuguese ALEXANDRE SILVA landed 3 survivors Greek Steamer TALEUS (sic) torpedoed March 3rd on voyage Freetown to Buenos Aires.
(V.C. Lobito, 271035A.)

My 271035A*
amend.

(Simonstown, 271456A.)

* Landing of survivors from TALEUS.

A. TALEUS (sic) torpedoed March 13th. Please

U/B
report.

S/M contact has been reported position 300 Cape Verde Islands 83 miles. Request you investigate.
(Comar Dakar, 271541Z to WELLINGTON, (R) C.T.G. 21.15.)

Operations.

Arrivals 27th WOLVERINE and TEES from A/S search FANDANGO, PICT, SARABANDE, M.Ls. 289, 574, 1016, 1052 from a patrol.
(Lagos, 271621Z.)

/ U/B ...

454

27.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B
believed
sunk 720
miles W.
by N. of
C.V.I.

U. 488

Situation report at 260654 all times Z. HUSE and FROST following up contact my 260255 made firm sound contact 17.52 N. 38.04 W. and attacked with hedgehog. In second attack FROST heard two explosions at U-Boat depth followed by heavier explosion about 30 seconds later. Contact not regained. At 261940 discovered large heavy diesel oil slick nearby. Still persisting and enlarging. Since original contact have maintained continuous day and night air cover to 80 mile radius except 0030 to 0430 last night when weather prohibited. Now estimate submarine my 260255 possibly sunk by FROST and transmission 270038* was from second boat possibly refueller awaiting R/V. From 18.35 38.31 took Class A ground wave bearing 127 that transmission. Hunt continues. (C.T.G. 21.15, 271633 to N.S.S., C. in C. Lant.)
* N.T. in W.D.

Suspicious
ship near
Madeira.

Master of Greek ship STAROS now at St. Vincent C.V.I. reports being spoken by vessel showing white lights at 1315Z/23 in 30° 59' N. 17° 49' W. Vessel asked for medical assistance but refused request for her name and eventually made off at high speed. Comment: Plot shows homeward bound U-Boat west of Canaries on 22nd April. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 271726Z to Admty.)

Routeing.

Sail ships of speeds less than 15 knots bound U.K. or Med. to Freetown for convoy unless special instructions received from Com. Tenth Fleet C. and R. Entrance instructions Gibraltar and U.K. shall be given ships 14.5 and above for possible diversion. Urdis 262050 not to all. (Com. 10th Fleet C. and R., 271833Z to R.O. Buenos Aires.)

455

27.4.1944.
ThursdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

German non-contact A/C. torpedo pistol. Your 241929B. The S.I.C. pistol is available in quantity for aircraft torpedoes, but no direct counter-measure has so far proved practicable. Degaussing has negligible effect. If torpedo should be caught and held by A.N.D. net it will probably fire by the deflection of torpedo. (D.T.M. 270134B to C. in C. Med.).

BRUISER damaged. My 270100 BRUISER now at anchor with damaged port screw, engine cannot be turned and ship cannot be steered, starboard screw working. Tug required and request arrangements be made to discharge vehicles stores and personnel embarked at Naples. (BRUISER, 270326B to F.O.I.C. Naples).

ULTIMATUM Sailed from Malta at 1803/26th and arrives in patrol area off South Coast of Morea and West of Kithera and Antikithera p.m. 28th. (Capt.(S) 1,270901B to F.O.L.E.M.(R) 1st S/M.F., F.O.T.A.L.I.).

M.V. FENRIS, FORMOSA, YARRAWONGA. Swedish safe conduct ship FENRIS sails from Navicent Nikolo Mirabello (as received) at 1201/29th for Piraeus. (2) FORMOSA and YARRAWONGA sail from Piraeus for Kaso Strait at 0803/30th. (Capt.(S) 1, 270951B to 1st S/M.F.).

Enemy mines. Enemy are now laying mines type (?G.P.) from aircraft fitted with either acoustic or magnetic units. This is a moored non contact mine capable of being laid by aircraft, a description is given in C.B. 3116.

(7) Chapter X From. Med. experience these mines can be laid in depth up to 100 fathoms.

(2) The restrictions regarding use of S.A. gear type C by H.M. Ships published in C.A.F.O. 2172/42 are to be considered cancelled (?on) Med. Station.

(3) S.A. gear type C is to be switched on when proceeding at over 7 knots in all waters between depths of 150 fathoms and the following shallow limits. Capital ships 30 fathoms, cruisers 20 fathoms, destroyer escort vessels and other ships fitted 10 fathoms.

(4) The necessity for the shallow depth limit is due to the fact that use of S.A. gear inside this limit may endanger the ship if ground mines fitted with acoustic-magnetic units have been laid. (C. in C. Med. 271050B to Med. Station 725B).

M.V. ASTREE Barcelona reports attempt to refloat ship mentioned in my 271920 Gov. Tug R.R.18 left yesterday 27th April for Pineda to assist operation. Observer proceeds today to report development. (A.B.N.A. Madrid, 281101).

456

27.4.1944.

Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Mutiny in
Greek Navy.

Recruiting Depot was visited by British Assistant Chief of Egyptian Police in Alexandria p.m. yesterday. Mutineers told him they were prepared to surrender to British but not to Greeks.

(2) Although acceptance of this would appear to be at variance with the policy hitherto adopted the situation in the Recruiting Depot differs somewhat from that in mutinous ships, since the mutineers have from the outset been summoned to emerge by British Authority, the premises have been guarded by British troops and at no time has any Greek personnel participated in the negotiations. Furthermore the mutiny has been entirely passive and has consisted solely in failure to obey a British order to evacuate the premises.

(3) Under these circumstances I authorised a message to be delivered today as follows:-

"We are not prepared to receive your surrender. We are prepared to allow you to leave here without arms as prisoners under British Guard and be taken to a guarded camp. You will remain there under British Guard until time comes when British decided to hand you over to Greek jurisdiction".

These terms have been accepted and the men have marched out. They appeared to be well disciplined and received our guard with correct marks of respect.

(4) Should the hope held out by Admiral Voulgaris (see my 261941) that the AVEROFF mutineers would submit to Greek Authority within the next 24 hours not be fulfilled, I intend possibly after waiting such further reasonable time as circumstances at the moment may show to be justifiable to accept the submission of the Port Said mutineers on precisely the same terms as those in para.3. notwithstanding the obvious objections to this course.

(5) In view of the numbers involved (some five to six hundred in AVEROFF and only some two to three hundred Greek loyalists) the great difficulty in boarding such a high freeboard ship, and the grave objections to the promiscuous fire which would be inevitable, I consider that this course would prove the best in the long run and have authorised F.O.L.E.M. at his discretion to adopt it after my departure for Algiers a.m. tomorrow 28th April.

(6) AVEROFF mutineers have just requested postponement of action against them which they now seem to regard as imminent until 1800 today. The prospects thus look more hopeful.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo, 271202C).

P/L signals 271817 and 271823 from Cairo C.C.O. not to C. in C. Med. or Admiralty, contain texts of Greek Prime Minister's statements to Greek Armed Forces and Greek people respectively. They are to be communicated forthwith to Greek ships in harbour or on arrival in harbour.

(C. in C. Med. Cairo, 271758Z to F.O.G.M.A., F.O.L.E.M., V.A.M., F.O. Tunisia, F.O.W.It.).

Situation at Alexandria has now been entirely cleared up.

(2) Port Said situation hopeful with mutineers actions now becoming farcical in vain endeavour to "save face".

(3) Crews of sail ships have dressed in blue uniform and gone on board AVEROFF taking greatcoats. All ships except AVEROFF now taken over without resistance by loyalists.

/ Crew...

27.4.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Mutiny in Greek Navy (Contd.). (4) Crew of AVEROFF have discarded overalls and steel helmets for blue uniforms, guns are not now manned and many men are carrying their greatcoats. (5) A request from AVEROFF for all men to be landed and placed under the protection of orthodox Greek Church has been refused and demand made by Greek Senior Officer present that terms originally made by Greek C. in C. shall be complied with. (6) AVEROFF has hoisted signals for fresh water and provisions. These are not being supplied. Ship may well be somewhat short of both especially with the 900 odd men now on board. (7) Meanwhile I have suspended all action except that required to receive and incarcerate the mutineers when they come ashore as I think they will do before very long. (C. in C. Med. Cairo, 271956).

PALOMARES PALOMARES should be ready for proceeding in tow by 20th May. Admiralty's 261147B April refers. (F.O.W.It. 271336B to C. in C. Med.).

SPORTSMAN At dusk tonight and proceed to westward of longitude 024° 30' and report whether GERTRUD is visible from seaward in Candia. Remain west of longitude 024° 30' until 0102/28th and then return to patrolling approaches to Candia. (2) French destroyers operating in South Aegean tonight 27th 28th east of longitude 024 30'. They enter Aegean at 2030 and leave about 0230. Speed 34 knots. (Capt.(S) 1, 271409B to SPORTSMAN). My 271409 report in accordance with para.1 and return forthwith to patrol approaches to Candia. (2). Para.2. destroyers not operating tonight. (Capt.(S) 1, 272211B to SPORTSMAN).

GERTRUD, SUZANNE (German). Candia. GERTRUD still present. Arrived SUZANNE Monemvasia Milos. Suda Bay no shipping present a.m. today. (Capt.(S) 1, 271819B to 1st S/M.F.).

Disposal of Italian S/MS. F.O.T.A.L.Is. 252049 bears out previous reports referred to in my 211150 and it is not intended to forward further information. (C. in C. Med. 271840).

I.R.C. ship EMBLA (sunk 19th April). No information has been received by anybody in Spain regarding date and route of Red Cross ship (corrupt groups) sailings from Marseilles your 201906 and R/S 21st April refers. I.R.C. with French and Occupation Authorities fixing sailing date and routing instruction suggest Naval Attache or S.A. Lisbon obtain information Lisbon from Colonial Iselin representative I.R.C. and pass to Admiralty F.O.G.M.A. It would be desirable to arrange accordingly since EMBLA incident it is difficult to charter Spanish ship for this Red Cross Service. (A.B.N.A. Madrid, 281955B).

458

27.4.1944.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.E. Balkan 4. Sea Ops. Night 22/23 April. Personnel
Sitrep No.163. stores infiltrated to Epirus. 23 personnel were
evacuated. Night 24/25 stores landed on west
coast Peloponnese and some Italians evacuated.
(C. in C.M.E. 272000C).
- SS. JOSE A.N.A. Madrid's 202032 and your 211140.
ILLUECA. Sinking of this ship within sink-at-night zone
should deter other Illueca ships from sailing.
It should be noted, however, that A.N.A. Madrid's
221817/March does not confer authority to attack these ships
outside the sink-at-sight zone.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 272130B to C. in C. Med.).
- LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG still in Piraeus may sail tonight for
Candia with destroyer escort.
(Capt.(S)1, 272157 to 1st S/M.F.).
- UNIVERSAL At 2257/27th my position will be 042° 10' N. 007°
12' E. Speed 8½ knots along ordered route to
arrive Maddalena 1400/28th. Patrol summary blank.
Acknowledge.
(UNIVERSAL, 272215B to Capt.(S) 10).

459

27.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B report. Possible S/M wake sighted 04.05 S. 152.26 E. at 0015/27.
(Colombo W/T 270143.)

U/B dis-positions. No. 10. No fresh information, no change.
(C. in C.E.F. 270347.)

SEA ROVER, TAURUS, patrol reports. P.218 (SEA ROVER) Second Far East patrol Summary.
2. 0736FG/10 position 005° 07' N. 099° 45' E. escorted 5000 tons M/V missed with 6 torpedoes probably due track being sighted in flat calm.
3. ?1805/20 bombarded Lho Somawe from position within 25 yards of main breakwater. Goods train almost entirely destroyed, several hits in target area.
4. 21st April at dusk pall of smoke observed over Sabang.
5. P.339 (TAURUS) 5th Far East Patrol Summary.
6. 0755/22 FG sank 500 ton coaster and steam launch by gunfire in 007° 05' N. 099° 22' E.
7. 12 mines laid.
(C. in C.E.F. 270713Z.) *Amended 180537Z May.*

POTARO, U/B sighted. 3333 14.55 N. 42.07 E. submarine sighted on surface (GNLJ (POTARO) No T.O.O/27, Recd. 1140.)

Distress signals. Experience has shown that a number of independent merchant vessels have been unable to transmit a distress message after being torpedoed through W/T being put out of action.
2. It is proposed that all independent shipping on the East Indies station should be instructed that if they are torpedoed between the hours of dusk and dawn they are to fire immediately at least two white rockets or roman candles.
3. In the excellent visibility on E.I. Station rockets may well serve to warn A. other independents in vicinity.
B. H.M.S. escorts or aircraft in vicinity.
4. If proposal is approved request promulgation by lettered message for inclusion in A.M. M.S.I.
(C. in C.E.F. 271141 to Admty.)

U.S. troop-ships for India. It is desired to formulate escort arrangements for troop ships sailing via Australia to India as soon as possible particularly in the case of ships leaving Australian waters during June.
2. Request therefore very early information of dates when ships referred to in Admty. 241848* will be ready to leave Australian waters also similar information regarding sailing of ships mentioned in your 290121+ March.
(C. in C.E.F. 271234Z to B.A.D.)
* re ATHOS II, GENERAL BUTNER, MARIPOSA, WEST POINT, HERMITAGE.
+ Piecrust.

/Convoy...

460

27.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy orders. D.K. and K.D. portions of A.K.D/D.K.A. convoys negative release class D ships. Release class A ships.
(C. in C.E.F. 271252Z.)
MEIRI temporary amendment No. 18. Amend MEIRI 2B as follows:-- sub. para. 4 and 5 suspend and substitute:-- 4(a) northbound ships of 8 knots and over and under 13 knots from Beira are to proceed D.K. convoys to Kilindini, ships onward bound being sailed in escorted groups from Kilindini within 30 miles of coast until reaching lat. 4° N. and thence dispersed.
(b) northbound ships of 13 knots and over between Beira and ports north of Kilindini, India and Ceylon are to be routed independently through Mozambique Channel omitting position K and thence proceeding East Seychelles.
5. All ships from Kilindini to ports north of Kilindini including India and Ceylon are to be sailed in escorted groups as in 4(a).
6. After words Section 2A 2(b) and 3 add "and last of Seychelles".
(C. in C.E.F. 271257Z.)

Traffic in Mozambique Channel to be reduced. Probable presence of U-Boat in area N.W. Madagascar make it desirable to reduce traffic using Mozambique Channel.
2. Following alterations to present routing are intended (a) (i) ships between South Africa and Portuguese East Africa only to use Mozambique Channel sailing in K.D/D.K. convoy with class (?A) G.Q. released.
(ii). Northbound ships between Beira, Port North Kilindini and India of 13 knots and over to sail independently through Mozambique Channel omitting position K and proceeding East Seychelles. Ships under 13 knots to join D.K. convoy to Kilindini thence vide para. (as received) (W.D. Note. c.f. 271257Z.)
(ii) (iii)*Southbound ships for Beira from Port North Kilindini and India to be routed East Seychelles and close to Madagascar.
(b). All other ships to be routed in accordance with MEIRI section 2 A ships sail east of Madagascar and east Seychelles.
(c). Ships between Kilindini and all ports north and east of Kilindini.
1. It is not intended to start A.K/K.A. convoys at present, shipping to be routed within 30 miles of the coast between Kilindini and lat. 4° N.
2. Outward shipping from Kilindini to be sailed in escorted groups as far as 4° N. at convenient intervals and then dispersed.
3. N.O.I.C.E.Af. is requested to implement para. 2C(ii) as soon as escorts become available.
(C. in C.E.F. 271259Z to C. in C.S.At. N.Os. i/c E.Af. Aden, (R) Admty.) *sic. *Ref. CESA 2811478, p. 474.*

Convoy K.D.1 Sailed 1325Z/27 Kilindini portion comprising NILS escorted by LULWORTH to R/V with Dar-es-Salaam portion comprising ITINDA, JOHN M. SCHOFIELD escorted by SORSRA in 006° 34' S. 039° JV at 0900Z/28th.
III - XV. Arrangements.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 271431.)

461

27.4.1944.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

C.U.21. Off Oversay at 0930Z/26th. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 271145Z.)

Flying from
M.A.C. ships.

It is felt that with the present number of M.A.C. ships in convoy flying morale will suffer unless S.O. Escorts order regular patrols when flying is possible irrespective of the submarine situation.

2. Signal ordering patrols might well be prefixed by code word indicating to Senior Air Staff Officer Degree of Urgency.

3. Degree of interest taken by S.O. Escort in M.A.C. ships in his convoy is very clearly reflected by these ships on their arrival in Halifax and it is thought that the importance of this should be emphasised to S.O.E's of C.2., C.5 and B.7 groups invariably receive high praise by masters and Air Staff officers for the interest they take irrespective of situation.

4. Alternatively it is felt that the Senior Air Staff officer should be given instructions that regular flying should take place as arranged by him and that S.O. escorts should approve his proposed programme having regard to the submarine situation and to the fact that he has very many more aircraft and can therefore accept the risk of non operational damage.

5. Every effort is being made to fly air staff officers to Newfoundland if time permits and failing this officers concerned will be connected by telephone.

(C. in C.C.N.A. 271341Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U/B dis-
positions.

(N.S.H.Q. 271440Z, Cominch 271532Z.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. A/S sweep is to be carried out on approach course of NEWFOUNDLAND sweeping (100°) in direction lat. of Cape Race. Suggest W.3 be used for this duty.
2. If ice condition warrants it you are to adjust approach course of NEWFOUNDLAND as necessary.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 271454Z to F.O.N.F.)

In view of ice condition, adjust speed so as not to cross 053° W. before daylight 29th April, subsequently you are to proceed at max. safe speed owing to S/M situation.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 271459Z to NEWFOUNDLAND.)

C.V.Es. as
Flagships.

Tendency is for the proportion of C.V.Es. earmarked for Assault Operations to increase. These C.V.Es. will probably operate in groups under command of a Flag officer. Up to present F.O. has been accommodated in a cruiser but it may be necessary for

some F.Os. in future to embark in an escort carrier.

2. It is known that U.S. Navy have fitted out some C.V.Es. as flagships. Request you will forward by signal or Air Mail information on following points:-

/A...

462

27.4.1944.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.C.V.Es. as
flagships.
(Contd.)

A. Whether any TRACKER Class have been converted.
 B. Extra accommodation provided.
 C. Alterations to bridge.
 D. Additional operations rooms or alterations to C.I.C.
 E. Extra communication equipment.
 F. Views of Pacific Fleet on suitability of these ships as flagships.
 (D.A.W.T. 271745B to B.A.D.)

Water in
fuel oil.

A.M. 192016A July para. 3. O.N.M.231 Oil transfer 71 tons by SPINANGER in moderate to rough weather using steadying line. 459 tons by THORSHOLM moderate weather and without steadying line. Neither vessel has any knowledge of contaminated fuel. Your 191043* refers.
 132 tons by FERNCOURT successful without steadying line in moderate weather. 465 tons by SKARAAAS in moderate weather without steadying line.
 (B.R.L.O. New York 271815Z.)
 * Requesting investigation and report.

SS. PAN
CRESCENT.

Reported aground 26th April South Pass Mississippi River.
 (N.S.H.Q. 271930Z.)

T.G.22.2

T.G.22.2 hereby constituted. BOGUE, HAVERFIELD, SWENNING, WILLIS, JANSSEN, FRANCIS, M.ROBINSON. Group depart Hampton Roads when read 4 May operate offensively against enemy submarines as reported.
 (Cinclant 272031.)

Stragglers
report No.
49.

One arrived New York from H.X.S. 288 ABNER DOUBLEDAY (U.S.) April 20th, engine defects.
 One arrived Halifax from H.X.S. 288, JOHN L. MANSON (~~U.S.~~) April 22nd, feed line defects.
 Three arrived Norfolk from U.G.S. 40, EASTGATE April 24 engine defects. TIMOTHY DWIGHT (U.S.)
 April 24, collision with escort. FORT VENANGO April 26, engine trouble.
 Two arrived New York from C.U.22, CANYON CREEK (U.S.) April 25, engine trouble. BLUE JACKET (U.S.) April 25, boiler trouble.
 (N.S.H.Q. 272146Z.)

463

27.4.1944.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

M.V. TULAGI. C. in C.E.F. confirmed reported loss of TULAGI. No further details known. C. in C.E.F. 040835* and your 252059+ not to C. in C.E.F. refer. (A.C.N.B. 270542Z to Admty.)
* re SS. TULAGI due Colombo 31st March not arrived.
+ re M.W.T.R. Sydney reports TULAGI lost by enemy action.

Digest serial April 26th paras. 12 to end cover S. Pacific Forces. No. 828. 9. Australian troops landed Sek Island off Alexis-hafen afternoon with Commands ? of small escort Australian vessel and eliminated all opposition before dusk?
13. Early morning single Dauntless dropped depth charges on southbound submarine enemy installations off west coast Bougainville S.W. N.K. (as received) passage causing bubbles and oil slack. Subsequent search proved negative. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 270704Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. A. 1. Pa. COLIN straggler from S.C.157 torpedoed at 1850Z/26 in 54° 16' N. 31° 58' W. (D.D.I.C. 270915Z.)

U/B dispositions. Estimates. (D.D.I.C. 271441B, 271449B.)

28.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operations
"R.A" and
"Veritas".

1(a) V.A.2 in ANSON with FURIOUS and 4 destroyers arrived at Scapa at 0615 to-day, followed at 1130 by R.A.E.C. in ROYALIST with JAMAICA, SEARCHER, PURSUER, STRIKER, EMPEROR and 6 destroyers, and at 1714B by VICTORIOUS with KENT and 3 destroyers.

(b) VICTORIOUS reports that Operation "Veritas" was carried out on the 26th April in dirty weather by 3 pairs of Corsair A/C and that his Force was not detected until 0630 to-day when it was sighted by Enemy A/C.

Operation
"F.Z."

2. Convoy R.A. 59, consisting of 45 M/V's with a convoy-speed of 9½ knots, left the Kola Inlet at 1104B to-day for Loch Ewe escorted by C.S.1 in DIADEM, two Escort Carriers, 16 destroyers, 4 Frigates, and one Corvette, and a Russian Local Escort will accompany the Convoy as far as position B.

Convoy T.4
attacked.
U.S. L.S.T.
507 and
U.S. L.S.T.
531 sunk.
U.S. L.S.T.
289 damaged.

3. At 0220 to-day the Convoy T.4, while proceeding independently as a follow-up Convoy for Exercise "Tiger" towards Slapton Beach, escorted by AZALEA with SALADIN joining, was attacked by one or possibly two groups of E-Boats about 15 miles W.S.W. of Portland Bill. The U.S. L.S.T. 507 and 531 were sunk, and the U.S. L.S.T. 289 was damaged and towed to Plymouth. At 1836B 290 survivors had been landed at Portland and 97 bodies had been recovered by Destroyers and Coastal Craft.

Biscay A/S
Operations.

U.193 sunk

4. Two U-Boats were sighted by A/C in the Bay of Biscay to-day, and at 0333B one of them was depth-charged about 350 miles W. by S. of St. Nazaire, with two hits estimated.

Mediterranean

Mutiny in
Greek
Navy.

5. All mutineers at Port Said surrendered to-day to the Greek C. in C. and were transferred to Prisoners of War Camp. This ends the mutiny in the Greek Navy.

465

28.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean - Contd.

SS. CONSTAN-
TINOS
LOULUDIS.

6. At 1634 to-day SPORTSMAN attacked outside Candia a heavily escorted 5000 ton merchant ship. Further reports indicate that this was the German controlled SS. CONSTANTINOS LOULUDIS (to be renamed LUNEBURG) and that she was sunk. The vessel was carrying munitions from Piraeus to Crete.

Heavy
air attacks
on Italian
Harbours.

7. 197 U.S. Fortressesc escorted by 104 fighters were despatched to-day to bomb Piombino harbour. 184 U.S. Liberators escorted by 165 fighters and in another sortie 36 U.S. Mitchells and in a third sortie 95 U.S. Thunderbolts were sent to bomb Porto San Stefano, and 118 U.S. Liberators were despatched to Ortobello.

Australia and New Zealand

8. CUMBERLAND (Eastern Fleet) sailed from Fremantle to-day for Colombo.

466

War Diary.28.4.1944.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Six M.T.Bs. for Portsmouth. It is important to strengthen anti E-Boat forces in Portsmouth Command and it is proposed that a flotilla of 71' 6" M.T.Bs. be transferred temporarily from Nore Command to Portsmouth. Request your remarks.

(A.C.N.S.H. 280045B to C. in C.Nore.)

Your 280045. With reduction in Nore Forces already effected this will seriously weaken defence of convoys in Nore Command but I appreciate that their services are more urgently required in the Channel and therefore concur. Six boats of 35th M.T.B. Flotilla will sail for Portsmouth from Felixstowe a.m. 30th April.
2. Boats now refitting complete on 10th and 17th May.
(C. in C.Nore 282247B to Admty.)

ORION. Rosyth arrival ORION.
(C. in C.Rosyth 282023 to Admty.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Bembridge. Your 261627B April. Air Ministry have agreed to instal type 41 at Bembridge for surface cover and equipment is understood to be on site.
2. Request you will report when station is operating satisfactorily for surface cover.
(D.R.E. 282011B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

A.A. defence of shipping concentrations. About 350 extra transports, cargo vessels, and blockships will be concentrated in certain U.K. ports from now until launching of "Overlord".
2. These ships will be disposed as follows:-
A. 100 London. B. 140 divided between Methil, Oban and Salen Bay (Mull). C. 20 Clyde. D. 20 Belfast.
E. 10 Lough Foyle. F. 24 divided between Kirkwall and Rosyth.
G. 36 divided between Loch Na Keal (Mull), Cromarty and Mumbles Roads (Swansea).
3. Important Fleet Units will also berth in Clyde or Belfast area.
4. Request provision of such additional air defences as you consider necessary.
(A.C.N.S.H. 282120B to Air Min.)

Operations.

Biscay A/S Operations. Am over S/M in 46° 00' N. 11° 10' W.
(A/C RAG 15 280310 to 19 Group.)
U/B attacked by A/C. Am over S/M in 46° 07' N. 10° 50' W. at 0333B.
Enemy was on surface.
V. 193 *smk* (A/C RAG 15 280341B to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 45° 45' N. 09° 33' W. Enemy was on surface.
(A/C NAB 89 280420 to 19 Group.)
Contact lost. Last seen in 45° 45' N. 09° 33' W. course 007° 30'.
(A/C NAB 89 280429 to 19 Group.)

/Am...

467

28.4.1944.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Biscay A/S
Operations.
U/B attacked
by A/C.
(Contd.)

U. 193 sunk

Am over enemy 3/M in 46° 58' N. 10° 30' W. Enemy was on surface. Course 240° speed 15 knots. (A/C RAG 40 280427 to 19 Group.)
U/B previously reported course 240° speed 15 knots when first sighted in 46° 58' N. 10° 17' W. Have attacked U/B with depth charge. Estimate 2 hits (3 corrupt groups). Flak damage, height 4000 feet, course 050°. (A/C RAG 40 280333B to 19 Group.)

No attack. U/B previously reported was on surface and seen to submerge. U/B course 090° speed 10 knots, when first sighted in 46° 08' N. 10° 32' W. Lost touch with U/B. Returning to base. (A/C RAG 15 280440 to 19 Group.)

Operation
"Veritas".

E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 1700 KENT, VENUS, VIGILANT in company. My P.C. and S. 061° 38' N. 003° 48' W. 183° 19 knots.

(VICTORIOUS 280602B to C. in C.H.F. A.C.O.S.)

Scapa arrival V.A.2 in ANSON with FURIOUS, SERAPIS, SWIFT, KEMPENFELT, ALGONQUIN.
(A.C.O.S. 280615B to H.F.)

"Veritas" executed 26th in dirty weather by 3 pairs of Corsairs.

2. Penetration into areas 2, 3, 5 and 6 and part of 4 prevented by snow curtains and stuffed clouds. Otherwise successful.

3. Over territory 1710B to 1740B flak and indiscriminate L.A. fire but no G.A.F.

4. My force not detected.

(VICTORIOUS 280632B to C. in C.H.F.)

My 280632B para. 4. Sighted by Stavanger Zenit at 0630 today.

(VICTORIOUS 280729 to C. in C.H.F.)

Scapa arrivals R.A.E.C. in ROYALIST with JAMAICA, SEARCHER, PURSUER, STRIKER, EMPEROR, (corrupt group), URSA, UNDAUNTED, WAKEFUL, PIORUN, JAVELIN, KELVIN, SIOUX, WIZARD.

(A.C.O.S. 281130 to H.F.)

Scapa arrivals VICTORIOUS, KENT, IMPULSIVE, VENUS and VIGILANT.

(A.C.O.S. 281714B to H.F.)

Operation
C.W.

Intend following mean line advance at 12½ knots 180° until 1030, then 270° until 1300. Then 000° at 10 knots. Request remaining escorts for fueling join me at 1330 in 54° 01' N. 15° 04' W. Sweep independently until 2200, then about 30 miles ahead of me on mean line advance 130° at 14 knots.

(VINDEK 280702B to E.G.5.)

VINDEK, E.G.5, BICKERTON, BLIGH, KEMP THORNE, AYLMER, KEATS, GOODSON and E.G.9 MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT operate near 055° 10' N. 013° 30' W.

(C. in C.W.A. 281309B to Ships.)

/Convoy...

468

28.4.1944.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Convoy T.4
attacked.
U.S.L.S.Ts.
507 and 531
sunk. U.S.
L.S.T.289
damaged.

Which L.S.T. has been sunk.
(C. in C.Plymouth 280914B to AZALEA.)
Have landed 129 survivors at Portland from U.S.
L.S.T.507 and 531. One other L.S.T. known sunk.
All L.S.Ts sunk in approx. (244°) Portland Bill
12 miles. Am proceeding to rejoin close screen.
(SALADIN 281115B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
At 0011/28 ONSLOW on patrol in 198° Portland 14
encountered one E-Boat on a northerly course. A
few minutes later this E-Boat retired to the south-
ward. At about 0020 plots of three groups of E-Boats appeared
between 10.20 miles west southwest of Portland Bill steering N.W.
and appeared to be searching to the north westward. At 0220 one
or possibly two groups made contact with and attacked convoy T.4
in 252 Portland Bill 15. Escort of this convoy was AZALEA being
reinforced by SALADIN. U.S.L.S.Ts. 507, 531, 499 were sunk by
enemy and U.S.L.S.T.289 was damaged. Enemy then retired to the
southward being sighted and engaged by OFFA and ORWELL, but by use
of smoke and high speed enemy escaped. L.S.T. 289 is being es-
corted to Dartmouth, tugs being sent out from there. U.S.L.S.T.
515 and SALADIN entered Portland with survivors, the remainder
of T.4 convoy are being escorted to Start Bay by BRISSENDEN and
two corvettes. ONSLOW, OBEDIENT, OFFA and ORWELL and six coastal
force craft from Portland assisted by aircraft have been searching
and report no more survivors. Between 330 and 350 survivors have
been brought in so far. Fear loss of life is heavy but reliable
reports are not yet available.

(C. in C.Plymouth 281354B and 281740B to Admty.)

As result of E-Boat attack 12 miles west of Portland Bill
early today U.S.L.S.Ts. 507 and 531 were sunk and U.S.L.S.T. 499
is also believed to have been lost. The loss of the last named
vessel has not yet been confirmed and no survivors from this ves-
sel have been landed.
U.S.L.S.T. 289 suffered damage and was towed to Plymouth. The
following survivors have been landed at Portland, uninjured and
walking cases 257, cot cases 33. 97 bodies have been recovered
and search is continuing.

(N.O.I.C. Portland 281836B and 281838B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

ONSLOW reports that during approach of E-Boats in Lyme Bay
night of 27/28 April there was sudden explosion in vicinity of
ONSLOW and OBEDIENT as of depth charge or mine, and fragments
fell on board. Suggest this may form part of diversionary tactics
E-Boats were not being chased at the time.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 281935 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

My 281354 corrected by 281740. U.S.L.S.T. 499 was not sunk
and is now with remainder of convoy.

(C. in C.Plymouth 282029B to Admty.)

Operation
"Overlord".

After my representative visiting Marchwood yester-
day I am of the opinion that the urgency of the
situation with regard to "Whale" is not realised.
Only yesterday a further modification to pier heads

/was...

469

28.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Overlord". (Contd.) was received. Unless alterations to design and final adjustments cease forthwith in the construction areas this "Whale" gear will not be ready. I would urge that you give directions accordingly. Many of the final adjustments referred to above can be completed in the assembly areas. (A.N.C.X.F. 281103B to S.H.A.E.F.)

S/M Patrols. Proceed after dark 28th to patrol line HH. (F.O.S. 281111B to STRONGBOW.) Positions of submarines at 0800B/29th and movements for following 24 hours.
A. STRONGBOW on patrol vicinity 65° 15' N. 00° 04' E.
B. STATESMAN, VIGOROUS, VIKING as in my 271733B.
K. VENTURER probably on the surface approaching Lerwick from N.E. (F.O.S. 281653B to Admty.)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C.Plymouth 281328B.)
(C. in C.Portsouth 281455B.)

Operation F.Z. Kola Inlet sailed at 1104B R.A.59, 45 ships, speed 9½ knots. LOTUS additional escort. Russian local escort as far as position Baker. (S.B.N.O.N.Russia 281506B to Admty.)
1. R.A.59. 2. Toros Island 1100B/28th. 4. 9½ knots. 5. My 241845B para. 3 and 4. 6. S.B.N.O.N.Russia's 281506B. (S.B.N.O.Murmansk 281910B to Admty.)
R.A.59. Names of M/Vs. (S.B.N.O.Murmansk 282237B to Admty.)

E-Boat sunk by LA COMBATTANTE on 26th April. 1. Report of E-Boat activity night 25/26th April.
2. At 2215B Dover shore radar reported 10 small vessels leaving Boulogne southbound at 40 knots. These faded off Berck at 2255B all patrols were warned. M.T.Bs. 255 and 256 carrying out operation "Knitting" were stopped in 50° 10' N. 0° 00' W
3. At 0012B plots were detected in 50° 10' N. 0° 30' E. proceeding westward straight towards M.T.B. 255 and 256 which were withdrawn to the northward at full speed. M.T.Bs. 250, 246 and 248 on operation K.N.4 were also withdrawn to northward at full speed. My 271019B refers.
4. At 0030B F.S.LA COMBATTANTE and ROWLEY were ordered to the eastward to cover withdrawal of M.T.B. 255 and 256 and at 0100B LA COMBATTANTE was ordered to investigate the E-Boat plots.
5. At 0115B ROWLEY made radar contact and LA COMBATTANTE at 0130B The E-Boats turned north at 0200B and LA COMBATTANTE engaged one group of 5. Shortly afterwards enemy plot was seen to split into

470

28.4.1944.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- E-Boat sunk by LA COMBATTANTE on 26th April (Contd.)
- 3 groups two moving in the direction of E.A.5 buoy and one towards the N.A.B.
6. During this phase ROWLEY and LA COMBATTANTE were continuously in contact and intermittently in action with the eastward group and at 0130B LA COMBATTANTE scored a 4-inch direct hit on one boat stopping it. She closed and sank it and began to pick up survivors but only one was rescued before hydrophone effect was heard approaching and she went ahead again.
7. Enemy groups turned to westward just short of Searched Channel between 0300B and 0315B. The westerly group was engaged between 0305B and 0310B, by 4 salvos from Culver battery upon which it turned to southward. All groups turned to south westward between 0315B and 0300B.
8. Navigational exercise Parrot VI, 6 L.S.I. escorted by 2 M.G.B. was taking place south of Isle of Wight. This force was warned of E-Boats and was turned westward at 0200B. Retiring enemy groups all passed astern of Parrot VI the westerly group owing to its turn away from Culver's fire missed it by 3 miles.
9. SEYMOUR and STEVENSTONE patrolling south westward of Isle of Wight were directed to south eastward at 0300B to cut off retreat of enemy. Brief encounters took place about 16 miles north of Cap Barfleur between 0415B and 0445B without apparent results.
10. At 0730B aircraft sighted a dinghy with German sailors 060° Barfleur 50' and an H.S.L. and M.A.S.B. were sent to investigate these returned at 1730B with 11 more prisoners from LA COMBATTANTE's E-Boat.
11. Since enemy air R/C had taken place during the previous day it appears that this E-Boat force was engaged in an armed R/C and not on minelaying. Area covered by E-Boats at most northerly point of their track has been swept without result. This is confirmed by statements of prisoners of war. Need for strong air cover to prevent air R/C of assembly ports is thereby stressed. My 271949B refers.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 281559B to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Portsmouth area. Prevention of enemy air R/C.

Your 271949B. Extreme importance of denying air R/C to enemy fully appreciated. Frequent situation of area at all heights by friendly aircraft makes tracking and identification complex and not completely reliable. Lack of need to make penetration also reduces time available for interception. In spite of these difficulties every effort now being made to prevent him reconnoitring concentrations in Isle of Wight area prior to "Overlord" during exercise "Fabius". In spite of all measures being taken however complete immunity from enemy air R/C cannot be guaranteed.
(A.D.G.B. 281945B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

7 saturation

471

28.4.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Search off
Portland.

Request you will sail 4th M/S Flotilla at first light to search area between lat. 50° 20' N. and 50° 30' N. and long. 2° 35' W. and 3° 00' W. (C. in C.Plymouth 280417B to F.O.I.C.Portland.)

Operation
"Hostile 26".

My 211455 being passed to HAIDA and ATHABASKAN. Intend to carry out operation "Hostile 26" tonight.

2. Amend my 211455 to read as follows:-

Para. H. 0330. Para. N. to leave AA. at 2300, arrive XX at 0200. Para. R. 0345, 20 knots.

3. Force "Hostile 26" is to pass Gate at 1945B/28th.

4. Support force HAIDA (S.O.) ATHABASKAN is to pass Gate at 2230B/28th.

(C. in C.Plymouth 281131B to HAIDA, ATHABASKAN, M.T.B.F.52, M.L.F.10, Capt. D.15, No. 10 Group.)

Force "Hostile 26" consisting of M.T.B.677 S.O. and 9 coastal force craft leaving Plymouth 1945B/28th.

2. Support force HAIDA S.O. ATHABASKAN leaving Plymouth 2230 to southwards, returning approx. 0715.

(C. in C.Plymouth 281443B to C. in C.Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Portland, Capt. D.17, OFFA, ORWELL, TANATSIDE, OBEDIENT.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat sunk
by ULA on
19th April.

We congratulate ULA on the bold attack delivered from close range which resulted in the sinking of a U-Boat on 19th April 1944.
(1st S.L. 281603B to ULA.)

Casualties & Defects.

NELSON.

A.M. 261615 and C. in C.Rosyth's 271236. The following A star radio items in order of priority should be undertaken. Details.
(D.O.D.H. 280039B to C. in C.Rosyth.)

My 271236B. Provided turret machinery trials are satisfactory and complement can be adjusted in time ship will be ready to sail p.m. May 8th.

(C. in C.Rosyth 282359B to C. in C.H.F.)

TRUANT.

Small periscope scored by M.T.B. towing wire. May require replacement.
(TRUANT 280925B to Capt. S.3.)

ARDROSSAN.

ARDROSSAN remaining Spinsby for examination of damage to steer. Request she may be sailed to join me when ready.
(M.S.15 281005B to F.O.Humber.)

472

28.4.1944.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

M.L.230. M.L.230 withdrawn from "Tiger" and returned to Dartmouth, dismantled in collision. Duration of repairs unknown.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 281129B to Com. Group 2.)

WINCHESTER. My 271803B. Vessel will proceed to Tyne under her own power.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 281235B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

HAWKINS. Engine defects. Returning at 5 knots which may be later. My position 340° Longships 4.
(HAWKINS 281549B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
My position 124° Longships 10, speed 10 knots, but hope to increase slightly later. Approx. E.T.A. Plymouth 2300. Your 281743 and my 281549. Starboard aft condenser tubes perforated structures stripped from L.R.turbine. All boilers contaminated.
(HAWKINS 281853B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Shipping & Convoys.

E.G.B.3. On return of S.L.155, B.3 group is to be reconstituted as follows: TOWY, ANGUILLA, ANTIGUA, LEEDS CASTLE, KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE, TINTAGEL CASTLE.
(C. in C.W.A. 281621B to Capt. D.Greenock.)

E.G.12. E.G.12th is constituted as from April 29th as follows: QU'APPELLE, SASKATCHEWAN, SKEENA, ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE.
2. Operational base Londonderry.
(C. in C.W.A. 281959B to Cdre. D.W.A.)

473

28.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. TARRAGONA, CONDECORADO. Spanish SS. TARRAGONA at Alicante loading fruit for Germany expected to sail night of Thursday to Friday.
Spanish SS. CONDECORADO expected to sail from Alicante Friday/Saturday night also fruit for Germany.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 280034B to S.O.(I) Med., Capt. (S) 10th, 10th S/M.F.)
My 280034B* April. First vessel named sailed northbound 272345.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 280504 to S.O.(I) Med., Capt. (S) 10th, 10th S/M.F.)
* Re Spanish TARRAGONA and CONDECORADO.
TARRAGONA sail Alicante 2145/27th with fruit for Germany destination probably Port Vendres.
(F.O.G.M.A., 281013B to S.O.(I) Med., Capt. (S) 10th, 10th S/M.F.)

U. 761 (sunk 24th Feb. 1944) Time not taken accurately but estimated as between 30 and 40 seconds considered to have exploded on bottom. Your 261956 refers.
(F.O.G.M.A., 281134B to Admty.)

TOTLAND. Request anticipated sailing date of TOTLAND to join Eastern Fleet.
(D.O.D.(F), 281427B to F.O.G.M.A.)

SS. POETA AROLAS, INDAUCHU (Spanish) M.E.W. requests interception of SS. POETA AROLAS left Teneriffe for Cadiz late p.m./27th.
(2) H.M. Consul reports three parcels for Germany accepted by Post Office Teneriffe for transmission in that ship.
(3) Germans apparently attach special importance to transmission in that ship. As ship is unlikely to have mail room armed guard should take steps immediately on boarding to locate and safeguard all mail and parcels. My 232251 refers.
(D.E.W.D., 281910B to F.O.G.M.A.)
M.E.W. requests interception of SS. INDAUCHU S. America to Santander and due Las Palmas 27th April. My 232251 refers.
(D.E.W.D., 281918B to F.O.G.M.A.)
M.E.W. requests interception of SS. INDAUCHU S. America to Santander and due Las Palmas 27th April. Also SS. POETA AROLAS Loanda to Cadiz who arrived Las Palmas 25th April.
(D.E.W.D., 281937B to F.O.G.M.A.)

Survivors on raft. Aircraft sighted 1805Z/28th two rafts one containing survivors vicinity 040° 10' N. 031° 15' W. CAPE PALLISER E.T.A. area 1300Z/29th with aircraft assisting, ordered to effect rescue.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 282250Z to F.O.G.M.A.)

474

28.4.1944.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSSouth Atlantic

WEAR &c. WEAR is to be detached as convenient to proceed Dakar. She will be required to sail with MALCOLM and WOLVERINE to escort of S.R.13. about 6th May.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 281058Z to ENCHANTRESS.)

Reference my 281058. Polish Gold is to be embarked in WEAR, WOLVERINE and MALCOLM for Gibraltar.

(2) Destroyers will call Dakar for fuel before joining escort of S.R.13.

(3) Total consignment is not to exceed 70 boxes divided between the 3 ships.

(4) B.N.L.O. pass to WEAR after arrival Dakar.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 281139Z to B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

D.K.A.18. In view of your 271259 D.K.A.18 is cancelled. All ships destination Aden.

(2) Subject to your concurrence propose taking LANDGUARD in hand for refit as soon as this can be arranged.

(C. in C. S.A., 281147B to C. in C. E.F.)

O.S. Convoys: O.S. Convoys. Ships for coastal ports east of Freetown present Africa and coast positions are unsuitable;

(a) with dispersal point north of Freetown Africa position is too far west to give a good and early (dispersal?).

(b) some of present routes cut across fish routes between Takoradi and Freetown.

(2) Propose for consideration: (1) to cancel present Africa and coast positions.

(2) To establish new Africa position between 4° 20' N. 15° 50' W. and 6° 20' N. 15° 50' W. and 6° 20' N. 14° 20' W.

(3) To establish new Palman position between 0° 05' N. 9° 15' W. and 2° 35' N. and 8° 45' W.

(4) To establish new coast position between 0° 20' N. 2° 45' W. and 2° 50' N. 3° 15' W.

(5) As these routes will be only five miles apart suggest total number of routes be reduced to 15 as number of ships concerned is small, alternatively odd and even numbered routes be reserved for odd and even numbered convoys respectively.

(F.O.C.W.Af., 281326Z to Admt.)

Daily A.C.10th, April 28th. Period ending 1800/27.

Opsum 259. (2) U-Boat hunt 3 French Wellingtons 20 hours 22 mins. Para. 2. Add U-Boat hunt 2 French Wellingtons 16 hours 12 mins.

(A.H.Q.W.Af., 281420Z.)

U/B
attacked 720
miles W. by
N. of C.V.I.

Bulletin from C.T.G. 21.15 at daylight 28th. Oil slick reported my 271633 extended seven miles over wide area from point of rising oil which had apparent motion one half knot. At this point made fathometer contacts 530 feet dropped three full patterns. No further movement or contact, oil continues rising and spreading

/heavily ...

475

28.4.1944.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

U/B
attacked 720
miles W. by
N. of C.V.I.
(Contd.)

heavily. At 1550Z about three miles from origin of oil made sound contact with very nimble U-Boat apparently undamaged. Several attacks no result so far. Evaluation difficult but believe this may be second boat. Position 282200 17.35 38.20 W.
(C.T.G. 21.15, 282300.)

777
Squadron.

Your 181830. Regret there is no possibility of re-equipping 777 Squadron or of providing A.S.V.X. sets to Swordfish as all are urgently required for other services.

(2) As indicated in 'A' Message 855A, the intention is to call in the stored reserve aircraft, particularly Swordfish, from foreign stations. But in view of the special situation, the move of reserves from Freetown will be deferred, and the use of the reinforcements which you have improvised, approved. No extra personnel can, however, be provided, and replacement aircraft cannot be made available.

(3) The order of preference, from the administrative point of view, for using reserve stocks of aircraft is Albacore, Walrus, Swordfish. Request you will comply as far as possible.

(4) The question of providing modern R/T W/T equipment is under investigation and further signal will be made.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 282348B to F.O.C.W.Af.)

476

28.4.1944
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

- PALOMARES. Ref. A.M. 261147 / . Request estimated date on which PALOMARES will be ready for towing.
(C. in C. Med. 280002B to F.O.W.It.)
/ re towing of PALOMARES to U.K.
- C. in C. Med. C. in C. Med. left Cairo for Algiers by air at 0700 to-day. E.T.A. Algiers, 281730B.
(C. in C. Med. (Cairo), 280719C)
- Escort of carriers. Memros 94 para. 2 (b). Request information as to what arrangement can be made for escort of these carriers. Dates suggested appear most suitable.
(C. in C. Med. 281027B to Admty.)
- ULTIMATUM. Proceed forthwith with despatch to examine Kapsali Bay (Kithera) tonight.
(Capt. (S) 1, 281146B to ULTIMATUM)
- SPORTSMAN. At dusk withdraw to the westward and remain west of longitude 024 degs. 30' until midnight. Then return patrol approaches to Candia.
(2) 2 Contretorpilleurs pass Kaso Strait at 2030 and leave about 0230 speed 34 knots. Ordered not to pass west 024 degs. 30'.
(Capt.(S) 1, 281213B to SPORTSMAN, (R) F.O.L.E.M. UNSWERVING, LE MALIN, LE FANTASQUE, LE TERRIBLE.)
- German human torpedo. A new type of human torpedo has been used recently by Germans in Naples area. This consists of 2 torpedoes secured one above the other other, about 6 inches apart, and is apparently at present only capable of being launched from land in the vicinity of target area.
(2) (3) Description.
(4) Craft have been detected by Radar and it should be also possible to pick them up by asdic hydrophone effect or with short transmission unit.*
(5) Depth charges dropped in their vicinity have forced coxswains to abandon ship.
(6) Experience at Anzio has proved that this weapon can be defeated by a high degree of alertness on the part of patrol vessels and the liberal use of depth charges of all sizes.
(C. in C. Med. 281420B)
- UNIVERSAL (P.57) Patrol report blank.
(Capt.(S) 10, 281429)

M.K.S. /...

* This was modified by 231551 May, page 334 (May).

477

28.4.1944

FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

M.K.S.47: (Corrupt Addressed) (Corrupt Addressee).
 U.S. landing ships. M.K.S.47. Intend sailing U.S. L.S.T. 212, 351, 383, 538, 360, 327, (?201), 539, 359, 378, 379, 519 U.S. L.C.I.(S) 215 speed 8 knots. 8½ EMPIRE TRENT R/T D/F 11 8½ TAXARCHIS 12 total 15 ships for U.K.
 (?Connob Oran, 281500B to JOHAN MAURITS.)

LUXEMBOURG, GERTRUD, SUZANNE. LUXEMBOURG may arrive Suda Bay or Candia this afternoon with Destroyer escort.
 (2) GERTRUD and possibly SUZANNE may sail from Candia for Piraeus at dusk to-day with some escorts probably routed close west of Milos. Speed 7½ knots.
 (3) UNSWERVING take appropriate action.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 281550 to UNSWERVING, SPORTSMAN)

Motor boats for Adriatic. Your 151250, regret that in present circumstances it is not possible to allocate any fast lightly armed motor boats for use on Adriatic Coast. Requirement is noted however and endeavour will be made to meet it at earliest opportunity.
 (A.C.N.S.(F), 281706B to C. in C. Med.)

Mutiny in Greek Navy. Port Said. All mutineers have surrendered to Greek C. in C. They are being transferred to P. of W. Camp.
 (F.O.L.E.M.281728C)
 Unless some new situation arises, my 281728 no further situation report will be made.
 (F.O.L.E.M. 282326C)

Black Sea, Russian Operations. From operations reports up to April 21st correct my 211740/as follows.
 (A) Para. 2 delete sinking of merchant vessel on April 13th. April 17th and April 18th delete and substitute: April 17th 3 merchant vessels 4000, 3000 and 2000 tons sunk and 2 merchant vessels 3000 and 2500 tons damaged: April 18th 3 merchant vessels 6000, 5000 and 2000 tons one minesweeper one R boat and one F lighter sunk and a 3000 ton merchant vessel damaged.
 (B) Para. 3. add one 3000 ton merchant vessel sunk by S/M April 17th.
 (N.L.O.Black Sea, 281835) / 211737 intended.

Coast Defences. Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief.
 In view of urgent need saving manpower we have re-examined coast defences in this Command. Our conclusions are that all Units are now down to minimum for effective operation. Suggest however it is for your consideration that slight probability of attack and relative unimportance of targets may justify total abolition of coast defences at Benghazi, Tripoli (L) and Tobruk on grounds that importance manpower saving outweighs risk.
 (Mideast 281850 to A.M.S.S.O.)

Situation /...

478

28.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation
Report
No.347.

2979 tons discharged Anzio on 26th April and
2187 tons on 27th April no enemy activity on
either day.

(2) Greek ship PIPINOS reports sinking Caique by
ramming North of Suda Bay on 13th April, 1 priso-
ner taken.

(C. in C. Med. 282144B)

479

28.4.1944
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat
dispositions. No.11. Areas A B C E F G believed clear U-Boats
scale of escort W. Area D. U-Boat indicated by
D/F 25th April probably off east African coast
between Comoro Island and Mogadiscio. Scale
Air escort Y.
(C. in C. E.F. 280319)

NEWCASTLE
(for
Simonstown) Departure 28th.
(N.O.I.C.Mauritius, 281405Z)

ERLING
BROVIG. My 211841 (N.T. in W.D.) divers report of damage.
Balance of cargo, about 1,500 tons, will be dis-
charged.
(Com. Aden, 280631Z)

Explosion
in Bombay
Docks. Gov. of India are appointing a committee to
inquire into causes of fire in Bombay Docks and
into adequacy of action taken before and after
Rear Admiral C.S. Holland appointed as Service
Member.
(C. in C. E.F. 281023Z) Amended 290917.

SUSSEX. Your 262125. It is intended to sail SUSSEX
from Ceylon for U.K. about 7th May after adjust-
ment of complement. Estimated arrival in U.K.
27th May.
(C. in C. E.F. 281244Z) .

480

28.4.1944.
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

- 6 D.Es. Re spares. A.M. 092111 March para. four refers.
transferred (B.A.D. 280003Z).
to French.
- NEWFOUNDLAND Norfolk departed 26th April for St. Johns N.F.
for onward routing to U.K.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 280045Z).
- SPEAKER Departed Norfolk 27th April for New York for
inclusion in T.C.U.23.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 280120Z).
- O.T.14 Due harbour congestion Aruba O.T.14 being
assembled and sailed from Curacao.
(Com. 10th Fleet, 280219Z).
- Misc. Convoy Arrived 281330Z escorted by P.C.468.
S.151 (Capt.i/c. Jamaica, 281000Q).
- INDOMITABLE, Your 271339B. My position at 281230Z was 039°
INMAN. 29' N. 029° 04' W. course 056° S. of A. 18 knots
HOLMES HOTHAM RIOU. E.T.A. position 011000Z
INMAN unable keep up and has been ordered to
proceed independently at best speed to position O. 055° 30' N.
008° 01' W.
(INDOMITABLE, 281415Z).
- U/boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 281437Z, Cominch, 281508Z).
- U/boat A.G./A.C. 28th April. Transport A/C sighted
report. periscope 42.23 N. 41.55 W. course 270 at 1240Z.
(247 Group, 281500Z to 15 Group).
- BIRMINGHAM F.O.L.E.M. 262016.
Request you will report whether BIRMINGHAM can
now be accepted and a yard be allocated in U.S.A.
for refit and completion of damage repairs details
of which were given in Admiralty 241103/December.
(2) It is intended that BIRMINGHAM should be sailed through the
Mediterranean for inclusion, subject to U.S. concurrence, in the
first suitable returning G.U. convoy.
(D.O.D.(F), 281556B to B.A.M.R.).
- KING Can be usefully employed on patrol and escort
HAAKON VII. duties during the summer months in Canadian
waters.
(2) Due to shortage of escorts now, allocation
of this ship to C. in C.C.N.A. for summer would be much
appreciated.
(3) Request you will approach Norwegian Naval Service.
(4) B.A.Ds. 281715 Dec. 1943. and Cominch 062200 Jan. refer.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 281638Z to Admtty.).

/ Survey...

481

28.4.1944.
FridayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies - Contd.

- Survey of Torres Strait route. Following has been passed to B.A.D. by Cominch begins:-
Addressed to Com. 7th Fleet. Substance C. in C. Sowespac 160007 has been communicated to Admiralty. Orders for survey ships CHALLENGER and WHITE BEAR to proceed Australia are expected in near future. Refer again to my Dis. 131540/Jan. and H.O. Misc. No 10,174. Consider of first priority the undertaking of additional survey work on Torres Strait route to:-
(A) Determine if present Channel can be safely navigated by largest Men of War.
(B) Develop if possible an alternate Channel or Channels.
(C) Install adequate aids to navigation. Foregoing required in order to forecast probable capacity and security of route for shortening supply lines to Darwin and Southeast Asia Theatre and usefulness as a Strategic route for rapid movement of major Combatant forces. Pass to MacArthur. Subject to his approval confer with A.C.N.B. and submit comment. 261340. My 252015 to Admiralty only refers.
(B.A.D. Washington, 281725Z).

Bermuda dockyard. Your 202205/March. We are examining possibility of additional work being allocated to Bermuda. (Admty. 281833B to C.S. Bermuda).

HARGOOD, BELLEROPHON. Detach BELLEROPHON at position (M) to proceed independently to destination reporting time of detaching and E.T.A. St. John N.B. HARGOOD proceed to destination from position (P) (? passing through) (Q) 046° 26' N. 054° 56' W. reporting E.T.A. to C.T.F. 24. Com.N.O.B. Bermuda, 261627 refers. (C. in C.C.N.A. 281926Z to HARGOOD).

French D.Es. and P.Cs. C.C.S. designate Mediterranean under Allied C. in C. as initial employment French DE MAROCAIN HOVA and SOMALI, French P.Cs. COUDELAS DAGUS and JAVF-LOT.
(Cominch, 281947Z).

As vessels Mydis 281947 become ready for service sail them to Bizerta where direct ships report C. in C. Med. for further orders. Ships available to you as escorts en route.
(Cominch, 281950Z to C. in C. Lant.).

M.V.GRIPSHOLM (Swedish). Departs New York 2 May under safe conduct to effect exchange German for U.S. and British Ineffective Prisoners of War at Barcelona. Route (Algiers - Barcelona - Algiers - Belfast - New York). Description. Not to be molested.
(Cominch, 282015).

U/boat incidents. (A) U.S.S. HUSE and FROST attacked sound contact 17.52 N. 38. 04 W. 260654Z.
(B) Ascension Liberator radar contact about 13.56 S. 21.05 W. 271100Z.

/ (C)...

482

28.4.1944.
Friday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

U/boat
incidents
(Contd.).

(C) Army Transport plane sighted sub. 42.23 N. 415E
W. 281257Z course repeated course 270. No report
on 27th. Admiralty pass to Comnavu and H.Q.C.C.).
(Cominch, 282050Z).

Australia and New Zealand

Digest
No. 829.

April 27th. (Paras. 8 to end cover South Pacific
Forces).

(5) (Extract) Prior to midnight April 26th an
American destroyer attacked single enemy submarine
north of Seleo Island (off Aitape) without visible
results.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 280656Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. (1) A/C sighted U-Boat course 130° at
1253Z/27 in 60° 43' N. 03° 45' E.
(2) A/C Y/58 sighted U-Boat at 0110Z/28 in 46° 00'
N. 11° 10' W.
(3) A/C W/612 sighted U-Boat on surface at 0200Z/
28th in 45° 45' N. 09° 33' W.

(4) A/C M/58 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0127Z/28th
in 45° 38' N. 10° 30' W.

Para. B. (1) Liberator T/547 obtained Radar contact at 0410Z/27th
in 47° 13' N. 11° 10' W.

Para. D. (1) U-Boat contact reported on 27th April in approx.
17° 45' N. 26° 30' W.

(2) Br. POTARO sighted U-Boat on surface before 1200Z/27th in
14° 55' N. 42° 07' E.

Ref. A.M. 261135B para. D (1) cancelled.
(D.D.I.C., 281148B., 291203B).

U/B
dispositions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 281438B, 281446B.)

29.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Iceland.

1. Admiralty has today approved the closing down of the Naval Base at Seidisfjord and the H.D.A. Station at Hvalfjord in order to effect economies in ships and personnel.

Operation "Hostile 26".
ATHABASKAN sunk. One ELBING class destroyer run ashore on fire.

2. At 0402 today, while covering the Minelaying Operation "Hostile 26", the destroyers HAIDA (S.O.) and ATHABASKAN intercepted two westbound ELBING class destroyers 11 miles north of Ile de Vierge on the North Brittany coast. In the ensuing action ATHABASKAN was torpedoed and stopped at about 0415, and at about 0429 she blew up and sank, having been torpedoed again while stopped. At about 0437 one of the enemy destroyers was set on fire by HAIDA and ran ashore 7 miles E. by N. of Ile de Vierge; and the second enemy destroyer escaped to the eastward. Air cover not being available, HAIDA was only able to remain long enough to rescue 38 survivors from ATHABASKAN before daylight, of whom 5 were severely burnt; and she left boats and Carley floats for about 100 more in the water; some of these survivors were eventually landed. Escorted by OFFA and ORWELL as far as the Eddystone HAIDA returned to Plymouth.

Biscay A/S Operations.

3. A U-Boat was attacked and apparently disabled by A/C at 0230B today about 400 miles west of the Gironde; and another U-Boat was bombed by A/C at 1515B about 440 miles west of St. Nazaire.

Enemy minelaying.

4. The Needles Channel approach to Portsmouth and all the approaches to Portland except one from the westward were closed early this morning on account of suspected minelaying by enemy A/C, one of which dropped a mine without parachute at 1151 today on the land close to Milford-on-Sea. Twenty mines were exploded in the Needles area today, of which 13 exploded spontaneously and 2 on shore.

North Atlantic.

A/S protection of Gibraltar Straits.

5. To compensate for the withdrawal from Gibraltar of 179 Wellington L.L. Squadron Commorseafront is sending 6 day Liberators and 6 S/L Liberators from Lyautey to Gibraltar temporarily. Their operational control will remain unchanged.

29.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Toulon
bombed.

6. 191 U.S. Fortresses and 382 Liberators of the Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Force, escorted by 214 U.S. fighters were despatched today to bomb Toulon. 2623 x 1000 G.P. were dropped from 19,000/25,000 feet, hits are reported on the arsenal, submarine pens and other targets, but an effective chemical smoke screen over the target area prevented the complete observation of results.

Beachhead.

7. There has been no enemy activity at Anzio since 26th inclusive, except an attack last night by about 30 to 40 enemy aircraft, 9 of which are reported shot down. Mines are believed to have been laid and some detonated in the anchorage today. No damage was caused to shipping.

Air
Operations.

8. 20 aircraft attacked Genoa port installations last night. San Stefano and Piombino were also bombed.

Black Sea.

9. The U.S.S.R. authorities report that between 22 and 26 April inclusive their submarines sank 3 merchant ships totalling 11,000 tons, and their aircraft 11 merchant ships totalling 14,700 tons, all apparently on the Crimea route. In addition, U.S.S.R. aircraft and E-Boats sank 1 escort vessel, one gunboat, 1 E-Boat, 3 R-Boats, 1 F-Lighter; many other vessels and craft were damaged, (see note May 3, para. 9(b).)

East Indies.

U/Bs.

10. Two submarines were reported by merchant ships today, on the surface in different parts of the Arabian Sea, and two were fixed by D/F to the eastward or southeastward of Ceylon.

485

29.4.1944.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT,

Australia & New Zealand.

New Guinea.

11.(a). Last night Allied M.T.Bs. destroyed 6 enemy barges laden with troops and supplies in Nightingale Bay (east of Wewak), killing about 100 enemy personnel. Neither barges nor shore installations offered any opposition.
(b). 16 U.S. Mitchells attacked coastal targets at Sarmi Point today, silencing A.A. gun positions destroying barges and starting several large fires.

Wake I.
bombarDED.

12. A U.S. cruiser and destroyer force bombarDED Wake Island last night, firing 450 rounds of 6 inch and 2500 rounds of 5 inch shells, causing large fires and explosions, no enemy opposition was encountered.

13. It is reported that enemy forces landed on 12 April at Batubatu on Tawitawi Island in the Sulu Archipelago, following bombardment by three warships.

486

29.4.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

VERSATILE,
WALLFLOWER,
PINK.

Arrived VERSATILE, WALLFLOWER, PINK.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 290643B to F.O.G.M.A.).

TERRAPIN

At 2200B/1st May TERRAPIN leaves Scilly Isles and making good 110 miles daily diving by day on route "Green" arrives in 043° N. at 1400B/7. Thence as ordered by F.O.G.M.A.
(Capt.(S) 3, 290955B to F.O.G.M.A.).

VENTURER,
ULA.

It is necessary to augment temporarily the number of modern submarines available for A/S training. On completion of patrol leave request you will transfer VENTURER and on completion of 6 monthly docking ULA to 7th Flotilla.
(F.O.S. 291036B to Capt.(S) 9).

Flag of
S.O. Force
"S".

My flag to be transferred to LARGS at 0900/30th April.
(S.O. Force "S", 291200B to LARGS).

SUNFISH,
UNISON,
UNBROKEN,
URSULA
for Russia.

Owing to present congestion in Basin it is undesirable for submarines to arrive at Rosyth until 48 hours before new crews are due. Request your 211852 may be amended accordingly and I will inform authorities concerned when vessels should arrive.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291217 to Admty.).

AEGEAN

In view of danger of political disturbances in the Greek Navy, destroyer AEGEAN ex AVONVALE now at Chatham will not commission with Greek crew on 30th April as planned. Ship will be taken over by British crew and it is to be manned by Devonport forthwith.
(Head of M.I., 291423B to C. in C. Plymouth).

EMERALD

On arrival in U.K. EMERALD is to come under the orders of C. in C.H.F.
(D.O.D.(H), 291745B to C. in C.H.F.).

ROYAL
SOVEREIGN

Following addition personnel considered essential for instructional and clerical work in connection with impending transfer of ship to Russians. Details.
It is anticipated that above personnel would be released within one month. Situation regarding interpreters becomes increasingly acute. Every available interpreter British or Russian, is required.
(ROYAL SOVEREIGN, 291859 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Embargo
on New Works
in U.K.

My 062324. The embargo referred to will continue for the month of May.
(A.S.C.L. 292103B to A.I.G.21).

487

29.4.1944.
Saturday.War DiaryHOME COMMANDSDefence of U.K.

Iceland Your 152020. Approved in principles.
(2) Further signals will be made giving detailed instructions for reductions of defences.
(A.C.N.S.H., 292017B to A.C.I.C.).

Approval has been given to closing down of Naval Base at Seydisfjord and H.D.A. Station at Hvalfjord, Iceland (C), in order to effect economies in personnel and ships.

(2) Propose detailed arrangements for reduction of gun defences should be made locally by A.C.I.(C) and Commanding General, Iceland, (C) Base Command.

(A.C.N.S.H., 290218B to Etousa).

Admiralty Letter 02631/44 of 18th April 1944. My 101231 and A.C.I.C's. 152020 and 261350.

I would agree to Seidisfjord being closed down completely and to the withdrawal of all defences from Akureyri except for the controlled and observation minefields. If the personnel manning these fields are urgently required elsewhere I would agree to the fields being blown up or restored to care and maintenance as well.

(2) Hvalfjord should remain as the one defended base for the Home Fleet in Iceland.

(C. in C.H.F. 292002B to Admt.).

Operations

Biscay A/S Am over enemy submarine in 45° 30' N. 11° 00' W.
operations. S/M. was on surface when first sighted, on course 260° estimated speed 7 knots.
(A/C, JMV 99, 290215B to 19 Group).

Have attacked U/boat with depth-charge. U/boat on surface position 45° 30' N. 11° 00' W. apparently disabled.

(A/C JMV 99, 290230B to 19 Group).

Hunt U/boat reported in 45° 30' N. 11° W.

(19 Group, to A/Cs. MXC 62, MXC 17, T.O.R. 0332/29).

U/boat has dived position 47° 09' N. 13° 12' W.

(A/C JMV 14, 290325B to 19 Group).

U/boat estimated probably in hour general vicinity today

29th April.

(D.D.I.C. 290915B to INDOMITABLE).

Enemy S/M previously reported when first sighted was in 46° 56' N. 12° 30' W.

(A/C 547, 291447B to 19 Group).

Investigating possible wake and swirl position 46° 56' N. 12° 30' W. Have attacked U/boat with bombs one. Oil seen.

U/boat course 070° speed 10 knots.

(A/C 547, 291515B to 19 Group).

Operation "Hostile 26". Surface craft detected by Radar bearing 127° distance 10 miles course 280° speed 24 knots
ATHABASKAN bearing 005° Ile de Vierge 11 miles.
sunk. (HAIDA, 290402B to Devonport).
One Enemy Two destroyers bearing 115° distance 4 miles,
destroyer course 260° speed unknown, bearing 014° Ile de
run ashore Vierge 6 miles.
on fire. (HAIDA, 290414 to C. in C. Plymouth).
My 0414. Two Elbings. ATHABASKAN hit.

.(HAIDA, 290417 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/ My...

488

29.4.1944.
SaturdayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Hostile 26" ATHABASKAN sunk. One Enemy destroyer run ashore on fire (Contd.).

My 0414. One enemy on fire. ATHABASKAN has blown up. (HAIDA, 290429 to C. in C. Plymouth). One enemy destroyer aground and on fire in 080° Ile de Vierge 7 miles. One escape to eastward. My position 030° Ile de Vierge 5 miles. (HAIDA, 290455B to C. in C. Plymouth). Proceed 210° at full speed. Orders follow. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290431B to A/P Groups 42 and 82).

My 0414. Enemy is aground and on fire. (HAIDA, 290437 to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 0414. One enemy escaped eastward. Request fighter cover from daylight. (HAIDA, 290445B to C. in C. Plymouth). HAIDA and ATHABASKAN in action with 2 Elbings in 020° Ile de Vierge 10 miles. Proceed at full speed to support. Force "Hostile 26" at 0530, 000° Ile de Bas 38, course 350° speed 14 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290445B to OFFA, ORWELL). Proceed immediately with M.T.B.717 to rescue survivors of ATHABASKAN in approx. 020 Ile de Vierge 8. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290448A to M.T.B.F.52). Regret have had to withdraw ORWELL and OFFA from patrol for urgent operational reasons. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290457B to A/P Group 79). My P.C.S. 018° Ile de Vierge 5 miles, 007° 31 knots. (HAIDA, 290520 to C. in C. Plymouth). Survivors of ATHABASKAN in 020° Ile de Vierge 5½ miles. (HAIDA, 290525B to C. in C. Plymouth, M.T.B.F.52, M.T.B.717). R/V and patrol in 049° 19' N. 004° 25' W. (C. in C. Plymouth. 290530B to OFFA, ORWELL, (R) HAIDA). Cancel my 290448. Return to Plymouth). (C. on C. Plymouth, 200537B to M.T.B.F.52. (R) OFFA, ORWELL, HAIDA).

HAIDA's 290520. Join HAIDA and proceed in company to Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290550B to OFFA, ORWELL (R) HAIDA). E.T.A. Plymouth 0830. Have 38 survivors, 5 cases serious burns. (HAIDA, 290605B to C. in C. Plymouth). Part company from HAIDA at Eddystone Rock and rejoin D.17 off Slapton Sands. (C. in C. Plymouth, 290744B to OFFA, ORWELL). E.T.A. Gate Plymouth 0930. OBEDIENT in company. (Capt.(D) 17, 290751 to C. in C. Plymouth). Between 0010 and 0120 on 29th April, plots indicated that fast vessels were moving from St. Malo to westward. Operation "Hostile 26" was being carried out by 10th Minelaying Flotilla with M.T.Bs. 677 and 717 in close support, off Ile de Bas. HAIDA and ATHABASKAN were acting as covering force and were patrolling 6 miles east and west of 049° N. 004° 10' W. By 0315 the minelayers force had almost completed their task and were in northernmost part of their area, while enemy force were being plotted passing entrance to Morlaix River. HAIDA and ATHABASKAN who were at western end of their patrol were then sent to intercept enemy, which they did in 005° Ile de Vierge 11 miles at 0402. The enemy, consisting of 2 Elbing class destroyers, were picked up by R.D.F. at 10 miles of range on port bow. Fire

/ was...

489

29.4.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "Hostile 26" ATHABASKAN sunk. One Enemy destroyer run ashore on fire (Contd.).

was opened by HAIDA and ATHABASKAN at about 7000 yards at 0415. The enemy replied after a short interval with very accurate fire and ATHABASKAN was hit badly after almost at once and stopped. The enemy then turned inshore and broke back to eastwards under smoke. At about 0429 ATHABASKAN blew up probably as result of being torpedoed whilst stopped. The near Elbing was set on fire and ran ashore in 080° Ile de Vierge 7 miles at about 0437. HAIDA not realising that imminent enemy was ashore, continued to engage her through smoke. The other escaped to eastward and when HAIDA discovered that her target was ashore had got some 5 miles ahead.

HAIDA then returned for quarter of an hour to scene of ATHABASKAN's sinking and picked up as many survivors as possible, leaving at 0520 so as to make offing before daylight. At 0448 M.T.B. 677 and 717 were sent towards the wreck of ATHABASKAN to pick up survivors but were recalled when it was realised that HAIDA was returning and M.T.B. could not arrive on scene until an hour after full daylight and air cover was not available. HAIDA picked up 38 survivors, 5 of them suffering from severe burns, having to leave about 100 more but left boats and Carley floats for them. ATHABASKAN sank in about 40 fathoms in "spout" condition. (C. in C. Plymouth, 291255B to Admty.).

S.C. operations. My 191241B. VIGRA sailed at 0800B today. (2) No. (A.C.O.S. 290816B to Admty.).

Intend to sail S.O. operation from Scalloway.

- (1) A.M. 1st May. Weather permitting.
- (2) 062° 16' N. 005° 24' E. (3) RAMOSE MONSOON. (4) 2 days.
- (5) 063° ordered. (6) No. (A.C.O.S. 292044 to Admty.).

S/M.Patrols Arrival VENTURER. (S.O.S/M Lerwick, 290940B to Admty.). Positions of submarines at 0800/30th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) STRONGBOW on patrol vicinity 65° 14' N. 00° 04' E. (B) STATESMAN, VIGOROUS, VIKING as in my 271733. (F.O.S. 291717B to Admty.).

Operation "C.W." VINDEX operating vicinity 054° 57' N. 013° 32' W. with 5th E.G. BICKERTON, GOODSON, BLIGH, AYLNER, KEMPTHORNE, KEATS and E.G.9 MATANE, STORMONT, SWANSEA. (C. in C.W.A. 291330B to Ships).

STARLING, WHIMBREL, WREN, MAGPIE, WILD GOOSE, TRACKER sailed.

(Cdre.(D) W.A. 292209B to C. in C.W.A.). This is a recoded copy of my 292350Z begins: Suspected submarine bearing 280° 10 miles. My position 53° 36' N. 30° 27' W. BRANDON attacking form contact - ends. (C.4, 292356Z to Group 303).

/Coastal...

29.4.1944.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations - Contd.

Coastal Force patrols. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291414B, 291502B, 291711B, 291749B.)
(C. in C. Nore, 291547B.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291734B.)

Convoy T.4 attacked on 28th April. Further report with reference to C. in C. Plymouth's 281354 not to all addressees.
(2) At 2355B/27th 4 groups were plotted from Portland Bill about 12 miles from the convoy route steering north into Lyme Bay at 36 knots. C. in C. Plymouth's plot was consulted immediately groups were detected and by 0045 it appeared on the Portsmouth plot that these groups were on the convoy route. The disposition of craft in exercise "Tiger" was not fully known and the plot in Lyme Bay as told from Portland were confused.
(2) In agreement with C. in C. Plymouth, STEVENSTONE, SEYMOUR and Unit F.M.G.Bs. 316, 312, 317 were ordered to positions southward of Plymouth destroyer patrols to give depth to forces disposed to intercept E-Boats withdrawal.
(4) LA COMBATTANTE and STAYNER were also moved to westward to cover W.P.513.
(5) The withdrawal of the E-Boats were detected but from the plots as they faded appeared to be too far to westward for Portsmouth forces to intercept.
(6) Albacore aircraft under control by Blackgang were ordered on offensive patrol in area north of Alderney and Cherbourg Peninsula and three attacks were made.
(1) 0345 on 3 craft possibly MOEWE class 4 miles north Cap Levi.
(2) 0448 on E-Boat off Cap de la Hague.
(3) 0502 on 3 E-Boats in the Race of Alderney.
(1) and (2) apparently unsuccessful. One hit claimed on stern of E-Boat in attack (3).
(7) Radar condition was normal.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 291435 to Admty.)

Ridge —
(aka)

Operations R.A. and "Veritas". My 260830^{p.433} and 261820^{p.433}. Following further information now available.
Operation R.A.: In addition to attack on convoy, Two Barracudas and four Corsairs from VICTORIOUS penetrated to Bodo Harbour and hit one large merchant vessel 6,000 tons in the outer Harbour with 1 bomb, leaving her on fire amidships. Two other Barracudas from VICTORIOUS attacked motor vessel LA PLATA beached and derelict on Rodo Island and one hit was obtained.
Total aircraft taking part, 27 Barracudas and 56 fighters.
(2) Operation "Veritas": Executed p.m./26th April in dirty weather by three pairs Corsairs. Reference C. in C. H.F.'s submission 619/HF 01325/181 of 19th April penetration into areas 2, 3, 5 and 6, and part of four prevented by snow, otherwise successful. Over territory 1700 to 1740B. Flak but no G.A.F. One tanker about 4,000 tons in Vaggs Fiord attacked by two Corsairs and set on fire.
(V.A.2, 291459 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation "Overlord". My 261615B and 272109B neither to AN.C.X.F. NELSON is to be manned on the basis of two 16-inch turrets both batteries of 6-inch and full H.A.

/armament ...

491

War Diary.29.4.1944.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSOperationsOperation
"Overlord".
(Contd.)armament. The third 16-inch turret will be
manned if it is found practicable to provide
necessary personnel.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 291707B to C. in C. Rosyth.)Allied Air Activity.Air cover
for U.K.
ports.You have no doubt seen C. in C. Portsmouth's
271949B and Admiralty's 281840B and 282120B and
are taking all appropriate measures. Signal
if we can give any assistance.
(Air Ministry, 292013B to A.E.A.F.)R/Cs.
requested.Request P.R.U. tomorrow of damaged German
destroyer ashore in approx. 48° 39.6' N. 04°
23.6' W.
(D.D.I.C., 292252B to A.D.I.Ph.)
Request P.R.U. tomorrow of St. Malo and
Lesardrieux, for shipping damage assessment.
(D.D.I.C., 292259B to A.D.I.Ph.)Enemy Air Activity

Jan Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen, T.O.O. 290720Z.
Aircraft observed South of Island, course south-
west.
(A.C.I.C., 291730A to Admty.)

Iceland.

R/C of Eyjafjordur and Akureyri carried out by
Ju.88 from 50 feet at 1710. Aircraft approached
from north and departed course north-east.
(A.C.I.C., 291932B to Admty.)Mining.

Portsmouth.

Port of Portsmouth Needles Channels closed due to
suspected aircraft minelaying. *
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 290145B to Admty.)
Suspect aircraft minelaying in approach channels
east of Portland. Port closed except from westwards by Q.Z.S.
421.
(A.O.1/c. Portland, 290215 to ONSLOW.)
Mine dropped from aircraft without parachute in field east
½ mile Milford on Sea.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291151 to D.T.M.)

Newhaven.

At 291130 one mine was detonated by sweeper in
174° 14 cables from A.1 Buoy. Details.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 291825 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

* Cancelled by 011407B/May

492

29.4.1944.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSU-Boats

U-Boat reported. D/F bearings at 1125Z indicate U-Boat between 63° 30' N. and 65° N. 03° E. and 05° E. (D.D.I.C., 291413B to S/Ms.)

Casualties and Defects

ARDROSSAN. ARDROSSAN in collision with North Wall of Royal Dock Grimsby at 0943/28th. Ship sustained damage. No casualties. (Capt. Grimsby, 290901B to Admty.)

AMEER. Sailed AMEER to comply with Admiralty 262147. E.T.A. Pile Light Vessel 1600B/29th. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 291028B to F.O.I.C.N.I.) Arrived AMEER. (F.O.I.C.N.I., 291520B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CARINA. Admiralty's 192332B and 261158B. Subject to continuance of present settled weather intend to sail CARINA at 0800B/30th to Oban via Sound of Islay for onward routing to Inverness making daylight passages in fair weather only. E.T.A. Oban 2000B. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 291300B to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

HAWKINS. Situation is as follows. Details of defects. (3) The following alternative courses are out forward for consideration. (a) To lift turbine and cut out defect blade replacing without reblading astern turbine damaged condenser tubes to be plugged or replaced. This will enable ship to develop full ahead power. (b) To abandon any attempt at repair and remove propeller. From records available of time when ship previously steamed with only 3 shafts maximum speed considered 21 knots or under. (4) All boilers and feeding system must be cleaned and number 4 dynamo must be repaired estimated time for this 8 days. (5) Ship cannot possibly be considered operationally fit until working up period of at least 7 working days has been completed. (HAWKINS, 291309B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

EMERALD. Your 271850B, para. 2. Ship can be accepted, vide A.S. Rosyth 281725B. (C. in C. Rosyth, 291450 to C. in C. H.F.)

493

29.4.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Search for raft. Fortress A/C will carry out Square search from 040 degs. 20' 031 degs. 35' for ship's raft from 0900Z/29th to 1830Z/29th.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 290824Z to CAPE PALLISER)
My 290824. Raft located by A/C 0930Z/29th
040 degs. 23' N. 031 degs. 35' W.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 291031Z)
Very old raft sighted 040 degs. 11' 031 degs. 46' no curvivors and no name. Am continuing search.
(CAPE PALLISER, 291815Z)
Hudson has sighted second raft in 040 degs. 13' N. 031 degs. 46' W. at 1850Z.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 292119Z to CAPE PALLISER)
Abandon search and return Praia.
(S.B.N.O. Azores, 292213Z to CAPE PALLISER)

EMULOUS. Request whereabouts of tug EMULOUS. Your 201126/ refers.
(Admiralty. 291110B to S.B.N.O. Azores)
/ Re sailing tug EMULOUS in company with B.Y.M.S. 2047.

A/S protection of Straits. Meeting held here to-day with Captain Hitchcock representing Commorseafront who brought proposal which was readily agreed that 6 day Liberators and 6 Searchlight Liberators from Lyautey should be temporarily based at Gibraltar. Operational Control unchanged. First party will arrive

this evening and move will be completed tomorrow.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 291310Z)

Following has been sent to Cominch.

Begins: "1. Admiralty view is that large reinforcement of U-Boat strength in Med. is unlikely but the normal flow of replacements and small reinforcements will probably continue. Your 201444Z not to all refers.

2. Decision to withdraw 179 Wellington Leigh Light Squadron for operations of greater urgency was made with reluctance and it is considered vigorous efforts to prevent passage of Straits by U-Boats should continue.

(3) Enquiries show that satisfactory arrangements can be made for operating Blimps in Gibraltar Approaches and that temporary fuelling facilities in Azores are practicable.

The offer in your 291942 March is therefore, welcomed.

(4) However if as we understand, you are contemplating provision of B.A.D. fitted Catalinas instead of Blimps, our preference would be the former". T.O.O. 291752 Ends.

(V.C.N.S. 291800B to C. in C. Med. F.O.G.M.A. A.O.C. in C. C.C. D.C. in C. M.A.A.F. Info: B.A.D. R.A.F.D.EL. Air Min.)

SS. ASTREE (German). Report timed 1400 to-day states German ASTREE no longer aground at Pineda. Presumably has proceeded North
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 291938B to 10th S/M.F. Capt.
(S) 10th, S.O.(I) Med.)

494

29.4.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

WILLIAM
SCORESBY.

Departure a.m. 29th WILLIAM SCORESBY for docking
and refit at Montevideo due 3rd May. Owing to
destruction by fire of relevant S.P. No recogni-
tion signals are held.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. 291401Z)

29.4.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterraneanMutiny in
Greek NavyReporting surrender of AVEROFF mutineers.
(Algiers C.C.O. 290201B.)

ULTIMATUM

You have freedom of action in your area.
2. Appreciate possible Danube Lighter lying in
Kalamata.
(Capt. (S)1, 290930 to ULTIMATUM.)

TRESPASSER

When west longitude 020° 01' proceed at 10 knots
to R/V with escort in 035° 49' 015° 18' at 0615
2nd May. Thence escorted to Malta.
2. N.O.I.C. Port Said 251207 not to Air H.Q.
Malta refers.
(Capt. S.1, 291153B to TRESPASSER.)Greeks not
to act as
S.Os.For the time being when a Greek ship is in
company with other Allied ships her Captain will
not perform the duty of S.O. of Navy Group but the
next Senior Allied Officer is to act in this
capacity. A temporary amendment to this effect
is to be made to M.S. G.O.2.
(C. in C. Med. 291310B to Med. Stn. 7333B.)

SICKLE

SICKLE sailed from Malta at 1702/29th and passes
through Antikithera Channel about 2202 1st to
patrol in south west Aegean south of 036° 05' and
west of 025° 01'.
(Capt. S.1, 291704B to 1st S.M. F.O.L.E.M.)

Black Sea

Intelligence Report April 21st to April 27th
inclusive.

Enemy shipping sighted on Crimea route Eastward.
(details). Reports of westward traffic obviously
incomplete and are not given.

2. Air attacks. April 22nd and 23rd total 5 merchant vessels
total 10700 tons sunk and escort vessel, one gunboat one F lighter
3 R boats and one E/Boat sunk and 3 merchant vessels 16300 tons,
one F lighter and 2 R boats damaged. Of these Soviet E boats
claim one or two smaller craft. Total A/C shot down 20. April
24th 4 merchant vessels total 1000 tons one escort ship and one
F lighter sunk; 2 merchant vessels total 3500 tons one F lighter
and (?words omitted) damaged. April 25th one merchant vessel
2000 one R/Boat and one special service Aux. vessel sunk and one
R boat damaged. April 26th one merchant vessel 1000 tons one
F lighter and one R boat sunk; 2 merchant vessels total 2000 tons
one F lighter and one R boat damaged. 17 enemy A/C shot down in
above mentioned attacks.

3. Naval (corrupt group) April 22nd 2 merchant vessels total
10000 tons sunk by submarine. April 23rd one merchant vessel
1000 tons sunk by S/M. E/Boats sank one F lighter and damaged
another on April 24th and on April 25th sank one F lighter;
E/Boats apparently operate by night only. Soviet convoy
unsuccessfully attacked by enemy S/M between Novorossisk and
Tuapse April 24th.
(N.L.O. Black, 291747, 041510 May.)

See,

/SS. ASTREE...

496

29.4.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean

SS. ASTREE
(German) My 281101* was paraphrase of Barcelona's 271920+ not my 271920. Your 291055/ refers. (A.B.N.A. Madrid, 291841B to S.O.(1) Gibraltar)
* Barcelona reports attempt to refloat ship.
+ N.T. in W.R.
/ Not identified in W.R.

Following is a repetition of Barcelona 281910 begins my 271920 German ASTREE still hard aground about 30 yards off shore at Pineda. Cargo being jettisoned and Spanish Government tug standing by. Vessel shows no visible sign of damage and if weather remains fine prospects of refloating good. A.A. and machine guns dismantled. Ends. (A.B.N.A. Madrid, 291859B to S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

SS. CONSTANTINOS, at 1634/28 outside Candia. One possible hit; LOULUDIS short and noisy counter attack followed. (or LUNEBURG) 2. Inspection of Candia harbour 0900/29 showed only SUZANNE GERTRUD (?E) and 4 small escort vessels present indicating target possibly sunk. 3. There has been considerable A/S activity all day. (SPORTSMAN, 291946B.)

SS. ARICOLE, A.M. 121636*. Air Ministry have no information. VIERRAY (Admty. 292255B to A.B.N.A. Madrid.) MANZANARES. * Any information regarding ARICOLE and VIERRA MANZANARES overdue will be forwarded.

BOXER. Anticipate BOXER will be fit for sea passage to repair port on one engine by May 2nd. Request sailing instructions. (F.O.W.It., 292346B. to C. in C. Med.)

497

29.4.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U-Boat No.12. No fresh information. No change in
dispositions. scale of air escort.
(C. in C. E.F. 290307Z)

U-Boat SSSS 18.58 N. 72.20 E suspicious.
reports. ((B.M.G.T) NORFOLD, 290530Z)
S/M sighted on surface (corrupt group) 0530 bear-
ing (?055 degs.) 6 miles from position 018 degs.
58' N. 072 degs. 20' submerged 15 minutes later.
(NORFOLD, 290900Z to Admiral Colombo.)

S/M (Corrupt group) sighted 15.02 N. 57.16 E. at 0915Z/28.
My 280822Z My present latitude 13.46 N. longitude 60.16 E.
0615Z/29. Not attacked proceeding towards destination. S/M
surfaced course (?316 degs.) W.X. 0900 O.
(?FRANKLIN P. MALL (KINS) 290615Z) / not received.

By D/F at 0532Z on 29th April on 1620 K/cs the position of
a Japanese U-Boat was in general area 300 to 500 miles East of
Ceylon.
(C. in C. E.F. 290641Z)

By D/F at 291420Z on 123. 85 K/cs the position of a
German U-Boat was within 150 miles of 093 degs E. 006 degs. N.
(C. in C. E.F. 291524Z)

Maintenance To assist long term planning for reinforcement of
capacity. your escort forces, request your estimate of the
maximum total maintenance capacity of bases in
your Command and Western Australia for corvettes
and above -
(a) Now. (b) At the end of 1944.
(D.O.D.(F), 291532B to C. in C. E.F.)

498

29.4.1944
SaturdayWar DiaryFOREIGN STATIONSAmerica and West Indies

N.S.H.Q. No report since my 250641Z.
S/M attack (B) A/C sights sub. 42.23 N. 41.55 W. before
and 1408/28th.
sighting (N.S.H.Q. 290646Z)
summary.

U-Boat Estimates.
dispositions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 291440Z, Washington, 291608Z)

A/S pro- See A.M. 291800B (in North Atlantic).
tection of (V.C.N.S. 291752B to Cominch)
Gibraltar
Straits.

H.X.286 Average speed 9.4. Off Oversay at 0300Z/20.
All arrived.
(D.T.D. 291856B)

U-Boat Para. (B) On sound contact vicinity 17.52 N.
incidents. 38.04 W. 281550Z.
(Cominch, 292017Z)

T.F.62, My 252331. Include in your T.F.16 L.C.I.Ls.
T.G.62.9. constituted as T.G. 62.9. Upon arrival Mediter-
ranean T.G.62.9 report to Com. 8th Fleet, for
duty at which time this Task Group dissolved.
(C. in C. Lant, 292159 to C.T.F. 62)

Vacation of Your 211547. This is being borne in mind but it
N.A.S. is not considered that Argentia could be an adequ-
Squantum. ate substitute. In view of the importance of our
accommodation in U.S.A. for forming squadrons we
are sure you will resist the suggestion.
(2) The requirements for airfields and training
facilities to match the increased assignments we have requested
are being considered in detail now and we shall be counting on
the continued use of Brunswick and Lewiston.
(A.C.N.S.(A), 292238B to B.A.D.)

Australia and New Zealand

CUMBERLAND. Depart Fremantle 28th CUMBERLAND for Colombo.
(N.B. Melbourne, 290528Z)

29.4.1944
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest April 28th paras. 14 to end Cover Soupac Forces.
No.830. (12) Report dated April 28th indicates occupation
forces landed Batubatu (Tawitawi Island Sulu
Archipelago) April 12th following bombardment
by three warships. Two days later warships de-
parted Bongao Channel (7 miles South of Batubatu) on North
Easterly course leaving two Mercy Vessels. Large calibre guns
reported employed Ufandoongao Mountain covering East West and
South West Approaches.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 290741Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack and sighting summary. Para. A. (1) A/C W/304 attacked U-Boat on sur-
face at 0015Z/29 in lat. 45 degs. 30' N. long.
11 degs. 00' W. course 260 degs. speed 7 knots.
(2) Attack by A/C M/58 reported in A.M. 281148B
should read 0127Z/28 not 0227/28 as sent.
(3) A/C W/612 attacked U-Boat with 6 D/Cs at
0220Z/28 in 45 degs. 45' N. 09 degs. 33' W. Previously reported
as sighting only.
Para. B. (1) H.M.S. FLINT CASTLE attacked probable contact at
1849Z/27 in lat. 50 degs. 55' N. long 18 degs. 30' W.
Para. C. (1) Transit A/C sighted periscope at 1240Z/28 in 42
degs. 23' N. 41 degs. 55' W. course 270 degs.
(2) A/C sighted U-Boat which dived at 0125Z/29 in 47 degs. 09'N.
13 degs. 12' W.
(D.D.I.C. 291203B)

U-Boat Dispositions. (D.D.I.C. 291406B, 291431B)

500

30.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORTHome Commands

Operation
F.Z.
WILLIAM S.
THAYER
sunk.

1. Convoy R.A. 59 was attacked by several U-Boats at 2100B today about 60 miles S.W. of Bear Island and the American WILLIAM S. THAYER, 7176 tons, was sunk. Eleven Russian Officers and 132 Russian ratings from her were rescued, of whom one officer and 4 ratings are seriously injured.

Engagements
with
E-Boats.

2. Two groups of E-Boats from Cherbourg were operating last night. One group approached St. Catherine's and retired at 0020; and the other was intercepted and scattered at 0030 by M.G.Bs. 312, 316 and 317 about 20 miles West of Cap d'Antifer and sighted again at about 0400 steering West about 4 miles north of Cape Barfleur by M.T.Bs. 253, 256 and 257 who were forced to disengage by accurate gunfire from shore batteries or ships.

Biscay A/S
operations.

3. Two inward-bound U-Boats were attacked off La Rochelle today by A/C on patrol.

Plymouth
bombed.

4. A slight hostile air raid was made upon Plymouth between 0310 and 0416 today. The Naval Hard at Barnpool was damaged, and some civilian damage and about ten serious casualties are reported in Plymouth itself.

Mediterranean.

5. Spezia commercial port and Leghorn were bombed last night.

U/B
reported in
Dardanelles.

6. The Turkish authorities report that the periscope of a submarine was sighted on 29th April from Bulair; they consider it was probably a German S/M carrying out a reconnaissance of the Dardanelles with a view to testing the passage for further submarines.

501

30.4.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

- AEGEAN. Cancel A.M. 251944B. AEGEAN is temporarily allocated to Nore Command.
(D.O.D.(H), 300751B to C. in C. Nore.)
- SUMATRA. C. in C. Portsmouth 211846. British and Netherlands ensigns were hoisted on board D.S. SUMATRA at 0800 to-day at which time Captain Sutcliffe R.N. assumed command.
(SUMATRA, 300801 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- TUDOR. Your 290957. Approved. Request you will sail P.326 about 12th May for Gibraltar and onward routeing to Eastern Fleet, for allocation to 4th or 8th Flotillas as ordered by C. in C. E.F.
(F.O.S. 301112B to Capt. (S) 3,)
- TRENCHANT. Request you will sail TRENCHANT about ninth May for Gibraltar and onward routing to Eastern Fleet for allocation to fourth or eight Flotilla as ordered by C. in C. E.F.
(F.O.S.301139B to Capt.(S) 3,)
- JUNON. Request you will sail JUNON for Gibraltar and onward routeing to Algiers about 12th May.
A.M. 292347 Feb. refers.
(F.O.S. 301204B to Capt. (S) 3)
- EMERALD. A.M. 291745. You will join First Cruiser Squadron.
(C. in C. H.F. 301903B to EMERALD)

Operations

- Biscay A/S Operations. Am over enemy S/M in 45 degs. 52' N. 08 degs. 33' W.
(A/C 58 Sqdn. 300413B to 19 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 45 degs. 50' N. 08 degs. 40' W. Was on surface, course 130 degs. estimated speed 10 knots.
(A/C 58 Sqdn. 300413B to 19 Group)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 46 degs. 27' N. 07 degs. 29' W.
(A/C 612 Sqdn. 300431 to 19 Group)
Have attacked U-Boat with depth charge. U-Boat was on surface and seen to submerge 45 degs. 52' N. 07 degs. 38' W.
(A/C 58 Sqdn. 300450B to 19 Group)
Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. 42' N. 10 degs. 40' W.
(A/C JHK 35 to 19 Group, T.O.R.301737)

Am /...

502

30.4.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Biscay A/S
 Operations.
 (Contd.)

Am over enemy S/M in 46 degs. 35' N. 10 degs. 40' W. S/M was on surface and when first sighted was on course 110 degs. estimated speed 6 knots. (A/C JHK 35 to 19 Group T.O.R. 301756)
 Have attacked U-Boat with depth-charge. U-Boat was on surface and seen to submerge.
 (A/C JHV 35, 301820B to 19 Group)
 (Dunkeswell, 010001B to H.Q.C.C.)

Operation
 C.W.

D/F bearings of U-Boat making weather-reporting type signal at 0006Z give fix within 40 miles of 54 degs. 30' N. 28 degs. 30' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 301018B to Escorts H.X. 288, BRANDON)

Proceed forthwith to hunt in area bounded by parallels 056 degs. 20' N. and 058 degs. 01' N. and meridians 015 degs. W. and 017 degs. W. Shore-based A/C will co-operate with you.

(C. in C. W.A. 301122B to E.G.9)

Proceed forthwith routed through 053 degs. 30' N. 022 degs 01' W. and 053 degs. 30' N. 027 degs. 01' W. searching on passage to hunt U-Boat in approx. 054 degs. 30' N. 028 degs. 30' W.

(2) This U-Boat is making routine short signals of weather-reporting type within 100 miles of this position.

(3) U-Boats transmit between 001B and 0200B and again between 1000B and 1200B daily.

(4) U-Boats on passage to the south may also be met in the general area of weather-reporting U-Boats.

(C. in C. W.A. 301158B to VINDEX, E.G.5)

C. in C. W.A. 301122. Join me. My P.C.S. 054 degs. 43' N. 014 degs. 54' W. 000 degs. 12 knots.

(VINDEX, 301226B to E.G.5)

My 301122B. Sunderland A/C will be patrolling area during daylight to-day. Leigh Light Liberator will arrive area 2300B. Co-operation will be in accordance with A.C.I.107 except that W/T will be on convoy H.F. Sono Buoys may be used by Liberator. These are underwater listening device transmitting to A/C and if used A/C may request you to keep clear. Their range is on 2000 yards.

(C. in C. W.A. 301341B to E.G.9)

VINDEX and 5th E.G. are going to escort H.X. 289 which is a large convoy consisting of about 130 ships. Whilst waiting I have told them to search as in my 301158.

(C. in C. W.A. 301348B to C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet)

Escort Group 9th MATANE, SWANSEA, STORMONT vicinity 057 degs. 05' N. 016 degs. 01' W.
 1st Escort Group AFFLECK, GARLIES, GORE, BENTLEY near 051 degs 59' N. 017 degs. 56' W.

(C. in C. W.A. 301401B to Ships.)

Operation /...

503

30.4.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations

Operation "Hostile 26", ATHABASKAN sunk on 29th April. My 301014B. Survivors from ATHABASKAN picked up from HAIDA's Motor boat and landed Newlyn. Following information received from survivors and boats crew. ATHABASKAN hit by first torpedo which blew off stern. Ship remained afloat till hit by second torpedo. No evidence of internal explosion. Motor Boat picked up survivors from seaward fringe of men in water, then laid off for one and half hours and saw three German Minesweepers picking up survivors. Impossible to launch boats from ATHABASKAN. Lieut. Comdr. J.H. Stubbs R.C.N. seen on Carley float and on another float Lieut. Comdr. J.A.D. Lantier R.C.N.V.R. Lieut R.B. Hayward R.C.N.V.R. Heard talking in water Sub. Lieut. Annerf (Not identified from Navy List.) (F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 301207B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Coastal Force Patrols. (C. in C. Plymouth, 301402B, 301548B)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301533B)
(V.A. Dover 301701B)

Convoy T.4 attacked on 28th April. Amplifying my 291408B convoy T.4 was proceeding independently as a follow-up convoy for exercise "Tiger" to arrive at Slapton Beach at 0730B/ April 28. At the time of the attack it was approximately 33 miles from this destination. Force U after landing division 4 of VII Corps in assault during 27th April at nightfall had under protection in transport area Slapton Beach 1 A.P.A. 21 L.S.Ts, 28 L.C.Is. 65 L.C.T.S, 14 miscellaneous and 92 small landing craft or total of 221 awaiting unloading and sailing empty at daylight. Representative C. in C. Plymouth informs all available escorts had been assigned to assault force, convoys, patrols, and screens 4 special patrols totalling 3 M.T.B's, 2 M.G's, and 4 O-Class D.Ds were stationed on a patrol line from Start Point to off Portland Bill. A 5th patrol of 3 M.T.B's was stationed off Cherbourg to intercept any departing E-Boats. SCIMITAR's suffering slight damage although still operational resulted in a mix-up in Plymouth Command in regard to her orders and she was not sailed with convoy, leaving corvette AZALEA as only escort. This was unknown to anyone in authority until discovered by Plymouth Command too late to provide an additional escort before attack. SALADIN, proceeding to reinforce as result of C. in C. Plymouth action after discovery, arrived in time to pick up survivors but not assist in repelling attack. E-Boats penetrated screen and operated freely inside Lyme Bay until convoy was picked up and attacked. Timely reports of E-Boats movements from Radar plot were made by C. in C. Plymouth. (C.T.F.125, 301508B to Cominch)

S.C. Operation. My 290816B. Returned at 1540B to-day (VIGRA).
(2) Operation successful.
(A.C.O.S. 301549B to Admty.)

S/M /...

504

30.4.1944
SundayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSOperations - Contd.

S/M Patrols. S/M positions 0801/1st May and for next 24 hours, (A) STATESMAN, STRONGBOW, VIGOROUS, VIKING as in my 291717. (F.O.S. 301642B to Admty.)

Operation "Overlord". A.N.C.X.F's 252043A amended by 261835. Request confirmation that Hunt-Class destroyers named can be made available. C. in C. Portsmouth is further requested to confirm that following can be provided from Portsmouth Command.

(a) 8 A/S trawlers from those allocated to Portsmouth for "Overlord" A/S duties.

(b) Three M.T.B. or M.G.B. Flotillas. (D.O.D. (H), 301659B to C. in C. Portsmouth, Nore, Plymouth) Your 291912B. As far as can be foreseen at present it will probably be necessary to base both the 29th M.T.B. Flotilla and the 59th M.T.B. Flotilla at Newhaven from D day onwards. (V.A. Dover, 301910B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation "Croquet". Request you take FURIOUS, SEARCHER and 6 destroyers detailed by V.A.D. under your orders and carry out an operation against enemy shipping off the Norwegian coast between Bud 62.55 N. 06.55 E. and approx. position 63.20 N. 08.20 E.

(2) If circumstances in this area are unfavourable an adjacent area should be selected.

(3) Code name and date of sailing from Scapa are given in my 301847. (C. in C. H.F. 301843 to BERWICK) My 301843. (1) Code Name "Croquet".

(2) 3rd May. Any necessary postponement to be reported by BERWICK. (C. in C. H.F. 301847B to BERWICK)

Operation F.Z. Convoy R.A.59 attacked by U-Boat. WILLIAM S. THAYER sunk. U-Boat transmission at 1658Z from General area of Bear Island may have been report of convoy R.A.59. (D.D.I.C. 301948B to A.I.G.47) Further U-Boat transmission at 1748Z tends to confirm a.m. 301948B. (D.D.I.C. 302019B to A.I.G.47) R.A. 59 attacked by several U-Boats. One merchant ship sunk. My P.C.S. at 2100B, 073 degs. 51' N. 017 degs. 47' E. 267 degs. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Weather 4790 1612. (C.S.1, 302101B to H.F.)

Engagements /...

505

War Diary30.4.1944
SundayHOME COMMANDSOperations. - Contd.

Engagements with E-Boats. At 2245B/29th, a number of enemy tracks were plotted from Portland Bill moving Eastward from Cherbourg. The tracks divided at 2325, one heading across the Baie De La Seine and one turning Northward from Pointe De Barfleur. Unit F, M.T.B's 253 (S.O), 256, 257 patrolling in 020 degs. P.T. De Barfleur 8 miles obtained hydrophone effect of the Eastbound Group, but was unable to make contact. Unit A, M.G.B's 312, (SO) 316, 317 patrolling in 270 degs. Cap D'Anti-fer 20 miles was warned of the approaching enemy and at 0030 Unit A engaged 3 E-Boats steering 090 degs. at 24 knots about 8 miles to the Westward of its patrolling position. Unit broke through the enemy's line closing the range to 50 yards before E-Boats scattered and disengaged at high speed under smoke. Unit A claims some hits and suffered no casualties or damage. The Northbound enemy plot, believed also to be E-Boats, stopped in 165 degs. St. Catherines Point 27 miles and at 0020 began to retire to the Southward at 16 knots. A possible interception by Unit F was influenced by the approach of Unit K carrying out operation K.N.4. My 301416B refers.

At about 0400 Unit F made contact with 3 E-Boats 4 miles North of Barfleur, course W. speed 14 knots. At the same time Radar contact of a larger vessel was obtained further inshore. The E-Boats were sighted ahead and Unit crossed astern in order to close possible torpedo target. Unit was forced to disengage by accurate fire either from shore batteries or ships. A second attempt was made to close but Unit was again driven off by heavy shells and withdrew at 0445 without casualties or damage as dawn was breaking.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 302137B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Plymouth bombed. C.A.F.O. 587/40. Slight hostile air attack Plymouth between 0310 and 0416. Hard at Barn-pool reported hit by H.E. and damaged. No other damage to Naval Property. A few H.E. in Plymouth city about ten serious casualties reported.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 300512B to Admty.)

Experimental sites P.L.1 P.L.3, and P.L.5 were operated in Moonlight at 0329/30 during air raid on Plymouth. Communication was established with 80 wing before, during and after the attack. As far as can at present be established 20 H.E. were dropped in the area of the sites including three large craters on P.L.5.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301512 to Admty.)

Mining

Humber. Magnetic mine detonated at 0749 in position 312 degs. 15 Buoy 5 cables.
(F.O.Humber, 301042 and 301821B to C. in C. Nore)

Portsmouth. Report of mines laid in Needles area for April 29th. 13 spontaneous explosions, 2 on shore, 3 swept by M.M/S. 2 exploded by ships not sweeping. All presumed to be G.G.mines.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 301326B to Admty.)

506

30.4.1944
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

U-Boats

U-Boat
reported.

Possible U-Boat (German) reported by A/C 230 degs
20 miles Skagi at 0600Z to-day 30th. Catalina
A/C is patrolling area.
(A.C.I.C. 300936 to Escorts D.S.52)

Casualties and Defects.

HAWKINS

HAWKIN's 291309 and A.S. Devonport 291715.
Request immediate decision whether alternative
A or B should be undertaken.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 301337B to Admty.)

ARDROSSAN.

ARDROSSAN can be taken in hand at Grimsby for
collision damage repairs. Your 290901 April
refers.
(D.M.S. 301806B to Capt. Grimsby Base)

CARINA.

Arrived CARINA. Intend to sail at 1100B/1 to
Aultbea via Sound of Sleat, sheltering night
1st/2nd at Mallaig, for onward routing to
Inverness. Speed 9 knots. E.T.A. Aultbea
1630B/2. N.O.I.C. Campbeltown's 291300 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 302227B to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown)

R.A. 60

Situation is now that there are 6 possible
starters for R.A.60, of which the 2 crane ships
may not be capable of more than 8½ knots.
(2) All these should be ready to sail on 15th
May and sailing cannot be delayed owing to harbour consumption
encroaching on coal stock. Past experience has shown Russian
coal unsatisfactory even on a 50/50 basis.
(3) Your 261134 refers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 301401B to C. in C. H.F.)

507

30.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

EMULOUS.

Your 291110. EMULOUS is at Horta. My 282242 refers.
(S.B.N.O. Azores 300037Z to Admty.)

Polish
refugees.

This is repetition my 301041B addressed Consul Villa Real de Sant Antonia repeated Admiralty, C. in C. Med. SS. TENDERFOOT will arrive Villa Real de Sant Antonia at 1130 double B.S.T. May 1st to embark Polish refugees for passage to Gib.
(F.C.G.M.A. 301109B.)

508

30.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Yugoslav Air contingent. A special Yugoslav contingent will be formed to operate within the framework of the R.A.F. Training will take place in the Middle East. (Mideast Cairo, T.O.O. 300925Z.)
- SPORTSMAN. At 2202 tonight pass through position 279° DD 20 miles then proceed to patrol approach to Candia. (2) French destroyer operating in the South Aegean tonight east of Levant (? area) (corrupt group) passing Kaso Strait about 2030. (3) GERTRUD disembarked 29th, SUZANNE might sail tonight. (Capt. (S) 1, 300943B to SPORTSMAN as amended 301918.)
- German ships in Aegean. My 271745C. C. LOULUDIS sunk. (2) TUBICEN has not sailed. (3) SALVATORE cargo petrol munitions expected sailing p.m./30th from Piraeus with 3 destroyers. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 301250C to F.O.L.E.M.) SALVATORE ready but unlikely to sail today from Piraeus. Large petrol and munition. (2) CX source reports LUXEMBORG sunk. (Capt. (S) 1, 301501B to 1st S/M.F.) P.R.U. shows 3 destroyers present Piraeus. SALVATORE might sail tonight. (2) Escort available for GERTRUDE and SUZANNE are U.J. boats. (Capt. (S) 1, 301745B to 1st S/M.F.) SALVATORE probably destined for Suda. (Capt. (S) 1, 302215B to UNSWERVING, (R) SPORTSMAN, SICKLE.)
- U/B reported in Dardanelles. Deputy Chief General Staff reports that periscope of S/M was sighted at 1200/29th from Bulair approx. position 040° 27' N. 026° 50' E. proceeding eastward. (2) Air R/C is being maintained in sea of Marmara specially on entrance to Bosphorus and Gulf of Ismid (D). Naval units are active specially A/S craft (? on Bekoz (? river). (3) F.O.L.E.M. please pass to Admty. (B.N.A. Ankara, 301300C to F.O.L.E.M.) My 301300. Deputy C.G.S. who was as usual most forthcoming and friendly considered it was probably German S/M carrying out R/C of Dardanelles with a view to testing passage for further submarines. He stated there had been further activities recently on the part of unknown submarines off the Turkish coast. (2) As example on 26th April coastguard reported 6 (? S/Ms.) in southern end of (? Daren) Channel close to Turkish territorial waters they disappeared from sight in direction of Cape Ze(? ish)im. (3) Consider no great reliance can be placed on accuracy of reports from Turkish coastguards who frequently have had no naval training. (B.N.A. Ankara, 301555C.)

509

30.4.1944.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean - Contd.

LE FANTASQUE. Owing to weather, maximum speed obtainable 27 knots. Returning to Alexandria, E.T.A. 309 at 0615/1st.
(LE FANTASQUE, 301924 to ADMIRAL HASTINGS.)

I.R.C. ship
SS. VILLA
FRANCA
(Portuguese). Sailed Gib. 2010/30th for Marseilles following standard route to San Sebastian Cape thence coastwise, (description). Not to be molested on this voyage.
(F.O.G.M.A., 302023B to 10th S/M.F., Capt. (S) 10th.)

Mutiny in
Greek Navy. There is passive resistance amongst 680 Greeks in training camp at Elli with committee in charge. They refuse to come out, matter is slightly complicated as camp is adjacent to another full of dissident soldiers. I rather expect there will be a certain amount of passive resistance amongst those removed from ship who are being taken away in batches to be sieved.*
(F.O.L.E.M., 302032C to C. in C. Med., Admty.)
* As cyphered ? "sieved" intended.

Situation
Report
No. 348. Anzio discharge figure 28th April 4101 tons, 29th April 3039 tons. One R/C shot down p.m./28th. About 30 A/C attacked beach-head and harbour area about 2300/28th. No damage to shipping, 9 claimed shot down. Mines believed laid 3 detonated in anchorage.
(C. in C. Med., 302213.)

510

30.4.1944.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U/B dis-
positions.

No. 13, area C. In view of possibility of U-Boats may be moving northward into this area increase scale air escort to X. Area F and G Japanese U-Boat indicated by D/F at 0532Z/29th in area 300 to 500 miles east Ceylon may move towards these areas. Scale air escort X other areas no fresh information no change in scale air escort.
(C. in C.E.F. 300354Z.)

511

30.4.1944.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

O.N.F.232. 26 ships arrived New York 29 and 30th April.
(P.D.New York 300220Z.)

T.A.105A. Diversion order.
(Com. 10th Fleet C. & R. 300455Z to U.S.S. WAKE-
FIELD.)

M.V.PETER S. Have you any news of PETER S. (ex CELESTE M) (Nor).
(ex CELESTE M) due Ciudad de Trujillo (?) April (indecipherable)
from St. John N.B.
(D.T.D. 301256B to N.S.H.Q.)

T.A.107A. Diversion order to avoid eastbound convoy.
(Connav 301355 to GENERAL A.E.ANDERSON.)

U/B dis- Estimates.
positions. (N.S.H.Q. 301358Z, Cominch 301505Z.)

Stragglers Stragglers arrived week ending 29th April. 27th
report. MEANTICUT (U.S.) S.C. 157 cargo shifted. 27th
WEST NILUS (U.S.) S.C.157 engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 301427.)

Susi Shannon Danish party encountered five Germans 22 April
Is. vicinity weather station Susi Shannon Island
Greenland killing one and wounding one or more. No
Danish casualties.
(Cominch 301510Z to Admty.)

ROYAL The Russians are expressing concern that ROYAL
SOVEREIGN and the 8 destroyers which are being
8 drs. and turned over to them are not fitted with H/F D/F
MILWAUKEE, which they see is fitted in other H.M. Ships.
U.S.S.R. 2. Request you will enquire from Cominch and report
whether U.S.S. MILWAUKEE was so fitted when turned
over to the Russians.
(D.S.D. 301903B.)

512

30.4.1944.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial April 29th.
No. 831. 10. Further east previous night (presumably 28/29 April intended - W.D.) our M.T.Bs. destroyed 6 enemy barges laden with troops and supplies in Nightingale Bay killing approx. 100 enemy personnel. No oppositions encountered from either barges or shore? installations.
13. During night hours American cruiser destroyer T.F. bombarded Wake Island firing 450 rounds of 6 inch and 2,500 rounds of 5 inch shells causing large fires and explosions. Nil? enemy opposition encountered.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 300712Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M attack & sighting summary. Para. A. 1. A/C A/547 bombed U-Boat course 070° at 1247Z/29 in 46° 56' N. 12° 30' W.
2. A/C O/58 attacked U-Boat with depth charges at 0213Z/30 in 45° 52' N. 07° 38' W.
Para. B. 1. H.M.C.S. BRANDON attacked U-Boat contact at 2350Z/29 in 53° 27' N. 30° 30' W.
Para. D. 1. Nore. NORFOLD reported sighting U-Boat at 0530Z/29 in approx. 19° 00' N. 72° 30' E.
2. Am. FRANKLIN P. MALL reported sighting U-Boat at 0915Z/28 in 15° 02' N. 57° 16' E.
(D.D.I.C. 300915Z.)

U/B dis-positions. Estimates.
(D.D.I.C. 301425B, 301435B.)